

**MINUTES OF A  
REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
HELD ON  
DECEMBER 01, 2020**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on December 01, 2020, 6:00 p.m., Justice and Administration Building, Room A201, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Sylva, North Carolina.

Present: Brian McMahan, Chairman	Don Adams, County Manager
Boyce Deitz, Vice Chair	Heather C. Baker, County Attorney
Mickey Luker, Commissioner (via Zoom video conferencing)	Angela M. Winchester, Clerk
Ron Mau, Commissioner	
Gayle Woody, Commissioner	

Chairman McMahan called the meeting to order.

(1) **AGENDA**: Chairman McMahan requested to add two items: Fireworks Display Request and Meeting Schedule. Commissioner Mau moved to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(2) **MINUTES**: Commissioner Woody moved to approve the minutes of a Public Hearing (Transit Grants) of November 03, 2020; a Regular Meeting of November 03, 2020; a Reconvened Meeting of November 10, 2020; a Work Session of November 10, 2020; and a Regular Meeting of November 17, 2020 as presented. Commissioner Mau seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(3) **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**: None.

(4) **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**:

(a) Commissioner Woody commended the Health Department Officials in light of the rise in cases of Covid and the hard work they were doing. She encouraged all citizens to practice the three W's: wear masks, wait six feet apart and wash their hands. Community spread was causing the rising cases. Each one of them could take personal responsibility to help with that.

(b) Commissioner Mau stated that related to TWSA and the Covid testing, TWSA had been working with Mathematica. Mathematica applied for and received a grant from Dogwood Health Trust, so there would be additional testing done with TWSA, Buncombe County, Waynesville and EBCI. It would be interesting to see what they continued to learn from that process.

Commissioner Woody thanked Commissioner Mau for introducing that and taking that lead, as it was very helpful and informative.

Commissioner Deitz asked if this was proven or was it experimental?

Commissioner Mau stated that it was new enough that it was experimental. It had been used in other places on college campuses, but it was new technology.

(5) **COUNTY MANAGER REPORT**: None.

(6) **INFORMAL COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC**: None.

**(7) FIREWORKS DISPLAY REQUEST:** Mr. Adams stated that he received an email from Tony Elders, Permitting and Code Enforcement Director, stating the Chamber of Commerce requested permission for a fireworks display on December 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. from the county fireworks site. Permission from the Commissioners was needed for the fireworks display.

This would be similar to the how the 4th of July show was conducted. There would be no gathering of people due to Covid restrictions. People could watch the show from their cars. Mr. Elders did have inspection staff available to cover the event and the Sylva Fire Department would also be on hand.

***Motion:*** *Commissioner Deitz moved to grant the fireworks display request, as presented. Commissioner Mau seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

**(8) MEETING SCHEDULE:** Chairman McMahan stated that they had the upcoming swearing-in ceremony and the organizational meeting of the new Board on December 7<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m., but beyond that, they needed to determine when the work session would be and subsequent meetings following that.

Mr. Adams stated that two upcoming meetings he wanted the Board to approve were the organizational meeting to be held at 12:00 p.m. in the Community Room at the Library. Also, on Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, he requested to hold a work session at 1:00 p.m. at the Department on Aging Heritage Room. There was a conflict in Room A201, the regular meeting place, that week.

Chairman McMahan requested to push the work session to 2:00 p.m.

***Motion:*** *Commissioner Mau moved to set the schedule change as requested. Commissioner Deitz seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

Mr. Adams stated that since this was the last meeting of the current Board, he wanted to extend his appreciation to Commissioner Mau and Commissioner Luker. He thanked them for allowing him to work for them as County Manager. He also expressed his appreciation for their service to this Board and to the community. They appreciated them both very much.

**(9) APPRECIATION PLAQUES:** Chairman McMahan stated that there was an old saying, “if you want to get to know somebody, work with them”. He could say with all sincerity that he had thoroughly enjoyed working with Ron Mau and Mickey Luker for the last four years. When working with people, they got to know about their families, who they were, how they thought and how they worked. He had found them both to be great leaders in the community, that had a great heart for the community and who strived to work diligently to make sure this Board was always focused on doing what was best for the people of the county.

He could not ask for any Board Members to have served in any better way than these two have served. He commended them for their service, leadership and focus they always had to strive to represent the people in the way they did. He thought they did a great job of doing that. He considered both of them great friends and he hoped in the days to come, they could continue to interact with each other and continue their friendships over the years.

Commissioner Deitz stated he did not know who Ron Mau was when he ran for office. He had gotten to know him and he had been really impressed and thankful for someone that dug deeper than he did for information. He had been very helpful about reminding them of things sometimes that they needed to be reminded of. He had taken so much interest in the Board and TWSA with keeping them updated on that, which was important. He would be missed. He appreciated his friendship. When they come together as a Board, it did not matter what happened during the election. They were five special people that came together as a team.

He had known Mickey for a long time and he knew that there were some situations that came about in the last year or so that made it difficult for him, but he appreciated him continually being a part of this. They continually felt that he was a part of it, although many times he was no able to be there in person. Whatever either of their agendas were in the future, he hoped they did well. If he could ever be a help to either one of them, call him. He thanked both of them.

Commissioner Woody stated that she had really enjoyed getting to know Commissioner Mau. She knew his wife from working together at Smoky Mountain High School and she knew his sons from school. Although she never had the privilege of having them in class, she did get to participate with them in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and thought the world of those two young men.

Not knowing Commissioner Mau until they started participating on the Board together, she knew he was a very fine person. The work he had done there really validated that. The way he had served on the committees and took those so seriously with TDA and TWSA had been a real example for her to realize that information he passed on to them did really help inform the Board and keep them up on what those committees were doing. She really appreciated serving with Commissioner Mau and would miss him.

Chairman McMahan stated that he knew Commissioner Luker and Commissioner Mau, both were diligent about taking notes. They both did great jobs at taking notes and diving in doing their homework and research to be prepared. That meant a lot for a Board to be able to do the job they had to do. He appreciated that as a Chair.

Commissioner Mau thanked everyone for their kind words, it meant a lot. He wanted to take a minute to speak on something that he was asked about a lot. There were people in the room that had family members serve on boards that had talked about some of the things he wanted to mention. He had a lot of people asked him how to stay involved as a citizen and what could they do? Typically, this happened when things like the 107 project came up when all of the sudden people started getting antsy about it or the project they talked about in Cashiers.

What he always told people was that it took work as a citizen. They had to come to the small planning board meetings to get their input heard because that was when the decisions were made and then the rules were set and it was very hard at that point in time for people, even though they were concerned about the project, it was hard for board members to make changes because there was a process. It took work and they had to be involved.

Before he moved there, he and his wife would actually watch their city council meetings on TV. He hoped they kept doing the meetings virtual as it gave people the opportunity to watch a recording of the information and see what happened instead of reading the minutes or what the newspapers reported. It took work to be a citizen, so he would continue to be involved one way or another and keep trying to stay informed. It had been an honor and pleasure to sit in that chair and serve the citizens of Jackson County.

Commissioner Luker stated that he had enjoyed having the privilege of being able to serve his county for the past four years. It was not always an easy task. They had to have thick skin and let water roll off their back like a duck at times. It had also been a very rewarding experience getting to know so much information about the county. They could be born and raised there, but until they got into the government section of it, they really did not know a whole lot of nothing at that point.

It was not a job that he thought anyone could take lightly and it was also not a four to five hour per week job if they were going to do it right. He had enjoyed it and he appreciated the opportunity to be able to serve his county. It had been an honor to serve with Chairman McMahan as well. With Coach Deitz, they just never knew what they were coming in to there. It did help to have different perspectives and different thoughts, he thought that was what made them unique.

Chairman McMahan stated that he had known Commissioner Luker for a long time and they had been good friends. He appreciated his service.

Commissioner Luker stated that when they came out of this, he was glad to say that he could still call him a friend.

Chairman McMahan read the appreciation plaques for presentation to Commissioner Luker and Commissioner Mau.

(10) **PRESS CONFERENCE**: None.

There being no further business, Commissioner Luker moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Mau seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

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Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

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Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman