

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 18, 2014 AT 4:30 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on March 18, 2014, in the Commissioner Chambers, 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville, North Carolina at 4:30 p.m. where and when the following business was transacted:

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

David Gantt, Chairman
Ellen Frost, Vice Chair
Joe Belcher, Commissioner
Mike Fryar, Commissioner
Holly Jones, Commissioner
David King, Commissioner
Brownie Newman, Commissioner

Staff present was: Wanda Greene, County Manager; Mandy Stone, Assistant County Manager/HHS Director; Jon Creighton, Assistant County Manager/Planning Director; Donna Clark, Finance Director; Bob Deutsch, County Attorney; Kathy Hughes, Clerk to the Board.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

The Chairman reminded the Board that in accordance with the State Government Ethics Act, 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 mentioned.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lisa Landis referred to information that she requested in regard to BCTV. She asked about taxing companies that use hazardous materials and why they are not required to pay for potential pollution.

Alan Ditmore asked about the funding for the family planning clinic and if federal grant money and county funds were used to support this clinic. He was in favor of funding family planning clinics.

Jerry Rice spoke against the political systems in the world and wanted to see something done for the poor and homeless including a report from County Health and Human Services.

DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENT/APPROVAL TO FOLLOW AGENDA

Vice Chair Frost moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Commissioner King seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

- *Approval of Minutes of March 4, 2014 Regular Meeting*
- *Resolution of Intent to Convey and Advertise for Upset Bids*
- *Approval of Health Billing Guide 2014*
- *Approval of Existing Position Title Reclassifications (No money requested)*
- *Resolution Approving Issuance of \$4 million Maximum Aggregate Principal Amount of Industrial Development Revenue Bonds for Plasticard Locktech*

- *Approve of Lease Modification and Option to Purchase for Minnie Jones Health Clinic*
- *Resolution Transferring Surplus Vehicles*
- *Budget Amendment: ID Bureau Positions; Mental Health grant funds*
- *Grant Projects Ordinance*
- *Capital Projects Ordinance*
- *Release Report*

GOOD NEWS

- **Proclamation of Buncombe County as a Purple Heart County**

The Chairman announced that this proclamation would be forwarded as requested and was approved by consent.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Joint City/County Resolution Regarding I-26 Connector**

Ricky Tipton, NC Department of Transportation Engineer gave a power point presentation that outlined the I-26 connector's new location and the alternate that the City and County had chosen to support. He outlined the new way

that projects were being prioritized statewide and that public meetings would be held to update the community on the alternates proposed for the construction. The connector will not begin construction until late 2020. He said that Alternative 3c, which the County and City had chosen to support, would reduce the footprint of the project and result in less of an impact to the Emma community.

Mr. Tipton said that this action by the Commissioners would give direction to the NCDOT to guide their decisions for ranking of the projects.

The Chairman allowed comment on this item.

Alan Ditmore said he was from Boston and did not feel that there was a traffic issue in the County. He predicted that a future fuel shortage would solve the problem and opposed fast action on this issue.

Steve Rassmussen, resident of West Asheville, read a statement on behalf of the I-26 connection project group, part of the WNC Alliance. He said that they agreed that the road project should be completed soon but did not want the project adopted before the environmental impact statement was completed.

Tom Kennedy spoke in favor of the resolution as presented.

Tom Muncy represented small business owners and thanked the NCDOT for coming up with an Alternate that he felt should be passed as soon as possible.

Dave Johnson said he was an urban planner who had worked with the Asheville Design Center and was not in favor of the Alternate 3C because it did not address all the problems including the Bowman Bridge. He said that the 3c proposal was divisive and did not meet any of the needs of the community.

Michelle Pace Wood, speaking for the Enka Candler Business Association, asked that the resolution be passed as soon as possible.

Dwayne Barton spoke against action on behalf of the citizens of Burton Street. He felt that this would hurt the community.

Joe Minicozzi was part of the Asheville Design Center project and said that Alternate 3 was rejected in 2000. He wanted his work to be reconsidered saying that the environmental impact statement should be complete before any decision was made.

Rod Hudgins spoke in favor of the resolution.

Mike Butram spoke representing the Asheville Board of Realtors in support of the resolution.

Louis Bissette said that he had worked with Martin Nesbitt on urban loop funds years ago and they had been successful in getting money for Western North Carolina. However, because of the time that the project had taken, the money was gone. He was in favor of the resolution to get back on the priority list.

Jerry Rice said that the road should be built to make it safer for the community.

Julie Mayfield spoke represented WNC Alliance and part of the working group for I-26. She agreed that a limited decision will need to be made. She said that City and County officials are committing to as little as necessary to keep the project alive. She said that there was no environmental impact study complete and that information was still necessary.

Tom Cathey asked that the Board support the resolution.

Commissioner Newman read the resolution. He said that there continues to be a genuine effort to complete the project in the best way for everyone including connectivity and multi-modal infrastructure. He said that the Board was not endorsing a final alternate but giving NCDOT direction to complete their rankings. This resolution gives the community the best alternate to keep funding and stay in the running to have the project completed. He moved to approve the resolution. Commissioner Belcher seconded the resolution and it passed 7-0.

COUNTY MANAGERS REPORT

Wanda Greene, County Manager, said that \$1.8 million was included in the budget to renovate the current Sheriff Department building on Haywood Street. In order to renovate this building, everyone would have to be relocated for one year. Instead of renovating the current location, the Manager announced that the Haywood Street property would be sold and the funds used to complete the 4th floor of the judicial complex for the Sheriff. During this construction, the Sheriff will relocate to the Leicester Crossing space on Leicester Highway as a satellite location for patrol operations. Sheriff Duncan will attend the April 1 Commission meeting with further details.

The Manager said that the firing range currently used by local law enforcement would no longer be available as of March 31. She asked for anyone with any ideas for a location within the county where this range could be located to contact her. She said staff had reviewed multiple sites and noise and traffic were concerns. They were seeking a location of approximately 20 acres, not in a residential community within 30 minutes of Asheville.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

- **African American Heritage Committee**

After a poll of the Board as follows:

*Vice Chair Frost nominated Sasha Mitchell, Angel Redmond and Isaac Coleman
Commissioner Newman nominated Sasha Mitchell, Angel Redmond and Isaac Coleman
Commissioner Belcher nominated Sasha Mitchell, Roy Harris and Isaac Coleman
Chairman Gantt nominated Sasha Mitchell, Catherine Mitchell and Isaac Coleman
Commissioner Jones nominated Sasha Mitchell, Angel Redmond and Isaac Coleman
Commissioner King nominated Sasha Mitchell, Roy Harris and Isaac Coleman
Commissioner Fryar nominated Sasha Mitchell, Catherine Mitchell and Angel Redmond.*

Sasha Mitchell, Angel Redmond and Isaac Coleman were appointed.

Commissioner Jones asked that the Clerk forward all the applications to the six appointed (3 City and 3 County) members of this Commission for their review.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- *This next meeting will be April 1 beginning at 4:30 p.m. in Room 326 at 200 College Street in downtown Asheville.*
- *Commission meetings can be seen on:*
 - *BCTV Charter Cable Channel 192*
 - *AT&T U-Verse Channel 99*
 - *Live on BCTV Channel 192 and on buncombcounty.org during the meetings or*
 - *Online anytime at buncombcounty.org*

Commissioner King moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Jones seconded and the motion assed 7-0
The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

KATHY HUGHES, CLERK TO THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

DAVID GANTT, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS