

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING November 6, 2006

ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

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

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, November 6, 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

Pastor Mark Dula, Rocky Face Baptist Church, gave the invocation and Katelyn Windsor, student at Wittenburg Elementary School, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Kever stated that he had received an invitation letter from the N.C. Association of County Commissioners to the Legislative Goals Meetings beginning this week.

Chairman Yoder announced that the Frye Regional Medical Center / Alexander Campus would be moving and converted into a new urgent care center at the Taylorsville Family Care Center. He pointed out that it had been speculated that the move would take place around December 1, 2006. He also explained that the hospital was owned by private investors and not the County.

Commissioner Robertson thanked Family Care Center for their efforts in this matter.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC HEARING: RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR THE FY 2008 COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM GRANT

Patti Foster, Transportation Director, stated that the public hearing was only required for the FY 2008 Community Transportation Grant if requested by November 3, 2006. She informed the Board that no request for a public hearing had been received and she therefore recommended the public hearing be closed.

Commissioner Keever made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR THE FY 2008 COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM GRANT

Patti Foster, Transportation Director, presented a resolution to apply for the FY 2008 Community Transportation Grant due November 17, 2006. Ms. Foster explained that the intent of the program was to enhance the provision of rural human service and general public transportation in North Carolina. She stated that the application consolidated the Administrative and Employee Development, Capital, Technology, and Facility Renovation / Repair funding grant programs into one application package.

Ms. Foster stated that the Administrative and Employee Development funding was reimbursed at 85% federal and/or state share with a local match of 15%. She also mentioned that the Capital, Technology, and Facility Renovation / Repair funding was reimbursed at 90% federal and/or state share with a 10% local match.

Ms. Foster stated that the amount to be applied for by Alexander County for the Administrative and Employee Development was \$96,325 with a local match of \$14,448. The amount to be applied for the Capital, Technology, and Facility Renovation / Repair funding is \$64,695 with a local match of \$6,469.50.

Commissioner Keever made a motion to approve the resolution to apply for the FY 2008 Community Transportation Grant. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Hammer briefly discussed regional transportation in the Unifour area.

EXISTING INDUSTRY RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Jason Williams, Existing Industry Specialist, introduced representatives from Paladin Industries including Tim Bolick, President, and Tommy Ayers, Vice-President. Mr. Williams informed the Board that Paladin Industries occupied 99,000 square feet of manufacturing, warehouse, and office space in Hiddenite and had 85 employees. He also pointed out that Paladin Industries had been recognized by Entrepreneur Magazine as one of the 100 fastest growing new businesses in the nation.

Mr. Bolick discussed the beginnings of Paladin Industries and his desire to have his business in Alexander County because of the strong work ethic. He also stated that Paladin Industries employees were paid by the hour instead of by piece work which increased moral. Mr. Bolick pointed out that the company had grown 20-25% each year based on 3-year financial returns.

Mr. Ayers stated that Paladin Industries attended furniture shows in High Point, N.C. twice per year which allowed them to gain new customers. He also mentioned that a catered dinner was held for employees each month.

The Board thanked Mr. Bolick and Mr. Ayers for attending and giving the Board an update.

N.C. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE CERTIFIED SITE DESIGNATION

David Icenhour, Economic Development Director, informed the Board that the Alexander Railroad Industrial site in the Alexander Industrial Park had been approved for designation as a N.C. Department of Commerce Certified Site.

Mr. Icenhour stated that the application process was very expensive and time consuming, requiring 31 issues to be addressed including topographic surveys, engineer's site development plan, phase I environmental assessment, reports on wetlands and endangered species and plants, archeological findings, bodies of water on-site, availability of electrical power, water, sewer, and natural gas, etc. However, he noted that the County had received a grant from the Future Forward Economic Alliance for \$41,000 that was used towards the grant, which was prepared by McGill Associates.

Mr. Icenhour pointed out that this was Alexander County's first certified site. He also informed the Board that there were 80 certified sites throughout the state.

Mr. Icenhour also announced that a new website had been developed for the Alexander County Economic Development that could be accessed at www.alexanderedc.gov. He thanked Mike Koenig with the Information Technology Department who designed the website.

Members of the Board thanked Mr. Icenhour and Mr. Koenig for their hard work.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

SOLID WASTE REPORT

Josh Mitchell, Solid Waste Director, gave an update on the Clean Alexander Day held on October 28, 2006. He reported that 380 citizens visited the landfill and 1,496 visited the convenience centers. Also, 120 tons of garbage was collected. Mr. Mitchell thanked the Solid Waste employees and well as the County Maintenance staff for their assistance.

Mr. Mitchell also announced that the landfill had recently opened a new yard waste collection site which would accept grass, leaves, brush, and limbs no larger than 6 inches. He stated that there were currently 2 piles at the landfill for these types of items, one for leaves and grass and the other for limbs and brush. Mr. Mitchell requested that citizens remove yard waste items from plastic bags before leaving them at the landfill. He also stated that there had always been a fee charged for limbs which would continue; however, he noted that there was no charge for leaves and grass.

Commissioner Bolick asked if the landfill would be able to produce mulch from the new yard waste collection site. Mr. Mitchell replied that mulch would be produced and provided for use at county buildings; however, he noted it could be sold to the public in the future. He also briefly discussed composting efforts.

Mr. Mitchell stated that he was working on a household hazardous waste disposal day to be held sometime in March that would allow citizens to dispose of their paints, household chemicals, automotive products, etc.

Chairman Yoder asked Mr. Mitchell to look into providing a shredding service for citizens to dispose of confidential information.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT #20

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendment #20, which included the following information:

Budget Amendment #20 – To increase the Dental Health budget for additional grant funds. To increase the Health Promotion budget for a second quarter allocation. To increase the Health Promotion budget for a grant to pave the walking trail and install exercise stations at Matheson Park. To increase the Child Health budget for additional grant funds. To budget for the purchase of office furniture for Human Resources and Veterans Service Offices. To increase the Recreation Department budget for the purchase of a grill for a concession stand.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #20. 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. Alexander County citizens have saved \$21,589.24 with the NACo Prescription Drug Discount Card Program from March – September 2006.
- B. The Inter-Basin Transfer Meeting with representatives from all local governments in the Catawba River Basin scheduled for November 9, 2006 has been canceled.
- C. The McClain Road water line is almost complete. Construction of water lines along Black Oak Ridge Road and Jolly Cemetery Road will begin soon.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from the October 23, 2006 Regular Commissioners' Meeting.
- B. Tax Release Requests for October \$2,127.94 and Tax Refund Requests for October \$511.46.

Commissioner Keever made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Bolick 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 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 Keever 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 7:40 PM. Commissioner Hammer seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Larry G. Yoder, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board