

**MINUTES OF A  
REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
HELD ON  
JULY 16, 2019**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on July 16, 2019, 3:00 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 (via speakerphone)	Heather C. Baker, County Attorney
Mickey Luker, Commissioner	Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board
Ron Mau, Commissioner	
Gayle Woody, Commissioner	

Chairman McMahan called the meeting to order.

(1) **PROCLAMATION OBSERVING AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT AWARENESS DAY**: Chairman McMahan read a Proclamation observing July 26<sup>th</sup> as Americans with Disabilities Act Awareness Day. Commissioner Woody moved to approve the Proclamation. Commissioner Mau seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(2) **AGENDA**: Chairman McMahan stated that the County Manager requested to add one item: Homeless Program. Commissioner Mau moved to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(3) **MINUTES**: Commissioner Mau moved to approve the minutes of a Public Hearing (Budget) of June 04, 2019; a Regular Meeting of June 04, 2019; a Special Budget Meeting of June 06, 2019; a Work Session of June 11, 2019; a Special Budget Meeting of June 11, 2019; and a Regular Meeting of June 18, 2019. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(4) **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**: Chairman McMahan stated that he spoke with Representative Joe Sam Queen and he would be in the county on Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup> for a Town Hall Meeting at 4:00 p.m. at the Family Resource Center in Webster. He invited everyone to attend for a legislative update.

(5) **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**:

(a) Commissioner Woody stated that she, along with other Commissioners, attended the ADA Anniversary Celebration at Disability Partners. The people at Disability Partners worked so hard to enrich lives and give a sense of purpose and hope to those with disabilities and they appreciated them.

(b) Commissioner Deitz he agreed with Commissioner Woody. He attended the celebration at Disability Partners and it was awesome to see what was going on there.

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

**(a) June 2019 Zoning and Building Permits:** Planning and Code Enforcement developed a new report describing major zoning/building permits. This report lists the zoning district (if applicable), the owner/business name, the work permitted and the location of the project. This report was not intended to list all work being accomplished in these departments (i.e. residential building permits or planning slope analysis). Instead, this report attempted to capture commercial projects.

**(b) Savannah Park:** He provided an email update from Rusty Ellis, Parks and Recreation Director, that stated final inspections on both the bathroom facilities and picnic shelter were July 15<sup>th</sup>. Duke Energy was converting contractor power to permanent that week. A Drainage basin needed to be lowered and when that issue was resolved, the playground installer would install the playground and swings.

**(c) Community Services Center:** Demolition was almost complete. The next official progress report was scheduled to be provided July 18<sup>th</sup>.

**(d) Animal Rescue Center:** The schematic planning process started and two planning sessions had been scheduled for July. The first planning meeting was held on July 10<sup>th</sup> with over 20 individuals, comprised of staff and volunteers. The architects would hold one more meeting with this group to ensure that the needs were identified. The architect would use this information to develop the first set of rough schematics.

**(e) Citizens Academy:** The 2019 Jackson County Citizens Academy application process had started. He provided a timeline for the session, which was set to begin on September 12<sup>th</sup>.

**(f) Other Announcements:**

- Angie Winchester, Clerk to the Board received her re-certification as a North Carolina Certified County Clerk.
- He shared a video from a News 13 story on the Department of Social Services – W10 Real Project.
- Reminder of joint meeting with Municipalities on Tuesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Department on Aging. A meal would be served at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting would start at 6:00 p.m.

**(7) INFORMAL COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC:**

**(a)** Pam Krauss of Webster stated that she appeared before the Board on June 18<sup>th</sup> asking for assistance with speeding and the nature of traffic on River Road. She then followed up with an email to the Sheriff regarding enforcement status. While waiting for the information, several things occurred. They form a group of concerned citizens called Citizens for River Road Safety. They gathered data on five observations and purchased a speed detection device. Overall, the results showed that speeding occurred by all types of vehicles at all different times of the day. They also noted that there were lane violations.

**(b)** Eric Myers of Webster stated he had been working to address concerns of users of the Tuckasegee River Corridor. They had also raised safety concerns about the intersection of NC 107 and South River Road, as there had been several accidents there. After spring graduation at WCU, there was an increase in dump truck traffic from the quarry to WCU projects. He was sure there were other projects going on as well. The Citizens for River Road Safety started a petition campaign based on residents and drivers of South River Road. The Webster Planning Board requested that the Town of Webster send a letter to NCDOT to look into the matter, which they did. They also requested a meeting with WCU to discuss their concerns regarding future projects. They also reached out with the Highway Patrol regarding enforcement. The petition stated five categories:

- Expanded enforcement of speed limit and other traffic regulation
- Speed limit reduction
- Reduce or eliminate usage by oversized vehicles and/or improve roads to accommodate
- Declare the road a scenic byway
- Steps for safe use and enjoyment on or along the river

He requested the Commissioners' support on the issues.

(c) Jennifer Montsinger of Webster stated she was also a resident of the river corridor. River Road was a two lane road with a double yellow line the entire way. It was completely residential and the speed limit was 45 miles per hour. It had become the shortcut of choice between 107 and 441 for both commercial traffic and commuters. They were faced daily with speeders and drivers crossing the yellow line with no sidewalks or safe shoulders for pedestrians, runners, fisherman or bicycles. Also, the intersection of 107 and South River Road was very dangerous. These were safety concerns for the residents and all that used the roads. She requested the Board's help to make it safer for all. She also requested they prohibit wide load vehicles.

**(8) CONSENT AGENDA:**

(a) Darlene Fox, Finance Director, presented one 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 June, 2019, for approval.

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

**(9) ANTI-OPIOID CAMPAIGN WITH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION:** Mr. Adams stated that this was a follow up from the work session regarding the Health Department partnering with the Community Foundation to put on an Opioid Awareness Initiative. They discussed making \$8,630 available for this particular partnership.

***Motion:*** *Commissioner Luker moved to approve the Anti-Opioid Campaign partnership and the allocation of \$8,630 from contingency. Commissioner Mau seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

**(10) INDOOR POOL PROPOSAL:** Mr. Adams stated this was a follow up to a work session conversation. He presented an engineering proposal from Clarknexsen in the amount of \$37,900 to assist the county with developing a design for an indoor pool and also a cost estimate. There could be additional cost regarding Geotech, which would be future conversations for the Board.

***Motion:*** *Commissioner Luker moved to approve the engineering proposal with Clarknexsen in the amount of \$37,900, as presented. Commissioner Mau seconded the Motion.*

**Question:**

Commissioner Woody asked if Clarknexsen would break down the various features they had offered in the survey, such as a kiddie play area, etc.

Mr. Adams stated that they would bring in stakeholders to review the project and also provide the survey information. The design would have to fit within the space itself at the Cullowhee Rec Center.

*Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

**(11) NCACC ANNUAL CONFERENCE VOTING DELEGATE:**

***Motion:*** *Commissioner Mau moved to appoint Commissioner Woody as the Voting Delegate to the NCACC Annual Conference, August 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, to be held in Guilford County. Commissioner Luker seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

**(12) SYLVA WEBSTER HIGH SCHOOL CLASS REUNION REQUEST:** Mr. Adams stated Cathy Stillwell Gibson completed an application for the class reunion to use the Aging facility as a backup. It was his understanding that they would not use the facility unless it rained. Under the current policy, there would be an \$875 fee as there was a standard fee schedule and cost associated with housekeeping. This included a deposit of \$250, which was refundable.

The request before the Board would be for the fees to not be paid at that point. The group would decide the Friday before the event to use the facility. If they used the space, they would pay the fee. They were requesting a waiver of the deposit amount and the 15 day notice. They would have an insurance policy the day before the event. They also requested to use the parking lot for tents and three food trucks.

***Motion:*** *Commissioner Deitz moved to allow the request. Commissioner Mau Seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

**(13) HOMELESS PROGRAM:** Mr. Adams stated that there were two requests. The county was currently working with a new organization, HERE to transition the Homeless Program over a period of time. HERE was still waiting on their 5013c designation, but there were grant application deadlines upcoming. The first request would be for the Board to allow the county to be the grant applicant for the grants that were coming due so that they did not miss the deadlines. HERE was also going through a process of setting up their board, liability insurance and accounting services. The second request would be for the County Manager to access up to \$10,000 out of the currently budgeted \$130,000 to assist them to get the appropriate accounting and liability insurance in place.

***Motion:*** *Commissioner Luker moved to allow Jackson County to be the applicant for grants on behalf of HERE and to grant the County Manager access to up to \$10,000, if needed, to secure insurance and accounting services. Commissioner Mau seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

**(14) WEBSTER ENTERPRISES SUPPORT AGREEMENT:** Ms. Baker stated that she prepared a support agreement that they discussed at the work session. She noted that it was stated in the agreement, that the funds could only be appropriated one year at a time, as they could not bind future boards. This would be part of the draft budget each year and they could decide if they wanted to appropriate it for that year.

***Motion:*** *Commissioner Mau moved to approve the Support Agreement with Webster Enterprises, as presented. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

**(15) EMERGENCY MOU WITH SCC:** Ms. Baker stated that this was an item from the work session and there had been no changes. SCC's Emergency Planning requested to have this in place so that they would have an agreement to work with the director of the Aging Department to find a place for administration to operate in an emergency.

***Motion:*** *Commissioner Mau moved to accept the Memorandum of Understanding with Southwestern Community College, as presented. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

**(16) ORDER OF COLLECTION (R19-21):** Ms. Baker stated that the Order of Collection authorizes, empowers and commands the collection of taxes as set forth in the tax records filed in the office of Tax Administration.

***Motion:*** *Commissioner Mau moved to adopt the Order of Collection Resolution (R19-21), as presented. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(17) **HEALTH BOARD:** Chairman McMahan presented a list of candidates to fulfill the Health Board. There were eight statutorily required and three at large appointments. The following were requested to serve:

- Local Government: Gayle Woody
- At Large One: Kathy Farmer
- At Large Two: Ellerna Forney
- At Large Three: Luisa McMahan
- Dentistry: David McGuire
- Engineer: Jerry Deweese
- Nursing: Emily Buchanan
- Optometrist: Brandy Hicks
- Pharmacist: Kim Cowan
- Physician: David Trigg
- Veterinarian: David Homolka

***Motion:*** Commissioner Woody moved to accept the names, as presented, to serve on the Health Board, effective August 1, 2019, terms to expire July 31, 2022. Commissioner Deitz seconded the Motion. Motion passed by a vote of 4-1 with Commissioner Luker voting “nay”.

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

There being no further business, Commissioner Mau moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

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Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

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Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman