

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS’  
BRIEFING OF FEBRUARY 2, 2021 AT 3:00 P.M.**

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**BE IT REMEMBERED:** That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on February 2, 2021, 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  
Amanda Edwards, Commissioner (virtual)  
Robert Pressley, Commissioner  
Parker Sloan, Commissioner  
Terri Wells, Commissioner  
Al Whitesides, Vice Chair

Staff present: Avril Pinder, County Manager; Sybil Tate, Assistant County Manager; Dakisha Wesley, Assistant County Manager; Donald Warn, Finance Director; Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director; Jennifer Pike, Tax Collector; Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations; Nathan Pennington, Planning Director; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff 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/Vaccine Update.** Stacie Saunders, Public Health Director; Fletcher Tove, Preparedness & Security Officer and Dr. Bill Hathaway, Mission Health, provided information on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic data and trends, vaccine prioritization rollout, and metric data (1 category coded red). Total vaccine administered to date is 11,574. It was expressed that, currently, the pandemic data is trending in a favorable direction. A new dashboard is being featured to keep the community informed of the County’s vaccination status.

**Buncombe County Schools Facility Needs Survey.** Tim Fierle, BCS Director of Facilities & Planning, presented facility needs data that contained information about student population/capacity, renovations/additions, and furnishings/equipment.

**FY22 Planning with Fire Districts.** Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director, and Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations, explained that they had met with 18 of the fire districts to help develop their five year capital improvement planning. Their service agreements expire in June 2021 and moving forward, may look to shorten them from five year to three year terms.

**Tax Collection Update.** Jennifer Pike, Tax Collector, provide an update to the Board of the current state of tax collections in the County. Payment arrangements are being scheduled and the COVID-19 impact is being taken into consideration.

**Open Discussion:** The Board discussed adding an agenda item regarding the NCDOT I-26/Exit 35 to the consent agenda during the 5 p.m. regular meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

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LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS