

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 17, 2011 AT 4:30 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on May 17, 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:

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

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

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

Chairman Gantt 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.

Commissioner Peterson moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- **Approval of Minutes of May 3, 2011 Regular Meeting**
- **Resolution Authorizing the Submittal of the Funding Plan and Other Information Related to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Program for FY 2012 to the NC Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention**
- **Resolution Requiring Payment of Delinquent Property Taxes Before Recording Deeds conveying Property**
- **Resolution Approving Pyrotechnic Experts for Fireworks Display (Biltmore, McCormick Field)**
- **Release report**
- **Budget Amendment:**
 - **Fund 10 – Social Services (\$387,000)**
- **Capital Project Ordinance**
- **Grant Projects Ordinance**

Vice Chairman Stanley seconded the motion passed 5-0.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

- **Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee Report**

Lee Ann Smith, Land of Sky Ombudsman, introduced Sonia Frederich, Chair of the Nursing Home Community Advisory Board who gave the report that is attached to the minutes. She said

the County's homes give good quality care and have very dedicated staff. She reported the need for more space for specialized care for residents with dementia or memory issues including locked units.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Approval of Social Media Policy for County Employees**

Kathy Hughes, Public Relations Director/Clerk to the Board, announced the County's new website and explained the proposed social media policy for employees. Commissioner Peterson moved to approve the policy as presented. Vice Chairman Stanley seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

- **Presentation of FY12 Sheriff's Budget**

Sheriff Van Duncan, gave the Board a copy of his annual report and introduced Major Scott Bissinger who presented the power point that is attached to the minutes.

Major Bissinger reviewed revenues and expenses including the fuel costs for covering 686 square miles. He expressed his concern that part time positions were not funded in the County's budget. He said that they have no turnover which means no lapse salaries to cover the part time positions. He asked for funding of \$197,762 to cover these positions.

Glen Matayabas, Detention Facility Manager, reported on the reduction in the average daily population which he said was made possible with the help of Rich Munger who work on jail population management and jail diversion. He also credited the District Attorney's office, Pre-trial Release and Crisis Intervention Training for helping keep population down which helped keep staffing costs down. He reviewed capital project and the potential impact of State House Bill 642 that will require that inmates sentenced to 180 days or less be kept in the county detention facility. This would mean an increase to the inmate population and costs.

Major Bissinger said that the department is looking at vehicles that would give better gas value, installing better windows and are considering several natural gas projects.

Sheriff Duncan thanked his staff for their work in putting the budget together. He reviewed forfeiture funds and the over \$440,000 in grants they receive. He reported that the crime rate was down 12 percent from last year and 33 percent over the last 4 years. He asked for \$197,000 for the part time positions this year.

- **Presentation of FY 12 County Budget Message**

Wanda Greene, County Manager, presented the budget for FY 2012. Her budget message is attached to the minutes. She presented the County's facilities showcasing their location throughout the County. Dr. Greene said that the new Public Safety Training Facility would be completed in July of 2012 and a partnership with Asheville Buncombe Technical Community College will operate the facility. The Human Service Center renovations would be complete in May of 2012 making that department a one stop for human services. She said that the majority of the construction the County was doing would be complete in the next three years. The County has \$245,940,000 in outstanding debt--\$124 million in education; \$64 million in public safety.

The Manager presented a video showcasing the work of County employees and the diverse needs and services that the County provides. She reviewed the power point that is attached to the minutes and asked the Board to set a public hearing on the FY 12 budget for the June 7 Commission meeting.

She thanked Diane Price and Autumn Moore for their work on the budget, Lisa Eby, Amy Harmon, Max Taintor and Kathy Hughes for their work on the video.

Vice Chairman Stanley moved to set the public hearing for June 7. Commissioner Peterson seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Commissioner Peterson moved to reappoint **Bob Jolly, Tony Candler and Michelle Pugliese** to the County **Environmental Advisory Board**. The motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Bailey and Vice Chairman Stanley moved to appoint **J. Ray Elingburg** to the **Historic Resources Commission**. The motion passed 5-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *The next meeting of the Board will be June 7, 2011.*
- *Commission meetings can be seen on BCTV Charter Cable Channel 2 on Tuesday and Thursday at 8 p.m.; Wednesday at 3 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 9 a.m. or online at buncombecounty.org*

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rev. Lisa Landis spoke in favor of citizen's right to be heard because mass media would lie and the public needed a voice.

Brother Christopher spoke about Moses and Marie Antoinette and asked "where's the beef". He accused the County of stealing public access funds and lying to the people.

A producer at URTV said that people who watch were shut-ins and they needed the outlet. She wanted to be able to showcase Asheville.

David King said that he felt the Board had acted as good stewards with the public access issue and he thanked Commissioner Jones for taking the lead.

Dr. Milton Byrd said that he was concerned about the County's budget and he questioned the quality of local life. He wanted the Commissioners to stop the construction projects. He wanted URTV to get money from the video sales tax. He felt public access was an important commodity for the community.

Frank Aroto said that the soccer fields at the County's sports park were not accessible to the general public, only to the ABYSA (Asheville Buncombe Youth Soccer Association) and he wanted to be able to use the fields. *The Chairman said that Fran Thigpen, Parks, Greenways and Recreation Director would be asked to address this question and be in contact with Mr. Aroto.*

Mike Fryer questioned the Sheriff's request for funding for part time people. He questioned the funding for certain employees in the Sheriff's Office and for additional information regarding grades and requests from the Sheriff.

Jerry Rice said that he did not understand how the budget was increasing with the same tax rate and how jobs were coming and yet people in medium income could not make ends meet.

Vice Chairman Stanley moved to go into closed session pursuant to GS 143-318.11a (4) to consider one economic development issue. Commissioner Peterson seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

CLOSED SESSION

The County Manager updated the Board on a project to bring a large employer to the County. She said that the employer was focusing on Buncombe County and hopefully they would

make a decision soon. The Manager was considering a possible purchase incentive and the Board gave consensus for continuing discussions toward this incentive.

Commissioner Bailey moved to return to open session. Commissioner Peterson seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Bailey moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Peterson seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

KATHY HUGHES, CLERK TO
THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

DAVID GANTT, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS