

**MINUTES OF A  
REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
HELD ON  
JANUARY 7, 2013**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on January 7, 2013, 2:00 pm, Justice & Administration Building, Room A201, 401 Grindstaff Cove Rd., Sylva, North Carolina.

Present: Jack Debnam, Chairman  
Doug Cody, Vice Chair  
Mark Jones, Commissioner  
Charles Elders, Commissioner  
Vickie Greene, Commissioner

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

Chairman Debnam called the meeting to order.

**AGENDA:** Chairman Debnam amended the Agenda by adding Closed Session, Legal and Real Property. Commissioner Elders moved to approve the amended Agenda. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

**MINUTES:** Commissioner Elders moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular and Organizational Meetings of December 3, 2012. Commissioner Cody seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

**(1) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Chairman Debnam announced that since the third Monday in January is a holiday, the next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**(2) COMMISSIONER REPORTS:** Each Commissioner expressed appreciation for the productive retreat held on January 3.

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

**(a) November 2012 Unemployment Numbers:** The November 2012 unemployment rate of 8.7% reflects a .7% increase over November 2012. The November 2012 rate is less than the 9.2% rate in November 2011. All the western counties had increases in their November rates as compared to the October 2012 rate. Excepting Haywood County's rate of 8.2%, the Jackson County rate is less than the remaining western counties.

**(b) Cashiers-Glenville Recreation Center Dedication and Ribbon Cutting:** The facility will formally open at 5:00 pm on January 7<sup>th</sup>. An invitation has been extended to the community to attend this ceremony and tour the new facility. The facility will be a great asset to the community and continues the past and current practice of providing services in multiple locations across the county.

**(c) Tuckaseegee Water and Sewer Authority:** The Authority Board will host a reception honoring Randall Turpin's 9 years of service to the Authority as a representative for Jackson County. Doug Cody will be replacing Mr. Turpin on this board.

**(d) Converting Vehicles to Propane Gas:** The County Transit Authority is submitting a grant application to convert its vehicles to allow propane as a source of fuel. The approximate conversion cost per vehicle is \$2,000; however, the current cost of propane is almost 50% less than gasoline. This conversion will allow the vehicle to utilize either gasoline or propane.

**(e) Internet Sweepstakes Operations:** The Sheriff's Office has delivered a letter of notification that businesses should discontinue their sweepstakes operations as of January 3<sup>rd</sup>. A deputy visited each location throughout the County on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and found all businesses to be closed and compliant with the court ruling. In most cases, the machines have already been removed.

**(f) Jackson County TDA:** The Jackson County TDA will hold its first meeting on January 9<sup>th</sup> at the Cullowhee Recreation Center. He will attend and represent Commissioner Greene who will be in Asheville for training by the UNC School of Government.

**(g) NCACC Legislative Goals Conference:** The annual legislative goals conference will be held on January 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> in Raleigh. On the agenda for the upcoming meeting is the designation of the Chairman as your voting delegate. Other Commissioners are invited to attend and participate in the discussion and pre-registration is continuing through January 11<sup>th</sup>.

**(h) Annual Planning Retreat:** Thanks to everyone for participating in this event on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. An overview of discussions will be developed and a list will be provided of projects to be completed over the next few months.

**(i) Joint Meeting with Municipalities:** Tentatively scheduled on February 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm in the Heritage Dining Room at the Senior Center. Following dinner, an overview of the comprehensive economic development strategy will be presented as well as next steps for dissolving the existing EDC organization thus allowing the Commissioners to move forward with a modified structure.

**(j) Work Session, January 22<sup>nd</sup>:** A tentative work session is scheduled at 2:00 pm, Room A227, on January 22<sup>nd</sup> in advance of the regular meeting at 6:00 pm.

**(4) NCACC VOTING DELEGATE:** The NCACC Legislative Goals Conference is scheduled in Raleigh on January 24-25.

***Motion:*** Commissioner Jones moved to designate Chairman Debnam to serve as Jackson County's voting delegate at the NCACC Legislative Goals Conference. Commissioner Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote

**(5) CLEAN WATER MANAGEMENT TRUST FUND RESOLUTION (R13-01):** The Resolution is in support of funding by the General Assembly for 2013-2015.

***Motion:*** Commissioner Greene moved to adopt the Resolution. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**(6) SMOKY MOUNTAIN AREA MENTAL HEALTH BOARD:**

***Motion:*** Commissioner Elders moved to appoint Jack Debnam to the Smoky Mountain Area Mental Health Board. Commissioner Cody seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**(7) COUNCIL ON AGING:**

***Motion:*** Commissioner Jones moved to appoint Clarissa Ashe to a 3-year term on the Council on Aging. Commissioner Elders seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Informal Comments by Public:** None

**Press Conference**

**CLOSED SESSION:**

***Motion:*** Chairman Debnam moved that the Board go into closed session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5) Real Property and G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) Legal. Commissioner Elders seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

Chairman Debnam called the regular meeting back to order and stated no action was taken in closed session except approval of closed session minutes.

There being no further business, Commissioner Elders moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Cody seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

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Patsy C. Parris, Clerk to Board

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W. J. Debnam, Chairman