

Posted: _____
Time Posted: _____
Posted By: Evelyn Baker
Witnessed: _____

**MINUTES OF A WORK SESSION
OF THE
JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
APRIL 18, 2011**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Work Session on April 18, 2011, 3:30 p.m., Justice & Administration Building, Room A227, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Sylva, North Carolina.

Present:

Jack Debnam, Chairman
Doug Cody, Vice Chair
Joe Cowan, Commissioner
Mark Jones, Commissioner
Charles Elders, Commissioner

Chuck Wooten, County Manager
Darlene Fox, Finance Director
Evelyn Baker, Clerk to Board

Chairman Debnam called the Work Session to order and stated that the purpose of the work session is to discuss DOT Transportation Priorities and the Board of Education's budget and capital improvement requests for FY 2011-12.

(1) DOT TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES: After each Commissioner ranked 16 different projects, the rankings were compiled and the top six priorities are:

1. NC 107 Improvements from US 23 to 4-lane Divided Cross-Section
2. US 74 and US 23 Business Additional Ramp
3. Asheville Hwy, US 23 Business, Hospital Rd. to NC 107
4. Old Settlement Road
5. US 64 in Cashiers
6. US 441 and NC 116 Intersection

Ryan Sherby, Southwestern Commission Regional Planner, stated the top 25 projects from the region (6 counties) will be forwarded to DOT. In reality, the top 1 or 2 from each county may be funded within the next 10 -12 years. DOT wants to keep a project list on-going for long-range planning purposes. Every two years the Board will be requested to update rankings as projects are funded. The ranking process was instituted approximately two years ago, but this is the first time the county has submitted a list. The rankings list will be forwarded to the State for evaluation and final rankings.

Chairman Debnam stated that in the future it would be beneficial for DOT engineers and experts to provide studies, traffic counts, road needs, accident rates, costs, recommendations, etc. prior to the Board being requested to select priorities. This issue will be added to the April 18 Regular Meeting Agenda for consideration.

(2) SCHOOLS - OPERATING EXPENSES: School Board members present: Ken Henke, Chairman, Ali Laird-Large, and Elizabeth Cooper. Also present: Sue Nations, Superintendent, Steve Jones, Asst. Superintendent, Gwen Edwards, Finance Officer, and Betty Brown, Clerk.

Ms. Edwards gave a power point presentation explaining funding sources and expenditures for FY2010-11. She also presented what the financial effects on schools will be if the proposed House Budget is adopted.

She requested the same amount of operating expenses as allocated the last year for FY2011-12:

<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>\$ 6,779,482</u>
<u>Capital Projects</u>	<u>235,000</u>
<u>Technology</u>	<u>397,500</u>
Total	\$ 7,411,982

(3) PERFORMING ARTS/GYM: The school board requested that the performing arts/gym project at Smoky Mountain High School be kept in the forefront for new capital projects.

There being no further comments, Commissioner Elders moved to adjourn the work session. Commissioner Cody seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the work session adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Evelyn B. Baker, Clerk to Board

W. J. Debnam, Chairman