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

**MINUTES OF A  
RECONVENED BUDGET WORK SESSION  
OF THE  
JACKSON COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
JUNE 12 2008**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Reconvened Budget Work Session on June 12, 2008, 4:00 pm, Room A227, Justice & Administration Building, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Sylva, North Carolina.

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

Chairman McMahan called the reconvened budget work session to order.

**(1) TUCKASEIGEE WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY:** Joe Cline, Executive Director, stated that the sewer infrastructure is aging and deteriorating. Most sewer lines were placed in service prior to 1970 and most industry standards is a 40-year life expectancy on sewer lines. TWSA is currently setting aside \$2,426,800 in its Capital Improvements Project Budget (CIP) over the next ten years to repair the lines. At current prices, it will take 17 years to repair the sewer lines because the cost of pipe increased 20-30% during the last month.

He stated the most pressing need at the moment in the water system is the expansion of the water treatment plant. TWSA has begun engineering on the first phase at an estimated cost of approximately \$3 million which TWSA has fully funded from its own revenue. The second phase, not yet funded, will allow the plant to expand with minimal cost.

He stated additional revenue sources would allow TWSA to expand water and sewer services in a more timely fashion and allow TWSA more flexibility with planning these and future projects. Additional funding sources would allow TWSA to repair or replace its current infrastructure that is in desperate need of immediate repair for the health and safety of the citizens in the county. The CIP 10-year plan will cost \$40,172,326. He requested assistance from the county.

Randall Turpin, TWSA Board Chairman, urged the county to assist TWSA.

**(1) BIO-DIESEL:** Timm Muth, Green Energy Park Director, gave a power point presentation entitled "Potential Fuel Cost Savings of Bio-Diesel Production at the Green Energy Park". He stated it could be a significant fuel cost savings for the county, assuming 1,000 gal/week of waste vegetable oil is available. Collection/production costs from free waste vegetable oil are as low as one to two dollars per gallon. The county diesel use for FY2007-08 was: 80,000 gal., school buses, 75,000 gal., and county grounds

department 4,000 gal. (on and off road). Production of 50,000 gallons of bio-diesel per year would provide fuel cost savings of approximately \$150,000 per year, based on current pricing and would be a health benefit to school bus riders in addition to removing used oil from the waste stream. It is not feasible to purchase feedstock (virgin soy oil, chicken fat or waste vegetable oil) and the only viable financial model is donated/free waste vegetable oil from restaurants, school/college cafeterias, hospitals, commercial food producers, fryer line, small-scale renderers, and slaughterhouses. The county could consider offering a tax deduction for charitable contributions of oil. Start up costs would include the purchase of a vacuum pump truck for collection, creation of one full and one part-time position. The initial capital investment would be \$130,000 plus salaries for a process operator and part-time driver.

**(1) By majority consensus, the proposed FY2008-09 Budget was amended as follows:**

**(a) SHERIFF'S DEPT.:**

Controlled Substance, Drug & Narcotic line item .....	\$ 7,500
Promote a Deputy to Staff Attorney (new position \$65,000)....	38,500
Replacement for Deputy.....	32,243

**(b) FUEL SURCHARGE:** The surcharge is reduced from \$50 to \$25.

**(c) TUCKASEIGEE WATER & SEWER:** \$750,000 will be placed in capital reserve for TWSA. TWSA will submit a request which must then be approved by the county.

**(d) EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:** Authorize the purchase of a new truck but delay the purchase of a diesel truck and command post.

**(e) BUILDING INSPECTIONS DEPT.:** Purchasing only two vehicles, one for Sylva and one for Cashiers.

**(f) PLANNING DEPT.:** No new employees or vehicles this fiscal year.

**(g) ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:** No new employees this fiscal year.

**(h) CONSERVATION, PRESERVATION, RECREATION:** Reduce the proposed appropriation \$400,000.

**(i) BIO-DIESEL PROJECT:** \$177,005 with a start up date of January 1, 2009.

**(j) CAPITAL RESERVE:** Reduce \$250,000.

**(k) 911 FUND:** Transfer \$142,000 to the general fund.

**(2) NC FOREST SERVICE:** One summer intern to work on a wildlife protection plan and paid at the rate of \$9.77/hr. based on a 40-hour week during the summer months for a total of \$5,080.00 from the current year contingency fund.

**(3) BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS PROGRAM:** \$1,000 from the current year contingency fund.

**(4) BLUE RIDGE SCHOOL:** The county's Maintenance Dept. will investigate and ascertain if they can install a proper drainage system at the softball field and, if necessary, transfer funds from the FY2007-08 contingency.

**(5) CASHIERS LIBRARY:** Mr. Westmoreland stated that the county increased appropriations to the libraries by 5%. The library appropriations are sent directly to Fontana Regional Library and Fontana makes the actual allocations and staffing to each library.

Commissioner Jones will contact the Carlton Family concerning their original promise of a contribution towards construction of the new library. In addition, the Carlton Family requested a more elaborate audio-visual system and agreed to pay the additional cost of \$40,000 and pay for additional landscaping. Those funds have not been paid to the county. By consensus, no additional funding for the Cashiers Library was approved.

**(6) PROPERTY TAX:** Commissioner Massie recommended that the millage rate be 28-cents per \$100 valuation. Chairman McMahan recommended that the rate be 27-cents.

Commissioner Massie moved to adjourn the work session. Commissioner Shelton seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the work session adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Attested By:

Approved:

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Evelyn B. Baker, Clerk to the Board

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Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman