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Posted By: Evelyn Baker
Witnessed by: _____

**MINUTES OF A
BUDGET WORK SESSION
OF THE
JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
MAY 29, 2008**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Budget Work Session on May 29, 2008, 4:00 pm, Room A201, Justice & Administration Building, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Sylva, North Carolina.

Present: Brian T. McMahan, Chairman Joe Cowan, Vice Chair Tom Massie, Commissioner Mark Jones, Commissioner Kenneth L. Westmoreland, County Manager Darlene Fox, Finance Director Evelyn B. Baker, Clerk to the Board	Absent: William Shelton, Commissioner
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Chairman McMahan called the budget work session to order and amended the Agenda by adding Shining Law and Discharge of Firearms Resolutions.

(1) **HEALTH INSURANCE & WELLNESS**: No increase in-group premiums this year. The Wellness Program has been beneficial to employees and should be continued along with some additional benefits, i.e., volunteer blood testing for sugar, cholesterol, etc. and if an employee is identified with at least three problems, the county would be responsible for the medication copay through the plan. In addition, the county would pay 100% of the cost for an annual physical. These are steps to encourage a healthy lifestyle; however, participation is voluntary. Funding is not required and would just be incorporated into the policy.

(2) **SUBDIVISION REVIEW FEES**: Over the past year the “vested rights” subdivision determinations required significant time for review along with a substantial amount of inspection time by enforcement personnel. It requires almost as much staff time to monitor a vested subdivision as it does to monitor a subdivision or development agreement. It was recommended that the planning department fee schedule be amended to include “vested rights” lots in the same amount per lot as is in the current subdivision schedule, i.e., \$115.00 per lot for a minor subdivision and \$225 per lot for a major subdivision. In doing so, the cost of review and enforcement is borne by the developer rather than the general public.

(3) **PERMITS -TEMPORARY TRANSPORTATION FEES:** Due to the increase in fuel costs, it was recommended that a temporary \$50 permit fee adjustment be imposed. This fee would cover ten inspections to each inspection site. This fee may also have the added benefit of encouraging parties requiring inspections to be more efficient when calling for an inspection. This is not intended to be a permanent fee and if fuel costs go down, the fee will be discontinued. The justification is that the user will be paying the costs rather than the general public.

(4) **EMERGENCY TELEPHONE FEES:** Consistent with the change in state legislation regarding administration of emergency telephone landline fees, the county's Emergency Telephone Fund was absorbed into the general fund. A new Emergency Telephone System Special Revenue Fund will be established to receive new 911 service fees, both wire line and wireless, distributed by the State 911 Board. Commissioner Massie suggested that the old funds be earmarked and placed in capital reserve for a new 911 facility or courtroom and not be considered general funds.

(5) **SOLID WASTE FEES:** In order to maintain the program as an independent Enterprise Fund without subsidy from the general fund, it will be necessary because of overall general operation cost increases, to make adjustments to both the disposal fees and tipping fee schedule:

- (a) C&D Tipping Fees - \$62.00 for entire county
- (b) MSW - \$61.00 for entire county
- (c) C&D Yard Waste - \$30.00 for entire county
- (d) Sunday SRC Operations Averages: 3-4 in Cashiers and none in Sylva. It may be recommended that the Sylva SRC be discontinued however, more advertising that the Sunday service is available should be forthcoming.

(6) **ORDINANCE ADMINISTRATION:** Mr. Westmoreland recommended that the Planning Dept. administer the Off-Premise Sign Ordinance, Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, Watershed Protection Ordinance and State Storm Water Regulations. At this time, one employee is certified for administration of the State Storm Water Regulations and three in floodplain management.

(7) **PERMITTING & REVIEW "ONE STOP":** A recommendation was made, in order to make the permitting process more user friendly, to employ two Land Development Processing Assistants who will serve as the sole contact for users. The processing assistants will assist the users with obtaining permits from Land Development, Environmental Health and Building Inspections. Permit clerks will also be cross-trained.

(8) **VEHICLES:** County vehicles will be down sized wherever possible.

(9) **SCHOOLS**: Increase current operations budget by 5% and fund capital outlay 100%. Teacher and support staff salary supplements increased to 2.9%; however, it is suggested that the lump sum supplement be divided equally among the individuals. As Jackson County approaches the national average for teachers, salary supplements should be discontinued. Technology appropriation is \$400,000. \$18,000 is appropriated for a needs assessment and feasibility study for anew SMH Performing Arts Facility and Gym.

(10) **SCC**: Increase the current operations budget by 5%. Due to a favorable change in state policy, the county will not be obligated to pay the \$3.2 million balance on the local match of state bonds funds this fiscal year. The county’s match obligation is limited to only match the bond funds anticipated to be spent which is projected to be \$355,522. In order to accommodate campus expansion, SCC will need the school bus garage property in 2010.

(11) **SHINING OF LIGHTS RESOLUTION**: The following change was recommended:

Section 2. Section 1 of this Act shall not be construed to prevent:
(b) the necessary shining of lights by hunters in search of lost hunting dogs.

(12) **DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS FROM STATE MAINTAINED ROADS RESOLUTION**: It was recommended that the word “hunting” be deleted and the following changes be made:

Title of the legislation to read:

AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS FROM, ON OR ACROSS THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF IMPROVED STATE MAINTAINED ROADS IN JACKSON COUNTY WITH ONE EXCEPTION

Section 1. Offense. *It is unlawful to kill any wild animal or wild bird with the use of a firearm, or to discharge firearms, from, on, or across the right-of-way of an improved state maintained road, street, or highway in Jackson County.*

Section 2. Exception. Section 1 of this Act shall not apply to an owner or lessee of land adjoining a *state maintained road* or highway.

(13) **BUDGET MEETINGS**: A Work Session is scheduled on June 3 at 6:00 p.m. and a Public Hearing on June 12 at 6:00 p.m.

There being no further business, Commissioner Cowan moved to adjourn the work session. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Attested By:

Approved:

Evelyn B. Baker, Clerk to the Board

Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman

