

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

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on November 2, 2021, in the Commission Chambers, 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville, North Carolina at 3:00 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
Terri Wells, Commissioner
Al Whitesides, Vice Chair

Parker Sloan, Commissioner, was absent from the meeting.

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; Stoney Blevins, Health & Human Services Director; Michael Mace, General Services Director; Taylor Jones, Emergency Services Director; Keith Miller, Tax Assessor; Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnerships Director; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Curt Euler, Staff Attorney

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 3:04 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 deaths continue to remain high. Information about vaccination boosters and vaccinations for 5-11 year olds was discussed.

Garage Facility Update. Michael Mace, General Services Director, updated the Board on the new General Services Complex that will be located off Canoe Lane where the old landfill was located. Three divisions (Fleet Service, Maintenance/Construction and Grounds) will be housed at this one location. A tentative schedule of the project was provided.

Substance Use Disorder/Behavioral Health Collaborative Grant. Stoney Blevins, Health & Human Services Director, informed the Board of the Dogwood Health Trust grant. After the July 21, 2021 announcement of the historic \$26 billion national opioid settlement agreement, Dogwood Health Trust invited counties in western NC to apply for planning grants up to 2 years in duration. The structure and goals of the grant were detailed during the presentation.

Collaborative Mobile Medication Assisted Treatment Team Grant. Taylor Jones, Emergency Services Director, informed the Board that Dogwood Trust awarded \$500,000 to support the Medicated Assistance Treatment (MAT) team. The award will fund positions, equipment, and services related to the MAT team. The Board will be requested to accept the award and approve the budget amendment at the November 16, 2021 regular meeting.

Fiscal Recovery Fund Interviews. Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnerships Director, introduced staff members from Black Wall Street AVL, Community Equity Fund, and Mountain Community Capital Fund and they provided proposals to the Commissioners for funds from the Fiscal Recovery Fund.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS