

Draft

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**     December 1, 2008

**ALEXANDER COUNTY**  
**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**PRESENT:**    Larry G. Yoder, Chairman  
                  Wes Bolick  
                  Ryan Mayberry  
                  Harold M. Odom  
                  W. Darrell Robertson

**STAFF:**        Jamie Starnes, Clerk to the Board

**MEDIA:**        Micah Henry, The Taylorsville Times

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Monday, December 1, 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 6:03 PM.

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Rev. Paul Sink, Taylorsville Presbyterian Church, gave the invocation and Bailey Goforth, student at Hiddenite Elementary School, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**\*\*\*SWEARING IN CEREMONY FOR ALEXANDER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS & BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS\*\*\***

The Honorable Dale Graham, District Court Judge, delivered oaths of office to Caryn Bryckzy, Josh Lail, and Bridgette Rhyne for the Alexander County Board of Education as well as to Larry Yoder and Ryan Mayberry for the Alexander County Board of Commissioners.

Judge Graham stated that it was a pleasure to partake in this ceremony, noting that each group worked hard to serve the citizens of the county. He conveyed his appreciation to each of them.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Bolick discussed several events taking place this Saturday, December 6, 2008 including the Christmas Parade at 3:00 PM, the annual lighting of the Bethlehem Star, and the re-showing of the comedy entitled "A Cricket County Country Christmas" at the ACHS Auditorium at 7:00 PM. Tickets are \$2 each.

Commissioner Robertson gave an update on the condition of Rick French, County Manager, who suffered a heart attack on Saturday, November 29, 2008. He asked that everyone remember Mr. French and his family in their prayers during the days ahead.

### **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

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

### **PUBLIC HEARING: HAZARD MITIGATION ACT OF 2000**

Russell Greene, Emergency Services Director, explained that Senate Bill 300 and the Hazard Mitigation Act of 2000 mandated counties and municipalities to develop hazard mitigation plans. FEMA regulations require the plan be updated every 5 years. He noted that the County's current plan was adopted in 2004 and that the Hazard Mitigation Task Force appointed in August 2008 would be updating the plan. Mr. Greene reported that having a hazard mitigation plan created a safer community, would speed recovery, and save money in the event of a disaster.

He stated that two public hearings were required to inform the public as to the process to be utilized to update the plan and he encouraged citizens to provide input.

Mr. Greene mentioned that the state was pushing for regional plans; however, he noted that the task force would still continue its efforts to update the plan at the present time. He stated that the plan was available on the County website under the Emergency Services Department link, at Town Hall, the County Administration Building, and the Emergency Services Office.

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 Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

### **ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER OF THE YEAR RECOGNITION**

Chairman Yoder recognized Larry Smith who was recently awarded the Animal Control Officer of the Year for outstanding and dedicated performance in advancing the goal of professional and effective animal related operations. The award was given on October 28, 2008 at the annual NC Animal and Rabies Control Association training conference. He noted that Mr. Smith was chosen from more than 340 officers.

Chairman Yoder explained that Mr. Smith was cited for his dedication to the job and his work during the early stages of Animal Control in Alexander County as well as for changing the way the agency handled situations, providing a stepping stone for the department today.

Mark Sharpe, Animal Control Officer, stated that the award brought a lot of pride to the department and staff. He thanked Mr. Smith for his service.

The Board conveyed their appreciation to Mr. Smith for the job he did for Animal Control and wished him luck with his approaching retirement.

Mr. Smith thanked the Board for the recognition.

#### **2008 CLEAN ALEXANDER DAY UPDATE**

Josh Mitchell, Solid Waste Director, gave an update on the 2008 Clean Alexander Day held on October 25, 2008. He reported that 1,674 vehicles pass through at the landfill and convenience centers with a total of 110 tons of trash was collected, approximately 70 tons less than 2007.

He also reported that battery recycling containers were now available at all convenience centers at no cost to citizens and that television recycling would begin in January 2009. Mr. Mitchell stated that the new school recycling program continued to be successful with 87 less dumpster pickups in October 2008 than in October 2007, which reduced school system spending and fuel for the County.

Chairman Yoder suggested a Shred-It Day in the future to allow citizens to have their stored documents securely shredded. Mr. Mitchell felt that could possibly be held in conjunction with the Household Hazardous Materials Day in April.

Commissioner Bolick inquired about the collection of limbs, leaves, etc. Mr. Mitchell replied that citizens could drop off leaves, grass, brush, etc. at the landfill for free. Leaves and grass are made into compost and the brush is ground into mulch and pallets, which are given away to the public.

Commissioner Bolick also mentioned that citizens with energy suggestions should contact Mr. Mitchell who stated that he had been working with County Manager Rick French regarding the purchase of the first hybrid vehicle for County use.

The Board thanked Mr. Mitchell for organizing these programs.

**ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Commissioner Bolick made a motion to approve the election of Darrell Robertson as chairman beginning the first meeting in January 2009. Commissioner Odom seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

**ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Commissioner Mayberry made a motion to approve the election of Wes Bolick as vice-chairman beginning the first meeting in January 2009. Commissioner Odom seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

**ADOPTION OF THE 2009 ALEXANDER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING SCHEDULE**

Chairman Yoder presented 2009 Alexander County Commissioners' Meeting Schedule which included the change from January 19, 2009 to January 20, 2009 as requested by Chairman Yoder at the November 17, 2008 Meeting. The schedule was as follows:

January 5, 2009 January 20, 2009	July 20, 2009 (only one meeting in July)
February 2, 2009 February 16, 2009	August 3, 2009 August 17, 2009
March 2, 2009 March 16, 2009	September 14, 2009 September 28, 2009
April 6, 2009 April 20, 2009	October 12, 2009 October 26, 2009
May 4, 2009 May 18, 2009	November 9, 2009 November 23, 2009
June 1, 2009 June 15, 2009	December 7, 2009 (only one meeting in December)

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve the 2009 Alexander County Commissioners' Meeting Schedule as presented. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

**ADOPTION OF THE 2009 ALEXANDER COUNTY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

Chairman Yoder presented the 2009 Alexander County Holiday Schedule as follows:

New Year's Day . . . . .	Thursday, January 1, 2009
Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday . . . . .	Monday, January 19, 2009
Good Friday . . . . .	Friday, April 10, 2009
Memorial Day . . . . .	Monday, May 25, 2009
Independence Day . . . . .	Friday, July 3, 2009
Labor Day . . . . .	Monday, September 7, 2009
Veteran's Day . . . . .	Wednesday, November 11, 2009
Thanksgiving . . . . .	Thursday & Friday, November 26-27, 2009
Christmas . . . . .	Thursday & Friday, December 24-25, 2009

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve the 2009 Alexander County Holiday Schedule as presented. Commissioner Odom seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

**BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #14 & #15**

Chairman Yoder discussed the purpose of Budget Amendments #14 and #15, which included the following information:

Budget Amendment #14 – To budget for additional expenses related to the purchase of land on Old Wilkesboro Road. To budget for the purchase of 12 bulletproof vests for the Sheriff's Department from federal drug asset funds. To increase the Emergency Services budget for Homeland Security Grant funds. To budget for the payback of unexpended NCDOT ROAP grant funds from fiscal year 2008. To reduce the Senior Center budget based on revised figures for 2008-2009 grant funding.

Budget Amendment #15 – To budget for a transfer of cash from the former Wireless 911 Special Revenue Fund to the E911 Special Revenue Fund due to state-level changes that no longer require Wireless and Wireline 911 funds to be segregated.

Commissioner Bolick made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #14 and #15. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Chairman Yoder discussed the following issues during Other Business:

- A. The annual Employee's Appreciation Luncheon is scheduled for Friday, December 5, 2008 at the CVCC / Alexander Center.

- B. The next Smoky Mountain Center Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Thursday, December 4, 2008 in Asheville.
- C. The NCACC Legislative Goals Conference is scheduled for January 15-16, 2009 in Raleigh.
- D. Upcoming County Holidays include December 24, 25, and 26 for Christmas and January 1, 2009 for New Year's Day.

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

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Tax Release Requests for November \$1,231.09 and Tax Refund Requests for November \$15,668.02.
- B. Amended Memorandum of Understanding Regarding the Rural Planning Organization for Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, and Catawba Counties.
- C. Declare AED's (Automatic External Defibrillators) Surplus.

Commissioner Robertson 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 6:53 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 Robertson 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 8:00 PM. Commissioner Odom seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

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Larry G. Yoder, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board