

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING February 21, 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 21, 2011 in the CVCC / Alexander Center Multipurpose Room, Taylorsville, North Carolina.

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Lenny Rogers, Extension Director, gave the invocation. Bradley Earp, EMS Director, introduced Chase Speaks from Boy Scouts Troop #280 in Hiddenite to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Mr. Speaks is working towards his Community Merit badge.

Mr. Earp stated that there were currently 50 EMS employees on staff including 41 paramedics, 3 intermediates, and 6 EMT's. There a total of 6 ambulances used along with 2 QRV's. The two stations are located on Highway 90 in Taylorsville and on Highway 127 in Bethlehem. Staff responded to 5,133 calls last year for medical and home emergencies, motor vehicle accidents, and convalescent transports. Mr. Earp advised that 38 medications were available on the ambulances and that staff could perform 54 procedures.

Mr. Rogers informed the Board that Cooperative Extension was an educational agency funded 50/50 by the State and County. He discussed services and programs that he coordinated as Extension Director such as home horticulture, pesticide classes, Master Gardeners, Alexander Produce Pick of the Week Program, and Commissioners' Choice Awards. He also works with the local farmer's market and started a Bee Keeper's Association last year. Allison Johnson, Agronomy and Livestock Agent, works with farmers on field and forage crops as well as

livestock issues such as controlled grazing. Kathy Bunton, Poultry Agent, helps growers develop best management practices and aids in grant applications. Margo Mosley, Family and Consumer Science Agent, provides nutrition and financial programs to educate families and students. She also manages the ServSafe Program for local restaurants and food providers. Suzanne Rhinehart, 4-H Youth Development Agent, has 16 community 4-H clubs as well as 12 after-day school clubs. She interacted with over 3,700 students last year through the 4-H School Enrichment Program.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Vice-Chairman Mayberry reported that during the week of February 12-20, 2011, there were 11 fires in Alexander County on 4 acres with 34 structures, valued at \$1.4 million threatened but saved. One property was damaged at an estimated \$1,000. Due to the severe wildfire conditions during the past week, the NC Forestry Service strongly urges citizens to postpone burning until significant rainfall is received.

He also urged citizens to take part in the Dine Out Day in Bethlehem tomorrow, noting that 10% of all proceeds would be given to the Backpack Program. This event is being sponsored by the Bethlehem Community Development Association.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Vice-Chairman Mayberry requested two additional items on the Consent Agenda including a surplus vehicle and an amendment to the AFDC Emergency Assistance Plan.

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

FACILITY NEEDS SURVEY 2010-2011

Jack Hoke, Alexander County Schools Superintendent, explained that local boards of education were required to submit a Facility Needs Assessment for long range planning to the State Board of Education every 5 years. Acknowledgement by county commissioners is necessary.

He stated that the assessment included construction additions and renovations as well as items such as HVAC, parking lots, etc. The only projected addition was for Sugar Loaf Elementary School. Mr. Hoke noted that this would only be possible if funding was available, pointing out the reduction in lottery proceeds and lack of bond referendums.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the 2010-2011 Facility Needs Assessment as presented. Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

NORTHEAST WATER PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

Benjie Thomas, West Consultants, provided a map of the Vashti area which illustrated existing water lines as well as those installed as part of the Northeast Water Project. He also pointed out the additional lines allowed as part of the project were Vashti Fire Department Road, Carson Chapel Road, and Lackey Mountain Road. This project will total 46 miles of water lines once completed.

Rod Watts, EnergyUnited Water Corporation Director, advised that crews had just finished Berea Quincy Road and would begin on Daniels Lumber Road in the spring. Staff hopes to obtain grant funding to do more lines in the area.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PROCLAMATION

Commissioner Yoder presented a proclamation declaring February 23, 2011 as Rotary Day in Alexander County. He commended the Rotary members for their contribution to the county.

Jean Reid, Glenn Deal Jr., Matt Cooksey, and Larry Holland were present to represent the Rotary Club. Ms. Reid stated that Rotary provided funding to the YMCA, Relay for Life, United Way, Hiddenite Center, Boy Scouts, etc. She also mentioned several Rotary sponsored events and explained the Backpack Program that began with 50 students at Taylorsville Elementary and has grown to every elementary and middle school in the county. A similar program is being developed for ACHS.

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

BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS

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

Local Emergency Planning Committee – Appoint Cindy Holman for 3 years. Reappoint William Hammer, Leeanne Whisnant, Chris Bowman, Russell Greene, and Kathy Bunton for 3 years.

Library Board – Appoint Doris Stephens for 3 years. Reappoint Gary Bebbler for 3 years.

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

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #35 - #37

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendments #35 - #37, which included the following information:

Budget Amendment #35 – To increase the Forestry budget for the County’s share of a replacement truck for the County Forest Ranger. To increase the Library budget for a donation from the Friends of the Library for two tables and supplies for the Children’s Program. To increase the Senior Center budget for receipt of SHIP grant funds greater than original estimates. To increase Contingency for a reimbursement from the jail loan proceeds of project costs already paid from the General Fund.

Budget Amendment #36 – To adjust the Cooperative Extension budget to reflect changes at the state level beginning January 2011 – local Cooperative Extension workers are included on the state’s payroll and the state drafts the County’s bank account for the County share of personnel costs.

Budget Amendment #37 – To transfer funds for the 5/1/11 debt service interest payment on the Northeast Water Project loan.

Commissioner Yoder questioned the portion of Budget Amendment #35 related to the Forest Ranger’s truck. Mr. French explained that it was a state mandate that counties provide the forest rangers with vehicles.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #35 - #37. 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. Budget meetings were held with department heads on Friday, February 18, 2011. Department heads were instructed to not include any new employees or a COLA. Budgets are due to the Finance Department by April 1, 2011.
- B. The Commissioners’ Choice Awards are scheduled for Tuesday, March 15, 2011 in the ACHS cafeteria.
- C. McGill Engineering reports that the Church Road water line plans are currently under review with the City of Hickory. This project should go to bid in early April 2011.
- D. Bordeaux Construction plans on breaking ground at the jail site on February 28, 2011.

- E. The Governor's budget proposes that counties assume the responsibility of paying for school bus replacement and worker's compensation insurance for school and college employees. The budget also includes a change in the lottery formula that would reduce the amount received by counties for school construction from 40% to 10%. This is a total impact of \$375 million for NC counties.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from the February 7, 2011 Regular Commissioners' Meeting.
- B. Alexander County Resource Center continuation of implementation funding to the Criminal Justice Partnership Program.
- C. Local Emergency Planning Committee Annual Report.
- D. 1999 Dodge Caravan Vin #2B3GP44G4XR265364 as surplus.
- E. AFDC Emergency Assistance Plan amendment.

Commissioner Yoder asked for an explanation of the AFDC amendment. Rick French, County Manager, replied that there was approximately \$16,000 available in funding to help citizens with electrical bills in the county; however, the funding cannot be spent unless the amendment is made removing the criteria that "the temperature must be below 40 degrees for a 3-day forecast." Once the criteria are removed more people can be helped.

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 6:56 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 7:42 PM. Commissioner Moose seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Ryan Mayberry, Vice-Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board