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Posted By: Evelyn Baker
Witnessed By: _____

**MINUTES OF A
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
JUNE 20, 2011**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on June 20, 2011, 6:00 pm, Justice & Administration Bldg., Room A201, 401 Grindstaff Cove Rd., Sylva, North Carolina.

Present: Jack Debnam, Chairman	Chuck Wooten, County Manager
Doug Cody, Vice Chair	David Moore, Temporary County Attorney
Charles Elders, Commissioner	Pat Parris, Assistant Clerk
Mark Jones, Commissioner	
Joe Cowan, Commissioner	

Chairman Debnam called the meeting to order.

AGENDA: Chairman Debnam amended the Agenda by adding Appointment of County Tax Assessor and Emergency Management Telecommunicator I position. Commissioner Elders moved to approve the amended Agenda. Commissioner Cowan seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Commissioner Cowan moved to approve the Minutes of the Work Session of June 3, two Public Hearings of June 6 and Regular Meeting of June 6, 2011. Commissioner Cody seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(1) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Chairman Debnam requested that the first regular meeting in July be cancelled.

Motion: *Commissioner Cowan moved to cancel the meeting. Commissioner Elders seconded the Motion. Motion carried.*

(2) COUNTY MANAGER REPORT: Mr. Wooten reported:

a. **Library Complex:** The opening of the library was a great success and commended the county maintenance, housekeeping, grounds, transit, Fire Marshal and IT departments, plus many others who worked very hard behind the scenes. Parking was a challenge during the opening week and he contacted a local resident and asked that they not park in the county lots during normal operating hours. An evaluation is being made for repairs to the steps from Mark Watson Park as a point of access for overflow parking.

b. **Fontana Regional Library:** He met with representatives from Fontana Regional Library to review a draft lease document. Fontana is working to update the regional agreement and indicated they prefer to incorporate the building operational requests as part of that agreement. A formal agreement may not be in place for several months since their deadline for completing the regional agreement is June 30, 2012.

c. Storm Related Events of the Past Week: The county incurred a great deal of hardship from the storms this past week. The storm caused a lot of damage in the Cashiers area and disrupted power for a number of citizens. Smoky Mountain High School incurred substantial damage to the temporary roof that had been installed from the storm of a couple months ago. Other buildings were damaged, but fortunately, those were not as great. These events serve as a reminder of the outstanding work emergency services personnel provide to Jackson County.

d. Room Occupancy Tax: Both the House and Senate approved a local bill to delegate to the Jackson County Commissioners authority to increase occupancy tax up to the maximum allowable limit of 6%.

e. State Budget: The state budget has been approved and he is continuing to evaluate its impact on county government.

f. Legislative Update:

S433 Local Human Services Administration: The bill allows counties flexibility to reorganize local human services was unexpectedly delayed on the House floor last week. The Senate has approved the bill so it may be eligible for consideration during the short session.

H36 E-Verify: This bill would require all NC employers with 25 or more employees, including cities and counties, use the federal E-verify program to screen prospective new hires before they can be employed.

H384 Register of Deeds/Fees: This bill will generate approximately \$1.3 million in fees for counties if approved, but will not be a significant windfall to Jackson County.

g. Stanton and Stanton: On June 15th the Judge dismissed the appeal made by Mr. Stanton and ordered the original ejectment notice to stand. Mr. Stanton indicated that the majority of his equipment has been removed and he would be out of the building by close of business on June 21st. The official writ of possession will be served on Mr. Stanton today or tomorrow.

h. Tax Foreclosure: A contract has been entered into with Ridenour & Murphy, P.A to assist with foreclosure proceedings related to delinquent taxes. Another attorney is interested in providing similar services, but has been advised the county wanted to start the process and get the procedures in place before engaging another attorney; however, it is anticipated the county may be ready to enter into another contract within the next 60 days.

i. Cashiers Recreation Center: The architect is working to get the plans prepared for bids. Because the building is greater than 20,000 sq. ft., plans must be submitted to the NC Department of Insurance for review of life safety issues which could possibly slow the process.

j. Sheriff's Department Personnel: Major Steve Lillard has resigned to accept another position and this most likely will result in an internal promotion to fill his position. If an internal promotion occurs, then the position vacated will remain vacant to cover the costs of the payout related to Major Lillard's annual leave.

k. Ambulance Contracts: He is working with WestCare and Glenville-Cashiers Rescue Squad to extend the current contracts until new contracts can be finalized.

(3) CONSENT AGENDA: Darlene Fox, Finance Director, presented the finance and tax collector's reports for the month of May 2011, ten budget amendments, Cashiers Recreation Facility Project Ordinance in the amount of \$5,040,625 and Mark Watson Park Project Ordinance in the amount of \$333,500.

The Fire Marshal submitted an application from Camp Merrie-Woode to display fireworks on July 4th at Fairfield Lake, Cashiers.

Motion: *Commissioner Jones moved to approve the Consent Agenda.*

Commissioner Elders seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(4) FY2011-12 BUDGET ORDINANCE: Mr. Wooten stated the budget is balanced with the tax rate remaining at \$0.28. The budget is \$58,205,960.

Motion: *Commissioner Cody moved to adopt the FY2011-12 Budget Ordinance in the amount of \$58,205,960. Commissioner Elders seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(5) RECYCLING CONTRACT BIDS: Chad Parker, Solid Waste Director, reported two bids were received for the purchase of the county's recyclables. The highest bid was submitted by American Recycling. He recommended the bid be awarded to American Recycling.

Motion: *Commissioner Elders moved to award the bid to American Recycling. Commissioner Cowan seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(6) OLD LIBRARY BUILDING: The Town of Sylva submitted a formal offer for an even exchange of the Town's property located at 116 Central Street (tax value \$157,560) for the library property located at 755 W. Main St. (tax value \$796,940). A work session with the Town will be scheduled.

(7) TAX ASSESSOR APPOINTMENT: Pursuant to G. S. 105-294(a), the appointment of the County Tax Assessor is to occur before the first county Board meeting in July for a term of four years.

Motion: *Commissioner Cowan moved to reappoint Bobby McMahan as the County Tax Assessor for a term of 4 years. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(8) EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TELECOMMUNICATOR I: Mr. Wooten stated the vacancy occurred due to a recent resignation and it is necessary that the position be filled.

Motion: *Commissioner Cowan moved to authorize recruitment of the position. Commissioner Elders seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(9) SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD:

Motion: *Commissioner Elders moved to appoint Jennie Miller to a 3-year term to the Social Services Board. Commissioner Cody seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(10) SCC BOARD: Macon County Board of Commissioners recommended reappointment of Terry Bell as a Macon County representative to the SCC Board.

Motion: *Commissioner Cowan moved to reappoint Terry Bell to a 4-year term on the SCC Board. Commissioner Elders seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

Motion: *Chairman Debnam moved to appoint Dewayne Elders as a Jackson County representative to the SCC Board. Commissioner Cowan recommended that William Shelton be reappointed. Commissioner Cody seconded the motion. Motion carried by a vote of 3 to 2 with Commissioners Jones and Cowan voted "nay".*

(11) AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD:

Motion: *Commissioner Jones moved to reappoint Brad Stillwell and Charles Fowler to 3-year terms on the Agricultural Advisory Board. Commissioner Cody seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

INFORMAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC: George Stanley stated the R-5000 road project has been on SCC's timeline since 1994 and on the master plan as revised in 1999.

PRESS CONFERENCE

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

Attest:

Approved:

Pat Parris, Assistant Clerk

W. J. Debnam, Chairman