

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING October 3, 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, October 3, 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

Darren Lambert, Pastor at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, gave the invocation. Kallie McHargue and Cory McDaniel, members of the ACHS Naval Junior ROTC, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Jason McDaniel was also in attendance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman Hammer requested that Budget Amendment #22 be added under Agenda Item # 6 (Budget Ordinance Amendments) and for a Paragon Films Rail Program Resolution be added to the Consent Agenda.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There was no one present to speak during the Public Comment Period.

ALEXANDER COUNTY HEALTH REPORT

Leeanne Whisnant, Health Director, began the Health Report with information regarding the new dental office, which had been made possible by a N.C. Department of Health and Human Services grant. She informed the Board that the dental office would be located in the Health Department and she noted that renovations would begin this month. Ms. Whisnant stated that completion was anticipated for 60 to 90 days.

Ms. Whisnant discussed a fact sheet produced by the North Carolina Central Cancer Registry which showed that Alexander County's percentage of deaths due to cancer (24.3%) for 2003 was higher than the state percentage (22%). In 2002, there were 127 cancer cases reported for Alexander County residents and in 2003, the cancer deaths by site were as follows: prostate 3%, female breast 3%, colon/rectum 14%, lung/bronchus 35%, other 45%. Ms. Whisnant noted that these numbers were expected to increase as the population aged. She also stated that chemicals associated with agriculture and furniture probably attributed to Alexander County's high percentages.

Ms. Whisnant reviewed pregnancy facts for the county and she noted that Alexander County's percentage of mothers who smoke was 22% while the state's percentage was 12.7%. She also stated that staff had been pursuing grant funding to help reduce this percentage.

Ms. Whisnant also reported that communicable disease cases had increased tremendously. She gave the following information for cases reported:

<u>Disease</u>	<u>January – August 2004</u>	<u>January – August 2005</u>
Syphilis	0	4
Chlamydia	10	34
HIV	0	3
AIDS	0	4
Gonorrhea	3	10
Hepatitis B	6	4
Hepatitis C	0	9

Ms. Whisnant stated that these numbers were not specific to any age group or race but to the entire spectrum of people in the county. However, she did note that drug use was a factor in some of the cases. Ms. Whisnant stated that staff was striving to make the public aware of these diseases and how to protect themselves. She also noted that PSA tests would be available the first Friday in November at the Senior Center if anyone was interested.

PROPOSED MINIMUM HOUSING CODE REPORT

Sylvia Turnmire, Director of Planning & Development, gave a status report and statistical analysis for the Alexander County Minimum Housing Code. She explained that the code was first drafted in 1999 and last revised in 2003. She also noted that the code was modeled after the School of Government and N.C. League of Municipalities model ordinances and was compared with ordinances in counties of similar size.

Ms. Turnmire stated that the N.C. General Statutes allowed inspectors to initiate condemnation due to liability to fire, deteriorating structure, unsafe wiring or heating, and inadequate egress. The process of condemnation includes:

- Post as unsafe/condemned
- Send notice by certified mail if corrective action is not taken
- Hearing held within 10 days
- Inspector issues order to repair, close, vacate, or demolish the structure
- Inspector issues written order directing corrective action
- Owner has right to appeal within 10 days to the County Commissioners
- Owner is guilty of a misdemeanor if s/he fails to comply

Ms. Turnmire presented proposed content for the Minimum Housing Code in addition to that allowed by the N.C. General Statutes to allow for the following:

- Inspect dwellings that are unfit for human habitation
- Minimum conditions:
 - No heat, hot water, electricity, sanitary facilities
 - Structural defects, clogged chimney flues, exposed electrical wiring
 - Presence of raw sewage, garbage
 - Inadequate drainage, noxious weeds, infestation, rodents
- Petition required by:
 - Public authority; or
 - 5 county residents over 18 years of age, living independently of one another
 - This procedure follows N.C.G.S requirements
- Appeals heard by the Alexander County Housing Board

Ms. Turnmire informed the Board that the proposed content for the Minimum Housing Code was simply for information. She felt that the current code would possibly need to be tailored a little more to fit the County's needs.

Ms. Turnmire reviewed complaints received from January 1, 2000 to June 30, 2005 by type and township. She stated that 7 complaints were received in 2000, 5 complaints in 2001, 13 complaints in 2002, 19 complaints in 2003, 16 complaints in 2004, and 5 complaints in 2005. The summary of complaint types was 12 for electrical, 13 for plumbing, 20 for structural, 9 for sewage, and 11 for multiple reasons. Ms. Turnmire presented slides of several properties that staff received complaints about including properties on Country Farm Road, West Jay Drive, Stony Point MHP Drive, Landis Lane, and Cedar Woods Road.

Ms. Turnmire stated that 42% of complaints were received by renters followed by 21% received from neighbors, 10% from county officials, 3% from utility companies, and 1% from unknown sources. She also pointed out that inspections of properties due to complaints received had resulted in 7 being condemned, 10 posted unsafe, 27 repairs made, 12 with no violations, 8 withdrawn, and 1 referred to Environmental Health.

REVISIONS TO E-MAIL, INTERNET, & COMPUTER RESOURCES AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICIES

Rick French, County Manager, presented revisions to the E-mail, Internet, & Computer Resources Policy as well as the Substance Abuse Policy originally distributed at the September 26, 2005 Commissioners' Meeting for review.

Mr. French stated that the revisions were mainly for clean-up and clarification and he noted that the revisions would make the policies more in conjunction with the Personnel Policy. He also stated that a section on alcohol abuse had been added into the Substance Abuse Policy as well as some clarification on drug testing.

Commissioner Keever made a motion to approve the revisions to the E-mail, Internet, & Computer Resources and Substance Abuse Policies as presented. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS

Chairman Hammer presented the following appointments and reappointments to County boards and committees:

A. WPCOG REGION E DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Reappoint Tom McNeely 3 years

B. WPCOG UNIFOUR HOME CONSORTIUM

Appoint Sylvia Turnmire 2 years

Chairman Hammer made a motion to approve the appointments and reappointments as presented. Commissioner Keever seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #19 - #22

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendments #19 - #22, which included the following information:

Budget Amendment #19 – To budget for the 2005 Public Workstation Grant – Help America Vote Act and for payback of prior year's unspent funds. To budget for the Senior Center 2005-2006 general purpose grant and a 25% local match. To increase the budget for a transfer to the Dusty Ridge Phase II Grant Project to complete the project.

Budget Amendment #20 – To increase the budget for completion of the Dusty Ridge Phase II Grant Project.

Budget Amendment #21 – To increase the budget for payments of half-cent sales tax funds to the school system for completion of additions to ACHS.

Budget Amendment #22 – To budget for an economic development loan to Royale Comfort Seating, Inc.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #19 - #22. Commissioner Keever seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

- A. The Jail Committee will be meeting on Wednesday, October 5, 2005 at 5:00 PM at the courthouse.
- B. Commissioner Robertson, Health Director LeeAnne Whisnant, and County Manager Rick French will be attending the Foothills Mental Health Retreat in Boone on October 7-8, 2005.
- C. The DSS Open House is scheduled for Thursday, October 20, 2005 from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM. The dedication ceremony will be held at 2:00 PM.
- D. Clean Alexander Day will be held on Saturday, October 22, 2005 from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.
- E. The Grand Opening of the Auditorium is scheduled for Sunday, October 23, 2005 at 3:00 PM.
- F. Our next meeting (work session) will be on Monday, October 17, 2005 at 7:00 PM in the CVCC / Alexander Center Multipurpose Room.

- G. Only 2 bids were received last week for the Highway 127 CDBG Project. Mr. French stated that the project would have to be re-advertised since the minimum 3 bids were not received. The next bid opening is scheduled for October 18, 2005.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from the September 26, 2005 Regular Commissioners' Meeting.
- B. Industrial Development Fund Grant Resolution for the Paragon Films Rail Project.

Commissioner Kever 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, 4, 5, & 6) TO PREVENT DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CONTRACTUAL, & PERSONNEL

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 6:46 PM to prevent the disclosure of confidential information and to discuss economic development, contractual matters, and personnel issues pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1, 4, 5, & 6). Commissioner Kever seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Bolick made a motion to adjourn at 8:21 PM. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

William L. Hammer, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board