

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 20, 2019 AT 5 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on August 20, 2019, 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
Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, Vice Chair
Joe Belcher, Commissioner
Amanda Edwards, Commissioner
Mike Fryar, Commissioner
Robert Pressley, Commissioner
Al Whitesides, Commissioner

Staff present: Avril Pinder, County Manager; Sybil Tate, Assistant County Manager; Dakisha Wesley, Assistant County Manager; Donald Warn, Finance Director; Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director; Jennifer Pike, Tax Collector; Sheriff Miller; Stoney Blevins, Health and Human Services Director; Eric Hardy, Performance Management Director; Tim Love, Business Officer; Dane Pederson, Solid Waste Director; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney; Brandon Freeman, Staff Attorney; Heather Hockaday, Attorney

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

The Chairman asked for a moment of silence for the individuals that make our schools a place that nurture our children in Buncombe County.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Whitesides motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and follow the remainder of the agenda. Commissioner Belcher seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- Approval of August 6, 2019 Pre-Meeting Minutes
- Approval of August 6, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Regular Meeting and Pre-Meeting Schedule
 - Resolution
- Task Order 20-05 with SCS Engineers, P.C. in the Amount of \$32,400
- Task Order 20-06 with SCS Engineers, P.C. in the Amount of \$13,285
- FY2020 Budget Amendment Summary
 - General Fund-Women, Infants and Children Program for Public Health
 - Amendment

GOOD NEWS

- **Congratulations to Buncombe County Teacher of the Year - JB Halpin**

Chairman Newman and Commissioner Belcher expressed the Board's appreciation and congratulated Mr. Halpin on his award recognition. Mr. Halpin thanked the Board and Buncombe County for their support and recognized the staff members from his school.

- **NC's 100 Distinguished Public Health Nurses**

Stoney Blevins, Health and Human Services Director, acknowledged nine local Public Health nurses for the achievement of recognition. These nurses display dedication and reflect the high standards of practice.

- Susan Creede
- Mary Backlund
- Denise Clubb
- Michelle Lee
- Hayley McPeters
- Sharon Raines
- Cheryl Ramey
- Cindy Runion
- Wendy Young

PRESENTATIONS

- **Economic Development Activities in FY19**

Tim Love, Business Officer, along with Clark Duncan, Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce, provided a detailed look into economic development activities of the recent past, the present and the near future. The mission of “Community Prosperity” is being realized by investing in start-ups, creating new jobs, and establishing economic growth.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Resolution Authorizing the Financing for Replacement of Sheriff Fleet Vehicles**

Donald Warn, Finance Director; presented the resolution and explained the loan structure.

Commissioner Belcher moved to authorize the financing as presented. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Resolution Authorizing to Continue Tax Collection Services for the Towns of Black Mountain, Montreat and Woodfin**

Tim Love, Business Officer, and Jennifer Pike, Tax Collector, explained that this is continuation of past tax collection services for these towns.

Commissioner Edwards moved to authorize the continuation of tax collection services and the resolution as presented. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Resolution Endorsing Medication-Assisted Treatment Programs for Opioid Use Disorders**

Vice Chair Beach-Ferrara thanked the folks that helped to bring this item to this point for a vote of endorsement. Commissioner Edwards read the resolution and expressed her support for the programs.

Commissioner Fryar provided a personal experience and expressed his concerns for the programs being successful.

Commissioner Whitesides stated that the resolution is way to attack the opioid problem outside of putting people in jail.

Don Yelton stated that the resolution is just a bunch of words and that people will have to do the work.

Dr. Shuchin Shukla explained that there are certain times that opioids are needed for medical reasons and provided some opioid facts and data.

Ann Singer expressed support for Sheriff Miller and the MAT programs. She stated that these programs treat people as humans.

Dr. Laura Wolfe supports the resolution and commends the progressive thinking.

Gail Uhaus stated that withdrawal from opioids is very tough and that medical assistance is critical. She proposed that medical follow-up of treatments be a part of the process.

Mark Siler, pastor, expressed his exhaustion of performing memorial services because of this epidemic and he sees MAT programs as a powerful, positive addition.

Commissioner Edwards moved to adopt the resolution as presented. Vice Chair Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **FY2020 Budget Amendment Summary**

Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment outlined in the amendment summary and identified below.

Vance Bell, Buncombe County Schools, explained the radio signal study that indicated the need for additional equipment.

Jerry Rice questioned who would provide the maintenance for the equipment.

- **School Capital Commission Fund- Radio Equipment**

Commissioner Pressley moved to approve the budget amendment as presented. Commissioner Fryar seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Additional Funding for AB Tech**

Commissioner Fryar moved to approve the budget amendment as presented. Commissioner Pressley seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Commissioner Pressley moved to appoint **Stephanie West** to the **Historic Resources Commission**.
Commissioner Belcher seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Vice Chair Beach-Ferrara moved to reappoint **David Thompson** to the **Health & Human Services Board**.
Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Don Yelton stated that he does not want the public comment session moved to the beginning of the meeting.
He also questioned the spending of County funds.

Jerry Rice expressed his indifference to where the public comment session is during the meeting but he would like to keep the ability to make public comments on voted items.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *September 3 @ 3 p.m. - Commissioners' Pre-Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *September 3 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*

Commissioner Whitesides moved to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a) (3) to hear a legal matter and NCGS 143-318.11(a) (4) to hear an economic development matter with no possible action anticipated following the closed session:

1. RAB Builders, LLC vs. Buncombe County, N.C. Court of Appeals COA 19-204, and RAB Builders, LLC vs. Buncombe county and Buncombe County Board of Adjustment, U.S. District court file #: 1:19 CV 182
2. To hear an economic development matter

Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board heard the legal update and had discussion regarding the previous mentioned legal matter and economic development matter. No action was taken.

Commissioner Vice Chair Beach-Ferrara moved to go back into open session. Commissioner Pressley seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Vice Chair Beach-Ferrara moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS