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**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
WORK SESSION June 8, 2009**

**ALEXANDER COUNTY  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**PRESENT:** W. Darrell Robertson, Chairman  
Wes Bolick, Vice-Chairman  
Ryan Mayberry  
Larry G. Yoder

**ABSENT:** Harold M. Odom

**STAFF:** Rick French, County Manager  
Jennifer Herman, Finance Director  
Jamie Starnes, Clerk to the Board

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

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a work session on Monday, June 8, 2009 in the Alexander County Administration Conference Room, Taylorsville, North Carolina.

**SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT / JAIL BUDGETS**

Hayden Bentley, Sheriff, mentioned his concerns with the lack of funding budgeted for new vehicles in 2009-2010. He also discussed the need to purchase new bulletproof vests for deputies. He stated that vests had a life expectancy of 5 to 6 years and noted that current vests being worn by deputies would soon exceed that timeframe. He explained that vests cost approximately \$450 each and that he would need to purchase 25 or 26. Sheriff Bentley mentioned that there was federal asset money that could be used to purchase the vests in the 2009-2010 budget year.

Sheriff Bentley also informed the Board that a replacement washer and dryer were needed at the jail as well as two new toilets in response to the most recent state jail inspection. Rick French, County Manager, stated that those items would be addressed in the Public Buildings budget.

**REVIEW OF SLIDES FOR PUBLIC HEARING**

Ms. Herman presented a number of slides prepared for the budget public hearing scheduled for June 15, 2009 and she requested input on the content. Information provided in the slides included general fund expenditure, revenue, and fund balance comparisons with Davie, Yadkin,

and Scotland counties as well fluctuation of revenues in Alexander County based on the economy. Several revisions and suggestions were made.

## **2009-2010 BUDGET UPDATES**

Mr. French reviewed the following information with the Board:

- Staff has received word that the June state aid for the library has been approved minus 10%.
- The 2009-2010 budget is 8.7% less than the current budget.
- The proposed budget includes a 7-cent property tax increase.
- An 8% increase will apply to water usage. City of Hickory increased the County's rate by 4%.
- A \$5 per month charge will be included in sewer bills for Bethlehem residents.
- The increase in landfill fees discussed at the May 27, 2009 work session will not be necessary and have been eliminated from the budget.
- The increase in the Senior Center usage fee will still apply as planned.
- There are several increases in building inspection and permits fees proposed.

## **2007-2008 ADM HOLD HARMLESS FUNDS**

Mr. French recommended approval of an application requesting \$168,767.71 from the County to the school system for the Connectivity Project completed in 2008 which updated the network infrastructure and implemented a Metro-Ethernet connection between the central office, all 10 schools and auxiliary locations. He explained that these funds had already been allotted during the Medicaid swap in 2007-2008 and previously approved by the commissioners and the Board of Education.

Commissioner Mayberry made a motion to approve the application submitted by Jack Hoke, Superintendent, for the appropriation of \$168,767.71 as requested. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

## **FIREARMS REGULATIONS**

Chairman Robertson discussed a recent complaint regarding a citizen firing weapons in a subdivision and the possible need to pass an ordinance or County law. He felt that Robert Campbell, County Attorney, should be involved and should refer to other counties to determine how the problem was handled elsewhere. The Board agreed.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further discussion, the work session was adjourned at 7:05 PM.

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W. Darrell Robertson, Chairman

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Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board