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Time Posted: _____
Posted By: Evelyn Baker
Witness: _____

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
DECEMBER 19, 2005**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on December 19, 2005, at 6:00 p.m., 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Room A201, Sylva, North Carolina.

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

Absent: W. Paul Holt, Jr., County Attorney

Chairman McMahan called the meeting to order.

AGENDA: Commissioner Crawford moved to approve the Agenda. Commissioner Madden seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Commissioner Burrell moved to approve the Minutes of the two Public Hearings of December 5, 2005 and Regular Meeting of December 5, 2005. Commissioner Cowan seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

INFORMAL COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC: None.

(1) FINANCE & TAX COLLECTOR REPORTS FOR NOVEMBER 2005: Commissioner Crawford moved to approve the Finance & Tax Collector Reports for November 2005. Commissioner Madden seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(2) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Chairman McMahan reported:
(a) He attended the American Red Cross open house on December 6th.
(b) He attended an NCACC meeting earlier in December.
(c) The TWSA Board approved a Special Order of Consent with the NC Division of Water Quality. TWSA also agreed to waive the impact fees for the Cashiers Library. Commissioners are invited and encouraged to attend TWSA's annual meeting on January 17th at 5:30 pm.
(d) January 9, 2006, 1:00 pm: Budget Retreat.
(e) DOT Secondary Roads Meeting: January 26, 2006, 4:00 p.m.

(3) COMMISSIONERS REPORT: None.

(4) COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT: Mr. Westmoreland reported that the Local Government Commission met on December 6th and approved the county's applications. He met with the appropriate school personnel last Thursday concerning improvements at Fairview School. The scoping should be completed within 90-120 days and bids should be let by July 2006. Smoky Mountain High School improvement projects are on schedule.

(5) HOOPER RIGHT OF WAY AGREEMENT, SCC CASHIERS: Carry over.

(6) CASHIERS SRC IMPROVEMENT BIDS: Mr. Westmoreland reported three qualified bids were received. Because all bids were over budget, he recommended that Alternate A not be included. Alternate B is a substitute for gravel road in lieu of paving. He will recommend paving during the next fiscal year. The third alternate was for the substitution of a chain link fence in lieu of steel barrier fencing. He does not recommend chain link fencing and Alternate C1 should remain. He recommended that the bid be awarded to the low bidder, Parker Excavating, in the amount of \$213,707.00. Even though the bid is approximately \$35,000 higher than budgeted, funding will be from the Solid Waste budget. Commissioner Madden moved to award the bid to Parker Excavating. Commissioner Burrell seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(7) MUNICIPAL GRANTS: The following applications were received:

- (a) Village of Forest Hills: "Village Entrance" (no specific amount requested).
- (b) Town of Sylva: "Railroad Ave., Municipal Parking Lot Improvements" - \$20,000.
"Poteet Park Improvements" - \$8,250.
"Sylva Police Dept. PIN Terminal Funding" - \$6,575.
- (c) Town of Dillsboro: "Monteith Farmstead Preservation & Restoration" - \$20,000.
"Monteith Park" - \$20,000.

The \$20,000 grant is based on projects that promote and directly benefit not only the citizens of the municipality, but all citizens of Jackson County. Commissioner Burrell moved to award \$10,000 to the Town of Sylva for Poteet Park Improvements and \$10,000 to the Town of Dillsboro for the Monteith Park. Commissioner Crawford seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(8) N. C. FOREST SERVICE PROPERTY: Commissioner Burrell stated that because there is an urgency concerning the property exchange, he requested that Attorney Holt be directed to draft the appropriate document immediately and, if necessary, schedule a special meeting for action on this issue on January 9, 2006 prior to the budget retreat.

(9) JACKSON COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL: Mr. Westmoreland recommended that \$5,330.00 be appropriated from the contingency fund for the Jackson County Arts Council. Commissioner Cowan moved to approve the recommendation. Commissioner Burrell seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(10) **RESOLUTION (R05-33) JOE FOWLER RD:** A Public Hearing was held at 5:30 p.m. on December 19th and no objections were raised. Commissioner Cowan moved to adopt the Resolution. Commissioner Crawford seconded the Motion. Commissioner Burrell requested and was granted permission to abstain from voting because he is a member of the NCDOT Board. Motion carried with Commissioner Burrell abstaining.

(11) **APPOINTMENTS TO CASHIERS DESIGN REVIEW BOARD:** Carry over.

(12) **APPOINTMENTS TO CASHIERS PLANNING COUNCIL:** Carry over.

(13) **CHAF GRANT QUARTERLY REPORT:** Joan Stillwell, Community Development Director, presented the September 2005-December 2005 quarterly report which states that at this time ten homes are eligible for assistance (five replacements and five repairs). As a condition for financial assistance, homeowners will be required to carry flood insurance on their properties for five years on homes that are repaired and ten years on homes that are replaced. CHAF will pay the first year's premium. Further, a five-year lien will be placed on homes eligible for repairs and a ten-year lien on homes that are replaced; however, property owners are not required to make repayments unless their homes are sold during the respective lien terms.

(14) **HURRICANE RECOVERY PROJECT HOUSING COORDINATION RECOVERY STRATEGY:** Joan Stillwell, Community Development Director, stated that the housing recovery will include financial assistance from CHAF for housing rehabilitation or replacement. A written strategy report pursuant to the application guidelines was presented for Board approval. Commissioner Burrell moved to approve the strategy report. Commissioner Crawford seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(15) **"SHOP AT HOME":** David Skinner, General Manager of WRGC Radio, stated that WRGC has embarked on a campaign to encourage residents "Shop at Home". He requested that the county join WRGC, the Chamber of Commerce and the Sylva Downtown Association in this promotion. The cost is \$500 per month for forty-one 30 second spots or thirty-three 60 second spots. WRGC will match each spot. A decision on this request is carried over to the January 12, 2006 Regular Meeting.

(16) **BOARD OF ELECTIONS:** Mr. Westmoreland reported that the voting machines must be upgraded prior to the 2006 elections pursuant to decertification of all voting machines in North Carolina. The county's machines are in the process of being certified; however, because of mandated paper receipts, the present booths/stands are not large enough to provide space for the paper receipt attachment. The State will be allocating \$200,000 which should be sufficient to cover the costs for the upgrades in addition to the purchase of several new machines. The county presently has 62 machines and anticipates increasing that number to 82.

There being no further business, Commissioner Burrell moved that the meeting be adjourned. Commissioner Crawford seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Attested By:

Approved:

Evelyn B. Baker
Clerk to the Board

Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman