

Draft

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**     November 22, 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

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Monday, November 22, 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**

Polly Bolick, wife of Commissioner Wes Bolick, gave the invocation. Linda Odom & Zoie Odom, wife and granddaughter of Commissioner Harold Odom, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**\*\*\*SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS\*\*\***

The following individuals were recognized:

**Outgoing Commissioner Wes Bolick**

Commissioner Robertson presented a Key to the County to Commissioner Wes Bolick for his service as County Commissioner from 1996-2000 and 2002-2010. He stated that he appreciated what Commissioner Bolick had brought to the Board and noted that no one could do this job without the support of their family.

Commissioner Bolick thanked his fellow and former commissioners that he served with during his 12 years on the Board. He also thanked the County Manager, the Clerk to the Board, the County employees, his family, and those who voted for him in the elections.

He mentioned several projects that he played a role in as commissioner including the first Habitat for Humanity home, the auditorium, Bethlehem Branch Library, and numerous water lines. He also added that in March 2010, he had the privilege of representing Alexander County in Washington D.C. while placing a wreath on the tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Commissioner Bolick wished the newly elected commissioners, James “Burkie” Jennings and Judy Moose, the best and then read Psalm 127:1.

#### **Outgoing Commissioner Harold Odom**

Chairman Yoder presented a Key to the County to Commissioner Harold Odom for his service as County Commissioner from 2006-2010. He stated that it had been an honor and privilege to serve along side of Commissioner Odom and noted that he had touched the lives of many people through his roles as a coach, school teacher, deacon, Sunday school teacher, and commissioner.

Commissioner Odom thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve.

Commissioner Mayberry presented U.S. Flags to both Commissioners Bolick and Odom.

#### **2010 Governor’s Award for Volunteer Service**

Commissioner Bolick presented the 2010 Governor’s Award for Volunteer Service to Hazel Yoder for her volunteerism with Aurora Ministries Audio Bibles for the Blind. She advocates for the program that provides free audio bibles to those who are visually impaired, print handicapped, or unable to read due to physical limitations.

Commissioner Bolick explained that the Governor’s Award for Volunteer Service honored volunteerism in the state by recognizing individuals that made a significant contribution to their community through volunteer service. He presented Ms. Yoder with a certificate, letter from the Governor, and lapel pin.

Ms. Yoder thanked the Board for the recognition. She mentioned the organizations with which she volunteered including First Baptist Church, Alexander County Schools, the Apple Festival, Agriculture Extension, Aurora Ministries, Friends of the Library, Habitat for Humanity, the Hiddenite Center, the Lion’s Club, Rotary, Running Buddies, DSS, and United Way.

### **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Chairman Yoder requested the addition of Budget Amendment #24 be added to the agenda under Item #10, and therefore made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

**PUBLIC HEARING: RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AN APPLICATION TO THE LGC FOR APPROVAL OF FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE JAIL PROJECT**

Rick French, County Manager, explained that the jail architect's base bid totaled \$9,924,047 for a 100-bed facility, law enforcement center, and renovations to the courthouse. Bids can also be submitted for 4 alternates that would bring the total number of beds up to 160. He stated that staff estimates the annual debt service for this project at approximately one million and he reviewed the current debt for the County which totaled \$14,265,795 and included \$8,376,939 for school debt, \$4,825,310 for water debt, and \$1,003,544 for general fund debt. The recommended debt for counties is 8% of assessed property value. Alexander County's is currently .37% including school debt and will increase to .72% with the jail project addition.

Mr. French addressed estimated operating costs for the new jail, advising that the current operating cost was \$1,100,005 including the \$380,000 paid to Caldwell County for inmates. Ashe County's 165-bed facility operating budget totals \$1,351,575 with a kitchen facility.

Commissioner Robertson pointed out that revenues from the ¼ cent sales tax approved a couple of years ago was to be used toward capital expenditures; therefore, the impact of the new jail on property taxes would be minimal unless Raleigh implemented changes that would negatively affect counties financially.

Chairman Yoder called the public hearing to order and requested any comments from the audience. The following comments were heard:

**Public Comment**

Larry Riddle asked a series of questions regarding the jail which included how many beds were in the current jail, number of beds planned for the new jail, how many inmates were taken to Caldwell County, and if the new facility would house females.

Mr. French replied that the current jail had 26 beds, bids for the new jail would start at 100 beds with 4 alternates up to 160 beds, 20 inmates were transferred to Caldwell County (12 male / 8 female), and the new jail would include 32 beds for female inmates.

There being no further public comment, Commissioner Robertson made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve the resolution supporting an application to the LGC for approval of financing arrangements for construction of a new jail and renovations to the courthouse. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

**PUBLIC HEARING: CLOSEOUT FOR 2010 ARRA CDBG #09-R-1956**

Nancy Coley, WPCOG Community Development Administrator, reviewed the Closeout Performance Report for the ARRA of 2009 CDBG #09-R-1956, Emergency Repair Housing Program, and she explained that in November 2009, the County received \$100,000 for emergency repairs to homes owned and occupied by low and very low income persons.

Emergency repairs were performed on 29 homes which benefited 55 persons, 20 of which were female head of households. She noted that 23 elderly owners and occupants also benefited from the project.

Ms. Coley reported that CDBG funds financed 100% of the total project expenditures.

Chairman Yoder called the public hearing to order and requested any comments from the audience. There being no comments made, Commissioner Bolick made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Bolick made a motion to submit the closeout papers for CDBG #09-R-1956 to the Division of Community Assistance, NC Department of Commerce. Commissioner Odom seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING: RESOLUTION GOAL FOR PARTICIPATION IN MINORITY BUSINESS IN AWARDING OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS AWARDED**

Rick French, County Manager, explained that pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-128, counties were required to adopt an appropriate verifiable percentage goal for participation by minority businesses in the total value of work for building contracts which exceed \$100,000. He noted that the resolution listed Alexander County's goal as 10% for the Jail Project and he requested approval of the resolution.

Chairman Yoder called the public hearing to order and requested any comments. There being no comments made, Commissioner Robertson made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve the resolution goal for participating by minority business in the awarding of construction contracts pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-128. Commissioner Odom seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

#### **2009-2010 AUDIT REPORT**

Amber McGhinnis, Martin Starnes & Associates, and Jennifer Herman, Finance Director, presented a slide show presentation for the 2009-2010 Audit Summary, which included the following information:

- Audit process, timelines, and results
- Fund balance history
- General fund revenues (ad valorem taxes, local option sales taxes, restricted intergovernmental, sales and services, permits and fees, interest, other)
- Property tax collections
- Sales tax collections
- Changes in Article 39 one-cent, Article 44 half-cent, Article 40 half-cent, Article 42 half-cent, and Article 46 quarter-cent sales taxes
- General fund expenditures (general government, public safety, environmental protection, economic and physical development, human services, culture and recreation, education, and debt service)
- Solid Waste Fund overview
- Water Funds overview

Ms. Herman informed the Board that the increase in fund balance came from several departments which came in under budget and an increase in revenue from property taxes and sales taxes, and the purchase of used ambulances instead of new ones.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to accept the 2009-2010 Audit Summary as presented. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

## **FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER**

Leeanne Whisnant, Health Director, informed the Board that Health Department staff had completed one part of a two-part application for a Federally Qualified Health Center Grant in the amount of \$650,000 annually. The primary purpose of the grant will be to provide primary care services to the uninsured and underinsured as well as urgent care needs for everyone.

She stated that plans were to begin operations for the health center at the Health Department. Proposed hours are 5:00-10:00 PM Monday through Friday, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM on Saturdays, and 1:00-5:00 PM on Sundays.

Ms. Whisnant reported that staff estimated 6,064 primary care visits (or 4,350 patients) during the first year, with an increase to 8,419 visits and 4,850 patients during the second year.

The second part of the application is due on December 15, 2010 and grant notification will be given in June or July 2011. The grant will begin in August 2011. Ms. Whisnant pointed out the services must begin within 120 day of the award date in August 2011.

The Board thanked Ms. Whisnant and her staff for their efforts with the grant application.

## **SMOKY MOUNTAIN CENTER REPORT**

Shelly Foreman, Planning & Public Affairs Director, as well as Claudia Earle, Central Region Director, gave the Board an update on the Smoky Mountain Center which included claims for mobile crisis, REC, Psychiatric/walk-in, IOP, and other services for all central region counties. Also discussed was timely access to care capacity for the 2009-2010 fourth quarter and the 2010-2011 first quarter.

Ms. Foreman advised that New River had just received licensure for a Substance Abuse Intensive Outpatient Program in Alexander County. Smoky Mountain completed all endorsement requirements and has issued a Notice of Endorsement Action. She stated that services are expected to begin within the next two weeks.

She also mentioned that the Central Region RFP development process had begun for the re-designation of \$600,000 of funding for non-hospital detox services received over the past 3 years. The RFP will also include a request for a plan from the provider to address transportation needs. The timeline for the RFP process is as follows: post on the SMC website by December 1<sup>st</sup>, hold bidders conference on December 15<sup>th</sup>, proposals are due January 15, 2011, awards will be announced March 1<sup>st</sup>, and services will begin on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Chairman Yoder mentioned the time deputies must spend waiting for someone to be committed. He also asked that Smoky Mountain provide some information to be placed on the PEG channel.

Commissioner Mayberry thanked Commissioner Robertson and Rick French, County Manager, for their service on the Smoky Mountain Board.

## **21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY LIBRARY**

Melissa "Miss Mel" Hager, Children's Librarian, was recently awarded a federal Library Services and Technology Act grant through the State Library of North Carolina. With the grant, she was able to attend the 2010 Association of Rural and Small Libraries Conference in Denver Colorado.

Ms. Hager explained the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Library concept which promotes creativity and technology. She mentioned NC Live that provides online access to e-books, audio books, videos, magazines, newspapers, and journals. The Job/Career Accelerator helps with resumes and letter builders and both the County library and Bethlehem branch have free wi-fi.

She mentioned several available programs for children and young adults including the Ya Ya's Young Adult Reading Group, Teen "Poetry Happens" at the Bean, 2011 Summer Reading Program themed "One World," and Preschool Story Time. Ms. Hager discussed the impact reading and visits to the library could make on anyone when efforts are begun at a young age.

## **SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**

Rick French, County Manager, stated that the Special Called Meeting planned for November 30, 2010 to review the jail bids would need to be rescheduled. He suggested the meeting be rescheduled for either December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 PM or December 3<sup>rd</sup> after the Employee Luncheon.

Chairman Yoder made a motion to reschedule the Special Called Meeting for Thursday, December 2, 2010 at 6:00 PM in the County Administration downstairs conference room. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

### **ADOPTION OF 2011 ALEXANDER COUNTY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

Chairman Yoder presented the 2011 Alexander County Holiday Schedule as follows:

New Year's Day . . . . .	Friday, December 31, 2010
Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday . . . . .	Monday, January 17, 2011
Good Friday . . . . .	Friday, April 22, 2011
Memorial Day . . . . .	Monday, May 30, 2011
Independence Day . . . . .	Monday, July 4, 2011
Labor Day . . . . .	Monday, September 5, 2011
Veteran's Day . . . . .	Friday, November 11, 2011
Thanksgiving . . . . .	Thursday & Friday, November 24-25, 2011
Christmas . . . . .	Thursday & Friday, December 26-27, 2011

Commissioner Odom made a motion to approve the 2011 Alexander County Holiday Schedule as presented. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

### **BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #21 - #24**

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendments #21 - #24, which included the following information:

Budget Amendment #21 – To increase the Senior Center budget for October 2010-June 2011 estimated invoices from temporary staffing service for a worker placed as part of the TANF-funded employment grant program. To increase the Governing Body budget for the Jail Project architect fees.

Budget Amendment #22 – To reimburse engineering fees for the Northeast Water Project paid out of the General Fund in FY 2006-2007.

Budget Amendment #23 – To budget for asphalt paving work on the Jaycee Park basketball court.

Budget Amendment #24 – To increase the Animal Control budget for January-June 2011 salary and benefits for a worker placed as part of the TANF-funded employment grant program.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #21 - #24. Commissioner Bolick 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. Robert Campbell, County Attorney, has completed the newest version of the Sidewalk & Begging Ordinance and will be present to discuss the ordinance at the December 2, 2010 meeting.
- B. Sales tax revenues, including Articles 39, 40 and 46, have increased 8.65% from last year's numbers.
- C. The bid opening for the Law Enforcement and Detention Center Project has been changed from November 23<sup>rd</sup> to Tuesday, November 30, 2010 at 2:00 PM at CVCC.
- D. County staff is currently working on a draft Language Access Plan.
- E. EnergyUnited Water Corporation plans to install water lines on the following roads with remaining funds from the NC Rural Center and the Vashti CDBG Project: Carson Chapel Road, Vashti Fire Department Road, Johnson Farm, Pisgah, Sharpe Mill, and Charlie Lackey. These lines will be in exchange for the existing water lines and meters on Jolly Cemetery Road, Jim Barnes Lane, and Hwy 16 North from Jolly Cemetery to Salem Lutheran Church.
- F. The Employee Appreciation Luncheon is scheduled for Friday, December 3, 2010 from 11:30 AM until 1:30 PM at the CVCC / Alexander Center.
- G. The next meeting is scheduled for December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. A swearing in ceremony will be held at 5:30 PM.

Commissioner Mayberry 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 November 1, 2010 Regular Commissioners' Meeting.



B. Electronics Recycling Amendment.

C. Tax Release Requests for October \$3,397.93 and Tax Refunds for October \$538.00.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Bolick 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 8:35 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 Bolick made a motion to adjourn at 9:06 PM. Commissioner Odom 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