

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING August 18, 2008

ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

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 regular meeting on Monday, August 18, 2008 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 Hammer gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

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

Phil Icard was present to introduce Tonya Roland, the new Hospice Director, replacing Nan Campbell. He stated that Ms. Roland had been employed with Hospice of Alexander County for 9 years. Ms. Roland briefly discussed the many services provided by Hospice and stated that she looked forward to serving as Hospice Director.

The Board thanked Ms. Roland as well as all Hospice staff and volunteers for the contribution to the citizens of Alexander County.

COMMUNITY GRANTS PRESENTATION

Chairman Yoder presented Alexander County Community Grants to the following groups:

- Little River Ruritan Club – expansion of community building parking lot
- Ellendale Ruritan Club – new roof for community building
- Alexander County Crime Stoppers – tazer for Sheriff's Department
- Vashti Volunteer Fire Department – emergency backup generator
- Backpack Program – expansion of Backpack Program
- Wittenburg Volunteer Fire Department – construction of permanent helipad
- Habitat for Humanity – expansion of cardboard recycling program
- Forgiven Ministry – support for One Day With God Camp
- Taylorsville Rotary Club – materials for Christmas Shopping Spree for needy kids

Chairman Yoder stated that each organization would receive \$1,000 to be used towards materials for these projects.

PUBLIC HEARING: 2008 CDBG SCATTERED SITE HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM APPLICATION

Nancy Coley, WPCOG Community Development Administrator, explained that Scattered Site Housing Rehabilitation Program grants were given on a non-competitive basis to counties every 3 years to improve the housing conditions of very low income households at or below 50% of the area median income. The total grant amount is \$400,000 and includes a \$40,000 Emergency Repair Local Option Project.

She stated that Alexander County was the lead entity to receive these funds and would be required to work with all interested municipalities in the county, including the Town of Taylorsville who will participate in the project and also had representation on the Site Selection Committee. Ms. Coley recommended, on behalf of the Site Selection Committee, that the following homeowners be included in the grant application:

John Henry and Beulah Parsons – clearance and relocation
Doris Flowers – rehabilitation
Harvey Fink Jr. – rehabilitation
Chestean Cline Killian – rehabilitation
Dempsey and Lisa Watson – rehabilitation
Dovie Scarbrough – alternate
Almalene Pennell – alternate

Ms. Coley asked that the Board approve the authorizing resolution to submit the 2008 Scattered Site Housing Program application to the Division of Community Assistance.

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

Commissioner Bolick made a motion to approve the authorizing resolution to submit the 2008 Scattered Site Housing Program application as presented to the Division of Community Assistance. Commissioner Odom seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

David Icenhour, Economic Development Director, presented the annual Economic Development Report, beginning with the introduction of Del Starnes, member of the Economic Development Board of Directors, who was able to attend the meeting. Mr. Icenhour briefly reviewed the following items of interest included in the annual report:

- Purchase of a 25-acre tract of property adjacent to the Industrial Park
- Announcement of two new industries – Jasper Group and Piedmont Fiberglass
- IDI grants awarded to Schneider Mills and Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams
- Creation and progress of the Manufacturing Council
- Receipt of a \$250,000 Rural Center building reuse grant for Piedmont Fiberglass, an \$83,000 Rural Center building reuse grant for the Jasper Group, and a \$200,000 NC Department of Transportation rail access grant for a pending project
- Fundraising efforts for the 501(c)3 Corporation
- Selection as a 21st Century Community by Governor Mike Easley
- 2008-2009 Plan of Action

Chairman Yoder inquired as to the number of empty industrial buildings in the county to which Mr. Icenhour replied that there were currently two.

Commissioner Bolick commended Jason Williams, Assistant Economic Development Director, on the Economic Development Corporation logo.

SECONDARY ROAD PROGRAM RESOLUTION

Rick French, County Manager, explained that Senate Bill 1513, approved by the General Assembly during the 2007 session, allowed counties to voluntarily participate in the costs of transportation projects. He presented a resolution which opposed the transfer of Secondary Road Program funding as well as any efforts by the General Assembly or NCDOT to shift transportation costs paid by the state to counties.

Commissioner Hammer made a motion to approve the Secondary Road Program Resolution. Commissioner Odom 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. Tuesday, August 19, 2008 has been labeled as an Air Quality Action Day with a predicted Code Orange which is unhealthy for sensitive groups.
- B. The Alexander County Schools Opening Session will be held on Wednesday, August 20, 2008 at 8:30 AM in the ACHS Auditorium.
- C. Commissioners Hammer, Bolick, and Odom along with Mr. French will be traveling to New Bern later in the week to attend the NCACC Annual Meeting.
- D. House Representative Ray Warren has organized a Town Hall type meeting for Friday, August 22, 2008 from 3:00-5:00 PM at the CVCC / Alexander Center. House Speaker Joe Hackney and Majority Leader Hugh Holliman will be in attendance.
- E. The *Explore Alexander* newsletter is available at County offices, at the Chamber of Commerce, and on the County website and will also be distributed to citizens at all convenience sites.
- F. The Hiddenite Half-Marathon and 10K will be held on Saturday, September 27, 2008 in conjunction with the Hiddenite Celebration of the Arts.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve the County Manager's Report. Commissioner Hammer seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from the August 4, 2008 Regular Commissioners' Meeting.

Commissioner Hammer 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 THE DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CONTRACTUAL, & PERSONNEL

Chairman Yoder made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 7:02 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 Bolick 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 7:30 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