

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 8, 2014 AT 4:30 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on July 8, 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; Mike Frue, Senior Staff Attorney; 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

Lisa Baldwin, County School Board member, encouraged the Board to attend the NCACC annual meeting to be held in Asheville. She requested more money for the schools and asked the Board to examine the school budget line items with attention to the amount of money spent on administration.

Jerry Rice asked what would happen to the Culture and Recreation Authority and questioned why a greenway designation was included in the Enka property without being publically discussed. He also questioned the County Attorney's involvement in the CTS matter.

DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENT/APPROVAL TO FOLLOW AGENDA

Senior Staff Attorney Mike Frue explained the resolution added to the consent agenda involving a mutual aid agreement for security during construction on the AB Tech campus.

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

- **Approval of Minutes of June 17, 2014 Regular Meeting**
- **Resolution Authorizing the County to Reimburse Itself for Expenditures Incurred or Construction of Enka Intermediate School Before Issuing Bonds**
- **Resolution Authorizing the County Manager to Execute Grant Agreement for a Project at the Asheville Airport**
- **Release Report**
- **Resolution of Authority to Enter into a Mutual Aid Agreement**

NEW BUSINESS

- **Adoption of FY15 County Budget**

The County Manager gave a power point that highlighted different areas of the budget. She noted that the Culture and Recreation Authority (CRA) was discontinued by state legislation and would no longer separate but the funding would be added back to the general budget. She reviewed core services and the unfunded mandates that were included in the budget as well as the expenditures for education. She said that the schools have fund balance that could be tapped in the event of necessity. She reviewed the capital plan asking for a capital budget retreat in January

when the staff would be ready to present in detail. The Manager explained the early incentive retirement plan and increase in solid waste fees that were included as part of the budget ordinance.

The County Manager said that funding for 9.5 teachers was included in the current budget to cover the general assembly cuts as well as a 3 percent salary increase for locally paid teachers.

Commissioner Fryar asked why the schools were allowed to carry such a large fund balance. He questioned the Art Museum funding and the carbon footprint investment and felt these two items should be cut along with various other community development agencies including Pack Place to provide more money for the schools.

Vice Chair Frost said that all community funding was well purposed.

Commissioner Jones said that community development funding was a way to meet community needs that are outlined in the strategic plan. She said there will always be a difference of opinion on funding but the budget would help meet the needs of the community. She felt that the schools request should be supported and that a line item by line item review was not the job of the Commissioners.

Commissioner King endorsed the budget and the community development funding allocations.

Commissioner Belcher said that he had listened to staff and the community and felt that additional community development funding should not have been added and the money spent on funding teachers.

The Chairman allowed public comment on this topic.

Jerry Rice criticized the Board for saying there was no tax increase this year and urged the Board to have the schools use their fund balance.

Ken Michalove gave a presentation that is attached to the minutes opposing funding of the art museum and Pack Place.

Eric Vest, a coach from AC Reynolds High School spoke in favor of an aquatic center. He outlined the magnitude of the need from the area high schools and asked that the funding of the aquatic center be included in the capital plan.

Lisa Baldwin said that the County School Board had not done due diligence on the county school budget. She was opposed to building any new schools and felt there was no overcrowding problem. She proposed redrawing attendance lines.

Jim Cotton, swim coach, asked the Board to support an aquatic center. He felt it was time to build a new facility near Skyland recreation center.

The County Manager said additional options for a new aquatic center would be reviewed in January.

Commissioner Newman moved to approve the budget as presented. Vice Chairman Frost seconded the motion.

Commissioner Fryar moved to inventory all unused county property and report back to the Board with 225 East Chestnut Street included for review. Commissioner Newman seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

After comments from each of the Commissioners, the budget passed as follows:

AYES: Chairman Gantt, Vice Chair Frost, Commissioners King, Jones, Newman

NOES: Commissioner Fryar and Belcher

- **Designation of Voting Delegate for the NCACC Annual conference**

Chairman Gantt nominated Commissioner Belcher to be the voting delegate at the NC Association of County Commissioners Conference in Asheville. (*Chairman Gantt agreed to serve as alternate*) Commissioner Belcher seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *The next regular meeting of the Board will be August 5, 2013 beginning at 4:30 p.m.*
- *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 Jones moved to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318-11a(4) to consider several legal matters. Commissioner Fryar seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

CLOSED SESSION

Discussion was held regarding a workers compensation claim involving a former detention center officer. The Board agreed by consensus to authorize settlement of the claim.

Mike Frue, Senior Staff Attorney, gave the Board an update on the Wilcoxson lawsuit and the Melanie Petruillo matter. No action was taken.

Mr. Frue updated the Board on the running of the CTS waterline and the Board gave consensus to proceed with running of the line.

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

Commissioner King moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Belcher seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

KATHY HUGHES, CLERK TO THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

DAVID GANTT, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS