

**MINUTES OF A
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
MARCH 02, 2021**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on March 02, 2021, 6:00 p.m., Justice and Administration Building, Room A201, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Sylva, North Carolina.

Present: Brian McMahan, Chairman
Boyce Deitz, Vice Chair
Mark Jones, Commissioner
Tom Stribling, Commissioner
Gayle Woody, Commissioner

Don Adams, County Manager
Heather C. Baker, County Attorney
Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

Chairman McMahan called the meeting to order.

(1) **PROCLAMATION FOR CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION**: Renee Coward, AWAKE Executive Director; Crystal Jones, AWAKE Assistant Director; and Jennifer Abshire, DSS Director, were present via Zoom video conferencing.

Commissioner Woody read a Proclamation to proclaim April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Commissioner Deitz moved to approve the Proclamation. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

Ms. Coward stated that on behalf of the AWAKE Board of Directors, MDT Members, AWAKE Staff and the children of Jackson County, they appreciated all of the support that the Commissioners had given to AWAKE in the past. They were deeply appreciative of the financial and physical support.

Chairman McMahan thanked them for all the work they had done.

Commissioner Woody asked if they were planning to put pinwheels on the old courthouse lawn again?

Ms. Jones stated that they were partnering with a fraternity at WCU to place approximately 1,000 pinwheels on the old courthouse lawn and around town. They were planning to do that March 30th.

Commissioner Woody stated that she thought it was a positive reminder of how they needed to support the community's efforts to prevent child abuse. She also thanked Ms. Abshire for all the work she and her staff had done in responding to child abuse that happened in the county and their efforts to support the children and families.

Ms. Abshire thanked the Commissioners for all their support.

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

(3) **MINUTES**: Commissioner Jones moved to approve the minutes of a Work Session of February 09, 2021 and a Regular Meeting of February 16, 2021, as presented. Commissioner Deitz seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

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

(5) COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

(a) Commissioner Deitz stated that the Soil and Water Board was made up of the 17 western counties. Each year, they held an art contest for 5th and 6th graders. There were three categories with district winners from Summit Charter School in Cashiers, Cullowhee Valley Elementary School and Fairview Elementary School. Out of 17 counties, Jackson County had the top winners in each category. They were really proud of that and he thought that was awesome.

(b) Commissioner Woody thanked WCU for their outreach with their service project, which they require all students to be involved in some type of service project. One of the things they did recently was to help make up bags for homeless people and brought them to the UCM, as homeless people came by there for food. Along with a personal handwritten note, they also included socks, snacks and essential items. It was gratifying to see young people engaging with the community and serving in different ways.

(c) Commissioner Jones stated that the vaccination clinic at the Cashiers Rec Center on Sunday was a total success. He was overwhelmed by the collaboration of the National Guard, Sheriff's Office, Health Department, EMTs, Glenville-Cashiers Rescue Squad Members and a plethora of volunteers. He would be coming down to the Council on Aging on Thursday to observe that vaccination clinic and receive his vaccination.

(6) COUNTY MANAGER REPORT: Mr. Adams stated that he wanted to draw their attention to the upcoming meetings. They had a work session schedule on March 9th at 1:00 p.m. and a special budget work session on March 11th at 1:00 p.m.

He made a site visit to the new Cullowhee Fire Department facility and they did have a meeting room that he believed would work for the March 11th meeting. At that point, he only had minor items for the March 9th work session. He recommended to cancel that meeting and carry any items that needed to be discussed over to the March 11th meeting. He would discuss this further with the Chairman later in the week to make a decision.

(7) INFORMAL COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC: None.

(8) OFFER TO PURCHASE AND CONTRACT FROM HAWKINSON AND RESOLUTION R21-07: Ms. Baker stated that as a reminder to the Board, the county owned lots that had been foreclosed on for tax purposes. Fortunately, over the last few years, people had been bidding on the lots at the sale, so the county did not end up owning as many of the lots, but they did end up with a few.

For this particular lot, before they completed the foreclosure, the county was invoiced for the association dues in the amount of \$3,982.78, which they did not have to pay because they did not own the lot yet. They did list this lot with a realtor because they wanted to get it sold.

The policy that the Board adopted in 2017 stated that during the first year the county owned the lot, she would only bring it to the Board to consider if it was for at least the amount of the county's cost it had in the lot. The county had \$11,870 in this particular lot, which was the amount they had to pay for foreclosure, including the taxes and attorney fees.

She received an offer from Daniel H. Hawkinson and or assigns, for Lot 11, Trillium Ridge, containing approximately 0.84 acres (PIN #7563-00-5887) in the amount of \$15,000.00. She presented Resolution R21-07 for consideration.

If the Board accepted the offer, it would go to an upset bid process. They would advertise in the newspaper and anyone would have the opportunity, for ten days, to upset this offer. Also, they would send out letters to notify surrounding property owners.

Motion: Commissioner Deitz moved to approve Resolution R21-07, as presented. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(9) REGISTER OF DEEDS REFUND: Ms. Baker stated that this was a request for a refund for revenue stamps paid to the Register of Deeds. There was an error on the deed where they listed \$1,710.00 in revenue when it should have been \$1,110.00. They had complied with the law by filing a corrective deed and making written request to the Board of Commissioners for approval.

Motion: Commissioner Woody moved to approve the refund in the amount of \$600.00, as requested. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(10) AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD: Carry over.

(11) COUNCIL ON AGING:

Motion: Commissioner Stribling moved to appoint Laura Chapman to serve a three-year term on the Council on Aging, term expiring March 1, 2024. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(12) SEDIMENT CONTROL APPEALS BOARD:

Motion: Commissioner Deitz moved to reappoint Alex Stillwell and Barry Stevens to serve additional four-year terms on the Sediment Control Appeals Board, terms expiring March 09, 2025. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(13) TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD:

Motion: Commissioner Woody moved to appoint Kevin Tafoya to serve an unexpired term on the Transit Advisory Board, term expiring June 30, 2023. Commissioner Deitz seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(14) PRESS CONFERENCE: None.

(15) CLOSED SESSION:

Motion: Commissioner Woody moved that the Board go into closed session pursuant to G.S.143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel and G.S.143-318.11(a)(7) Criminal Investigations. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

Chairman McMahan called the regular meeting back to order and stated that no action was taken in closed session except the approval of the minutes.

There being no further business, Commissioner Woody moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Deitz seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman