

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2017 AT 5 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on September 19, 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: Mandy Stone, County Manager; Jon Creighton; Assistant County Manager/Planning Director; Jim Holland, Assistant County Manager/HHS Director; Tim Flora, Finance Director; Robert Deutsch, County Attorney; Kathy Hughes, Clerk to the Board.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

The Chairman asked for a moment of silence to remember those that died on September 11, 2001.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Todd Simpson from the Fletcher area thanked the Board for endorsing the legalization of medical cannabis. He gave statistics about public polls that reflect support for the use of medical cannabis.

Lange Hornthall from the Reynolds District commented on the apartments going up near Reynolds High School. He said he was notified only 5 days before the hearing and there were no traffic studies done. He said that traffic would be tricky and unsafe in this area and felt that approval of this development ignored the sustainability plan and the health of the community.

Jerry Rice questioned the rules of procedures for public comment and why he was not allowed to speak during public comment and during public hearings. He questioned what was going on with the investigation of the former County Manager stating that he felt that taxpayers were entitled to the information.

Taylor Breseen thanked the Board for the letter endorsing the legalization of medical cannabis.

Torie Brown spoke about working with the needle exchange program. She said that they get an up close look at the crisis and she was in support of the legal action against pharmaceutical companies. She asked for funding for more treatment centers for those that are addicted.

Erin Clark from Hendersonville thanked the Board for the letter of support for medical cannabis legislation. He said that the drug issue was a mental issue more than a criminal issue.

Commissioner Belcher asked that the Planning Director check on the community notice on the Reynolds development and whether it was sent correctly.

At the request of Commissioner Belcher, Diane Price, Assistant County Manager/Support Services, explained the Sales Tax Capital Fund Project Ordinance, saying it covered the closing out of projects that were completed with no new money involved.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- **Approval of Minutes of September 5, 2017 Regular Meeting**
- **Resolution Granting Authority to Construct Improvements (Cane Creek Middle School Scoreboard)**
- **Resolution Approving Pyrotechnic Experts for Fireworks Displays**
- **Budget Amendments:**
 - **Foster Care Board Payments**
 - **Environmental Health Training Grants**
 - **Adoption Promotion Program**
 - **Healthy Communities Funding**
 - **Adult Day Care Services**
 - **Prescription Drug Overdose Funding**
- **Sales Tax Capital Fund Project Ordinance**
- **Resolution Authorizing Assignment of Bid**
- **Assignment**

GOOD NEWS

- **Proclamation of International Day of Peace**

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara read the proclamation and moved for its approval. The proclamation was presented to Rachel Bliss who talked about how they plan to celebrate the day of peace and the need of peace in world.

- **Congratulations to James Yount & Landfill Team**

The Chairman introduced a video telling about James Yount, veteran heavy equipment operator at the Landfill who won first place in the North Carolina Solid Waste Association of North Carolina Landfill Dozer Competition. He will go on to compete nationally in October. Commissioners Fryar and Beach-Ferrara presented certificates to Mr. Yount and two other employees who competed and placed in the top 5 – Junior Crane on the rubber tire loader and Nick Edmonds on the compactor.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Resolution Supporting Legal Action Regarding the Opioid Crisis**

The Chairman and Commissioner Beach-Ferrara read the resolution into the record. He said that the Board continued to monitor the crisis to try and address the issue at the local level. Commissioner Fryar moved to approve this resolution. Commissioner Pressley seconded the motion.

Frank Castelblanco, from MAHEC, thanked the Board for their consideration. He said that the crisis had caused a new training method and prescription pattern. He said that physicians were being retrained to stop prescribing opioids for pain. He said that school nurses were working to educate students about the dangers of opioids.

Tammy Shook, Social Work Division Director, spoke in favor of the resolution. She said that many children come into the DSS care due to drug addiction and that the crisis had caused other problems including increasing the need for foster care. She reviewed ways that her department was responding to the crisis at the hospitals, clinics and schools.

Jerry Rice questioned the cost of the litigation. He said that many of the kids that he works have development problems as a result of opioid abuse by their parents. He asked that the Board review the mental health system and the prescriptions that are part of that system.

Jim Barrett, Pisgah Legal Services, spoke in favor of the motion and asked that they work with the insurance commission and industry as well.

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara thanked Brandon Freeman with the County legal staff for crafting the resolution and with this resolution, accountability is part of the solution.

Commissioner Belcher said that the County is determined to join with and encourage the efforts of the state and federal governments to take action.

Commissioner Whitesides said that this was just one way to start attacking the problem.

Commissioner Frost felt the resolution was a call to action and she supported going after the drug companies.

Commissioner Fryar and Pressley supported the resolution.

Chairman Newman acknowledged the work that Robert Deutsch, the County Attorney, had done on background research to help get the County ready to move forward.

The motion passed 7-0.

- **County Restructuring**

The County Manager presented the restructuring plan outlining distinct roles including the County Finance Officer, internal auditor and other positions reflected in the organizational chart that is attached to the minutes of this meeting. These changes reflect a shift in resources that is in the budget amendment. The realignment of resources is intended to leverage resources across departments and avoid duplication.

Mike Frue, Senior Staff Attorney, outlined the reasons for appointing Tim Flora as the Finance Officer by the Commissioners and not by the County Manager as previously done.

Commissioner Belcher moved to approve the budget amendment as presented. Commissioner Whitesides seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

Tim Flora, Finance Director, said that next week would be his 10 year anniversary as a County employee and he was proud to officially continue his role as Chief Finance Officer under the direction of this Board and County Manager.

Commissioner Whitesides moved to appoint Tim Flora as Finance Director. Commissioner Pressley seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

The Chairman said that there will be new tools on the County website that show effectively how financial programs are working and he encouraged the public to stay tuned as to how the departments are operating.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcement and adjourned the meeting:

- *September 26 – 12:30 p.m. Commissioners' Workshop @ 200 College Street, First Floor Conference Room.*
- *October 3 – 5 p.m. Commissioners' next regular meeting here at 200 College Street*

Commissioner Whitesides moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Pressley seconded the motion which passed 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

KATHY HUGHES, CLERK
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS