

**MINUTES OF A
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
OCTOBER 04, 2022**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on October 04, 2022, 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
	Mark Jones, Commissioner	Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to the Board
	Tom Stribling, Commissioner	
	Gayle Woody, Commissioner	

Chairman McMahan called the meeting to order.

(1) **PROCLAMATION: FIRE PREVENTION WEEK**: Commissioner Stribling read a Proclamation declaring October 3rd – 9th as Fire Prevention Week. Commissioner Stribling moved to approve the Proclamation. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

Chairman McMahan presented the proclamation to Michael Forbis, Fire Marshal. He stated they had an awesome group of volunteers and staff who worked together to put on a program in the school system.

Mr. Forbis stated that in 2016, Jackson County Fire and Life Safety was formed, which was a nonprofit involving the different emergency services in the county. Throughout the year, they provided education in the schools on fire safety. That week, they were in the schools with Fire Prevention Week. In the spring, they would teach CPR/First Aid to every child in the eighth grade.

They started a new reading program called “Firefighters for Literacy”. They were working with all of the public schools to improve test scores in either third or fourth grade. Firefighters would go into the schools and talk with students about the importance of reading. Also, they took the Fire and Life Safety Trailer to Smoky Mountain Elementary that day and it was a great tool to train with.

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

(3) **MINUTES**: Commissioner Stribling moved to approve the minutes of a Work Session of September 13, 2022; a Public Hearing (Transit Grants) of September 20, 2022; and a Regular Meeting of September 20, 2022, as presented. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(4) **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**: None.

(5) **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**:

(a) Commissioner Deitz stated that every once in a while there was something that happened in sports that was a great tribute to Jackson County. Cal Raleigh, his great-nephew, played for the Seattle Mariners. The Mariners had not been in the playoffs for the World Series in 21 years.

Last week, the Mariners played a game that they had to win to make it to the playoffs. Cal was at bat with two outs and a 3-2 count in the ninth inning. He knocked a home run and won the game. It made him feel great and he thought it would make everyone feel great because he was one of theirs. Something happened 3,000 miles away that brought pride to the county.

Chairman McMahan stated it was the longest playoff drought for a Major League sports team in U.S. history and Cal ended it. It was awesome.

(b) Commissioner Woody stated that their prayers went out to the Register of Deeds, Shandra Sims, whose daughter passed away tragically. They were all thinking about her and praying for her and her family.

Also, several of them were able to participate in outdoor celebrations, including the Cullowhee Valley School Fall Festival and a Community Picnic in Webster. Going to those events in a beautiful time of the year and seeing how the community members connected with each other and enjoyed being together was wonderful to see. It was an indication of how important their outdoor spaces were. It enhanced everyone’s lives when they joined together in the community.

(c) Commissioner Jones stated that at the last meeting, the Board adopted a proclamation declaring October Breast Cancer Awareness month. Recently, he had a friend who had a double mastectomy and would have to go through 25 radiation treatments. They had all been affected in some way through a family member or friend by breast cancer. He asked them to keep that proclamation in mind.

Commissioner Woody stated that the “Walk for Hope” event would be held on Sunday, October 9th at 3:00 p.m., by the fountain. The Town of Sylva Police Department planned and organized the event along with Mayor Lynda Sossamon, who was also a breast cancer survivor.

(6) COUNTY MANAGER REPORT: None.

(7) INFORMAL COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC: Rachel Bridgers of Sylva stated there was an issue of noise pollution due to US 74/23 from Sylva to Dillsboro. This was not an issue in the 70’s, 80’s or 90’s, but it now was. They tolerated the noise where they lived, but she thought it was getting worse. Her neighbors and people in different communities in Sylva were also impacted by the noise pollution. She was proposing to start a discussion. On the DOT website, it stated if so many people were impacted, they were required to build a noise amendment wall. She hoped to start a process.

(8) 2023 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE: Mr. Adams presented the 2023 Holiday Schedule for consideration of approval, per the personnel policy:

2023 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE		
Holiday	Observance Date	Day of Week
New Year’s Day	January 2	Monday
Martin Luther King Jr.	January 16	Monday
Good Friday	April 7	Friday
Memorial Day	May 29	Monday
Independence Day	July 4	Tuesday
Labor Day	September 4	Monday
Veterans Day	November 10	Friday
Thanksgiving	November 23, 24	Thursday, Friday
Christmas	December 25, 26, 27	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

Motion: Commissioner Woody moved to approve the 2023 Holiday Schedule, as presented. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(9) NOVEMBER MEETING SCHEDULE: Mr. Adams requested to change the November work session from Tuesday, November 8th to Monday, November 7th at 1:00 p.m., due to that being election day.

***Motion:** Commissioner Jones moved to change the November work session from Tuesday, November 8th to Monday, November 7th, as requested. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(10) FITNESS EQUIPMENT LEASE: Darlene Fox, Finance Director, presented a lease for the recreation center for fitness equipment with Municipal Asset Management, Inc. The amount for the Cullowhee Recreation Center was \$128,557.79 and the amount for the Cashiers Recreation Center was \$120,177.59. This was a four-year lease, which included a warranty for parts and labor for the fitness equipment.

Commissioner Woody stated she attended the Parks and Recreation Board meeting and one item that Rusty Ellis, Parks and Recreation Director, mentioned was that they repaired and kept the equipment in working order. She thought that was very important.

Ms. Fox stated the funds for the lease were appropriated in the budget.

Commissioner Jones asked if the county had any experience with this company?

Ms. Fox stated they had not, but they were recommended as a good firm.

Commissioner Woody stated that information provided to Mr. Ellis, from others using this company, included a much better response to needs, which was the reason for the change.

Mr. Adams noted that these funds had been approved in the current fiscal year budget. These were not new funds being requested. These were ongoing expenses they had incurred in the past and would continue to do so as long as they stayed in the lease arrangement.

***Motion:** Commissioner Jones moved to approve the Lease with Municipal Asset Management, Inc., as presented. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(11) GOVERNOR'S HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAM RESOLUTION R22-21: Major Shannon Queen presented a resolution for an annual application through the Governor's Highway Safety Program for federal funding in the amount of \$25,000, which did not require a local match. They planned to purchase additional speed display boards with the funds.

General discussions were held.

***Motion:** Commissioner Deitz moved to adopt the Resolution R22-21, as presented. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(12) UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS: Michael Poston, Planning Director, proposed UDO Amendments to Section 6.4 Industrial Development Standards, Table 9.5.4 US 441 Permitted Use Table and Article XI Definitions. The Planning Department worked with the Planning Board and the US 441 Planning Council on proposed amendments to the Unified Development Ordinance.

The proposed amendments included Section 6.4 Industrial Development regulations to address small scale animal processing facilities, crypto-currency facilities and renewable energy facilities. The amendments also included proposed new definitions for these new uses in the Article XI.

The proposed text amendment to the U S 441 Planning Corridor table of uses (table 9.5.4) was a request made by Greg Wasik to allow micro-breweries/breweries in the Gateway zoning district. Staff also recommended allowing the use in the industrial zoning district. The 441 Planning Council held a public hearing regarding the proposed amendment to allow for breweries/microbreweries and recommended approval of the proposed amendment unanimously.

The Planning Board also reviewed the proposed changes to the table of uses and unanimously recommended approval. The Planning Board also held a public hearing for the proposed changes to the Industrial Development Standards and the proposed definitions and unanimously recommended approval. Both the 441 Planning Council and the Planning Board adopted Statements of Consistency with the land use plans that stated the proposed amendments were consistent with the adopted plans.

A public hearing was held prior to this meeting with public comment. He requested approval of the Unified Development Ordinance Amendments and Consistency Statement, as presented.

***Motion:** Commissioner Jones moved to approve the Unified Development Ordinance Amendments and Consistency Statement, as presented. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(13) ORDINANCE DECLARING TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION FOR THE NEW YEAR'S 5K COUNTY EVENT: Ms. Baker stated the Recreation and Parks Department had set January 1, 2023 for the annual New Year's 5K event. The NCDOT rules and regulations required that the Commissioners adopt an ordinance approving the event. There would be no road closures and no public hearing was required.

***Motion:** Commissioner Woody moved to adopt the Ordinance for the New Year's Day 5K event, as presented. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(14) ORDINANCE DECLARING TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION FOR THE GREENING UP THE MOUNTAINS 5K COUNTY EVENT: Ms. Baker stated the Recreation and Parks Department had set April 22, 2023 for the annual Greening Up the Mountains 5K event. The NCDOT rules and regulations required that the Commissioners adopt an ordinance approving the event. There would be no road closures and no public hearing was required.

***Motion:** Commissioner Stribling moved to adopt the Ordinance for the Greening Up the Mountains 5K event, as presented. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(15) PRESS CONFERENCE: None.

There being no further business, Commissioner Deitz moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman