

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS’
BRIEFING OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2021 AT 2:30 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on September 21, 2021, in the Commission Chambers, 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville, North Carolina at 2:30 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
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; Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director; Sharon Burke, Human Resources Director; Dane Pedersen, Solid Waste Director; Stoney Blevins, Health & Human Services Director; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 2:37 p.m.

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

Review the Board’s Agenda.

Staff Updates:

COVID-19/Vaccine Update. Stacie Saunders, Public Health Director, provided information on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic data and trends, vaccination update, and metric data (2 categories coded red). The infection rate of COVID and hospitalizations are leveling off but remain high. FDA recommend that the Pfizer COVID booster shot is safe individuals 65 years and older, and the high-risk group.

Duke Electricity Contract for Landfill-to-Gas Project. Kristy Smith, Solid Waste, explained the background of the project that include a ten-year agreement with Duke Energy, that expires 11/2021. The goal is to lock in a new favorable rate that allows the energy sales and RECs to pay for the annual generator expense. Next steps are to sign Letter of Commitment Letter, negotiate new PPA, present the final contract to the Board in October, and sign new PPA by November 2021.

Fiscal Recovery Fund – Organization Presentations. The Commissioners heard the first half of the Buncombe County Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Fund presentations virtually.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS