

**MINUTES OF A
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
MAY 06, 2025**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on May 06, 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) **PROCLAMATION FOR PURPLE HEART COUNTY**: Chairman Letson read a Proclamation to proclaim Jackson County as a Purple Heart County. Commissioner Smith moved to approve the Proclamation. Commissioner Jennings seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

Sheila Setzer, Veterans Service Officer, was present to accept the proclamation.

(2) **PROCLAMATION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS WEEK AND PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY**: Chairman Letson read a Proclamation to proclaim May 11th-17th as Law Enforcement Officers Week and May 15th as Peace Officers Memorial Day. Commissioner Smith moved to approve the Proclamation. Commissioner Jennings seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

Sheriff Doug Farmer, Corporal C.B. Hooper and Sergeant Chris Cabe, were present to accept the proclamation.

(3) **PROCLAMATION HONORING OLDER AMERICANS**: Chairman Letson read a Proclamation to proclaim May as Older Americans Month. Commissioner Bryson moved to approve the Proclamation. Commissioner Hooper seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

Jamie Davis, Council on Aging Director, was present to accept the proclamation.

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

(5) **MINUTES**: Commissioner Bryson moved to approve the minutes of a Regular Meeting of April 15, 2025, as presented. Commissioner Smith seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(6) **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**: Chairman Letson stated he did reach out to Cody Lewis about the gas station property near South River Road. At that point, the investment Mr. Lewis had in the project was substantial. Unfortunately, they could not reach an agreement.

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

(8) **COUNTY MANAGER REPORT:** Mr. King reported:

(a) **Cashiers Glenville Recreation:** They were looking to split the project to add the rec center with the pool, then rebid the current project on the ground. They met with the Dan Duckham, the architect of the building, who had plans in the works.

Commissioner Jennings asked if the new plan included a pool?

Mr. King stated yes, it included an outdoor pool.

General discussions were held.

(b) **Center for Domestic Peace:** The project was moving and they were hopeful it would meet the July deadline. The project was on budget.

(c) **Fair Grounds:** He met with EBCI about the partnership for the water expansion. Agreements would be forthcoming on the project.

General discussions were held.

(d) **Middle School:** A meeting was held on site that day to look at the property. They were in the process of working with NCDOT for a traffic study.

General discussions were held.

(e) **Whittier-Qualla Park:** The project was approximately 20% complete. They were looking at a completion date in the fall.

(9) **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

(a) Cornelia Waldrum stated her opinion on the statue was irrelevant. Her concern was that the recent actions of the Commission demonstrated a lack of transparency and a lack of recognition of constituent interests. She requested the Board come back and have a conversation. There was information that needed to be shared.

(b) Jessie Hanley spoke against the decision to restore the Confederate monument. Citizens deserved a voice in the democratic process. The issue was not solely about the monument, it was about how the decision was made without notice, without a public vote and without opportunity for community input.

(c) Travis Russell stated he was speaking on behalf of the residents in Cashiers. They requested a pool in Cashiers. Currently, residents there had to drive to Sylva or Highlands. The majority of the money came from on the mountain and he wanted to see some of the money used in Cashiers.

(10) **SHERIFF'S OFFICE TRANSFER OF SERVICE PISTOL TO RETIREES:** Sheriff Farmer stated Sergeant Johnny Hollifield and Lieutenant Rollie James recently retired from service with the Sheriff's Office. Both met the eligibility requirements to be transferred ownership of their service pistol at the time of retirement.

Accordingly, he requested approval from the Board of Commissioners to transfer the following service pistols: Glock Model G45 .9mm handgun serial #CALZ415 and Glock Model G45 .9mm handgun serial #CALZ407. North Carolina General Statute 20-187.2 authorized the Board to complete this transaction at a cost determined by the Board, which had traditionally been set in the amount of \$1.00, cash paid at the time of approval by the Board.

Motion: *Commissioner Hooper moved to declare the service pistols surplus for \$1.00 and authorized presenting them as requested. The Sheriff's Office was directed to provide the serial numbers and descriptions of the service pistols to the Finance Director and replace the service pistols at no cost to the county. Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(11) BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS: Darlene Fox, Finance Director, presented seven Budget Ordinance Amendments for fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, for approval.

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

(12) SOLID WASTE LEASES: Ms. Fox presented two Solid Waste Leases for approval:

- 2024 Volvo EC140EL with Kansas Bank for a monthly lease of \$2,168.46
- 2024 Ottawa T2 4x2 with Wells Fargo for a monthly lease of \$2,144.06.

Motion: *Commissioner Jennings moved to approve the Solid Waste Leases, as presented. Commissioner Hooper seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(13) AGING FACILITY: Mr. King stated bids were received for the repairs on the Aging Facility project. There were two responsive bidders with Ryse Construction being the low bidder. It was recommended the Base Bid be accepted for a contract amount of \$505,675, which included Alternate #1, masonry column bases with wooden exposed columns.

General discussions were held.

Motion: *Commissioner Bryson moved to accept the bid from Ryse Construction in the amount of \$505,675, to include Alternate #1, for the Aging Facility, as recommended. Commissioner Smith seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(14) JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL (JCPC): Kerri Tucker, JCPC Board Member and Kara Long, Hawthorn Heights Executive Director, were present for this item.

Ms. Tucker presented selected programs, certification, membership list and proposed funding for FY25-26. The amount allocated from the state was \$128,439 with a county match of \$25,530. The plan detailed a breakdown of how the funds would be dispersed to each program:

- HIGHTS-Compass/Inside-Out CORE: \$73,997
- HIGHTS – Restorative Justice Options: \$25,037
- Hawthorn Heights: \$28,621
- JCPC Administration: \$784

Ms. Long stated Hawthorn Heights was a group home in Bryson City offering emergency shelter for Western North Carolina youth. They were founded in 1976 in Dillsboro. Their mission was to provide safe, temporary shelter and care for ages 12-17 in crisis. They wanted to be a nurturing and structured environment where healing and growth could begin. They also provided other support services for the youth and worked with parents and guardians. During the past year, they provided for six youth from Jackson County.

General discussions were held.

Motion: *Commissioner Bryson moved to approve the Programs, Certification, Membership List and Funding Plan for FY25-26, to include a county match of \$25,530. Commissioner Jennings seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(15) OFFER TO PURCHASE AND CONTRACT FROM PHELPS AND RESOLUTION R25-10: Ms. Tucker stated the county received an offer from William Guy Phelps for 843 Allen Street, Sylva (PIN #7642-30-9959) in the amount of \$7,850.00. She presented Resolution R25-10 for consideration.

Motion: *Commissioner Smith moved to approve Resolution R25-10, as presented. Commissioner Jennings seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(16) UDO AMENDMENTS: Michael Poston, Planning Director, stated the Planning Staff worked with the US 441 Planning Council and the Cullowhee Planning Councils to make technical corrections to the use tables in these districts. The corrections were to make clear that governmental recreational uses were allowed in Rural Living district in the US 441 district and the Single Family Residential and Single Family-Manufactured Home districts in Cullowhee.

While some recreational uses were allowed in some of these districts, it was not clear that all of the recreation plans the county had for facilities in these areas, would be allowed. The corrections clarified that governmental recreational uses were allowed within these residential areas. The proposed changes were consistent with the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the Jackson County 2040 Land Use Plan and the Cullowhee Small Area Plan.

The US 441 Planning Council and the Cullowhee Planning Council held public hearings and both Councils unanimously recommended approval. The Planning Board also unanimously recommended approval. A public hearing was held prior to the meeting with no public comments.

Motion: *Commissioner Bryson moved to approve the UDO Technical Amendments, as presented. Commissioner Smith seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(17) RESOLUTION TO CONVEY PROPERTY TO NONPROFIT R25-11: Mr. King presented a resolution to convey property to Wolf Creek Church, Inc., for public purpose. The property was under lease at that time to Wolf Creek Church for their fellowship hall. He presented Resolution R25-11 for consideration.

Motion: *Commissioner Bryson moved to approve Resolution R25-11, as presented. Commissioner Jennings seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(18) PRESS CONFERENCE: None.

There being no further business, Commissioner Bryson moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Smith seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

Mark A. Letson, Chairman