

**MINUTES OF A  
REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
HELD ON  
NOVEMBER 01, 2022**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on November 01, 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) **AGENDA**: Commissioner Woody moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(2) **MINUTES**: Commissioner Stribling moved to approve the minutes of a Work Session of October 11, 2022 and a Regular Meeting of October 18, 2022, as presented. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(3) **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**: None.

(4) **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**:

(a) Commissioner Woody reported that she attended the Local Government Council meeting held at Western Carolina University earlier in the day. The council was chaired by Dale Folwell, NC State Treasurer. Also in attendance was council member Elaine Marshall, NC Secretary of State.

It was an interesting meeting. It made her thankful for Jackson County and the way they were such good stewards of the taxpayer’s money. Much of the discussion was about local governments that were in arrears with budgeting issues and did not have accountability with their audits. She expressed her appreciation to Darlene Fox, Finance Director and Mr. Adams for how well they took care of the finances.

(b) Commissioner Jones expressed his sympathy for the tragic loss of the Lambert Wilson, Chairman of the Southwestern Community College Board of Trustees. Senseless violence seemed to be taking over rural and local lives. It was a tragedy.

Commissioner Woody stated she had the privilege of teaching with Mr. Wilson at Almond School. He was a wonderful educator.

(5) **COUNTY MANAGER REPORT**: Mr. Adams stated he had no formal report. He reminded the Board that the work session next week would be on Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

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

**(7) PARTF PROJECT AGREEMENT:** Mr. Adams presented the PARTF Project Agreement between the county and state. This agreement was necessary to receive the \$500,000 grant from the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund for the park project, which would be located next to Smokey Mountain Elementary School in the Qualla-Whittier area. The agreement had been reviewed by staff.

***Motion:*** *Commissioner Woody moved to approve the PARTF Project Agreement, as presented. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

Mr. Adams noted that this would secure the \$500,000 grant. They would still have to go through the architect design, bidding, etc. There would be several other items that would come before the Board for final approval.

**(8) OPERATION GREEN LIGHT FOR VETERANS RESOLUTION R22-25:** Sheila Setzer, Veterans Service Officer, stated that in 2015, before she started the Veterans Day Parade, a citizen of the county wrote a letter to the editor in the Sylva Herald about how Jackson County was not a veteran friendly county. She was disheartened by the statement and wanted to find a way to reverse that. Since then, with the Board's support, they had a chance to change some of that together.

Veterans needed their support in a time when the country was so divided on so many issues. They could all agree that those individuals who risked everything to protect the country and their way of life, deserved their support and gratitude.

Operation Green Light was a simple way to express their collective appreciation for the public service of the veterans. Also, when they saw the green light, they knew the county supported them. They wanted to shine a light on some of the hardships that individuals faced when coming back from active duty to civilian life.

America's counties had a long and proud history of serving the nation's veterans, a legacy that continued to that day as they worked with the federal, state and local partners to insure that the former service members in the communities had access to the resources they needed to thrive. According to the U.S. Department of Military Veterans Affairs, roughly 200,000 service members faced a stressful transition to civilian life each year. The first year out of the military was a critical time with risk of suicide increased by nearly 50%. This campaign hoped to help highlight the resources available at the county, state and federal level to assist veterans and their families.

Operation Green Light was not just significant to the county, it was recognized nationally the week of Veterans Day, which was November 7<sup>th</sup> through November 14<sup>th</sup>. Green represented hope, renewal and well-being. They shined the light for veterans to show they supported and appreciated them. She requested to join the initiative and appreciated the Board's consideration of adopting the Operation Green Light Resolution.

Commissioner Deitz stated that he appreciated the leadership Ms. Setzer presented. She had made a difference and they appreciated it.

Commissioner Woody stated that almost every week they saw veterans in the newspaper who received a Quilt of Honor. Her father served in World War II and also received a quilt that he passed to her son, who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom. It meant so much to the veterans to be recognized and the supported.

Commissioner Stribling thanked Ms. Setzer for all she did.

***Motion:*** *Commissioner Deitz moved to adopt Resolution R22-25, as presented. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

**(9) COUNCIL ON AGING:**

***Motion:*** Commissioner Stribling moved to appoint Jay Hinton and Scott McConnell to serve three-year terms on the Council on Aging. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**(10) PLANNING BOARD:**

***Motion:*** Commissioner Woody moved to appoint Thomas Taulbee to serve as Vice-Chair of the Planning Board. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**(11) TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY:**

***Motion:*** Commissioner Jones moved to reappoint Robert Jumper, Daniel Fletcher and Megan Orr to serve additional three-year terms on the Tourism Development Authority. Also, to appoint Daniel Fletcher to serve a one-year term as Chairman of the Tourism Development Authority. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**(12) 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 6:20 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

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Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

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Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman