

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'  
REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 6, 2018 AT 5 P.M.**

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**BE IT REMEMBERED:** That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on February 6, 2018, in the Commission Chambers, 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville, North Carolina at 5 p.m. where and when the following business was transacted:

The Chairman called the meeting to order with the following members present:

Brownie Newman, Chairman  
Mike Fryar, Vice Chair  
Joe Belcher, Commissioner  
Ellen Frost, Commissioner  
Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, Commissioner  
Robert Pressley, Commissioner  
Al Whitesides, Commissioner

Staff present: Mandy Stone, County Manager; Jim Holland, Assistant County Manager; Tim Flora, Finance Director; Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnership Director; Diane Price, Administrative Services Director; Kathy Hughes, Clerk to the Board; Stacey Woody, Deputy Clerk; Mike Frue, Senior Staff Attorney.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

## **INVOCATION**

Chairman Newman asked for reflection on the historic gathering of the Winter Olympics that begins this month and on peaceful relationships in our community.

Commissioner Pressley proudly announced the birth of a new granddaughter Aubri Rose Pressley saying that thinking of the future for his grandchildren is what inspired him to serve on the Commission.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

At the request of Commissioner Belcher for further explanation of Article 46 Sales Tax Capital Fund Project Ordinance which was listed on the consent agenda, Greg Isreal explained that the ordinance involved the work being done on the Elm Building on the AB Tech campus. Commissioner Fryar said that the plans for the AB Tech campus will be presented to the Commissioners and AB Tech Board of Trustees in the near future.

Commissioner Frost moved to follow the agenda and approve the items as listed. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Approval of the Minutes of January 16, 2017 Closed Session**
- **Release Report**
- **Resolution Awarding a Service Firearm to a Retiring Deputy of the Sheriff's Department**
- **Approve Waiver of Occupancy Tax Payment Late Fee for Bittersweet Partners LLC**
- **Resolution Approving Pyrotechnic Experts for Firework Displays**
- **Resolution of Support for High Impact/Low Cost Project (NCDOT)**
- **Budget Amendments: Fund 10--JCPC/Lake Julian Festival of Lights**
- **Grant Projects Ordinances: Envirothon & Camp Wild; Revenue Accounting Adjustments; HSGP Exercise rant**
- **Public School Capital Needs Fund Project Ordinance**
- **Article 46 Schools Tax Capital Fund Project Ordinances – Revenue Consolidation and Capital Maintenance**
- **Solid Waste Capital Projects Ordinance**

## **GOOD NEWS**

- **WNC Diversity Engagement Coalition**

Paulina Mendez, Community Engagement Coordinator, explained the work of the WNC Diversity Engagement Coalition. She was joined by some of the County employees that participated in a program promoting diversity. The employees that completed the program were: Tye Anderson; Eric Barnes; Ginger Childs; Renata Conyers; Teena Gant; Sarah Gransee; George Hannah; Shelia Hardy; Alex McKnight; Michelle Nelson; Demeska Thompson; Nancy Walker; and Michelle Warren. Alex McKnight and George Hannah thanked the County for the opportunity to participate in the diversity classes.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

- **Resolution Regarding Capital Costs of School Improvements and Extension of Deed of Trust**

Tim Flora, County Finance Director, presented the financings of school capital projects previously approved and recommended by the School Capital Fund Commission. He gave a power point that is attached to the minutes of this meeting. Ty Wellford with Davenport & Company helped to explain the financings outlined in the presentation. He said that the public hearing was the first step in the process for approval and that the Local Government Commission would have to approve the financing before the Commission could give final approval at their meeting on March 6.

The Chairman opened the hearing at 5:33 p.m.

Jerry Rice cautioned about the use of Wells Fargo. He commented on the condition of the schools built in the County saying that education of the children was suffering because too much money was spent on the facilities. He asked if the payback for these financings would come from property tax.

The Chairman closed the hearing at 5:35 p.m.

Commissioner Belcher asked for an update and historical data on sales tax. The County Manager said that this was the topic was scheduled the next workshop on February 13.

Mr. Flora said that the County was obligated to repay the funds and should be well situated to pay even in an economic downturn.

**COUNTY MANAGER’S REPORT**

- **Update on Flu and Other Issues**

The County Manager introduced Dr. Jennifer Mullendore, Health Division Medical Director, who gave a power point that is attached to the minutes of this meeting reporting on flu activity in the state and county. She said that the most negatively impacted residents were those not immunized and adults 65 and older. She encouraged immunizations as the number one tool to fight flu and other illnesses.

Fletcher Tove, Preparedness Coordinator, outlined the point of dispensing or POD program that was recently practiced to make sure area agencies and providers are prepared in case of an outbreak. Each POD site would be able to vaccinate or dispense medicines for up to 7,000 people a day. He outlined a recent exercise held at UNCA that practiced the POD program.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- **Ambulance Services Fee Increase**

Jerry VeHaun, Emergency Management Director, asked the Board to increase ambulance rates that had not been increased since 2011.

Rates Effective April 2011		Proposed New Rates – January 2018	
ALS2	\$710.00	ALS2	\$810
ALS Emergent	\$510	ALS Emergent	\$610
BLS Emergent	\$410	BLS Emergent	\$510
Mileage Per Mile	\$8.75	Mileage Per Mile	\$10
Treat, No Transport	\$200	Treat, No Transport	\$375
Oxygen use	\$10	Oxygen use	\$10

Medicare approved rates recently increased by 2 percent. He said that as always no one would ever be denied ambulance service but this increase would put the County in line with what the western counties are charging and help off-set the cost of service.

Commissioner Frost moved to approve the requested increase as set out above to be effective Monday, January 12, 2018. Commissioner Whitesides seconded the motion.

Jerry Rice questioned why the opioid crisis had not impacted the number or cost of ambulance transport. He asked if the hospital was subsidizing the County's ambulance service.

Monica Crase talked about her work in the Candler community and her desire to be a member of the Library Board.

Chairman Newman asked that County fees for service be reviewed more frequently. Commissioner Belcher agreed that these fees be more closely reviewed. The County Manager clarified that the County could only bill what insurance and Medicare would allow.

The motion passed 7-0.

**BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

Commissioner Frost moved to appoint **Valarie Watson** to the **Historic Resources Commission**. Commissioner Belcher seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Belcher moved to appointed **Jim Holland** to the **Metropolitan Sewerage District Board** replacing Jon Creighton. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Frost moved to appoint **Ron Nelson** and **Anne Minks** to the **Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee**. Commissioner Belcher seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Michael Harney with the WNC Aids Project and the Needle Exchange Program, said that they exchange over 400,000 needles every year and he urged the County, as a protector of the public health, become a model for the state by operating the needle exchange out of the Health Department.

Monica Crase spoke in favor of the needle exchange program. She spoke to the needle pollution problem in the Candler area.

Jerry Rice commended Jim Holland for his work on the Vaya Health Board. He said that one of the Board of Adjustment applicants was a developer and should not be put on that Board. He commented on the substance abuse issue and its link to opioids.

Colin Vanetton, spoke about a County ordinance violation in a County park. He said he had officially requested that the County change their signage to meet compliance but nothing had changed. He read his resignation letter.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *February 13 @ 10 a.m. – Commissioners to hold special closed session to review direct report employees in Room 326 @ 200 College Street in Asheville*
- *February 13 @ 12:30 p.m. – Commissioners to hold workshop to discuss FY19 budget in First Floor Conference Room @ 200 College Street in Asheville*
- *February 20 @ 5 p.m. – Commissioners regular meeting in Room 326 @ 200 College Street in Asheville*

Commissioner Belcher moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Whitesides seconded the motion which passed 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

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KATHY HUGHES, CLERK  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS