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Posted By: Evelyn Baker
Witnessed: _____

**MINUTES OF A WORK SESSION
OF THE
JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
NOVEMBER 12, 2008**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Work Session on November 12, 2008, at 9:00 am, Justice & Administration Building, Room A227, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Sylva, North Carolina.

Board of Commissioners:

Brian T. McMahan, Chairman
Joe Cowan, Vice Chair
Tom Massie, Commissioner
Mark Jones, Commissioner
William Shelton, Commissioner

Kenneth L. Westmoreland, County Manager
Pat C. Parris, Assist. Clerk

Chairman McMahan called the meeting to order and stated that the purpose of the work session is to discuss Greenways policies, Judaculla Rock and school bus garage.

(1) GREENWAYS: Mr. Westmoreland stated that Greenways is now under the direct supervision of the Recreation and Parks Department. Equinox Environment, consultants, will be doing a feasibility study on the Cullowhee Greenway and should be finalized before the end of December. The original Greenways Commission was formed through an Interlocal Agreement between the county and municipalities. DEHNR has brought to the county's attention a potential organizational deficiency in terms of future funding from the State such as PARTF grants, etc. because the Greenways Commission is a policy making board. Jeff Carpenter, Recreation & Parks Director, stated the Interlocal Agreement should be rescinded which created the Greenways Commission and replaced with an Advisory Board, a subcommittee of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. Mr. Carpenter will contact the municipalities concerning rescinding the Interlocal Agreement and ascertain which members of the present commission wish to remain on an Advisory Board.

(2) JUDACULLA ROCK GREENWAY: Mr. Westmoreland presented a design concept, conservation easement, road issues and funding source for the project. The Cherokee Preservation Foundation awarded a \$17,000 grant for the design and improvements to the protection of the rock itself. In order to implement any or all of the issues requires a number of policy issues by the Board, i.e., (a) the total cost is more than anticipated; (b) costs associated with abandoning a road and signage; (c) work with Soil & Water to facilitate an alternate water supply; (d) erosion problems to restore stream bank. The project should qualify for various grants.

(3) SCHOOL BUS GARAGE: Mr. Westmoreland stated that the county and Board of Education have been engaged in the process of making a determination of how to structure a joint use facility for the maintenance of school buses, county vehicles and county transit buses. Sharon Alexander, attorney for the county, submitted a legal opinion which reflects it is not prohibitive for the county to enter into an agreement to enable the county to perform routine maintenance and storage for school buses. Chris Campbell, school board attorney, opinion differs from Ms. Alexander. The county would not be involved in scheduling, driver training or routes for school buses.

Cort Architectural submitted cost estimates which reflect a cost savings to the county of \$1 - \$1.25 million if only one garage is constructed. The Institute of Government will be requested to make an independent assessment of the attorneys' legal opinions and a representative address a joint meeting of the boards to discuss all school funding.

A work session will be scheduled early next year with the Board of Education to discuss all school budget issues.

There being no further business, Commissioner Shelton moved that the work session be adjourned. Commissioner Jones seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the work session adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Pat C. Parris, Assist. Clerk to Board

Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman