

**MINUTES OF A  
REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
HELD ON  
FEBRUARY 21, 2023**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on February 21, 2023, 6:30 p.m., Justice and Administration Building, Room A201, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Sylva, North Carolina.

Present: Mark A. Letson, Chairman	Don Adams, County Manager
Todd Bryson, Vice Chair	Heather C. Baker, County Attorney
Mark Jones, Commissioner	Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to the Board
John W. Smith, Commissioner	
Tom Stribling, Commissioner (via Zoom)	

Chairman Letson called the meeting to order.

(1) **PROCLAMATION FOR VICTORIA CASEY-MCDONALD DAY**: Chairman Letson read a Proclamation to proclaim February 26<sup>th</sup> as Victoria Casey-McDonald Day. Commissioner Jones moved to approve the Proclamation. Commissioner Smith seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

Faustine McDonald, daughter of Victoria Casey-McDonald, was present to accept the proclamation.

(2) **AGENDA**: Commissioner Bryson moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(3) **MINUTES**: Commissioner Smith moved to approve the minutes of a Joint Meeting with the Board of Education of January 31, 2023 and of a Regular Meeting of February 07, 2023. Commissioner Bryson seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(4) **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**: None.

(5) **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**: Commissioner Jones reported that Governor Roy Cooper would be in the county on Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> for a TWSA meeting.

(6) **COUNTY MANAGER REPORT**: None.

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

(8) **CONSENT AGENDA**:

(a) Darlene Fox, Finance Director, presented the Finance Report for January, 2023; one Budget Ordinance Amendment for fiscal year ending June 30, 2023; and one Grant Project Ordinance for Webster Park, for approval.

(b) Brandi Henson, Tax Collector, presented the Tax Collector and Refund Reports for January, 2023, for approval.

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

(9) **AUDIT CONTRACT:** Ms. Fox stated that she recommended to award the audit contract to Martin Starnes & Associates, CPAs, P.A., to audit the county records for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, in the amount of \$104,600.

***Motion:** Commissioner Jones moved to approve the audit contract with Martin Starnes & Associates, CPAs, P.A., as requested. Commissioner Smith seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(10) **NCDOT PILOT REGIONAL TRAVEL DEMAND MODELS:** Mr. Adams stated this item was a follow up from the work session where Rose Bauguess, Senior Planner, Southwestern Commission Council on Governments, presented the Southwestern RPO Travel Demand Model Socio-Economic Data Projection. Official approval from the Board was requested for the projected socio-economic data used to determine future deficiencies.

***Motion:** Commissioner Bryson moved to approve the request for the projected socio-economic data used to determine future deficiencies for the NCDOT Pilot Regional Travel Demand Models, as presented. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(11) **VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT STATE GRANT MATCH PROGRAM:** Mr. Adams stated this item was a follow up from the work session where requests were made as follows for the state grant match program:

(a) Balsam Volunteer Fire Department: \$29,800 match to upgrade their emergency radio communication equipment.

(b) Qualla Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department: \$30,000 match to purchase six SCBA through the NCSFA Grant Fund.

(c) Canada Volunteer Fire Department: \$30,000 match to purchase Turnout Gear and PPE.

(d) Savannah Volunteer Fire Department: \$29,980.96 match to purchase various equipment.

Mr. Adams noted that the grant was only available to fully volunteer fire departments in the county. Also, this grant was previously offered to the Rescue Squads, but their state grant application was later in the year. If they proceeded forward with the grant, the Rescue Squads would appear before the Board in late summer or early fall with requests.

***Motion:** Commissioner Stribling moved to approve the Volunteer Fire Department State Grant Match requests, as presented. Commissioner Bryson seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(12) **MEDICATED ASSISTED TREATMENT PROGRAM GRANT:** Mr. Adams stated this was a request from the Sheriff's Office and Administration, to apply for the North Carolina Department of Public Safety MAT Program. He provided the information that was presented at the work session, which included a presentation about the limited medicated assisted treatment program. This program would be made available to inmates incarcerated in the jail and was limited to a particular drug, Vivitrol, so this was not a full blown MAT program.

In this second round of funding, there was \$1,481,364 available. The funding would be provided to the Sheriff for treatment in the jail setting and required follow up treatment once the incarcerated person was released. He provided a revised budget, which included a Sheriff Office employee that would work in the jail setting. He noted that the grant could be expended over three years.

The request would be for an additional employee to be added to the Sheriff's Office operations in the jail. This would be a Jail Based Coordinator Position at a Grade 24. He did build-in flexibility for the Sheriff, under the current personnel policy.

- \$242,534.00: Personnel costs for salary/wages and benefits.
- \$282,480.00: Services and contract expenses. Project Lazarus was the company proposing to be contracted with. They reached out to others, but did not receive any other interest. Project Lazarus had experience with this grant and program. They had agreed to move forward with the stated numbers.
- \$776,901.00: Goods Expenses: Vivitrol doses.
- \$42,510.75: Other expenses: Local travel/mileage; general needs, client assistance room and board. He noted that this was not a homeless program or a part of the homeless program. This person would connect the inmate with other programs. This was not creating a new type of homeless program.
- \$136,938.25: Administration fee. This would be for financial and management time.
- \$1,481,364.00 Total grant request.

The county manager was not authorized to sign off on grants that included additional personnel. This grant application would require the Board's authorization. The authorization would be to apply for the grant. If the grant was awarded, this item would come back to the Board for the position to be officially created by the Board.

He requested the Board to allow the County Manager and other county staff, as necessary, to complete the paperwork to apply for a grant based on the information provided. If the grant was awarded, he would come back before the Board to discuss the details.

General discussions were held.

***Motion:*** *Commissioner Bryson moved to authorize the County Manager to complete and submit the application for the Medicated Assisted Treatment Grant, as requested. Commissioner Smith seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

**(13) BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE:** Recommendations were submitted by Tiffany Henry, Economic Development Director.

***Motion:*** *Commissioner Bryson moved to reappoint Rich Price and Marne Harris to serve additional terms. Also, to appoint Tommy White to fill an unexpired term and to appoint David Gates to a vacant term on the Business and Industry Advisory Committee. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

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

There being no further business, Commissioner Smith moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Bryson seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

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Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

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Mark A. Letson, Chairman