

Draft

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
WORK SESSION** May 25, 2010

**ALEXANDER COUNTY  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

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

**ABSENT:** Harold M. Odom

**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 work session on Tuesday, May 25, 2010 in the County Administration Conference Room in Taylorsville, North Carolina. A quorum was present.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Yoder called the work session to order at 6:04 PM.

**CLOSED SESSION – N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1 & 6) TO PREVENT THE DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION & PERSONNEL**

Chairman Yoder made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 6:05 PM to prevent the disclosure of confidential information and to discuss personnel issues pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1 & 6). Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

The Board reconvened into Open Session at 6:40 PM.

**2010-2011 BUDGET DISCUSSION**

Rick French, County Manager, reviewed the following highlights regarding the 2010-2011 budget:

- The proposed General Fund budget totals \$29,034,064, which includes \$1,235,657 for the Water & Sewer Fund, \$1,122,450 for the Bethlehem Water Fund, and \$1,571,354 for the Solid Waste Fund.
- The proposed budget is 12% or \$3.5 million less than it was 2 years ago.
- There will be no property tax increase.
- Sales tax revenues are 32.64% or \$1,252,000 less than this time last year.
- Only one new employee is budgeted – a jail employee to replace someone who was injured.
- Four positions have been eliminated during the 2009-2010 budget and will remain unfilled.
- Part-time Recreation employees (umpires, referees, scorekeepers, etc.) will be paid by communities beginning in 2010-2011. Communities will also keep all sign-up fees.
- County cell phones will be eliminated and employees will be paid a stipend through payroll.
- A 2.5% COLA is proposed for employees in January 2011.
- The only fee increase is in EMS.
- The Register of Deeds software will have to be replaced this year.
- The Grounds employees currently in the Recreation budget will be transferred to the Public Buildings / Maintenance department.
- The School System will receive the same appropriation as last year – \$5 million plus the auditorium debt service payment.
- \$125,000 is budgeted for 4 new Sheriff's Department vehicles, \$250,000 is budgeted for Fund Balance, \$256,000 is budgeted for Contingency, and \$300,000 is budgeted for the match on the Church Road water line grant.
- There is \$340,000 less debt than in 2009-2010.
- Transfers from General Fund to other departments are \$450,000 less.

- A 2% water rate increase is proposed in response to an increase from the City of Hickory.
- Funding will be set aside for upkeep of parks to repair bathrooms, tennis courts, etc.
- The County's contribution of retirement benefits increased which will cost the County over \$130,000.

Mr. French stated that, as far as expenses, the County was in the best shape he'd seen in 5 years. Thanks to efforts made by departments and other small efforts, such as lock boxes on thermostats and reduction of overtime, the County currently had \$3 million in revenue over expenses. Therefore, he stated that the County was in a much better position to consider building the jail and renovating the courthouse. Plans are 99% completed. He informed the Board that USDA loans were available at 4% for 40 years. Mr. French felt that, when considering the process of courthouse employee relocation, the jail should be constructed first.

Commissioner Robertson mentioned that the revaluation process had been postponed for 2 years and was scheduled for next year. He felt this needed to be discussed to decide if revaluation should be postponed for another 2 years.

A public hearing is scheduled for June 7, 2010 and a work session can be held on June 14, 2010 if needed.

## **WATER PROJECTS**

Mr. French discussed his meeting with Kevin Grier with the City of Hickory regarding water projects. During the meeting, Meagan Spainhour's case was reviewed. It was determined that the City of Hickory would do the design work and install a water line along George Hall Lane if the County would pay for materials at \$29,578.

Commissioner Robertson instructed Mr. French to check with the state regarding emergency funds, which could be available due to the arsenic levels being so high.

Mr. French stated that he had received water calls from residents from Mt. Olive Church Road, B&T Lane, Cornerstore Road, Teague Town Road, and Highway 64/90 in the Ellendale area.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Robertson made a motion to adjourn at 7:30 PM. Chairman Yoder 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