

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 18, 2011 AT 4:30 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on January 18, 2011, in the Commissioner Chambers, 30 Valley Street in downtown Asheville, North Carolina at 4:30 p.m. where and when the following business was transacted:

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

David Gantt, Chairman
Bill Stanley, Vice Chairman
Holly Jones, Commissioner
Carol Peterson, Commissioner
K. Ray Bailey, Commissioner

Staff present were: Wanda Greene, County Manager; Mandy Stone, Assistant County Manager/DSS Director; Jon Creighton, Assistant County Manager/Planning Director; Donna Clark, Finance Director; Kathy Hughes, Clerk to the Board; Mike Frue, County Attorney.

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

Commissioner Jones gave the invocation.

DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENT/APPROVAL TO FOLLOW AGENDA

The Chairman reminded the Board that in accordance with the Code of Ethics as adopted by this Board, it is the duty of every Board member to avoid both conflicts of interest and appearances of conflict. He asked if any Board member had any known conflict of interest or appearance of conflict with respect to any matter coming before the Board. None were stated.

Vice chairman Stanley moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- **Approval of Minutes of January 4, 2011 Regular Meeting**
- **Resolution Directing the Tax Director to Advertise the Tax Liens**
- **Resolution Accepting and Approving a Report From the County Purchasing Agent Concerning the Sale and Disposal of Surplus County Property**
- **Budget Amendment:**
 - **Fund 22 – WIA Adjustments (\$315,280)**
 - **Fund 10 – DSS – Emergency Assistance (\$227,717)**
- **Capital Projects Ordinance**
- **Release Report**

Commissioner Peterson seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

GOOD NEWS

- **Master Gardener School Garden Grants (Linda Blue, Cooperative Extension)**

Linda Blue, Cooperative Extension Agent, outlined the accomplishments of the master gardener program volunteers in the County and the School Garden Grants Program. She addressed the work of the school garden grants in a power point that is attached to the minutes. This program offers mini-grants to start or expand school gardens. Master gardener volunteers work with the schools and the funds are raised through the master gardener tours. Teachers apply for the funding and then report back on how the money was used. This is not restricted to

public or elementary school programs. She invited everyone to mark their calendars for the garden tour on June 25. Commissioner Jones said that the tours are wonderful and very educational.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Sales Tax Request (Dr. Hank Dunn, President AB Tech)**

Dr. Hank Dunn, President of Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College, said that the college had infrastructure and renovation needs. He asked for permission to go to the citizens through a referendum to increase the sales tax. The money would be used in part to construct a new health science building; renovate the Elm building; pave existing parking lots and upgrade the Enka campus.

Commissioner Bailey said that from an economic development standpoint, the community college is an essential investment.

The tax increase would be a .25 increase in sales tax which would be equal to \$2.50 on every \$1,000 and would generate about \$6 to 7 million per year. He said that 30 percent of the sales tax generated would be from citizens living outside Buncombe County.

Dr. Dunn said that the college would pay the \$80,000 cost of the election.

Commissioner Jones asked if the college would be the only recipient of the tax proceeds and if and when the tax would end. The County Manager said that if the Board wanted to sunset the tax, it would have to be determined by the number of years based on the costs of the projects. Wording on the ballot would come from Election Services and would be approved by the Board setting out how the tax would be used.

Jerry Rice submitted a list of questions that are attached to the minutes. *The Chairman asked that he submit questions in advance.*

Don Yelton said that the needs of all citizens should be considered including those working in the service industry and the elderly. He was opposed to any additional tax stating that the college's problems are deferred maintenance and the citizens should not be required to pay for their upgrades.

Dwight Butner said that the legislature planned to end one percent of the sales tax and he felt that the quarter cent was a good idea. He endorsed the increase and suggested that the one percent be retained for waterline expansion and industrial park construction.

Sheriff Van Duncan said that AB Tech was a vital partner in providing law enforcement training and he would support the referendum.

Commissioner Peterson moved to approve the resolution. Commissioner Bailey seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

- **Resolution Authorizing the Submission of an Application to the Asheville Regional Housing Consortium for HOME Fund and Approval of Housing Projects**

Donna Cottrell, County Planner, said that this resolution would allow submission of the 2011 HOME fund application and approval of housing projects.

Cindy Weeks with Mountain Housing Inc. said that they would partner with Eagle Market Street development in a project on Eagle Street for construction of 7 rental housing units and restoration of two historic properties.

Daryl Hart and Stephanie Twitty with Eagle Market Street Development, agreed the project was a good partnership for redevelopment.

Commissioner Peterson moved to approve the resolution. Vice Chairman Stanley seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

The Chairman announced the current vacancies on the URTV Board of Directors; Asheville Planning & Zoning Board and the Asheville Civic Center Commission.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *The next meeting of the Board will be February 1, 2011.*

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jerry Rice gave the Commissioners a disc of information regarding co-location of adult care homes. He said that the mentally ill are impacting the adult care homes in the County.

A resident of Weaverville said that he was a very low paid employee of the tourist industry and wanted to know why jobs here don't pay enough to keep people off food stamps. He said that companies use temporary agencies instead of hiring permanent employees.

Vice Chairman Stanley moved to go into closed session pursuant to GS: §143-318.11(a)(3) to discuss a matter and preserve the privilege between the County Attorney and the Board.

Commissioner Bailey seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board discussed a possible legal matter involving a subdivision. No action was taken. Commissioner Peterson moved to return to open session. Vice Chairman Stanley seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Vice Chairman Stanley moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Peterson seconded and the motion passed 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

KATHY HUGHES, CLERK TO
THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

DAVID GANTT, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS