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Time Posted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Posted By: Pat Parris  
Witnessed By: \_\_\_\_\_

**MINUTES OF A PUBLIC HEARING  
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
HELD ON  
APRIL 1, 2013**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing on April 1, 2013, 1:40 p.m., Justice & Administration Building, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Room A201, Sylva, North Carolina.

Present: Jack Debnam, Chairman	Chuck Wooten, County Mgr.
Doug Cody, Vice Chair	J. K. Coward, County Attorney
Mark Jones, Commissioner- Absent	Pat Parris, Clerk to Board
Charles Elders, Commissioner	
Vicki Greene, Commissioner	

Chairman Debnam called the public hearing to order and stated the purpose is to receive public input concerning a proposed Economic Development Loan Commitment Agreement with Great Smoky Mountains Railroad, LLC.

**Public Comments:**

- (1) Marie Leatherwood, Sylva, stated taxpayer monies should not be used to finance the railroad, especially money that will not be repaid.
- (2) T. J. Walker, Dillsboro business owner, stated that having the train return will attract more tourists and urged approval of the Agreement.
- (3) Mike Fitzgerald, Mayor, Town of Dillsboro, encouraged the Board to look forward and approve the Agreement. Train excursions to/from Dillsboro will definitely boost the local economy.
- (4) Sandra Grunwell, WCU, stated local businesses will see a definite impact from train customers visiting the area.
- (5) George Ware, Whittier, stated he disagreed with making a grant to the railroad.
- (6) Carl Iobst, Cullowhee, stated he supports investing money in the train, but it should be held accountable.

There being no further public comments, Commissioner Greene moved to adjourn the Public Hearing. Commissioner Elders seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the public hearing adjourned.

Attest:

Approved:

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Patsy C. Parris, Clerk to Board

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W. J. Debnam, Chairman