

**MINUTES OF A  
REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
HELD ON  
JULY 01, 2025**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on July 01, 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	Megan Silver, County Attorney Rep. (Via Zoom)
Jenny Lynn Hooper, Commissioner	Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to the Board
Michael Jennings, Commissioner	
John W. Smith, Commissioner (Via Zoom)	

Chairman Letson called the meeting to order.

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

(2) **MINUTES**: Commissioner Bryson moved to approve the minutes of a Special Budget Work Session of June 06, 2025; a Special Budget Work Session of June 10, 2025; and a Regular Meeting of June 17, 2025, as presented. Commissioner Jennings seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(3) **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**: Chairman Letson stated their thoughts and prayers were with the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office with the sad news of the loss of a deputy. Also, he asked everyone to be safe and patient during the Fourth of July with more traffic on the road and more people in the area.

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

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

(a) **Center for Domestic Peace**: Plan for completion by the end of July.  
(b) **Cashiers Glenville Recreation**: Project went out for bid removing splash pad.  
(c) **Whittier Qualla Park**: In the final stages and planned to be completed by fall.  
(d) **Department on Aging**: The project would kick off in the near future.  
(e) **Canada Fire Department**: In the programming phase, working on the sprinkler system, soil borings and civil plan.

(f) **Justice Center and Administration Building**: Programming had begun, soil borings had been done on the Skyland site and had all civil design work. They should be ready by February for the LGC approval. The Justice Center would be in two phases, to include the detention portion and the new courtrooms.

(g) **Fair Grounds**: Footers were being poured for one of the new buildings soon. They were working with EBCI for the water extension from the new Pepsi Plant to the Fair Ground site for phase one. They were awaiting ARC Funding, but had engaged McGill Associates.

(h) **School Projects**: Weekly meetings were being held with the construction manager at risk, architects and engineers. They were working on Fairview Elementary and the bus garage. The Blue Ridge project was in the programming phase. They were in the due diligence period on the property for the middle school.

**(6) PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- (a) Tom Downing stated disapproval of the Board's actions concerning FRL and the Budget.
- (b) Autumn stated disapproval of the Board's actions concerning FRL.
- (c) Rowan stated disapproval of the Board's actions concerning FRL.
- (d) Debbie Jefferies stated disapproval of the Board's actions concerning FRL.
- (e) Becky Abel stated disapproval of the Board's actions concerning FRL.
- (f) Casey Walawender stated disapproval of the Board's actions concerning FRL.
- (g) Antoinette MacWatt stated disapproval of the Board's actions concerning FRL.

**(7) GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE:** Darlene Fox, Finance Director, presented a Grant Project Ordinance for Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant and other Substances Use Program – Inside Out Project in the amount of \$998,952.

***Motion:*** Commissioner Bryson moved to approve the Grant Project Ordinance, as presented. Commissioner Hooper seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**(8) OFFER TO PURCHASE AND CONTRACT:** Mr. King stated in closed session, the Board discussed a request from the Town of Dillsboro to be a partner in the acquisition of property located in the Dillsboro Town limits. The total cost of the property was \$675,000 for two tracts, being PIN#7631-36-9562 containing 1.8 acres and PIN#7631-46-1547 containing 0.26 acres. The property would be used for tourism related activities and possibly parking.

The initial concept would be to develop an Interlocal Agreement between the Town of Dillsboro and the county. The Town of Dillsboro would contribute \$175,000 with a grant application to the Tourism Development Authority (TDA) for \$250,000 and the county providing \$250,000. The closing date of the property would be prior to TDA making a decision on the grant. The request would be for the county to provide the initial \$500,000 and during the process, they would work with the TDA to help with the cost.

Commissioner Hooper stated the TDA could vote against it.

Mr. King stated during the grant process, TDA could vote against it. TDA would look at the grants that month. There would be other opportunities for development even if they did not get the grant, they could improve the site with a TDA contribution later.

Commissioner Bryson stated TDA could help later with restrooms or parking, etc. He asked about the percentage of ownership.

Mr. King stated 75% would be the county ownership and 25% would be the Town of Dillsboro ownership.

***Motion:*** Commissioner Bryson moved to approve partnering with the Town of Dillsboro to purchase the above-referenced property with the county portion being \$500,000 and the Town of Dillsboro portion being \$175,000, for a total purchase price of \$675,000, as requested. Commissioner Jennings seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

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

**(10) CLOSED SESSION:**

***Motion:*** Commissioner Hooper 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 Jennings 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 closed session minutes.

There being no further business, Commissioner Hooper moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Jennings seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

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Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

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Mark A. Letson, Chairman