

## MINUTES OF THE BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'

### BRIEFING MEETING OF JANUARY 7, 2025.

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met to hold a Briefing Meeting on January 7, 2024, in the Commission Chamber at 200 College Street in downtown Asheville, North Carolina at 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chair Amanda Edwards; Vice-Chair Martin Moore; Commissioner Terri Wells, Commissioner Al Whitesides; Vice-Chair Parker Sloan; Commissioner Martin Moore; Commissioner Jennifer Horton.

The following items were reviewed.

- [Residential Waste Collection Update](#)

Dane Pederson, Solid Waste Director opened up the presentation to provide background information. FCC staff then provided updates participating remotely. They explained that FCC started deployment December 2, 2024, of multiple sized carts based on the most current subscriber list and to any new customers who wish to sign up for service. Current FCC Customer Count is approximately 38,500 and said that all carts have been delivered to residents that were on the previous haulers list. They explained that FCC is currently decaling bear carts and continues to process new subscriber's daily. There is 1000 96 gal carts on standby and 75,889 carts have been delivered through January 3, 2025. The Board had several questions related to subscription fees and service throughout the County. Staff advised that the first three days of service went well, everything completed by mid-day Sunday, except for a number of streets left due to road conditions that will be serviced the following morning and that a Communication Plan was installed, notifying all County Residents who did not receive service on planned day. Staff also provided a link to the Issue Tracker, to report disruptions; the [form](#) where County residents can submit concerns related to the transition from Waste Pro to FCC Environmental Services as well as report any hot spots of debris in the public right-of-way that may be causing public safety risks.

- [Helene Update](#)

Avril Pinder, County Manager provided an update on Housing, Private Roads & Bridges and Debris Removal; EB Odderstol provided an update on Individual & Small Business Assistance; Ariel Zijp provided an update on the Emergency Watershed Protection; Nate Pennigton provided an update on Floodplain Regulations and Steve McGugan, the North Carolina State Mitigation Officer provided the update on Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

- [Homeowner Grant Program Update](#)

Phillip Hardin, Economic Development Analyst in the Health and Human Services Department, provided the background and updates on the Homeowner Grant Program. He explained that the program was designed to assist in preserving homeownership for low-income households in areas where increasing property value outpaces income and there are various

criteria to qualify. To date, the County has processed 90% of the total applications. Of the 1,158 applications that have been disposed of so far, 64% have been approved and 36% have been denied. Of the 1,158 applications, 498 have been White applicants; 583 chose not to specify and 42 applicants were Black or African American.

## MINUTES OF THE BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'

### REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 7, 2025, AT 5:00 p.m.

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met to hold a Regular Meeting on January 7, 2025, in the Commission Chamber at 200 College Street in downtown Asheville, North Carolina at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Chair Amanda Edwards; Vice-Chair Martin Moore; Commissioner Terri Wells, Commissioner Al Whitesides; Vice-Chair Parker Sloan; Commissioner Martin Moore; Commissioner Jennifer Horton; and joined by Commissioner Ball.

Chair Edwards called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and provided opening statements.

#### Consent Agenda

1. [Adoption of the December 17, 2024, meeting minutes](#)
2. [Approval of the November 2024 tax collection report](#)
3. [Support for the Blue Ridge Rising Strategic Plan and appropriations](#)

Commissioner Wells raised a concern regarding the tax collection report, noting that collections were about 2% behind compared to the previous year. Jennifer Pike, Tax Collector from the tax office explained that the shortfall could be attributed to the recent storm and the ongoing recovery efforts. She noted that 1% of the collection rate represents over \$2.5 million for Buncombe County. She assured the Board that Staff is working to process remaining payments and will continue to monitor the collection rate closely. Jennifer also encouraged community members to contact the office for assistance with payment arrangements.

Commissioner Whitesides made the motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Moore and carried unanimously.

#### Public Comment

No public comments were received.

#### New Business

##### 1. [Appointment of Drew Ball to fill vacant District 3 seat on Board of Commissioners](#)

Chair Edwards explained that the Democratic Party recommended Drew Ball to fill the District 3 seat, vacated by her and that the Board shall vote on his appointment to serve as Commissioner on the Board. Commissioner Sloan made the motion to appoint Drew Ball to serve the raining term of District 3; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Moore and carried unanimously. Anna Stearns provided the Oath to Commissioner Drew Ball.

##### 2. [Appointment of Curt Euler to fulfill the duties as interim County Attorney](#)

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Chair Edwards explained that the Board would like to appoint Senior Attorney Curt Euler to serve as interim County Attorney. Commissioner Whitesides made the motion to appoint Euler as interim County Attorney; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Horton and carried unanimously.

## **Board Appointments**

### **3. Board of Commissioner Appointments to Boards**

Chair Edwards explained that Commissioners serve as liaisons or members to various boards and commissions and that the Commissioners have reviewed and agreed on the proposed assignments listed in the attached agenda.

Commissioner Sloan made the motion to appoint Commissioners to serve on Boards and Commissions as outlined in front of them; Commissioner Ball seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

### **4. Board and Commission Appointments**

Commissioner Wells made the motion to make the recommended appointments to the Mountain Area Workforce Development; Commissioner Horton seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Commissioner Moore made the motion to make the recommended appointments to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council; Commissioner Horton seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Commissioner Sloan made the motion to reappoint Nate Pennington to the Metropolitan Sewerage District Board; Commissioner Whiteside seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

With no further agenda items or discussion from the Board, Commissioner Whitesides made the motion to adjourn; the Motion was seconded by Commissioner Sloan and the meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m.