

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

**MINUTES OF A
 BUDGET WORK SESSION
 OF THE
 JACKSON COUNTY
 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
 HELD ON
 JUNE 7, 2007**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Budget Work Session on June 7, 2007, at 6:00 pm, Justice & Administration Building, Room A201, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Sylva, North Carolina.

Present: Brian T. McMahan, Chairman
 Joe Cowan, Vice Chair
 Tom Massie, Commissioner
 William Shelton, Commissioner
 Mark Jones, Commissioner
 Kenneth L. Westmoreland, County Manager
 Evelyn Baker, Clerk to Board
 Darlene Fox, Finance Director

Chairman McMahan called the meeting to order and stated that the purpose of the work session is to discuss the FY2007-08 budget.

(1) SHERIFF'S BUDGET: Sheriff Ashe gave a power point presentation outlining the accomplishments, goals and statistical data for his office. He stated the inmate population in the detention center has been at a maximum for the past two months and the county needs to address future growth. He stated the detention center has not been housing out-of-county inmates because all of the surrounding counties have built or are building new detention centers. An agreement has been entered into with the Tribe for housing its inmates. Since October 2003, 4,950 inmates were processed and the detention center processes an average of four inmates per day. Deputies handled 16,401 events during 2006. He requested the following budget changes:

Additional Staff Request:

- (a) 5 upgrades for senior officers: Grade 62 to Grade 63, as an incentive for added responsibilities
- (b) 4 Detention Officers: one per shift in order to operate the Inmate Housing Pod Control Center
- (c) Secretary: responsible for all DCI Programs and TAC
- (d) Civil Process Officer to serve as child support enforcement officer
- (e) Requested budget increases are as follows:

Sheriff's Budget:		Jail Budget:	
Uniforms	\$ 2,000	Uniforms	\$ 2,150
Certification/supplies/training/ammunition	\$ 3,000	Travel	\$ 2,000
Supplies and materials	\$ 5,000		
Special supplies	\$ 1,000		
Travel	\$ 5,000		
Contracted services	\$ 8,000		
Special projects	\$ 2,500		
Salaries & Benefits for 5 new staff	\$ 180,868		
Total Request (Sheriff & Jail)			\$211,510

It was requested, and the Sheriff agreed, that in the future he will turn in his budget requests to the County Manager and Finance Director in a timely fashion and keep expenditures within budget. His requested budget increases will be considered at the next budget work session.

(2) **AGING DEPT. FACILITY:** Dennis Ford of Cope Associates, Inc. presented a schematic design for a new facility. The dining area has a seating capacity of 300 and includes a stage area. The design is for a 26,720 sq. ft. facility at a projected cost of \$4,543,350.00 excluding furniture, fixtures, equipment and site development. He stated he would continue working on the facility design and parking spaces. Mr. Westmoreland stated that the maximum 2009 debt capacity would accommodate the additional amount.

(3) **LIBRARY:** McMillan Smith & Partners Architects submitted a written assessment of the Historic Courthouse as a potential site for the new library. The report states the concern is not necessarily the building itself, but the limitations presented by the surrounding site constraints such as topography, access, distance to property line, and an adjacent building severely restricts the ability to expand, and adequate parking is also an issue. The county purchased, at the recommendation of the Library Task Force, property at the Jackson Plaza. The budget is \$4.2 million which includes furniture, fixtures and equipment for an approximate 20,000 sq. ft. facility. Additional square footage would depend on private contributions.

(4) **CAPITAL PROJECTS:** Only two of three capital projects for Budget Year 2009 (Calendar Year 2008) will fall within the Local Government Commission debt authorization. Proposed projects are:

Aging Facility	\$ 3,600,000.00
Cashiers Rec Center	\$ 4,500,000.00
Library	\$ 4,200,000.00

The program for architectural, engineering, site and prep work for only two projects is included in the proposed budget. The actual debt would not be issued until after January 1, 2008. The debt limitation opens up considerably for Calendar Year 2009 for the remaining project.

By consensus, a new Aging Dept. facility and new library were selected.

(5) **JUSTICE CENTER PARKING EXPANSION:** The transit department presented a cost analysis concerning court shuttle service to the Justice Center on Mondays. Without using state funds, the hourly rate would be \$47.25. Commissioner Massie stated that shuttle service would encourage mass transit in the county. Commissioner Cowan stated he preferred trying a shuttle service for a year.

Contractors estimated \$65,000.00 for a 52-space parking lot in a portion of the grassy area in front of the Justice Center. The estimate includes curbing, guttering, drains, sidewalks, steps, paving, etc.

By majority consensus, an appropriation for a parking lot will be included in the FY2007-08 budget.

(6) **REACH, INC.**: REACH, Inc. has requested that the county pay for a portion of the following four programs:

Shelter Nights	\$ 30.00/per night per person
Victim Advocacy	\$ 50.00/per person per session
Support Group	\$ 60.00/per session
Individual Counseling	\$ 75.00/per session

REACH would submit a quarterly itemized bill for the above services not to exceed \$12,500 per quarter. Further information such as a detailed 2006 report which reflects the number of shelter nights, number of sessions, etc. is needed before a decision can be made.

(7) **COMMUNITY HEALTH LINK:** A request was made for an additional \$8,500 as a grant match which would be used to purchase tee shirts and water bottles for schoolchildren to encourage them to participate in a program. By majority consensus, the appropriation was increased by \$8,500.00.

An additional budget work session will be scheduled.

There being no further business, Commissioner Jones moved that the meeting be adjourned. Commissioner Shelton seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Evelyn B. Baker, Clerk

Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman