

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'  
REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 4, 2017 AT 5 P.M.**

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**BE IT REMEMBERED:** That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on April 4, 2017, 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  
Ellen Frost, Vice Chair  
Joe Belcher, Commissioner  
Mike Fryar, Commissioner  
Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, Commissioner  
Robert Pressley, Commissioner  
Al Whitesides, Commissioner

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

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

## **INVOCATION**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Peggy Deil resident of Asheville spoke about the funds dedicated to the opioid problem, concerned that none of that money was dedicated to needle exchange and overdose alternatives. She worked with a group that helped addicts begin treatment and felt that active drug users were being abandoned. She asked that the Board consider spending taxpayer money in a different way.

Tim Sandler introduced the idea of looking at medical cannabis and the studies that show where this is legal, opioid addiction is reduced.

Jerry Rice said that there had been 165,000 opioid related deaths since 1999 in the US. He said that the reform of mental health had caused much of the drug problem and was not happy with the way mental health clients were treated and wanted the hospital to take responsibility for the problem.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Whitesides moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Commissioner Pressley seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Approval of the Minutes of the March 21, 2017 Meeting**
- **Memorandum of Agreement with Asheville City Schools\***  
*Jon Creighton, Assistant County Manager, said that this agreement was similar to agreements the County had with Asheville Buncombe Technical Community College; the County needed to own the property for the financing and the City Schools don't have construction staff that can assist so this allows the County to take over the project and when the financing is complete, the property will go back to Asheville City Schools.*
- **Release Report**
- **Capital Projects Ordinance**
- **Resolution Approving Pyrotechnic Experts for Fireworks Displays**

## **Budget Amendment: Fund 10**

Jon Creighton, Assistant County Manager, said that Jacob Holm and New Belgium both applied for NC ONE grants that were pass through funds from the State for economic incentives. Some of the funding included in the budget amendment had already been received by the County.

The Chairman said that the Commission was supportive of a community education effort and the EMS project; however, both of these projects required planning and development and perhaps should come as part of the budget. He proposed to approve the budget amendment minus the EMS and media campaign portion. Commissioner Fryar suggested that this be included in next year's budget and not as a part of this year's budget.

Commissioner Belcher moved to approve the budget amendment without the Community Paramedic Program and the media/community education related to opioids. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion assed 7-0.

- **Beech Community Roof Repair**

Commissioner Fryar spoke in favor of approving the \$6,000 for the roof repair. Clint Sheppard with General Services, confirmed that the building was in need of a new roof saying that the structure was sound but the roof was 25 years old and missing tiles.

Commissioner Fryar moved to approve this request for \$6,000 for replacement of the Beech Roof. Commissioner Pressley seconded and the motion passed 7-0. Commissioner Fryar moved to approve a budget amendment to cover this request. Commissioner Pressley seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

## **GOOD NEWS**

- **Proclamation of Child Abuse Prevention Month**

Vice Chair Frost read the proclamation and moved for its approval acknowledging the amazing work that social workers do everyday. Geoff Sidilo, Executive Director of the Mountain Advocacy Council, acknowledged the community that work together to help. He said there were about 13 reports a day of child abuse in Buncombe County.

- **Proclamation of Altrusa International Day**

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara read the proclamation naming April 11 as Altrusa International Day and presented it to Betty Budd and Carilee Simuel with Altrusa International.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Resolution of Intent to Enter Into a Lease with Option to Purchase with Eliada Home**

Mandy Stone, Assistant County Manager, said that this property included a child care center that would be used by Eliada for 60 child care slots. The market value of this service is \$507,000 for these slots. The lease would credit Eliada for the service and improvements to the building. They have committed to the service for 10 years and want to own the building.

A representative from Eliada said that this was an opportunity to help alleviate the child care crisis and was one of their top three priorities for the community.

Commissioners Fryar and Beach-Ferrara thanked Eliada for their work. Commissioner Belcher praised the healthy community partnership with Eliada.

Vice Chair Frost moved to approve the resolution as presented saying she hoped this was just the start of finding more Pre-K opportunities. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

## **BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

Vice Chair Frost moved to appoint **Larry Harris** to the **French Broad River RPO**. Commissioner Fryar seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

The Chairman moved to accept applications until April 7 for the Asheville Buncombe Technical Community College Board of Trustees and set up interviews for the candidates for April 18. Commissioner Belcher seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Belcher moved to reappoint **Nancy Waldrop** and **Gene Bell** to the **Planning Board**. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Al Whitesides moved to go into closed session for an economic development matter under GS 143-318-11a4. Commissioner Beach Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Jon Creighton, Assistant County Manager/Planning Director, presented a possible economic incentive for an existing company that would bring 15 jobs with a \$9.5 million investment. The Board gave consensus to continue discussions with this company. No action was taken.

Vice Chair Frost moved to go into open session. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion assed 7-0.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made the following announcement and adjourned the meeting:

- *April 18 – 4 p.m. Unveiling of David Gantt Plaza Marker*
- *April 18 -- 5 p.m. Regular Meeting Board of Commissioners in Room 326 @ 200 College Street in downtown Asheville*

Vice Chair Frost moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

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KATHY HUGHES, CLERK TO THE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS