

**MINUTES OF A
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
JULY 16, 2018**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on July 16, 2018, 3:00 p.m., Justice & Administration Building, Room A201, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Sylva, North Carolina.

Present: Brian McMahan, Chairman
Charles Elders, Vice Chair
Mickey Luker, Commissioner
Ron Mau, Commissioner
Absent: 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) **CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE TO THE JACKSON COUNTY SENIOR CENTER**: Eddie Wells, Department on Aging Director, stated that the Jackson County Senior Center met all criteria and achieved recognition from the North Carolina Division of Aging and Adult Services and was declared a Senior Center of Excellence for a five year term. He recognized staff and expressed his appreciation for all of the support that was provided by the Board.

(2) **AGENDA**: Commissioner Mau moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Luker seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

(3) **MINUTES**: Commissioner Mau moved to approve the minutes of a Work Session of June 12, 2018 and a Regular Meeting of June 18, 2018. Commissioner Luker seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

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

(5) **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**: Commissioner Mau stated that he provided a copy of the Jackson County Tourism Development Authority's semi-annual e-news edition to each of the Commissioners. The newsletter updated partners on marketing and promotional efforts.

(6) **COUNTY MANAGER REPORT**: None.

(7) **PLANNING BOARD REPORT**: Kirk Stephen, Chairman, reported:

- (a) The Planning Board was now operating with full membership.
- (b) He appreciated all of the help the Planning Board received from county staff.
- (c) There was some recent development and activity in the county and all was going well.
- (d) They were in the process of working on the UDO to attempt to come up with a common set of definitions and language for all of the ordinances.

(8) INFORMAL COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC:

(a) LTC W. Chris Castro stated he was from the Army National Guard in Raleigh and worked for the Selective Service Local Boards. Each county in the state typically had a local board of civic minded individuals that volunteered. Haywood, Jackson and Macon combined to make one local board and currently had three vacancies. Local board members were recommended by the Governor and appointed by the President of the United States. They played an important committee role that was closely tied to the nation's defense. If the draft were ever reinstated, the local board members would decide which young men in the community would receive a deferment, postponement or exemption from military service. When there were vacancies on the board, he tried to find individuals that wanted to serve. There was currently a vacancy in Jackson County and he requested assistance in finding a volunteer from the county that wanted to be on the local board.

(b) Charlie Schmidt of Speedy's Pizza, provided copies of a petition regarding the 107 road project. He stated that there were a lot of people that did not want the project. He had 1,000 signatures and they were still collecting. He understood that there had been some traffic issues along Highway 107, but he felt that 99%, if not all of the issues were along the East Main Street side. The traffic moved along smoothly and at a very safe pace throughout the West Main Street side. He wanted the road to be reworked to run the same way it was currently running. He wanted to make them aware that the people did not want the change.

(9) BLUE RIDGE HEALTH REPORT: Rebecca Mathis, Community Engagement Coordinator and Dr. Richard Hudspeth, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Medical Officer, presented: Blue Ridge Health Community-Focused Healthcare:

(a) Service Area: Seven counties with 17 locations: Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Polk, Rutherford and Transylvania.

(b) History:

- 1963 – founded in Henderson County as a part-time migrant health clinic with a mission to eliminate health disparities in WNC
- 1987 – grew to become a full-time federally-qualified family practice known as Blue Ridge Community Health Services (BRCHS)
- 1992 – opened a pediatric practice
- 1993 – the first of four school-based health centers opened in Henderson
- 1995 – opened a dental clinic for children
- 2005 – dental care for adults
- 2006 – behavioral health services
- 2009 – on-site Pharmacy in Henderson County
- 2012 – Transylvania County new access point location opened in Brevard
- 2013 – Collaboration with Pardee Hospital/MAHEC resulted in Teaching Health Center
- 2014 – Rutherford and Buncombe County locations opened
- 2016 – Polk and Haywood County locations opened. 7th Ave location opened.
- 2017 – Jackson County new access point location opened & Rainbow pediatrics joined

(c) Good Sam to Blue Ridge History:

- 2001 – Founded Good Samaritan Clinic of Jackson County; all volunteer providers
- 2012 – Moved to old Sylva Medical Center (293 Hospital Road, Suite B)
- 2012 – Assumed Medication Assistance Program for Harris Regional & Swain Community Hospitals
- 2013 – Explored possibilities with Blue Ridge Health (BRH) about partnership (timing not right)
- 2014 – Doubled clinical space, occupying Suites A and B
- 2015 – Began strategic planning process

- 2015 – Added full-time Family Nurse Practitioner, daytime hours Mon – Thurs (WCU Grant)
 - 2015 – Added second Nurse Case Manager (Sisters of Mercy Grant)
 - 2015 – Renewed talks with BRH about partnership
 - 2016 – Applied for HRSA New Access Point funding to open a community health center in Jackson
 - 2016 – Jackson County Commissioners provided Letter of Support for NAP Grant
 - 2016 – Awarded \$775,000 to open Community Health Center
 - 2017 – Opened BRH - Jackson
 - 2017 – Moved to Suite C, newly renovated clinical space
 - 2018 – Added two new providers: Jonathan Bentley & Luke Thompson
- (d) Jackson:**
- April 1, 2017: Good Samaritan Clinic transferred operations to BRH:
 - Access: expanded hours (Continuing Tues night clinic; added Friday hours)
 - Comprehensive Services: Primary Care, Pediatrics, Behavioral Health, POC Testing
 - Quality: a great team of providers (new EMR)
 - Affordable: sliding fee scale; no patient turned away for inability to pay
 - Good Samaritan Services continued:
 - Nurse Care Coordination
 - Medication Assistance Program (BRH & non-BRH patients)
 - Translation Services
 - Prescription Assistance
 - Patient Navigation– connecting patients with community resources
 - Charity Discount Card program
- (e) New Services added:**
- Pediatric Medicine: Local Pediatrician, Dr. Judy Seago joined their team in 2017.
 - Behavioral Health: Provider Ali Campbell, a Licensed Clinical Addiction Specialist and Licensed Clinical Social Worker.
 - A growing team of providers from one to five:
 - Judy Seago, MD
 - Jonathan Bentley, FNP
 - Ali Campbell, LCSW-A, LCAS
 - Mary Puckett, PA
 - Luke Thompson, PA
- (f) Patients Served:**
- Good Samaritan Clinic from April, 2016 – March, 2017: 588
 - BRH from April, 2017 – March, 2018: 1,262
- (g) Patient Visits:**
- Good Samaritan Clinic from April, 2016 – March, 2017: 2,192
 - BRH from April, 2017 – March, 2018: 3,800
- (h) Mission: To provide comprehensive, quality healthcare accessible and affordable to all.**
- Private, non-profit and community governed:
 - 51% (or more) of the governing board was made up of BRH patients that represented the communities they served.
 - Patient and Family Advisory Council
 - Comprehensive, quality healthcare services
 - Accessible locations in high need areas
 - Affordable health

- (i) Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC)
 - 20% of the patient care costs were covered by Federal Grants
 - Like most healthcare systems, BRH received some federal funds each year to help cover the cost of uncompensated care
 - As a FQHC, BRH applied for this federal funding every three years
- (j) Services Overview: All services listed were required by 330 Grants. They must be provided directly or through contract with a local provider. BRH stands out by directly providing most services at each site. The main site provides all services.
 - Comprehensive primary care
 - Laboratory & radiology services
 - Preventive services
 - Prenatal, Intrapartum and perinatal
 - Cancer and other disease screening
 - Well child services
 - Immunizations
 - Family planning
 - Preventive dental
 - Mental health and Psychiatry
 - Urgent Care
 - Minor injuries
 - Pharmacy
 - Nutrition
 - 24/7 access to care
 - Eligibility workers
 - Case management Interpreting
 - Outreach & health education
 - Transportation
- (k) 2017 in numbers:
 - 35,567 patients served
 - 132,344 patient visits
 - 53% of patients were uninsured
 - \$21.8 million in charity care was provided to cover patient care costs
 - 51,150 prescriptions filled for uninsured and underinsured patients
 - 616 Veterans served
 - 2,500+ children received care at a school based location
- (l) Community Support: Donations to BRH covered the costs of care for patients that could not afford an office visit and helps support the purchase of supplies, equipment and medications needed.
 - Harris Regional Hospital
 - Jackson County Department of Public Health
 - Eastgate Pharmacy
 - Western Carolina University and Southwestern Community College
 - Volunteers and students
 - Area faith communities
 - Civic organizations
 - Local and regional foundations
 - Great Smokies Health Foundation
 - Jackson County Community Foundation
 - Individual donors

Informational item.

(10) WATER AND SEWER CONSOLIDATION AND TRANSFER AGREEMENT

PROPERTY TRANSFER: Dan Harbaugh, TWSA Executive Director, stated that when the county was in the sewer and water business, a facility was constructed in the Town of Sylva, called the Jackson Paper Lift Station, which was now 39 years old. TWSA received a grant loan from the state to do a replacement project for the station and in doing the work to move through their design, it became apparent that the deed remained in the name of Jackson County instead of TWSA.

In order for TWSA to close on the loan and grant, they had to clear title. That day, TWSA received a letter from the state approving the final engineering study for the project. TWSA would be purchasing land adjacent to this piece in order to build the new station; however, a portion of the old station would remain and they would not be able to turn the land back to the county, they would have a consolidated site. This was in compliance with the original consolidation agreement as it would have been intended to be transferred at that time as this was just an oversight.

Ms. Baker stated she worked with Ms. Sherrill to prepare the deed and they did include the language that this was an oversight from the 1992 agreement.

Motion: *Commissioner Mau moved to approve the Water and Sewer Consolidation Property Transfer, as presented and authorize the Chairman to execute the documents. Commissioner Luker seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(11) HARRIS EMS CONTRACT AMENDMENT: Ms. Baker stated that beginning with the new budget year, the Board authorized the extension of the Qualla ambulance to go 24 hours, which required an amendment to the contract for ambulance services.

Motion: *Commissioner Luker moved to approve the Harris EMS Contract amendment, as presented and authorize the Chairman to execute the documents. Commissioner Mau seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(12) SAVANNAH PARK: Mr. Adams stated that this was a follow up conversation from the last work session. They received a bid for the construction of the Savannah Park in the total amount of \$303,100 with other additional cost. There was a need for an additional \$150,000 to complete the project. He presented a project ordinance amendment to add \$150,000 to the construction fund to come out of the CPR fund, as discussed at the work session.

Motion: *Commissioner Luker moved to approve the project ordinance amendment in the amount of \$150,000 for Savannah Park from the CPR fund. Commissioner Mau seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

Motion: *Commissioner Mau moved to approve the contract the amount \$303,100 to Buchanan and Sons, Inc. for the construction of Savannah Park. Commissioner Luker seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(13) CASHIERS POOL: Mr. Adams stated this was also a follow up conversation from the last work session. The estimated amount needed to make the repairs at the Cashiers Pool site was \$17,000. The county had already set aside \$10,000 for the repairs. The Community Council stated it would be no problem for them to cover the additional cost.

Motion: *Commissioner Luker moved to grant permission to move forward with the Cashiers Pool repairs in the amount of \$17,000, to come from contingency, with the understanding that the Community Council would provide assistance. Commissioner Mau seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

Commissioner Luker stated that he received several calls regarding this stating that they had not done anything in that area about the pool. He was quick to correct that and stated that the Board and the Department of Recreation had not been sitting idle on the matter.

(14) OFFER TO PURCHASE - HALL: Ms. Baker stated that the county had received an Offer to Purchase for Lot 42, Waterdance, a vacant property (PIN #7566-45-4328) from James Hall. The Board accepted the offer and the ten day upset bid period had expired with no other offers received.

Motion: *Commissioner Luker moved to proceed with the closing and grant authority to Chairman McMahan to execute documents to transfer the property. Commissioner Mau seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(15) ORDER OF COLLECTION (R18-08): Ms. Baker stated that the Order of Collection authorizes, empowers and commands the collection of taxes as set forth in the tax records filed in the office of Tax Administration.

Motion: *Commissioner Mau moved to adopt the Order of Collection Resolution (R18-08), as presented. Commissioner Luker seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(16) RESOLUTION LEASING PROPERTY TO CANADA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT (R18-09): Ms. Baker stated she previously presented a lease for the Canada Fire Department building and since then the 30 day notice requirement had been met. No comments were received except from the insurance company, which requested a few minor changes, which had been made.

Motion: *Commissioner Luker moved to adopt Resolution R18-09, as presented. Commissioner Mau seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(17) RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING PROPERTY TO SCC (R18-10): Ms. Baker stated that several months ago, SCC presented information to the Board regarding property in Webster near the National Guard Armory that was used for Forest Service purposes and went back to the county about a year ago. The county no longer used the property and SCC requested a transfer to them.

In order to do a transfer, there needed to be two appraisals, one to be completed by SCC and one completed by the county. Both appraisals had been completed and all of the information had been sent to the State Board for Community Colleges and had been approved, so they were now ready to adopt a resolution to approve the transfer.

Motion: *Commissioner Mau moved to adopt Resolution R18-10, as presented. Commissioner Luker seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(18) ABC BOARD: Ms. Baker stated that on July 11th, the Raleigh ABC Commission voted unanimously to accept the amendment to the resolution allowing the removal of term limits.

Motion: *Commissioner Mau moved to reappoint Thomas Albert to another three year term on the ABC Board, term to expire June 30, 2021. Commissioner Luker seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(19) CULLOWHEE PLANNING COUNCIL: Chairman McMahan stated that the last appointee the Board named lived outside the boundary.

Motion: *Commissioner Mau moved to appoint David Claxton to serve an unexpired term on the Cullowhee Planning Council, term to expire December 31, 2018. Commissioner Luker seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

(20) **HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION:** *Carry over.*

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

(22) **CLOSED SESSION:**

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

Chairman McMahan called the regular meeting back to order and stated that no action was taken in closed session.

There being no further business, Commissioner Luker moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Elders seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman