

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS’
BRIEFING OF APRIL 5, 2022 AT 3:00 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on April 5, 2022, 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, Vice Chair
Robert Pressley, Commissioner
Parker Sloan, Commissioner
Terri Wells, Commissioner
Al Whitesides, Commissioner

Staff present: Avril Pinder, County Manager; Sybil Tate, Assistant County Manager; Dakisha Wesley, Assistant County Manager; Donald Warn, Finance Director; Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations; 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 3:01 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 (low category-coded green). Community briefings will transition from twice a month to once a month. The infection rate of COVID, cases, and hospitalizations continue to remain low. Vaccinations continue to be performed by the County with walk-in availability and a second at-home test are made available for the public.

Ferry Road Update. Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations, summarized the background and the timeline, which included a request for the Board to select the preferred development concept. Public engagement activities included meetings with the surrounding neighborhood and stakeholder organizations and an input survey. The Board plans to give feedback at the next regular Board meeting on April 19, 2022.

County Property Evaluation Proposal. Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations, and Matt Cable, Planning, explained the opportunity to partner with the UNC School of Government Development Finance Initiative (DFI) in the development of County-owned properties to support meeting Buncombe 2025 Strategic Plan, Racial Equity Action Plan, & Affordable Housing goals. Some advantages to use DFI, include their NC experience, timing, and cost efficiencies.

Land Conservation Goal.

Lobbyist. Chairman Newman reintroduced the idea of the Board seeking proposals for state lobbying Services. More information and details will be examined to be presented at a future date.

Open Discussion: Commissioner Beach-Ferrara updated the Board on the 24 grant applications received by the Early Childhood & Development Committee and stated that the committee endorses funding pre-k strategies.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:19 p.m.

LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS