

**MINUTES OF A
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
APRIL 21, 2016**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on April 21, 2016, 6:00 p.m., Justice & Administration Building, Room A201, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Sylva, North Carolina.

Present: Brian McMahan, Chairman
Mark Jones, Vice Chair
Charles Elders, Commissioner
Vicki Greene, Commissioner
Boyce Deitz, Commissioner

Chuck Wooten, County Manager
Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board
Heather C. Baker, County Attorney

Chairman McMahan called the meeting to order.

(1) **RELAY FOR LIFE PROCLAMATION**: Chairman McMahan read a Proclamation declaring May as Relay for Life month in the county. Commissioner Elders moved to approve the Proclamation. Commissioner Greene seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(2) **EARTH DAY PROCLAMATION**: Chairman McMahan read a Proclamation declaring April 22nd as Earth Day in the county. Commissioner Jones moved to approve the Proclamation. Commissioner Greene seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(3) **AGENDA**: Chairman McMahan amended the agenda by removing item: Town of Dillsboro Tax Release; and adding items: Mainspring Trust Grant and Resolution for Trout Capital of NC. Commissioner Greene moved to approve the amended Agenda. Commissioner Elders seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(4) **MINUTES**: Commissioner Elders moved to approve the minutes of a Regular Meeting of April 7, 2016. Commissioner Deitz seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(5) **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**: Chairman McMahan stated he had attended a School of Government training session in Asheville concerning manager evaluation and board self-evaluation. As the board looked at hiring a new manager, he hoped they could develop and implement a manager review process so that they could define expectations and have effective communications.

Also, he offered his thoughts and prayers to Chancellor Belcher and his family, as he announced he had been diagnosed with a brain tumor. The county and community supported Chancellor Belcher as he had been a tremendous asset to the county and region.

(6) **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**:

(a) Commissioner Deitz stated he hoped Chancellor Belcher recovered quickly and that he was important to all of the county.

(b) Commissioner Elders expressed his thoughts and prayers for Chancellor Belcher and his family. Also, that past week, he attended the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners District Meeting along with Chairman McMahan, Commissioner Greene and Commissioner Deitz. It was very interesting and he enjoyed talking with representatives from surrounding counties.

(c) Commissioner Jones stated that the Council on Aging's Nutrition Program, Meals on Wheels, was in need of volunteers for delivery on a new route, which would potentially be in the Cashiers, Glenville, Sylva and Cullowhee areas. Five volunteers were needed for one day a week.

(d) Commissioner Greene stated that the District Meeting was educational as they were able to learn what other counties were doing. Also, Veronica Nicolas, the first female County Commissioner, was returning home from treatments for brain cancer and she wished her well with her recovery.

(7) **COUNTY MANAGER REPORT**: Mr. Wooten reported:

(a) **Preliminary Grant Application to ARC for the extension of Water and Sewer to Dillsboro Recreation Site**: A preliminary application had been submitted for funding to extend water and sewer to the Dillsboro recreation site. Public utilities were an important component of any future development of that site. The ARC grant is a 50-50 grant program and they were also discussing with other agencies about the 50% match if the grant application should be accepted for a full application. The total project cost is approximately \$800,000 including impact fees. If they were invited to submit a full application, then they would bring the application back to the Commissioners for approval prior to submission.

(b) **Golden Leaf Foundation**: TWSA was notified on April 13th that their application in the amount of \$460,800 was approved. These funds would be used for the Horsepasture River Wastewater Treatment Plant & Collection System. The county's second application to Golden Leaf for funding to support technology improvements in our public school system that focus on STEM related activities has been deferred until the June Golden Leaf board meeting. This application was combined with Macon County, Swain County and SCC in a regional application consistent with preliminary discussions with Golden Leaf officials. They have now been asked to break up the consolidated application and submit four individual applications. The reason given for this request was the opportunity to collect better and more accurate information by grantee and to hold each grantee accountable for their individual project. They had every reason to believe that the application would be approved at the next Board meeting.

(c) **Broadband Expansion**: Frontier Communications notified them that they were making technology improvements in the Yellow Mountain area that would greatly enhance the ability for 450 customers in that area to receive high speed internet service.

(d) **Judaculla Rock Vandalism**: During the latter part of March, the Judaculla Rock and surrounding improvements were vandalized. The Rock was spray painted in several areas, the decking and stacked stone columns were also painted and a sign was stolen. A person of interest had been questioned and charges were pending.

(e) **Sales Tax Referendum**: The Board of Elections approved the request to place the one quarter of one penny increase in sales tax on the June 7th referendum. A planning meeting with SCC and JCPS was held that week to develop strategies for educating the general public on the need for this revenue and the impact it will have on the education systems in the county. Hopefully, they would see the distribution of educational materials starting as soon as this weekend at the Greening Up the Mountains festival.

(f) **Preliminary Engineering Report for Transfer of Cashiers Water System**: TWSA received the preliminary engineering report related to establishing a water system in Cashiers and he was optimistic that discussions would start in the near future about the transfer of the water system the county owned to TWSA. It would appear that as a water system is developed then the primary source of water would be from ground wells and the county's well would be a significant source of water. Obviously, there was a lot of work to do; however, TWSA now has preliminary information to guide their decisions in moving this project forward.

(g) 2016 Short Session of the NC General Assembly: The short session will convene on Monday, April 25th and press reports suggest that legislators are hopeful their work can be completed on or before July 1st. One of the most significant tasks they have will be approving a final budget for FY 16-17 and based on conversations with the education officials during the budget meetings those decisions will impact the final requests that are submitted to the county. The NCACC County Assembly day will be Wednesday, May 18th and more information will be provided about this meeting in the near future.

(h) Upcoming Meetings:

April 28 th	1:00 p.m. - Commissioners Meeting (Executive Session related to County Manager Search)
May 5 th	3:00 p.m. – Budget Workshop 6:00 p.m. – Regular Meeting
May 17 th	10:00 a.m. – Monthly Work Session
May 18 th	9:00 a.m. – NCACC County Assembly Day, Raleigh
May 19	6:00 p.m. – Regular Meeting
May 24 th	5:30 p.m. – Smoky Mountain Mental Health, Asheville
May 30 th	Memorial Day – County offices closed

Mr. Wooten stated that Danielle Wittekind, Human Resource Director, would graduate from the County Administration course at the School of Government. Also, Tony Elders, Permitting and Code Enforcement Director, was recognized by the North Carolina Department of Public Safety as the Outstanding Flood Plain Administrator.

Commissioner Greene stated that the May 24th Smoky Mountain Mental Health meeting was the County Commissioners Advisory Committee to the Smoky Mountain Mental Health Board. There would be upcoming changes in how funding occurred and potential changes in partnerships.

(8) INFORMAL COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC:

(a) Terry Walker of Dillsboro thanked the Commissioners and Julie Spiro for their efforts regarding the designation of the Tuckasegee River as a trout fishery. The current scheduled water releases favor boating instead of fishing. There needed to be a balance in recreational water releases for better flow management on weekends. Also, the Dillsboro Inn would be willing to host a trout festival and tournament the second weekend of April for the benefit for furthering awareness of the river throughout the state.

(b) Linda LaBelle of Dillsboro stated she was speaking on behalf of T.J. Walker of the Dillsboro Inn, who could not attend. She thanked Commissioners and Julie Spiro for their efforts to bring the designation to the Tuckasegee River as a trout fishing river. The Dillsboro Inn was in support of this effort. Currently, the scheduled water releases are not managed well and do not benefit fisherman in cold weather months and on weekends. They could use this as a year-round boost to tourism. Dillsboro needed a balance of tourism and recreation.

(9) CONSENT AGENDA:

(a) Darlene Fox, Finance Director, presented the Finance Report for March, 2016 for fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, for approval.

(b) Brandi Henson, Tax Collector, presented Tax Collector and Refund Reports for March, 2016, for approval.

Motion: *Commissioner Deitz moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Greene seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(10) CDBG GRANT POLICIES: Michael Poston, Planning Director, stated that they were coming to the close of the 2012 grant cycle in May and Mountain Projects would be coming before the Commissioners in May with a final report. In preparing for that closure, they found that some of the policies that were adopted when they made application for the grant had expired due to extending the grant. The policies were enforced and applied. The updated policies for adoption:

- Local Jobs Initiative
- Providing Meaningful Communication with Persons with Limited English Proficiency
- Local Economic Benefit for Low and Very Low Income Persons
- Complaint Procedure

Motion: *Commissioner Elders moved to approve the updated CDBG Grant Policies, as presented. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(11) LEASES: HISTORICAL SOCIETY, GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY AND ARTS COUNCIL: Chairman McMahan stated that these three organizations anchored the old courthouse portion of the Library Complex and had been in that location for several years. They provided a tremendous service to the community. Previously, they were paying rent to the county for the space they occupied, which was exhausting their budgets. As a Board, they made a financial contribution to them so that they could pay the rent back to the county. At this time, they felt it may be a better opportunity to amend the leases for minimal consideration.

Ms. Baker stated that the first step to modify the leases would be to notice them, which required a 30 day legal notice in the newspaper. Then at the first meeting in June, they would allow for public comment and could consider approving the leases. The consideration would be the public service each organization provided.

Commissioner Greene stated she liked the idea of a five year lease with an option for an additional five years.

Motion: *Commissioner Greene moved to publish a 30 day notice regarding the intent to modify the leases. Commissioner Elders seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(12) MAINSRING CONSERVATION TRUST GRANT: Chairman McMahan stated that Mainspring Conservation Trust, formerly known as Land Trust for the Little Tennessee, was currently working on a couple of conservation projects in the county. Commissioners were considering a grant out of the county budget to provide funding for conservation, protection and recreation opportunities through the CPR fund. Mainspring was looking at a potential project in the Little Canada Community that had been noticed as the Wood Heirs property, which recently moved through a foreclosure procedure. The county was poised to potentially make a grant to the Mainspring Conservation Trust in the amount of \$140,000. They would take action on this item on April 28th, giving the public opportunity for comment.

Carry over to April 28th.

(13) RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PARTF GRANT APPLICATION (R16-05): Rusty Ellis, Parks and Recreation Director, stated they had obtained a conceptual drawing and estimate for the Savannah Park. The Equinox cost estimate totaled \$248,308. This would leave a balance due from the county of \$124,104.00, taking into account the amount already provided to purchase the property, would bring the county matching amount to \$86,145.00. The PARTF Grant was due on May 2nd and a Resolution of Support was required from the Commissioners.

Motion: *Commissioner Elders moved to adopt the Resolution in Support of PARTF Grant Application (R16-05). Commissioner Greene seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(14) RESOLUTION DECLARING TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION FOR SMOKY MOUNTAIN RELAY (R16-06): Ms. Baker stated the Smoky Mountain Relay would occur on April 22-23, a portion of the relay would go through Jackson County. A change in the NCDOT rules and regulations, require that the Commissioners adopt a resolution approving the event. There would be no road closures and no public hearing was required.

Motion: Commissioner Greene moved to adopt the Resolution for the Smoky Mountain Relay (R16-06) as presented. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(15) RESOLUTION TO ADVANCE JACKSON COUNTY’S REAPPRAISAL SCHEDULE FROM JANUARY 1, 2024 TO JANUARY 1, 2021 (R16-07): Darlene Fox, Finance Director and Bobby McMahan, Tax Assessor presented the Resolution, which would set the reappraisal on a five year cycle going forward. They did recommend amending the presented document to state that after the January 1, 2021 reappraisal, they move to every four years thereafter.

Motion: Commissioner Greene moved to adopt the Resolution to Advance Jackson County’s Reappraisal Schedule (R16-07), with the recommended amendments. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(16) REVALUATION 2021 SCHEDULE AND BUDGET PLAN: Darlene Fox, Finance Director, stated that the estimated budget reserve was \$1,752,500. It was proposed that \$350,500 be budgeted for the fiscal year of 2016-2017.

FY 2016-2017	\$350,500
FY 2017-2018	\$350,500
FY 2018-2019	\$350,500
FY 2019-2020	\$350,500
FY 2020-2021	\$350,500
TOTAL:	\$1,752,500

Motion: Chairman McMahan moved to approve the Revaluation 2021 Schedule and Budget Plan. Commissioner Elders seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(17) RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF JACKSON COUNTY BEING DESIGNATED AS THE TROUT CAPITAL OF NORTH CAROLINA (R16-08): Chairman McMahan stated the Resolution requests that the North Carolina General Assembly honor the request to declare Jackson County as the Trout Capital of North Carolina.

Motion: Commissioner Elders moved to adopt the Resolution in Support of Jackson County Being Designated as the Trout Capital of North Carolina (R16-08). Commissioner Greene seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(18) HEALTH BOARD:

Motion: Commissioner Greene moved to reappoint Rick Wall and Jerry DeWeese to serve additional three terms on the Health Board. Commissioner Elders seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(19) CULLOWHEE PLANNING COUNCIL:

Motion: *Commissioner Greene moved to appoint Mike Wade to serve a term on the Cullowhee Planning Council as an At Large appointment. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(20) SEDIMENT CONTROL APPEALS BOARD: *Carry over.*

(21) HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION: *Carry over.*

(22) PRESS CONFERENCE: None

There being no further business, Commissioner Elders moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Greene seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman