

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'  
REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 15, 2013 AT 4:30 P.M.**

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**BE IT REMEMBERED:** That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on October 1, 2013, in the Commissioner Chambers, 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville, North Carolina at 4:35 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; Jon Creighton, Assistant County Manager/Planning Director; Donna Clark, Finance Director; 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.*

Jerry Rice was concerned about the Culture and Recreation Authority and felt that the City should be represented and have a member on the authority.

Evan Helms, neighbor of 145 Black Oak Drive where there was a landslide earlier this year, said that nothing had been done to remove the damaged home and he wanted the Board to visit the area and see the danger.

Mr. Jarrett said that Leicester Highway was a dangerous road and the NCDOT project should be completed making the highway four lanes. He presented a petition from 600 residents of the community asking for the highway to be improved.

Amanda Hall, a resident of Black Oak Drive, asked the Board to do something with the dangerous home before the winter months.

Robert Moruso, a resident of Black Oak Drive, thanked county officials for helping with the situation but asked for additional help in removing the home and fixing the road.

Keith Campbell, a resident of Black Oak Drive, also asked for help with the land slide area. Because of the condition of the road, they have had no garbage or mail service. He asked for some resolution as soon as possible.

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

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

- *Approval of October 1 Regular Meeting Minutes*

- *Release Report*
- *Resolution Authorizing the Acceptance of Applications and Approval of Housing Projects for the Affordable Housing Services Program*
- *Approval to Allow Employees to Request an Additional One Time Annual Leave Cash conversion of up to Three Weeks on or before March 31, 2014*
- *Resolution Granting a Waterline Easement to the City of Asheville*

## **GOOD NEWS/PROCLAMATIONS**

- **Special Recognition of Alex Destino**

Commissioner Fryar read the proclamation and presented it to Alex Destino, International Baseball Federation Gold Medalist.

Mr. Destino thanked the Board for the recognition saying that his experience as a member of a national team representing the United States was a great honor.

- **Susan Roderick Day**

Vice Chair Jones read the proclamation and presented it to Susan Roderick upon her retirement as the Director of Quality Forward/Asheville Greenworks. Vice Chair Jones announced that a tree would be planted in her honor. Ms. Roderick said that she had the best job to be able to work with so many people and would continue working in the community and planting trees during her retirement.

- **Proclamation of Crimestoppers Month**

Commissioner Newman read the proclamation and presented it to members of the Crimestoppers Board of Directors on their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Buncombe County.

- **Excellence in innovation Award for DSS Meeting Garden**

Mandy Stone, HHS Director/Assistant County Manager, said that when they integrated health and social services, a team of social workers and parks and recreation staff came up with the idea for a special place for social workers to meet with parents and children and learn how to improve their social interaction. This garden was specially designed for parent/child activity. She thanked Pat Creighton and Fran Thigpen for designing the garden and everyone for making it a reality. She thanked the Board for their willingness to allow this kind of outside the box design.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

- **Rezoning Request of Teresa Beeman 9618.93.0359**

Debbie Truempy, County Planner said that Ms. Beeman had applied to rezone her .89 acre property, from R-2 to R-3. The Planning Department recommended approval of the rezoning which they found to be consistent with the land use plan, reasonable and in the public interest.

The Planning Board held a public hearing on the rezoning and voted to approve the request also finding it consistent with the land use plan and reasonable and in the public interest.

The Chairman opened the public hearing at 5:09 p.m.

Teresa Beeman, owner of the property and petitioner, asked that they approve the petition to rezone the property. She said that is consistent with the land use plan and would not be detrimental to any of the neighboring properties. She said that there are manufactured homes on surrounding tracks.

George Webber, a neighbor of the property, wanted the property to stay R-2. He felt that the change in zoning would have a negative impact on the community and he did not want manufactured homes on the property

Roger Stevenson, a neighbor of the property, requested that the property not be rezoned and devalued.

The Chairman closed the public hearing at 5:14 p.m.

Vice Chair Jones moved to approve the rezoning as requested, finding it consistent with the land use

plan, reasonable and in the public interest. Commissioner Belcher seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

- **Economic Development Incentive for PLI**

Jon Creighton, Planning Director/Assistant County Manager, said that PLI had been a business in the County since 1988 with 250 employees and other branches in the US, Canada, Netherlands and Dubai. They are manufacturers of plastic cards for hotels, gift cards, badges for security, etc. and are making a \$4.4 million expansion and adding 42 employees averaging \$26,000 a year. He proposed an incentive grant for \$84,000 payable over 3 years. He reviewed the impact of 42 jobs on the economy-- this information is attached to the minutes.

Joe Fines, with PLI, thanked the Board for support, stating that they were growing rapidly and would be adding 24,000 square feet for production.

Mr. Creighton said that this incentive would come with benchmarks including verification of the investment that must be reached before payout of the incentive is made.

The Chairman opened the public hearing at 5:27 p.m.

Jerry Rice said that he had a family member that worked at PLI. He questioned if the employee wages in these 42 jobs would be enough to keep them from qualifying for social programs.

The Chairman closed the public hearing at 5:29 p.m.

Mr. Creighton said that they meet the living wage standards with an average wage was \$12.50 per hour with health insurance.

Commissioner Fryar moved to approve the incentive. Commissioner King seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Closeout of Scattered Site Rehabilitation Grant**

Donna Cottrell, County Planner, said that the grant to be considered for close out totaled \$400,000 with Mountain Housing administering the housing activity. She reviewed the projects that were completed with the funding stating that the public hearing was required as part of the close out of the grant.

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

There were no comments.

The Chairman closed the hearing at 5:34 pm.

Vice Chair Jones moved to approve the close out of the Scattered Site Rehabilitation Grant as requested. Commissioner King seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

## **COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT**

The County Manager said that there was a great a deal of money at risk due to the federal government shutdown. She said that the greatest impact would be in the human service programs.

Mandy Stone, HHS Director, said that federal and state government officials were holding conference calls twice a day to stay updated on the impact of the shutdown. She outlined the services potentially impacted in a power point that is attached to the minutes of this meeting. Most county administered programs were mandated even if the flow of the federal funding had stopped. She said that 70 percent of the Health and Human Service budget was federally funded with \$195,000 in jeopardy every day of the shutdown. She reviewed the economic impact of child care subsidy saying that the services were covered through October but nothing past that month. She said that there must be a way to fund the child care subsidy going forward as many child care centers would close without the subsidy.

To prevent the loss of services to the community it would take funding just under \$600,000 per month to carry the subsidy for all children. She recommended no decision be made before November 5 hoping for retroactive reimbursement.

The Board agreed that something should be drafted and sent to the County's federal representatives outlining how this is impacting our community on the daily basis.

## NEW BUSINESS

- **Budget Amendment: Fund 10 – Social Services Grant \$515,699; Economic Development \$30,000**
- **Grant Project Ordinance**

Donna Clark, Finance Director, explained how the funds were divided and handled and which grant projects had been closed out.

Commissioner Frost moved to approve the Budget Amendment and Grant Project Ordinance.

Commissioner Newman seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- *The next meeting will be November 5 beginning at 4:30 p.m. in Room 326 at 200 College Street in downtown Asheville.*
- *A ribbon cutting on the new public safety radio system will be held on October 28 at 11:30 a.m. at the Grove Park Inn*
- *A ribbon cutting on the Buncombe County Judicial Complex will be held on November 7 at 2 p.m. inside the complex*
- *Commission meetings can be seen on:*
  - *BCTV Charter Cable Channel 192*
  - *AT&T U-Verse Channel 99*
  - *Live on BCTV Channel 192 and on [buncombecounty.org](http://buncombecounty.org) during the meetings or*
  - *Online anytime at [buncombecounty.org](http://buncombecounty.org)*

Commissioner King moved to go into closed session pursuant to GS 153A-318.11(a)(4); (5);(6);and (3) to consider an economic development matter, personnel matter, legal matter and property acquisition, respectively. Vice Chair Jones seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

## CLOSED SESSION

Jon Creighton, Planning Director/Assistant County Manager, presented a possible economic incentive of for a new company bringing 130 jobs paying \$38,384 per job. The Board agreed by consensus to support the possibility of this incentive.

The Board received a legal update on the Black Oak Drive landslide. No action was taken.

The County Manager presented a possible property acquisition in District 3. No action was taken.

The Board discussed a personnel matter regarding the contract for the position of County Attorney. No action was taken.

Commissioner Belcher moved to return to open session. Commissioner Fryar seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Frost moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Fryar seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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KATHY HUGHES, CLERK TO THE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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DAVID GANTT, CHAIRMAN  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS