

**MINUTES OF A
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
SEPTEMBER 19, 2023**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on September 19, 2023, 6:30 p.m., Justice and Administration Building, Room A201, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Sylva, North Carolina.

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

Chairman Letson called the meeting to order.

(1) **PROCLAMATION: BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH**: Commissioner Stribling read a Proclamation declaring October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Commissioner Stribling moved to approve the Proclamation. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

Chanta Ashe, RN and BCCCP/Adult Health Program Manager was present to accept the proclamation. She encouraged everyone to attend the Walk for Hope at Bridge Park on October 7th starting at 10:00 a.m.

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

(3) **MINUTES**: Commissioner Smith moved to approve the minutes of a Regular Meeting of September 05, 2023. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

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

(5) **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**: None.

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

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

(a) Rob Young expressed his disapproval of the Commissioners' effort to make changes to the Fontana Regional Library (FRL) System. He thought FRL had served the area well for over 75 years. He believed parents should supervise and mentor their own children regarding what they did or did not get to read.

(b) Ken DeRico stated he was an administrator of the Jackson County Unity Coalition on Facebook. He approved Commissioner Smith's remarks and would not remove them. He did not believe he should apologize. He appreciated them maintaining their heritage, keeping their history and protecting the statue.

(8) CONSENT AGENDA:

(a) Darlene Fox, Finance Director, presented the Finance Report for August, 2023 for approval.

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

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

(9) 5311, 5310, OPERATING AND COMBINED CAPITAL COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION GRANTS – RESOLUTION R23-09:

April Alm, Transit Director, stated Transit would seek permission to apply for the Public Transportation Program funding, enter into agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation, provide the necessary assurances and the required local match.

The total estimated amount requested for the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Total Amount</u>	<u>Local Share</u>
Administrative	\$212,321	\$31,849 15%
Capital (vehicles and other)	\$237,174	\$23,918 10%
5310 Operating	<u>\$150,000</u>	<u>\$75,000</u> 50%
TOTAL	\$601,495	\$130,767
	Total Funding Request	Total Local Share

A public hearing was held prior to this meeting with no public comment. She presented the Transit Grant Program Resolution R23-09 for consideration.

Motion: Commissioner Jones moved to approve Resolution R23-09, as presented. Commissioner Smith seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(10) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION GRANT: Tiffany Henry, Economic Development Director requested the Board allow her office to apply for an Economic Development Administration Grant to perform engineering work on the county owned property formerly known as Drexel. The grant would be to perform extensive engineering that would allow for a definitive determination of the highest and best use of this site. The grant application was for \$335,000 and the county was eligible for 80% funding under this program. The grant would require a \$71,000 match commitment from the county, if they were awarded.

Motion: Commissioner Smith moved to approve the request to apply for an Economic Development Administration Grant for the Drexel property and commit \$71,000 for the required match, as requested. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(11) PRESS CONFERENCE: None.

There being no further business, Commissioner Smith moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

Mark A. Letson, Chairman