

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'  
REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 21, 2020 AT 5 P.M.**

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**BE IT REMEMBERED:** That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on July 21, 2020, 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, Commissioner  
Joe Belcher, Commissioner  
Amanda Edwards, Commissioner  
Anthony Penland, Commissioner  
Robert Pressley, Vice Chair  
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; Sharon Burke, Human Resources Director; Jennifer Pike, Tax Collector; Sheriff Quentin Miller; Taylor Jones, Emergency Services Director; Stoney Blevins, Health and Human Services Director; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney; Heather Hockaday, Attorney

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

## **INVOCATION**

The Chairman requested a moment of silence for the passing of United States House of Representatives, GA 5th congressional district, and Civil Rights leader John Lewis.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- Approval of June 16, 2020 Briefing Minutes
- Approval of June 16, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Approval of June 24, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes
- Resolution Approving Pyrotechnic Experts for Firework Display
  - Resolution
- Approval of Public Health Services Billing Guide
  - Billing Guide
- Tax Collection Report
- Commercial Donation to Benefit Family Nurse Partnership
  - More Information
- Approval of AB Tech FY20 Enka Site Assessment and Master Plan
  - Contract
- Approval of Contract for Design and Installation of Artificial Turf Fields at Buncombe County Sports Park as Part of the Enka Recreation Destination Project
  - Contract
- Budget Amendment for Tax Collection Agreement with the Town of Weaverville
  - Ordinance
  - Interlocal Agreement
  - More Information
- Budget Amendment for Estes Elementary 3-Classroom Addition Project
  - Ordinance
- Budget Amendment for Additional Funding from US Department of Agriculture via NC Department of Public Health for WIC Special Funding Opportunity
  - Ordinance
- Budget Amendment for Funding from Centers for Disease Control via NC Department of Public Health for COVID-19 Crisis Response
  - Ordinance

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- **COVID-19 PTO Recognition**

Avril Pinder, County Manager, explained the request to grant PTO to county employees who played a crucial role in the response to COVID-19 and the extra hours that were worked. The recognition requires a change to the personnel ordinance.

The Chairman opened the hearing at 5:55 p.m.

The hearing was closed at 5:56 p.m.

Commissioner Penland moved adopt the Personnel Ordinance Amendment. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

## **COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Avril Pinder, County Manager, asked for guidance regarding staff preparing a resolution on reparations. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara stated that she would lead the preparation of the resolution and gather input from the other commissioners.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **NCACC Voting Delegate**

Chairman Newman explained his experience of being the delegate last year and asked if anyone was willing to assume the role, with Commissioner Edwards accepting.

Chairman Newman moved to appoint Commissioner Edwards as the delegate and Commissioner Belcher as the alternate. Vice Chair Pressley seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Solar Bid Solicitation**

Jeremiah LeRoy, Sustainability Officer, updated the Board on bids for the solar solicitation for the County, City, City Schools, County Schools and AB Tech. MB Haynes received the bid, which was approximately \$10.3M but does not include the City of Asheville projects. Don Warn, Finance Director, provided information on the payback and savings for the project.

Public comments were read.

Chairman Newman moved to approve the MB Haynes contract for \$10,283,136 with a 15 year financing option and to enter into an MOU with each education partner to allow staff to gather energy savings data and receive rebate revenue. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Crabtree-Ironduff Fire Protection Services Agreement**

Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney, explained the agreement would allow Crabtree-Iron Duff Volunteer Fire Department to provide services to the Mount Soma community in northwestern Buncombe County. Due to geographic constraints, more timely service can be provided rather than using the Leicester Volunteer Fire Department, which is in district.

Commissioner Whitesides moved to authorize the County Manager to enter into a Fire Protection Service agreement with Crabtree-Iron Duff Volunteer Fire Department and modify the existing Leicester Fire Protection Service agreement to reflect the change in service for the identified parcels. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Resolution Authorizing the County Manager to Execute an Agreement with the City of Asheville, as Direct Recipient of FTA Funds, for Funds Under the CARES Act (Section 5307) Program**

Matt Cable, Planning Manager, stated that FTA was allocated \$25 billion in funding to assist transit agencies in response to COVID-19. The County's suballocation of the funds is \$2,462,856. The suballocation process was detailed and the timeline was given.

Commissioner Belcher moved to approve the resolution as presented. Commissioner Penland seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Budget Amendment for Community Paramedicine Grant**

Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

Commissioner Penland moved to approve the budget amendment as presented. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Chairman Newman moved to approve the three grant-funded paramedic positions. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Budget Amendments for Sheriff's Office Grants:**

- **DWI Taskforce**

Sheriff Miller explained the budget amendment.

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

Chairman Penland moved to approve the three grant funded positions and purchase of three vehicles. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **COPS**

Sheriff Miller explained the budget amendment.

Commissioner Belcher moved to accept the grant and approve the budget amendment as presented. Commissioner Penland seconded and the motion passed 5-2. (NOES-Beach-Ferrara, Newman)

Chairman Belcher moved to approve the three grant funded positions and purchase of one vehicle. Commissioner Penland seconded and the motion passed 5-2. (NOES-Beach-Ferrara, Newman)

- **Budget Amendment for Methodist Home for Children Contract**

Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

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

## **BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

Commissioner Belcher moved to reappoint **Carl Ricker, Jr.** to the **Greater Asheville Regional Airport Authority**. Commissioner Penland seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Vice Chair Pressley moved to appoint **Glenda Weinert** to the **Audit Committee**. Commissioner Belcher seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Vice Chair Pressley moved to appoint **Brownie Newman** and **Joe Belcher** to the **School Capital Fund Commission**. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Discussion**

The Commissioners discussed the next steps for appointments to the following boards; Vance Monument Task Force, A-B Tech Board of Trustees, Justice Resource Advisory Council, Library Board and the Board of Adjustment. List of applicants were requested for these boards.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Newman and Commissioner Beach-Ferarra read the public comments that were sent in electronically. (Comments are attached to packet)

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *August 4 @ 3 p.m. - Commissioners' Briefing at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *August 4 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*

Commissioner Whitesides moved to go back into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a) (6) for a personnel matter with no possible action anticipated following the closed session. Chairman Newman seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

The Board heard the update and had discussion regarding the previously mentioned personnel matter. No action was taken.

Commissioner Penland moved to go back into open session. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Penland moved to adjourn the meeting. Vice Chair Pressley seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.