

**MINUTES OF A PUBLIC HEARING
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
JUNE 03, 2025**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing on June 03, 2025, at 5:55 p.m., Southwestern Community College, Balsam Center, Myers Auditorium, 447 College Drive, Sylva, North Carolina.

Present: Mark A. Letson, Chairman
Todd Bryson, Vice Chair
Jenny Lynn Hooper, Commissioner
Michael Jennings, Commissioner
John W. Smith, Commissioner

Kevin King, County Manager
John Kubis, County Attorney
Darlene Fox, Finance Director
Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to the Board

Chairman Letson called the public hearing to order and stated the purpose was to receive public input for consideration regarding the proposed FY2025-2026 Budget.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

(a) Kim Mitchell stated she understood one of the counties in the library system would not be able to afford a library if Jackson withdrew. It was only financially feasible if at least two of the counties pulled out not one, which indicated it was not a smart financial decision. County dollars should not promote anything, they should be 100% neutral.

(b) Ron Mau stated the legally required revenue neutral tax rate was not included in the current budget documents. Property tax revenue was to increase about 30% or \$59.5 million from \$46.2 million. The current proposed rate was 32 cents. Crude calculation puts the revenue neutral rate at 24 to 26 cents.

(c) Stone Marlowe stated the proposed budget allocated \$300,000 for a new Whittier-Qualla playground, which did not fit within the figure of usual public playground costs of between \$100,000 to \$200,000. He hoped it could be reevaluated and spending tax dollars better.

(d) Tom Downing stated the budget impacted the library because it was unknown what the Board would do. He thought there should be a budget hearing in January or February. Were they doing the budget the way it was recommended by the Government Finance Office Association.

There being no further public comment, Commissioner Smith moved that the public hearing be adjourned. Commissioner Bryson seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Angela M. Winchester, Clerk

Mark A. Letson, Chairman