

Draft

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**     January 5, 2009

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

**PRESENT:**    W. Darrell Robertson, Chairman  
                  Wes Bolick, Vice-Chairman  
                  Ryan Mayberry  
                  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, January 5, 2009 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**

Commissioned Lay Pastor George Holleman, New Salem Presbyterian Church, gave the invocation and also led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

**PUBLIC HEARING: 2008 CDBG INFRASTRUCTURE VASHTI ROAD WATER PROJECT APPLICATION / RESOLUTION**

Nancy Coley, WPCOG Community Development Administrator, explained that Alexander County was requesting \$750,000 in CDBG funds to install 24,000 linear feet of 6-inch and 8-inch public waterlines, household taps, and connections and to provide administrative funds to serve 72 households on Highway 16 North from Frank Smith MHP to Vashti Road, ending just before the intersection of Lawson Childers Road. She stated that Alexander County had been designated as a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community; therefore, no local match was required for providing public water to this area.

She informed the Board that the Vashti Road area was chosen for this project because of the severe and moderate need for public water, noting that 60% of residents had a severe need and 17% had a moderate need. Many of the frame homes are old and have wells that were improperly constructed, 6 homes use springs for drinking water, and 24 homes use shared wells. The low income residents do not have the financial resources to drill new wells.

Ms. Coley reported further that there were 150 people living in the project area, of which 109 stated that their income was very low, low, or moderate, resulting in 73% of residents benefiting if public water was extended to the area. She mentioned that the water lines, once installed, would be owned by the County and that EnergyUnited would supply the water and provide maintenance and billing services.

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

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the submission of the 2008 CDBG Infrastructure Vashti Road Water Project to the Division of Community Assistance, Department of Commerce and to approve the Authorizing Resolution as requested. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

**REIMBURSEMENT RESOLUTION – ALEXANDER COUNTY JAIL / COURTHOUSE PROJECT**

Bob Jessup, Attorney with Sanford Holshouser, LLP, presented a reimbursement resolution for the Alexander County Jail and Courthouse Project, explaining that this was the first step related to the financing of the project. He reviewed several items mentioned in the resolution including type of financing, general fund advancement, etc.

Chairman Robertson pointed out that the resolution stated “the expected maximum amount of obligations to be issued or contracted for the project is \$12 million.” He asked if there would be a problem if the amount exceeded that which was stated or was less. Mr. Jessup replied that the amount was simply added in as a starting point.

Commissioner Bolick made a motion to approve the Reimbursement Resolution for the Alexander County Jail / Courthouse Project. Commissioner Odom seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

### **NORTHEAST AREA WATER PROJECT UPDATE**

Benjie Thomas, West Consultants, PLLC, gave a project status report for the Northeast Area Water Project, stating that 18 miles of pipe had been installed, 11 of which was in service and being tapped for use. He stated that 8.7 miles was remaining, not including Hopewell Church Road, and noted that approximately \$2.25 million of the \$3.1 million contract had been spent.

He explained that \$225,000 had been budgeted for rock excavation; however, he noted that \$286,000 had been spent to date. The additional costs will be taken from contingency where \$500,000 was placed for unforeseen costs such as additional rock excavation as well as the Hopewell Church Road project.

Commissioner Mayberry asked where the rock was taken after excavation. Mr. Thomas replied that smaller rocks could be used to backfill the trenches but that the contractor paid to have the large boulders disposed of.

Mr. Thomas informed the Board that the deadline for completion had been set for May 7, 2009 with the exception of completing Hopewell Church. He noted that the project was currently on schedule but would possibly extend past the deadline.

### **2009 ORTHOPHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT UPDATE**

George Brown, GIS Coordinator, reported that the countywide aerial photography and GIS data layer updates were due to be updated in conjunction with the 2009 revaluation. He pointed out that funding had been set aside in the 911 budget for the flights and in the revaluation budget for the data layer updates.

He stated that Kucera International had been chosen to do the 2009 aerial photography at a cost of \$45,000. They use an ADS40 digital camera which makes it possible for preliminary aerials to be completed by May 2009. He also explained that the process of updating the GIS data layers was much easier to have done at the time of the flights because the new structures would be visible on the new aerials. The cost for these updates total \$13,000.

Mr. Brown requested approved for the use of funding in the amount of \$58,900 (\$45,000 from the 911 budget and \$13,900 from the Revaluation budget) to be used in both the 2008-2009 and the 2009-2010 budget years.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the request for use of funding in the amount of \$58,900 as discussed. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

#### **APPROVAL TO BEGIN BID PROCESS FOR REPLACEMENT AMBULANCE**

Russell Greene, Emergency Services Director, informed the Board that Unit 42 (2005 Marque Ambulance Chevrolet chassis) was involved in an accident on December 11, 2008 and was totaled. No one was injured as a result of the accident and County Maintenance staff has replaced the property owner's mailbox and cleared debris from the tree struck by the ambulance.

Mr. Greene requested approval to proceed with securing bids for a replacement ambulance, mailing out RFP's with duplicate specs for the unit received in May 2008 (TaylorMade GM 4500 chassis) as well as an option to bid on a similar unit, a GM 3500 chassis; however, he noted that he had concerns with the safety and maintenance costs associated with the smaller chassis. He stated that he was also reviewing a demo unit but noted that he had similar concerns with this truck as well. Therefore, his recommendation was the GM 4500 chassis, stating that the current E450 unit had went through 5 sets of brake pad and 2 sets of rotors at 120,000 miles and the GM 4500 had went through 2 sets of brake pads and had not needed any rotors at 120,000 miles.

Commissioner Mayberry inquired about the replacement value on the insurance policy. Mr. Greene replied that staff was awaiting a check in the amount of \$107,004 from the insurance company. He also pointed out that a new unit would cost approximately \$135,000.

Commissioner Yoder discussed the possibility of purchasing a smaller unit similar to those used by Catawba County. He felt that the GM 4500 chassis could possibly be too large a unit for Alexander County's rural roads and he also questioned the need for air ride. Mr. Greene replied that he had concerns with smaller units for several reasons including lack of head room which prevented staff from straightening their backs, which could be an issue if transporting a patient from Vashti to Catawba, as well as maintenance costs and safety. He also stated that gas mileage would not be as good on a lighter unit. Commissioner Yoder felt that if Catawba County used smaller ambulances it might be feasible for Alexander County to do the same, which would save some money as well.

Commissioner Bolick made a motion to allow Russell Greene, Emergency Services Director, to proceed with securing bids for a replacement ambulance on both a 4500 and 3500 chassis. Commissioner Odom seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

#### **APPOINTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE LIAISON TO THE NCACC**

Chairman Robertson stated that the NC Association of County Commissioners was requesting each Board of Commissioners to appoint a Legislative Liaison for the 2009-2010 legislative

biennium to organize county coalitions, ensure other commissioners are aware of NCACC positions, provide feedback to the NCACC on bills and issues, etc.

Chairman Robertson suggested that the sitting chairman represent the County as the NCACC Legislative Liaison from this point forward.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the appointment of the sitting chairman, currently Chairman Robertson, to represent the County as the NCACC Legislative Liaison. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

## **NCACC LEGISLATIVE GOALS**

Rick French, County Manager, presented the NCACC's proposed legislative goals to be considered at the Association's Legislative Goals Conference on January 15-16, 2009 at the Sheraton Hotel in Raleigh. He reviewed several goals of interest to Alexander County including:

- E-911 Funds – support legislation to preserve county revenue from E-911 charges and allow counties greater flexibility in the use of the funds; and restructure the 911 Board created by GS 62A-41 to add additional local government representation.
- Court Facilities Fee – support legislation to allow counties to collect additional facilities fees to help capital, operational, and other needs associated with ever-increasing judicial activities.
- Revenue Options and Protection – seek legislation to allow all counties to enact by resolution any or all revenue options from among those that have been authorized for any other county, including local option sales taxes, prepared food taxes, impact taxes and real estate transfer taxes, and to preserve the existing local revenue base.
- Water and Sewer Infrastructure – (a) support legislation providing the necessary capital for the maintenance, upgrade, installation, and expansion of public water, sewer, and storm water infrastructure, with encouragement for water reclamation facilities; and (b) seek legislation to create a study of the rules and procedures for evaluating the available capacity of pump stations.
- Mental Health Funding – seek legislation to ensure that state funded mental health, developmental disability, and substance abuse services are available, accessible, and affordable to all citizens.
- Transportation Funding – oppose legislation shifting the state's existing responsibility for funding transportation construction and maintenance projects to county governments.

Commissioner Bolick felt legislation was needed to prevent the involuntary annexation of a town or city by another municipality. Commissioner Yoder stated that Senator Goss would be attending a meeting this week regarding the issue.

Chairman Robertson asked if any commissioner was planning to attend the Legislative Goals Conference. Commissioner Mayberry responded that he was planning to attend as well as Rick French, County Manager. Therefore, Chairman Robertson requested consideration to allow Commissioner Mayberry as the Voting Delegate for the conference.

Commissioner Bolick made a motion to allow Commissioner Mayberry to serve as the Voting Delegate for Alexander County at the NCACC Legislative Goals Conference. Commissioner Odom seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

### **HIDDENITE SEWER PROJECT UPDATE**

Rick French, County Manager, stated that Neil Grading currently had two crews working, one at Paladin Industries and Urban Lane and the other still boring on Highway 90. He also noted that the initial work had begun on the Old Mountain Road pump station.

### **JAIL PROJECT UPDATE**

Rick French, County Manager, reported that he had spoken with Jack Hemphill, Jail Architect, on Friday, January 2, 2009 who is 50% complete with the overall plans and designs. Mr. Hemphill would like to meet with the Board soon.

### **BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT #16**

Rick French, County Manager, presented Budget Amendment #16 to increase the JCPC budget for additional allocations from the State Department of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention, to budget for the SOS grant passed through the school system from the State Department of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention, to budget for a local United Way grant, and to increase the DSS budget for additional allocations of Crisis Intervention Payment funds from the state.

Commissioner Bolick made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #16. Commissioner Yoder 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 Charlotte Region Census Center is seeking qualified applicants to fill 15,000 jobs throughout Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. Positions include address listers, office clerks, recruiting assistants, crew leaders, and field operations supervisors. Individuals interested can go to [www.2010censusjobs.gov](http://www.2010censusjobs.gov) or call 1-866-861-2010.

Chairman Robertson asked that a link to this website be placed on the County webpage.

- B. Effective February 1, 2009, the operating hours at the Senior Center will be changed from Monday-Friday 8:00 AM-5:00 PM to Monday-Thursday 8:00 AM-5:00 PM and Friday 8:00 AM-2:00 PM.
- C. The State Drinking Water Fund is offering 0% interest loans for 20 years which the County plans to apply for. More information will be provided at a later date.
- D. The annual WPCOG Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2009 at 6:30 PM at the Crown Plaza.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Tax Release Requests for December \$4,822.22 and Tax Refund Requests for November \$5,644.83.
- B. Minutes from the November 17, 2008 and December 1, 2008 Regular Commissioners' Meetings.

Commissioner Bolick made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Mayberry 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 Robertson made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 7:12 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 Yoder seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Commissioner Yoder made a motion to adjourn at 8:39 PM. Commissioner Odom seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

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W. Darrell Robertson, Chairman

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Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board