

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 7, 2022 AT 5 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on June 7, 2022, in the Commission Chambers, 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville, North Carolina at 5 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
Terri Wells, Commissioner
Al Whitesides, Commissioner

Parker Sloan, Commissioner, was absent from the meeting.

Staff present: Avril Pinder, County Manager; Sybil Tate, Assistant County Manager; Dakisha Wesley, Assistant County Manager; Donald Warn, Finance Director; John Hudson, Budget Director; Sharon Burke, Human Resources Director; Jennifer Pike, Tax Collector; Keith Miller, Tax Assessor; Stoney Blevins, Health & Human Services Director; Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations; Nathan Pennington, Planning Director; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney; Brandon Freeman, Staff Attorney

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Pressley motioned to approve the Consent Agenda and the remainder of the agenda. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

- Approval of May 10, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes
- Approval of May 19, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Resolution Approving Pyrotechnic Experts for Firework Display
 - Resolution
- Resolution Awarding a Service Firearm to a Retiring Deputy of the Buncombe County Sheriff's Department - Courtney Mumm
- Tax Collection Report
- Approval of JCPC FY 2022-2023 Certification and Annual Plan
 - Certification
 - Annual Plan
- Approval of Addendum to Collection Agreement for the City of Asheville
 - More Information
- Resolution Approving Addition to State Highway System
 - Resolution
 - More Information
- Budget Amendment for Soil & Water Conservation District Education Programs - FY2023 Grant Award
 - Ordinance
- Budget Amendment for Deployment Reimbursement for North Carolina Urban Search & Rescue Task Force 2 - Tropical Storm Fred (Haywood County)
 - Ordinance
- Budget Amendment for Accela Update Expenses and Homeowner Recovery Fees
 - Ordinance

PUBLIC COMMENT

Andrew Clark expressed his support for veterans in the region with an emphasis on housing and treatment court.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Pride Month Proclamation**

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara read and presented the proclamation. Cata Bulai, Information Technology, accepted the proclamation and thanked the Board for their support.

- **Asheville Buncombe Regional Sports Commission**

Demp Bradford, President, provided an update to the commissioners on the past year events, upcoming events, and thanked Vice Chair Edwards for serving on the Board and the County for their support.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- **General Obligation Open Space Bond Order**

Don Warn, Finance Director, and Sybil Tate, Assistant County Manager, explained the intent to pursue a referendum

to issue General Obligation bonds for acquisition and improvement of land or interests for conservation and protection of natural resources and preservation of farmland, including but not limited to, the development of greenways and trails for recreation purposes.

The Chairman opened the hearing at 5:40 p.m.

David Nutter stated his support for the open space bonds.

The hearing was closed at 5:44 p.m.

- **General Obligation Housing Bond Order**

Don Warn, Finance Director, and Sybil Tate, Assistant County Manager, explained the intent to pursue a referendum to issue General Obligation bonds for the capital costs of housing for the benefit of persons of low or moderate income, including construction of related infrastructure improvements and the acquisition of related land and rights-of-way.

The Chairman opened the hearing at 5:45 p.m.

The hearing was closed at 5:46 p.m.

- **Recommended FY2023 Budget**

John Hudson, Budget Director, presented a detailed overview FY23 Recommended Budget to the Board and explained that budget adoption will be considered at the June 21, 2022 Regular meeting.

The Chairman opened the hearing at 5:51 p.m.

The following individuals spoke in support of Buncombe County Schools' Salary Study and salary increases:

KC Murdoch	Amanda Maude	Jimmy Brown	Chris Kingsley
Brian Black	Paula Dinga	Taryn Johnson	Kathleen Lawlor
Tina Marie Monteith	Lissa Pedersen	Melanie Allen	Andrew Boone

Katie Cornell stated her thanks for budget funding towards community arts programming.

The hearing was closed at 6:29 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Resolution Setting the Bond Referendum - General Obligation Bonds**

Don Warn, Finance Director, explained that for the issuance of General Obligation bonds, it is required to approve a resolution setting a special bond referendum after the bond orders have been adopted by the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Whitesides moved to approve the resolution as presented. Vice Chair Edwards seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

- **Resolution for the Issuance of the 2022 Limited Obligation Bonds (LOBs) for County and Public School Capital Projects**

Don Warn, Finance Director, explained that approving resolution approves the financing of the public school capital projects. A public hearing was held on May 3, 2022, to receive input from the public before the initial resolution was approved by the Board. The County intends to issue private placement bank financing in the form of LOBs in an approximate amount of \$155 million with a 15-year final maturity. The new debt will fund approximately \$25 million in countywide capital projects, \$45 million of public school capital projects, \$85 million in refinancing of the 2014A Limited Obligation Bonds and associated issuance costs.

Vice Chair Edwards moved to approve the resolution as presented. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Approval of CliftonLarsonAllen LLP (CLA) Fiscal Year 2022 Audit Contract and Engagement Letter**

Don Warn, Finance Director, explained that CLA provided the County with an engagement letter and audit contract for the upcoming fiscal audit. The engagement letter outlines the audit services to be provided, audit objectives, auditor responsibilities and management responsibilities. The County's Audit Committee reviewed both items and recommends approval by the Commissioners.

Commissioner Wells moved to approve the contract and authorize the Chair to sign the contract and engagement letter. Commissioner Pressley seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

- **Resolution Modifying the Land Conservation Advisory Board**

Ariel Zijp, Farmland Preservation Manager, explained that modifying resolution will create board terms and limits. The Land Conservation Advisory Board is of the opinion that there is a need to update the Board's structure and appointment format.

Commissioner Wells moved to approve the resolution as presented. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

- **Budget Amendment for Register of Deeds Excise Stamp Tax**

John Hudson, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

Commissioner Whitesides moved to approve the budget amendments as presented. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

- **Budget Amendment for Health Insurance Stop-Loss Adjustment**

John Hudson, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

Commissioner Whitesides moved to approve the budget amendments as presented. Commissioner Pressley seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

- **Letter of Support for New Hospital**

Chairman Newman explained that the Commissioners are in support of an alternatively owned facility so the community has a choice.

Commissioner Wells moved to approve the letter of support. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

- **Attenuation Light for Leicester Volunteer Fire Department**

Commissioner Wells explained that the request is to allow the cost sharing of an attenuation lighting system at the intersection of Alexander Road in support of the new Leicester Volunteer Fire Department. Attenuation lighting is utilized to control traffic at intersections in the vicinity of public safety facilities when emergency vehicles are dispatched.

Commissioners discussed the request and asked for staff to provide clarification of details for the next meeting, with the intent to add it as an item to the consent agenda.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Newman moved to reappoint **Tim McElyea** (Veterans Administration), and **Lance Crawford** (Non-Profit) to the **Homeless Initiative Advisory Committee**. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Chairman Newman moved to reappoint **Libby Kyles** to the **Women's Commission**. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to reappoint **Kate Burger, Douglas Clarke, and Paul Tax** to the **Strategic Partnerships Grants Committee**. Vice Chair Edwards seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to reappoint **Kit Cramer, Leslie Anderson, Mistie Reising-Cogbill, Philip Belcher, Susan Mims, and Robert Pressley** to the **Early Childhood Education & Development Fund Committee**. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *June 21 @ 3 p.m. - Commissioners' Briefing at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *June 21 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a) (3) to hear legal matters and NCGS 143-318.11(a) (5) hear real property negotiation matters with no possible action anticipated following the closed session. Commissioner Wells seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

The Board heard the update and had discussion regarding the matters. No action was taken.

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to go back into open session. Commissioner Pressley seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Vice Chair Edwards moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.