The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on April 16, 2019, 3:00 p.m., Justice and Administration Building, Room A201, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Sylva, North Carolina.

Present: Brian McMahan, Chairman
Boyce Deitz, Vice Chair
Mickey Luker, Commissioner
Ron Mau, 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) **AGENDA:** Commissioner Woody moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Mau seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(2) **MINUTES:** Commissioner Mau stated that he a change for the March 19, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes. He added a sentence to Item 17(d) paragraph six: “Based on those numbers, there appears to be funds to be saved”.

Commissioner Deitz moved to approve the minutes of a Special Called Meeting of March 14, 2019 and a Regular Meeting of March 19, 2019, as amended. Commissioner Mau seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(3) **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:** None.

(4) **COMMISSIONER REPORTS:**
   (a) Commissioner Mau stated that the TWSA Board had copies of the report on the dam removal. They would read that carefully and that was an important decision they would be making in the near future.
   (b) Commissioner Woody offered prayers to the family of Bill Jamison. He meant a lot to the community.

(5) **COUNTY MANAGER REPORT:** Mr. Adams reported:
   (a) **March 2019 Zoning and Building Permits:** Planning and Code Enforcement developed a new report describing major zoning/building permits. The report listed the zoning district, if applicable, the owner/business name, the work permitted and the actual address of the project. The report was not intended to list all work being accomplished in these departments (i.e. residential building permits or planning slope analysis). Instead the report was attempting to capture commercial projects.
   (b) **Green Energy Park Campus:** Withers Ravenel was finalizing the Site Master Plan. The final plan would contain five potential phases that would more accurately reflect the feedback received. The final plan would be presented to the Board on May 7th. He received four responses for the Requests for Qualifications. The architectural firm would be chosen in the next two weeks. A proposal for the schematic planning of the animal rescue center would be presented at the May 7th regular meeting or the May 14th work session.
(c) **Savannah Park**: He provided an updated schedule from Buchanan and Sons, Inc. The schedule indicated their portion of the work to be completed May 3rd. He also provided an email from Recreation Director Rusty Ellis giving an update on the project. Mr. Ellis stated that the installation of the shelter, playground equipment, picnic tables and benches would be accomplished after the site work had been completed.

(d) **Household Hazardous Waste**: On April 20th, they would have a Household Hazardous Waste collection event at the parking lot at the Cullowhee Recreation Center.

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

(7) **CONSENT AGENDA**:

(a) Darlene Fox, Finance Director, presented the Finance Report for March, 2019 and a Budget Ordinance Amendment for fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, for approval.

(b) Brandi Henson, Tax Collector, presented the Tax Collector and Refund Reports for March, 2019, for approval.

*Motion*: Commissioner Mau moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(8) **REACH/CENTER FOR DOMESTIC PEACE ANNUAL REPORT**: Andrea Anderson, Executive Director REACH of Macon and Destri Leger, Jackson County Outreach and Development Coordinator, were present for this item.

Ms. Anderson presented:

(a) **Domestic Violence Services in Jackson County**: As of 2018, through REACH of Macon and Center for Domestic Peace’s collaborative partnership, the Jackson County office was open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with additional after-hours crisis services. The domestic violence office staff dedicated to Jackson County included a bi-lingual Domestic Violence Victims Advocate, Rural Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Advocate and an Outreach and Development Coordinator, who provided direct services as needed. These staff members provide a variety of services including crisis counseling, safety assessment and planning, court and legal advocacy, community referrals to local resources and relocation/housing assistance.

Center for Domestic Peace/REACH of Macon’s increased community presence, in conjunction with having full time office hours, contributed to a substantial increase in Jackson clients seeking services as demonstrated in the below annual numbers comparisons. Through a recent grant from the Sylva Rotary Club, they would be conducting strategic marketing to make sure Jackson County community members, and particularly those who were victims of domestic violence, were aware of the full-time presence and services.

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(b) Jackson County Sexual Assault Services: REACH of Macon County would continue to provide sexual assault direct client services to Jackson County following the initial transition of domestic violence services to the Center for Domestic Peace. REACH had been providing critical services to sexual assault and domestic violence victims since February, 2012. Services included, but were not limited to, safety assessments/planning, court advocacy, rape crisis accompaniment, emergency shelter, hotline and wrap around services.

In regards to sexual assault victim advocacy, REACH had been active in engaging in partnerships with Western and SCC, Awake and other service agencies that provided support or intervention services to sexual assault victims and survivors. REACH’s expanded outreach efforts resulted in an increase in requests for services as indicated below.

July 1 2018 to present:
- 86 Unduplicated Sexual Assault Victims
- 23 Unduplicated Sexual Assault Shelter Victims
- 335 Sessions at 85 minutes per session
- 3,313 Services
- 123 Safety Planning/Assessment Services
- 252 Crisis Counseling Services
- 140 Court Advocacy Services
- 18 Transportation Services

July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018:
- 50 Unduplicated Sexual Assault Victims
- 12 Unduplicated Sexual Assault Shelter Victims
- 160 Sessions at 99 minutes per session
- 1,789 Services
- 91 Safety Planning/Assessment Services
- 122 Crisis Counseling Services
• 82 Court Advocacy Services
• 12 Transportation Services

Ms. Leger invited the Board to the Open House they were having on April 25th 3-6pm.

*Informational item.*

(9) **TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY REQUEST:** Nick Breedlove, Executive Director TDA, presented two capital requests for consideration and approval. Per the TDA’s establishing legislation, Board approval was needed for the projects, even though they were funded through the TDA budget.

(a) Cashiers Area Chamber and Visitor Center: Pave the parking lot to enhance visitor safety while pulling out of a limited sight distance location. This project would also enhance the appeal of the Visitor Center and encourage increased visitation. They were obtaining estimates, but they estimated the project cost to be approximately $19,537.35, based on an estimate in-hand. He requested the project be approved at that time for funding in fiscal year 19-20.

Jackson County Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center: Safety related improvements to the steps and sidewalk area that was the main access to the Visitor Center. The sidewalk was decades old and had risen up and developed cracks in recent years. The cost of the work was $8,050.00. He requested approval and funding in fiscal year 18-19, as funds were available in their budget.

(b) They wanted to make signage and landscape improvements to enhance the prominence of the Jackson Chamber and Visitor Center at a cost of $1,875. He requested authorization for a 10% contingency on all projects. All projects had been worked through the budget process.

*Motion:* Commissioner Deitz moved to approve the requests, as presented. Commissioner Mau seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(10) **DIXON HUGHES GOODMAN, LLP CONTRACT AMENDMENT:** Ms. Fox presented an amendment to the Dixon Hughes Goodman, LLP contract that would modify the due date from October 31, 2018 to December 31, 2018.

*Motion:* Commissioner Luker moved to approve the Dixon Hughes Goodman, LLP, contract amendment, as requested. Commissioner Deitz seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(11) **REQUEST FOR DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY FOR QUALIFICATION DETERMINATIONS:** Kathleen Breedlove, Human Resources Director, stated that the Department of Public Health was seeking delegation of authority for qualification determinations from the Office of State Human Resources. In April, 2018, Health Department personnel attended Candidate Qualifications Training, which included an overview of the screening process, discussion of specific classes, techniques and strategies, as well as forms and resources.

She presented a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and requested consideration for approval and to accept the conditions and responsibilities associated with the delegation of authority as outlined in the MOU.

*Motion:* Commissioner Woody moved to approve the MOU, as presented. Commissioner Mau seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(12) **TOBACCO POLICY UPDATE:** Ms. Breedlove presented a proposed new Health Insurance Policy for Users of Tobacco Products that would supersede a prior policy adopted April 1, 2013, which provided a separate group health insurance coverage plan for users of tobacco products. Effective May 1, 2019, the county would only offer one discounted health insurance plan. The new policy was applicable to all health plan eligible employees of any age and retirees under the age 65, regardless of hire date.
The new policy required health plan eligible employees of any age and retirees under 65 to certify their status as a user or non-user of tobacco products at the time they began health plan eligible employment and annually at open enrollment. Identified tobacco users were provided the opportunity to attend a Tobacco Cessation Program offer by the Health Department.

**Motion:** Commissioner Mau moved to approve the updated Tobacco Policy, as presented. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(13) **CRESCENT NURSE AND DENTAL PROGRAMS:** Mr. Adams stated that Mark III had been in communication with Crescent in regards to retaining their nurse to continue disease management services. Crescent agreed to continue to provide these services at a cost of $5 per employee, per month. Using an employee count of 437, the service would cost $26,220 annually.

In the process of researching additional details regarding the dental program offered by Blue Cross Blue Shield, it was discovered that BCBS would only allow direct billing from providers that were in their network. BCBS’s dental network in the county was limited. This would require employees that visited out of network providers to pay the provider directly and then get reimbursed from BCBS.

Crescent also offered to continue to provide administration of the current dental plan. This plan did not require the use of a dental network. The cost for Crescent to provide this service was $3 per person per month. This was only $0.50 per person more than the BCBS plan. The service was offered to employees, pre-65 retirees and post 65 retirees. Using an employee/retiree count of 508, staying with Crescent would only cost the plan an additional $3,048 per year in administration costs. Total Crescent administration costs would be $18,288 per year. It was recommended that the county stay with Crescent for the administration of dental services.

**Motion:** Commissioner Deitz moved to approve remaining with Crescent for the administration of dental services and for the nurse to continue disease management services, as recommended. Commissioner Mau seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(14) **HARRIS EMS CONTRACT AMENDMENT:** Mr. Adams presented an amendment to the Harris EMS Contract. At their last quarterly meeting they discussed this with the EMS Service and they all agreed that they did not feel that quarterly meetings were necessary. This would amend the contract to holding two meetings per year in March and November. The March meeting would allow them to have a year-end report and the November meeting would be when they did the shore up at the end of the contract. Those were the two meetings that were necessary.

**Motion:** Commissioner Woody moved to approve the Harris EMS Contract Amendment, as presented. Commissioner Deitz seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(15) **COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER RENOVATIONS:** Brandon Benzing, Architect, McMillan/Pazdan/Smith, was present for this item.

Mr. Adams stated that they opened bids on April 10th. They would present to the Board the bid tabulation form with the apparent low bidder. By May 7th, the goal would be for the Board to adopt the budget project ordinance and to award the contract. At that time, he and Mr. Benzing were recommending the Base Bid with Alternates 4, 5 and 6.

Mr. Benzing stated that in their opinion, they felt they had a very healthy bid participation for this project. They had five bids that were very complete. The contractors acknowledged changes to the drawings throughout the bidding process and they acknowledged Minority Business Enterprise participation and good faith efforts to meet those requirements. Western Builders of Sylva was the apparent low bidder at that time.
He presented the Bid Tabulation Form:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bidders</th>
<th>Base Bid</th>
<th>Alt. 1</th>
<th>Alt. 2</th>
<th>Alt. 3</th>
<th>Alt. 4</th>
<th>Alt. 5</th>
<th>Alt. 6</th>
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<td>Brantley Construction</td>
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<td>$155,000</td>
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<td>Cooper Construction</td>
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<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$41,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Builders of Sylva  (Apparent Low Bidder)</td>
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<td>$46,000</td>
<td>($26,100)</td>
<td>$16,600</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$41,000</td>
</tr>
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</table>

He provided a detailed description of the alternates:

- Alternate 1: EQ Studs, as a potential cost savings
- Alternate 2: Modified Bit Roof System, a higher quality roof
- Alternate 3: Sliding Auto Entrances, as opposed to the double doors staying
- Alternate 4: Masonry Sealant, regarding the repair to the roof
- Alternate 5: VRV System, relate to the refrigerant systems and dedicated outside air units
- Alternate 6: DOAS, relate to the refrigerant systems and dedicated outside air units
- Alternate 7: Roofing Protection

Mr. Adams provided a Community Services Building Summary of Costs:

(a) Signed leases:
   - Evergreen Foundation $10,000 per month for 18 months; $180,000 (actual cost)
   - Harris Parking Lot $185.17 per month for 16 months and $425: $3,388 (actual cost)
   - Subtotal: $183,388

(b) Upfit, moving, utility costs for temporary facilities:
   - Renovations: $30,639 (actual cost)
   - Phone system and technology: $28,067 (actual cost)
   - Subtotal: $58,706

(c) Other costs for new facility outside of construction contract:
   - Technology (including networking and security): $306,365
   - Furniture: $500,000 (estimated)
   - Subtotal: $806,365

(d) Estimated Architectural/Engineering and Contingency costs:
   - Architect – 8% of $6,101,600: $488,128 (contract)
   - Engineering and surveying: $6,225 (actual cost)
   - Contingency 5% of $6,101,600: $305,080 (estimate)
   - Subtotal: $799,433

(e) Estimated total other costs:
   - Actual bid on 4/10/19: $1,847,892
   - $5,300,000 estimate – the $801,600 constitutes a 15.12% increase over original estimate

(f) Total project costs:
   - $7,949,492
   - Original Capital Improvement Plan placeholder amount $7,000,000
   - Difference ($949,492)
   - 13.56% above placeholder

Mr. Adams stated that the contingency may be a little lower than needed for a renovation project. Each percent added to the contingency equalled $61,016. It may be prudent to increase contingency by at least 2% at an additional cost of $122,032. 7% contingency would be $427,112. Total project costs would increase to $8,071,524, which would constitute a 15.31% increase over the original placeholder amount.
He presented a proposed Capital Project Ordinance for consideration in the total amount of $7,949,492. He also provided the Capital Reserve/Fund Balance Projections - proposed funding schedule dated May 15, 2017 and April 15, 2019. He noted there were no changes in the Funding Source section. The Projects Committed portion was where the changes had occurred.

Proposed Funding Schedule:

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<tr>
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Projects Committed May 15, 2017:

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<td>$12,949,492.00</td>
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Informational item.

(16) **AGENDA:** Commissioner Mau moved to amend the agenda to add two items: (1) Capital Project Ordinance and (2) Award the Community Service Center Renovations Contract. Commissioner Mau seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(17) **CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE:**

**Motion:** Commissioner Deitz moved to approve the Capital Project Ordinance, as presented. Commissioner Mau seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(18) **AWARD THE COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER RENOVATIONS CONTRACT:**

**Motion:** Commissioner Luker moved to award the contract on the Community Service Center Renovations to the apparent low bidder, Western Builders of Sylva with Alternates 4, 5 and 6, as presented and authorize staff to execute the necessary contracts. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Luker stated it was a great day when they could award a bid to a local company. A lot of that money would be spent back in the community.
OFFER TO PURCHASE – MIDDLETON AND COGGINS RESOLUTION

Ms. Baker stated that the county received an Offer to Purchase for Lot 11, Wolf Knob Road, (PIN #7545-77-6744) from Betty Middleton and Jason Coggins in the amount of $8,357.00. The county had $8,357.00 in the property. If the offer was accepted, it would be advertised in the newspaper to start the upset bid process. She presented Resolution R19-10 for consideration.

Motion: Commissioner Luker moved to accept the offer and adopt Resolution R19-10, as presented to begin the upset bid process. Commissioner Mau seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

OFFER TO PURCHASE – B&E MOUNTAIN HOLDINGS, LLP AND RESOLUTION R19-11: Ms. Baker stated that the county had received an Offer to Purchase for 67.19 acres common area in Bear Pen, (PIN #7545-45-4733) from B&E Mountain Holdings, LLP in the amount of $43,000.00. The county had $43,000.00 in the property. The county had a $500 value on the property because it was designated common area. There was one contingency in the offer, which was that the buyer was able to work through their attorney to find a way to take this property out of common area and back into buildable lots. They would then sell a small amount of the property to try and make back some of the money they had spent and would keep the remainder as common area. Mike Irwin was a real estate agent in the area and was involved with the property and was there to answer questions.

The attorney working on this with the buyer had stated that she believed that when the county foreclosed on the property, it may have inherited some of the declarant right. Ms. Baker included language in the resolution that if there were any declarant rights that the county may have received by foreclosing on the property, they would convey those, if any, to the buyer.

If the offer was accepted, it would be advertised in the newspaper to start the upset bid process. She presented Resolution R19-11 for consideration.

Motion: Commissioner Luker moved to accept the offer and adopt Resolution R19-11, as presented to begin the upset bid process. Commissioner Mau seconded the Motion.

Discussion:
Commissioner Deitz stated they had a policy to contact the adjacent property owners regarding the property.

Ms. Baker stated that she wanted to point out that all of the people on these offers came forward and contacted the county about the properties because they received a notice at some point when the property went through the foreclosure proceedings and were aware the lots would be for sale by the county. These were fairly recent and that was how they were notified. They could do that, but she did feel good that all surrounding property owners did receive notice at some point.

Commissioner Woody inquired about the common area that may be used for building purposes at some point, were the people that bought lots near that aware of that. Sometimes people bought property with the thought there would be common area they could use. If it was built on after the fact, that may change their appreciation of their property.

Mr. Irwin stated that no one had been taking care of the property since he had been coming to the area since 1988. He had to drive by it every day and no one was maintaining it. There had been an uptick of crime in that area and they had to put up two gates that were run down. They wanted to obtain the property just to start maintaining it as they were tired of the crime.

Ms. Baker stated that it was more than just the neighbors and their desire, they had legal rights at some point and that was what their attorney was looking into. Their attorney believed that because it was still in the development period, the restrictive covenants allowed property to come in and out of common area.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.
(21) **OFFER TO PURCHASE – GLISSON AND RESOLUTION R19-12:** Ms. Baker stated that the county had received an Offer to Purchase for Lot 21, Bear Pen, (PIN #7545-77-0831) from Donna Robin Glisson in the amount of $6,200.00. The county had $6,200.00 in the property. If the offer was accepted, it would be advertised in the newspaper to start the upset bid process. She presented Resolution R19-12 for consideration.

**Motion:** Commissioner Luker moved to accept the offer and adopt Resolution R19-12, as presented to begin the upset bid process. Commissioner Mau seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(22) **OFFER TO PURCHASE – HARRISON AND RESOLUTION R19-13:** Ms. Baker stated that the county had received an Offer to Purchase for Lots 17 and 23, Bear Pen, (PIN #7545-67-4553 and #7545-67-5942) from Steven Gardner Harrison and Donna Ruth Harrison in the amount of $18,533.21. The county had $18,533.21 in the property. If the offer was accepted, it would be advertised in the newspaper to start the upset bid process. She presented Resolution R19-13 for consideration.

**Motion:** Commissioner Luker moved to accept the offer and adopt Resolution R19-13, as presented to begin the upset bid process. Commissioner Mau seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(23) **NCDOT PEDESTRIAN GRANT CONTRACT:** Michael Poston, Planning Director, stated that in March he informed the Board that they had received the grant from NCDOT for a DOT Pedestrian Planning Grant with a 70/30 split of the $70,000 cost. NCDOT would pay $49,000 and the county would pay $21,000. At the work session, he let the Board know that they were waiting on a few modifications to the contract in Section 5. Funding, the following paragraph was added:

“It was understood and agreed by the parties hereto that the Department will not authorize any changes to the project or the project cost that would result in the project exceeding the budgeted amount of $70,000 without the prior written consent of the county.”

Mr. Poston stated that Ms. Baker had reviewed the contract as well with the amendments. He recommended that the Board consider approving the contract.

**Motion:** Commissioner Mau moved to approve the NCDOT Pedestrian Grant Contract, as presented. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(24) **RESOLUTION R19-14 NCDOT PEDESTRIAN GRANT:** Mr. Poston Resolution R19-14, a resolution supporting the county’s application for the NCDOT’s Pedestrian Planning Grant.

**Motion:** Commissioner Mau moved to approve Resolution 19-14, as presented. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(25) **RESOLUTION R19-06 DELGATING AUTHORITY TO MANAGER TO ACCEPT SIDEWALK OWNERSHIP/MAINTENANCE:** Ms. Baker stated that was the same resolution they saw a few weeks ago and was discussed at the work session. As discussed, she did make a minor change to add to the following: “…in accordance with the county’s maintenance prioritization…”.

**Motion:** Commissioner Mau moved to approve Resolution 19-06, as presented. Commissioner Deitz seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.
(26) RESOLUTION R19-15 IN OPPOSITION TO CATAWBA INDIAN NATION CASINO IN NORTH CAROLINA: Ms. Baker stated they discussed this item at the last work session. Commissioner Woody had made some changes and those had been incorporated into the document. **Motion:** Commissioner Luker moved to approve Resolution 19-15, as presented. Commissioner Mau seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(27) CEMETERY BOARD: **Motion:** Commissioner Luker moved to reappoint Sam Beck and Steve Luker to serve additional four year terms on the Cemetery Board, terms expiring May 02, 2023. Commissioner Deitz seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(28) HEALTH BOARD: Carry over.

(29) SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD: Carry over.

(30) TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY: **Motion:** Commissioner Mau moved to appoint Brad Herman to serve an unexpired term on the Tourism Development Authority, term expiring December 02, 2021. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(31) PRESS CONFERENCE: None.

There being no further business, Commissioner Mau moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Luker seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Attest: ___________________________ Approved: ___________________________

Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman