

**MINUTES OF A
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
APRIL 18, 2023**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on April 18, 2023, 6:30 p.m., Justice and Administration Building, Room A201, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Sylva, North Carolina.

Present: Mark A. Letson, Chairman
Todd Bryson, Vice Chair
Mark Jones, Commissioner
John W. Smith, Commissioner
Tom Stribling, Commissioner

Don Adams, County Manager
Patrick J. Scott, Interim County Attorney
Representative, Via Zoom
Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to the Board

Chairman Letson called the meeting to order.

(1) PROCLAMATION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS WEEK AND PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY: Chairman Letson read a Proclamation to proclaim May 15th-21st as Law Enforcement Officers Week and May 15th as Peace Officers Memorial Day. Commissioner Smith moved to approve the Proclamation. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

CB Hooper, Bailiff Deputy of the Sheriff's Office, was present to accept the proclamation.

(2) PROCLAMATION FOR PURPLE HEART COUNTY: Chairman Letson read a Proclamation to proclaim Jackson County as a Purple Heart County. Commissioner Bryson moved to approve the Proclamation. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

Sheila Setzer, Veterans Service Officer, was present to accept the proclamation.

(3) AGENDA: Chairman Letson requested to remove one item: NCDHHS Children and Families Specialty Plan Letter. Commissioner Smith moved to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(4) MINUTES: Commissioner Jones moved to approve the minutes of a Regular Meeting of April 04, 2023. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(5) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Chairman Letson reported that he would be attending the Department on Aging Volunteer Recognition Ceremony on Friday. So many people in the county had given back in so many ways. He was excited about that luncheon.

Also, there was a wonderful play, The Sound of Music, being performed on at the high school next weekend. The kids were amazing. His daughter had a small role and it had been a wonderful experience for her. He encouraged everyone that had the chance to go see the play.

(6) COMMISSIONER REPORTS: None.

(7) COUNTY MANAGER REPORT: Mr. Adams stated he did not have a formal report. He provided the March Zoning and Building Permit Report to the Board.

(8) INFORMAL COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC:

(a) Dr. David Streater, Director of Education, Foundation Forward, stated Foundation Forward was a nonprofit educational organization. Several years ago, they installed the Charters of Freedom at Mark Watson Park, which consisted of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Since that time, Foundation Forward had evolved the same way society had evolved. They were there to gift a framed version of the Civil Rights Amendments to the county.

(b) Ron Lewis of Foundation Forward, stated the Charters of Freedom built in Jackson County was probably the best maintained one in the country. He gave all the credit to the county Maintenance Crew as they had done a wonderful job. Jackson County's Charters of Freedom was one that he was most proud of because the veterans in the county stepped up to the plate and were willing to work diligently to make that happen.

Vance Patterson and a number of Foundation Forward staff began to realize the circle was not complete. What they built and gave to the county was the Charters of Freedom as displayed in the National Archives Building in Washington. They took that experience and duplicated it across the country. They had built and dedicated 26 in North Carolina. There were four that were constructed, but not dedicated and five others under construction. They had 65 more to build because their long-term goal was to build in all 100 counties in North Carolina.

He presented the Board with the 13th, 14th, 15th, 19th and 24th Amendments framed. That was what made them all the same and Americans first. It was Foundation Forward's pleasure to gift this framed version to the county. They were hopeful the county would display this in a prominent location.

Mr. Adams stated, as a reminder to the public, the Charters of Freedom and Freedom Park were located in Mark Watson Park. All of the brick work was done by County Maintenance. Foundation Forward donated the white structure placed on top, which contained the Charters.

(9) CONSENT AGENDA:

(a) Darlene Fox, Finance Director, presented the Finance Report for March, 2023 a Budget Ordinance Amendment for fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, for approval.

Mr. Adams noted that Medicaid Expansion had been signed into law. The Medicaid Hold Harmless payments would not be impacted.

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

Motion: Commissioner Jones moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(10) GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE AMENDMENT - DOGWOOD HEALTH AGREEMENT AMENDMENT: Mr. Adams stated this was a follow up discussion from the work session. He provided several items requesting action from the Board:

(a) Grand Ordinance Amendment:

- Expenditures:
 - Construction CDP Facility: \$329,284.00
- Revenues:
 - Dogwood Health Trust \$174,500.00
 - General Fund – ARPA \$154,784.00

(b) Capital Projects Fund 44: Changes the Project Authorization to \$4,678,279.00

(c) Dogwood Health Trust Fund Grant Agreement

(d) Updated Design of 8,279 SF Facility

Motion: Commissioner Jones moved to approve the Grant Ordinance Amendment, the Dogwood Health Trust Fund Grant Agreement and to move forward with the Design of the 8,279 SF Facility, as presented. Commissioner Bryson seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(11) GREAT GRANT AGREEMENT: Mr. Adams stated that he presented a draft of this agreement at the work session. He presented the final version he would request the Board to consider approving to authorize staff to sign the GREAT Grant Agreement to move forward with the project. He noted the following sections:

(a) Exhibit B: Scope of Services:

- Project Budget:
 - Entire project cost: \$4,497,486.00
 - GREAT Grant award from the state: \$3,822,863.10
 - 15% Match: \$674,622.90
- Locations: 1,156 total
 - Households: 1,118
 - Businesses: 38

(b) Exhibit J: County Matching Funds. The county agreed to match \$300,000 to the \$4,497,486 project. The match would be paid when the project was completed.

Motion: Commissioner Smith moved to approve the GREAT Grant Agreement and authorize staff to sign the documents, as presented. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(12) UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS: Michael Poston, Planning Director, stated they had discussed these amendments previously. The proposed amendments were to Article VI of the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) Development Standards. The proposed Amendments would amend the current Wireless Communications Development Standards and add development standards for campgrounds.

The Planning Board held a public hearing for the proposed changes and no public comment was made. The Planning Board unanimously recommended that the Board of Commissioners consider adoption of the proposed amendments. A public hearing was held prior to this meeting with no public comment. He requested consideration of approval of the UDO Amendments and the Consistency Statement.

Motion: Commissioner Bryson moved to adopt the Unified Development Ordinance Amendments and Consistency Statement, as presented. Commissioner Smith seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(13) CEMETERY BOARD: Carry over.

(14) HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION:

Motion: Commissioner Jones moved to reappoint Susan Leveille to an additional three-year term on the Historic Preservation Commission. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(15) PLANNING BOARD:

Motion: Commissioner Smith moved to appoint Elmer Humbert to a fill an unexpired term on the Planning Board. Commissioner Bryson seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(16) TRAILS AND GREENWAY COMMITTEE:

Motion: *Commissioner Jones moved to recommend Commissioner Smith to serve on the Trails and Greenway Committee as the Commissioner representative. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(17) PRESS CONFERENCE: None.

(18) CLOSED SESSION:

Motion: *Commissioner Smith 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)(6) Personnel. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried.*

Chairman Letson called the regular meeting back to order and stated that no action was taken in closed session except the approval of the closed session minutes.

There being no further business, Commissioner Smith moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

Mark A. Letson, Chairman