

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'  
REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 16, 2013 AT 4:30 P.M.**

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**BE IT REMEMBERED:** That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on April 16, 2013, in the Commissioner Chambers, 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville, North Carolina at 4:30 p.m. where and when the following business was transacted:

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

David Gantt, Chairman  
Holly Jones, Vice Chair  
Joe Belcher, Commissioner  
Ellen Frost, Commissioner  
Mike Fryar, Commissioner  
David King, Commissioner  
Brownie Newman, Commissioner

Staff present was: Wanda Greene, County Manager; Mandy Stone, Assistant County Manager; Donna Clark, Finance Director; Mike Frue, County Attorney; Kathy Hughes, Clerk to the Board.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **INVOCATION**

The Chairman gave the invocation.

*The Chairman reminded the Board that in accordance with the State Government Ethics Act, 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.*

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

*The Chairman reviewed the rules for public comment:*

- *The time limit for any comment to the Board is three minutes.*
- *If your time expires then you may leave any questions along with your name, address and phone number with the County Manager.*
- *Board members are not expected to comment on matters during public comment.*
- *Comments should be limited to subjects that are within the jurisdiction of this Commission or pertain to matters upon which it may act.*
- *Any individual speaking during public comment shall address the entire Board. Any polling of Board members is inappropriate.*
- *Persons addressing the Board are expected to observe the decorum of the Chamber, and to be respectful of everyone in the room.*
- *Any person who willfully interrupts, disturbs, or disrupts the session will be asked to leave the meeting.*
- *The Board reserves the right to deny public addresses on a subject previously presented to the Board.*

Larry Smith talked about the politics in the county, his public information requests and taxes.

Jerry Rice was concerned about the tax rate stating that it was the Commissioners responsibility to set the tax rate. He felt the proposed tax rate increase was coming from the Commissioners and not the staff or the legislators. He requested that the County tax rate be lowered.

Christina Merrill addressed the potential tax increase stating that many people feel they should have gotten a tax break and are not going to be able to pay their taxes under the proposed increase.

### **DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENT/APPROVAL TO FOLLOW AGENDA**

Commissioner Belcher moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Vice Chair Jones seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Approval of April 2, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes**
- **Resolution Approving Pyrotechnic Experts for Fireworks Displays**
- **Resolution Authorizing Acquisition of Property**
- **Resolution Awarding a Service Firearm to a Retiring Deputy of the Sheriff's Department**
- **Budget Amendment: Fund 10 for Nurse Family Partnership Program**
- **Grant Projects Ordinance**
- **Release Report**

Commissioner Belcher gave out a draft of a policy for funding Community Development Agencies and non-profits and asked that it be considered at the next meeting.

## **GOOD NEWS**

- **4-H Robotics Program**

John Schantz, a Cooperative Extension volunteer who began a robotics program for youth in the 4-H clubs, said that the program trains 10 to 14 year olds in Buncombe County on how to build and design robots for specific tasks. The program was for home schooled and traditionally schooled kids and was free.

Holly Jordan, Cooperative Extension Agent and coordinator of the 4-H program in Buncombe County for ages 5-18, said that they did a variety of programs including the robotics for approximately 2,300 kids every year. These programs were run by volunteers in the community.

## **PROCLAMATIONS**

- **Autism Awareness Month**

Vice Chair Jones read the proclamation and moved for its approval. Commissioner King seconded and the motion passed 7-0. Vice Chair Jones presented the proclamation to Mr. Joe Yurchak with the WNC Autism Society who thanked the Board for the proclamation.

- **Foster Care Appreciation Month**

Commissioner King read the proclamation and moved for its approval. Commissioner Fryar seconded and the motion passed 7-0. Commissioner King presented the proclamation to Tara Foster with Buncombe County Health and Human Services who spoke briefly about the foster care program. Commissioner Belcher said that his daughter and son-in-law were foster parents and it had been a rewarding experience.

- **Motorcycle Awareness Month**

Commissioner Belcher said that a member of his church who was a motorcycle rider had recently been killed and he dedicated the proclamation to that family. He read the proclamation and moved for its approval. Commissioner Newman seconded and the motion passed 7-0. Roger Coleman and another member of the motorcycle awareness program thanked the Board for their endorsement and for helping making drivers motorcycle aware.

## **COUNTY MANAGERS REPORT**

The Sheriff gave a report on the Community Oriented Problem Solving program that was assigned to different hot spots or places of problem in the community. The team was comprised of representatives from the different divisions of the Sheriff's office and work within the community to resolve issues.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Ordinance Amending the County Personnel Ordinance (second reading)**

Commissioner Newman moved to approve the ordinance. Vice Chair Jones seconded the motion passed 4-3 as follows:

YES: Chairman Gantt; Vice Chair Jones, Commissioners Newman and Frost

NOES: Commissioners Belcher, King and Fryar

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Making the Healthy Choice the Easy Choice**

Gibbie Harris, County Health Director, gave a power point presentation that is attached to the minutes of this meeting. She said that the four health priorities that will govern the work Health and Human Services does for the next four years are healthy living, preconception health, early childhood health and development and access to care. She said that the County ranked in the top 20 healthiest counties in North Carolina but North Carolina ranked 33 out of the 50 states. She reviewed the services that are available to the community that have begun addressing the

needs of the community, including a farmers market at 40 Coxe Avenue providing food from the Pisgah View garden.

## **BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

- **Riverfront Redevelopment**

Commissioner Belcher moved to reappoint **Ricky Silvers** to the **Riverfront Redevelopment Board**. Vice Chair Jones seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- *The next regular meeting of the Board will be May 7 at 4:30 p.m. in Chambers at 200 College Street, Room 326, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor*
- *A majority of the Board will attend a meeting with the Weaverville Town Council on May 7 at 11 a.m. in the first floor conference room at 200 College Street to discuss ETJ changes.*
- *Commission meetings can be seen on:*
  - *BCTV Charter Cable Channel 2*
  - *AT&T U-Verse Channel 99*
  - *Live on [buncombecounty.org](http://buncombecounty.org) during the meetings or*
  - *Online anytime at [buncombecounty.org](http://buncombecounty.org)*

Vice Chair Jones moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Frost seconded. The motion passed 7-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

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KATHY HUGHES, CLERK TO THE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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DAVID GANTT, CHAIRMAN  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS