

Draft

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**      October 12, 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, October 12, 2009 in the CVCC / 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**

William Shook, Solid Waste Truck Driver and Equipment Operator, gave the invocation and also led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mr. Shook stated that he drove the garbage truck for the Solid Waste Department, picking up at convenience sites, County buildings, schools, and parks. He also mentioned that he assisted in operations at the landfill and noted that staff had been working to make the landfill more convenient for citizens.

Chairman Robertson conveyed his appreciation to the efforts of the Solid Waste Department. Commissioner Bolick urged citizens to visit the landfill, noting that it was very clean and in order.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Chairman Robertson stated that some paperwork that had been placed under Item #7 in the agenda book needed to be transferred to Item #6.

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

### **ALEXANDER COUNTY SHERIFF RECOMMENDATION**

Peggy Rumbold, Democratic Party Chairperson, informed the Board that the Executive Committee met on September 22, 2009 and unanimously voted to nominate Chris Bowman as Alexander County Sheriff to serve out Hayden Bentley's unexpired term ending the first Monday in December 2010. This action is in accordance with NC General Statutes.

Chris Bowman stated that he looked forward to serving as Sheriff and he thanked former Sheriff Tom Bebbler for hiring him in 1979 and getting him started in law enforcement. He hoped to continue a good working relationship with the County and all emergency organizations. Mr. Bowman felt those relationships were necessary to provide the best service to the citizens.

Mr. Bowman's swearing in ceremony will be held tomorrow, Tuesday, October 13, 2009 at 12:00 Noon in the Superior Court Room.

Commissioner Odom made a motion to accept the nomination of Chris Bowman to serve as Alexander County Sheriff for the remainder of Hayden Bentley's unexpired term. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

### **BETHLEHEM FIRE DEPARTMENT 2009 ARRA GRANT**

Russell Greene, Emergency Services Director, announced that staff had been informed by FEMA Department of Homeland Security that Bethlehem Fire Department received an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Assistance to Firefighters Station Construction Grant in the amount of \$2,008,515. Funds will be used to construct a long-awaited fire department.

Shannon Lowrance, Bethlehem Fire Chief, thanked the County for the assistance with the grant application as well as Russell Greene, Cherry Kilby, and Mark Earle from the Fire Marshal's office. He also thanked several members of the Fire Department including Sherry Bolick and Ashley Starnes.

Commissioner Bolick pointed out that the Bethlehem Fire Department provided first responder services as well as fire response. Mr. Lowrance added that the department was on standby for trauma and medical calls in the Bethlehem area and assisted EMS when necessary. Volunteers from the fire department respond to approximately 290 medical calls a year.

Chairman Robertson congratulated the Bethlehem Fire Department and discussed the need to construct this facility.

Commissioner Mayberry stated that the Bethlehem Fire Department was dedicated to serving their community. He also noted that 6 of these grants were awarded statewide and that Bethlehem's grant was only \$26 less than Winston-Salem's.

Commissioner Yoder discussed first hearing about these grants during a NACo Public Safety Committee Meeting and pointed out that these projects needed to be shovel-ready to receive funding.

An announcement ceremony will be held on Friday, October 16, 2009 at 10:00 AM at the Bethlehem Fire Department. Senator Richard Burr will be in attendance.

### **APPLE FESTIVAL UPDATE**

Lenny Rogers, Cooperative Extension Director, announced that the Taylorsville Apple Festival would be held on Saturday, October 17, 2009 with opening ceremonies beginning at 9:00 AM at the courthouse. The number of vendors has increased this year to over 200.

Mr. Rogers discussed the new state Health and Emergency Services regulations enforced this year including requirements for food permits as well as fire extinguishers and fire retardant tents. He stated that the property next to the town ball field had been graded and would be used for the Kid's Corner. The car show will be held on the town ball field and a new youth stage is planned. Mr. Rogers also promoted the new Greenway Public Transportation service that would be available on Saturday.

Chairman Robertson also mentioned that the Sister Cities German Delegation would be visiting Alexander County on Saturday and attending the Apple Festival.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

### **VASHTI WATER PROJECT SCHEDULE**

Rick French, County Manager, mentioned that the Vashti Water Project bids should be awarded in March 2010. Construction is expected to be completed by February 2011 and the project closed out by March 2011.

### **RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO LOSS OF JOBS AT HICKORY MAIL PROCESSING & DISTRIBUTION CENTER**

Rick French, County Manager, presented a resolution opposing the potential loss of jobs that could result from a study that the US Postal Service is conducting on the Hickory Mail Processing and Distribution Center for possible consolidation of certain operations into the Greensboro Processing Distribution Center. This could result in the further loss of jobs and shifting all outgoing mail from the 286 region to be processed in Greensboro.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the resolution in opposition to the loss of jobs at the Hickory Mail Processing and Distribution Center. Commissioner Odom seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

#### **AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION FOR NC RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

Rick French, County Manager, reported that in 2007 the General Assembly appropriated \$100 million to the NC Rural Economic Development Center for the purpose of making grants to rural communities in need of water and wastewater infrastructure improvements. In the summer of 2008, another \$50 million was added to further assist rural communities.

He stated that the County intended to apply for Rural Center funds to address critical water needs on Church Road, and noted that approval of this resolution was the first step in that process.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the resolution to be forwarded to the NC Rural Center. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

#### **RESOLUTION TO ADOPT AN IDENTITY THEFT PREVENTION PROGRAM**

Rick French, County Manager, explained that the Federal Trade Commission required any creditor to adopt an Identity Theft Prevention Program that uses red flags to detect, prevent, and mitigate identify theft related to information used in covered accounts. Alexander County is considered a creditor with respect to providing and accepting payment for emergency medical services, Health Department services, water utilities, and landfill services.

Commissioner Bolick made a motion to approve the resolution to adopt an Identity Theft Prevention Program. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

#### **RESOLUTION FOR LANDFILL CLOSURE FUND & 911 FUND ACCOUNTS WITH RBC BANK**

Rick French, County Manager, explained that approval of this resolution was necessary to separate the Landfill Closure Fund as well as the 911 Fund from regular County finances, as

required by state law. The resolution also names the Finance Director, County Manager, and Chairman as authorized representatives.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the resolution with RBC Bank. Commissioner Odom seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

### **BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT #15**

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendment #15 to increase the Resource Center budget for 2009-2010 state funding in excess of original budget estimates, to increase the Health Department budget for additional state funds for improving immunization capacity, and to adjust the Extension Service budget to allow for expenditures in 2010 of the \$1,393 in United Way grant funds received in 2009.

Commissioner Odom made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #15. 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 next 21<sup>st</sup> Century Committee Meeting will be on Tuesday, October 20, 2009 at 6:00 PM at CVCC.
- B. Clean Alexander Day is scheduled for Saturday, October 31, 2009.
- C. Alexander County Government was awarded the Chamber of Commerce Business of the Month today.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Minutes from the September 29, 2009 Regular Commissioners' Meeting.

Commissioner Mayberry identified the need for one correction in the minutes under the Commissioners' Report during the recognition of former commissioners.

Commissioner Bolick made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Odom 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**

Commissioner Bolick made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 6:47 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 Mayberry 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 7:07 PM. Commissioner Mayberry 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