

**MINUTES OF A
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
SEPTEMBER 01, 2016**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on September 01, 2016, 6:00 p.m., Justice & Administration Building, Room A201, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Sylva, North Carolina.

Present: Brian McMahan, Chairman
Mark Jones, Vice Chair
Charles Elders, Commissioner
Vicki Greene, Commissioner
Boyce Deitz, Commissioner

Don Adams, County Manager
Heather C. Baker, County Attorney
Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

Chairman McMahan called the meeting to order.

(1) **PROCLAMATION**: Chairman McMahan read a Proclamation declaring September 11th–17th as Fire Fighters Week in Jackson County. Commissioner Elders moved to approve the Proclamation. Commissioner Deitz seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(2) **AGENDA**: Commissioner Jones moved to approve the Agenda. Commissioner Greene seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(3) **MINUTES**: Commissioner Greene moved to approve the minutes of a Work Session of August 16, 2016 and a Regular Meeting of August 18, 2016. Commissioner Elders seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(4) **COUNTY MANAGER REPORT**: Mr. Adams reported:

(a) **North Carolina Silver Alert**: On Friday, August 26th, the NC Center for Missing Persons issued a Silver Alert for a missing endangered woman, Eunice Zona Gass. Ms. Gass had been missing since Thursday, August 25th. The Jackson County Sheriff's Office, with the assistance of fire departments, rescue squads, Emergency Management and other law enforcement agencies, had been conducting a countywide search for Ms. Gass. The Emergency Operations Center had been activated and over 30 different search teams participated in the search. The search teams were comprised of personnel from seven fire departments, two rescue squads, the Sheriff's Office, Emergency Management, GIS, NC SBI and NC State Highway Patrol. The search area covered approximately 400 square miles and utilized 550 man hours, both volunteer and paid. He extended his best wishes to the Gass family during the stressful time. He also extended his sincere appreciation to fire personnel, rescue personnel, law enforcement, emergency management staff and all others that had spent many hours conducting the search. He truly hoped for a positive outcome. If anyone had any information, he asked them to contact Sergeant Andi Green at 828-586-1911.

(b) **Noble Hall, WCU**: The newly constructed Noble Hall at WCU was opened to students in time for the new school year. WCU expressed their sincere thanks to the Permitting and Code Enforcement Office and the Fire Marshall's Office. Their willingness to work with RISE Real Estate to perform the necessary building and life safety inspections in a timely manner allowed for the legal occupancy of returning students. County employees helped WCU serve its students while avoiding potentially challenging and adverse delays in the housing portion of the project.

(c) Capital Projects:

Skyland Services Center. Odell Thompson presented updated information at the August 16, 2016 work session, which included detailed information about the commercial kitchen and several options that relate to storage and space for youth services. A planning meeting took place between Administration, Cooperative Extension, Soil & Water and Public Works on Wednesday, August 31st, to further discuss the multiple options presented at the work session. A slight change was made in the schematics, which would be presented at the September 13th work session. Rob Hawk, Extension Director, would also present information to the Board regarding the kitchen operations at the September 13th work session.

Health Department. A planning meeting took place with Ron Smith of McMillan/Pasdan/Smith Architecture on Wednesday, August 31st. The county contracted with this firm to update a prior needs study. This new study will develop options for renovations and/or additions to the existing facility. They will also develop a construction cost estimate for the recommended options. The current contract allowed 90 days to complete this study after notice to proceed was given. The results of the study should be completed by early December, 2016.

(d) Harris Emergency Medical Services – Capital Purchase Update: Harris Regional Hospital CEO Steve Heatherly indicated that Duke Lifepoint would officially allocate for the purchase of capital the week of September 12th. Once the allocation was made, the vehicles specific to Jackson County would be ordered. It was anticipated that it would take 8-10 weeks to deliver the new vehicles.

(e) Board of Adjustment: This Board was appointed by the Commissioners and was comprised of five regular members and two alternates. This item would be placed on upcoming regular meeting agendas until the vacancies were filled.

(f) ABC Sales: Total gross sales for the ABC Board in FY15-16 were \$4,343,850.35, which was an increase of \$338,379.06 over FY14-15. This also represented an increase of \$1,418,145.95 over the FY13-14 base year. The ABC Board borrowed \$263,299.34 from the county, with a current outstanding balance of \$54,474.55. The ABC Board Chairman, David Noland stated that it was the intention of the ABC Board to pay the remaining balance of the loan within the year, which would clear the debt within a three year period. The original agreement allowed for up to six years for repayment.

(g) Upcoming Meetings:

Monday, September 5, 2016 – Labor Day Holiday, Offices Closed

Tuesday, September 6, 2016 – Airport Authority Meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 13, 2016 – Special Scheduled Work Session at 11:00 a.m.

Thursday, September 15, 2016 – Regular Commissioner Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 6, 2016 – Regular Commissioner Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

(5) INFORMAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC:

(a) Marie Leatherwood of Sylva stated her disapproval of Life Point Health Corporation not paying proper taxes in the county.

(b) Doug Smith of Yellow Mountain stated he was in favor of the county passing a shooting range ordinance. He requested that the Commissioners consider Pitt County's ordinance that addressed the major issues.

(c) RJ Simmons of Yellow Mountain extended his support for a shooting range ordinance to protect the citizens from constant gun fire all day.

(d) Carl Lang of Yellow Mountain hoped the Commissioners would consider a shooting range ordinance that would protect the public. Shooting ranges lowered property values of surrounding properties.

(e) Marianne Vines of Yellow Mountain stated that one year ago, they had asked the Commissioners to consider an ordinance. They were not against shooting ranges themselves, but felt they should not be allowed to be 75 feet from a residence.

(6) FONTANA REGIONAL LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Motion: Commissioner Greene moved to reappoint Mary Arbaugh and Sandy Bayley to serve additional four year terms and to appoint Barbara Hamilton to serve a four year term on the Fontana Regional Library Board of Trustees. Commissioner Elders seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(7) PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Carry over.

(8) PRESS CONFERENCE: None.

(9) CLOSED SESSION:

Motion: Commissioner Elders moved that the Board go into closed session pursuant to two items for G.S.143-318.11(a)(5) Real Property and one item for G.S.143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel. Commissioner Greene seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

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

(10) AGENDA: Commissioner Jones moved to amend the Agenda by adding one item: Offer to Purchase Real Property PIN 7556-56-0249. Commissioner Elders seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(11) OFFER TO PURCHASE REAL PROPERTY FROM BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE ENDOWMENT FUND OF WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY:

The county received an offer from the Board of Trustees of the Endowment Fund of Western Carolina University to purchase 7.05 acres (PIN 7556-56-0249) located in Mountain Township, for the sum of \$5,000.00. The offer would be subject to the upset bid process.

Motion: Commissioner Jones moved to accept the offer and begin the upset bid process, with the understanding that all adjoining property owners would be notified of the offer. Commissioner Deitz seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

There being no further business, Commissioner Elders moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Greene seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman