

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 4, 2008 AT 4:30 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on November 4, 2008, in the Commissioner Chambers, Room 204 of the Courthouse 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:

Nathan Ramsey, Chairman
David Gantt, Vice Chairman
Carol Peterson, Commissioner
David Young, Commissioner
Bill Stanley, Commissioner

Staff present were: Wanda Greene, County Manager; Mandy Stone, Assistant County Manager; Jon Creighton, Assistant County Manager; Donna Clark, Finance Director; Kathy Hughes, Clerk to the Board; Mike Frue, Assistant County Attorney; Joe Connolly, County Attorney.

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALEGIENCE

INVOCATION

Commissioner Young gave the invocation.

DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENT/APPROVAL TO FOLLOW AGENDA

Commissioner Young moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- Approval of Minutes of October 7, 2008 Regular Meeting
- Resolution of Support of the Construction of Road and Bridge Access off of US 19/23 to the Colbond Property
- Resolution In Support of Mission Hospitals Road Infrastructure Project
- Road Petitions: Grooms Road; Wesley Road
- Budget Amendments:
 - Fund 10 - GIS to IT; Smart Start Funds; Clean Water Trust Fund Grant; Pictometry contract \$463,740
 - Fund 22 - Dislocated Worker Funds \$75,000
 - Fund 30 - Grant Awards and Revenues \$20,196
- School Capital Commission Fund Project Ordinance
- Capital Projects Ordinance
- Parking Deck Capital Project Fund
- Resolution to Execute Non Warranty Deed to Correct Discrepancy in Previous Deed form Buncombe County to Liberty Corner
- Resolution Designating Selection of Secure Rural School HR 424 Safety Net Formula Payment
- Resolution Authorizing Withdrawal of Bid of American South General Contractors, Inc
- Release Report

Commissioner Stanley seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Good News

- **Buncombe County and Aging Coordinating Consortium Receive Ernest B Messer Award**

Beth Lazer with the Aging Coordinating Consortium said that this award was given for the development of the aging plan for Buncombe County. She said that the plan was a collaborative effort of the community and local agencies. She thanked Denise Braine, County Planner who helped with the plan.

- **Charles Dickens, Senior Tar Heel Legislator, Receives the Margaret Hart Hardee Award**

Charles Dickens said that he was happy to receive this award last week at the aging conference. He thanked the Board for the support as the delegate to the legislature from Buncombe County. He is currently the speaker of the senior legislature and worked statewide for older individuals.

- **Congratulations to Commissioner David Young, Recipient of the Robert Parrish Award 2008**

The Chairman congratulated Commissioner David Young as the recipient of the Robert Parrish Award for his work to bring together and enhance the region's communities.

PROCLAMATIONS

- **Adoption Awareness Month**

Vice Chairman Gantt read the proclamation and moved for its adoption. Commissioner Peterson seconded and the motion passed 5-0. Vice Chairman Gantt presented the proclamation to Alicia Davis with the Department of Social Services.

- **Long Term Care Awareness Month**

Commissioner Stanley read the proclamation and moved for its approval. Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion and it passed 5-0. Commissioner Stanley presented this proclamation to David Hinsley with Asset Protection Network.

PUBLIC HEARING

- **Resolution Approving Installment Financing Contract to Provide for the Acquisition, Construction, Furnishing and Equipping of Certain Projects (Human Services Facility and Parking Deck and Animal Shelter)**
 - **Resolution Declaring the County's Intent to Reimburse itself for Capital Expenditures in Connection with the Acquisition of Certain Equipment from the Proceeds of Tax Exempt Obligations in Calendar Year 2008**

The Chairman opened the public hearing at 4:46 p.m. Donna Clark, Finance Director, said that on October 7 the Board rescheduled the public hearing to receive the bids to give cost estimates and to see if financial markets settle. The bids are \$1 million less than anticipated. The municipal debt market is stable and interest rates have decreased to an average of 5.3 percent. This hearing is for comments on the proposed financing.

Commissioner Young said that bond markets are moving toward safety and this is a good bond market for government.

Jerry Rice asked how this would affect the bond rating now and for the future. Commissioner Young said that this could help the bond rating improve. Ms. Clark said that staff will be meeting with bond agencies tomorrow and the ratings will be made in mid November. The Public hearing was closed at 4:52 p.m.

Commissioner Young moved to approve the Resolution Approving installment Financing Contract to Provide for the Acquisition, Construction, Furnishing and Equipping of Certain Projects (Human Services Facility and Parking Deck and Animal Shelter) Commissioner Stanley seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

Commissioner Young moved to approve the Resolution Declaring the County's Intent to Reimburse Itself for Capital Expenditures in Connection with the Acquisition of Certain Equipment from the Proceeds of Tax Exempt Obligations in Calendar Year 2008. Commissioner Stanley seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

- **Community Energy Assistance, Health Insurance Initiative and School Dropout Report (Eblen, DSS)**

Tim Rhodes, Department of Social Services, thanked the County's partners in energy assistance funding programs. Bill Murdock, Eblen Foundation, said that they are giving out heating assistance as part of their partnership with the County to distribute funds. He said that they are also monitoring supply and feel confident that there won't be any problem with supply to this community. He said that the demand will be great but should be greater at the beginning of the year when other funds are gone.

Mr. Rhodes said that last year the federal allocation for heating assistance was \$1 million that served about 4,000 families and the County has already received about \$750,000 so far this year and should have funds to meet the needs of the community.

Mr. Murdock said that the primary care project providing health care to companies and individuals at a discounted rate will continue to work with various companies throughout the county and will be adding urgent care services. They are working with American General to find affordable insurance in the future for our citizens.

Donna Lanningham, Director of Eblen's Graduation Initiative said that they have formed unique partnerships and are anticipating a double digit reduction in the number of dropouts this year. She said that the reduction is due to two school social workers who work with counselors to support and connect students with community resources. They have partnered with Judges Becky Knight and Marvin Pope who work within a truancy diversion program.

Commissioner Young thanked Tony Baldwin and the county schools for enabling this trial program.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Rezoning Request – James McGinnis (PIN 9655.14-43-6727 and 6952) EMP from R-2**

Jim Coman, Zoning Administrator, said that this request involves two lots on Mills Gap Road requesting rezoning from R-2 to EMP and the Planning staff recommended that these lots not be rezoned; however, the Planning Board approved the rezoning in a split vote.

Mr. McGinnis, the petitioner, said that the property was hard to rent due to the traffic problem along this stretch of roadway. He said that he has no official uses planned for this property.

Commissioner Young moved to approve the rezoning to employment (he asked for more options in the zoning plan) Commissioner Stanley seconded this motion. The motion passed 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Creation of Joint City/County Homeless Initiative Advisory Council**

Angie Pittman, Social Work Supervisor with the Department of Social Services and Van McNeal with the City of Asheville asked for the creation of an advisory council for the homeless plan. Ms. Pittman said that there are more and more homeless folks in the community. Mr. McNeil said that the City would join the County to continue the 10 year plan with the creation of this council.

Commissioner Young moved to approve the creation of the council. Commissioner Stanley seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Commissioner Young moved to reappoint Les Mitchell, Brian Bartlett, Rod Hudgins and Scott Hughes for a second term on the Planning Board. The motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Peterson moved to appoint Vernon Dover from the Owen District to the Planning Board for a three year term. The motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Stanley moved to appoint Michelle Pace Wood from the Enka District to the Planning Board. The motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Peterson moved to appoint Greg Phillips from the Owen District and Vice Chairman Gantt moved to appoint Darcy Wilson from the Owen District to the Planning Board. After a poll of the Board, Greg Phillips was appointed from the Owen District.

Commissioner Stanley moved to appoint Tom Alexander from the Roberson District and Commissioner Peterson moved to appoint Scott Melrose from the Roberson District to the Planning Board. After a poll of the board, Tom Alexander was appointed to the Planning Board.

Commissioner Young moved to appoint Joe Sechler to the Planning Board representing the City of Asheville. The motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Stanley moved to appoint Bettie Council, Dorsey Ridgely and Teresa Clark to the Women's Commission. The motion passed 5-0.

Vice Chairman Gantt moved to appoint Karl Katterjohn to the Nursing home Community Advisory Committee. The motion passed 5-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- *The next meeting of that Board of Commissioners will be November 18, 2008 beginning at 4:30 p.m.*

The County Attorney said that the Board would not need a closed session at this meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jerry Rice asked the Board to look at the history of dropouts in the County. He asked that they hold more community meeting on dropout problems to get community input. He said that the schools are throwing out students who need mental help.

Commissioner Young moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Peterson seconded and the motion passed 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

KATHY HUGHES, CLERK TO THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

NATHAN RAMSEY, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS