

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'  
REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 21, 2019 AT 5 P.M.**

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**BE IT REMEMBERED:** That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on May 21, 2019, in the Commission Chambers, 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville, North Carolina at 5 p.m. where and when the following business was transacted:

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

Brownie Newman, Chairman  
Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, Vice Chair  
Joe Belcher, Commissioner  
Amanda Edwards, Commissioner  
Mike Fryar, Commissioner  
Robert Pressley, Commissioner  
Al Whitesides, Commissioner

Staff present: Avril Pinder, County Manager; Jim Holland, Assistant County Manager; Donald Warn, Finance Director; Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director; Eric Hardy, Performance Management Director; Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnership Director; Tim Love, Business Officer; Nathan Pennington, Planning Director; Dane Pederson, Solid Waste Director; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney; Brandon Freeman, Staff Attorney; Heather Hockaday, Attorney; Sheriff Miller

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

## **INVOCATION**

The Chairman acknowledged the upcoming Memorial Day holiday and asked for moment of silence to remember the men and women who died serving our Country.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Pressley motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and the remainder of the agenda. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- Approval of May 7, 2019 Pre-Meeting Minutes
- Approval of May 7, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Resolution Awarding a Service Firearm to a Retiring Deputy of the Buncombe County Sheriff's Department
  - David Flanagan
  - Jeff Banks
  - Lance Stewart
  - Robert Stone
- Resolution Approving Pyrotechnic Experts for Firework Displays
- FY2019 Budget Amendment Summary 5-21-19
  - Lottery Funds Budget Amendment for WD Williams
    - Ordinance
    - Approved Application
  - General Fund – DWI Taskforce
    - DWI Taskforce Match
    - DWI Taskforce Grant
  - Forfeitures Fund Budget Amendment
    - Forfeitures Fund
  - General Fund Budget Amendment
    - Appropriate Additional Revenues

## **PRESENTATIONS**

- **State of the Airport - Greater Asheville Regional Airport Authority**

Lew Bleiweis, Executive Director, gave his presentation and provided a booklet on the state of the airport. He stated that business was thriving and good things were happening. The airport is growing with the addition of another runway scheduled to be completed in the next year.

- **Vaya Health Quarterly Financial Report**

Clark Phillip, CFO, presented his PowerPoint and gave information on the work of Vaya Health. The report included a cover letter, fiscal monitoring report, comments and explanations. Mr. Phillip explained the financial status of the business and cleared up some misinformation that may have been heard in regards to Medicaid. There was also an explanation on how funds from Buncombe County are spent.

- **Opioid Update**

Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnership Director, Amy Upham, Project Coordinator for Overdose Reduction; and Sarah Gayton, Sheriff's Detention Programs Director, gave an update on the state of opioids and the work being done to fight the problem in the community. A variety of programs and trainings to mitigate the opioid problem are being used and provided.

- **FY2020 Budget Message**

Avril Pinder, County Manager, reviewed the budget process and explained the Recommended FY2020 Budget. She stated that the plan would be to adopt the budget on June 18, 2019. The budget message highlighted the following:

- Flat tax rate to FY2019
- Advances Board of Commissioners' Strategic Priorities
- Provides 21 new positions
- Maintains quality services
- Provides ability to address salary inequities and living wage
- Provides 1.77% cost of living adjustment for employees
- Addresses retirement incentive obligations

The public was invited to share input by using email and during the public budget hearing at the regular Board of Commissioners meeting on June 4, 2019.

Chairman Newman suggested that they look to multi-year budget plan going forward.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Residential Solid Waste Franchise Collections Contract**

Dane Pederson, Solid Waste Director, presentation explained the proposed franchise contract agreement for the collection and disposal of residential waste and recycling in the unincorporated areas of Buncombe County. The negotiated agreement with Waste Pro includes a subscriber based system where citizens have the option to use the services and would be a five-year term with a two-year extension option.

Chip Gingles, Waste Pro Division Vice President, and Johnny Lea, Waste Pro Division Manager, highlighted some key aspects of servicing Buncombe County and provided key information as it relates to the contract.

Commissioner Belcher expressed his concern that other providers did not bid on the contract.

Commissioner Belcher moved to approve the first reading of the ordinance which would allow the County to enter into contract with Waste Pro as presented. Commissioner Whitesides seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

Don Yelton stated that he was sure that Dane would work with Waste Pro to get things correct and he was concerned that they would not make any money.

Barry Lawson expressed his concern with putting recyclables in bags and the recycle carts with help eliminate the issue.

Jerry Rice stated that trash bins are too heavy for older people.

- **Rate Increase for Purchased Transportation Services Provided under the Transportation Agreement between County of Buncombe and City of Asheville**

Matt Cable, Planning Department, explained that shared service between Buncombe County and the City of Asheville for ADA Complementary Paratransit Services during regular hours would increase from \$1.30 to \$1.92 per shared service mile to the City of Asheville.

Chairman Newman moved to approve the rate increase under the transportation agreement. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

- **Fund 100: General Fund Revenues**
  - **Excise Tax- Appropriate Additional Revenues**

Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director, explained that the budget amendment would increase the excise stamp revenues and expenses.

Commissioner Edwards moved to approve the budget amendment. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

## BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Commissioner Belcher moved to reappoint **Libby Mae Kyles** and **Lisa Cook** to the **Women's Committee**. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Belcher moved to reappoint **Dan Garrett, Elizabeth Kelly** and **Eileen McMinn** to the **Homeless Initiative**. Commissioner Pressley seconded and the motion passed 7-0. Vice Chair Beach-Ferrara moved to appoint **Tim McElyer** and **Amy Hobson** to the **Homeless Initiative**. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Edwards moved to appoint **Kay Wall** to the **Library Board (District 2)**. Commissioner Belcher seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Greg Bohannon stated that he lives at 26 Laurel Cove Road and there is a problem with people dumping their trash in his neighborhood. He asked for help from the County to stop the dumping.

Roy Harris asked to know where the money is being invested in his neighborhood and on the south side of the Asheville.

Jerry Rice questioned the money that is being put towards mental health and the state's role in requiring programs dealing with mental health issues.

Don Yelton told the Board to take a look at the budget to see where the County will be next year and suggested that the Board raise the tax rate to accommodate the monetary requests for special programs.

Alan Coxie encouraged the County to maintain funding for the treatment courts and the DWI court. He also expressed his support for opioid treatment with the Sheriff's Medicated Assisted Treatment (MAT) for inmates.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *June 4 @ 12 p.m. - Commissioners' Pre-Meeting at 200 College Street, 1st Floor Conference Room in downtown Asheville.*
- *June 4 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *May 27 @ 2:30 p.m. – Asheville-Buncombe Memorial Day Ceremony on the Roger McGuire Green at Pack Square*

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

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LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS