

**MINUTES OF A
WORK SESSION
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
MARCH 10, 2020**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a work session on March 10, 2020, 1:00 p.m., Justice and Administration Building, Room A227, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Sylva, North Carolina.

Present: Brian McMahan, Chairman	Don Adams, County Manager
Boyce Deitz, Vice Chair	Heather C. Baker, County Attorney
Mickey Luker, Commissioner (via speakerphone)	Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board
Ron Mau, Commissioner	
Gayle Woody, Commissioner	

Chairman McMahan called the meeting to order.

(1) WRGC TOWER: John Jeleniewski, Senior Planner; Michael Poston, Planning Director; and Roy Burnette, Managing Member, Five Forty Broadcasting Company, LLC, were present for this item.

Mr. Adams stated that this was a continuation of a previous conversation. Mr. Burnette came to the Board on prior occasions to discuss the Tower Ordinance, how it related to the Five Forty Broadcasting Company and his need to relocate. Since the previous conversations, a new location had been found and Mr. Burnette had been working with Planning Staff to work out the details.

Mr. Jeleniewski stated that Five Forty Broadcasting (applicant) proposed to construct an AM radio tower, 199' in total height (196' tower structure, 3' concrete base) on property owned by Roy and Janice Burnette, owners of Five Forty Broadcasting. The property was located at 928 Rufus Robinson Road, Dillsboro (PIN #7632-44-1567).

Also, the applicant requested the following ordinance requirements/standards be waived by the Board of Commissioners:

- Waiver for tower height above 180'.
- Fall zone area to encroach on the adjacent property (148.90'+/-) owned by the applicant.
- Permit application fee of \$5,000.
- Required landscape buffer surrounding a new wireless facility/compound. The subject property is moderately wooded with existing deciduous hardwood and evergreen trees; however, due to proposed grading and the required grounding array, existing vegetation would be removed leaving a natural vegetative buffer just beyond the buried grounding wires.

They had completed a Geotech report, which was not required by the ordinance, but the tower company required that an engineer study the soil. A balloon test had also been done and they received no feedback from the community.

Mr. Adams stated that previously the Board had expressed interest to work with the local radio station. This was not a new request it was for a different location. Normally, this process would be through a quasi-judicial hearing, but they were going through exceptions similar to a previous WCU tower request. For the WCU tower request, the Board held a public hearing instead of a quasi-judicial hearing. If the Board was interested in reviewing the application with the exceptions and they followed the same steps as WCU, what would be the next steps?

Mr. Poston stated that they would request that the Board schedule a public hearing, advertise and provide notifications as they would do with any other legislative type process. Part of the waiver request would be to ask to waive the quasi-judicial process as well.

Ms. Baker stated that the other option would be to proceed to have this on an agenda if they wanted to discuss the waivers. If they chose to do the waivers, they could still proceed with a quasi-judicial hearing on the remainder of the ordinance.

Commissioner Woody asked what was the rationale behind waiving the \$5,000 fee. She knew it was obviously to save money, but they had those policies in place.

Mr. Burnette stated that local radio served under a totally different mandate than any other form of advertising. They were required to conduct Emergency Alert System and Emergency Broadcast System tests on a regular basis. They were mandated by the Federal Communications Commission to serve in the public interest in that particular way.

They felt that they were part of the Emergency Communications Network because of the relationship they had with the Todd Dillard, Emergency Management Director and also the State Emergency Alert System. Since they were part of that, they were essentially operating in the public interest and they had to fulfill that mission.

Commissioner Mau stated that if they waived the fall zone, did that need to be in the deed for future owners?

Ms. Baker stated that it would be disclosed on behalf of the property owner as part of due diligence. Normally, in this situation, they may ask that the property owner to consolidate the properties under one PIN, but in this case, the property was financed to different folks, including the Jackson County Economic Development loan that remained. She thought because of the financing, he would not be able to consolidate, but he may be able to in the future. They could require that a survey be recorded so that it was on record about the fall zone. There could be other ways as well.

Commissioner Woody asked the possibility of others co-locating on the tower such as internet to enhance the broadband?

Mr. Jeleniewski stated that the ordinance would require that, however, because of the nature of this type of tower there was a lot of interference that other co-locates would present.

Chairman McMahan asked if they had ever waived a fee in the past for a cell tower?

Mr. Jeleniewski stated that they did with WCU.

Mr. Poston stated they did for Skyfi and the Viper tower as well.

Chairman McMahan stated that as long they had a record and it was not a new process he was comfortable with that. Assuming they wanted to move in a favorable direction, they had a choice to follow the traditional quasi-judicial process or they could hold a public hearing.

Mr. Poston stated that in the quasi-judicial process it was not flexible and it was difficult to issue a modification or variance.

Mr. Adams stated that he recommended the public hearing process. All except the previously stated exceptions, the elements met the rules of the ordinance. After the public hearing, the Board would follow through with the process of allowing for the exceptions, if they chose to do so.

Consensus: *Move forward with the public hearing process.*

(2) CENSUS UPDATE: Michael Poston, Planning Director and Caroline LaFrienier, Planner II, were present for this item.

Mr. Poston stated that hopefully, they had heard something about the Census over the last few weeks as they had worked with their partners in the media and social media to talk about why the Census was important. The local radio station 540 would be featuring the Census on the Focus on the Community program that week on how it impacted the local community. The biggest local benefit they would get from Census was \$675 billion per year in federal dollars that was distributed based on Census data.

Over the course of the ten-year life span of the Census, that was \$4 trillion in funding that passed through the states and came to the local area to support programming for the Department on Aging, Public Health, Social Services and Public School funding. Currently, \$2.4 million of the school's budget was provided by funding that came for specific programs. The Census information had a huge impact on how they served the residents of the county.

Starting on March 12th, people could begin taking the Census online and they would also begin with the mailings. If someone had a post office box, they would not receive Census mail in their box, but they would most likely have a paper copy left at their door. If they had not completed a Census online, by phone or mailing a paper copy at the end of April, a Census Worker would come to their door. In 2000 the county had a 48% self-response rate and in 2010 they had a 70% self-response rate, which was tied for last in Western North Carolina. Ms. LaFrienier designed a Census logo and was heading up the social media campaign.

Ms. LaFrienier stated that the Planning Department put some money behind posts and advertisements that would hit everyone in a radius. The first post featured the school system and encouraged everyone to take the Census online because it impacted the school system. Starting on March 12th, the post would have a photo of the letter people would be receiving in the mail inviting them to take the Census online or how to take the Census if they had a post office box. The next post would be March 24th – April 1st and would talk about helping people self-respond to the Census if they did not want a Census Worker to come to their house. They would also post information on how to verify a Census Worker when they saw them come to their house.

Mr. Poston stated that also, for safety, Census Workers would never ask for social security numbers, bank account numbers, PIN numbers or that type of information. Any information that came in the mail would state “US Census”.

Chairman McMahan asked why they did not mail to a post office box.

Mr. Poston stated that it was difficult to tie a post office box to a specific physical address.

Informational item.

(3) HEALTH INSURANCE: Darlene Fox, Finance Director and LeNay Shular, Employee Benefits Administrator were present for this item.

Mr. Adams stated that last year they discussed matching the insurance plan with the fiscal year of July through June, but they were unable to do so for that year. They would renew for the start of the year to be May 1st. They were not looking for any major changes to benefits. In order for them to maintain the status quo, they were looking at a 7.5 percent increase.

(a) Projected Revenues with BCBS Renewal Health Plan:

	Current Monthly	Current Bi-Weekly	After 7.5% Increase Monthly	After 7.5% Increase Bi-Weekly	Employee/ Dependent Count	Bi-Weekly Revenue	Annual Revenue for Health Plan
County Paid Employee	\$1,059.00	\$488.77	\$1,138.00	\$525.43	446	\$234,340.41	\$6,090,850.60
Spouse	\$382.00	\$176.31	\$411.00	\$189.53	40	\$7,581.23	\$197,112.00
Child	\$259.00	\$119.54	\$278.00	\$128.50	21	\$2,698.58	\$70,163.10
Children	\$382.00	\$176.31	\$411.00	\$189.53	40	\$7,581.23	\$197,112.00
Family	\$517.00	\$238.62	\$556.00	\$256.51	42	\$10,773.48	\$280,110.60

(b) Projected Revenues with BCBS Renewal Dental Plan:

	Current Dental Monthly	Current Dental Bi-Weekly	After 7.5% Increase Dental Monthly	After 7.5% Increase Dental Bi-Weekly	Employee/ Dependent Count	Bi-Weekly Revenue	Annual Revenue for Dental Plan
County Paid Employee	\$33.00	\$15.23	\$35.00	\$16.37	446	\$7,302.39	\$189,862.20
Spouse	\$42.00	\$19.38	\$45.00	\$20.84	40	\$833.54	\$21,672.00
Child	\$27.00	\$12.46	\$29.00	\$13.40	21	\$281.32	\$7,314.30
Children	\$42.00	\$19.38	\$45.00	\$20.84	40	\$833.54	\$21,672.00
Family	\$69.00	\$31.85	\$74.00	\$34.23	42	\$1,437.85	\$37,384.20

(c) Revenues:

- Total Health Plan Revenues with 7.5% increase: \$6,837,348.30
- Total Dental Plan Revenues with 7.5% increase: \$277,904.70
- Grand Total Revenues with 7.5% increase: \$7,115,353.00
- County Contributions: \$6,282,712.80
- Employee Contributions: \$832,540.20

(d) Cost:

- Total Health Plan Cost increases with 7.5% increase: \$477,024.30
- Total Dental Plan Cost increase with 7.5% increase: \$19,388.70
- Grand Total Cost increase with 7.5%: \$496,413.00
- County increase in Cost: \$438,328.80
- Employee increase in cost: \$58,084.20

The goal every year when they came in and looked to renew the insurance would be to not only show what the consultants would say the current plan would cost, but show the rates.

Ms. Fox stated that on the renewal calculation, Mark III had listed \$482,799.58 as the Dollar Change. With the 7.5% increase, the Dollar Rate came to \$496,413.00, which was \$13,600 more than Mark III's projections. They were just rounding up from 7.47% to 7.5%.

Mr. Adams stated that the information showed the impacts to the county and to the employees. They recommended to proceed forward with the rate increases.

Commissioner Woody stated that she had previously asked Mark Browder if employees felt that the new coverage was as comprehensive as the old. Did they poll staff to see if that was the case or if there were gaps?

Ms. Fox stated that she did not poll staff, but they had not had many complaints.

Ms. Shular stated that she had received negative and positive feedback across the board. Issues in the beginning had been worked out with prescriptions.

Mr. Adams stated that an example of an additional benefit was they made labs and certain x-rays free. Also, initially they had some people impacted with the drug card as the formulary changed. Unfortunately, some people may not get resolved because of that.

Chairman McMahan stated he thought they needed to put it into perspective that no one had the medical insurance they had 20 years ago. From what he had heard, the employees were appreciative of the work the Board had done to try to mitigate and minimize the impacts and to provide them with the best possible scenario and outcome they could under the constraints they were given.

Mr. Adams stated that he would consider the change to BCBS a success because they had seen the 24% savings above Crescent. This was not about directly saving the county money it was about saving benefits also.

Commissioner Mau asked if employees were taking advantage of Smart Shopper and were they saving with that?

Ms. Shular stated that the program could be tedious, but there had been several individuals that had used it. She did not know at that time how much it had actually saved. It was a good tool as long as the person knew how to use it. They encouraged employees to call Smart Shopper direct or to contact Human Resources for assistance.

Commissioner Mau asked how many employees had families on the insurance plan that their compensation was around \$35,000 per year or less? Those employees would not be getting a raise with the increase.

Mr. Adams stated that they needed to sign the paperwork with BCBS. It was up to the Board regarding how they shifted the costs around. If they did not want to do the increase to families, the county would have to supplement \$58,084.20. They could provide the Board with an updated information sheet at the regular meeting with this information for consideration.

Consensus: *Add this item to the next regular meeting agenda for consideration.*

(4) INDOOR POOL REFERENDUM PROCESS: Mr. Adams presented

(a) Aquatics Center – Cullowhee Recreation Site Plan:

- Conceptual Budgeting:

Estimated Construction Costs	\$16,585,911
Soft Costs A&E Fees, Testing	\$1,915,673
Furniture, Fixtures, Equipment	\$246,400
Technology, Equipment	\$123,200
Contingency	\$829,296
Total Estimated Construction Cost	\$19,700,480
Estimated Closing Cost	\$250,000
Total Estimated Construction and Closing Cost	\$19,950,480

- Ad Valorem Tax:

Source	Value
Ad valorem Tax Value - TR-1	\$9,206,069,112
New Construction	\$162,336,368
Motor Vehicle	\$400,435,862
Total Value	\$9,768,841,342

- Total Ad Valorem Tax @ \$0.38 per \$100 = \$37,121,597
- Collection Rate @ 97.88% = \$36,334,619
- 1 cent on tax rate = \$956,174
- Bond Referendum for Aquatics Center November 2020:

Amount of Debt Proceeds and Operating Costs	Tax Increase Required
\$19,950,48 (Construction and Closing Costs)	\$0.0222 per \$100
\$380,324 (Annual Operating Costs Projected)	\$0.0040 per \$100
Total Amount \$20,330,804	\$0.0226 per \$100

(b) Required Procedures and Possible Schedule for a Bond Referendum in November 2020:

- Determine tentative plan for bond purposes and amounts.
- Adopt preliminary Board resolution. They were looking to an April 7th adoption if the Board moved forward. They would need to decide the bond amount and how they would set the question on the referendum with either general or specific terms.
- Meet with LGC staff. They had a tentative date of March 19th set up.
- Give Informal Notice to the County Board of Elections.
- Make Legislative Committee 45-day filing.
- Publish Notice of Intent to File Application.
- Prepare Statement of Debt and Statement of Estimated Interest.
- File LGC Application.
- Introduce Bond Order; Set Public Hearing.
- File sworn statement of debt.
- Publish Notice of Public Hearing.
- Hold Public Hearing; Adopt Bond Order; Set Ballot Question and Referendum Date.
- Publish Bond Order as Adopted.
- Publish Notice of Bond Referendum.

- Formulating ballot questions. Each separate general purpose for bonds must be the subject of a separate ballot question. Purposes must be related to one another if they were to be included in a single ballot question; unrelated purposes could not be combined. For example, a bond purpose of “public safety” could cover improvements to police and fire facilities. They could not, however, combine “fire facilities” and “park improvements” on a single ballot question. The ballot questions themselves must follow a format set out in the statutes that provides for very brief questions.
- Issuing bonds after the referendum. Once the voters have approved the bonds, they usually had a minimum of 90 to 120 days to actually issue bonds and put money in the bank. The County Board must adopt a resolution to formally approve the election results, and the County must publish a notice of the results that triggers a 30-day period during which people could bring legal challenges to the bond referendum process. Then, to approve the issuance of bonds takes only one more County Board resolution, with no other required public hearings, published notices, or formal LGC approvals. The primary task in preparing for the bond issue was preparing an “official statement,” a prospectus-like document that provides information to prospective bond purchasers.
- The significant timing issue in proceeding with a bond issue centers around the progress of the projects that were going to be financed.
- The County had seven years from a successful referendum date to issue voter-approved bonds. The LGC could extend this period to ten years, and over the last several years the LGC had routinely granted extensions requested by local governments. There was never any obligation for the County in fact to issue any or all the bonds approved at a referendum.
- Sample ballot question: “Jackson County Bonds for Recreational Facilities: Shall the order authorizing Jackson County general obligation bonds in the maximum amount of \$20,000,000 plus interest to pay capital costs of providing recreational facilities and paying related costs and providing that additional taxes may be levied in an amount sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds, as adopted by the County’s Board of Commissioners on June 2, 2020, be approved? Yes__ No__”

(c) Proposed Timetable for November Bond Referendum:

	<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
1.	Determine tentative referendum plan	As soon as possible
2.	Meet with LGC staff	As soon as possible after informal decision to proceed with November referendum
3.	Give informal notice to County Board of Elections	As soon as possible after informal decision to proceed with November referendum
4.	Board adopts preliminary resolution explaining purpose for issue and authorizing publication of notice of intent to file LGC application	At 6/4/2018 Board meeting
5.	Make legislative committee 45-day filing	As soon as possible after event 4
6.	Publish notice of intent to file application	As soon as possible after 6/4 meeting and in any event by 6/21
7.	Prepare statement of debt and statement of estimated interest	In connection with preparing LGC application
8.	File LGC application	At least 10 days after event 6 and then prior to event 9
9.	Board introduces bond order and schedules public hearing	At 7/2 Board meeting

10.	Clerk files sworn statement of debt	Any time between event 9 and event 11
11.	Publish notice of public hearing	By 7/29 (after event 10 and then at least six days prior to event 12)
12.	Hold public hearing	At 8/6 Board meeting
13.	Adopt bond order; formally set ballot question and referendum date	At 8/6 Board meeting
14.	Publish bond order as adopted	As soon as convenient after event 13
15.	Publish notice of referendum (twice)	By September 28; then by October 7 (recommended to publish as soon as convenient after event 13)
16.	Referendum occurs	11/6

(d) Summary of Costs Associated with Indoor Pool Referendum:

- Expenses incurred / contracted to date:
 - \$37,900 ClarkNexsen Fees (architect)
 - \$2,600 Wood Environment and Infrastructure Solutions (geotechnical engineer)
 - \$40,500 Total to date
- Additional funds requested:
 - \$12,500 Local Government Commission Application
 - \$7,500 Legal
 - \$5,000 Marketing
 - \$5,000 Marketing/educational program (estimate for newspaper ads, printed materials)
 - \$30,000 Total additional funds requested
 - There would also potentially be additional costs to the Board of Elections for printing and coding

Chairman McMahan stated that he thought the marketing and education would be critical.

Commissioner Mau inquired if the language could be changed.

Ms. Baker stated that the statutory language was set, but they could change it in the advertising.

Mr. Adams stated that the only two items that could be changed were the number and the description.

Commissioner Woody stated that she thought “recreational facilities” was too general. She thought it needed to state “aquatics center” so it was specific to a pool.

Ms. Baker stated that as long as it included “center” or “facilities” because it was not just the pool, it was the meeting rooms and party rooms, etc.

Mr. Adams stated that the value of being specific would be to make sure the voter knew what they were voting on. The value of being more general, would be if other things occurred, it would give more options for the use of the bond monies after it passed. The Board could state they did not want to use it for anything other than the aquatics center, but if other needs arose on the campus, it could restrict them to only the aquatics center.

Commissioner Deitz stated that when they ran for office, they stated they were going to be transparent.

Commissioner Mau stated that he agreed and all they had surveyed people for was for an aquatics center.

Commissioner Woody stated that she agreed.

Ms. Fox suggested using the language of “indoor pool facilities”.

Mr. Adams stated they would want the number to be \$20 million because they could go down, but they could not go up.

General discussions were held.

Mr. Adams stated that the resolution would state \$20 million at a tax rate of “X”, which would be a published document. They would have marketing materials that would state \$20 million with a tax rate of “X” and additional taxes for operational costs. They were estimating 2.25%. This was a mechanism to put this issue on a referendum that would allow them to fund the facility. They would also explore all the best ways to fund this.

***Consensus:** The resolution would state \$20 million at 2.25% stating “Indoor Pool Facilities”.*

(5) REQUEST FROM THE PUBLIC LIBRARY: Mr. Adams stated that he received a letter from Tracy Fitzmaurice, County Librarian, concerning the issue of holiday decorations on the courthouse lawn. The Public Library received requests from the public and some staff members requesting the addition of a Menorah to the winter holiday display. Since then, he received an email from Ms. Fitzmaurice stating she had also been approached by an employee about decorations being placed on the courthouse lawn to represent the Kwanzaa holiday.

A couple of seasons ago, they received a last minute request for a Menorah to be placed on the courthouse lawn. Someone had a Menorah made of pool noodles, but nothing had been approved. He requested of the group to not put that up and for them to make a request of the Board in the spring. It must have slipped everyone’s mind because no one brought it up.

They then found themselves just before this past holiday season again and the request came back up for a Menorah. He let them know that it was once again last minute, they needed to go through a process and to come back to the Board in the spring. There was now a request to place a Menorah and other holiday decorations. His initial thought was for them to make recommendations and do this in a way that the decorations were fitting for the courthouse lawn.

Chairman McMahan stated that he knew that County Staff, especially Maintenance and Landscaping worked extremely hard to make the courthouse lawn look the best it could with holiday decorations. They had a system in place with a map and a plan on how to decorate the hill to make it the most attractive it could be with what they had planned so that the public could enjoy it.

When the original Menorah concept was thrown in, it was someone that went out at the end of the week with pool noodles and set it in the midst of what had already been done. From a design standpoint, it did not fit well with the theme and the way Maintenance had set out the decorations. That was when they discussed that they needed to have a better conversation about this. It was not that they did not want it, they wanted to honor it just as well as they did the other holiday decorations, but it all needed to be done in a systematic approach.

Also, whether it be the pinwheels, flags or other items, the Board always approved. Anyone could not walk out onto county property and decide to put up any decoration they wanted because staff had worked really hard to make it very attractive and it had been recognized nationally because of the attraction. He was fine with doing a Menorah or a Kwanzaa decoration and thought they should work to incorporate that in with a design County Staff put together.

Commissioner Woody stated that she believed they needed quality control or a policy that people would follow and submit an idea and possible decoration. Then it would go through Public Works and a process. She thought it would be very respectful of the diversity in the community and they could celebrate that.

Mr. Adams stated that generally, in the past, the only items they had accepted had been by organized groups that had a public interest in mind. From that perspective, this was the Library Board making the request. They could let them know they were open to requests and conversations. Perhaps they could appoint a couple of people to sit down with county employees to develop a proposed plan to come back to the Board regarding what those decorations would be.

Commissioner Deitz stated that they only had the Christmas Trees for decorations currently. Was the Christmas Tree a specific symbol? He was all for it, but he worried if something was requested that they may not want to have up there.

Mr. Adams stated that he was bringing in the Library Board to take the leadership in the conversation. They already had inclusive decorations inside the library, so this was not a new conversation for them. That was why he would lean toward that organization, instead of it being an individual conversation, to sit down with County Staff to help lead this.

Consensus: *Follow through with a process for holiday decorations.*

(6) CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH: Mr. Adams stated they would have a proclamation at the upcoming meeting designating April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. As in previous years, they would have pinwheel decorations and banners at courthouse hill and in downtown Sylva.

Informational item.

(7) ROAD NAMING PROJECTS: Mr. Adams stated that the applications for Mr. Conrad Burrell and Dr. Jerry Wolfe had been completed and submitted to the state. The state approved the application for Mr. Burrell and responded that they had received the application for Dr. Wolfe. The process would be once the applications were approved, they would submit the support letters and additional information.

Commissioner Woody stated that on the application for Dr. Wolfe, they requested to include the road sign to be in the Cherokee syllabary as well as in English.

Chairman McMahan stated that on the one for Mr. Burrell, there had been some preliminary planning take place. There was a good chance that the governor would be in Sylva on July 30th. They were trying to coordinate with him being there to do the ceremony for the unveiling of the “Conrad Burrell Highway”. He had requested that staff tentatively reserve the Old Courthouse Community Room for that day.

As they discussed decorations with banners at the old courthouse, he wanted to see them order custom flags that would hang between the columns of the U.S. Flag, the North Carolina Flag and the County Flag to use for different ceremonial events.

Commissioner Deitz stated that he wanted the Board to consider naming the bridge that went up Hospital Road across Scotts Creek in honor of the athletes that lived in that immediate area. There were several kids in that area that were All American and he would love to name that bridge in honor of them.

Informational item.

(8) OTHER BUSINESS:

(a) Commissioner Woody stated that the Appalachian Women’s Museum approached Commissioner Deitz about help with a septic system or attaching to TWSA. They met with Tim Parris, Alderman, Town of Dillsboro, representatives of the Appalachian Women’s Museum and two representatives from the Health Department. After a long discussion about the best way to proceed forward, it appeared that the consensus was to look into a septic system.

They completed the application for the Health Department to come in and test the soil, but there was a \$490 fee. Since they were a nonprofit and ran on a totally volunteer basis, they were going to request that the county pay the \$490 fee so that they could move forward with the application.

Mr. Adams stated that they were also requesting that the county dig the test pits.

Commissioner Deitz stated that he mentioned to them that this was not the county’s project.

Commissioner Woody stated that they wanted to do a joint septic with Dillsboro.

Chairman McMahan stated that he was in favor of it. As he had stated before, he thought this was the kind of project that should really come through the budget process when they funded the Appalachian Women’s Museum. Also, they gave a municipal grant to the towns every year or they could do it as an individual donation out of contingency. His preference would be to go through the normal budget cycle.

Mr. Adams stated that he did not think Dillsboro asked for the full \$5,000 amount on their last municipal grant application. He would go back and verify if additional monies were still available.

General discussions were held.

Informational item.

(b) Commissioner Deitz inquired about calls he had received about an ordinance regarding poultry processing in the county.

Ms. Baker stated that the county had an industrial ordinance that had been in place for a long time.

Commissioner Deitz stated that he thought it came about because of a slaughter house they had in the county at one time. There were some folks in the county that had stated they could not have poultry processing.

Ms. Baker stated that Mr. Poston had tried to get someone to come and talk with him about this to determine what property they were talking about, so they did not know yet.

Mr. Adams stated that a USDA Representative had talked with Planning, but the person that was applying needed to come into the Planning Department to discuss what did and did not meet regulations.

Commissioner Deitz stated that anything they could do to help with agriculture, he was in favor of it, if it was reasonable.

Informational item.

(c) Commissioner Mau stated that he sent an email to the County Manager and blind copied all of the Commissioners about “Stuff the Bus”, which was organized by Ashley Taylor. The objective was to send every Jackson County student home on spring break with food to help those with food insecurity issues. She started the program that year from scratch and received enough donations to do that. He thought they could have Ms. Taylor attend a work session to discuss this and that they may want to find funds annually to help with the program. He wanted to make more people aware of the program and possibly for the county to provide some funds.

Mr. Adams stated that there were two parts of the email. One was promoting the program, which may be a showcase at a regular meeting. The funds would be driven by what the needs would be for the next year. He suggested that this be placed on a 6:00 p.m. meeting agenda.

Chairman McMahan stated that he wanted to learn more about the program and what the potential would be down the road as they would have other break times in the year where there were extended weekends where it could be an issue.

Informational item.

(d) Commissioner Mau stated that next week was Sunshine Week. A year ago, he discussed Open Checkbook and he knew they had not done anything with that. He had presented what Buncombe County had done as an example, which they won a Sunshine Award for their site, so that may be the model that would be used a lot.

Informational item.

(e) Commissioner Mau stated that they talked about this topic at the last work session and Chairman McMahan gave them a draft a couple of weeks ago regarding the Second Amendment Constitutional support. He thought it would have been on that day’s agenda, but it was not. He did not know if they wanted to keep moving forward and put it on the next regular meeting agenda.

Chairman McMahan stated that he thought they needed to revisit the issue. He requested that the item be placed on the next work session agenda.

Informational item.

(f) Commissioner Mau stated that regarding COVID-19, did they have a way in the accounting system to potentially track any cost they may have in case the federal government provided money for hourly workers and those type things so they could be reimbursed.

Ms. Baker stated that they may have to declare a State of Emergency first before they would get that reimbursement.

Mr. Adams stated that he would bring this issue up at the staff meeting.

Informational item.

(g) Chairman McMahan stated that they had received a request from the Fairview School Science Olympiad Team where they would compete at the state competition. The Board supported the team last year and they were requesting support again for the completion in Raleigh on April 25th.

Commissioner Woody stated that she was in total favor of this last year, but the band had requested money and other groups traveled to competitions as well. At what point did they require some responsibility on the part of the school. She thought these were wonderful opportunities and she was all in favor of kids doing these various things, but she also believed that there was a point at which it was a school system project. How much were they contributing towards this? Otherwise, it could get to be that the Board of Commissioners was responsible for all outside competitions. She was asking for feedback.

Chairman McMahan stated that in the past, they had traditionally support any special group, which did not have to be school sanctioned. They had travel ball teams before come before the Board and they made a contribution towards their expenses to represent the county and region. It was not always just the school. They had tried to recognize when young people represented the county and it was cost prohibitive for them, they had tried to help. Other events that represented the school, he felt sure the school had helped. The request from the band was for a capital project.

Commissioner Woody stated that the band request was to pay for instruments as some were 30 years old. These were items that were prohibitive for a student to purchase on their own.

Chairman McMahan stated that he had suggested to have that discussion during the budget process since it was for something that was not time specific.

Commissioner Woody stated that she was fine with this as long as the Board felt like this was something they wanted to do.

Commissioner Mau stated that he was fine with it.

Consensus: *Add this item to the next regular agenda for consideration.*

(9) CLOSED SESSION:

Motion: *Commissioner Mau moved that the Board go into closed session pursuant to G.S.143-318.11(a)(3) Legal and G.S.143-318.11(a)(5) Real Property. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion. Motion carried.*

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

There being no further business, Commissioner Mau moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Woody seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman