

**MINUTES OF A  
REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
HELD ON  
SEPTEMBER 04, 2018**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on September 04, 2018, 3:00 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  
Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

Chairman McMahan called the meeting to order.

(1) **PROCLAMATION**: Commissioner Mau read a Proclamation declaring September 9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> as Firefighter, Rescue Squad and First Responder Week in Jackson County. Commissioner Elders moved to approve the Proclamation. Commissioner Luker seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

Commissioner Luker recognized David “Toby” Moore, who was in attendance, for being chosen as a Duke Life Employee for Outstanding Service. He had dedicated many years of service to EMS in the county and they were proud of him and his accomplishments.

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

(3) **MINUTES**: Commissioner Elders moved to approve the minutes of a Work Session of August 14, 2018 and a Regular Meeting of August 20, 2018. Commissioner Mau seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(4) **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**: Chairman McMahan reported that he attended the RPO meeting, along with Michael Poston, Planning Director. In a recent work session, he updated the Commissioners on how they went through the prioritization process and where they placed their points in the very complicated DOT funding formula.

The RPO in Jackson County ranked four projects:

- #1 - US 23 Business/Asheville Highway
- #2 - US 64/Highway 107/Intersection in Cashiers
- #3 - Fairview Elementary School entrance/Highway 107
- #4 - Ledbetter Road/Monteith Gap Road/Intersection

They found that based on the release of the data from the state and where the state placed points, they could remove US 64 from the list because it would be funded at a higher level. As they evaluated the remaining projects, they requested a feasibility study for Fairview Elementary School entrance/Highway 107 and the Ledbetter Road/Monteith Gap intersection. That brought them to US 23 Business/Asheville Highway remaining the number one ranked project. Also, now included was the US 74/Wilmot Bridge project, which included resurfacing the road, adding a deceleration lane and relocating the Wilmot Bridge.

Commissioner Luker inquired about the Ledbetter/Monteith project. Mr. Poston stated that the original scope of the project was to include Ledbetter and Monteith. When Monteith got funded through a different project, they would now be looking at Ledbetter for modernization.

Commissioner Luker stated that it was his understanding that the US 64/Highway 107 Intersection project had gotten accelerated based on reprioritization.

Mr. Poston stated that it got funded in the Developmental STIP. It was ranked and moving forward with right-of-way acquisition set to begin in 2027 and a construction date of 2029. In a few years they would be reprioritizing and at that time, this project would be required to go through the reprioritization process because money had not been identified.

Commissioner Elders stated that the people in his area of the county and especially Wilmot, would be thrilled to hear this project was still ongoing as it was a great need.

**(5) COMMISSIONER REPORTS:** Commissioner Elders stated there had been a lot of excitement in the county with the Mustangs and they were looking good. He encouraged everyone to support them.

**(6) COUNTY MANAGER REPORT:** Mr. Adams announced that he received an email that day at 2:38 pm, officially awarding the county with \$2,015,395 toward the community college's health sciences building. He extended his sincere appreciation and compliments to Dr. Tomas, SCC President and his staff for proceeding forward with this. Also, Ms. Baker and Ms. Fox spent a tremendous amount of time and did an excellent job working with the grant boards and bond attorney to make this project happen.

Commissioner Elders stated that one of the SCC Board Members was in attendance.

Doug Cody, SCC Board Member, stated that he appreciated all that they had done for the community college and they were anxious to get the project started.

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

**(8) EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN:** Todd Dillard, Emergency Management Director, presented the newly updated Emergency Operations Plan for consideration and approval.

***Motion:*** *Commissioner Luker moved to approve the Emergency Operations Plan, as presented and to authorize the Chairman to execute the necessary documents. Commissioner Mau seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

**(9) NCDOT STREET ACCESS PERMIT – GREENWAY PARKING:** Rusty Ellis, Recreation and Parks Director, presented an application for an additional 23 parking spaces for the Greenway for consideration and approval.

Mr. Adams stated that this was included in the budget for funding.

Commissioner Luker stated that he had received compliments about the Greenway regarding cleanliness and friendly staff. They were appreciative of having the Greenway in the community.

***Motion:*** *Commissioner Deitz moved to approve the application to NCDOT for additional Greenway Parking, as presented. Commissioner Mau seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

**(10) BLUE RIDGE SOUTHERN RAILROAD LICENSE AGREEMENT AND ASSIGNMENT:** Ms. Baker stated this was regarding Skyland Services Center. There were two access points to the property over the railroad. There had been a license to use the main access with Norfolk Southern. Blue Ridge Southern Railroad now owned the railroad and realized that the original license agreement was with Stovall's Southern Lumber and requested to update the agreement with the county. At the same time they made them aware that there was no agreement for the second access in the back area over the railroad. Blue Ridge worked with them to assign the first license agreement to the county and to create the second license agreement for the second access. Upon approval by the Board, the county would have access over both.

Chad Parker, Public Works Director, stated that Blue Ridge waived the last couple years of fees.

Mr. Baker requested approval for the assignment of the license agreement and the new license agreement.

***Motion:*** Commissioner Luker moved to approve the assignment of the license agreement and the new license agreement with Blue Ridge Southern Railroad, as presented. Commissioner Mau seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**(11) SPECIAL MEETING REQUEST:** Mr. Adams requested a special meeting be set on September 10<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at the Library regarding closed session for personnel.

***Motion:*** Commissioner Mau moved to set a special meeting on September 10<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at the Library. Commissioner Elders seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**(12) PRESS CONFERENCE:** None.

**(13) CLOSED SESSION:**

***Motion:*** Commissioner Deitz 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)(6) Personnel for one item. Commissioner Mau 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 Luker seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

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Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

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Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman