

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'  
BRIEFING OF OCTOBER 6, 2020 AT 3:00 P.M.**

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**BE IT REMEMBERED:** That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on October 6, 2020, in the 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:

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

Staff present: Avril Pinder, County Manager; Sybil Tate, Assistant County Manager; Dakisha Wesley, Assistant County Manager; Donald Warn, Finance Director; Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director; Sharon Burke, Human Resources Director; Tim Love, Business Officer; Jim Blanton, Library Director; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney; Heather Hockaday, Attorney

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

During the meeting, the Board and staff will review and discuss agenda items and receive staff updates with discussions as noted:

**Staff Updates:**

**COVID-19 Discussion.** Stacie Saunders, Public Health Director, provided information on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic data and trends. She stated that there has been 3,307 cases, 89 deaths, 75,531 tests completed with the positive rate of 3.3% in the County. Fletcher Tove, Preparedness & Security Officer, and Tim Love, Business Officer, explained the economic impact that COVID-19 has had in the region.

**Petition to Permanently Close an Alleyway.** Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney, informed the Board that an alleyway located between property owned by Milan Asheville (324 Biltmore Avenue) and the County (356 Biltmore Avenue) will be petitioned to close for future construction.

**Resolution Declining Offer for Use of Property at Emma Elementary School.** Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney, explained that the Board of Education has formally offered the Property to Buncombe County, and request has been made that the Board of Commissioners Board formally decline such offer so they can enter into a long-term lease with the Verner Center for Early Learning to operate an early childhood learning facility.

**Library Fine/ Fee Debt Write-off.** Jim Blanton, Library Director, and Don Warn, Finance Director, stated that the Library Board requested a write-off of fines and fees older than 3 years. The amount for these fines as of June 30, 2020 older than 3 years is \$1,437,413.

**Family Leave Policy.** Sharon Burke, Human Resources Director, provided updated information and some deferred salary cost analysis. The Board requested additional information on details of the policy for the next briefing.

**Open Discussion:** The Commissioners discussed safety concerns at polling and voting locations during the upcoming elections. Staff provided provisions that have been taken to ensure safety during the voting process.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

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LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS