

Draft

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**     March 15, 2010

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

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

**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, March 15, 2010 in the CVCC / Alexander Center Multipurpose Room, Taylorsville, NC.

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Robertson gave the invocation and also led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**\*\*\*SPECIAL RECOGNITION\*\*\***

Commissioner Robertson, on behalf of the entire Board, presented a Key to the County to Charlesie Hager for her humanitarian work while in India through Hopegivers International.

Charlesie is the 15-year old daughter of Chuck and Shannon Hager. Through Hopegivers International, she has traveled to India twice and worked in several orphanages.

Charlesie gave a slide show presentation of her experiences in India which included Hope Homes visited, the Emmanuel Mission Hospital, the Raipura Love Feast held on Christmas Eve, and photos of many children she met. She thanked the Board for the recognition as well as her teachers at East Alexander Middle School and ACHS for their guidance and support.

Citizens wishing to donate locally to Hopegivers International can contact New Beginnings Church in Stony Point.

## **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Chairman Yoder requested Agenda Item #2 (Alexander Hospice C.O.N.) be moved up and heard as Agenda Item #1.

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

## **ALEXANDER HOSPICE & HOME CARE CERTIFICATE OF NEED**

Phil Icard stated that Hospice & Home Care of Alexander County was currently assessing the feasibility of operating an in-patient, acute hospice care facility to include 3 in-patient acute hospice care beds and 3 respite care beds, which would be located in Alexander County. Hospice plans to file a Certificate of Need application to contest an application filed by Palliative CareCenter & Hospice of Catawba Valley.

He explained that Palliative CareCenter & Hospice of Catawba Valley was seeking the 3 in-patient acute hospice care beds to be located at Valley Nursing Home. Palliative is currently seeking support from Alexander County for its CON application.

Mr. Icard added that Hospice & Home Care of Alexander County had been in operation for 25 years and had provided care to many residents through a staff of medical care professionals, social workers, and ministers. He requested the Board support the efforts of Hospice & Home Care of Alexander County in obtaining the CON for an in-patient acute hospice care facility and decline joining in support of the CON application of Palliative CareCenter & Hospice of Catawba Valley. Mr. Icard noted that public hearings would be held in the near future to inform citizens of their plans and to request letters of support to be mailed along with the CON application.

Commissioner Robertson stated that a meeting with Representative Ray Warren and Senator Steve Goss could be arranged if needed. He asked Mr. Icard to keep County staff at the Administration Office informed. Chairman Yoder suggested Mr. Icard meet with the civic clubs in the county. Mr. Icard reported that a sample letter of support would be available at [www.alexanderhospicehomecare.org](http://www.alexanderhospicehomecare.org).

Chairman Yoder made a motion to approve a resolution supporting Hospice & Home Care of Alexander County's application for a 3-bed CON for in-patient acute hospice care. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

## **FOOTHILLS CONSERVANCY REPORT**

Tom Kenney, FCNC Land Protection Director, began by stating that Foothills Conservancy of NC was a non-profit, independent regional land trust dedicated to working with land owners as well as private and public partners to preserve and protect natural areas in the Blue Ridge Foothills region. Foothills Conservancy began in 1995 and has currently aided in the protection of 45,000 acres.

He discussed Joe and Little Joe Mountains located near the Wilkes County line, noting that the site was nationally recognized for its interesting and rare plants and animals. The mountains have the largest population of Keever's Brittlegrass in the state. He also stated that approximately 85 acres of Joe and Little Joe Mountains were currently protected and owned by another conservancy.

Mr. Kenney discussed options available in an effort to protect and conserve land including:

- Acquiring easements from land owners.
- Donations from owners to qualify for federal or state tax benefits.
- Foothills Conservancy holding of easements.
- Purchase or receive donations of property.
- Registry or dedication agreement with NCDENR / Natural Heritage Program.

Commissioner Mayberry asked how property owners could obtain more information. Mr. Kenney stated that citizens could visit the Foothills Conservancy website at [www.foothillsconservancy.org](http://www.foothillsconservancy.org) or call (828) 437-9930.

## **RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR GOOGLE FIBER TO THE HOME AND BUSINESS INITIATIVE**

David Icenhour, Economic Development Director, advised that the Google Fiber to the Home and Business Initiative strived to eliminate the bandwidth bottleneck to develop and test high speed network applications so that Google could open their network to any and all service providers that want access to large bandwidth for businesses and households. So far, 100 applications have been received from 43 states.

He explained that the Hickory/Lenoir application included municipalities and counties along the US 321 corridor in Catawba and Caldwell Counties and, potentially, Alexander and other counties in the NC Data Center Corridor. Therefore, he presented a resolution in support of the Hickory/Lenoir application.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve the resolution in support of the Google Fiber to the Home and Business Initiative and the Hickory/Lenoir application and instructed that copies of the resolution to be sent to Caldwell, Catawba, and Burke Counties as well as the Town of Taylorsville. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

## **DISCUSSION OF PROPERTY TAX SERVICE FOR THE TOWN OF TAYLORSVILLE**

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the possibility of the County performing property tax services for the Town of Taylorsville. This is due to the Town's interest in providing one-stop shopping for its residents and a 100% increase in maintenance and support fees for the Town's tax software for the upcoming year. He stated that the County currently collected all motor vehicle tax by state law and that the Town paid the County 1.5% for that service.

Mr. French requested the Board's approval to consult with the County Attorney regarding a long-term agreement with the Town for future consideration.

Commissioner Robertson felt the Tax Office should provide the Board with cost figures associated with these services before consideration of an agreement such as the cost of necessary software improvements that may be required, estimated manpower, and/or the need for additional staff.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to allow the County Manager to consult with the County Attorney once cost figures were received from the Tax Office. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

## **TRANSPORTATION ISSUES**

Rick French, County Manager, provided the Board with a petition from the residents of Robinette Road requesting the Board to pass a resolution to have this road paved outside of the priority list due to bus traffic and dangerous curves. Robinette Road is currently listed as 31<sup>st</sup> on the NCDOT paving priority list.

It was Commissioner Odom's understanding that the first 10 roads listed on the paving priority, which would not be funded until 2013, could not be changed. He also noted that there were many roads in Alexander County in the same condition or worse as Robinette Road and that the Board would have to prove something of major significance to create the need for the road to be paved out of priority.

Commissioner Robertson felt the Board should meet with representatives from NCDOT to determine how the sequence of road paving was determined. The Board agreed.

Therefore, Commissioner Robertson made a motion to table consideration of a resolution for Robinette Road until a meeting with NCDOT could be held. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Mr. French also stated that the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee had invited comments and recommendations on S.L. 2009-574 Section 4.4 (Issues Related to the State's

Method for Distributing Transportation Funds). Chairman Yoder stated that he or Commissioner Mayberry would submit comments.

## **BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS**

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

**Equalization & Review Board** – Reappoint Ron Roseman, David Odom, Patsy Little, Linda Barnette, Sue Watts (alternate), and Commissioner Bolick for one year.

**Health Board** – Reappoint Clint Canaday for 3 years.

**Planning & Zoning Commission** – Reappoint Jim Herman for 2 years.

Mr. French added that replacements were needed for Eric Fritz (Bethlehem) and Brian Walker (Sharpes) on the Planning & Zoning Commission, for Eunice Carr on the Joint Nursing & Adult Care Advisory Committee, and for Donald Robertson and Kathleen Gwaltney on the Town Planning Board of Adjustments.

Commissioner Odom made a motion to approve the reappointments as presented. Commissioner Robertson 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 Commissioner's Choice Awards Banquet is scheduled for March 16, 2010 at 6:30 pm in the ACHS cafeteria.
- B. The pre-bid meeting for the Vashti Water Project will be held on March 18, 2010 at the County Administration Building. Bids for this project are to be opened on April 6, 2010 at 2:00 PM.
- C. The annual surplus property sale with the school system is set for April 29, 2010 at 6:00 pm in the parking lot below the softball and soccer fields at Central Park.

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

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Minutes from the March 1, 2010 Regular Commissioners' Meeting.

- B. Tax Refund Requests missed for February \$252.40.
- C. Alexander County Resource Center Application for Continuation of Implementation Funding to the Criminal Justice Partnership Program.

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**

Chairman Yoder made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 7:31 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 Robertson made a motion to adjourn at 7:58 PM. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

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Larry G. Yoder, Chairman

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Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board