

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 19, 2019 AT 5 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on November 19, 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
Joe Belcher, Commissioner
Amanda Edwards, Commissioner
Mike Fryar, Commissioner
Robert Pressley, Commissioner
Al Whitesides, Commissioner

Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, Vice Chair, was absent from the meeting.

Staff present: Avril Pinder, County Manager; Sybil Tate, Assistant County Manager; Dakisha Wesley, Assistant County Manager; Donald Warn, Finance Director; Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director; Sharon Burke, Human Resources Director; Sheriff Quentin Miller; Stoney Blevins, Health and Human Services Director; Tim Love, Business Officer; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney; Brandon Freeman, Staff Attorney; Heather Hockaday, Attorney

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Scouts Henry and Michael from Troop 77 led the pledge.

INVOCATION

The Chairman noted that the Thanksgiving holiday is upcoming and asked the Commissioners to express what each of them are thankful for. Afterwards, a moment of silence was shared to give thanks.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Fryar motioned to remove **4-H Livestock Judging Team wins State Contest** from **Good News**, move **Closed Session** after **Presentations**, and approve the Consent Agenda as presented and the remainder of the agenda. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

- Approval of November 5, 2019 Pre-Meeting Minutes
- Approval of November 5, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Resolution to Authorize the Transfer of Ownership of a Sheriff's Office K9
 - Resolution
- Budget Amendment for Crisis Intervention Program Additional Funding
 - Ordinance
- Budget Amendment for Special Projects Fund New Conservation Easements
 - Ordinance
 - More Information
- Budget Amendment for Aubrey Wells & Charles Brown Farmland Preservation Transaction Costs Transfer
 - Ordinance
 - Map

GOOD NEWS

- ~~4-H Livestock Judging Team wins State Contest~~

PRESENTATIONS

- **North Carolina Senior Tar Heel Legislature**

Gene Knoefel, Buncombe County Delegate, explained some activities and goals of the legislature. The organization focuses on housing, health care, nutrition, and financial planning for the elderly. Mr. Knoefel is also the subcommittee president of the organization called Friends of the Legislature. Susan Schiemer is the alternate for Buncombe County and they both thanked the Board for their support.

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Belcher moved to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a) (3) to hear legal matters for the County of Buncombe vs. Wanda Skillington Greene, Amanda Louise Stone, Jon Creighton and Joe

Wiseman as recorded in Buncombe County Superior Court File #: 18 CVS 4206. Commissioner Pressley seconded and the motion passed 6-0. The Board heard the legal update and had discussion regarding the legal matters. No action was taken.

Commissioner Belcher moved to go back into open session. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Consideration of a Legal Settlement**

Attorney Ron Payne stated that he had been in negotiations with the attorney of Joe Wiseman and recommended approval of a limited release settlement for his deposition and truthful testimony of \$150,000. Including this settlement, the County will have recovered approximately \$3,438,000.

Commissioner Belcher moved to approve the settlement. Commissioner Fryar seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

- **Comprehensive Facility Plan**

Sybil Tate, Assistant County Manager, gave an update to the possible expansion of Detention Center but stated that the initial goal is to implement a diversion program. Ronnie Lunsford, General Services, provided a PowerPoint on the facility plan study and stated that the next steps in the process is to prepare a request for qualifications (RFQ), gather responses, negotiate a contract, and return to the Board with a final cost and contract.

Commissioner Whitesides moved to approve to allow staff to move forward with the RFQ. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion and it passed 6-0

- **Old Zeugner Pool Building**

Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney, informed the Board that Buncombe County Schools (BCS) would like to convert the building to a storage facility for maintenance equipment without request for new funds. Clark White, BCS Maintenance Director, stated that facility will only require electricity and that there are no immediate roof concerns.

Commissioner Belcher moved to approve the resolution and the interlocal agreement as presented. Commissioner Pressley seconded the motion and it passed 6-0.

- **Budget Amendment for FY2020 Affordable Housing Services Program Applications & Allocations**

Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director, explained that the budget amendment and Matt Cable, Planning Manager, provided the application process timeline.

Don Yelton suggested that the County assist with housing demolition and repurpose old trailers.

Commissioner Belcher moved to approve the recommended project proposals as presented. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Chairman Newman moved to approve the budget amendment as presented. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

- **Budget Amendment for School Capital Commission Recommended FY2021 Projects**

Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

Commissioner Whitesides moved to approve the budget amendment as presented. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

- **Budget Amendment for Renewal of the Methodist Home for Children Grant**

Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

Commissioner Pressley moved to approve the budget amendment as presented. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

- **Budget Amendment for Safer Together Grant**

Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

Commissioner Edwards moved to accept the grant as presented. Commissioner Pressley seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Belcher moved to approve the grant positions. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Belcher moved to approve the budget amendment as presented. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

- **Budget Amendment for Buncombe County Detention Facility - Strategic Community Opioid Response**

Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

Commissioner Whitesides moved to accept the grant as presented. Commissioner Pressley seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Edwards moved to approve the grant positions. Commissioner Belcher seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Whitesides moved to approve the budget amendment as presented. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Commissioner Belcher moved to appoint **Scott McLean** and **Sarah Hutcheson** to the **Mountain Area Workforce Development Board**. Commissioner Pressley seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ann Seamon thanked the Board and staff for approving the grants that target the opioids crisis.

Ellie Sharp stated that the Crossroads Development project will have a negative impact.

Jerry Rice expressed issues with ignoring tax payers, Board meetings, domestic violence, and children trafficking.

Don Yelton suggested the Board keep up with issues around the county and allow additional public comment during the meetings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

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

Avril Pinder, County Manager, introduced and welcomed Sharon Burke as the new Human Resources Director.

Commissioner Belcher moved to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a) (4) to hear an economic development matter with no possible action anticipated following the closed session. Commissioner Pressley seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

CLOSED SESSION

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

Commissioner Belcher moved to go back into open session. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Edwards moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Pressley seconded and the motion passed 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS