

Draft

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**      May 9, 2005

**ALEXANDER COUNTY**  
**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**PRESENT:** William L. Hammer, Chairman  
W. Darrell Robertson, Vice-Chairman  
Wesley E. Bolick  
W. Norris Keever  
Larry Yoder

**STAFF:** Rick French, County Manager  
Jamie Starnes, Clerk to the Board

**MEDIA:** Gary Herman, The Taylorsville Times

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Monday, May 9, 2005 in the Catawba Valley Community College / Alexander Center Multipurpose Room, Taylorsville, North Carolina.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Hammer called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Rev. Brian Rogers, Liberty United Methodist Church, gave the invocation and Amanda Sports, student at Ellendale Elementary School, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Amanda also sang the National Anthem.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Chairman Hammer stated that Governor Easley had declared May 15-21, 2005 as Hurricane Preparedness Week in an effort to urge everyone to have a plan of action and be prepared in the event of a hurricane.

Chairman Hammer stated that he had attended a Community Leaders Appreciation Luncheon, sponsored by Duke Power, on May 3, 2005. He mentioned that the Duke Power Hydrorelicensing was discussed during the luncheon.

Chairman Hammer pointed out that he, along with County Manager Rick French, attended a WPCOG Chairman/Managers Meeting at noon today. He stated that a few issues discussed included community colleges in the Unifour and the NCDOT Secondary Road Program. Chairman Hammer presented an article that was featured in the Charlotte Observer on Sunday, May 8, 2005 that showed Alexander County as having the most road money per capita; however, Chairman Hammer explained that the data presented was misleading because the NCDOT had included Highway 64, which was completed 14 years ago, in the list of road projects completed in the county. Chairman Hammer did not feel it was fair to include projects that were over 10 year old.

Commissioner Keever discussed a recent N.C. Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) article which touched on the disappointment being received from counties due to the state budget not including any Medicaid relief for counties. Commissioner Keever stated that because of this, county taxes would have to be raised and the counties would take the blame for something the state did.

Chairman Hammer noted that several counties including Watauga, Caldwell, and Catawba were being forced to consider increasing taxes this coming budget year because no Medicaid relief had been proposed. He stated that all counties were struggling to pay for their portion of Medicaid costs.

Commissioner Robertson stated that the \$17 billion Senate budget, consisting of 277 pages, had been passed last week. He pointed out that the Senate took \$50 million from ADM school money out of the budget and replaced it with proceeds from the non-existent lottery.

Commissioner Yoder also discussed the replacement of ADM funds with lottery funds. He mentioned that the replacement of funds would result in more stringent guidelines for what schools could use the funding for.

## **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Robertson requested the addition of a Mental Health Month Proclamation as Agenda Item 4A.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. Commissioner Keever seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

## **CONTRACTOR APPROVAL FOR DENTIST RENOVATION PROJECT**

Leeanne Whisnant, Health Department Director, explained that Alexander County had received a \$150,000 grant from the N.C. Department of Health & Human Services to provide a dental office for children covered under Medicaid. Ms. Whisnant presented the only bid received for the upfitting for the new dental office, which was from David E. Looper & Company for \$68,300.

Ms. Whisnant stated that she had contacted 7 agencies to request bids; however, she noted that due to time constraints, David E. Looper & Company was the only bid received. She stated that final plans had been received today from Winstead Architecture. She also pointed out that the renovation could begin immediately and would take approximately one month to complete. Ms. Whisnant stated that 4 dentists were interested in being apart of the dental office staff, one of which was interviewed on Saturday.

Ms. Whisnant informed the Board that David E. Looper & Company was currently finishing a dental office in Catawba County and was therefore familiar with this type of facility. She also stated that Sullivan-Schein Dental Company, who would supply dental equipment for the dental office, would supervise David E. Looper & Company in regards to location of plumbing, electrical, etc.

Ms. Whisnant explained that the dental office would occupy a 966 square foot space located in the Health Department. She stated that the space would include a small office for patient/dentist consultations. She also noted that existing staff would be used for billing and clerical duties.

Commissioner Robertson asked if final plans had been received from David E. Looper & Company. Ms. Whisnant replied that she would be meeting with David E. Looper & Company in the morning to review final plans if the bid was approved by the Board tonight.

Commissioner Robertson suggested that an acknowledgement be made in the proposal and contract with David E. Looper & Company regarding when the renovation would be completed.

Commissioner Kever made a motion to approve the bid submitted by David E. Looper & Company subject to final approval of the plans. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

#### **RESOLUTION TO ADOPT WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE (RENEWAL)**

Rick French, County Manager, presented a Resolution to Adopt the Interlocal Agreement and to join the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Joint Risk Management Agency Workers' Compensation Fund.

Mr. French pointed out that approval of this resolution simply allowed County staff to renew Workers' Compensation insurance with the NCACC.

Commissioner Kever made a motion to approve the Resolution to Adopt the Interlocal Agreement and to join the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Joint Risk Management Agency Workers' Compensation Fund. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

#### **RESOLUTION TO ADOPT LIABILITY & PROPERTY INSURANCE (RENEWAL)**

Rick French, County Manager, presented a Resolution to Adopt the Interlocal Agreement and to join the North Carolina Counties Liability and Property Joint Risk Management Agency.

Mr. French pointed out that approval of this resolution simply allowed County staff to renew the Liability and Property insurance with the NCACC.

Commissioner Bolick made a motion to approve the Resolution to Adopt the Interlocal Agreement and to join the North Carolina Counties Liability and Property Joint Risk Management Agency. Commissioner Keever seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

### **BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT #34**

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendment #34, which included the following information:

Budget Amendment #34 – To increase the budget for the cable television audit by the telecommunications consultant. To increase the budget for a new phone line and for increased postage for departments in the Administration Building. To budget for a reimbursement from Catawba County for participation in a disaster drill. To increase the Resource Center budget for reallocation grant funding. To budget for a \$500 grant from Wal-Mart for the new dental health program. To increase the budget for Family Planning Title X funds to be expended by 5/31/05.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #34. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

### **MENTAL HEALTH MONTH PROCLAMATION**

Commissioner Robertson presented a Proclamation to Declare May 2005 as Mental Health Month urging the citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools to increase awareness and understanding of mental health and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people that have mental illnesses.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve the Proclamation to Declare May 2005 as Mental Health Month. Commissioner Keever seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Robertson mentioned that Foothills Mental Health Area Program would be holding a community awareness forum in Alexander County on May 17, 2005 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Senior Center. He urged all Board members to attend if possible.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the following issues during Other Business:

- A. Mr. French proposed a budget work session following a short regular Commissioners' Meeting on May 23, 2005 to allow for initial discussion of the 2005-2006 budget. He also proposed the public hearing on the 2005-2006 budget be held on June 6, 2005. The Board agreed.
- B. The Environmental Health Department is now located at the old Wittenburg Elementary School. Mr. French noted that Environmental Health, Inspections, and Planning were now using an automated answering service.
- C. County Assembly Day and the Legislative Reception will be held May 24, 2005 at the Holiday Inn Brownstone Hotel in Raleigh.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Minutes from April 18, 2005 Work Session and April 25, 2005 Regular Commissioners' Meeting.
- B. Tax Release Requests for April \$296.27 and Tax Refund Requests for April \$422.64.
- C. Resolution for Project Arrow.
- D. Solid Waste Adjustment.

Commissioner Keever made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

#### **CLOSED SESSION – N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1, 5, & 6) TO PREVENT DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION, CONTRACTUAL, & PERSONNEL**

Chairman Hammer made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 6:38 PM to prevent the disclosure of confidential information and to discuss contractual matters and personnel issues pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1, 5, & 6). Commissioner Keever seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Commissioner Yoder made a motion to adjourn at 8:25 PM. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

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William L. Hammer, Chairman

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Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board