

MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
BRIEFING OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2021 AT 3:00 P.M.

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on September 7, 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
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; Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff 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:

Review the Board's Agenda.

Staff Updates:

COVID-19/Vaccine Update. Stacie Saunders, Public Health Director, and Dr. Bill Hathaway, HCA Healthcare, 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 remain high. Vaccinations continue to be performed by the County with walk-in availability and the \$100 incentive cash cards have seen a good response. Outreach for vaccinations will continue to include planning with neighborhoods, schools, worksites, recreation centers, and other local events.

Solar RFP Update. Jeremiah LeRoy, Sustainability, provided an update on the 39 solar projects that are ongoing. The projects are divided into five bundles with some projects seeing delays due to shipping and supply chain issues.

Emergency Paid Sick Leave Update. Sharon Burke, Human Resources Director, explained the CDC guidelines and the County's current policy as it relates COVID and sick leave. The recommendation consists of removing quarantine leave (as it is not equitable for all), resetting all employees to have an 80-hour COVID sick leave bank to use for their own quarantine or COVID positive leave, and providing the County Manager the discretion to increase COVID sick leave hours, if crisis continues. The public hearing will be held during the regular meeting on September 21, 2021.

Ferry Road Work Session. Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations, and Kim Williams, Equinox, previewed the Board on the site plan options and scenarios for the Phase 1 Review of the Ferry Road property. The Board weighed in with their initial thoughts and expressed support for staff and Equinox to proceed with Phases 2 and 3.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS