

**MINUTES OF A
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
APRIL 15, 2013**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on March 15, 2013, 6:00 pm, Justice & Administration Bldg., 401 Grindstaff Cove Rd., Room A201, Sylva, North Carolina.

Present: Jack Debnam, Chairman
Doug Cody, Vice Chair
Mark Jones, Commissioner
Charles Elders, Commissioner
Vicki Greene, Commissioner

Chuck Wooten, County Manager
J. K. Coward, Jr., County Attorney
Pat Parris, Clerk to Board

Chairman Debnam called the meeting to order.

AGENDA: Chairman Debnam amended the Agenda by adding Voluntary Farmland Preservation Program and Closed Session to discuss business expansion, and deleting Planning Board Appointment. Commissioner Elders moved to approve the amended Agenda. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Commissioner Greene moved to approve the Minutes of the two Public Hearings and Regular Meeting of April 1, 2013. Commissioner Elders seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

PROCLAMATION: Chairman Debnam read a Proclamation recognizing April 21-18 as Alcohol Awareness Week.

Motion: *Commissioner Elders moved to proclaim the week of April 21-18 as Alcohol Awareness Week. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(1) COMMISSIONER REPORTS: Commissioner Elders reported that last week the Commissioners attended the NCACC meeting in Cullowhee. Commissioner Cody reminded everyone that the public is invited to a Public School Safety Forum on April 18, 6 pm – 8 pm, at SCC/ Balsam Center. SCC is honored to be one of eight sites in the state to host the forum.

(2) COUNTY MANAGER REPORT: Mr. Wooten reported:

(a) Jackson County ABC Board: The organizational meeting was held on April 9th. The Board members were sworn in by Ann Melton, Clerk of Court, and David Noland was elected as Chairman of the Board. A second meeting is scheduled at the Cashiers Library on April 17th and Tom Hannon will review the information he has assembled about a possible store in Cashiers. In all likelihood, the ABC Board will seek a loan from the County for start-up expenses related to getting organized and for opening a new store.

(b) February Unemployment Report: The February 2013 unemployment rate was 10.5%. This is lower than the January 2013 rate of 11.4% and lower than the February 2012 rate of 11.2%. Excepting Clay County at 10.2%, Jackson's rate is lower than the other four western counties.

(c) Legislative Update: He received a detailed report from the NCACC about the status of legislative requests and current bills. Of major concern is HB 607 which would require all counties to revert to paper ballots for elections after January 1, 2014. Under the proposed legislation, Jackson County's election system would be disqualified since it does not produce a paper ballot. Purchasing a system compliant with the proposed legislation would cost in excess of \$250,000. There are 47 counties in the state that have election systems similar to what is used by Jackson County.

Senator Davis sent notification that Jackson County, along with the other western counties, has been added to the local bill that would allow notification of meetings and public hearings by electronic means.

(d) Capital Projects: The monthly construction meeting for the high school projects was held on April 9th at Blue Ridge. Both projects are on schedule even though a number of days were lost because of weather conditions. The internal projects for Transit in Dillsboro and Aging in Cashiers are moving along and it is anticipated these projects will be completed prior to the end of the current fiscal year. Demolition is scheduled to begin on the rock building at Mark Watson Park on April 29th.

(e) Jackson Plaza Property: The due diligence period for this property was extended by 30 days to address the lack of an easement for sewer service to the property. The County Attorney is working with the previous county attorney to resolve this issue so closing can take place.

(f) Judaculla Rock: The final signage has been ordered and should be in place within the next 60 days. He will begin planning an official dedication to recognize the improvements to the landmark and to celebrate the designation on the National Register of Historical Places. Hopefully, a date can be scheduled in late spring or early summer.

(g) County Assembly Day: The NCACC will hold the annual County Assembly Day on May 22nd in Raleigh. This is an opportunity to visit the local legislative delegation and receive an update on the current status of legislation and the state budget.

(3) CONSENT AGENDA: Darlene Fox, Finance Director, presented the March 2013 finance/tax collector/refund reports, and two budget amendments for approval.

Motion: *Commissioner Jones moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Cody seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(4) VOLUNTARY FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM- Barry Stevens, District Manager, Soil and Water Conservation District, gave a brief overview of the purpose and benefits of the program and introduced the members who were present. The Soil and Water Conservation District is willing to oversee the program and thanked the Board for the recent financial assistance.

(5) TOBACCO FREE PARKS & RECREATION AREAS ORDINANCE: The ordinance prohibits the use of tobacco products in parks and recreation fields, facilities and open spaces. The county attorney advised that a public hearing is not required; however, Commissioners Jones and Greene stated they preferred to hold a public hearing prior to considering any ordinance.

Motion: *Commissioner Cody moved to adopt the ordinance. Commissioner Elders seconded the Motion. Motion carried by a vote of 3 to 2 with Commissioners Greene and Jones voting "Nay".*

(6) SECOND AMENDMENT RESOLUTION: The proposed resolution was placed on the agenda at the request of Commissioner Cody. Mr. Coward gave a brief history of the “how and why” of the second amendment which he strongly supports. He stated he has concerns about some of the wording in the proposed resolution furnished to him; however, he is willing to work on a revised resolution and encouraged the Board to give him their suggestions.

(7) BUSINESS & INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Motion: *Commissioner Jones moved to appoint Wendy Cagle, WCU representative, to the Business & Advisory Committee. Commissioner Elders seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

Motion: *Commissioner Greene moved to set the terms of the members as follows: Jim Turner three years, Larry Hinton two years, Will McKee one year, Bob Carpenter two years, Roger Bartlett one year, Don Tomas three years and Wendy Cagle three years. Commissioner Cody seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(8) PLANNING BOARD: Delete.

(9) BOARD OF HEALTH:

Motion: *Commissioner Jones moved to appoint Rick Wall to a 3 year term on the Board of Health. Commissioner Greene seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

Informal Comments by Public:

- (a) Carl Iobst, Cullowhee, expressed his support of the Second Amendment of the U. S. Constitution.
- (b) Marie Leatherwood, Sylva, stated her disapproval of an “economic development loan commitment agreement” with GSMR.
- (c) Jim Mueller, Glenville, commended the Board on the positive action concerning an economic development loan and trusted its judgment concerning GSMR.
- (d) Valerie Harrison, Dillsboro, commended the Board for its foresight by adopting an Ordinance for tobacco free parks and recreation areas.

Press Conference

CLOSED SESSION:

Motion: *Chairman Debnam moved that the Board go into closed session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4) Business Expansion. Commissioner Cody seconded the Motion. Motion carried.*

Chairman Debnam called the regular meeting back to order and stated no action was taken in closed session except approval of closed session minutes.

There being no further business, Commissioner Elders moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Cody seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Patsy C. Parris, Clerk to Board

W. J. Debnam, Chairman