

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'  
REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 1, 2016 AT 4:30 A.M.**

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**BE IT REMEMBERED:** That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on March 1, 2016, in the Commission 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  
Joe Belcher, Vice Chair  
Miranda DeBruhl, Commissioner  
Mike Fryar, Commissioner  
Holly Jones, Commissioner  
Brownie Newman, Commissioner

Ellen Frost, Commissioners was out of town.

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

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

#### **INVOCATION**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mac Swicegood with the Council of Independent Business Owners comments are attached to the minutes of the meeting. He expressed their concern about getting the I-26 construction project going in light of the growing problems with the accidents along that stretch of roadway.

Jerry Rice questioned the tax revaluation that was on the agenda and why the Board would be in favor of a revaluation next year. He was opposed to any tax increase and felt that the tax values were not correctly assessed.

Timothy Saddler asked for help with people in prison for non-violent, drug related crimes. He wanted the DA and Attorney General to request clemency for non-violent offenders. He felt that drug use was not a criminal activity and wanted offenders released.

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

Commissioner Belcher moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion and it passed 6-0.

- **Approval of the Minutes of the February 2, 2016 Regular Meeting**
- **Resolution Awarding a Service Firearm to a Retiring Deputy of the Sheriff's Department**
- **Awarding the Audit Contract**
- **Resolution Granting an Easement to French Broad Electric Corporation**
- **Budget Amendment: Fund 10 – Medicaid Transportation \$300,000; DWI Task Force Grant \$72,365**
- **Grant Projects Ordinance**
- **School Capital Commission Fund Project Ordinance\*\*\***
- **Resolution Authorizing Refund of Overpayment of Excise Tax**
- **Release Report**
- **Acceptance of Smoky Mountain LME Quarterly Fiscal Monitoring Report**

*\*\*\*In answer to a question about this agenda item, the Finance Director said that the funds being used for the Isaac Dickson construction were from restricted lottery State funds that the County is required to use for capital projects and those funds are assigned for that project. Vice Chair Newman moved to approve the School Capital Commission Fund Project Ordinance as presented. Commissioner Jones seconded and the motion passed 6-0.*

#### **GOOD NEWS**

- **SERV Program Recognized**

Commissioner Fryar read the proclamation and presented it to the SERV Program Volunteer Coordinator, Karl Katterjohn. Mr. Katterjohn thanked the Board for the recognition stating that they had given over 8,000 hours of service since they began the program in 2013. They have 9 volunteers who handle jobs that free up sworn deputies to for other duties.

- **Proclamation of Buncombe PrepareAthon Day**

Commissioner Belcher read the proclamation and presented it to Jerry VeHaun, Emergency Management Services Director. Mr. VeHaun said that Buncombe's PrepareAthon was the first one held in North Carolina.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Resolution Advancing the Octennial Reappraisal Schedule**

Gary Robert, Tax Director, presented the power point that is attached to the minutes of this meeting. He said that since 1988 the County had done reappraisals every 4 years. In 2006 the reappraisal was delayed until 2013. In fall of 2008 there was a dramatic drop in values and a decision was made to hold off on the reappraisal. According to the State, Buncombe County is now below 85 percent of the sales assessment ratio and will be required to advance the reappraisal. The County Commissioners have the ability to advance the reappraisal without having to be told to do so by the State and he was requesting that the Commissioners approve the resolution. The reappraisal will impact the tax rate in June of 2017.

Commissioner Jones clarified that the impact of the reappraisal would not be felt by taxpayers until the tax bills in August of 2017. The reappraisal values would affect the tax rate set in June of 2017.

Commissioner Belcher questioned the number of properties used in the sales assessment ratio that resulted in the below 85 percent value. Commissioner DeBruhl said that she was not supportive of the advancement.

Mr. Roberts said that the NC Department of Revenue would give the County a date to have the values complete and he would advise the Board to make the decision before being forced to be set a date by the state.

Vice Chair Newman moved to approve the resolution advancing the reappraisal to provide the County accurate information. After consulting with the County Attorney, the Vice Chair withdrew his motion.

Commissioner DeBruhl moved to approve the resolution as presented. Chairman Gantt seconded the motion. The motion failed as follows:

AYES: Chairman Gantt, Commissioners Jones and Vice Chair Newman

NOES: Commissioners DeBruhl, Fryar and Belcher.

## **BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

Commissioner Fryar moved to appoint **Leah Ashburn** to the **Tourism Development Authority**. The motion passed 5-1. (Commissioner Jones voted for Elizabeth Button)

Vice Chairman Newman moved to appoint **Kermit Sprinkles** to the **Historic Resources Commission**. The motion assed 6-0.

Commissioner Belcher moved to reappoint **James Wilson** and **George Lycan** to the **Board of Adjustment**. The motion passed 6-0.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- **March 3** – *Early Voting Begins*
- **March 15** – *Primary Election*
- **March 22** – *Board members will meet in continued meeting at 3 p.m. in Room 326 on the second floor at 200 College and then go into a budget workshop in the First Floor Conference Room at 200 College Street*
- **April 5** – *Commissioners Regular Meeting beginning at 4:30 p.m. in Room 326 at 200 College Street*

Commissioner Belcher moved to continue the meeting to March 22 at 3 p.m. Commissioner Fryar seconded and the motion passed 6-0. The meeting was continued at 6:05 p.m.

**The Chairman called the continued meeting to order on March 22, 2016 in Commission Chambers, 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville, North Carolina at 3 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  
Joe Belcher, Vice Chair  
Miranda DeBruhl, Commissioner  
Mike Fryar, Commissioner  
Ellen Frost, Commissioner  
Brownie Newman, Commissioner

Holly Jones, Commissioners was out of town.

Staff present was: Wanda Greene, County Manager; Mandy Stone, Assistant County Manager/HHS Director; Jon Creighton, Assistant County Manager/Planning Director; Tim Flora, Finance Director; Kathy Hughes, Clerk to the Board.

- **Resolution Authorizing the Dedication of the Sheriff's Satellite Office at Leicester Crossing in Honor of Sgt. Jeffrey Todd Hewitt**

The Chairman read the resolution. Commissioner Frost moved to approve the resolution and Vice Chair Newman seconded the motion.

Sheriff Duncan thanked the Board for taking this action to honor Sgt. Hewitt. He said that the Sheriff's Office was choosing to remember his life and leadership as an example for others. Susan Hewitt, Bill Hewitt and Pat Hewitt attended the meeting and thanked the Board for their actions.

The motion passed 6-0.

The Chairman announced that there was no further business to come before the Board.

Commissioner Frost moved to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Fryar seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

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KATHY HUGHES, CLERK TO THE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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DAVID GANTT, CHAIRMAN  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS