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**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**     December 6, 2010

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

**PRESENT:**    Larry G. Yoder, Chairman  
                  Ryan Mayberry, Vice-Chairman  
                  James “Burkie” Jennings  
                  Judy M. Moose  
                  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, December 6, 2010 in the CVCC / Alexander Center Multipurpose Room, Taylorsville, North Carolina. A swearing in ceremony was held prior to the meeting for Commissioners Jennings, Moose, and Robertson.

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Ben Hines, Register of Deeds, gave the invocation and Chris Bowman, Alexander County Sheriff, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**COMMISSIONER’S REPORT**

Commissioner Mayberry stated that former Commissioner Bolick had asked him to carry on the tradition of declaring Christmas in Bethlehem. Commissioner Robertson suggested the proclamation be added to the Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Robertson welcomed the two newest Board members – James “Burkie” Jennings and Judy Moose.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Chairman Yoder requested the following additions to the agenda:

- Discussion of the NC Foreclosure Prevention Fund under Public Comment.
- Christmas in Bethlehem Proclamation as Consent Agenda Item C.
- Appointment of Mary Inman to the Joint Nursing & Adult Care Committee as Consent Agenda Item D.
- WPCOG agreement, policies, and procedures for the Hoyle Keller Loop CDBG Project as Consent Agenda Item E.

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

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following comments were heard during the Public Comment Period:

Sherry Long, WPCOG Community Development Director, discussed the Mortgage Payment Program which is available to help homeowners struggling to make mortgage payments due to job loss or temporary financial hardship. She reported that unemployment was up 42% in the region with one in every 7 individuals was out of work. The program offers zero interest loans up to \$24,000 to cover mortgages and related expenses for up to 24 months while searching or training for a new job, or up to \$36,000 for 36 months if the applicant is in school or lives in one of the 50 counties with the highest unemployment. The loan could also be used to bring up current mortgages that have fallen behind. Ms. Long reviewed the eligibility requirements, but noted that the WPCOG would work with individuals that weren't eligible in other ways. Information is available by visiting [www.ncforeclosureprevention.gov](http://www.ncforeclosureprevention.gov) or calling (828) 322-9191 ext. 268.

Mary Short stated that, due to a recent newspaper article and discussions by the General Assembly Legislative Oversight Committee for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services, she was concerned with issues related to the Smoky Mountain Mental Health Center and wished to speak to the commissioner representative on that board. Commissioner Robertson stated that he was the commissioner representative but that Rick French, County Manager, also served on the board and would soon be chairman. Mr. French stated that he would be glad to meet with Ms. Short to discuss her concerns.

## **ELECTION OF BOARD CHAIRMAN**

Chairman Yoder called for nominations for chairman. Commissioner Mayberry nominated Commissioner Robertson to serve as chairman for 2011.

There being no further nominations, Commissioner Jennings made a motion to close the nominations and approve the election of Commissioner Robertson as chairman beginning the first meeting in January 2011. Commissioner Moose seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

#### **ELECTION OF BOARD VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Chairman Yoder called for nominations for vice-chairman. Commissioner Robertson nominated Commissioner Mayberry to serve as vice-chairman for 2011.

There being no further nominations, Commissioner Robertson made a motion to close the nominations and approve the election of Commissioner Mayberry as vice-chairman for 2011. Commissioner Moose seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

#### **APPROVAL OF BANK FOR INSTALLMENT FINANCING AGREEMENT – JAIL PROJECT**

Rick French, County Manager, recommended approval of Bank of America for the Jail Project financing who submitted a bid of 3.19% interest rate for 15 years, which will save approximately \$2.4 million over the bid submitted by BB&T. He explained that the first year's debt payment would total \$980,349.99 and would decrease each year to \$682,616 in year 15.

Commissioner Robertson reiterated that the approved bid submitted by Bordeaux Construction was \$8,887,400 and included all 4 bid alternates for a 165-bed facility. This bid was approximately \$2 million less than projected.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve the use of Bank of America's bid of 3.19% for 15 years for the Jail Project. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

#### **ADOPTION OF THE 2011 COMMISSIONERS' MEETING SCHEDULE (JANUARY – JUNE 2011)**

Chairman Yoder presented the first 6 months of the 2011 Commissioners' Meeting Schedule. He stated that staff had developed the schedule by working around specific conferences and conflicts; therefore, he noted that the meetings would not necessarily be held on the first and third Mondays. The schedule was as follows:

January 3, 2011  
January 18, 2011

April 11, 2011  
April 25, 2011

February 7, 2011  
February 21, 2011

May 9, 2011  
May 23, 2011

March 14, 2011  
March 28, 2011

June 6, 2011  
June 20, 2011

Commissioner Jennings made a motion to approve the first 6 months of the 2011 Commissioners' Meeting Schedule as presented. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

### **BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT #25**

Rick French, County Manager, presented Budget Amendment #25 to increase the Health Department budget for additional state funds for Family Planning & Child Health Immunizations and to increase the Library budget for a grant received for an Association for Rural & Small Libraries Conference.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #25. Commissioner Mayberry 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. Kirby Patton has invited the Board to attend her Girl Scout Gold Award Project Ribbon Cutting on Sunday, December 12, 2010 at 2:00 PM at the Bethlehem Tennis Courts.
- B. A reception honoring Scott Ferguson and Ronnie Reese will be held on Tuesday, December 14, 2010 from 5:00-5:45 PM in the ACHS Cafeteria.
- C. State aid to the Alexander County Library will increase from \$84,511 to \$86,585; however, there was a \$15 million reduction statewide.

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 November 22, 2010 Regular Commissioners' Meeting.
- B. Tax Release Requests for November \$1,641.66 and Tax Refunds for November \$26,652.99.
- C. Proclamation declaring December 1-31, 2010 as Christmas in Bethlehem.

- D. Appointment of Mary Inman to the Joint Nursing and Adult Care Community Advisory Committee for a one-year term.
- E. WPCOG agreement, policies, and procedures for the Hoyle Keller Loop CDBG Project.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Roberson 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 6:39 PM. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

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Larry G. Yoder, Acting Chairman

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Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board