

**MINUTES OF A
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
JUNE 05, 2017**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on June 05, 2017, 6:00 p.m., Justice & Administration Building, Room A201, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Sylva, North Carolina.

Present: Brian McMahan, Chairman
Charles Elders, Vice Chair
Boyce Deitz, Commissioner
Mickey Luker, Commissioner
Ron Mau, Commissioner

Don Adams, County Manager
Heather C. Baker, County Attorney
Jan Fitzgerald, Executive Assistant to County Manager

Chairman McMahan called the meeting to order.

(1) **AGENDA**: Commissioner Elders moved to approve the Agenda. Commissioner Deitz seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(2) **MINUTES**: Commissioner Elders moved to approve the minutes of a Public Hearing of May 15, 2017 and a Regular Meeting of May 15, 2017. Commissioner Mau seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(3) **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**: Chairman McMahan stated that there was a great turn-out on Memorial Day at Memorial Fountain in front of the historical courthouse. He was appreciative of the work to put up the banners hanging down on Main Street with names of those who had served from the county that gave their lives in service. He also attended the unveiling of the MindKare Kiosk in the county.

(4) **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**:

(a) Commissioner Elders stated he also participated in the activities on Memorial Day and they did a marvelous job and it was very touching.

(b) Commissioner Luker commended county staff for all their work at Freedom Park, it was a fabulous event.

(c) Commissioner Mau stated he attended the ribbon cutting at Panthertown, it was a very good event.

(5) **COUNTY MANAGER REPORT**: Mr. Adams reported:

(a) **Skyland Services Center Remodel**: Bids on the project would be received Monday, June 19th at 2:00 p.m. The project was bid out as a single prime contract, meaning that one general contractor places a bid and oversees all of the sub-contracts. The project would fall under formal bidding laws that require three bids to be valid. A mandatory pre-bid conference was held on Wednesday, May 31st at 10:00 a.m. on-site. Eight general contractors were present at the pre-bid conference.

(b) **Office of the State Fire Marshall Fire Department Inspections**: The county received official notification from OSFM that both Cullowhee and Savannah Volunteer Fire Department passed inspections. Michael Forbis, Fire Marshall, would be appearing before the Commissioners in July to present additional updated service district maps for adoption, which would be necessary for the upcoming inspections of other Fire Departments.

(c) **ABC Board Proposed Budget:** The ABC Board would hear public comment on their proposed FY2017-2018 budget on June 20th at 9:30 a.m. at the Sylva ABC Store, 30 E. Sylva Shopping Center, Sylva NC. The proposed budget was in the amount of \$4,640,652. Highlights of the proposed budget included a projected 3.5% increase in revenues, a 4% raise for 6 full-time and 3 part-time employees and no capital outlay or improvements. A copy of the proposed budget was available for review at both the Cashiers and Sylva ABC Store locations.

(d) **Vaya Health – MindKare Kiosks:** On Wednesday, May 31st, Vaya Health activated a kiosk located in the library. The kiosks were designed to make learning about and screening for treatable conditions like depression or anxiety as commonplace as blood pressure screening. The kiosk would make it easier for residents to connect with local treatment resources.

(e) **Update from Veterans Services Office:** David Plaster, Veterans Service Director, received the following statistics from the state for 2016:

- 602 Veterans received compensation or pension benefits in the county
- 58 new claims were awarded compensation or benefits
- \$8,896,526.44 in compensation or pension funds were received by Jackson County Veterans

(f) **Tourism Development Authority Thank You Note:** On behalf of the TDA, Nick Breedlove sends their appreciation to the county and to maintenance/landscaping staff for the work that was accomplished at their new location owned by the county.

(6) **INFORMAL COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC:** Austin Neary of Sylva, stated he wanted to get an idea of where funds in the county go for natural resources. He recently started the Western North Carolina Bass Conservation Project. He had traveled several states fishing competitively, but he had seen tourism in the county increased at the lakes. He wanted to figure out how they could generate more revenue from the lakes. He thought they had many precious resources with the lakes with 70% of all vacation rentals in the county were within five miles of a lake, but that was not promoted as much as he thought they should from a fisheries aspect. He wanted to implement a strategy to keep up and sustain the fish in the lakes and this could be a great revenue source for the community. He felt they were not tapping into the bass resource.

(7) **FIREWORKS REQUESTS:** Tony Elders, Director of Permitting and Code Enforcement, stated that the following applications had been received for fireworks displays:

- (a) Sunday, July 2nd:
- Country Club of Sapphire Valley
 - Friends of Lake Glenville
- (b) Monday, July 3rd:
- Balsam Mountain Preserve
 - Cedar Creek Racquet Club
- (c) Tuesday, July 4th:
- Bear Lake Reserve
 - Camp Merrie-Wood
 - Chamber of Commerce - Sylva
 - Chattooga Club
 - Lonesome Valley
 - Mountain Top Club
 - Village Green - Cashiers
 - Wade Hampton

Motion: *Commissioner Luker moved to approve the requests for fireworks displays as presented. Commissioner Elders seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(8) SYLVA / CASHIERS POOL UPDATE: Rusty Ellis, Parks and Recreation Director; Michael Hopkins, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director; and Victor Lofquist, Engineer/President, Lofquist and Associates, were present for discussions.

Mr. Ellis stated that currently the contractor was on-site at the Sylva Pool and had been there for three weeks. There had been rain delays, but they were still within the 45 days of the contract. They were hopeful to be done by the 17th, unless there were more rain delays.

Mr. Lofquist stated that with the project, they were re-plastering the interior of the pool, which normally had a life of 10-12 years, but it had been 16 years. They were also re-working the tile that was loose and renovating the expansion joint. It was anticipated that the pool would be open by June 17th.

Mr. Adams stated that once this season was over, Mr. Lofquist would look at the bath houses.

Mr. Hopkins stated that in regards to Cashiers, there had never been any renovations done inside the pool house, which was a dire need. County maintenance crews had been working hard to get all ready. They would need to take care of more tile in the future, but they were fixing what needed to be done now to stay on schedule to open on June 10th.

Informational item.

(9) MENTAL HEALTH RESOLUTION (R17-09): Shelly Foreman, MPA, Western Region County Relations for Vaya Health, presented a resolution of support for adequate funding to meet the mental health, intellectual and developmental disabilities and substance use disorder service needs for citizens of Jackson County.

Ms. Foreman stated that Vaya Health was a public agency and had been in existence since the early 70's. Their role was to manage local, state and Medicaid funds for individuals that had mental health, substance use or developmental disabilities. They did that by contracting with a wide variety of providers that offer services in the community.

Recently, the Vaya Health County Commissioner Advisory Board passed a resolution to support Vaya Health and advocated to the General Assembly, to restore funding reductions that had been re-imposed in the budget cycle. In the last budget cycle, the state of North Carolina had a non-recurring budget reduction of over \$250 mil. In turn, Vaya Health lost over \$21 mil in their budget, which was for people who had no health insurance and did not qualify for Medicaid. Vaya Health responded by using some of the community reinvestment dollars they had managed to accrue through Medicaid cost savings. With the current state budget, they were once again looking at funding reductions of \$178 mil. Next year for Vaya, that could mean \$4-5 mil. If funds were not restored, they were in jeopardy of losing many services.

As most government organizations were required to have a fund balance, so did Vaya Health. Vaya Health had always had good financial management and most of the categories of their fund balance were for restricted purposes. They had used disposable fund balance for many programs, but that balance was eroding. The key item they were working on was to prepare for Medicare reform, which would mean they would have to invest in the transition between what they were doing to doing more work and whole person care.

Chairman McMahan stated this was a very important topic and there needed to be a push for more attention and more funds for the situation. As Ms. Foreman mentioned, the Advisory Board did meet and it was a unanimous vote of all counties in the western part of the state. It was not a political issue, it was bipartisan as all recognized this was a medical issue, especially with the opioid epidemic.

Motion: *Commissioner Deitz moved to adopt the Mental Health Resolution R17-09, as presented. Commissioner Mau seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(10) AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD:

Motion: *Commissioner Mau moved to reappoint Brad Stillwell to serve another three year term on the Agricultural Advisory Board, term to expire June 01, 2020. Commissioner Elders seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(11) SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD:

Motion: *Commissioner Elders moved to appoint Debbie Stanley to serve a three year term on the Social Services Board, term to expire June 30, 2020. Commissioner Luker seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(12) SOUTHWESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE: Macon County Board of Commissioners recommended reappointment of Jeff Cloer as Macon County representative to the Southwestern Community College Board of Trustees.

Motion: *Commissioner Elders moved to reappoint Jeff Cloer to serve another four year term on the Southwestern Community College Board of Trustees. Commissioner Mau seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(13) WEBSTER BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS:

Motion: *Commissioner Mau moved to appoint Walter Turner and Robert Edwards to serve on the Webster Board of Adjustments. Commissioner Luker seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(14) PRESS CONFERENCE: None.

(15) CLOSED SESSION:

Motion: *Commissioner Mau moved that the Board go into closed session pursuant to G.S.143-318.11(a)(3) Legal for one item and G.S.143-318.11(a)(5) Real Property for two items. Commissioner Deitz 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 Mau moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Deitz seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman