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Time Posted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Posted By: Evelyn Baker  
Witnessed By: \_\_\_\_\_

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
HELD ON  
FEBRUARY 2, 2009**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Meeting on February 2, 2009 at 6:00 p.m., 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Room A201, Sylva, North Carolina.

Present: Brian T. McMahan, Chairman  
Tom Massie, Vice Chair  
Joe Cowan, Commissioner  
William Shelton, Commissioner  
Mark Jones, Commissioner

Ken L. Westmoreland, County Manager  
W. Paul Holt, Jr., County Attorney  
Evelyn B. Baker, Clerk to Board

Chairman McMahan called the meeting to order.

**AGENDA:** Chairman McMahan amended the Agenda by adding “Webster Complex Road Right of Way Easement Agreement” and Commissioner Massie added “Human Service Agencies”. Commissioner Massie moved to approve the amended Agenda. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

**MINUTES:** Commissioner Jones moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 20, 2009 with a correction at the end of paragraph 16 “motion failed by a vote of 2-3”. Commissioner Shelton seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

**INFORMAL COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC:**

(a) Marie Leatherwood of Sylva stated the issue of the “missing” records of the EDC and JDC remains unresolved.

(b) Carl Iobst of Cullowhee stated construction of the Sleep/Clarion Inn located on Hwy. 107 near Walmart has stopped for lack of funding and appears to be abandoned. He requested the Board to contact the Town of Sylva and ascertain if it can be torn down and the materials recycled to build low-cost, affordable homes for residents of the county.

**(1) CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:** Chairman McMahan reported that he attended an Emergency Planning Committee whose purpose is to bring together infrastructure components. He requested and there were no objections that commencing in March the time of regular meetings be changed to 6:30 p.m.

**(2) COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:** Commissioner Jones reported that he, Mr. Westmoreland and Helen Bryson, Director of the Council on Aging, are interviewing prospective food service providers so the new facility can be a multi-use facility.

Commissioner Shelton reported that he and Commissioner Massie attended a capital budgeting seminar in Chapel Hill on January 28. He also attended the Transportation Task Force meeting on January 29.

Commissioner Massie reported that the drought task force met on January 29 and the next meeting is scheduled on February 19. He anticipates the task force will have some recommendations available at the March 10 multi-jurisdictional meeting.

**(3) COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT:** Mr. Westmoreland reported that Department Heads have been very cooperative concerning reducing their current budgets and identified almost \$1.3 million towards a goal of \$1.5. He plans on having a formal report available for Board consideration at the next meeting.

**(4) FINANCE & TAX COLLECTOR REPORTS FOR JANUARY 2009 and BUDGET AMENDMENTS:** Carry over.

**(5) FIRE SUPPORT SERVICES JOB DESCRIPTION:** Mr. Westmoreland will incorporate Mr. Holt's suggestions into the job description.

***Motion:*** Commissioner Jones moved to approve the revised fire support services job description. Commissioner Massie seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**(6) REQUESTS TO FILL POSITIONS:** Paula Carden, Health Dept. Director, stated that because the Accounting Specialist is delaying retirement until the end of this fiscal year, three of the four position requests are withdrawn. She requested that only the Case Manager-Good Samaritan Clinic position be filled which, for the current year, will be funded by grant and state funds. Mr. Westmoreland recommended that the position be filled.

***Motion:*** Commissioner Massie moved to fill the Case Manager-Good Samaritan Clinic position. Commissioner Shelton seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**(7) BALSAM-WILLETS-OGRE HILL FIRE DEPT.:** By letter, Chief Johnny Nicholson requested that a surplus 2003 Ford Expedition vehicle be transferred to the fire department. Chairman McMahan requested and was granted permission to recuse himself from voting because he is a member of the Balsam Fire Dept.

***Motion:*** Commissioner Shelton moved to declare the 2003 Ford Expedition surplus and transferred to the Balsam-Willets-Ochre Hill Fire Department. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**(8) WEBSTER COMPLEX ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY EASEMENT AGREEMENT:** Mr. Westmoreland reported that property owners on Nanny's Lane which adjoins the Webster Complex tract have requested a joint road right of way easement for the existing 12' gravel road leading from Hwy 116 (Webster Road) with maintenance of same to be shared on a pro rata basis. Attorney Holt has reviewed and approved the agreement.

***Motion:*** Commissioner Cowan moved to authorize the Chairman to execute the agreement. Commissioner Massie seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**(9) HUMAN SERVICES AGENCIES:** Bob Cochran, Social Services Director, stated that DSS, Mountain Projects, United Christian Ministries, Aging Dept., and other human service organizations have developed a “Save the Warmth” program in Jackson County. The program is designed to proactively respond to the economic crisis by assisting county residents who do not qualify for other assistance programs. He requested that the Board consider making a contribution to the program. Kathy Cross, United Christian Ministries Director, stated there is also the need for rental and transportation assistance.

After discussion, it was recommended that any contribution made by the county be limited to food, heating fuel, utilities, and transportation needs. Quarterly and/or annual reports of how county funds are used will be submitted to the Board.

***Motion:*** *Commissioner Massie moved to appropriate \$20,000 from the contingency fund for the benefit of needy citizens of Jackson County. Commissioner Shelton seconded the Motion. Mr. Westmoreland will ascertain to which organization(s) the funds will be appropriated and the stipulations concerning expenditures. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

**(10) GREENWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE:** Carry over

**(11) WATERSHED REVIEW BOARD:** Rick Bennett, Neil Dawson and Ray Trine have agreed to continue to serve if reappointed. Commissioner Jones recommended that Jim Ryan be appointed as a member of the Watershed Review Board.

***Motion:*** *Commissioner Massie moved to reappoint Rick Bennett, Neil Dawson and appoint Jim Ryan as members, and reappoint Ray Trine as an alternate to the Watershed Review Board, all to serve 3-year terms. Commissioner Cowan seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

**(12) AIRPORT AUTHORITY BOARD:** Carry over.

**(13) PLANNING BOARD:** Bob Carpenter and Wayne Cobb have agreed to continue to serve if reappointed.

***Motion:*** *Commissioner Massie moved to reappoint Bob Carpenter and Wayne Cobb to 3-year terms on the Planning Board. Commissioner Cowan seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

**(14) CEMETERY BOARD:** Ronnie Riddle and Alvin Frady, Jr. have agreed to continue to serve if reappointed. The Cemetery Board recommended Randy Cabe to fill a vacancy.

***Motion:*** *Commissioner Cowan moved to reappoint Alvin Frady, Jr. and Ronnie Riddle and appoint Randy Cabe to the Cemetery Board, all to serve 4-year terms. Commissioner Shelton seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

**(15) REGION A AREA AGENCY ON AGING:**

***Motion:*** *Commissioner Jones moved to appoint Kelli Walkingstick to a 3-year term as a member of the Region A Area Agency on Aging. Commissioner Cowan seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

There being no further business, Commissioner Shelton moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

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Evelyn B. Baker, Clerk to Board

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Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman