

**MINUTES OF A JOINT WORK SESSION
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
and BOARD OF EDUCATION
HELD ON
OCTOBER 24, 2011**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a joint Work Session with the Board of Education on October 24, 2011, 4:00 p.m., Justice & Administration Building, Room A227, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Sylva, North Carolina.

Present:

Jack Debnam, Chairman
Doug Cody, Vice Chair
Joe Cowan, Commissioner
Charles Elders, Commissioner
Chuck Wooten, County Manager
Evelyn Baker, Clerk to Board
Darlene Fox, Finance Director

Absent: Commissioner Jones

Board of Education:

Ken Henke, Chairman
Ali Laird-Large
Nathan Moss
Elizabeth Cooper
Ali Laird-Large
Thurza McNair
Michael Murray, Superintendent
Steve Jones, Assist. Superintendent
Gwen Edwards, Finance Officer
Betty Brown, Clerk to Board

Chairman Debnam called the Work Session to order and stated that the purpose of the work session is to discuss capital improvements.

(1) **SCHOOL BOARD PRIORITIES:** Mr. Murray stated the School Board has two priorities: (a) Fine Arts & Gym at Smoky Mountain High, and (b) locker rooms at Blue Ridge School. He recommended that plans be finalized so the SMH project can be bid next fall.

(2) **FINE ARTS & GYM:** Mr. Wooten stated that revenues from two sales tax sources, Article 40 (40%) and Article 42 (60%), have a combined balance of \$2,030,811 which is restricted to school capital construction. Total expenditures this fiscal year is \$1,442,954 and the balance of \$587,857 will be transferred to the school capital reserve fund. \$897,136.35 is currently available in that fund. The debt on the Scotts Creek School will be paid off by the end of 2011.

The architect, John Cort, has informed Mr. Wooten that it will take approximately one year to complete the design and construction drawings. The cost for 70% of Mr. Cort's fees would be \$512,800 - \$532,312 which would be paid from the school capital reserve fund.

Option 1 – 1508 seat gym and 403 seat theater - \$10,465,500 (estimate)

Option 2 – 1508 seat gym and 560 seat theater - \$10,701,500 (estimate)

Option 3 – 1508 seat gym and 754 seat theater - \$10,863,500 (estimate)

The maximum annual debt service on \$11,000,000 with 4% interest would be \$982,298.30. The revenue from Articles 40 and 42 sales tax are in place to offset the debt service.

He recommended that the Board of Education Board submit a formal request for the Option it prefers plus a breakdown of items and costs not included in the construction estimate.

Another Work Session may be scheduled for a presentation by Mr. Cort.

There being no further comments, Commissioner Elders moved to adjourn the work session. Commissioner Cody seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the work session adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Evelyn B. Baker, Clerk to Board

W. J. Debnam, Chairman