

**MINUTES OF THE BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS’
SPECIAL MEETING OF DECEMBER 2, 2024.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met to hold a Special Meeting on December 2, 2024, in the Commission Chamber at 200 College Street in downtown Asheville, North Carolina to hold board interviews for the Equalization and Review Board.

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

Absent: Chairman Brownie Newman; Commissioner Beach-Ferrara.

The Board held interviews for the Equalization and Review Board; the following 8 candidates interviewed: Phil Blake; Alla Kolomiyets; Cade Justad-Sandberg; Dr. Glenda Weinert; Katerina Leeger; Randall Barnett; Preston Edwards; Terry Sutton; Kristen Brumley Chianese.

**MINUTES OF THE BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS’
BRIEFING MEETING OF DECEMBER 2, 2024.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met to hold a Briefing Meeting on December 2, 2024, in the Commission Chamber at 200 College Street in downtown Asheville, North Carolina at 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Brownie Newman; Commissioner Terri Wells, Commissioner Al Whitesides; Commissioner Amanda Edwards; Vice-Chair Parker Sloan; Commissioner Martin Moore.

Absent: Commissioner Beach-Ferrara.

The following item was reviewed.

Hurricane Helene Recovery Update

Avril Pinder, County Manager, provided the Tropical Storm Helen Update to the Board. She explained that staff has shifted from emergency response to short-term recovery and the beginning of long-term recovery planning. The County continues to work with FEMA to process individual assistance applications and support the rebuilding process. A portion of debris removal has been completed, with varying progress across different zones in the County. The County has also provided essential services, including water distribution, comfort stations, and sanitation. As of now, the County is preparing for long-term recovery and rebuilding efforts, with a focus on restoring pre-storm operating norms and enhancing resilience. Damage assessments have been completed for County properties, and remediation work is ongoing. The County has also worked to provide temporary housing solutions for displaced residents, including approval for mobile homes and manufactured housing. FEMA’s direct housing assistance program is helping families find new housing options, with 172 households already approved. The County continues to work closely with FEMA to expedite the housing process, and FEMA has extended the deadline for displaced residents to December 12, 2024. She

explained that Community briefings are now held three times a week, with updates available online. Relief programs include grants for small businesses and individuals, with over 800 small business applications and household grants now open. The Hazard Mitigation Grant program, which helps elevate or reinforce homes, remains open, and there will be additional in-person opportunities in January.

**MINUTES OF THE BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 2, 2024.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met to hold a Regular Meeting on December 2, 2024, in the Commission Chamber at 200 College Street in downtown Asheville, North Carolina at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Brownie Newman; Commissioner Terri Wells, Commissioner Al Whitesides; Commissioner Amanda Edwards; Vice-Chair Parker Sloan; Commissioner Martin Moore.

Absent: Commissioner Beach-Ferrara.

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

Consent Agenda

1. Accept the October 2024 Tax Collection Report
2. Budget Amendment to accept State Library provided recovery funds
3. Budget Amendment to accept funds from Dogwood Health Trust to support the Syringe Service Program

Commissioner Whitesides made the motion to approve, it was seconded by Commissioner Edwards and approved unanimously.

Organizational Ceremony

Chairman Newman introduced the Organization Meeting section, in which Oaths of Office were provided. Drew Reisinger, Register of Deeds, provided the Oath of Office to Elected Chair, Amanda Edwards; Reisinger proved the Oath of Office to Jennifer Horton, elected to represent District 1; the Honorable Judge Scott, District Court Judge provided the Oath of Office to Terri Wells, reelected to represent District 2; and Reisinger provided the Oath of Office to Parker Sloan, reelected to represent District 3.

Chair Edwards acknowledged the devastating impact of Tropical Storm Helen in Buncombe County, noting that the past couple of months have been the most challenging in the County's history. She reassured the community that the Commission will continue working to restore and improve the County and she expressed excitement and honor in serving as the first Chairwoman of the Buncombe County Commission, thanking outgoing Chair Brownie Newman for paving the way. The meeting then recessed for a short break, with plans to reconvene at 5:30

Chair Edwards called the meeting back to order after a short recess. The first item of business was to select a new Vice-Chair. Commissioner Whitesides made the motion to nominate Commissioner Martin Moore to serve as Vice-Chair, the motion was seconded by Chair Edwards and approved unanimously.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

New Business

Bonding of County Officials

Curt Euler, Senior Attorney provide the background information. He explained that pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 161-4, the Register of Deeds is required to have a bond not less than \$10,000 and no more than \$50,000 for the for the safekeeping of the books and records, and for the faithful discharge of the duties of their office. The Register of Deeds, Andrew Mark Reisinger was elected for a new four (4) year term of office starting December 2, 2024 and his existing bond needs to be renewed for an additional four (4) years. Legal and Risk Department has secured the extension of the Mr. Reisinger's bond. In addition, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-72-20, the Board of Commissioners are required to conduct an annual review of the bonds issued to County Officials for the faithful performance of their duties. The County needs to review the existing bonds for the Tax Collector, Finance Director, Register of Deeds, Sheriff and a blanket bond covering all county officials. The Legal and Risk Department has contacted each official and asked for any changes to the official's bond. No material changes were noted and no material changes to the bonds are needed.

Commissioner Moore made the motion to approve, it was seconded by Commissioner Wells and carried unanimously.

Adoption of the Commissioner's 2025 Meeting Schedule

Sarah Gross, Clerk to the Board introduced the 2025 regular meeting schedule. She explained that regular meetings would continue to be held on the first and third Tuesday of every month and that the first meeting in July has been cancelled.

Commissioner Wells made the motion to approve, it was seconded by Commissioner Sloan and carried unanimously.

Budget amendment to accept funds from the Office of Violence Against Women

John Hudson, Budget Director provided the background information. He explained that the primary activities for requested funds include grant allocations to ensure continuity of two key Family Justice Center service components: 1) fund one Trauma Informed Legal Assistant (TILA) within the Office of the District Attorney 40th Judicial District, and 2) fund two Trauma Informed FJC Intake Specialists contracted through Helpmate for FY25. A portion of project funds will also be utilized for travel/training for FJC partner staff to attend OVW sponsored and/or Family Justice Center Alliance events in each project year. Total funding is \$500,000 over a three-year period.

Commissioner Whitesides made the motion to approve, it was seconded by Commissioner Moore and carried unanimously.

Budget amendment to accept funds from the US Department of Justice

John Hudson, Budget Director provided the background information. He explained that the Buncombe County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) has applied for and been awarded a \$400,000 grant from the US Department of Justice for Promoting Access to Crisis Teams (PACT). The grant will fund two (2) contracted Licensed Clinician positions who will be assigned to Corresponding units. The Co-responder program is an alternative crisis response model where law enforcement is paired with a behavioral health professional to respond to non-violent 911

call related to mental health or substance use crises. The grant will also provide two (2) vehicles for the program as well as training and medical supplies budget. The period of performance is October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2026.

Commissioner Sloan made the motion to approve, it was seconded by Commissioner Wells and carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m.