

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING March 12, 2007

ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

PRESENT: W. Darrell Robertson, Chairman
 Wes Bolick, Vice-Chairman
 William L. Hammer
 Harold M. Odom
 Larry G. Yoder

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, March 12, 2007 in the Catawba Valley Community College / Alexander Center Multipurpose Room, Taylorsville, North Carolina.

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Phil Addison, Associate Pastor at Stony Point Baptist Church and Stony Point Fire Department Chaplain, gave the invocation and Tiffani Matheson, student at West Alexander Middle School, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

*****SPECIAL RECOGNITION*****

A Key to the County was given to the Stony Point Volunteer Fire Department in recognition of 50 years of dedicated services to the Stony Point community. Steve Lackey, Chief, was present along with Randy Dellinger, Deputy Chief, and Scotty Abernathy, Assistant Chief to represent the fire department. The group announced that an open house would be held at the fire department on Saturday March 17, 2007 from 2:00-7:00 PM to allow citizens to view the new building and equipment with the ceremony beginning at 3:00 PM. Mr. Lackey thanked the Board for the recognition and for the opportunity to serve the community.

Russell Greene, Emergency Services Director, mentioned a structure fire that occurred on Friday, March 9, 2007. Dennis Wahlers, Forest Ranger, discussed the fire on Sugar Loaf Mountain last week. He also stated that this was wildfire season and he urged citizens to postpone burning until rain was received or to stay with fires until completely out if burning was necessary.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Hammer discussed the Board's recent trip to Washington D.C. for the annual NACo Legislative Conference. He reported that alternative fuels was one of the main topics discussed at the conference and he noted that the USDA Farm Bill proposal included funding for critical access hospitals which could be of some interest to Alexander County.

Commissioner Odom pointed out that all 50 states were represented at the conference and that counties across the country faced many of the same problems as Alexander County.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

HEMPHILL-RANDEL ASSOCIATES AGREEMENT FOR THE ALEXANDER COUNTY JAIL PROJECT

Rick French, County Manager, presented the agreement between Hemphill-Randel Associates and Alexander County for the feasibility study and architectural services for the Jail Project. He stated that the agreement included clarifications and fees mentioned by the Board previously and he noted that the agreement had been reviewed by the County Attorney.

Commissioner Hammer made a motion to approve the agreement with Hemphill-Randel Associates for the feasibility study and architectural services for the Jail Project. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

INFORMAL BIDS FOR SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT VEHICLES

Hayden Bentley, Sheriff, discussed the process of replacing old patrol vehicles each year for the Sheriff's Department and stated that 4 vehicles needed to be purchased this year. He informed the Board that Taylorsville Ford had quoted a price of \$61,664.97 (\$20,554.99 each) for three

2007 Ford Crown Victorias and he noted that staff would like to purchase a 2007 Chevrolet Impala from the N.C. Department of Crime Control & Public Safety Law Enforcement Support Services for \$16,665. He also mentioned that the equipment and markings would need to be installed bringing the total to \$97,740.53. Mr. Bentley explained that staff wished to try the Chevy Impala this year because it was a smaller car that would result in better gas mileage and he noted that staff would possibly convert to the Impala if the vehicle proved to be an improvement over the Crown Victoria.

Mr. Bentley stated that this year's vehicle bids were \$10,259.47 less than the last year.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$97,740.53 for the purchase of three 2007 Ford Crown Victorias and one Chevrolet Impala as requested. Commissioner Odom seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

CONSIDERATION OF JOB DESCRIPTION FOR COUNTY ENGINEER

Rick French, County Manager, presented a job description for a County Engineer position while pointing out that this position had been discussed ever since he came to work for Alexander County in 1999. He explained that this position would be a tremendous benefit to the county when considering the many upcoming projects that would require engineering services including the Jail Project, Hiddenite Industrial Project, Northeast / Vashti Water Project, and the Aquatics Center.

Mr. French requested the Board allow staff to advertise this position for 30 days and to fill the position to begin with the new budget year in July 2007.

Commissioner Bolick made a motion to approve the County Engineer position and to allow staff to advertise this position as requested. Commissioner Hammer seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Yoder pointed out that the position would be advertised in local newspapers as well as the County and Employment Security Commission websites.

GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION FOR SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK

Chairman Robertson presented a proclamation approved by Governor Mike Easley declaring the week of March 11-17, 2007 as Severe Weather Awareness Week in North Carolina and urging citizens to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities to promote awareness of severe weather and how to stay safe.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the proclamation declaring March 11-17, 2007 as Severe Weather Awareness Week. Commissioner Hammer seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS

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

A. HEALTH BOARD

Reappoint Clint Canaday 3 years

B. PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

Reappoint Jennifer Martin 3 years

Reappoint Coy Reese 2 years

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

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT #37

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendment #37, which included the following information:

Budget Amendment #37 – To transfer funds from contingency for the purchase of 4 vehicles for the Sheriff's Department. To increase the 911 Communications budget for the first year service agreement on radio equipment for the 911 call center. To increase the Inspections Department budget for tax and tags for a Ford F150 truck purchased from the state contract. To increase the budget for performance-based distribution of 2005-2006 food and lodging fees funds. To increase the general health budget for round two of the Southern Piedmont Partnership Health Incubator Project funds. To increase the Library budget for donations received.

Commissioner Hammer made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #37. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

OTHER BUSINESS

Rick French, County Manager, stated that the Commissioner's Choice Awards Banquet was scheduled for Tuesday, March 20, 2007 at East Alexander Middle School with the dinner beginning at 6:30 PM.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from the February 26, 2007 Regular Commissioners' Meeting.
- B. Tax Release Requests for January \$2,731.72 and Tax Refund Requests for January \$377.82.
- C. Alexander County Resource Center application for continuation of implementation funding to the Criminal Justice Partnership Program for FY 2007-2008.

Commissioner Bolick made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Hammer 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

Commissioner Bolick made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 6:50 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 Odom seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Odom made a motion to adjourn at 8:00 PM. Commissioner Hammer seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

W. Darrell Robertson, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board