

Draft

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**     October 4, 2010

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

**PRESENT:**    Larry Yoder, Chairman  
                  Wes Bolick  
                  Harold M. Odom  
                  W. Darrell Robertson

**ABSENT:**     Ryan Mayberry, Vice-Chairman

**STAFF:**      Rick French, County Manager  
                  Jamie Starnes, Clerk to the Board

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Monday, October 4, 2010 in the CVCC / Alexander Center Multipurpose Room, Taylorsville, North Carolina.

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Odom gave the invocation. Chairman Yoder led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Alexander County Emergency Services Honor Guard, made up of volunteers from various emergency service agencies in the county, presented the colors.

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

Kirby Patton stated that two years ago she began working on Courts for the Community, her Girl Scouts Gold Award Project. In that time, funds have been raised to pay for new nets, cranks, and center straps for the tennis courts in the Bethlehem Community which will be included in the renovations currently underway. She thanked everyone who helped her and she also invited the Board to a ribbon cutting ceremony once the tennis court renovation was completed.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Chairman Yoder requested the postponement of Agenda Item #4 (Discussion of the Proposal from CVCC / Alexander Center) until all Board members were present.

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.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

## **RECOGNITION OF FIRE PREVENTION WEEK**

Russell Greene, Emergency Services Director, stated that Fire Prevention Week was October 3-9, 2010 with the theme "Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With." He recognized the fire department chiefs, several of which were present, including:

Ellendale – John Fletcher  
Hiddenite – Tim Keever  
Sugar Loaf – Dennis Johnson  
Stony Point – Scotty Abernathy  
Taylorsville – Matt Jordan  
Vashti – Steven Carson  
Wittenburg – Randy Walker  
Bethlehem – Shannon Lowrance  
Alexander Rescue & EMS – Terry Foxx

Terry Foxx, Alexander Rescue Captain, mentioned that the Rescue Squad had organized a Safety Awareness Day at Hiddenite Elementary School for the past several years in conjunction with Fire Prevention Week. Students will learn water, ATV, and animal safety along with 911 and first aid education.

Dennis Johnson, Sugar Loaf Chief, stated that firefighters were required to obtain at least 36 hours of training each year. He also noted that he was President of the Fireman's Association which bought the uniforms for the Honor Guard.

Tim Keever, Hiddenite Chief, reported that the Hiddenite Department had 35 members which had received at least 100 hours of training last year. He also mentioned the substation in Gwaltneys.

Scotty Abernathy, Stony Point Chief, stated that Stony Point had 52 members and 25 in ladies auxiliary. He noted that their new substation opened in November 2009 and that they would be doing fire prevention programs at Stony Point and Scotts Elementary Schools as well as Small Hands and Salem-Sloan Day Cares.

Randy Walker, Wittenburg Chief, advised that Wittenburg obtained a total of 3,600 training hours for all members last year. In addition to schools, Wittenburg also provided training to two church day cares. He also reported that they had a couple of paid fireman that still volunteered on their time off.

The Board thanked all volunteers for their dedication to the county.

## **COOPERATIVE EXTENSION REPORT**

Staff members from the Cooperative Extension Department reported on several successful programs, which included:

Suzanne Rhinehart, 4-H Agent, discussed the 4-H Hungry to Help Program to educate and create awareness of hunger in North Carolina. According to the poverty level in Alexander County, 8 food banks are needed – we only have 3 now, but a 4<sup>th</sup> one is planned at the Salvation Army. This is “Can the 4-H Agent Week” and all canned food collected will be given to the new Salvation Army food bank. Other programs mentioned were the Backpack Buddies, the raised bed garden, the 4-H mini garden project, and the SNAP Education Program.

Margo Mosley, Family Consumer Agent, reviewed the Real Money Real World Program held at the middle schools which focused on basic life skills such as balancing a check book, income deductions, checking and savings accounts, money choices, etc. She explained that students were assigned a profession and an income and then given the opportunity to balance that income for one month while making decisions on insurance, investments, etc. She mentioned that positive feedback from both students and parents and noted that the program was already scheduled for next year.

Allison Brown, Agriculture Agent, advised that she had recently demonstrated to goat farmers in the county how to draw blood from their animals, reducing the need for vet visits. This creates better management practices and less expenditure for the farmers. She also discussed the Lion’s Club Fair livestock show and animal exhibits, noting that 70 animals, including rabbits, cows, sheep, and goats were shown at the livestock show by 25 children.

Kathy Bunton, Area Poultry Agent, informed the Board that there were 196 poultry farm families in Alexander County along with 471 houses, 42 of which were constructed since January 2010. Poultry is a \$70 million a year business in Alexander County, which is 4<sup>th</sup> in the state. She stated that Alexander County each year produced 13 million dozen eggs, 15 million broilers, and 1,550,000 non-broilers.

Lenny Rogers, County Extension Director, promoted the 10% Campaign, urging citizens to buy at least 10% of their groceries from local retail farmers, outlets, and co-ops. Residents can call the Cooperative Extension Office to sign up or register through the

website where email reminders will be sent, the produce pick of the week will be displayed, as well as available produce in the county. Mr. Rogers mentioned the Farmer's Market that was held behind Peoples' Drug Store this year and he noted that 3 out of 5 of the grocery stores in Alexander County sold locally grown produce.

Several members of the Board discussed a community garden and asked the Cooperative Extension staff to look into the matter to determine if one would be feasible. The Board thanked these individuals for their hard work.

## **BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #15 & #16**

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendments #15 and #16, which included the following information:

Budget Amendment #15 – To increase the Elections budget for a 2.5% pay increase for two employees certified as NC Elections Administrators. To increase the Court Facility budget by transferring funds from the Inspections department budget (vacant inspector position). To increase the Extension Service budget for United Way grant funds recorded as revenue for the 2009-2010 budget year that were not spent by June 30, 2010.

Budget Amendment #16 – To budget for asphalt paving work on tennis courts at Bethlehem Park.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #15 & #16. Commissioner Odom seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Rick French, County Manager, reviewed the following issues:

- A. The Local Government Commission has given the County approval to move ahead with the jail / courthouse project. Staff will meet with the architect soon.
- B. The Hiddenite Festival Road Race was a success. Mr. French thanked all of the volunteers.
- C. Mr. French provided the Inspections Report for September 2010.

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

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Minutes from the September 20, 2010 Regular Commissioners' Meeting.
- B. Tax Release Requests for September \$5,592.39 and Tax Refunds for September \$1,211.65.
- C. Statutory requirements for check signatures.

Commissioner Robertson 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 6:59 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 Bolick 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 7:19 PM. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

---

Larry G. Yoder, Chairman

---

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board