

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING November 21, 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, November 21, 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

Chairman Hammer gave the invocation and also led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Bolick stated that the Bethlehem Ministerial Association would be holding joint services at Shiloh Lutheran Church on Tuesday, November 22, 2005 at 7:00 PM. He encouraged all to attend.

Chairman Hammer mentioned the opening of Peebles and Dollar Tree in the former Harris Teeter Building on Highway 16 South.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman Hammer requested the addition of a brief discussion regarding the Highway 127 Water Project during Other Business.

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

PUBLIC HEARING: APPROVAL OF ROAD NAMES

Rick French, County Manager, requested approval of the following road names:

Road No.	Road Name	Road Location
3767JE	Butterfly Drive	Off Payne Dairy Road
3718VB	Icard Meadows Lane	Off Icard Ridge Road
3851DJ	Stable Brook Lane	Off Old Wilkesboro Road

Mr. French informed the Board that one call had been received regarding Stable Brook Lane. The call was for information only.

Chairman Hammer called the public hearing to order and requested any public comment. There being no public comment, Commissioner Robertson made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Keever seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Keever made a motion to approve the road names as presented. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

HURRICANE RELIEF REPORT

Dave Bristol, Alexander County Red Cross Branch Manager, presented a Power Point Slide Show Presentation of photos taken during his recent trip to Alexandria, Louisiana to aid the hurricane victims. He discussed the shelters, volunteers, and gave many statistics regarding how many homes and vehicles were destroyed, how many meals were served, financial assistance provided, etc. He stated the Red Cross sent \$357,000 which had been raised from Catawba and Alexander Counties to help hurricane victims and he noted that 16 families had been placed into local housing.

Commissioner Bolick asked if the local Red Cross was in need of more volunteers and if teams from Alexander County were still being sent to Louisiana and Mississippi. Mr. Bristol stated that the Red Cross was always in need of volunteers and he mentioned that a disaster workshop would be held to train new volunteers on how to help in disasters such as hurricanes. He also noted that training would be held in January 2006 for new volunteers as well. Mr. Bristol urged anyone interested in attending the disaster training to contact him beforehand as space was limited. Mr. Bristol also stated that volunteers would be sent to aid the hurricane victims on 3

week timeframes. He noted that the volunteer's transportation, meals, and housing would be paid for by the Red Cross.

Chairman Hammer mentioned that the Red Cross provided coffee and refreshments for the full-scale disaster drill held on Saturday, November 19, 2005 and he conveyed his appreciation for what the Red Cross did for Alexander County.

FINAL 2005 AIR QUALITY ACTIVITY REPORT

Sylvia Turnmire, Director of Planning & Development, informed the Board that October 1, 2005 officially ended the 2005 monitoring season for ozone concentrations with no exceedances for the Alexander County monitor. She explained that the highest concentration was .084 ppm on both June 24, 2005 and October 20, 2005 with June 24th being a high ozone action day with a forecast of orange or unhealthy conditions for sensitive groups. She also mentioned that the temperature on October 20th was 84 degrees with high humidity, maximum 3 mph wind, and no precipitation which are precursors to a high ozone concentration.

Ms. Turnmire stated that the N.C. Division of Air Quality utilized the 4th highest concentration for each year on a rolling 3-year average when calculating the attainment / non-attainment status. For 2005, the 4th highest concentration was .080 ppm and the rolling 3-year average was .068 ppm, leaving Alexander County in attainment for 2006. Ms. Turnmire pointed out that the 3-year average was based upon 1 ½ years of data taken solely from the new monitor on Waggin' Trail.

Ms. Turnmire informed the Board that the 2006 ozone season forecasts would begin on April 30, 2006. She thanked the coordinators at the daycares, school systems, and industries for their hard work on the campaign as well as Renee Edwards with the Alexander County School system. She also thanked the Senior Center, Bethlehem Elementary School, and Shurtape Technologies for allowing ozone warning flags to be flown at their locations.

ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN

John Tippet, WPCOG Planning Director, presented a proposed Energy Conservation Plan drafted by the Western Piedmont Council of Government staff. He pointed out that the Energy Conservation Plan was a component of the Early Action Compact Agreement and he noted that the WPCOG was requesting each of the 10 local governments included in the region to adopt this plan.

Mr. Tippet explained that the Energy Conservation Plan encouraged city and county departments to reduce energy usage, which includes measuring reduction in fuel costs, retrofitting buildings, and using energy efficient measures in new construction. He stated that the purpose of the plan was to ensure that energy conservation practices were employed in the design, construction, operation, maintenance, and renovation of facilities and in the purchase, operation, and maintenance of equipment for facilities. Mr. Tippet reviewed several sections of

the plan including findings, definitions, life-cycle cost analysis, and authority and duties of county agencies.

Commissioner Robertson requested several changes and amendments to the policy including changing the requirements for storm doors on public buildings to air locking doors. He also requested the word "fenestration" be changed to state openings or doors and windows. He also had some concerns with the suggestion to turn off heating and air units during unoccupied hours in the energy conservation measures. He felt that programmable thermostats would be needed. Mr. Tippet felt that adjusting the thermostats would be feasible instead of turning them completely off.

The Board agreed to consider the Energy Conservation Plan at the December 12, 2005 Commissioners' Meeting.

UPDATE ON HYDRORELICENSING ISSUES

Sylvia Turnmire, Director of Planning & Development, informed the Board that since the October 17, 2005 work session where several outstanding issues were discussed, Duke Power has agreed to 2 of those issues. She explained that Duke Power had agreed to place Spanish language signs at the Oxford tailrace as well as to upgrade the sirens that would effectively warn individuals of an emergency or the opening of a floodgate.

Ms. Turnmire mentioned that the major outstanding issue was the water withdrawal fee and she noted that a resource committee was continuing to meet in an effort to negotiate this issue. She also stated that the timeline for approval was February 2006.

Commissioner Yoder stated that several citizens who owned streams that flowed into the lake felt that Duke Power should reimburse them if the water withdrawal fee was enforced since their water was feeding into the lake.

Chairman Hammer asked if any more discussion had occurred regarding the erosion below the dam. Ms. Turnmire replied that not more discussion had taken place.

Commissioner Bolick asked if dredging the coves had been mentioned. Ms. Turnmire replied that it had not.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT #29

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendment #29, which included the following information:

Budget Amendment #29 – To increase the budget to pay attorneys fees for services rendered in fiscal years 2004 and 2005. To increase the budget for additional funds for the Crisis Intervention Program.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #29. Commissioner Keever seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

OTHER BUSINESS

The following issues were discussed during Other Business:

- A. Rick French, County Manager, stated that a committee needed to be appointed at the December 12, 2005 Commissioners' Meeting to interview architects for the jail / courthouse project. Interviewing should begin in January 2006.
- B. Mr. French stated that a forum would be held on Monday, December 5, 2005 at 7:00 PM at the CVCC / Alexander Center to receive input for the new CVCC President. Dr. Jo Foster will moderate the forum.
- C. The Annual Employee's Appreciation Luncheon will be held on Friday, December 2, 2005 at the Senior Center. The luncheon will be catered by Olive Garden.
- D. Mr. French informed the Board that he had been selected to serve as the Foothills Mental Health Board Chairman for 2006.
- E. Mr. French stated that he had been working with Doug Chapman, McGill Associates, to get the bid submitted by the Hickory Sand Company lowered for the Highway 127 Water Project. The original low bid was \$497,595 and has been lowered to \$467,595. Mr. French stated that the CDBG funds allowed for the project totaled \$426,900. He recommended the Board move forward with approval of the lowered bid so the project could begin.

Commissioner Keever made a motion to move forward with the Highway 127 Water Project with the lowered bid of \$467,595. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

- F. Chairman Hammer mentioned that Commissioner Robertson's father-in-law passed away last week and he asked the Board and staff to remember their family in prayer.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from the November 7, 2005 Regular Commissioners' Meeting.

Commissioner Keever made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Yoder 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, AND PERSONNEL**

Chairman Hammer made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 6:52 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 Yoder seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Robertson made a motion to adjourn at 7:50 PM. Commissioner Keever seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

William L. Hammer, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board