

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING June 19, 2006

ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

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

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

MEDIA: Micah Henry, The Taylorsville Times

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Monday, June 19, 2006 in the Catawba Valley Community College / Alexander Center Multipurpose Room, Taylorsville, North Carolina.

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Keever gave the invocation and also led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

*****SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS*****

The following recognitions were acknowledged:

Doug Kerley, Building Codes Administrator

The Board presented a plaque to Doug Kerley for 11 years of dedicated service to Alexander County. Lisa Harrington, 911 Addressing Coordinator, also presented a plaque to Mr. Kerley in honor of his friendship and service which held his director's badge and several standards certificates. Lynn Teague, Inspector, thanked Mr. Kerley for his friendship and hard work and he pointed out that Mr. Kerley had completed 12 levels of certification from March 1995 to May 2006. Andy Baker and Don Harrington, Contractors, conveyed their appreciation to Mr. Kerley for always working hard and

being fair regarding inspections. Members of the Board and Rick French, County Manager, also thanked Mr. Kerley for his service and wished him the best of luck. Sylvia Turnmire, Director of Planning & Development, presented several pictures of Mr. Kerley during his years as Building Codes Administrator.

Mr. Kerley stated that he appreciated the recognition and the opportunity to serve.

Barbara Poole, Veterans Service Officer

The Board presented a plaque to Barbara Poole for receiving accreditation as a Veterans Service Officer through the U.S. Department of Veterans Administration, which will allow Ms. Poole to gain access to veteran's VA files and provide better service to local veterans.

Ms. Poole thanked the Board for the recognition and stated that it was an honor to serve the veterans of the county.

Anita Price, Resource Center Director

The Board recognized Anita Price, Resource Center Director, and members of the Criminal Justice Partnership Program Board for recently being awarded the Division 3 Award of Excellence on May 25, 2006.

Ms. Price briefly explained the types of services offered by the Resource Center and the Pre-Trial Release Program.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Kever stated that he attended the N.C. Association of County Commissioners Board of Directors meeting last week where members were informed that a company was interested in building 4 large landfills in the state. The General Assembly has put a moratorium on these landfills until January 2008. He also mentioned that the state had relieved counties of franchising cable television services as of July 1, 2006 and planned to reimburse counties for lost revenue. Commissioner Kever stated that the House had approved regulations for private well testing in homes; however, he noted that the Senate had not yet considered the regulations.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Commissioner Hammer requested the addition of one name to the list of appointments and reappointments listed as Agenda Item #6.

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

PUBLIC HEARING: CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT 06-1: WITTENBURG VFD

Sylvia Turnmire, Director of Planning & Development, presented Conditional Use Permit 06-1 submitted by the Wittenburg Volunteer Fire Department who requested conditional use approval to expand a public building by 6,000 square feet on property located at 45 Wittenburg Road. The size of the property is 4.35 acres and the existing land use is for fire department operations. Ms. Turnmire stated that zoning within 100 feet of the property was RA-20 to the north, south, east, and west. There is vacant land and a convenience store to the north of the property, an alternative school and County offices to the south, a manufactured home park to the east, and single-family residential and a manufactured home to the west.

Ms. Turnmire stated that the existing building was 4,500 square feet and she noted that the proposed expansion of 6,000 feet would allow for additional emergency vehicles to be housed, additional storage space, and a meeting room.

Ms. Turnmire informed the Board that the RA-20 zoning district allowed the proposed expansion as a conditional use permit and she noted that only one call was received from an adjoining property owner requesting information. She also mentioned that Planning & Development staff recommended approval of the conditional use permit.

Chairman Yoder 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 Conditional Use Permit 06-1. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

PUBLIC HEARING: 3-YEAR UPDATE TO THE 10-YEAR SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Ron Weatherman, Municipal Engineering, presented the Solid Waste Management Plan 3-year update. He explained that Alexander County's waste reduction goals would remain the same (20%) for the planning period 2009-2010 and 25% at the end of the 10-year planning period 2015-2016.

Mr. Weatherman stated that the actual recovery rate for recyclables for Alexander County and its municipalities was 9.36 pounds per person in 2004-2005 and he noted that the County and its municipalities was responsible for removing 164.37 tons of recyclables from the waste stream in 2004-2005. The total waste generated by the County for 2004-2005 was 24,301 tons. Mr. Weatherman noted that construction / demolition and land clearing / inert debris would continue to be disposed in the same manner for the 10-year planning period.

Mr. Weatherman discussed plans to begin a compost / yard waste area located near the transfer station where yard waste would be stock piled and converted to compost that would be used on

the sight as a soil additive to enhance organic matter within the soil. He also stated that a small mulching operation was planned for property adjacent to the landfill.

Mr. Weatherman reviewed items listed within the management plan as well as intended actions for the next 3 years. He pointed out that a resolution would need to be signed to approve the 3-year update, which he stated he would forward to County staff to be signed.

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

Commissioner Kever made a motion to approve the Solid Waste Management Plan 3-year update and to authorize the signing of the resolution once delivered to County staff. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

RECOMMENDATION FOR LANDFILL LOADER / EQUIPMENT

Josh Mitchell, Solid Waste Director, informed the Board that bids had been received for the purchase of a new wheel loader for the Alexander County Landfill from James River Equipment in the amount of \$121,845 and from Carolina Tractor in the amount of \$119,541.52. He explained that the current loader was over 10 years old and was not dependable; therefore, he recommended the Board approve the low bid of \$119,541 submitted by Carolina Tractor with a 3-year annual payment of \$42,032.48 at 5.45% interest with a total payback of \$126,097.44. Mr. Mitchell noted that the current loader would be used as a spare.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to accept the bid of \$119,541 submitted by Carolina Tractor for a new wheel loader and to move forward with the 3-year annual payment option as recommended. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

COMMISSIONERS TASK FORCE ON CHILD ENDANGERMENT AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Karen Hoyle, DSS Director, stated that in September 2005, the Board established a task force to study issues regarding child endangerment. She explained that the task force had been working over the last few months to gather data and develop a plan to address identified needs. Ms. Hoyle stated that the task force felt community-wide involvement was needed to reverse these trends and she presented a slide show that would be shown at a community meeting on July 20, 2006 at 12:00 Noon at the CVCC / Alexander Center. She mentioned that business owners, church leaders, and civic organization leaders would be invited to the meeting. The slide show included information regarding types of illegal substances, how they affected users and children, and efforts to stop these trends.

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Russell Greene, Emergency Services Director, explained that the Board approved a resolution on August 23, 2003 to adopt the National Incident Inter-Agency Management System; however, he noted that this did not fully comply with legislation passed in February 2003 regarding the adoption of the system. Therefore, he requested the Board approve a Resolution to Adopt the National Incident Management System that would bring Alexander County into full compliance with all state and federal legislation.

Commissioner Hammer made a motion to approve the Resolution to Adopt the National Incident Management System. Commissioner Keever seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS

Commissioner Hammer presented the following appointments to County boards and committees:

A. TOWN PLANNING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS

Appoint Kenny Poole 1 year

B. BUILDING SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

Appoint Lynn Teague
Appoint Sylvia Turnmire

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

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT #64 - #67

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendment #64 - #67, which included the following information:

Budget Amendment #64 – To increase the budget for additional departmental expenses incurred throughout the year. To increase the budget for additional revenue collected.

Budget Amendment #65 – To increase the budget for fire district fund expenditures. To increase the budget for additional revenue collected.

Budget Amendment #66 – To reduce budgeted revenue for a School Resource Officer due to the school system's cost for asbestos removal.

Budget Amendment #67 – To budget for a pledge amount for the new Regional Technology Center.

Commissioner Keever made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #64 - #67. Commissioner Bolick 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 County is currently working with the school system on some guidelines for reducing utility costs. The County's current cost for all buildings totals \$207,000 and staff hopes to save 15% by implementing these guidelines.
- B. The N.C. Department of Transportation will be holding public meetings regarding regionalism of public transportation systems in the state. Meetings will be held in Asheville on June 26, 2006 and in Monroe on June 27, 2006.
- C. The NACo prescription drug program has saved \$7 million nationwide. Approximately 640,000 prescriptions have been filled thus far.
- D. Congresswoman Virginia Foxx is planning a meeting regarding water and sewer grants on June 26, 2006 at the Wilkes County Library.
- E. Mr. French recommended the Board allow The Howell Group to perform a follow-up audit of the cable franchise agreement with Charter Communications from April 2005 to June 2006.
- F. Mr. French recommended the Board rescind the Retiree Health Insurance Policy for any new employees hired beginning July 1, 2006. He pointed out that the decision would not affect current employees.

The Board discussed possibly increasing the number of service years from 20 to 25 or 30 and also allowing partial coverage.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve the County Manager's Report to include Mr. French's recommendation to move forward with the follow-up audit of Charter Communications with The Howell Group and to allow the Human Resources Department to compare the County's Retiree Health Insurance Policy with other counties before a definite decision would be made regarding rescinding the policy. Commissioner Hammer seconded the motion. The Board voted

4 in favor of the motion (Commissioners Bolick, Hammer, Keever, and Robertson) and one against the motion (Chairman Yoder).

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from the May 15, 2006 Regular Commissioners' Meeting and the June 6, 2006 Regular Commissioners' Meeting.
- B. Worker's Compensation Ambulance Bill 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, 4, 5, & 6) TO PREVENT DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CONTRACTUAL, & PERSONNEL

Chairman Yoder made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 8:00 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.(a)(1, 4, 5, & 6) and to return to open session for the purpose of considering a lease agreement. Commissioner Keever seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

CONSIDERATION OF LEASE AGREEMENT

Upon returning to open session, Commissioner Bolick made a motion to approve the lease agreement with Mark North for a 2,500 square foot building for \$1,700 per month for 5 years to house the Bethlehem Branch Library subject to a final consultation with the County Attorney. Commissioner Keever seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Hammer made a motion to adjourn at 9:47 PM. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Larry G. Yoder, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board