

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 31, 2016 AT 4:30 A.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on May 31, 2016, in the Commission 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
Brownie Newman, Vice Chair
Joe Belcher, Commissioner
Ellen Frost, Commissioner
Mike Fryar, Commissioner

Holly Jones, Commissioner, was out of town and absent from the meeting.

Miranda DeBruhl, Commissioner, resigned her seat on May 15, 2016 and was no longer a member of the Board.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

The Chairman said that Commissioner Jones would not be at the meeting because she was with her' father who was very ill. He said that Commissioner DeBruhl had submitted a letter of resignation on May 15 and that her seat was expected to be filled by the June 7 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Don Yelton commented on the tax rate and revaluation that was being done. He did not want school administrators to receive a supplement and wanted the Board to consider the use of property and the impact of the revaluation on the tax rate.

Timothy Sasser from Weaverville spoke regarding a concern about Hillary Clinton using a private server and the failure of the system to properly consider her case. He wanted her held accountable.

Jerry Rice commented on poor kids and criticized the school system for not properly providing special education. He said that special needs kids were neglected and forgotten. He said that he had not gotten the information on the tax ratio that he had requested and felt that the Commissioners were in violation of their own policies.

DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENT/APPROVAL TO FOLLOW AGENDA

Commissioner Frost moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Commissioner Belcher seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

- **Approval of the Minutes of the May 3, 2016 Regular Meeting**
- **Resolution Approving Pyrotechnic Experts for Firework Displays**
- **Decline to Purchase Property Adjacent to Leicester Elementary School by Board of Education**
- **Accept Report of Smoky Mountain Center LME**
- **Resolution Authorizing the Lease of Classroom Building at AB Technical Community College at the Public Safety Training Facility**
- **Resolution Authorizing the Submittal of the Funding Plan and Other Information Related to the JCPC Program for FY 17**
- **Release Report**
- **Grant Projects Ordinance**
- **Capital Projects Ordinance**
- **Budget Amendments: Fund 10, 20, 71 and 78**

NEW BUSINESS

- **Asheville Buncombe Technical Community College Budget Presentation**

Asheville Buncombe Technical Community College President Dennis King thanked the Board for their help with the sales tax funds and reviewed the construction that had been completed as a result of the funds. He said that that

the Haynes Building on the Enka Campus had been closed resulting in a savings of \$500,000 in utilities. He complimented the Fergusons for their \$5 million donation to the school stating that a portion of that donation would be used to finish the 4th floor of the Allied Health Building. Mission Hospital had agreed to provide \$1 million over 10 years for the naming rights of the Mission Health/AB Tech Conference Center. He requested funding from the County totaling \$6.5 million. Dr. King said that the enrollment at AB Tech for the Summer and Fall was up with a Fall enrollment projected to be at around 7500 students.

- **Buncombe County Schools Budget Presentation**

Tony Baldwin, County School Superintendent, gave a power point presentation covering his budget that is attached to the minutes of this meeting. He said that his budget request included a salary request for the new schools including the Enka Intermediate School and Nesbitt Discovery Academy. They were also asking for an increase for locally certified and non-certified personnel. He said that that Board of Education agreed to request that the local supplement scale to be increased to help address the shrinking pool of teaching candidates. As a result of some questions from Commissioner Belcher and his request to include teaching assistants and non-certified personnel in the supplement scale increase, Cynthia Lopez, HR Director for the School System, said that the system had approximately 600 teaching assistants. The school system does not reward teachers with higher degrees.

Mr. Baldwin reviewed their capital requests including the community high school facility renovation and construction that would preserve a part of the existing school. He reviewed the search for a solution to replace the Zeugner pool and provide a place for five high school swim teams. He said that with the help of the YMCA, who would operate and maintain the pool, they were looking at a possible renovation/construction in the Reuter Center YMCA.

- **Asheville City Schools Budget Presentation**

Pam Baldwin, City School Superintendent, gave a power point presentation that outlined her budget request that is attached to the minutes of this meeting. She said that their average daily membership was growing every year and they would be adding classrooms which included teachers and support staff. She reviewed their capital funding requests and the possibility of using the William Randolph building as a future campus.

- **Buncombe FY18 Budget**

Wanda Greene, County Manager, gave the budget message and power point presentation as attached to the minutes of this meeting. She proposed to hold the tax rate at 60.4 cents stating that the County had one of the highest tax collection rates in the state. She said that the impact of charter schools on the budget would need to be reviewed before final budgets were completed and that she had requested a phase in option for the revised teacher's supplement proposal. The Manager said that the Board must have a separate public hearing for economic development incentives on June 21. She reviewed a local bill and other legislation that could pose problems for the coming year including impacts on the school capital fund commission funding. She explained the advantages of Senate Bill 888 should it pass and encouraged the Board to be supportive. The Chairman said that the public hearing on the County's FY17 budget would be held June 7 at 4:30 p.m.

Commissioner Fryar commented on the cost of the indoor firing range and the cost to maintain and operate the facility. He wanted to construct and operate an outdoor range that citizens could use. He wanted to use the funding for the art museum to attract state matching grants to fund an outdoor range. Commissioner Belcher said he supported an outdoor range because it would provide a place for deputies to shoot long guns and would support law enforcement.

- **Resolution Authorizing the County Manager to Execute Grant Agreements for Asheville Regional Airport**

The County Manager said that this is a grant from the FAA for \$12.2 million for air field redevelopment and other airport enhancements. Vice Chair Newman moved to approve the resolution as submitted. Commissioner Frost seconded and the motion passed 4-0 (*Commissioner Fryar was out of the room*)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- **June 7 - Commissioners' Regular Meeting beginning at 4:30 p.m. in Room 326 at 200 College Street; including the public hearing on the FY18 budget.**

Commissioner Belcher moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Frost seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

KATHY HUGHES, CLERK TO THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

DAVID GANTT, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS