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**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING** June 23, 2008

**ALEXANDER COUNTY  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

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

**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 special called meeting on Monday, June 23, 2008 in the Catawba Valley Community College / Alexander Center Multipurpose Room, Taylorsville, North Carolina. A reception honoring Albert Schneider, his family, and employees of Schneider Mills, Inc. was held prior to the meeting.

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Odom gave the invocation and Commissioner Bolick led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF MR. ALBERT SCHNEIDER**

Albert Schneider was honored by the following groups and individuals for 62 years of service to Schneider Mills, Inc., the Town of Taylorsville, and Alexander County:

Town Commissioners George Holleman and Jack Lerner as well as Town Mayor Guy Barriger presented Mr. Schneider with a plaque of appreciation from the Town of Taylorsville. Commissioner Holleman stated that the large crowd of employees and family present tonight was testament to Mr. Schneider's contribution to so many.

~~Andrew Jackson, President of the Alexander County Economic Development Corporation, presented the first Alexander EDC Lifetime Achievement Award to Mr. Schneider. Mr. Jackson stated that Schneider Mills, Inc. was the oldest stable employer in the county and one of the largest textile manufacturers in the United States, providing approximately 300 jobs. He noted that the recent purchase of new equipment and the creation of 50 new jobs magnified Schneider Mills' commitment to continue operation in Alexander County.~~

Commissioner Robertson presented Mr. Schneider with a Key to the County. He provided some history relating to how Schneider Mills came to be in Alexander County, which began with textile mills in New Jersey and Massachusetts that was operated by Mr. Schneider's parents. After the mill was constructed in Taylorsville, Mr. Schneider moved his family south and began operating Schneider Mills to weave cotton. Commissioner Robertson explained that the mill converted to synthetic fabrics as cotton fabric became an imported product. He thanked Mr. Schneider for remaining active in the decision-making at the company.

Chip Swinnie, Chamber of Commerce Board member and Schneider Mills employee, thanked Mr. Schneider for his support and contributions to the Chamber of Commerce. He also stated that he had been employed with Schneider Mills for 7 years and noted that he felt the mill would be here for many years to come.

Mary Wike, Schneider Mills employee, stated that she had worked at the mill for 54 years and had enjoyed her work and her fellow employees.

Ann Cartner, Schneider Mills employee, also stated that she had been employed at the mill for 54 years and that it had been a privilege to work there. She mentioned that Mr. Schneider was a good employer and that he hired all kinds of individuals, no matter their background or education.

Lana Davidson spoke about her mother who worked a third shift position at Schneider Mills so she could tend to the children during the day. She stated that she and her family lived across the street from the mill. Ms. Davidson also noted that she drew a sketch of Schneider Mills while she served on the yearbook staff at her high school, which she asked Mr. Schneider to autograph. She thanked Mr. Schneider for providing good paying jobs to the citizens of the county.

Mr. Schneider stated that his success wouldn't have been possible without the help of his wife, whom he thanked.

Commissioner Hammer felt that Schneider Mills had remained successful because of Mr. Schneider's vision to change with the times and keep equipment modernized. He conveyed his appreciation to what Mr. Schneider had done for the county.

Chairman Yoder thanked Mr. Schneider for choosing Alexander County 62 years ago and for providing quality jobs to the citizens. He thanked the audience for attending and showing their support.

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## **UPDATE ON WPRTA TRANSPORTATION MERGER**

Patti Foster, Alexander County Transportation Director, began by inviting the Board to the Western Piedmont Regional Transit Authority start-up celebration on July 1, 2008 at 10:00 AM at the Hickory Metro Convention Center.

Ed Clifford, WPRTA Executive Director, presented a slide show that included information related to the background of initializing a regional transportation system, progress made from September 2007 to the present, the authority organization, as well as projects and initiatives. He also discussed the 2009 budget, based on projected annual revenues of \$3.5 million and expenditures of \$3.25 million.

He also informed the Board that the WPRTA would be a decentralized operation with satellite offices in each county and a centralized dispatching location. Maintenance will be provided by Alexander County and Penske. Mr. Clifford stated that the WPRTA would officially begin operation on July 1, 2008.

Commissioner Robertson asked if a WPRTA website was available. Mr. Clifford replied that the creation of a website was in progress. Commissioner Robertson suggested placing a link on the County website when the website was operational.

## **DISCUSSION OF PERMIT FEES FOR 2008-2009**

Rick French, County Manager, presented a comparison of permit fees from several surrounding counties including Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Iredell, Lincoln, Wilkes, and Davie. He asked the Board to review these fees for a detailed discussion at a future Commissioners' Meeting.

## **BUDGET AMENDMENTS #59 - #66**

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendments #59 - #66, which included the following information:

Budget Amendment #59 – To increase the budget for estimated amounts needed for the remainder of FY 2007-2008.

Budget Amendment #60 – To increase the DSS Adult Daycare budget for expenses in excess of the original budget estimates.

Budget Amendment #61 – To increase the budget for an appropriation to the school system.

~~Budget Amendment #62 – To increase the budget for appropriations to volunteer fire departments.~~

Budget Amendment #63 – To increase the budget for expenditures in the Solid Waste Fund.

Budget Amendment #64 – To set funds aside for the future closure and post-closure care costs for the C&D Landfill.

Budget Amendment #65 – To reimburse for the Northeast Water Project engineering fees paid out of the East Alexander Water & Sewer Fund.

Budget Amendment #66 – To provide for a \$250,000 Rural Center grant and \$7,500 match for the Piedmont Fiberglass Building Renovation Grant Project.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #59 - #66. Commissioner Hammer 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 Senate voted 38-6 to repeal the 0.4 percent land transfer tax granted to counties in the Medicaid Swap. The matter has been referred to the House.
- B. GDS has requested approval of a 4.3% increase to the service portion of their fees and \$10 per ton disposal increase to the landfill portion of their fees to become effective August 1, 2008.
- C. Martin Starnes & Associates mailed out surveys to commissioners in response to the district audit.
- D. The Jail Committee will be meeting on Monday, June 30, 2008 at 6:00 PM in the Administration Building conference room. The next Commissioners' Meeting will be held on July 21, 2008.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Commissioner Robertson made a motion to adjourn at 6:49 PM. Commissioner Hammer seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

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Larry G. Yoder, Chairman

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Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board