

**MINUTES OF A
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
JUNE 14, 2022**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Special Called Meeting on June 14, 2022, 11:00 a.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, Via Speakerphone	Heather C. Baker, County Attorney
	Mark Jones, Commissioner	Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to the Board
	Tom Stribling, Commissioner	Darlene Fox, Finance Director
	Gayle Woody, Commissioner	

Chairman McMahan called the meeting to order. He stated that it was Flag Day and they had a beautiful flag hanging in the Board Room that was donated by Congressman Heath Shuler, who served in the United States Congress representing the 11th Congressional District. The flag was flown over the top of the United States Capitol Building in honor of Jackson County and was presented to the Board of Commissioners. They were proud to have it displayed on their wall. They would take time to reflect on and honor the flag that day.

(1) **AGENDA**: Commissioner Woody moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(2) **SUMMARY OF FINAL CHANGES TO THE BUDGET**: Mr. Adams presented the summary of changes that had been previously discussed by the Board:

(a) Move \$159,000, originally budgeted in Contingency Capital Outlay, to Jail Capital Outlay Equipment. This would make the funds available for the scanner system for the jail so that the Sheriff could move forward with the purchase immediately instead of waiting until the audit.

(b) Temporarily remove the Athletic Hall of Fame and Mountain Projects amounts. These would be removed out of the specific line items and moved into contingency.

(c) Add \$10,000 for the Farmer's Market.

(d) Add \$100,000 to the School Capital Outlay for hiring architectural services for facility needs.

(e) Changes to Solid Waste Revenues and Expenditures based on the Fee Schedule change.

Chairman McMahan stated that the Board had went over all of these changes at their most recent work session.

Informational item.

(3) **FY2022-23 BUDGET ORDINANCE**: Mr. Adams presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budget Ordinance in the amount of \$82,292,740. The proposal constituted an approximate increase of 8.39% (\$6,372,313) over the current FY22 amended budget. The budget was balanced and prepared in accordance with the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act, presenting appropriations by categories of expense and revenues by source. All proposals within the general fund were based upon a budget with a tax rate of \$0.38 per \$100 of value.

A public hearing was held on June 7th with public comment.

Chairman McMahan stated that this had been a long process. It had taken almost six months to get to this document. He appreciated all the work done by Mr. Adams, Ms. Fox, Department Heads and all of the staff that worked on the budget.

Motion: *Commissioner Stribling moved to adopt the FY2022-23 Budget Ordinance, along with all fee schedules, as presented. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion.*

Discussions:

Commissioner Deitz stated that he hoped everyone realized how much went into this process. He had been amazed since he became a Commissioner that they took the amount of money they had and were able to do all the things they did. It was amazing and it was attributable to Ms. Fox, Mr. Adams and people from the past that they were able to do these things and not bankrupt the citizens.

Commissioner Jones stated that the last time he looked up all the millage rates in the state, Jackson was tied for second lowest with Swain County. This increase would take them to the third lowest millage rate per \$100 in the state. With this rate, the citizens of the county were provided with increased safety service. Also, Cullowhee Fire Department, Cashiers-Glenville Fire Department and now Sylva Fire Department were fully staffed 24-7 - it was truly remarkable. He thanked staff for the work they had done.

Commissioner Woody stated that she was so pleased they were able to pass the budget and keep the tax rate low during times when they did not know what was ahead. But, they had a healthy fund balance and she thought this budget would allow them to face the future with confidence that they would be able to meet the needs of the people. Also, they worked really hard to support the nonprofits and this budget reflected that. A lot of times, the nonprofits were offering frontline services to the citizens and they appreciated that.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(4) BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS: Ms. Fox presented:

(a) Budget Amendment: Increase for the Jackson County Hall of Fame of \$1,500.00 and a decrease to contingency of \$1,500.00.

Chairman McMahan stated that a recent state law was passed that called for Commissioners who served on nonprofit boards of directors to be recused from voting on allocations that went to the nonprofits they served. Commissioner Deitz served on the Hall of Fame Board of Directors.

Commissioner Woody moved to recuse Commissioner Deitz from this vote. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

Motion: *Commissioner Jones moved to transfer \$1,500.00 to the Jackson County Hall of Fame from contingency, as presented. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

Ms. Fox presented:

(b) Budget Amendment: Increase for the Mountain Projects of \$19,637.00 and a decrease to contingency of \$19,637.00.

Chairman McMahan stated that Commissioner Woody served on the Mountain Projects Board of Directors.

Commissioner Jones moved to recuse Commissioner Woody from this vote. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

Motion: *Commissioner Deitz moved to transfer \$19,637.00 to Mountain Projects from contingency, as presented. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(5) **OTHER BUSINESS:** Commissioner Woody stated that on June 15th at 2:30 p.m., a dedication would be held for the new wing of United Christian Ministries, which was the food pantry for the county. It was a cooperative effort of many different individuals, organizations and churches in the county.

Also, on June 23rd, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners would hold the Districts 16 and 17 Regional Meeting at Southwestern Community College from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Informational items.

There being no further business, Commissioner Jones moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman