

**MINUTES OF A  
REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
HELD ON  
APRIL 02, 2024**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on April 02, 2024, 6:00 p.m., Justice and Administration Building, Room A201, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Sylva, North Carolina.

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

Vice Chair Bryson called the meeting to order.

(1) **PROCLAMATION FOR CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION**: Commissioner Stribling read a Proclamation to proclaim April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Commissioner Stribling moved to approve the Proclamation. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

Crystal Jones, AWAKE Executive Director and AWAKE Staff were present to accept the proclamation.

(2) **PROCLAMATION FOR PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK**: Commissioner Jones read a Proclamation to proclaim April 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> as Public Health Week. Commissioner Jones moved to approve the Proclamation. Commissioner Smith seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

Anna Lippard, Health Director and Health Department Staff were present to accept the proclamation.

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

(4) **MINUTES**: Commissioner Jones moved to approve the minutes of a Work Session of March 12, 2024; a Public Hearing (Agricultural District Ordinance) of March 19, 2024; and a Regular Meeting of March 19, 2024, as presented. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(5) **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**: None.

(6) **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**:

(a) Commissioner Smith thanked the Sheriff’s Office for the job they were doing and for checking on churches and businesses to make sure all was secure.

(b) Commissioner Stribling stated the Sheriff’s Office had some good drug busts occurring and were doing a great job. Also, he had the opportunity to visit the Greenway on Saturday and it was really nice. He encouraged citizens to go out and take advantage of the Greenway.

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

**(a) License Plate Agency:** The new License Plate Agency opened to the public at 9:45 a.m. on March 26<sup>th</sup>. There were some technical difficulties that prevented credit/debit card transactions, but they were fully operational the next day. In the first three days, there were 404 transactions processed totaling \$42,016.59 and \$187.00 in notary fees.

A Facebook post made by Tiffany Henry, Economic Development Director, resulted in 117 reactions, 28 comments and 207 shares. All comments were positive and appreciative of the county for continuing the service.

**(b) Old Animal Shelter Building:** The building located at 463 Airport Road could be used for storage for the county Recreation and Parks Department. This would free up storage space being used by the Recreation Department in Sylva. The Maintenance Department would utilize the freed-up space.

**(c) Aquatics Center:** The anticipated completion date of the facility was July 27<sup>th</sup>.

**(d) Center for Domestic Peace:** The contract to RE Crawford had been reviewed by both parties and had been signed by RE Crawford. The Certificate of Insurance had been issued and the Notice to Proceed would be issued that week.

**(e) Fontana Regional Library Agreement:** Jackson and Swain County Attorneys would meet the next week. Information would be provided to the Board following the meeting.

**(f) Qualla-Whittier Park:** The project was approximately two weeks behind schedule due to working out details on the water/sewer routing through the property and items related to utilities. Permits for the project were simpler and would not slow the project down further. Signage was being placed at the site.

**(g) Cashiers Splash Pad:** The project would go out for bids in April barring no setbacks on permits. The Stormwater Management Permit Application was completed that day. Signage was being placed at the site.

Commissioner Jones stated the new County Manager would start on Monday. This would be Ms. Fox's last meeting as Interim County Manager. In his experience with County Managers, this had been a seamless process. Ms. Fox kept the ball rolling and he thanked her for all the over and above work she had done during that time.

Vice Chair Bryson stated he agreed. Ms. Fox had done a fine job.

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

**(a)** Dr. Harold Sims provided a report for the American Museum of the Housecat located in Sylva. He encouraged the Commissioners to visit the museum.

**(b)** Julie Kimbrell stated she was the Cat Museum Director. The Museum saw sales of over \$127,000 in one year. With that success, they were looking to build more relationships with the community.

**(9) HEALTH DIRECTOR OATH:** Ms. Winchester provided the Oath to swear-in Anna Lippard as the Health Director.

**(10) LOCAL CHILD FATALITY TEAMS ANNUAL REPORT:** Ms. Lippard stated North Carolina Statute Article 14, 7B-1406 and the CFPT Agreement Addenda with local health departments required Local Child Fatality Prevention Teams to advocate for system improvements and needed resources where gaps and deficiencies may exist. Also to submit a report annually to their local county commissioners and boards of health.

**(a)** The purpose of the local CFPTs:

- Identify deficiencies in the delivery of services to children and families by public agencies.
- Make and carry out recommendations for changes that would prevent future child deaths.
- Promote understanding of the causes of child deaths.

**(b)** She presented the 2023 CFPT Annual Report for review.

*Informational item.*

(11) **BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS:** Ms. Fox presented three Budget Ordinance Amendments for fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 for approval.

***Motion:** Commissioner Smith moved to approve the three Budget Ordinance Amendments, as presented. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(12) **COUNCIL ON AGING:** Carry over.

(13) **PLANNING BOARD:** Carry over.

(14) **PRESS CONFERENCE:** None.

(15) **CLOSED SESSION:**

***Motion:** Commissioner Stribling moved that the Board go into closed session pursuant to G.S.143-318.11(a)(5) Real Property. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried.*

Vice Chair Bryson called the regular meeting back to order and stated no action was taken in closed session.

(16) **AGENDA:** Commissioner Smith moved to amend the agenda to add one item: Purchase of Greenway Easement. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(17) **PURCHASE GREENWAY EASEMENT:** Vice Chair Bryson presented PIN #7559-19-3271 and PIN #7559-19-7471 to the Board for consideration to purchase an easement for the Greenway.

***Motion:** Commissioner Jones moved to approve the purchase of an easement for the Greenway, as presented. Commissioner Stribling seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

There being no further business, Commissioner Jones moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Smith seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

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Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

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Mark A. Letson, Chairman