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

**MINUTES OF A PUBLIC HEARING
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
MAY 15, 2006**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing on May 15, 2006, at 5:30 p.m., Justice & Administration Building, Room A201, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Sylva, North Carolina.

Present: Brian T. McMahan, Chairman
Roberta Crawford, Vice Chairman
Joe Cowan, Commissioner
Eddie Madden, Commissioner
Conrad Burrell, Commissioner
Kenneth L. Westmoreland, County Manager
W. Paul Holt, Jr., County Attorney
Evelyn B. Baker, Clerk to the Board

Chairman McMahan called the public hearing to order and stated the purpose is to receive public input on the proposed FY2006-2007 Budget. Chairman McMahan then opened the floor for public comment.

(1) SHERIFF'S OFFICE: Captain Steve Lillard requested the Board to reconsider the Sheriff's Office budget because: (a) two additional patrol officer positions are needed in order to more effectively patrol, at the public's request, the area between Tuckaseegee and Glenville; (b) uniforms – it is necessary that uniforms be replaced for officers; however, funds are also needed to furnish uniforms for replacement officers; (c) certification, supplies and training – the state cutbacks have limited the amount of free training available at the Justice Academy and the required training is now through private contractors for a fee. Officers are required to qualify annually with firearms and need an increase in the ammunition line item. His office also needs an increase for office supplies; (d) control substance and narcotics fund – the line item was originally \$7,500, but his office adjusted it to \$5,000; however, due to an increase in drug arrests, an increase is needed for undercover operations; (e) jail – the recent jail audit revealed that the control center in the secondary pod should be manned during peak hours when the inmates are out of lockdown to prevent vandalism. Inmates are out of lockdown from 7:00-10:00 am, 12:00 noon – 2:00 pm, and 6:00 – 11:30 pm. He requested an additional detention officer position for this purpose. The average number of inmates is 48-58 per day.

Federal prisoners are not being housed in the jail at this time; however, a contract for housing federal prisoners is being negotiated.

(2) COMMUNITY TABLE: Tom Schutte, Vice Chair, stated that the Community Table is basically dependent upon community organizations and churches. He stated that the Community Table provides food for the needy (80-90 meals four nights per week). Last year's budget was \$32,000. He requested that \$30,000 be allocated for the Community Table plus \$10,000 for a part-time employee for a total of \$40,000.

A client stated that the Community Table is not just about the food, it also helps citizens regain social skills and many of the clients have become like a family which provides companionship and comradery.

(3) REACH OF JACKSON COUNTY: Sandy Frazier, Director of Development for Community Outreach, requested that the county become a partner to assist REACH in its continuing efforts to eliminate domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse. REACH has 9 fulltime and 5 part-time employees and has an annual budget of \$839,000. He requested that \$50,000 be allocated to REACH.

David Moore, President, and Bob Cochran, Social Services Director, also urged the Board to reconsider its allocation to REACH.

Mr. Westmoreland stated that historically the county allocates \$15,000 to REACH. Last year a one-time \$35,000 contribution was made to assist in staffing a 24-hour emergency call center so that REACH would not risk losing grants.

There being no further requests, Commissioner Crawford moved that the public hearing be adjourned. Commissioner Burrell seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote and the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Attested By:

Approved:

Evelyn B. Baker, Clerk

Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman