

**MINUTES OF A
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
OCTOBER 21, 2013**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on October 21, 2013, 6:00 pm, Justice & Administration Building, Room A201, 401 Grindstaff Cove Rd., 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 Closed Session G. S.143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel. Commissioner Greene moved to approve the amended Agenda. Commissioner Cody seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Commissioner Jones moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 7, 2013. Commissioner Elders seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

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

(a) Quarterly Residential Building Permit Report: The County continues to experience significant activity for residential construction in 2013. Through September 30th, 124 residential permits were issued as compared to 86 at the same time last year. The total through September is greater than the entire year in 2011 and 2012. If this trend continues, there could be as many as 175 permits during 2013 which would be the best year since 2008. The County's permit activity is greater than all the western counties except for Buncombe and Henderson. In fact, the numbers are very similar to Rowan, Catawba, Randolph and Orange counties all of which have larger populations than Jackson.

(b) Unemployment Rate: The August 2013 rate was 7.2% which is a decline of .8% from 8.0% in July and a 1.4% decline from the 8.6% rate in August of 2012.

(c) Mental Health Governance: Commissioner Greene and he attended a meeting between the counties in the Smoky Mountain Mental Health organization to discuss concerns about governance. The NC General Statutes were amended during the most recent legislative session that prescribed the maximum board size and designated component members within the board. The result from this action was a reduction in board size to 21 members with 12 of those members prescribed by qualification. This action has removed the possibility for representation by each county since there are now only 9 undesignated slots and this has not been well received among the counties. There is an ongoing discussion about how to select these 9 representatives. Smoky Mountain will have 30 days from the date that the consolidation of Smoky Mountain and Western Highlands is approved by the Secretary of DHHS to reconfigure the board. The bottom line is that Smoky Mountain does not have a choice to delay the implementation of these statutory modifications.

(d) Federal Shutdown: Action has now been taken by Congress and the President to approve a continuing resolution to re-open the federal government and to fund the programs that were effective as of October 1, 2013. The County's action of patience was prudent and unlike other counties, Jackson was able to avoid program disruptions. This most recent federal action has served to remind everyone that the County must be prepared for a future event and discussions have already begun to improve the internal record keeping procedures to document programs and employees who would be impacted in the event of a future shutdown. Work is underway on a furlough policy if staff reductions are required.

(e) **210th Military Police Unit Support:** On Tuesday, October 15th, boxes were mailed containing 261 pounds of various items to Brandon Monteith, son of David Monteith, to be distributed among members of the 210th. The employees are commended for their response to this project. Also included was a Jackson County Flag signed by employees.

(f) **Recreation Center Director:** Interviews with the top candidates for this position have been completed. The reference checking process is being finalized and the plan is to have a recommendation for the Commissioners at the November 4th meeting.

(g) **Library:** Dottie Brunette, Librarian, is retiring at the end of the year. Karen Wallace, Fontana Regional Library Director, stated the library board is in the final interview stage and should have a replacement by December 1.

(2) **CONSENT AGENDA:** Darlene Fox, Finance Director, presented Finance, Tax Collector and Refund Reports for September 2013, and 5 budget amendments.

Motion: *Commissioner Elders moved to approve the consent agenda.*

Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(3) **RECORDS RETENTION & DISPOSITION SCHEDULE AMENDMENTS:** Mr. Wooten stated that the NC Division of Archives and Records along with the County Tax Assessor recommend amending the Records Retention & Disposition Schedule published on April 17, 2013 as follows:

(a) Standard 5: Personnel Records, Item 19, and

(b) Standard 12: Program Records: Business & Other Tax Records by adding Item 3 – Excise Tax Records.

Motion: *Commissioner Cody moved to adopt the amendments. Commissioner Elders seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(4) **CASHIERS COMMERCIAL AREA DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE AMENDMENT:**

A public hearing was held on October 21, 2013 at 1:50 p.m. and no public comments or objections were made. The amendment changes the Cashiers Area Community Planning Council from 10 regular members and 2 alternates to 7 regular members.

Motion: *Commissioner Jones moved to adopt the amendment. Commissioner Greene seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(5) **DESIGNATION OF APPLICANT'S AGENT RESOLUTION (R13-25):** The resolution designates Darlene Fox, Finance Director, as primary agent and Todd Dillard, Emergency Management Director, as secondary agent, to execute and file applications for federal and/or state disaster assistance.

Motion: *Commissioner Cody moved to adopt the resolution. Commissioner Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(6) **BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT:** Commissioner Jones recommended Sue Bumgarner and Commissioner Greene recommended Dan Pittillo.

Motion: *Commissioner Jones moved to appoint Sue Bumgarner as a member and Dan Pittillo as an alternate, both for 3-year terms, on the Board of Adjustment. Commissioner Greene seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(7) **COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR LONG TERM CARE:**

Motion: *Carry Over*

(8) COUNCIL ON AGING:

Motion: *Commissioner Elders moved to appoint Jan Deckert and Kathy Smith to 3-year terms on the Council on Aging. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

Informal Comments by Public:

- (a) Henry Yonkers of Whittier stated he has concerns about the junk yards throughout the county especially in the Whittier area and the perception that visitors get.
- (b) Marie Leatherwood of Sylva stated that it will be a misuse of county money if GSMR is given any funding.

Press Conference

CLOSED SESSION:

Motion: *Chairman Debnam moved that the Board go into closed session pursuant to G. S. 143-318.111(a)(6) Personnel. Commissioner Elders 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 of October 7.

There being no further business, Commissioner Greene moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Cody seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Patsy C. Parris, Clerk to Board

W. J. Debnam, Chairman