

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 1, 2011 AT 4:30 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on February 1, 2011, in the Commissioner Chambers, 30 Valley Street in downtown Asheville, North Carolina at 4:30 p.m. where and when the following business was transacted:

The Vice Chairman called the meeting to order with the following members present:

David Gantt, Chairman
Bill Stanley, Vice Chairman
Holly Jones, Commissioner
Carol Peterson, Commissioner
K. Ray Bailey, Commissioner

Staff present were: Wanda Greene, County Manager; Mandy Stone, Assistant County Manager/DSS Director; Jon Creighton, Assistant County Manager/Planning Director; Donna Clark, Finance Director; Kathy Hughes, Clerk to the Board; Mike Frue, County Attorney.

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

Commissioner Bailey gave the invocation.

DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENT/APPROVAL TO FOLLOW AGENDA

The Chairman reminded the Board that in accordance with the Code of Ethics as adopted by this Board, it is the duty of every Board member to avoid both conflicts of interest and appearances of conflict. He asked if any Board member had any known conflict of interest or appearance of conflict with respect to any matter coming before the Board. None were stated.

Vice Chairman Stanley moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- **Approval of Minutes of January 18, 2011 Regular Meeting**
- **Resolution in Support of NCDOT US 70 Roadway and Safety Improvements**
- **Budget Amendment:**
 - **Fund 71 – Sheriff Forfeiture (\$121,392)**
 - **Fund 22 – WIA (\$20,000)**
- **Capital Projects Ordinance**
- **Grant Projects Ordinance**
- **School Capital Commission Fund Project Ordinance**
- **Road Petition:**
 - **Old Covington Way, Andover Place, Essex Place, Roxbury Place, Rockwood Road Extension**

Commissioner Peterson seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

- **Graduation Initiative Report**

Tony Baldwin, County School Superintendent, thanked the Board for the support of the graduation initiative stating that the model represented a successful partnership with the Eblen Foundation.

Donna Lannahan, Graduation Initiative Director, gave a presentation that is attached to the minutes. She said that they had developed a successful, sustainable model that had decreased the number of dropouts by 24 percent. There were 355 dropouts in the 2009-10 year--the lowest number on record from the county schools. Commissioner Bailey said that this was a good economic development initiative and underscored the efforts of the county to improve and enhance the workforce.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Ordinance Amending Chapter 58, Article III of the County Code Regarding the Farmland Preservation Program**

John Ager, President of the Agriculture Advisory Board, said they the Board wanted to add a program called the Enhanced Volunteer Ag District. He gave a history of the Agriculture Advisory Board and the programs they currently manage. The new program was a voluntary state program and would take an amendment to the ordinance to allow them to move forward. He asked the Board to approve the ordinance as amended. The Board thanked the members of the Agriculture Advisory Board for their leadership.

Commissioner Peterson moved to accept the ordinance as amended. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.

The Chairman allowed public comment on this item.

Jerry Rice presented a list of questions that are attached to the minutes.

The motion passed 5-0.

John Ager invited interested citizens and farmers to an agriculture breakfast at 7 a.m. at the Ag Center on February 15.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Commissioner Stanley moved to appoint **Paul Smith** to the **Asheville Planning & Zoning Commission**. The motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Peterson moved to appointed **Sarah Oram** to the **Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee**. The motion passed 5-0.

Vice Chairman Stanley moved to waive the two term limit rule for appointment to the URTV Board appointment. Commissioner Peterson seconded and the motion passed 4-1.

AYES: Chairman Gantt, Vice Chairman Stanley, Commissioners Bailey and Peterson

NOES: Commissioner Jones.

Vice Chairman Stanley moved to reappoint **Jerry Young** to the **URTV Board** for a third term. Commissioner Jones moved to appoint Mychal Bacoate to the URTV Board. Following a poll of the Board, Jerry Young was reappointed 4-1 with Commissioner Jones voting for Mychal Bacoate.

Commissioner Bailey moved to reappoint **Jeff Austin** and **Charles Sprinkle** to the **Barnardsville Firemen's Relief Fund Board**. The motion passed 5-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *The next meeting of the Board will be February 15, 2011.*

PUBLIC COMMENT

Don Yelton made comments about board appointments and changing the rules. He said that citizens are concerned about URTV. He asked that the Board instruct all their Boards and Commissions to following open meeting rules.

Lisa Landis, producer at URTV and she wanted to be heard and it was her understanding that the County gets \$1.7 million in PEG fees but only passes on a small portion of that to URTV. She wanted an explanation and did not want to pay \$300 to work at URTV.

The County Manager said that she would provide Ms. Landis with the breakdown between the franchise fee and the PEG fees that are shared with URTV.

Jerry Rice gave a handout regarding the graduation initiative stating that he was the one that brought light to the dropout rate. He said that policy changes had been made at the state level and that was his suggestion. He felt all school dropout rates should be factored into the final numbers.

Mike Fryar (*given 10 minutes because he had 8 people present*) said that he had taken the advice of the Sheriff and had reviewed the fact that there are phone and car allowances given to the County Commissioners. He said that the perks to the Commissioners are over half million dollars over 4 years and in light of the poor economic conditions and budget cuts, the commissioners should be paid the federal rates and get a county cell phone. He made other suggestions for cutting county spending.

Erin Penland said that the times are really bad and he could not see why the community he lives in should have to worry about their water being contaminated. He talked about a property that the county was purchasing in his community for walking trails. He criticized the county's handling of the CTS property issue and asked if the Commissioners had taken any action on the CTS issue since the community meeting. *Mandy Stone, Assistant County Manager, said that the Health Director was staying in contact with the legal agencies that have responsibility over the CTS issue.*

Jeff Decristofario member of URTV said that 44 positions had been cut from UNC Asheville staff and students could not find jobs to be able to pay for their courses. He was concerned about lack of jobs and financial aid.

Commissioner Peterson moved to adjourn the meeting; Vice Chairman Stanley seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

KATHY HUGHES, CLERK TO
THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

DAVID GANTT, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS