

**MINUTES OF A
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
MARCH 04, 2025**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on March 04, 2025, 6:00 p.m., Justice and Administration Building, Room A201, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Sylva, North Carolina.

Present: Mark A. Letson, Chairman	Kevin King, County Manager
Todd Bryson, Vice Chair	John Kubis, County Attorney (Via Zoom)
Jenny Lynn Hooper, Commissioner	Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to the Board
Michael Jennings, Commissioner	
John W. Smith, Commissioner	

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 Bryson moved to approve the minutes of a Joint Meeting of February 06, 2025; a Budget Retreat of February 18, 2025; and a Regular Meeting of February 18, 2025, as presented. Commissioner Smith seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

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

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

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

(6) **PUBLIC COMMENT**: Vicki Todd stated her opposition to the proposed homeless shelter near Webster and urged the Commissioners to not give funding for that location as it was inappropriate and potentially dangerous. Providing shelter for homeless was important, but it must be done responsibly. The proposed location was fundamentally flawed for several reasons, including proximity to a busy highway, no sidewalks and limited transit access. She urged Commissioners to find more a suitable site to set people up for success.

(7) **CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE**: Darlene Fox, Finance Director, presented a Capital Project Ordinance for the Middle School Project in the amount \$60,000,000 with revenues coming from sales tax proceeds and the NCDPI Needs Based Grant, for consideration.

Motion: *Commissioner Smith moved to approve the Capital Project Ordinance for the Middle School Project in the amount of \$60,000,000, as presented. Commissioner Hooper seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(8) CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN: Ms. Fox presented the Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Year 2025-2029, as discussed by the Board at the Budget Retreat:

	FY 24-25	FY 25-26	FY 26-27	FY 27-28	FY 28-29	Total	Funding Sources	
Public Schools								
Blue Ridge Improvements	\$200,000	\$3,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	-	\$15,200,000	\$15,000,000	Debt
							\$200,000	Sales Tax
Fairview Improvements	\$200,000	\$2,500,000	\$1,500,000	-	-	\$4,200,000	\$4,000,000	Debt
							\$200,000	Sales Tax
Middle School								
New Construction	\$200,000	\$13,023,309	\$21,848,275	\$16,928,416	-	\$52,000,000	\$52,000,000	State Grant
Grant Match Site Purchase/Dev	-	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000	-	-	\$8,000,000	\$8,000,000	Match - Sales Tax
	\$200,000	\$17,023,309	\$25,848,275	\$16,928,416	-	\$60,000,000	\$60,000,000	
Smoky Mtn Athletic Improvements	\$450,000	2,121,950	\$1,671,950	-	-	\$4,243,900	\$4,243,900	Sales Tax
Bus Garage Improvements	-	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	-	-	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	Debt
Information Technology	\$720,700	\$720,700	\$720,700	\$720,700	\$720,700	\$3,603,500	\$3,603,500	Sales Tax
Preventative Repairs and Renovations	\$375,000	\$375,000	\$375,000	\$375,000	\$375,000	\$1,875,000	\$1,875,000	Sales Tax
Total Public Schools	\$2,645,700	\$27,240,959	\$37,115,925	\$24,024,116	\$1,095,700	\$92,122,400	\$1,875,000	Sales Tax
							\$71,122,400	\$92,122,400
							\$21,000,000	Debt
Southwestern Community College								
Founders Hall Dental Program	\$93,700	\$710,318	\$710,317			\$1,514,335	\$1,514,335	SCIF State
Library Small Business Center	\$1,568,603	\$6,742,833	\$5,648,048	\$5,648,048		\$19,607,532	\$13,485,665	SCIF \$3,485,665; OSBM \$10,000,000
Oaks Hall							\$6,121,867	Sales Tax
Routine Repairs and Renovations	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	Ad Valorem Tax
Total Southwestern Community College	\$1,862,303	\$7,653,151	\$6,558,365	\$5,848,048	\$200,000	\$22,121,867		
County Projects								
Canada Fire Department	\$200,000	\$1,850,000	\$1,850,000			\$3,900,000	\$3,900,000	State Directed Grant
Administration Building	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$7,000,000	\$6,500,000		\$14,500,000	\$14,500,000	Debt
Justice Center Addition/Renovations		\$500,000	\$500,000	\$7,000,000	\$6,500,000	\$14,500,000	\$14,500,000	Debt
Housing Projects	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	Ad Valorem Tax
Recreation/Greenway	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	CPR Ad Valorem Tax
Routine Repairs and Renovations	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000	Ad Valorem Tax
Total County	\$2,200,000	\$4,350,000	\$10,600,000	\$14,750,000	\$7,750,000	\$39,650,000	\$39,650,000	
Total Debt \$50,000,000								

General discussions were held.

Motion: Commissioner Smith moved to approve the FY2025-2029 Capital Improvement Plan, as presented. Commissioner Hooper seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(9) RESOLUTION R25-06 DECLARATION OF OFFICIAL INTENT TO REIMBURSE: Ms. Fox presented Resolution R25-26 a Declaration of Official Intent to Reimburse for consideration. The county anticipated incurring expenditures for the purchase of school improvement and county projects. The county intended to finance the costs of the project with proceeds of debt to be issued. The maximum principal amount to be incurred was \$50,000,000. The county declared its official intent to reimburse itself with proceeds for the expenditures incurred.

Motion: Commissioner Hooper moved to approve Resolution R25-06 a Declaration of Official Intent to Reimburse, as presented. Commissioner Bryson seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(10) REGION A AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL: A recommendation was submitted by Sarajane Melton, Region A AAA Director.

Motion: Commissioner Bryson moved to appoint Mary Ferrick to serve a three-year term on the Region A Aging Advisory Council. Commissioner Hooper seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

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

(12) **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)(6) Personnel. Commissioner Bryson seconded the Motion. Motion carried.*

Chairman Letson called the regular meeting back to order and stated no action was taken in closed session except the approval of the closed session minutes. He congratulated Justin Thomas, the new Information Technology Director.

There being no further business, Commissioner Smith moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Bryson seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

Mark A. Letson, Chairman