

Posted: May 8, 2003  
Time Posted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Posted By: Evelyn Baker  
Witnessed By: \_\_\_\_\_

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING  
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
HELD ON  
MAY 6, 2003**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Joint Meeting with the Town of Sylva, Town of Webster, Town of Dillsboro and Village of Forest Hills on Tuesday, May 6, 2003, at 6:00 p.m. in Courtroom Two, Justice & Administration Building, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Sylva, North Carolina.

Present were:

Board of Commissioners:

Stacy Buchanan, Chairman  
Roberta Crawford, Commissioner  
Joe Cowan, Commissioner  
Brian McMahan, Commissioner  
Eddie Madden, Commissioner  
Kenneth Westmoreland, County Manager  
Evelyn B. Baker, Clerk to Board

Town of Sylva:

Brenda Oliver, Mayor  
Maurice Moody  
Audrey Tritt  
Eldridge Painter  
Danny Allen  
Richard McHargue  
Ann Cabe

Town of Webster:

Steve Gray, Mayor

Town of Dillsboro:

Jean Hartbarger, Mayor  
James Cochran  
Emma Wertenberger

Village of Forest Hills:

James Davis, Mayor

Chairman Buchanan called the meeting to order and stated the purpose of the meeting was to discuss matters, which any one of the units feels to be of interest, potential benefit or potential harm to any or all of the other units.

**(1) MINUTES:** Commissioner McMahan moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular meeting of November 21, 2002. Commissioner Tritt seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**(2) AGENDA:** Commissioner Crawford moved to approve the Agenda. Commissioner Tritt seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**(3) TOWNSHIP DEVELOPMENTS:**

**Dillsboro:** Commissioner Cochran stated that a Resolution concerning Duke re-licensing was adopted.

**Village of Forest Hills:** They are working on the possibility of re-opening the golf course.

**Sylva:** Mayor Oliver stated that a Resolution was adopted in support of keeping the library in Sylva. Town Manager McHargue stated that sewer extensions are underway in Moody Bottom, Battles Branch Rd. and Mitchell Rd. areas. It is anticipated that sewer service will be extended to the Allen's Branch area by the end of July. The spring-clean up was successful and hopefully this will become an annual event.

**Webster:** Mayor Gray reported that the sidewalks should be completed later this year. The old chicken house will be removed in exchange for dirt from the property owner.

**(4) COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS:** Chairman Buchanan invited the municipalities to stay for the Noise Ordinance Public Hearing at 7:30 p.m. A task force is working on amendments to the Sedimentation Ordinance. A Smart Growth task force has been appointed and they are working on a Subdivision Ordinance and a Recreation Master Plan. The Board of Commissioners has scheduled a meeting with that task force on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m. The county is in the process of purchasing 39 acres on Highway 116 as a site for a new Social Services Building and Aging Department. Approximately 20 acres of this property is located in the Town of Webster's ETJ.

Commissioner Madden stated that the Cashiers incorporation bill had passed the State House and is currently in the State Senate. One of the requirements is that this issue is placed on a referendum and a vote will probably be scheduled in July or August of this year. A final report on the Cashiers Commercial District Plan will be presented to the Board of Commissioners at its first meeting in June.

Commissioner Crawford reported that the Historic Courthouse Committee has held two meetings and is in the process of finding a suitable location for the Kudzu Players. The committee would like to restore the courthouse to its original status.

A ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Detention Center is scheduled for May 10<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m.

A Public Hearing concerning the library is scheduled on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6:00 p.m. at SCC.

A committee consisting of one representative from each municipality and one from the county should be formed to re-negotiate the cablevision franchise.

**(5) WCU UPDATE:** Tom McClure reported that enrollment, 7,500 for the fall, is a record high. A new degree, Electrical Engineering, is being offered in conjunction with UNC-Charlotte. There are several construction projects underway on campus including a new dorm and road.

**(6) SCC UPDATE:** None

**(7) TUCKASEIGEE WATER & SEWER:** Mickey Luker introduced the new director, Hugh Montgomery. Mr. Montgomery is a former town manager from Pittsboro. Mr. Montgomery reported that TWSA is an asset of the county and as such is charged with the expansion and maintenance of the service. He is inspecting the various facilities and will be making capital improvements. There are problems with some of the transmission lines. Further studies will be performed concerning wastewater treatment.

**(8) SOLID WASTE:** John Thornton, Altamont Environmental, reported on the state mandated Ten Year Solid Waste Management Plan which must be updated every three years. The county and municipalities must approve a plan. The county has implemented several measures to facilitate waste reduction goals, such as, inclusion of an improved dual or tri-stream recycling program that will make recycling much easier for

residents, development of a Solid Waste Board, and an increase in educational outreach programs. A Public Hearing on the recommended plan is scheduled for June 10, 2003, 6:00 p.m. at the Justice Center. Mr. Thornton requested that the county and municipalities adopt a Solid Waste Management Plan 3-Year Update Resolution before the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline.

**(9) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION:** Tom McClure gave an overview of the history of the EDC including its mission and partners. Some of the employment highlights were:

2000 Census	33,121	Service Jobs	6,305
Total Workforce	13,005	Government Jobs	3,507
Per Capita Income(2000)	\$21,221	Manufacturing Jobs	687
Tourism 2001 Jobs	660+	Construction	900

Proposed Future Economic Development: Bre'stone, Centex, Mill Street Improvement, Millennial Campus, and Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements (Cashiers and Whittier).

EDC is currently working on enhancing existing industries, which includes two expansions. Also, there are three new companies who may want to locate in the area. The new bandwidth, or high-speed Internet access, to local universities, hospitals, government agencies and private businesses across the mountains will enable the EDC to attract more industries to the area. The new Entrepreneurial Center will work to develop new economy business that will provide high value added jobs.

**(10) DUKE RELICENSING AGREEMENT:** David Bates, Greenways Coordinator, presented a proposed Intergovernmental Resolution. This Resolution addresses some of the issues that the Tuckasegee Cooperative Stakeholder Team does not think have been appropriately addressed in the Consensus Agreement and Trial Balloons presented by Duke. The final submission date is noon on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Fred Alexander, District Manager-Nantahala Area, Duke Power, stated that the proposed Resolution does not appear to be within the guidelines of the stakeholders' rules. He recommended that the county and municipalities allow him to address this issue at their respective board meetings and urged the boards not to act hastily in adopting the proposed Resolution. Duke is looking at this matter on a long-term basis to protect low utility rates.

Mr. Westmoreland reported that there was nothing secretive about the stakeholder team. When this group formed approximately three years ago, it was the consensus that they not go public, be political, lobby in the media, or by any other method attempt to sway an opinion towards their individual position. May 9<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for each member to present recommendations/ provisions for final settlement to Duke. Duke will respond to those recommendations on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Duke is applying for re-licensing (30-40 year period) for all facilities located on the Nantahala and Tuckasegee Rivers; however, it is required to meet certain guidelines and guarantees, such as, public access to public waters, creation of dams, water flows, stream flows, recreational uses, (swimming, boating, fishing), erosion control, etc. The general consensus was that the county and each municipality would discuss this issue further with their respective boards.

**(11) SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING:** Chairman Buchanan recommended October 7, 2003, 6:00 p.m.

There being no further business, Commissioner Crawford moved that the meeting be adjourned. Commissioner Tritt seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote and the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Attested By:

Approved:

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Evelyn Baker, Clerk to the Board

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Stacy Buchanan, Chairman