

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'  
BRIEFING OF OCTOBER 20, 2020 AT 3:00 P.M.**

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**BE IT REMEMBERED:** That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on October 20, 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; Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnerships Director; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney; Heather Hockaday, Attorney

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 3:05 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, and Dr. Bill Hathaway, Mission Health, provided information on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic data and trends. Saunders stated that there has been 3,800 cases, with a positive test rate of 3.5% in the County and stressed the importance of following the safety guidance. Hathaway highlighted the challenges of COVID-19 and the flu season existing simultaneously.

**Coronavirus Relief Funds Update.** Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnerships Director, gave an explanation of how the funds had been used and the upcoming priorities for the funds. The opportunity to use the funds will expire on December 30, 2020.

**Elections Update and Planning.** Corinne Duncan, Elections Director, and Taylor Jones, Emergency Services Director, provided an update on the methods for citizens to cast their ballots, voting data, and the planning for any issues that may arise during the election season.

**Dogwood Trust Grant- Jail & Prison Re-entry Project.** Tiffany Iheanacho, Justice Services Director, stated that the project would assist in improving the public health outcomes for individuals involved with the justice system and reduce the pretrial population. The amount of the grant award totals \$493,883.

**Donation Policy.** Mason Scott, Finance, provided a detailed explanation of the policy that included the following topics: purpose and authority, delegation of authority, appropriate setting for donations, right to refuse donations and tax deduction eligibility.

**Right of Way for a Certain Parcel Near Jacob Holm Way.** Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney, explained that the small piece of county-owned land, 233 square feet, in the Enka Park Commerce Park is being requested for road development by the NCDOT.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

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LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS