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Time Posted: _____
Posted By: Pat Parris
Witnessed By: _____

**MINUTES OF A
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
March 5, 2012**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on March 5, 2012, 2:00 pm, Justice & Administration Bldg, Room A201, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Sylva, North Carolina.

Present: Jack Debnam, Chairman
Doug Cody, Vice Chair
Charles Elders, Commissioner
Mark Jones, Commissioner
Joe Cowan, Commissioner

Chuck Wooten, County Manager
J. K. Coward, Jr., Co. Attorney-Absent
Pat Parris, Clerk to Board
David Moore, Attorney

Chairman Debnam called the meeting to order.

AGENDA: Commissioner Elders moved to approve the Agenda. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Commissioner Elders moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 20, 2012. Commissioner Cody seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(1) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Chairman Debnam reminded everyone of the joint work session at 6:00 pm with the municipalities at the Aging Center

(2) COMMISSIONER REPORTS: Commissioner Cowan asked that the board members have recommendations for the flag committee at the next meeting. Commissioner Elders stated he had heard very positive comments concerning the tribal meeting that was held last week. Commissioner Cody reported that he attended a Library Board meeting and every function has increased by a huge percentage margin.

(3) COUNTY MANAGER REPORT: Mr. Wooten reported:

(a) NC Cooperative Extension Service: Because of budget reductions experienced by the NC Cooperative Extension Service, the number of statewide districts has been reduced from 6 to 5. Jackson County continues to be in the western district that contains 21 counties and the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians.

(b) Meeting with Chief Michell Hicks: Chairman Debnam, Commissioner Elders, Gerald Green and I along with David and Betty Huskins met with Chief Hicks to begin a dialogue on how we can work in partnership in relation to economic development opportunities and to strengthen the communication between the two entities. A joint meeting between the full Board, the Chief and Tribal Council would be beneficial.

(c) **Metrostat Assets** Town Manager Michael Morgan has advised that Frontier will not be submitting an offer. This leaves a single proposal from BalsamWest. In order that to move this issue forward, he requested authorization from the Board to meet with BalsamWest to gain a better understanding of their proposal. In addition, he proposes to meet with George Ware to discuss the possibility of a lease agreement for the fiber, tower and equipment that was utilized to provide internet services to a number of past Metrostat customers including the Chalet Inn owned by the Wares.

(d) **Mark Watson Park Project**: A meeting is scheduled this week to complete the punch list. A recent visit and inspection by NCDENR did not identify any discrepancies with the stabilization of the site. If the weather cooperates then the project should be completed with the next few weeks.

(e) **Tuckasegee Water and Sewer Authority**: Randall Turpin, TWSA Board Chair, has stated that Joe Cline had resigned as TWSA Executive Director. During the interim, the Board has asked Mr. Turpin to provide administrative oversight.

(f) **NCDOT Informational Workshop**: NCDOT will conduct an informational workshop on March 15th from 4 to 7 pm in the Cullowhee Valley School Cafeteria on the proposed improvements to NC 107 from north of the Old Cullowhee Road to NC 281 in Tuckasegee. This will include improvements in front of the East LaPorte Park.

(4) **COMMUNITY CHILD PROTECTION TEAM**: Sheryl Williamson and Christy Wyatt, Social Worker Supervisors, presented the 2011 Annual Report. The Community Child Protection Team (CCPT) was established as a means for state and local communities to form a partnership to strengthen child protection. The CCPT reviews active cases in which abuse, neglect or dependency is found and that are selected from categories defined by the team, brought for review at the specific request of a team member or brought for review at the initiative of the DSS Director. Based on case reviews this past year, the situations or conditions that most often were the cause of children being unsafe in the county were children being exposed to acts of domestic violence in the homes; neglect precipitated by substance abuse and in most cases poverty was a contributing factor for neglect. An ongoing need is to develop a safe place for visitation exchanges for families. Currently many of the families conduct visitation exchanges in the parking lot at the Sheriff's Office; however, this location does not allow for protection of children when the parents are involved in volatile relationships.

The Board was requested to appoint three members – one from the public schools, one from the Sylva Police Dept., and one from the Dept. of Juvenile Justice.

(5) **BUILDING INSPECTIONS**: John Wittekind submitted permit activity for 2010 and 2011 which reflects the totals are consistent:

Calendar year 2010: 1,181 permits issued of which 153 were new residential and 15 commercial

Calendar year 2011: 1,121 permits issued of which 105 were new residential and 18 commercial

Single family permits have decreased, but the cost of construction has increased. Since 1995 the total for all permits has decreased 20-25%.

(6) **WRGC -540 BROADCASTING CO., INC.**: Mr. Coward will give a more detailed report at the next meeting. Mr. Wooten stated he estimated the closing should be within the next 30 days.

(7) FOOD SERVICE CONTRACT – B & AL’S, LLC: Mr. Wooten stated that the County Attorney has revised the contract pursuant to the modifications adopted by the Board and will be presented to Mr. Faulk for review. The term of the contract was not changed.

Carry over.

(7) CARLTON LAND TRUST DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT ORDINANCE (O2012-02):

A public hearing was held on March 5, 2012 and no objections were made.

Motion: *Commissioner Jones moved to adopt the Development Agreement Ordinance. Commissioner Cody seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(8) SEDIMENT CONTROL APPEALS BOARD:

Motion: *Commissioner Elders moved to reappoint Lloyd Green to a 4- year term on the Sediment Control Appeals Board. Commissioner Cody seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(9) COUNCIL ON AGING:

Motion: *Commissioner Cowan moved to reappoint Thomas Dill to a 3- year term on the Council on Aging Board of Directors. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

Informal Comments by Public

- (a) Senator Jim Davis stated that it is part of his campaign promise to visit every county commission meeting in his district and encouraged everyone to feel free to contact him if he could be of any assistance.
- (b) Kent Moore of Qualla, Assistant Fire Chief and a business/property owner on the 441 Corridor, stated he attended all the community meetings and was dissatisfied as how the 441 Corridor Ordinance was handled. Even through there were some positive ideas, the community did not have a voice as to what they wanted in their community.
- (c) Linda Huscusson of Franklin stated her daughter is a landowner on the 441 Corridor. She attended all the community meetings and spoke out against the proposed Ordinance. It was her opinion that the property owners should have been given consideration as to what they wanted in their community and the county is not enforcing the rules.
- (d) Marie Leatherwood of Sylva stated her opinion concerning Board actions.

Press Conference

There being no further business, Commissioner Jones moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Cody seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Patsy C. Parris, Clerk to Board

W.J. Debnam, Chairman