

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 16, 2011 AT 4:30 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on August 16, 2011, in the Commissioner Chambers, 30 Valley Street in downtown Asheville, North Carolina at 4:30 p.m. where and when the following business was transacted:

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

David Gantt, Chairman
Holly Jones, Commissioner
Carol Peterson, Commissioner
K. Ray Bailey, Commissioner
Bill Stanley, Vice Chairman

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

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

Chairman Gantt gave the invocation.

DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENT/APPROVAL TO FOLLOW AGENDA

The Chairman reminded the Board that in accordance with the Code of Ethics as adopted by this Board, 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.

Commissioner Peterson moved to approve the consent agenda as presented

- **Approval of Minutes of August 2, 2011 Meeting**
- **Resolution Approving a Revision to the Passenger, Vehicle and System Safety Program Plan for Mountain Mobility**
- **Budget Amendments**
 - **Fund 10 – Carry forward grant balances, social services and electronic management funds (\$400,929)**
 - **Fund 23 – 911 revenues (\$1,628,706)**
- **Special Revenue Capital Projects Ordinance**
- **Grant Projects Ordinance**
- **Capital Projects Ordinance**
- **Release Report**

Commissioner Bailey seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Parkway Planning Study Report and Overlook Discussion**

Phil Francis, Superintendent of the Blue Ridge Parkway, said that the Parkway had just celebrated its 75th anniversary and were planning for the next 75 years by addressing the issues facing the parkway. They would be developing greenways through the Buncombe County corridor and were in agreement with the resolution asking for an overlook for the Asheville area. They would have to go through a planning process and develop a plan for the proposed overlook.

He said that there are already 255 paved overlooks along the parkway that are a challenge to maintain with a short staff.

The Board agreed to take public comment on this topic.

Don Yelton said that the parkway, when it first opened, had views for miles and miles. He proposed recruiting volunteers to have trees harvested along the parkway to allow better views. He wanted the Biltmore Estate to contribute to the creation and/or maintenance cost of the proposed overlook.

Vice Chairman Stanley moved to approve this Resolution in Support of a Blue Ridge Parkway Overlook for Asheville. Commissioner Bailey seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

- **Resolution Directing the Buncombe County Board of elections to Conduct an Advisory Referendum on the Question of Whether to Levy a One-Quarter Percent Sales and Use Tax in Accordance with NCGS 105-537**

Hank Dunn, President of Asheville Buncombe Technical Community College (AB Tech), said that the majority of the revenue from the proposed tax will be spent on infrastructure. He pointed out that this was a good time to build with construction prices down.

Mike Frue, County Attorney, said that the final resolution would include wording to sunset the tax in year 2029 and require that the tax be used for the A-B Tech. capital improvements only.

Commissioner Bailey said that the AB Tech staff plan is a good one and should be supported by the public.

Lisa Landis questioned the comments made by President Dunn from AB Tech.

Eric Gorney said that he loved AB Tech but asked the Board to table the resolution because the additional sales tax would cost too much and close some businesses. He said that this was a bad idea and the economy could not support an additional tax. He asked if this was a conflict of interest for Commissioner Bailey to participate as the former President of the college.

Dr. Dunn said that the average resident will be paying less since the state did sunset a .75 tax.

Mike Fryar was opposed to the tax and the timing of the referendum. He asked that it be held until next year.

Linda Southern wanted the election to be held in 2012.

Don Yelton asked how the college could afford to hold the election and predicted that the referendum would not pass.

Jerry Rice said that he was not in favor of the tax and wondered why the College was in such desperate need. He said that he gave his questions to the AB Tech Board of Trustees and they had not been answered.

Dr. Milton Byrd said that there are cost issues for citizens and this is a political bias election. He predicted that this would not pass.

Chairman Gantt said that every citizen in the County could vote for or against the issue in November. The County Manager said that funds being used to open all the polls throughout the county were being raised by private funds with no public money involved.

Commissioner Peterson said that she supported the tax and moved to approve the resolution. Commissioner Bailey seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *The next meeting of the Board will be September 13, 2011 at 4:30 p.m.*

- *Commission meetings can be seen on BCTV Charter Cable Channel 2; AT&T U-Verse Channel 99; live during the meetings and online at buncombecounty.org*

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following citizens spoke during public comment: Don Yelton, Eric Gorney, Jerry Rice, Lisa Landis and Dr. Milton Byrd.

Commissioner Bailey moved to adjourn the meeting. Vice Chairman Stanley seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

KATHY HUGHES, CLERK TO
THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

DAVID GANTT, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS