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Time Posted: _____
Posted By: Evelyn Baker
Witnessed By: _____

**MINUTES OF A
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
SEPTEMBER 19, 2011**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on September 19, 2011, 6:00 pm, Justice & Administration Bldg., Room A201, 401 Grindstaff Cove Rd., Sylva, North Carolina.

Present: Jack Debnam, Chairman	Chuck Wooten, County Manager
Doug Cody, Vice Chair	Evelyn Baker, Clerk to Board
Charles Elders, Commissioner	
Mark Jones, Commissioner	
Joe Cowan, Commissioner	Absent: J. K. Coward, Jr., Co. Attorney

Chairman Debnam called the meeting to order.

AGENDA: Chairman Debnam deleted appointments to the Historic Preservation Committee and Solid Waste Board. Commissioner Jones moved to approve the amended Agenda. Commissioner Cowan seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Commissioner Jones moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting and Work Session of September 6, 2011. Commissioner Elders seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(1) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Chairman Debnam reported that last Saturday former Commissioner Tom Massie sustained severe injuries in an accident in Augusta, Georgia, and asked that everyone keep him in their thoughts.

(2) COUNTY MANAGER REPORT: Mr. Wooten reported:

(a) 211 Information System: The current budget allocated \$2,880 to implement a 211 information system. The funds, along with the funding from five other western counties, are being matched by Duke Energy. The project has been delayed because of budget cuts at the State level; however, the data base is almost complete and training has been scheduled for October and should be available to citizens in early November. The program will be evaluated in three years to ascertain if Jackson County wants to continue funding the program.

(b) Meth Lab Clean-up Costs: The SBI has announced a new program effective January 1, 2012 to cover costs associated with meth lab clean-up activities. The SBI will collect hazardous meth lab waste from the local law enforcement agencies and transport the material to container sites across the state. Local agencies will be trained in neutralizing and packaging the waste for pick up by the SBI. Local law enforcement agency will be involved in the collection and packing of waste materials. The Sheriff's department has been involved in three meth labs; two requiring outside cleanup assistance totaling \$3,128.87 and one lab was shut down before the processing had begun. After January 2012, the SBI program should relieve the need for local funds to clean up meth labs.

(c) ECU Dental Clinic: Mr. Coward is finalizing his review of the proposed plat and awaiting a formal letter from ECU requesting the site.

(d) Economic Development: He has been working on several projects concerning the possible re-establishment of a formal economic development program for Jackson County. A WCU graduate student is conducting an independent survey of approximately 10 counties and will provide information about economic development structures in those counties and the best practices in economic development. In addition, the NCACC Director of Governmental Relations is gathering information and identifying persons who can assist the county.

(e) Cashiers Recreation Building: Bids will be opened on Thursday, September 22 at 2:00 pm in Room A227 of the Justice Center. One of the pre-qualified general contractors has decided not to bid because of scheduling conflicts; however, it is anticipated the other nine pre-qualified general contractors will submit a bid.

(f) Cashiers Recreation Site Project: The fire pump station was delivered to the site last week and is being installed by the general contractor. There are a few other items that must be resolved and the engineer is working with the general contractor to bring those items to closure.

(g) Fontana Library Lease: Mr. Coward submitted a proposed lease to the Fontana Library Board and received an email stating they have approved the lease. It is anticipated the Lease will be placed on the next Agenda for discussion and action. There will be individual leases with the Historical Society, Arts Council and Genealogical Society.

(h) Personnel Actions: A list of all personnel actions that have occurred since July 1, 2011 was submitted.

(i) Revolving Loan Committee: One application has been submitted and a second one is anticipated. After those have been reviewed, a Revolving Loan Committee meeting will be scheduled.

(j) Tax Collections: Thus far, \$192,094.88 in delinquent taxes have been collected as a result of the Resolution requiring that all taxes be paid before deeds can be recorded. Based upon letters and notices threatening possible foreclosures, an additional \$111,918.00 in delinquent taxes has been collected.

(3) CONSENT AGENDA: Darlene Fox, Finance Director, presented the Finance and Tax Collector's reports for August 2011 and two budget amendments. 11 residential and 2 commercial permits were issued during the month of August.

Motion: *Commissioner Elders moved to approve the Consent Agenda.*

Commissioner Cody seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(4) GOOD SAMARITAN CLINIC: Becky Olson, Executive Director, gave an overview of the services provided by clinic. The clinic opened on February 20, 2001 and is an adult, primary care, free clinic. It is a volunteer-based 501C3 non-profit organization and is intended to serve as a "temporary safety net" source of care. The clinic serves persons between the ages of 18-65 who are not eligible for Medicaid, are uninsured, and with household incomes below 175% of FPG in Jackson, Swain and other westernmost counties. The clinic is located in the Health Dept. building and has served over 2,300 individuals, of which 82% are Jackson County residents, since 2001. As a primary care clinic, patients are offered patient evaluation, diagnostic testing, diagnosis, and prescriptions. During 2010 care was provided to 378 different patients for a total of 1,623 visits. Patients are also referred to specialists, therapists and rehabilitation as needed. Financially, the clinic operates solely with the support of donations, special gifts and grants. The estimated value of the donated care, services, supplies and medications during 2010 was approximately \$1.2 million. A request for an appropriation from the county will be submitted next spring.

(5) R.O.A.P. APPLICATION: A public hearing was held on September 19 at 5:50 p.m. and no objections were made. The Board was requested to approve a Certified Statement for the FY2011-12 Rural Operation & Assistance Program (ROAP).

Motion: *Commissioner Elders moved to approve the Certified Statement. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(6) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CLUBS: Mr. Wooten stated the Finance Director prepared a five-year history of community development club funds. Some clubs request the funds – some do not.

Glenville Community Club: Glenville CDC previously requested one-half (\$6,000) of the cost to replace the center’s roof. Mr. Wooten recommended the county advance the annual allocation for three future years totaling \$4,500 which, combined with the current year allocation of \$1,500, would generate the requested \$6,000 to help pay for the roof. The Glenville Community Center would not receive any further county funds until FY2015-16. The advance would be appropriated from the \$50,000 set aside in the current community development budget.

Motion: *Commissioner Jones moved to pay the current year appropriation of \$1,500 plus advance \$4,500 for a total of \$6,000 to the Glenville CDC. Commissioner Cowan seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(7) HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION: Delete.

(8) SOLID WASTE BOARD: Delete.

INFORMAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC:

(a) Marie Leatherwood of Sylva stated her opinion concerning the inadequate financial history of the former EDC and JDC.

(b) Bob Stafford of Glenville thanked the Board for its financial assistance for the Glenville Community Development building roof.

PRESS CONFERENCE

CLOSED SESSION: Chairman Debnam stated there was a need for a closed session pursuant to G. S. 143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel.

Motion: *Commissioner Jones moved that the Board go into closed session. Commissioner Cody seconded the Motion. Motion carried.*

Chairman Debnam called the regular meeting back to order and stated no action was taken in closed session other than approval of closed session minutes.

There being no further business, Commissioner Elders moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Attest:

Evelyn Baker, Clerk to Board

Approved:

W. J. Debnam, Chairman

