

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 4, 2013 AT 4:30 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on June 4, 2013, in the Commissioner Chambers, 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville, North Carolina at 4:30 p.m. where and when the following business was transacted:

The Chairman called the meeting to order with the following members present:

David Gantt, Chairman
Holly Jones, Vice Chair
Joe Belcher, Commissioner
Ellen Frost, Commissioner
Mike Fryar, Commissioner
David King, Commissioner
Brownie Newman, Commissioner

Staff present was: Wanda Greene, County Manager; Mandy Stone, Assistant County Manager; Jon Creighton, Assistant County Manager/Planning Director; Mike Frue, County Attorney; Kathy Hughes, Clerk to the Board.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

The Chairman gave the invocation.

The Chairman reminded the Board that in accordance with the State Government Ethics Act, it is the duty of every Board member to avoid both conflicts of interest and appearances of conflict. He asked if any Board member had any known conflict of interest or appearance of conflict with respect to any matter coming before the Board. None were stated.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Chairman reviewed the rules for public comment:

The time limit for any comment to the Board is three minutes. If your time expires then you may leave any questions along with your name, address and phone number with the County Manager. Board members are not expected to comment on matters during public comment. Comments should be limited to subjects that are within the jurisdiction of this Commission or pertain to matters upon which it may act. Any individual speaking during public comment shall address the entire Board. Any polling of Board members is inappropriate. Persons addressing the Board are expected to observe the decorum of the Chamber, and to be respectful of everyone in the room. Any person who willfully interrupts, disturbs, or disrupts the session will be asked to leave the meeting. The Board reserves the right to deny public addresses on a subject previously presented to the Board.

Jerry Rice wanted the meeting times changed and was not happy with the timing of the community meetings. He requested that he be allowed to film from the front of the room and requested free parking for people who attend the Board meetings.

DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENT/APPROVAL TO FOLLOW AGENDA

Commissioner Newman moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- Capital Projects Ordinance

Commissioner King seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

PUBLIC HEARING

- **FY 14 County Budget**

The County Manager gave an overview of the budget message that was originally presented at the May 28 regular meeting. Her power point is attached to the minutes of this meeting. The tax rate would be 56.9 cents as proposed in the budget for FY2014. The proposed Culture and Recreation Authority with a tax rate of 3.5 cents would be in addition to that rate.

Commissioner Belcher said that he ran for office to reduce spending and reduce costs and he was pleased with the Board's efforts to work together.

Gary Roberts, Tax Director, said that setting the tax rate is difficult and after a reappraisal there will be some citizens with higher tax bills and some with lower tax bills. He said that the Tax Office works hard to collect all taxes but they consider it their job to work with taxpayers to be able to pay their taxes. He shared

the citizens assistance programs that are outlined in the power point attached. He said that there are about 4,000 citizens using the elderly exemption and he urged any citizen concerned about being able to pay to call their office. He said that foreclosure is always the last resort after all other options have been exhausted.

The Chairman opened the public hearing t 4:58 p.m.

Michele Pace Wood spoke on behalf of parents from the Enka school district who wanted a new intermediate school for this district to alleviate the overcrowding.

Carl Silverstein, Southern Appalachian Conservancy and Land Conservation Advisory Board, asked the Board to include \$240,000 in the budget for several conservation easements that were in the works.

Maria Wise with Soil and Water Conservation Office requested \$70,000 to cover transaction costs for two conservation easement projects.

Jerry Rice said that citizens would not be pleased with their tax bills in August and asked the Board to cut the tax rate.

The Chairman closed the hearing at 5:11 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Designation of Voting Delegate for the National Association of Counties Annual Conference July 19-22**

The Chairman nominated Commissioner Belcher to act as the voting delegate. Commissioner Frost seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Vice Chair Jones moved to appoint and reappoint **Bob Kendrick, Linda Biggers, Lorraine Poe, Pat Boyd, Peter Cook, Bryan Dover, Dr. Hank Dunn, Rick Elingburg, Steve Garrison, Kathryn McIntrye, Idalia Parra, Dusty Rhodes** to the **Workforce Development Board**. Commissioner Newman seconded and the motion passed 7-0

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- *The next regular meeting of the Board will be June 25 (NOT June 18) at 4:30 p.m. in Chambers at 200 College Street, Room 326, 3rd Floor*
- *Commission meetings can be seen on:*
 - *BCTV Charter Cable Channel 2*
 - *AT&T U-Verse Channel 99*
 - *Live on buncombecounty.org during the meetings or*
 - *Online anytime at buncombecounty.org*

Commissioner Belcher thanked Commissioner King for touring the Enka Middle School with him and for the invitation from the community. He relayed their continued commitment for the schools in the County and from District 3 and within the City.

Commissioner King moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Jones seconded. The motion passed 7-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

KATHY HUGHES, CLERK TO THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

DAVID GANTT, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS