

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING September 29, 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 Tuesday, September 29, 2009 in the Catawba Valley Community College / Alexander Center Multipurpose Room, Taylorsville, North Carolina. A reception honoring Caye Home Furnishings, LLC was held prior to the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Bolick gave the invocation and Representative Ray Warren led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Chairman Robertson recognized the former commissioners present at the meeting who made the following comments:

Vernon Broyhill (1966-1970) discussed the former Broyhill Furniture which he began 38 years ago. He stated that it was a great place to work then and he hoped that Caye Home Furnishings would have great success there.

Fred Lackey (1992-1996) stated that he served as commissioner when budgets weren't as tough. He also praised Hayden Bentley for his dedication to community service.

Guy Kerley (1994-1998) mentioned the struggle to build infrastructure when he was a commissioner and felt the boards since then had worked to continue that effort. He conveyed his appreciation to Caye for choosing Alexander County.

David Odom (1998-2003) pointed out that one of the hallmarks of the Alexander County seal was furniture. He mentioned that Caye would find a dedicated workforce in the county and he, on behalf of the Town of Taylorsville, thanked Caye for their investment.

William Hammer (2000-2008) welcomed Caye to Alexander County. He discussed their neighbor, Paragon Films from Oklahoma, noting that they came here because they were impressed by the people in Alexander County that would make up their workforce. He thanked everyone involved with this project.

Ray Warren, NC House Representative and former Sheriff of Alexander County, stated that Senator Steve Goss was in Raleigh and that Tom Bebber unfortunately could not be here due to some health problems. Representative Warren, who began at the Sheriff's Department in the late 70's and served as Sheriff from 1990 to 2002, discussed the contribution Hayden Bentley had made to the county. He also noted that the legislature was interested in job promotion and helping put citizens to work and he urged Caye to contact him and Senator Goss with any future plans to expand.

Chairman Robertson thanked Representative Warren and Senator Goss for their efforts in making the Caye Project a reality.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman Robertson requested the addition of a surplus item to the Consent Agenda.

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

CAYE HOME FURNISHINGS PROJECT UPDATE

David Icenhour, Economic Development Director, discussed the Caye Home Furnishings Project that, along with their partners Industrial Timber and NC Foam & Sales, would create 165 new jobs in Alexander County. This is one of the largest job announcements in recent Alexander County history. He introduced representatives from each organization, which included:

From Caye Home Furnishings – Karl Leo, Chairman of the Board; Ty Hester, CEO and President; and Wayne Stewart, CFO and Executive Vice-President

From Industrial Timber – Mike Ruch, CEO, and Craig Larsen, President

From NC Foam & Sales – Larry Jackson, Owner

Karl Leo stated that Caye was happy to be in Alexander County and currently employing 42 people. He noted that 160 pieces of furniture were made today. Mr. Leo also mentioned that Industrial Timber had hired 9 individuals as had NC Foam & Sales, totaling 60 who had previously not been employed.

Wayne Stewart thanked the commissioners for their assistance with the project as well as Representative Warren and Senator Goss, Ron Leach and the NC Department of Commerce, David Icenhour and Jason Williams, Mark Davis, Wes Fox, Chris Rhyne, and Taylorsville Savings Bank.

The Board individually thanked the representatives of the each organization. Chairman Robertson, on behalf of the entire Board, presented Caye Home Furnishings with a Key to the County for their role in supporting economic development through one of the largest private job commitments in Alexander County history.

RETIREMENT PRESENTATION FOR SHERIFF HAYDEN BENTLEY

Chairman Robertson recognized Sheriff Hayden Bentley who recently announced that he would be retiring after 33 years with the Alexander County Sheriff's Department. He stated that Sheriff Bentley was hired by former Sheriff Tom Bebbber in the late 70's and had won two elections as Sheriff.

After comments from individual commissioners, Chairman Robertson, on behalf of the entire Board, presented a Key to the County to Sheriff Hayden Bentley for his 33 years of dedicated service to the citizens of Alexander County. He was also given a U.S. Flag by Commissioner Yoder. The Board wished Sheriff Bentley well.

Representative Ray Warren briefly spoke, stating that Sheriff Bentley was a great investigator as well as an excellent teacher.

Sheriff Bentley stated that it had been an honor to work with the citizens of the county, his employees, and department heads.

PUBLIC HEARING: CDBG 2009 COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION APPLICATION

Nancy Coley, WPCOG Community Development Administrator, reported that this was the second public hearing to develop the CDBG 2009 Community Revitalization application. She explained that the Hoyle Keller Loop Project requested \$389,105 in CDBG funds to rehabilitate 4 substandard homes, to clear two severely substandard vacant mobile homes, and to provide

public water to 8 households. This grant will benefit low and moderate income individuals and 100% of the project will be funded by CDBG funds, if approved.

Chairman Robertson called the public hearing to order and requested any public comment. There being no comments made, 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 Odom made a motion to adopt the authorizing resolution and send the Community Revitalization application for the Hoyle Keller Loop Project to the NC Department of Commerce. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

UPDATE ON POULTRY INDUSTRY

Kathy Bunton, Area Specialized Poultry Agent, gave an update on the poultry industry in Alexander County with a slide show presentation that included the following statistics:

- Alexander County is ranked 2nd in the state for commercial poultry production.
- 15 million broilers and 1,790,000 non-broilers are raised annually.
- The poultry industry in Alexander County contributed \$70 million to our county's economy annually.
- 13 million dozen eggs are produced each year.
- There are 187 farm families in Alexander County (51 pullet, 74 breeder, 62 broiler) along with 420 poultry houses.
- 62 new poultry houses were constructed last year with an investment of \$14,260,000.

The Board thanked Ms. Bunton for the update.

ROCKY FACE PARK UPDATE

Sam Erwin, WPCOG Environmental Administrator, presented the Rocky Face Park Master Plan, created to coincide with the application for a PARTF grant in 2010. He explained that the plan was broken into 3 phases as follows:

Phase 1 (0-3 years) – trail development, signage, grading/landscaping, parking, restrooms, picnic shelter adjacent to church, safety and species informational kiosk, fencing/gate, quarry overlook. **Total cost \$381,570**

Phase 2 (4-6 years) – wetland demonstration area, stage, trailhead, picnic shelter at old quarry site, ADA trail, activities information kiosk, history kiosk, additional parking and restrooms, purchase of adjacent land. **Total cost \$224,595**

Phase 3 (7-10 years) – pave existing gravel parking lot and install pervious pavers to gravel parking lot. **Total cost \$165,600**

Mr. Erwin stated that the Master Plan would need to be adopted by the commissioners at some point prior to the submission of the PARTF grant application.

Chairman Robertson thanked Mr. Erwin, the Rocky Face Park Committee, and the staff at Carolina Land & Lakes RC&D for their contribution to this project.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS

Rick French, County Manager, presented the following appointments and reappointments to County boards and committees:

Region E Development Corporation – Appoint Kip Clyburn and reappoint David Icenhour for 3 years.

Jury Commission – Reappoint Bud Yost for 2 years.

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council – Appoint Jennifer Hefner to replace Darlene Carrigan.

Commissioner Bolick made a motion to approve the appointments and reappointments as presented. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #11 - #14

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendments #11 - #14, which included the following information:

Budget Amendment #11 – To increase the Sheriff's Department budget for vacation payout and Law Enforcement Officer Special Separation Allowance payments resulting from the Sheriff's retirement. To increase the Sheriff's Department budget for the Traffic Enforcement Officer grant from the NC Governor's Highway Safety Program.

Budget Amendment #12 – To increase the Health Department budget for H1N1 grant (additional monies for planning and surveillance and for additional regular bioterrorism monies). To budget for state DWI grant funds for the Health Department. To adjust the Recreation budget for operational changes discussed during the 2009-2010 budget process that were not implemented. To increase the Special Appropriations budget to help the Domestic Violence Resource Center reopen.

Budget Amendment #13 – To budget for a General Fund transfer to the Home Energy Loan Pool Program due to administrative costs in excess of original estimates.

Budget Amendment #14 – To increase the Bethlehem Fire Department budget for professional services related to the new fire department building project.

Commissioner Bolick made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #11 - #14. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

OTHER BUSINESS

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the following items during Other Business:

- A. The next 21st Century Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 20, 2009 at 6:00 PM at CVCC.
- B. Clean Alexander Day will be Saturday, October 31, 2009.
- C. The Lion's Club Fair opening ceremony will begin on Tuesday, October 6, 2009 at 5:45 PM.
- D. The Soil & Water Environmental Field Days are to take place October 13-15, 2009 from 9:15 AM until 1:15 PM at Donald Payne's dairy farm.
- E. A name change will be made to the CVCC / Alexander Center sign on Highway 16 South to read CVCC Alexander Center for Education.
- F. The Hiddenite Half-Marathon and 10K races were a success thanks to the many volunteers involved. Mr. French thanked Diane Fox, Jamie Starnes, Judy Feimster, Hunter and Kathy French, Angela Blakely, Russell Greene, Mark Earle, Josh Mitchell, Brian Stocks, Jon Presnell, Kim Stine, Barbara Poole, Gail Drum, Karen Elkins, Lavonda Weaver, Nat Auten, Jody Marshall, Lee Branch, Angela Johnson, Lisa and Randy Harrington, Gordon and Charman Knight, Brad Gates, Bob Burns, Dennis James, David Icenhour, Jack Hoke, Sheriff's Department, and EMS.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from the September 14, 2009 Regular Commissioners' Meeting.
- B. Declare Sheriff Hayden Bentley's computer as surplus.
- C. Tax Release Requests for September \$3,647.45 and Tax Refund Requests for September \$332.00.
- D. Missed Tax Refunds for July \$147.41
- E. Declare Sheriff Hayden Bentley's service weapon and 3 magazines as surplus.

Commissioner Yoder 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 7:59 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 8:13 PM. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

W. Darrell Robertson, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board