

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 2, 2021 AT 5 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on March 2, 2021, 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
Amanda Edwards, Commissioner
Robert Pressley, Commissioner
Parker Sloan, Commissioner
Terri Wells, Commissioner
Al Whitesides, Vice Chair

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; Stoney Blevins, Health and Human Services Director; Jim Blanton, Library Director; Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations; Nathan Pennington, Planning Director; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney;

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CONSENT AGENDA

Vice Chair Whitesides motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and the remainder of the agenda.

Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- Approval of February 16, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes
- Approval of February 16, 2021 Briefing Minutes
- Approval of February 16, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Tax Collection Report
- Budget Amendment for Arson Task Force Fund Distribution
 - Ordinance
- Budget Amendment for Additional Crisis Intervention Program Funding
 - Ordinance
- Budget Amendment for Soil Conservation Revenue Reimbursement
 - Ordinance
- Budget Amendment for Food Safety Training Resource Grant
 - Ordinance

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ken Jones expressed displeasure with activity of the Pratt & Whitney development process.

Elsa Enstrom expressed displeasure with the Board's approval of the Pratt & Whitney project.

Roger Ehrlich expressed displeasure with the Pratt & Whitney project and questioned the Borg Warner project.

Don Yelton stated his concern for the environment of the mountain region.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Fiscal Year End 2020 Audit - CLA**

Don Warn, Finance Director, introduced Chris Kessler from CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, to explain the findings and results of the audit services. The services included financial statements and federal compliance. The findings for the past three years are as follows: 19 in 2018, 3 in 2019, and 1 in 2020.

- **Historic Resources Commission**

Emily Kite, Board Chair, provided an update to the commissioners on the status of board and highlighted some of their accomplishments.

- **Health and Human Services Board**

Greg Narron, Board Chair, detailed the structure of the board and explained their responsibilities to the community in areas health, safety and support, and opportunities.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- **Borg Warner Economic Development Agreement**

Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations, explained the plan for Borg Warner to expand its existing facility, invest \$62.25M in capital expenditures, and retention of 500 existing jobs within the Buncombe Facility and the addition of approximately 100 employees from other U.S. locations, averaging \$24.85 per hour. According to the Buncombe County Economic Development Policy, Borg Warner is eligible for a one-time incentive of \$460,000.00 based on capital investment and job creation targets.

The Chairman opened the hearing at 6:42 p.m.

Rachael Bliss expressed concern for the project and the need to help small businesses.

The hearing was closed at 6:46 p.m.

Commissioner Pressley moved to approve the resolution for approval of the incentive and the economic development agreement. Vice Chair Whitesides seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations, provided an update of legislative activity on House Bill 35: Various County Public Notices, House Bill 119: Property Tax Relief for COVID Affected Businesses and Senate Bill 31: Political Subdivisions/Local Bidders Notice.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Ferry Road Property Analysis and Site Planning**

Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations, updated the Board on evaluation of the Ferry Road property. Equinox will analyze the Ferry Road property for potential multi-functional usage and provide development scenarios for Board consideration. The contract has a three phase process that will allow the Board to make the decision to continue after the first phase. Phase 1 includes, but is not limited to, environmental and natural resource inventory/assessment, transportation and access assessment, and initial community input/awareness.

Commissioner Edwards moved to authorize the County Manager to contract with Equinox. Commissioner Sloan seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Resolution Authorizing Execution of an Interlocal Agreement Creating a NC Investment Pool**

Don Warn, Finance Director, explained the development of the Local Government Investment Pool for the County. The Local Government Investment Pool is defined as a cooperative investment product designed primarily for the investment of short-term funds of participating jurisdictions that invest the cash in securities allowed under the state's laws regarding government investments. The request is to enter into an interlocal agreement with Wake County as a sponsoring organization, finalize trust documents, and contract with service providers.

Vice Chair Whitesides moved to approve the resolution as presented. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Approve Funding of Items Postponed During FY21 Budget Process**

Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director, explained the requests for one Planner II position, five Part-time EMT Paramedics, eight Part-time Library Assistants, and an Audit Management & Data Analytics Tool were presented. Commissioner Pressley and Chairman Newman expressed concern with a few of these requests being considered outside of the upcoming budget process.

Chairman Newman moved to approve the requests with exclusion of the eight Part-time Library Assistants and consider them during the regular budget process. Commissioner Pressley seconded the motion.

Jim Blanton, Library Director, explained the need for Library Assistants due to safety concerns, under staffed, and quality of employment.

After the Board considered the concerns, Chairman Newman requested to withdraw his initial motion and Commissioner Pressley approved.

Chairman Newman moved to approve all of the requests. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 6-1. (NOES-Pressley)

- **Compensation Study – Phase 3 Recommendations**

Sharon Burke, Human Resources Director, detailed the Comprehensive Compensation Study Plan and the issues discovered in the study. The total estimated cost to remedy these issues is approximately \$53,225 for the current fiscal year and can be absorbed in the FY22 appropriation through lapse salary savings.

Commissioner Edwards moved to authorize the County Manager to implement the Compensation Study Phase 3 recommendations, thus using lapsed salary to fund the classification findings. Commissioner Sloan seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

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

Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment. Sheriff Miller, Sarah Gayton, and Dr. Tracy Goen provided information and data to support the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program and funding.

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

- **Budget Amendment for Enka Heritage Greenway**

Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

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

- **Budget Amendment for Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB)**

Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

Chairman Newman moved to approve the budget amendment as presented. Vice Chair Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- **Budget Amendment for Register of Deeds Excise Stamp Tax**

Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director, explained the budget amendment.

Vice Chair Whitesides moved to approve the budget amendment as presented. Commissioner Sloan seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Newman moved to appoint **Annie Perkinson** to the **Agricultural Advisory Board for Farmland Preservation**. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Edwards moved to appoint **Lucy Lawrence** (social worker), **Jacquelyn Hallum** (community member), **Yvette Jives** (community member), Johnnie Grant (community member), and **Rachel Keener** (community member) to the **Health & Human Services Board**. Commissioner Beach-Ferrara seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to appoint **DK Wesley** to the **Juvenile Crime Prevention Council**. Commissioner Pressley seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *March 16 @ 3 p.m. - Commissioners' Briefing at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *March 16 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*

Vice Chair Whitesides moved to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a) (4) to hear economic development matters with no possible action anticipated following the closed session. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board heard the update and had discussion regarding the previously mentioned economic development matters. No action was taken.

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

Vice Chair Whitesides moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Wells seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.