

**MINUTES OF A
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
MARCH 19, 2024**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on March 19, 2024, 6:30 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 Megan N. Silver, Interim County Attorney Rep. (Via Zoom)
 Mark Jones, Commissioner Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to the Board
 Tom Stribling, Commissioner
Absent: John W. Smith, Commissioner

Chairman Letson called the meeting to order.

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

(2) **MINUTES**: Commissioner Bryson moved to approve the minutes of a Regular Meeting of March 05, 2024. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(3) **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**: Chairman Letson stated there had been many deaths that year on Highway 107. He encouraged citizens to not speed and be conscious of other drivers.

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

(5) **COUNTY MANAGER REPORT**: Ms. Fox reported:

(a) **License Plate Agency**: Construction had been completed and the office would open on Tuesday, March 26th. The office was located at Skyland Services Center, 876 Skyland Drive, Sylva.

(b) **NCDOT State Project W5714W Chrysler Curve**: Keith Rogers, NCDOT Division Project Manager, requested additional funding from High Impact Low Cost to secure funding to complete the project. The location of the project was on US 64 in Cashiers, approximately 0.8 miles east of Sapphire Post Office Road (SR 1119).

(c) **Savannah Community Building**: The parking area had been completed. The drywall had been installed and was being painted. The project would be complete by March 22nd.

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

(7) **CONSENT AGENDA**:

(a) Ms. Fox presented the Finance Report for February, 2024 and four Budget Ordinance Amendments and one Project Ordinance Amendment, for fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, for approval.

(b) Brandi Henson, Tax Collector, presented the Tax Collector and Refund Reports for February, 2024, for approval.

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

(8) DENTAL ASSISTING / HYGIENE RENOVATIONS: Ms. Fox stated this item was presented and discussed at the work session. The request was for approval of the Founders Hall renovations and Dental Assisting/Hygiene Program in the amount of \$1,514,335. There was no commitment of local funds for this request.

Motion: Commissioner Jones moved to approve the request for the Founders Hall Renovations and Dental Assisting/Hygiene Program at SCC, as presented. Commissioner Bryson seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(9) SCC CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS: Ms. Fox stated this item was presented and discussed at the work session. The request was for the Holt Library project and other renovation projects in the amount of \$19,607,532. This request would require a commitment of \$6,121,867 from the county over the life of the project.

Chairman Letson stated this would complete the master plan for SCC.

Motion: Commissioner Bryson moved to approve the request for the SCC Capital Improvement Projects at SCC, with a county match of \$6,121,868. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(10) AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS: Michael Poston, Planning Director, stated the Planning Department was assisting the Soil and Water Conservation Staff with amendments to the Agricultural District Ordinance to reflect recent changes in the North Carolina General Statutes.

He presented the proposed amendments to the Agricultural District Ordinance:

(a) Article 3. Purpose. 3.1(c) *Decrease the likelihood of legal disputes, such a nuisance actions between farm owners and their neighbors. Increase protection from nuisance suits as a result of the requirement for notice of the presence of working farms in county land records; and*

(b) Article 7. Certification and Qualification of Farmland. 7.1(a) It must [be] actively engaged in *bona fide farm purposes agriculture* as the word is defined in G.S. 106-743.4(a) and G.S. 160D-903106-581.1 and...

(c) Article 7. Certification and Qualification of Farmland. 7.1(c) ...county land use regulations. *This agreement must be approved by the Agricultural Advisory Board.*

(d) Article 14. Land Use Review. 14.1 ...of the proposed development *as measured from the property line of any enrolled tract.*

The Agricultural Advisory Board reviewed the proposed amendments and recommended the Board of Commissioners consider adoption of the amendments. A public hearing was held prior to this meeting with no public comment.

Motion: Commissioner Jones moved to approve the Agricultural District Ordinance Amendments, as presented. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(11) PRESS CONFERENCE: None.

(12) CLOSED SESSION:

Motion: Commissioner Bryson 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 the need to add an item to the agenda.

(13) **REAL PROPERTY**: Chairman Letson presented PIN #7650-41-6739 for the Board to consider moving forward to place under contract for a purchase price of \$300,000.

Motion: *Commissioner Bryson moved to approve placing parcel #7650-41-6739 under contract for the purchase price of \$300,000. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

There being no further business, Commissioner Stribling moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Bryson seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

Mark A. Letson, Chairman