

**MINUTES OF A
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
FEBRUARY 17, 2014**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on February 17, 2014, 6:00 pm, Justice & Administration Bldg., Room A201, 401 Grindstaff Cove Rd., Sylva, North Carolina.

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

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

Chairman Debnam called the meeting to order.

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

MINUTES: Commissioner Greene moved to approve the Minutes of the Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of February 3, 2014. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(1) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Chairman Debnam stated he would like to schedule a Public Hearing on March 17 to receive public comments concerning amending the Comprehensive Transportation Plan DOT priority list by removing Project R4745 A & B (*NC 107 Connector from NC 107 east of Sylva to west of Cope Creek (new road) and NC 107 Connector from west of Cope Creek to US 23/74 east of Sylva (new road)*) and adding Ledbetter Road improvements and Wilmont Bridge replacement.

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

(a) December 2013 Unemployment Information: The December 2013 unemployment rate remained at 5.8% and continues to be the lowest rate west of the Balsams. Jackson's December 2013 rate was 3.7% or 3.9% lower than December 2012. Every county in the area saw an improvement in their rates from prior months. The Division of Workforce Solution for Macon, Jackson and Swain counties also reported there are a large number of job listings as compared to past years and this is also a positive trend.

(b) NCDOT Secondary Road Construction and Unpaved Roads Paving Program for FY 13-14: Jackson County received an allocation totaling \$105,865.22 from the \$15 million statewide reserve for unpaved roads. In discussing this allocation with NCDOT officials, they advise that Jackson County has paved all state maintained roads for which rights of way could be obtained; consequently, these funds will be used for pavement strengthening on the existing secondary paved network in the County.

(c) Opt In Regional Vision Workshops: The next round of conversations will continue next week throughout the region. A meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 20th at 5:30 at Smoky Mountain High School.

(d) Upcoming Project Lazarus Lunch & Learn: This event will be held on February 28th from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm at the Jackson County Health Department. This project deals with medication overdose and this meeting is focused on the leadership of Jackson County.

(e) **Capital Project Updates:** The Smoky Mountain High School project is moving toward completion. It does appear that the project will continue during the first half of March before all the punch list items are completed. Wood flooring is being installed in the gymnasium and permanent seating is ready to be installed in the fine arts building. At this point, a temporary certificate of occupancy and a designation of "substantially completed" will not take place until mid-March. There is every reason to believe that the facilities will be available to SMHS during the current school year. The final punch list items are complete at Blue Ridge and with the exception of some outdoor work this project is completed.

(f) **FY 14-15 Budget Process:** Budget packets for the upcoming budget will be provided to department heads during the regular monthly staff meeting on February 28th. He will contact Mike Murray and Don Tomas to schedule budget presentations from the Jackson County Public Schools and Southwestern Community College during the April work session.

(g) **Joint Meeting with Municipalities and TWSA:** An invitation was sent to Mayors and the TWSA Board Chairman inviting them to a joint work session on Monday, March 3rd at the Heritage Dining Room in the Aging Center.

(3) **CONSENT AGENDA:** Darlene Fox, Finance Director, presented Finance, Tax Collector and Refund Reports for January 2014.

Motion: Commissioner Jones moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Greene seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(4) **GREENWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE:** Carry over.

(5) **PLANNING BOARD:** Carry over

(6) **ROAD NAMING BOARD:**

Motion: Commissioner Elders moved to reappoint Todd Dillard, Margie Harris and Jack Knight to 2-year terms on the Road Naming Board. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(7) **CASHIERS PLANNING COUNCIL:**

Motion: Commissioner Jones moved to reappoint Pat Nardy, John Stranger, Jeff Zahner and Will McKee to 3-year terms on the Cashiers Planning Council. Commissioner Elders seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Informal Comments by Public:

(a) Marie Leatherwood of Sylva stated her disapproval of actions by some members of the board.

(b) Jim Mueller of Glenville encouraged senior citizens and retirees to volunteer their time as tutors for students in grades 1 through 3 which are important years for children to learn to read and do simple arithmetic. The requirement would be to complete a school application form. The state will do a background check. This is a very rewarding experience and school staff and students are very appreciative.

Press Conference

There being no further business, Commissioner Greene moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Elders seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Patsy C. Parris, Clerk to Board

W. J. Debnam, Chairman

