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

**MINUTES OF A
RECONVENED WORK SESSION
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
MAY 21, 2012**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a reconvened Work Session on May 21, 2012, 2:00 p.m., Justice & Administration Bldg., 401 Grindstaff Cove Rd., 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
Pat Parris, Clerk to Board

Chairman Debnam reconvened the work session.

(1) SMOKY MOUNTAIN HIGH & BLUE RIDGE SCHOOLS: John Cort, Architect, stated the timeline for the project is: pre-advertise on June 1, formerly advertise on July 1, execute contract on August 23, issue notice to proceed on August 30, and contract completion is November 1, 2013. The total projected cost for both projects is \$12.2 to \$13.7 million.

(2) ABC COMMISSION: Mr. Coward reviewed the statutory guidelines for countywide distribution of alcoholic beverages. The county's role is inspections and suitability recommendations. The ABC Commission investigates each applicant and determines whether it will issue a permit. The county has no control in the ABC Commission's decisions to issue or not issue a permit. There are 19 types of permits that can be issued. The county does have the authority to set up another ABC Board or merge with the Sylva ABC Board; however, the ABC Commission prefers to deal with one board per county.

(3) NCDOT R-4745: Chairman Debnam stated that the Transportation Advisory Committee of the SWRPO adopted a regional transportation Priority Needs List naming improvements to NC 107 as the top regional transportation priority. He stated he is concerned that R-4745 will receive NCDOT funding before the top transportation priority named by the local community. The County and the municipalities adopted a Comprehensive Transportation Plan in 2010 that included R-4745 with a caveat that the project's inclusion in the plan could be reconsidered if further study of the project deemed it unnecessary or unwanted. He recommended that the County adopt a Resolution opposing the inclusion of R-4745 in the NCDOT State Transportation Improvement Program and recommending to NCDOT that it be removed from consideration for funding. Discussion ensued concerning the possibility that if the project is removed from Jackson County, funding would be allocated to another county.

(4) FY12-13 Budget: Mr. Wooten presented highlights which include the following:

- (a) Tax rate remain at \$.028.
- (b) Debt Services declined by \$174,000.
- (c) Budget reflects a \$45 million growth in tax base which is what has been seen in the past, but not where it was 5 years ago. The tax collection rate is 95.29%.
- (d) New Position: Establish a Human Resource Director position.
- (e) Capital Outlay 5-Year Plan: The budget removes capital outlay from every department with the exception of DSS. \$645,000 will be set aside in a contingency line item. After the 5-year plan is finalized, requests will be made to allocate those funds to replace equipment and other capital items.
- (f) Schools: Included appropriations to fund the debt service of \$11.3 million for construction costs at SMHS and Blue Ridge School.
- (g) SCC: Operating funding increased to \$149,960 (amount the county committed to about 3-4 yrs ago when construction of the Burrell Bldg. was approved) and \$97,000 for capital improvements, but does not include the \$580,000 request in matching funds.
- (h) Capital Reserve Fund: As part of the budget, \$650,000 was placed in the capital reserve fund for county-related projects. If the Board chooses to fund the local match for SCC projects, the money could be appropriated from the capital reserve fund or fund balance. The fund balance is 32.65% of the budget (state requires a minimum of 8%).
- (i) Capital Needs 5-Year Plan: The highest priority is the Health Dept., Emergency Mgmt Center & Call Center, and Southern Lumber Bldg renovations. The Canada and Cullowhee Fire Depts. need to be included in the plan.
- (j) Library: 3.4% increase which basically covers the amount requested for the Jackson County Library. The request for the Albert-Carlton Library was for a new position for training purposes prior to the retirement of an employee, but is not sufficient justification to recommend an increase.
- (k) Ambulance Contracts: Increase of 3.4% for both WestCare and Glenville-Cashiers Rescue Squad which was included in the contracts.
- (l) Fire Departments: Funded at the same level as in the past for operations.
- (m) Outside Entities: Good Samaritan Clinic - \$35,000 for operations plus a \$35,000 Health Dept. grant for a total of \$70,000. Cashiers Day Care Center - \$2,500.
- (n) Salaries: A one time bonus of \$650 for each employee who makes less than \$40,000.
- (o) Positions Added: Human Resource Director, GIS Mapping Specialist, Planner I, Public Health Nurse II, Animal Control Officer I, 1.5 Housekeeping (Cashiers Rec Center), Recreation Center Coordinator and a Youth/Senior Program Coordinator (Cashiers Center).
- (p) Grant Funded Positions Eliminated: CJPP Director, IMCI and a Public Health Nurse II. One grounds maintenance position was also eliminated.

There being no further business, Commissioner Cody moved to adjourn the work session Commissioner Elders seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the work session adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Patsy C. Parris, Clerk to Board

W. J. Debnam, Chairman

