

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS’
REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 19, 2024 AT 5 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on March 19, 2024, 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
Amanda Edwards, Commissioner
Martin Moore, Commissioner
Parker Sloan, Vice Chair
Terri Wells, Commissioner
Al Whitesides, Commissioner

Staff present: Avril Pinder, County Manager; Sybil Tate, Assistant County Manager; Dakisha Wesley, Assistant County Manager; Melissa Moore, Finance Director; John Hudson, Budget Director; Stoney Blevins, Health & Human Services Director; Rachael Sawyer, Strategic Partnerships Director; Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations; Jennifer Harrison, Agriculture and Land Resources Director; Dane Pederson, Solid Waste Director; Stacey Woody, Interim Clerk to the Board, Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Whitesides motioned to approve the Consent Agenda and the remainder of the agenda. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

- Resolution Approving Pyrotechnic Experts for Firework Display

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chip Gingles, John Wright, Phillip Sadler, Will Wallace, Juan Alourado, Brian Stepp, and Eric Conley, expressed their support for the Waste Pro and asked the Commissioners to reconsider negotiations with another provider.

Matt Barker expressed his support for the Swannanoa Library and thanked the Commissioners for the chance to look at options for keeping the library open.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Agriculture Awareness Day Proclamation**

Commissioner Wells read and presented the proclamation to Jennifer Harrison, Agriculture & Land Resources Director, and Jackie Gillespie, Buncombe County Women of Farm Bureau. They accepted the proclamation and expressed their gratitude.

- **Attorney General's Office Update**

Holly Jones, Senior Policy Advisor & Program Manager, Western Outreach at the North Carolina Department of Justice gave an update on the North Carolina Department of Justice’s (NCDOJ) mission to prevent crime and support law enforcement, to safeguard consumers, and to defend the State, its people and their constitutional rights. She gave an overview of funds collected for Buncombe County, sexual assault kits tested, law enforcement certifications achieved, and crime lab evidence submitted, lawsuits won, educational outreach, and environmental grants.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Resolution Approving the Financing of the Lakeshore Villas Affordable Housing Project with the Proceeds of Multifamily Housing Revenue Bonds to be Issued by the Housing Authority of the City of Asheville**

Chloe Donohoe, Affordable Housing Bond Project Manager, gave a presentation and explained the Housing Authority of the City of Asheville is seeking approval to issue up to \$23,500,000 in Multifamily Housing Revenue Bonds to provide financing for Lakeshore Villas, Mountain Housing Opportunities’ Affordable Housing Development Project. The Housing Authority is acting as conduit issuers of debt for Mountain Housing Opportunities to utilize their 4% Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) award.

This approval process is required to satisfy the Internal Revenue Code and the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982 (TEFRA), which applies additional tax requirements and considerations to tax-advantaged bonds. The County is asked to approve the issuance of these bonds as an applicable elected representative of a governmental unit having jurisdiction over the area where the Project is located.

Vice-chair Sloan moved to approve the resolution as presented. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

- **School Consolidation Feasibility Study**

Rachael Sawyer, Strategic Partnerships Director, explained that the North Carolina General Assembly passed legislation that mandates the Asheville City and Buncombe County school systems jointly study the feasibility of a merger. Actions by both Boards of Education ceded that authority to the Board of Commissioners.

This amendment establishes the budget necessary (\$301,543) to pay for the study based upon the results of the Request for Proposal (RFP) process implemented earlier in the fiscal year.

Since no outside dollars were provided and the County's budget had already been established prior to the legislation, this amendment utilizes Fund Balance.

The review group believes that the proposal provided by Prismatic Services, Inc. aligns with project requirements and based on the established criteria this vendor will produce a quality product that meets the scope of work set forth in the RFP.

Commissioner Moore moved to approve the vendor and the budget amendment to pay for the study. Chairman Newman seconded and the motion passed 5-1 (NOES-Commissioner Whitesides).

- **Employee Policy Update**

Amy Flaherty, Human Resources Operations Manager, updated information about proposed updates to the Personnel Ordinance in the areas of Overtime Pay, Benefits, Leave, and Supplemental Pay, and discussed the new Contract Workers Policy.

Commissioner Edwards moved to approve the updates. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

- **Solid Waste Collection Agreement – Request to Enter Negotiations**

Dane Pedersen, Solid Waste Director, gave an update on the Solid Waste's Request for Proposal and the key items that were included in the RFP. Bids were received from Waste Pro and FCC Environmental Services. He went over the Scoring Criteria and the Timeline.

Vice Chair Sloan moved to authorize negotiations with FCC Environmental Services. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

- **FY2024 Joint Committee Recommended Project - A-B Tech Master Plan**

John Hudson, Budget Director, explained that A-B Technical Community College's existing facilities master plan expires this year, and the current master plan needs to be updated and extended for a new ten-year period through 2034. A new plan will provide overall guidance and vision, an updated facilities assessment, and inform expansion of programming at the Community College's additional sites, including Woodfin and the Enka Campus.

At the February 26, 2024, A-B Tech/Buncombe County Joint Capital Advisory Committee meeting, the Committee approved a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners of \$500,000 in sales tax revenue for master planning services.

Commissioner Moore moved to approve the budget amendment. Vice Chair Sloan seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Newman moved to reappoint **Eileen McMinn** and **Deborah Oldt** to the **Home and Community Care Block Grant Advisory Committee**. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Chairman Newman moved to appoint **Kathleen Cooper** to the **Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee**. Commissioner Moore seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Chairman Newman moved to appoint **Sunanda Kumaraguru** to the **Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee**. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

The Commissioners unanimously agreed to add the appointment of a member to the Audit Committee. Commissioner Wells moved to appoint **Michael Figuera** to the **Audit Committee**. Commissioner Whitesides seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

REPORTS ON BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

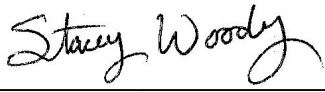
ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- *April 2 @ 3 p.m. - Commissioners' Briefing at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*
- *April 2 @ 5 p.m. - Commissioners' Regular Meeting at 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville.*

County Manger Pinder reminded Chairman Newman that there would be a Budget Work Session on March 26 at 9 a.m. at 200 College Street, 1st Floor Conference Room in downtown Asheville.

Commissioner Whitesides moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.



STACEY WOODY, INTERIM CLERK
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS