

Date Posted: April 11, 2003  
Time Posted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Posted By: Evelyn Baker  
Witnessed By: \_\_\_\_\_

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE  
JACKSON COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
HELD ON  
APRIL 10, 2003**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners held a Special Meeting on Thursday, April 10, 2003, 6:00 p.m., at Southwestern Community College, Myers Auditorium, 447 College Drive, Sylva, North Carolina.

Present: Stacy Buchanan, Chairman  
Roberta Crawford, Vice Chairman  
Joe Cowan, Commissioner  
Eddie Madden, Commissioner  
Brian McMahan, Commissioner  
Kenneth L. Westmoreland, County Manager  
Evelyn B. Baker, Clerk to the Board

Southwestern Community College:  
Dr. Cecil Groves     Ed Madden  
Janet Burnette     Jim Campbell  
Gene Couch     Connie Haire  
Dwight Wiggins     Chuck Reese  
George Stanley     Sharon Grasty  
Melissa Pendergast

Others:  
Gail Findley, Fontana Regional Library  
Michael Cartwright, Public Library

Following dinner, Chairman Buchanan called the meeting to order and stated the purpose of the special meeting was to discuss capital improvements at Southwestern Community College.

Dr. Cecil Groves, President, Southwestern Community College, welcomed the Commissioners and gave a power point presentation of the growth, service area, strategic plan, new degree and certificate programs. SCC was the first college in the state to offer its students free internet access from their homes. In 1994-95 a community ITV system that links all of SCC's campuses became operational. An effort, Appalachian Access, endorsed by Congressman Taylor would establish a network access point between Atlanta, Greer, Asheville, and Washington, D.C. SCC is working on "Balsam West FiberNET" system to connect all of western North Carolina to the Asheville network.

**(1) GRANTS:** SCC has received \$9,821,079.13 in competitive grant funds in the last four years. In addition, through project ideas and the writing of proposals, an additional \$8,000,000 was received. Over 60% of grant funds support partner organizations such as public schools, public libraries and county governments.

(2) **MASTER PLAN**: SCC's Master Plan was revised in 1998 to reflect joint land use options and opportunities for expansion of the campus. SCC has already purchased property for re-location of N.C. Forest Service. Negotiations are continuing concerning acquisition of the school bus garage and armory properties.

(3) **LIBRARY**: A Joint Use Library Committee was appointed to study the feasibility of combining the Jackson County Public Library with SCC's library. If this plan were approved, a new library would be built at the N.C. Forest Service site. A joint facility would increase the services provided including being "wired" technologically. The next steps concerning this project include: (a) providing governing body updates on the status of the project; (b) resolve automation system merge issue; (c) seek facility basic design assistance; (c) finalize land transfer agreements; (d) hold public forum(s) for purpose of education and community input regarding the building and operation of a joint facility; and (e) identify and assess additional funding sources for capital construction and operation.

(4) **WELLNESS CENTER**: In 2002 Riverside Wellness Associates was engaged by a joint task force comprised of WestCare Health System, SCC and Jackson County to evaluate the feasibility of a community wellness and fitness center. The proposed site for this complex would on the carpentry building property. The proposed Wellness Center would be designed so as not to be an overlap of services offered at the Jackson County Recreation Center and WestCare Health Systems. The next steps concerning this project include: (a) provide governing body updates on the status of the project; (b) secure facility basic design assistance; (c) review and assess financial operation model(s); (d) secure public input related to programming, services and operational needs; and (e) identify funding sources for facility construction.

(5) **CASHIERS CAMPUS**: The present facility is being used on a "donated" basis. A new facility is needed. SCC has been working with the Village Corridor committee concerning a permanent site.

(6) **BOND FUNDS**: Bond funds for the Jackson Campus:

New Construction:

<u>State Bonds</u>	<u>Local Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
\$ 6,232,770	\$ 4,271,584	\$ 10,504,354

Renovation & Repair:

\$ 798,982	none	\$ 798,982
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There being no further business, Commissioner Crawford moved that the meeting be adjourned. Commissioner Madden seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote and the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Attested By:

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Evelyn B. Baker, Clerk to the Board

Approved:

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Stacy Buchanan, Chairman