

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING February 7, 2011

ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

PRESENT: Ryan Mayberry, Vice-Chairman
 James "Burkie" Jennings
 Judy M. Moose
 Larry G. Yoder

ABSENT: W. Darrell Robertson, Chairman

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

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Monday, February 7, 2011 in the CVCC / Alexander Center Multipurpose Room, Taylorsville, North Carolina. A quorum was present.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Mayberry called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Russell Greene, Emergency Services Director, gave the invocation and Leslie Meadows, Environmental Education Coordinator and Administrative Specialist, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Ms. Meadows stated that the Soil & Water District Office developed farm conservation plans and coordinated conservation efforts with other federal and state agencies such as USDA, NCDENR, and Natural Resource Conservation Service. Educational programs offered include the 5th Grade Environmental Field Day, Poster/Essay/Speech Contest, Northwest Envirothon Competition, Resource Conservation Workshop, and ACHS GIS Day. Ms. Meadows mentioned that staff was currently working with West Middle School on an Outdoor Education Learning Center Grant for outdoor classrooms at the wetland site and hoped to continue participation with the Rocky Face Park Project. She also advised the Board about the Voluntary Farmland Preservation Program that protected farmland from non-farm development and lawsuits.

Lee Holcomb, Soil & Water Conservationist, advised that staff could provide technical and engineering assistance as well as farm conservation advice at no charge to farmers and rural land

owners. Examples include surveying for grass waterway construction, water diversion structures, developing rotational grazing plans, and waste management plans for confined animal operations. He explained that the Agriculture Cost Share Program reimbursed 75% of costs to implement conservation practices such as sediment erosion control or animal waste management. Other programs available are the Drought Response Program, Community Conservation Assistance Program, and the Federal Cost Share Program.

Mr. Greene stated that Emergency Services staff members provide all state-mandated fire inspections, respond to open burning complaints, conduct fire investigations and fire prevention education activities for all ages. The office assists fire departments and other agencies with training needs, is involved in new construction plan reviews, and provides hydrant flow tests. Mark Earle, Assistant Fire Marshal, is also a certified asbestos inspector. For Emergency Management, Mr. Greene stated that staff planned for and responded to all natural and manmade disasters and served as the County's point of contact during such events. Staff maintains the EOP and EOC as needed and assists other county and state agencies with required drills to prepare for disasters. Other duties include working with the State on flood plain mapping issues and coordinating the Code Red Calling System.

*****SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS*****

The Board was introduced to two individuals including Susan Anderson, the new Red Cross Executive Director, and Cindy Holman, the new DSS Director.

Ms. Anderson gave some background information about herself and Red Cross, which spends \$450 million a year aiding people with blood, housing, clothing, and food in disaster situations. She discussed the Heroes Campaign, noting that money raised here would remain in the county and she thanked all the volunteers as well as staff involved in the campaign. Ms. Anderson announced that a blood drive would take place on Friday, February 11, 2011 from 12:00-5:30 PM at First Baptist Church.

Ms. Holman stated that she had been involved with DSS services for 26 years, holding positions in Caldwell and Gaston Counties, and also the state Division of Social Services. She is a resident of Caldwell County. Ms. Holman commented on the great staff at DSS and that she looked forward to working with the Board.

The Board welcomed Ms. Anderson and Ms. Holman to Alexander County.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Vice-Chairman Mayberry stated that Chairman Robertson would not be attending this meeting due to illness.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Commissioner Moose 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.

PUBLIC HEARING: CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT 11-1 – HAMBY

Seth Harris, County Planner, presented Conditional Use Permit 11-1 submitted by William Hamby who requested conditional use approval for a family cemetery at property located on NC Highway 127. The size of the property is 16.31 acres, zoned RA-20; however, the project area totals 2,400 square feet. The current land use is a salvage yard and residential. Mr. Harris stated that zoning with 100 feet of the subject property was RA-20 on all sides. Land uses within 100 feet include residential and vacant property to the north and south, agricultural and residential to the east, and residential to the west.

He stated that the subject property had frontage on Highway 127 and that the proposed use would not require any utility connections. The applicant plans to erect a chain link fence around the area and use existing trees for screening. He noted that although a total number of burial plots were not provided by the applicant, given the size of the project area, 24 plots could be allowed.

Mr. Harris informed the Board that the RA-20 Zoning District allowed the proposed use with conditional approval. He advised that the Zoning Ordinance required cemeteries to be located a minimum of 30 feet from any road right-of-way or property line. NC Environmental Health regulations require a 50-foot setback radius from springs and wells as well as a 15-foot setback from any septic system. The NC Cemetery Commission recommends a survey description be created.

He stated that letters were sent by first class mail, a sign was posted on the property, and a legal advertisement was placed in *The Taylorsville Times* to announce the public hearing. Staff did not receive any calls regarding this request.

He reported that staff recommended approval of the conditional use permit with the following conditions:

1. A four foot chain link fence erected around the site.
2. Maintain existing vegetation for screening.
3. Burial plots shall be set back 50 feet, measured radially, from any spring or well.
4. Burial plots shall be set back 15 feet from any sanitary sewage system.
5. A 30-foot setback to be maintained from all property lines and right-of-ways.

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

Commissioner Moose made a motion to approve Conditional Use Permit 11-1. Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion.

Commissioner Yoder moved that the original motion be amended to include the conditions as described by the Planning & Development staff. Commissioner Jennings agreed and seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

PRESENTATION OF TARGETED MARKETING PROFILE

David Icenhour, Economic Development Director, introduced Crystal Morphis with Sanford Holshouser Economic Development Consulting who gave a slide show presentation for Alexander County's Target Profile. The profile was completed by Sanford Holshouser who partnered with Applied Marketing. The fees to perform the profile was paid by Duke Energy.

The profile revealed the following information:

- Assets & Opportunities – Industrial Park and rail-served sites, available workforce, CVCC / Alexander Center, pro-business climate among local governments, history of furniture manufacturing, and nonunionized workforce & NC's right-to-work laws
- Largest Employers – Craftmaster, Mitchell Gold / Bob Williams, Schneider Mills, Paragon Films, Shurtape, Hancock & Moore, and Huntington House
- Layoffs & Closings since 2007 – Frye Regional Medical Center, La-Z-Boy, Taylor Togs, Broyhill Furniture, and Caye Upholstery
- Target Sectors – composites, fabricated metals, alternative energy, aviation and aerospace, and wood products
- Recommendations – advise Economic Development staff about trade shows and sales trips for target industries and set appointments with decision makers, research target sectors and become familiar with industry trends, network with businesses in targeted sectors and with economic development allies, investigate workforce program that support targets, identify new workforce training, develop workforce certification programs, consider future development sites for targets, develop marketing materials, and expand website

The Board thanked Ms. Morphis for her presentation.

UNITED COMMUNITY PROJECT

Linda Graham, CVCC / Alexander Center Executive Director, introduced Wayne Wooten, retired CVCC President and CVCC ACE Advisory Board Member, who gave a slide show presentation explaining the United Community Project developed by the ACE Advisory Board.

Mr. Wooten explained that the purpose of the United Community Project was to find common goals in the community to add to the value of life, to entice businesses looking to locate or relocate, and to entice new citizens to the area. The project was discussed at the ACE Advisory Board Retreat in an effort to identify the major needs of the county, specifically jobs at this point.

He stated that he would meet with community, civic, educational, religious, etc. groups to establish these goals which would be compiled. Strategies to accomplish these goals would then be formed.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS

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

Criminal Justice Partnership Board – Reappoint Tammy Lippard, Tony Jones, Rick French, and Sarah Kirkman for one year. Reappoint Kelly Wicker, Linda Graham, Crystal Beale, and Chris Bowman for two years. Reappoint Camilla Newland, and Dale Graham for three years.

WPCOG Sister Cities Association – Reappoint Dwight Shook and David Icenhour (alternate) for one year.

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

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the appointments and reappointments. Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #27 - #34

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendments #27 - #34, which included the following information:

Budget Amendment #27 – To account for school sales tax funds used for debt service in the General Fund in order to comply with new governmental accounting standards.

Budget Amendment #28 – To increase the Health Department budget for additional state funds for bioterrorism planning and H1N1 implementation. To increase the EMS budget for the purchase of a new truck. To decrease the Extension Service budget due to less United Way grant revenue than original estimates. To increase the DSS budget for Crisis Intervention Payment funds. To budget for payback of unexpected NCDOT ROAP grant funds from FY 2010.

Budget Amendment #29 – To reimburse the General Fund for expenditures made in 2009-2010 that were eligible to be paid from the Emergency 911 Fund.

Budget Amendment #30 – To transfer funds between departments for allocation of annual insurance premiums for property & liability and worker's compensation.

Budget Amendment #31 – To transfer funds between departments for allocation of annual insurance premiums for property & liability and worker's compensation.

Budget Amendment #32 – To transfer funds for allocation of annual insurance premiums for property & liability and worker's compensation.

Budget Amendment #33 – To budget for the Rocky Face Park Grant through the NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund.

Budget Amendment #34 – To budget for the Jail Construction and Courthouse Renovation Project.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #27 - #34. Commissioner Jennings 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 pre-construction meeting with Bordeaux Construction is scheduled for February 8, 2011. The tentative demolition of the old buildings on the jail site is set for February 21, 2011. Robert Campbell, County Attorney, is working on the construction contract with Bordeaux.
- B. The next County Commissioners' Meeting will be held on Monday, February 21, 2011.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from the January 18, 2011 Regular Commissioners' Meeting.
- B. Tax Release Requests for January \$10,466.76 and Tax Refunds for January \$2,344.61.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Jennings 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

Vice-Chairman Mayberry made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 7:28 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 Yoder seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Yoder made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 PM. Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Ryan Mayberry, Vice-Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board