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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 22, 2007**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing on May 22, 2007, at 5:00 p.m., Justice & Administration Building, Room A201, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Sylva, North Carolina.

Present: Brian T. McMahan, Chairman
Joe Cowan, Vice Chair
Tom Massie, Commissioner
William Shelton, Commissioner
Mark Jones, 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 FY2007-2008 Budget. Chairman McMahan then opened the floor for public comment.

(1) REACH OF JACKSON COUNTY: David Moore, REACH Board of Directors, stated that the agency provides a unique service to the county. Services include emergency service, legal advocacy, transitional housing, job skills counseling, counseling for adults and children, etc. REACH receives approximately \$560,000 from state and federal grants; however, the grants require a 20% match from the local level. REACH maintains a 24-hour emergency line. Future plans include a larger shelter and on-site staff. He requested that the appropriation for REACH be increased to \$50,000.00.

Marsha Griffin, Director of Client Services, stated that REACH serves an average of 28 families per month. REACH also provides counseling to children and teens; working with elder abuse, coordinating services for childcare, transportation, mental health and medical services. She requested financial support to assist victims of domestic violence. REACH has 13 fulltime and 3 part-time employees.

(2) JUSTICE CENTER PARKING: Raymond Large, Sylva attorney, requested that the inadequate parking situation at the Justice Center be addressed. He recommended that a minimum of 30-50 additional spaces be added.

(3) JACKSON COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD: Kenny Melton, Chairman, Jackson County Rescue Squad Board, requested that the appropriation to the rescue squad be the same amount as the fire departments. Due to growth in the county, “heavy rescue” is necessary and the training is expensive in addition to the equipment. The cost for a heavy-duty rescue truck is \$250,000.00. Further, when mutual aid from outside the county is requested, the rescue squad must pay for their food. Chairman McMahan stated that the Rescue Squad is not responsible for the cost of food for mutual aid services.

There being no further public comments, Commissioner Shelton moved that the public hearing be adjourned. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote and the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Attested By:

Approved:

Evelyn B. Baker, Clerk

Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman