

Date Posted: August 13, 2003  
Time Posted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Posted By: Evelyn Baker  
Witnessed By: \_\_\_\_\_

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE  
JACKSON COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
HELD ON  
August 12, 2003**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners held a Special Meeting on Tuesday, August 12, 2003, 5:00 p.m., at 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Room 203, Sylva, North Carolina.

Present: Stacy Buchanan, Chairman  
Roberta Crawford, Vice Chairman  
Eddie Madden, Commissioner  
Brian McMahan, Co mmissioner  
Kenneth L. Westmoreland, County Manager  
Evelyn B. Baker, Clerk to the Board

Absent: Joe Cowan, Commissioner

Chairman Buchanan called the meeting to order and stated the purpose of the special meeting was to discuss the Balsam-Willets-Ochre Hill Volunteer Fire Department.

Johnny Nicholson, Fire Chief, reported that the fire department moved into the present station in 1982. They made two additions to the station, but there is no property remaining for another needed addition. They have been looking for a larger site for the past five years. They have purchased, with their own resources, a new site consisting of 3-acres adjoining Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church.

Water and septic permits have been approved for the new site. The fire department would be responsible for grading and site preparation. The fire department solicited two bids for a new building and recommended that Wick Buildings be awarded the bid. The total cost for the new fire station would be \$650,000 (\$569,845 for the building, \$80,155 for septic system, parking lot, landscaping, etc.). The fire department's Board of Directors has agreed to obtain a loan for the building if the County will agree to write a letter of commitment to assist with the payments. The Directors have checked with three different lending institutions and United Financial Services of North Carolina at Fletcher has offered the best financing. The payments would be approximately \$55,000 per annum. If the loan is approved, payments would not be incurred until the FY2004-05 budget year. After completion of the proposed new station, there will be approximately 100 feet remaining for future growth.

With the addition of one truck the old station would become a substation and fire insurance ratings would be reduced for the benefit of property owners in the district.

Chairman Buchanan recommended that the lender schedule a meeting with Attorney Holt, Mr. Westmoreland and Darlene Fox to review the proposed financial arrangements.

Discussion was had concerning housing the Highway Patrol and an EMS unit in a new fire station. Chief Nicholson stated that the firemen had never voted against anything that would benefit the community as a whole.

There being no further business, Commissioner Crawford moved that the meeting be adjourned. Commissioner Madden seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote and the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Attested By:

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Evelyn B. Baker, Clerk to the Board

Approved:

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Stacy Buchanan, Chairman