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Posted By: Evelyn Baker
Witnessed By: _____

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 2, 2008**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Meeting on June 2, 2008, at 6:00 p.m., 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Room A201, Sylva, North Carolina.

Present: Brian McMahan, Chairman
Joe Cowan, Vice Chair
Tom Massie, Commissioner
William Shelton, Commissioner
Mark Jones, Commissioner

Kenneth L. Westmoreland, Co. Mgr.
W. Paul Holt, Jr., County Attorney
Evelyn B. Baker, Clerk to Board

Chairman McMahan called the meeting to order.

AGENDA: Commissioner Jones moved to approve the Agenda. Commissioner Cowan seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Commissioner Massie moved to approve the Minutes of the May 22, 2008 Regular Meeting and Minutes of the May 29, 2008 Work Session. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

INFORMAL COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC:

(a) Ethan Staats, Library Board, stated that due to the increase in usage, circulation and internet users of the library, more staff hours are needed in order to operate in an adequate manner. Three fulltime staff are needed, two must be on duty at all times. Per capita contributions in surrounding counties: Swain County \$13, Macon County \$27.01, and Jackson County \$12.05. It is difficult to operate a quality library with such a low appropriation. The library budget is \$187,000 of which the county appropriated \$144,000 (salaries are \$139,000). The difference is made up from fines and donations from the Friends of the Library. He requested that the library budget be increased.

(b) Jim McCarthy stated the unemployment rate in Jackson County as of June 3 is 3.2% which is lower than the surrounding counties. He stated he is concerned about the \$52 million debt (majority of which is for schools), arrearages in the revolving loan fund payments, arrearages in rent payments in the amount of \$79,500 and the county expending \$32,000 to maintain buildings for default tenants. An EDC is needed, but one that is operated properly and the county does not need to be in the rental business.

(1) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Chairman McMahan reminded the Board of County Assembly Day on June 10 in Raleigh;

(2) COUNTY MANAGER REPORT: Mr. Westmoreland reported:

(a) The county was notified last Friday that FCR Recycling is selling its business to American Recycling, LLC. Two years remain on the FCR contract which American Recycling has indicated that it will honor the contract in its entirety and transfer documentation for the will be submitted at the next Board meeting.

(b) He received a letter from the School of Government Foundation indicating that the county agreed to participate in a special program for expansion of the government wing at the School of Government. The special assessment is \$2,365, which is the equivalent of annual dues

to the School of Government, and must be paid by June 30. None of the Board members made a commitment.

(3) FINANCE & TAX COLLECTOR REPORTS FOR MAY 2008: Carry over.

(4) BUDGET AMENDMENT: Mountain Landscape Initiative - \$10,000. Chairman McMahan suspended the rules and Commissioner Shelton moved to approve the budget amendment. Chairman McMahan seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(5) COMMUNITY HEALTH LINK: Bob Cochran, DSS Director, reported that the concept of Community Health Link is to bring together on a regular basis organizations and leaders in the community who have a vested interest in promoting improved health among citizens. The current membership includes Harris Hospital, Health Dept., WCU, Schools, SCC, County Government, Good Samaritan Clinic, DSS, Smoky Mountain Mental Health and community members. Community Health Link is certified by Healthy Carolinians. The programs include: CHAN Program, Substance Abuse Task Force, WOW Program, Student BMI Measurements, and Distribution of 1-2-3 Magic Parenting Videos. Plans are to rename the organization "Healthy Carolinians of Jackson County". Healthy Carolinians will coordinate the variety of county organizations that address health concerns. It will provide a regular forum for community stakeholders to update and inform each other about health-related resources and initiatives reduce competition for resources and duplication of efforts, combine strategies and strengths to improve outcomes and focus on issues specific to Jackson County. Healthy Carolinians of North Carolina goals are to increase the span of healthy life of the citizens of North Carolina, remove health disparities among the disadvantaged, promote access to preventive health services, protect the public's health, foster positive and supportive living and working conditions in communities, and support individuals to develop the capacities and skills to achieve health living.

Funding Request: Mr. Cochran stated grant funds, plus the county's \$20,000 appropriation, are sufficient for FY2008-09. He requested a Healthy Carolinians Coordinator position Grade 22 and 50% administrative support Grade 13% for a total of \$59,496 for FY2009-10.

(6) JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COMMISSION: Steve Lillard presented a budget amendment (\$900 from JCPC to Hawthorn Heights) for FY2007-08. Chairman McMahan suspended the rules and Commissioner Jones moved to approve the amendment. Commissioner Cowan seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(7) LIBRARY: Mary O. Selzer, Friends of the Library, presented renderings by McMillan Smith Architects of the exterior and interior of the new library. A 2-story atrium will connect the library and courthouse. The first floor will also have offices for the Genealogical Society and Historical Society. The second floor will have an office for the Arts Council, small catering kitchen and a 175-seat meeting room. There will not be a

connection between the second floor of the library and the second floor of the courthouse. A glassed, sound proofed children's area is planned. There will be 73-parking spaces.

(8) ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE: Section 16 needs further review. Carry over.

(9) LIBRARY BOARD APPOINTMENT: Ethan Staats has agreed to continue to serve if reappointed. Chairman McMahan suspended the rules and Commissioner Cowan moved to reappoint Ethan Staats to a 4-year term on the Library Board. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(10) NURSING & ADULT CARE HOME COMMITTEE: Gail Revis has agreed to continue to serve if reappointed. Chairman McMahan suspended the rules and Commissioner Massie moved to reappoint Gail Revis to a 3-year term on the Nursing & Adult Care Home Committee. Commissioner Shelton seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(11) SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD: Chairman McMahan suspended the rules and Commissioner Jones moved to appoint Audrey Tritt to a 3-year term on the Social Services Board. Commissioner Massie seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

(12) AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD: Commissioner Massie nominated Boyce Deitz as the District Two representative and Bentley Robison as an at-large member. Commissioner Shelton nominated Bryan Bumgarner as District One representative, Kent Cochran as an at large member and Rebecca Fortner ex officio.

Chairman McMahan suspended the rules and moved to appoint Boyce Deitz as District Two representative, Byan Bumgarner as District One representative, Bentley Robison and Kent Cochran as at-large members and Rebecca Fortner ex officio. Commissioner Massie seconded the Motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

There being no further business, Commissioner Shelton moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Evelyn B. Baker, Clerk

Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman

