

Posted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Time Posted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Posted By: Evelyn Baker  
Witnessed: \_\_\_\_\_

**MINUTES OF A PUBLIC HEARING  
OF THE  
JACKSON COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
HELD ON  
DECEMBER 12, 2011**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing on December 12, 2011 at 2:00 p.m., Justice & Administration Building, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Room A201, Sylva, North Carolina.

Present: Doug Cody, Vice Chair	Chuck Wooten, County Manager
Charles Elders, Commissioner	Evelyn B. Baker, Clerk to the Board
Joe Cowan, Commissioner	J. K. Coward, County Attorney
Mark Jones, Commissioner	

Absent: Jack Debnam, Chairman

Doug Cody, Vice Chair, called the public hearing to order and stated the purpose was to receive public input concerning two proposals to appropriate and expend county funds for two economic development projects pursuant to N.C.G.S. 158-7.1 as follows:

- (a) 540 Broadcasting Co., Inc. plans to purchase the former WRGC Radio Station located on Skyland Drive, Sylva, and establish a new 5000 watt station and create 11 new jobs.
- (b) Jackson Paper Mfg., Co. plans to rebuild its existing wood fired boiler and retain 25 current employees.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

(a) Keith Dean of Sylva stated he is in support of a loan to 540 Broadcasting. He has known Roy Burnette for many years and Mr. Burnette has experience in radio and would provide a good service. The county needs a local radio station.

(b) Carl Iobst of Cullowhee stated he supports a loan to 540 Broadcasting because the county needs a local radio station back on the air, especially in weather events. However, the county should not become a co-licensee because it appears to be a conflict of interest. He stated he generally supports the loan to Jackson Paper, but urged the Board to ascertain if the county can be in a co-first lien position with the Sequoyah Fund.

(c) Jim Mueller of Glenville stated Jackson Paper is probably the third largest employer in town. The company has 115 employees and if it is economically feasible, a loan should be granted. He stated a county with 40,000 people needs a local radio station especially in emergency weather events.

(d) Jimmy Childress of Sylva urged the Board to favorably consider a loan to Jackson Paper. He stated he built the local radio station in 1957 and operated it profitably for 44 years and had filed for a new 540 frequency before he sold the station. The 540 will give additional coverage to the area – Asheville to Murphy. Mr. Burnette should, within a year, be making a profit of no less than 10-15% of the station's value. He urged approval of the loan to 540 Broadcasting and people love local radio.

(e) Roy Burnette of Sylva stated that when he worked for the local radio station several years ago, the station held “radio-thons” to raise funds for worthy causes, i.e., a crash truck for the Rescue Squad, funds to offset costs of the Sylva-Webster High School Band attending the Orange Bowl, in addition to other causes and this is the type of radio station he plans to have.

There being no further comments, Commissioner Jones moved that the public hearing be adjourned. Commissioner Elders seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote and the meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Evelyn B. Baker, Clerk to the Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Doug Cody, Vice Chair