

**MINUTES OF A
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
MAY 02, 2023**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on May 02, 2023, 6:00 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	Debra Bechtel, Interim County Attorney
Mark Jones, Commissioner (Via Zoom)	Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to the Board
John W. Smith, Commissioner	
Tom Stribling, Commissioner	

Chairman Letson called the meeting to order.

(1) **PROCLAMATION HONORING OLDER AMERICANS**: Chairman Letson read a Proclamation to proclaim May as Older Americans Month. Commissioner Smith moved to approve the Proclamation. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

Eddie Wells, Council on Aging Director, was present to accept the proclamation.

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

(3) **MINUTES**: Commissioner Stribling moved to approve the minutes of a Work Session of April 11, 2023; a Public Hearing (UDO Amendments) of April 18, 2023; and a Regular Meeting of April 18, 2023, as presented. Commissioner Bryson seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(4) **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**: Chairman Letson reported that he attended all four viewings of the Sound of Music at the high school and the kids were amazing. He thought there were 120 students were involved in the production and it was great.

(5) **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**: Commissioner Stribling reported that he had a few people contact him about the Fairview Baseball Field scoreboard not working. Also, the concession stand was closed. He thought they needed to get that addressed as soon as possible.

Mr. Adams stated that property was leased to the county and the county maintained it. The schools had the first right of refusal for the utilization of the fields. He would get an update from the Rec Department of what was going on with the concession stand and the scoreboard and provide a report next Tuesday.

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

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

(8) JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL (JCPC): Kerri Tucker, JCPC Board Member and Kara Long, Hawthorn Heights Executive Director, were present for this item.

Ms. Long stated she had been with Hawthorn Heights since 2009 and during that time, the county and JCPC had been wonderful support for them. Hawthorn Heights started in Dillsboro in 1976 with a home for girls. The program eventually moved to Bryson City and became a home for boys and girls, serving the seven western counties in the state.

So far that year, they had served eight Jackson County youth. Last calendar year, they received 277 referrals to place youth in their program, but they were only a nine bed facility. They offered a safe place for kids to go to and their program was utilized by the Juvenile Court System as a place for children to receive wrap around services to avoid penetrating further in the Juvenile Court System.

They provided substance use therapy through the HIGHTS program, which was a locally based nonprofit that also received JCPC funding. They also provided support for youth to receive overall health services. They provided services so that the child could transition back home and be successful. That fiscal year, they had provided 385 days of care for Jackson County youth.

Mr. Adams stated this was a diversion program from incarceration for juveniles. The county received a notice that the rate for juvenile incarceration went up from \$135 to \$150 per day. When a juvenile was incarcerated, the county paid a state rate, as it was the county's responsibility. This was part of the Sheriff's jail budget. A financial look at this would mean the 385 days represented over \$50,000 in diversion.

Ms. Tucker presented selected programs, certification, membership list and proposed funding for FY23-24. The amount allocated from the state was \$128,439 with a county match of \$54,920. The plan detailed a breakdown of how the funds would be dispersed to each program:

- HIGHTS: \$73,997
- HIGHTS – Restorative Justice Options: \$25,037
- Hawthorn Heights: \$28,621
- JCPC Administration: \$784

Motion: Commissioner Bryson moved to approve the Programs, Certification, Membership List and Funding Plan for FY23-24, to include a county match of \$54,920.00. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(9) PRESS CONFERENCE: None.

(10) CLOSED SESSION:

Motion: Commissioner Smith moved that the Board go into closed session pursuant to G.S.143-318.11(a)(3) Legal (Attorney Client Privilege), G.S.143-318.11(a)(5) Real Property Acquisition (Office Storage Space) and G.S.143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel. Commissioner Bryson seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

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

There being no further business, Commissioner Smith moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

Mark A. Letson, Chairman