

**MINUTES OF A
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
MARCH 05, 2024**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on March 05, 2024, 6:00 p.m., Justice and Administration Building, Room A201, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Sylva, North Carolina.

Present:	Mark A. Letson, Chairman	Darlene Fox, Interim County Manager
	Todd Bryson, Vice Chair	John Kubis, Interim County Attorney (Via Zoom)
	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) **AGENDA**: Commissioner Smith moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Bryson seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(2) **MINUTES**: Commissioner Jones moved to approve the minutes of a Work Session of February 13, 2024; a Budget Retreat of February 20, 2024; and a Regular Meeting of February 20, 2024, as presented. Commissioner Smith seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(3) **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**: Chairman Letson reported there was still time if anyone had not yet voted. There were a lot of good candidates and it had been a good campaign season.

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

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

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

(7) **PROJECT ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**: Ms. Fox presented a Project Ordinance Amendment for the Domestic Peace Facility Project Fund in the amount of \$700,000 and a Budget Ordinance Amendment for fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, for approval in the amount of \$400,000.

Motion: *Commissioner Jones moved to approve the Project Ordinance Amendment and the Budget Ordinance Amendment, as presented. Commissioner Bryson seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(8) DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER BIDS: Ms. Fox presented the certified bid tabulation for the Domestic Violence Shelter. Clark Nexsen provided a Bid Tabulation Sheet with six bids received indicating RE Crawford Construction was the apparent low bidder.

Base Bid		\$4,555,650.00
Alternate #A-1	Owner preferred door hardware	\$35,000.00
Alternate #A-2	Wood fence and entry gate	\$271,296.00
Total Combined Bid		\$4,861,946.00

Clark Nexsen recommended to award the bid to RE Crawford Construction. She recommended to award to RE Crawford and to authorize the Chairman to sign the contract.

General discussions were held.

Motion: *Commissioner Bryson moved to award the contract for the Domestic Violence Shelter to RE Crawford Construction and authorize the Chairman to execute the contract, as recommended. Commissioner Smith seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

Wesley Myers, Executive Director of the Center for Domestic Peace (CDP), thanked the Board for supporting the citizens of the county and the domestic violence victims CDP served. The facility would be a huge benefit for the county. He thanked the Board for making this happen.

Chairman Letson thanked Mr. Myers, CDP Staff and the CDP Board.

Commissioner Bryson thanked Don Adams for all of his help on the Domestic Violence Shelter and he appreciated everyone's help.

Commissioner Jones thanked Dogwood Trust as this could not have been done without them.

(9) TAX COLLECTION ATTORNEY AGREEMENT: Eric Ridenour, Attorney at Law, Ridenour and Goss, P.A. and Tori Smith, Attorney at Law, Ridenour and Goss, P.A., were present for this item.

Ms. Fox presented an updated Attorney Fee and Expenses Agreement for the county tax collection work.

Mr. Ridenour stated his office had been doing the tax collection work for the county since 2011 and had been operating with the same contract since that time for \$200 per hour. He requested to update the contract to \$240 per hour for the attorney rate and \$90 per hour for the Paralegal rate from \$75.

General discussions were held.

Motion: *Commissioner Jones moved to approve the updated Attorney Fee and Expenses Agreement for Tax Collection Work with Ridenour and Goss, P.A., as presented. Commissioner Bryson seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(10) PRESS CONFERENCE: None.

(11) 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)(5) Real Property. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried.*

Chairman Letson called the regular meeting back to order and stated no action was taken in closed session. There was need to add an item to the agenda.

(12) **REAL PROPERTY:** Chairman Letson presented three properties for the Board to consider moving forward to purchase: PIN #7559-37-4133 for a purchase price of \$92,660; PIN #7559-36-8557 for a purchase price of \$114,870; and PIN #7640-32-7788 for a purchase price of \$610,000.

Motion: *Commissioner Smith moved to approve placing the above stated three parcels under contract. Commissioner Bryson seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

There being no further business, Commissioner Bryson moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

Mark A. Letson, Chairman