

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'  
REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 3, 2023 AT 5 P.M.**

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**BE IT REMEMBERED:** That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on October 3, 2023, 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, Commissioner  
Martin Moore, Commissioner  
Parker Sloan, Commissioner  
Terri Wells, Vice Chair  
Al Whitesides, Commissioner

Staff present: Avril Pinder, County Manager; Sybil Tate, Assistant County Manager; Melissa Moore, Finance Director; Jennifer Pike, Tax Collector; Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations; Nathan Pennington, Planning Director; Dane Pederson, Solid Waste Director; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Moore motioned to approve the added **Budget Amendment for Appropriation of Additional Education Funding** to the **New Business**. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara motioned to approve the Consent Agenda and the remainder of the agenda. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- Approval of September 19, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes - Closed Session
- Approval of September 19, 2023 Briefing Meeting Minutes
- Approval of September 19, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes - Closed Session (after Briefing)
- Approval of September 19, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Tax Collection Report
- Resolution Approving Execution of a Telecommunications Marketing Master Agreement with Milestone Development, Inc.
  - Resolution
  - Agreement
- Budget Amendment for Carolina Records Shop Creative Residency - Library
  - Ordinance
- Budget Amendment for Adult Protective Services (APS) Essential Services Fund
  - Ordinance
- Budget Amendment for Opioid Overdose Prevention & Response Funding
  - Ordinance
- Budget Amendment for FY23 Recreation Services Master Plan Scope Expansion
  - Ordinance
- Budget Amendment to Establish Four Conservation Easements
  - Ordinance
  - Maps

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Vice Chair Wells moved to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a) (3) to hear legal matters for the County of Buncombe vs. Wanda Skillington Greene, Michael G. Greene and Celena Greene as recorded in Buncombe County Superior Court File #: 22 CVS 2473. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The Board heard the legal update and had discussion regarding the legal matters.

Commissioner Moore moved to go back into open session. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Moore moved to add the Consideration of a Legal Settlement. Vice Chair Wells seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Consideration of a Legal Settlement**

Attorney Philip Anderson stated that they had been in negotiations with the attorney of Wanda Skillington Greene, Michael G. Greene and Celena Greene and recommended approval of a release settlement of \$502,500.

Commissioner Whitesides moved to approve the settlement. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Timothy Lloyd, Kristina Horton, Pepi Acebo, Soren Pedersen, and Lissa Pedersen expressed their support for the education funding budget that included wage increases.

Andrew Clark expressed support for programming for veterans and the local VA hospital.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

- **Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation**

Commissioner Sloan read and presented the proclamation to Paulina Mendez, Justice Services. The proclamation was accepted with appreciation.

- **Ferry Road Update**

Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations, and Sarah Odio, Development Finance Initiative (DFI), updated the Board on the progress of the Ferry Road project. The Commissioners authorized staff to work with the UNC School of Government's Development Finance Initiative (DFI) to develop master planning scenarios for the county-owned Ferry Road property. The presentation included an update on the work performed including the proposed master development plan, estimated financials, and projected timeline.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Budget Amendment for Appropriation of Additional Education Funding**

Sam Riddle, Budget, explained that an additional penny, with estimated revenue generation of \$5,109,667, was added to the tax rate in the County's budget to support Education upon passage of the state budget. The budget amendment appropriates that amount and shifts \$1,000,000 in prior budget revisions to Education, targeted at increasing salaries, and splits those dollars equally between the two K-12 partners, based on the current budget allocation, subject to change pending average daily membership reporting. With this additional funding, both school systems have confirmed increases of 2% to local supplemental pay, in addition, to salary increases provided by the State (estimated around 4%).

Vice Chair Wells moved to approve the budget amendment as presented. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **CY2024 Insurance Benefit Update**

Larry Reece, USI Senior Vice President, provided a plan financial performance update, calendar year 2024 forecast, and options for plan programs design. A plan comparison of the current and upcoming years was detailed, with recommendations for calendar year 2024.

Commissioner Sloan moved to approve the plan and changes as presented. Commissioner Moore seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Resolution Approving Execution of a Purchase Contract with Southeastern Specialty Vehicles, Inc.**

Jamie Judd, Emergency Medical Services, explained that the ambulance replacement plan is to maintain an adequate fleet that aligns with its operational needs. In order to secure these units, the County must enter into a contract to purchase the four demo ambulances with delivery and payment in FY2025.

Commissioner Sloan moved to approve the resolution authorizing the County Manager to enter into a purchase contract with Southeastern Specialty Vehicles, Inc. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

## **BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

Vice Chair Wells moved to reappoint **Terry Rafinski** and **Barbara Butcher** to the **Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee**. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commission Beach-Ferrara moved to appoint **Pam Holcombe (Retiree)**, **Diana Anthony (At-large)**, and **Heather Zanzig (At-large)** to the **Early Childhood Education & Development Fund Committee**. Commissioner Moore seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commission Beach-Ferrara moved to reappoint **Carol Steen (moving from At-large to Parent position)** to the **Early Childhood Education & Development Fund Committee**. Commissioner Moore seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

## **REPORTS ON BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

The Commissioners discussed the recent activities of the boards and commissioners that they serve on as members.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *October 17 @ 3 p.m. - Commissioners' Briefing at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *October 17 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Commissioner Whitesides moved to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a) (5) hear real property negotiation matters with no possible action anticipated following the closed session. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

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

Commissioner Whitesides moved to go back into open session. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Whitesides moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

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LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS