

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 1, 2014 AT 4:30 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on April 1, 2014, 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
Ellen Frost, Vice Chair
Joe Belcher, Commissioner
Mike Fryar, Commissioner
Holly Jones, Commissioner
David King, Commissioner
Brownie Newman, Commissioner

Staff present was: Wanda Greene, County Manager; Mandy Stone, Assistant County Manager/HHS Director; Jon Creighton, Assistant County Manager/Planning Director; Donna Clark, Finance Director; Bob Deutsch, County Attorney; Kathy Hughes, Clerk to the Board.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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 mentioned.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Charles Wykle presented a petition and stated that the Riceville community was organizing against the Coggins Farm Property rezoning and development. The petition had 864 names in opposition to the rezoning. He asked that the Board give serious attention to the development of property across the county.

Dr. Bernard Sechter questioned the rezoning process and the Commissioners' authority. He felt it wasn't fair that unelected volunteers could make such decisions.

Ian Booth said he lives on the Coggins farm property and invited the Commissioners to a symposium and case study to think through the rezoning issue and alternatives to the development.

Ron Enstand said he represented the Coggins Conservation Project and was committed to bridging the divide between the developers plan and the desires of the community. The group wants a conservation easement on the farm to preserve the land and farming in the county.

Pepe Enslavo said that he attended Warren Wilson College and was familiar with the Coggins property and was working on a conservation easement for this property.

Lisa Landis commended on the awards received by the government channel; jobs coming to the area; hazardous materials and funding for small businesses.

Jerry Rice commented on land conservation and political motivations in the Riceville community. He wants preservation but not land conservation.

Christina Merrell ask that the commissioner consider the people who live there and try and balance progress with what the people of the community want.

Josh O'Connor, Zoning Administrator, said that the Coggins project would go before the Board of Adjustment on April 9. It had been changed by the developer and would not need a rezoning. Any appeal would go to the superior court not to the Commissioners.

The County Attorney explained the staff's role and the Board of Adjustment role in zoning issues.

DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENT/APPROVAL TO FOLLOW AGENDA

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

- *Approval of Minutes of March 18, 2014 Regular Meeting*
- *Resolution Approving Pyrotechnic Experts for Fireworks Displays*
- *Capital Projects Ordinance*
- *Special Projects Ordinance*
- *PDF 2008 Debt Service Reserve Capital Project Ordinance*
- *Solid Waste Capital Projects Ordinance*

GOOD NEWS

- **Proclamation of Child Abuse Prevention Month**

Vice Chair Frost read the proclamation and moved for its approval.

Bill McGuire, CEO of Child Abuse Prevention Services Inc., thanked the Board for their support. Angie Pittman, County Social Work Director, urged everyone to report possible child or adult abuse.

- **County Receives NC City/County Communication Association Awards**

Max Taintor, County Video Producer, talked about the NC3C association and the awards that the county recently received at their annual banquet. The County received six awards, four first place for videos and written publications.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

- **Sheriff's Update**

The Sheriff introduced Mike Summey, a community businessman who had also been a reserve deputy since Harry P. Clay was Sheriff in Buncombe. Mr Summey had organized the reserve deputies into a program to take on many projects including the verification of sex offenders.

Lt. Mike Summey said that he put together 5 squads of reserve deputies to address different issues with the goal to correctly organize each squad with a mission and organizational goals.

The Sheriff said that the COPS team success can be continued by the reserve deputy program.

The Sheriff reported that his offices would be relocating. The building had problems that would be costly to repair. The majority of this office would be moving to the fourth floor of the judicial complex once the renovations in that space are complete. Several divisions of the department would be moving to Leicester Crossing on Leicester Highway. This will put more cars in the Erwin district with easy access for citizens. The remainder of the department will be moving in November to the fourth floor at the Judicial Complex. Making it much more convenient for employees and the public.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Belcher and Commissioner Newman said that there were several different sections of the I-26 project including the new bridge crossing the French Broad; improvements to I-240 and the I-240 interchange that had been ranked separately for funding. The most urgent section would be getting the new bridge across the French Broad River and that scored the highest. Commissioner Jones said that the working group would continue to press for the plan with the least impact that was the most feasibly and included connectivity and multi-modal transportation.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Micro-loan Proposal**

Vice Chair Frost said that she and Commissioner Newman, who had both benefitted from micro-loans as small business owners, had been working on a pilot program for the County.

Eileen McMinn with Mountain Bizworks, a local non-profit organization, said that they work with small entrepreneurs that need help to become business owners including making loans from \$1,000 to \$50,000. She said that they have received \$1 million in loan money from the small business administration; however, in order to access this money they must generate a 15 percent loan reserve. They are requesting \$50,000 to help fund this reserve. This money will enable over \$300,000 of loan money. They are looking at using a portion of the \$50,000 to have an interest rate reduction fund. These funds will allow about 25 to 30 loans and will be repaid and will be considered revolving funds. The County Manager said that she would try and find the money if the Board chooses to allocate these funds.

Commissioner Newman said that they had reached out to several groups that might be able to help people and concluded that Mountain Bizworks was the best group to pilot a program such as this. He said that the project should be evaluated for success in the coming year.

Commissioner Newman moved to support the proposal to partner with Mountain Bizwork with micro loans for small business in the amount of \$50,000. Vice Chair Frost seconded.

Commissioner Belcher said that he would prefer to consider this as part of the budget instead of doing this separately.

The motion passed:

AYES: Chairman Gantt; Vice Chair Frost, Commissioners Newman and Frost

NOES: Commissioners King, Belcher and Fryar

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

After a poll of the Board, Commissioners appointed **Randy Flack, Cindy Weeks** and **Lloyd Freel** to serve on the **Board of Adjustment**.

Commissioner Fryar nominated **Greta Byrd** to serve on the **Asheville Buncombe Homeless Initiative Advisory Committee**. The motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner King moved to appoint **Debbie Lane** to serve on the **Board of Equalization and Review**. The motion passed 7-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- *This next meeting will be April 15 beginning at 4:30 p.m. in Room 326 at 200 College Street in downtown Asheville.*
- *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 during the meetings or*
 - *Online anytime at buncombecounty.org*

Commissioner Belcher moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner King seconded and the motion assed 7-0
The meeting was adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

KATHY HUGHES, CLERK TO THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

DAVID GANTT, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS