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Posted By: Evelyn Baker
Witness: _____

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
FEBRUARY 20, 2006**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on February 20, 2006, 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
W. Paul Holt, Jr., County Attorney
Evelyn B. Baker, Clerk to the Board

Chairman McMahan called the meeting to order.

AGENDA: Chairman McMahan amended the Agenda by adding Red Cross Month Proclamation, Women's History Month Proclamation, SCC Status Report, and Bio-Diesel & Blacksmith Projects. Commissioner Crawford moved to approve the amended Agenda. Commissioner Burrell seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Commissioner Madden moved to approve the Minutes of the Public Hearing of February 6, 2006 and Regular Meeting of February 6, 2006. Commissioner Cowan seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

INFORMAL COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC: Mark Jamison of Cullowhee commended the Planning Dept. for preparation of a Land Development Plan. He stated it was his opinion that the municipalities and institutions making presentations at the February 13th meeting focused almost exclusively on their narrow interests, that change and growth are inevitable, but progress is not; however, the management of change can result in benefit to the existing residents and communities. He stated that the Board of Commissioners has little or direct influence on many factors that have the greatest impact on the rural communities; it has little impact with the Tribe or WCU and marginal impact on the municipalities. He urged the Board to find ways to raise issues and give voice to the rural communities.

(1) FINANCE & TAX COLLECTOR REPORTS FOR JANUARY 2006:
Commissioner Cowan moved to approve the Finance & Tax Collector's Reports for January 2006 and Budget Amendments as presented at the February 6, 2006 meeting. Commissioner Crawford seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(2) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Chairman McMahan reported:

- (a) He attended the Water & Sewer Projects (WASP) meeting on February 9th. WASP, a sub-committee of TWSA, reviews proposals, projects and ideas from the county and municipalities. The deadline for the county to submit a request is March 10, 2006. In the future the deadline will be January of each year.
- (b) The Board is invited to attend a ground breaking ceremony at Pathways for the Future on February 22nd at 1:00 pm.
- (c) He will attend a Water Summit in Raleigh on February 23rd.
- (d) At Commissioner Burrell's request, the Budget Work Session was changed from February 28th to March 9th at 4:00 pm.

(3) COMMISSIONERS REPORT: None.

(4) COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT: Mr. Westmoreland requested Board approval for him to provide an orientation program (county programs, board procedures, audit, budget, operations of departments, long term issues, capital projects budget, etc.) for candidates who have filed for a seat on the Board of Commissioners.

(5) CASHIERS LIBRARY/SCC LANDSCAPING BIDS: Mr. Westmoreland stated there were some concerns at the last meeting regarding the low bidder's ability to carry forward with a contract. The county has taken some measures and safeguards to insure performance of the contract: (a) There will be a follow-up contract guaranteeing the work for one year following completion of the project and the county engaged Phil Ward, Landscape Architect, to oversee the work as it is being done and spot monitor it throughout the warranty period; and (b) The county will hold the security bond for faithful performance of the work. With these additional requirements the county will have appropriate safeguards necessary to insure that the work is done in an acceptable manner. He recommended that the low bidder, Clark & Co. of Franklin, NC, be awarded the bid in the amount of \$148,583.00 (\$53,000 will be paid by donations from the private sector). Commissioner Madden moved to award the bid to Clark & Co. Commissioner Burrell seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(6) APPOINTMENTS TO JACKSON TRAVEL & TOURISM AUTHORITY: Commissioner Cowan moved to re-appoint Betty Westmoreland and appoint Heather Menacof, Robert Jumper, and Shane Williams, all for three year terms. Commissioner Crawford seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(7) APPOINTMENTS TO CASHIERS TRAVEL & TOURISM AUTHORITY: Commissioner Madden moved to re-appoint Linda Rogers and appoint Eric NeSmith, both for three year terms. Commissioner Crawford seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(8) APPOINTMENTS TO ROAD NAMING BOARD: Commissioner Burrell moved to re-appoint Brian McMahan, Roberta Crawford, Todd Dillard, Melissa Gibson and Ron Story, all for two year terms. Commissioner Madden seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(9) APPOINTMENTS TO BOARD OF HEALTH: Commissioner Cowan moved to re-appoint Kim Cowan to a three year term. Commissioner Burrell seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(10) RESOLUTION (R06-05) LAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN: Chairman McMahan moved to adopt the resolution. Commissioner Burrell seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(11) PROCLAMATION – RED CROSS MONTH: Commissioner Madden moved that March be proclaimed as “Red Cross Month”. Commissioner Crawford seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(12) PROCLAMATION – WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH: Commissioner Cowan moved that March be proclaimed as “Women’s History Month”. Commissioner Burrell seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(13) SOUTHWESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE: Dr. Cecil Groves, President, gave a power point presentation of the status of SCC. He stated that SCC plans to enhance the Sylva Campus by acquiring the Forest Service and school bus garage properties. The plans also include constructing a connecting road from the campus to Hwy. 107.

SCC has four joint programs with the public schools: Collegiate Connections, Gear Up, New Century Scholars and Upward Bound Program. These programs improve high school graduation rates and reduce the cost of higher education.

SCC’s goals include work force development, technology deployment and resource attainment.

SCC spent \$1.6 million in grant money over a three year period studying how to build a world class telecommunication infrastructure in western North Carolina. SCC helped form BalsamWest FiberNet as a private enterprise with a specific goal of providing our rural area with access to an advanced telecommunications infrastructure comparable to that found in urban areas. BalsamWest is locally owned, locally built, and locally operated with a commitment to improve education, health care, and public service.

He requested that the county assist SCC with the following special funding needs:

- (a) Room for Jackson Campus growth to meet future county educational and training needs;
- (b) Funding for rising utility costs;
- (c) Upgrade existing college auditorium, especially the sound/media system;
- (d) Technology allocation allowing for improved services to students and community;
- (e) Facility and equipment budget for the Cashiers Campus.

(14) JACKSON COUNTY GREEN ENERGY PARK: Mr. Westmoreland presented draft agreements for the planning and development of a bio-diesel refinery and blacksmithing studios at the Jackson County Green Energy Park. Four blacksmiths have expressed an interest in using the facility. He requested that tentative approval be considered at the March 9th Special Meeting/Budget Work Session.

There being no further business, Commissioner Burrell moved that the meeting be adjourned. Commissioner Madden seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Attested By:

Approved:

Evelyn B. Baker
Clerk to the Board

Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman