

**MINUTES OF A
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
AUGUST 19, 2025**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on August 19, 2025, 6:30 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	
Absent:	John W. Smith, Commissioner	

Chairman Letson called the meeting to order.

(1) RETIREMENT RECOGNITION: Chairman Letson stated the Board wished to honor 50 retirees, whose combined service totaled 962 years with the county. Each retiree made a lasting impact through their dedication and commitment.

Retirees in attendance, recognized and time of service:

Kay Ammons	14 years 9 months
Kimberly Cabe	31 years 7 months
Dianne Cauley	24 years 10 months
Julie Creason	28 years 11 months
Chrystal Deitz	7 years 11 months
Margaret Dupstadt	24 years 8 months
Russell Ellis	27 years 2 months
Chip Hall	34 years 1 month
Pamela Hooper	32 years 9 months
Rhonda Monteith	24 years 1 month
Jill Picklesimer	14 years 9 months
Cathey Robinson	10 years 5 months
Derek Robinson	6 years 8 months
Libbie Shelton	26 years 0 months
Kimberly Shuler	10 years 2 months
Kenneth Woodring	22 years 10 months

Retirees not in attendance, recognized and time of service:

Jerry Adams	7 years 5 months
Jackie Angel	16 years 4 months
Anita Barbo	19 years 10 months
Marsha Bates	13 years 4 months
Janice Blackwell	6 years 4 months
Bruce Brooks	19 years 2 months
Sheila Brown	10 years 9 months
Samantha Bryson	9 years 6 months
Ricky Buchanan	18 years 4 months
Gail Cagle	9 years 7 months

Shelley Carraway	7 years 6 months
Steve Collins	8 years 4 months
Karen Davis	19 years 6 months
Jonathan Fox	21 years 9 months
Beth Fuqua	17 years 9 months
Scott Holder	17 years 4 months
Johnny Hollifield	25 years 11 months
Christi Hooper	29 years 7 months
Glen Hooper	16 years 3 months
Rollie James	19 years 4 months
Kathryn Knowles	19 years 1 month
Barbara Lane	11 years 10 months
Lisa Lovedahl	30 years 11 months
Elaine Melton	25 years 9 months
Wanda Messer	8 years 8 months
Kevin Morgan	29 years 6 months
Timothy Muth	16 years 10 months
Robin Pond	7 years 9 months
Shannon Queen	27 years 3 months
Bobbie Jo Rhymer	35 years 11 months
Norma Taylor	18 years 4 months
Ninette Tritt	13 years 5 months
Christopher Tyson	32 years 11 months
Sheryl Williamson	29 years 0 months

(2) **AGENDA:** Chairman Letson requested to remove one item: America 250 Committee. Commissioner Hooper moved to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner Jennings seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(3) **MINUTES:** Commissioner Bryson moved to approve the minutes of a Regular Meeting of August 05, 2025 and a Work Session of August 05, 2025. Commissioner Jennings seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

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

(5) **COMMISSIONER REPORTS:** Commissioner Bryson stated Human Resources did a great job. Kendra helped him a lot last week and he appreciated them.

(6) **COUNTY MANAGER REPORT:** Mr. King reported on the Fair Grounds project. Construction on the building was underway. They were working on phase two to solicit bids for the electric, plumbing, HVAC, etc. Each trade would be bid out separately and would be solicited in the newspaper and on the website for two weeks.

They were also working to line up events for next year, including partnering with the Great Smoky Mountains Railroad (GSMR) for train excursions to leave from Whittier. Several organizations had shown interest in hosting different types of events. He hoped the facility would be operational by the summer of 2026.

The benefits to the county would include funds received from the initial transactions and from sales and room taxes. Also, if there was a specific train excursion, the county would receive additional funds through an entertainment tax.

(7) INFORMAL COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC:

- (a) Sarah Ward stated concerns for the Board's decision to exit the FRL.
- (b) Michael Padgett stated concerns for the Board's decision to exit the FRL.
- (c) Chris Bogardus stated concerns for the Board's decision to exit the FRL.
- (d) Debbie Jefferies stated concerns for the Board's decision to exit the FRL.
- (e) Kim M stated concerns for the Board's decision to exit the FRL.
- (f) Luther Jones stated concerns about meeting decorum and for the Board's decision to exit the FRL.
- (g) Garret Craig stated concerns for the Board's decision to exit the FRL.
- (h) Allen Lomax stated concerns for the Board's decision to exit the FRL.
- (i) Beth Baxley stated information regarding the FRL budget.
- (j) Dana Dunmire stated concerns for the Board's decision to exit the FRL.
- (k) Teri Cole Smith stated concerns for the Board's decision to exit the FRL.
- (l) Laura Lauffer stated concerns for the Board's decision to exit the FRL.
- (m) Tom Downing stated concerns about sediment on the roads from development without silt fencing.
- (n) Keith Blaine stated information regarding the FRL budget.
- (o) Susan Barscheski stated concerns about the gas station close to the Tuckasegee River and for the Board's decision to exit the FRL.

(8) CONSENT AGENDA:

(a) Darlene Fox, Finance Director, presented the Finance Report for July, 2025; One Capital Project Ordinance for the Administration Building Project; and Three Budget Ordinance Amendments for fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, for approval.

(b) Brandi Henson, Tax Collector, presented the Tax Collector and Refund Reports for July, 2025, for approval.

Motion: *Commissioner Bryson moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Jennings seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(9) NEW FLOOD MAPS: Mr. King stated FEMA would be releasing new flood maps and requested to hold a special meeting called by the Board of Commissioners. The meeting would be informational only for members of the public to interact with FEMA and the Flood Plain Admin Office. Notifications would be sent to each individual impacted by the new flood maps.

Local boards must approve the flood maps in order to be part of the national flood insurance program, which governed the ability of homeowners to receive flood insurance. He requested the meeting be held on September 29th at 5:30 p.m. at the Department on Aging, along with other municipalities within the county.

Consensus: *Set a special meeting for public information on September 29th at 5:30 p.m. at the Department on Aging for the new flood maps.*

(10) AMERICA 250 COMMITTEE: *Carry over.*

(11) SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD: Recommendations were submitted by Cris Weatherford, DSS Director.

Motion: *Commissioner Bryson moved to appoint Meagan Crews and Heather Baker to serve three-year terms on the Social Services Board. Commissioner Jennings seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(12) PRESS CONFERENCE: None.

(13) CLOSED SESSION:

Motion: *Commissioner Jennings 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.

There being no further business, Commissioner Hooper moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Jennings seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

Mark A. Letson, Chairman