

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING April 11, 2011

ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

PRESENT: W. Darrell Robertson, Chairman
 Ryan Mayberry, Vice-Chairman
 James “Burkie” Jennings
 Judy M. Moose
 Larry G. Yoder

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

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Monday, April 11, 2011 in the CVCC / Alexander Center Multipurpose Room, Taylorsville, North Carolina.

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following a moment of silence in remembrance of former county commissioner Vernon Broyhill, Russell Greene, Emergency Services Director, gave the invocation and Josh Mitchell, Solid Waste Director, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mr. Greene presented a photo slide show of damage caused by high winds on Tuesday, April 5, 2010. According to the National Weather Service, Alexander County received gusts between 85-95 mph. Damage was estimated at \$1.5 million. He stated that no state and federal assistance would be received because all property owners were insured. Mr. Greene thanked the fire departments, law enforcement, and all volunteers that participated in assisting residents during and after the storm.

Mr. Mitchell advised that the Solid Waste / Recycling Department consisted of the landfill and 6 convenience sites with approximately 26 employees. C&D waste disposal and the transfer station are located at the landfill as well as metal, tire, and electronic disposal. He also noted that he supervised the County Garage which maintained and repaired all County vehicles as well as vehicles for the Town of Taylorsville and the WPRTA vans.

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: REZONING CASE 11-1 = BRAD WIKE & ERIC BOLIEK

Seth Harris, County Planner, presented Rezoning Case 11-1 submitted by Brad Wike and Eric Boliek who requested rezoning of property located at 735 Teague Town Road from RA-20 (Residential-Agricultural) to H-C (Highway Commercial) to allow for a tire store and automobile repair. The size of the property tract is 1.89 acres and the current land use is a tire store and automobile repair. Mr. Harris stated that zoning within 100 feet of the property was RA-20 on all sides. Land uses within 100 feet of the property include single family residences to the south, east, and west as well as vacant property and agriculture to the north, vacant property to the east and agriculture to the west.

Mr. Harris advised that this property was zoned residential in 1987 when the Bethlehem Zoning Ordinance was adopted. The property was acquired by the applicant in 1988 and the primary building was constructed in 1999, prior to the adoption of countywide zoning in 2001. A building permit, which was specified for residential use only, was issued in 2003 for a storage building. Mr. Harris pointed out that the permit also specified that no sales, service, or warehousing operations could be housed within this structure.

A complaint was received in 2003 regarding a business being operated at the subject property and that transfer trucks were entering Teague Town Road, creating a hazard for motorists. The investigation revealed that Mr. Wike was running an internet-based truck parts business from the property; however, it was observed that several trucks were located on that property. Mr. Wike claimed that the trucks were either being restored or were for sale and that nothing was sold directly from the property. Mr. Harris explained that with no evidence of retail sales being found on site, the use was determined to be consistent with the Zoning Ordinance and the case was closed.

Mr. Harris further added that following 2003, it was observed that numerous trailers were being stored on site but enforcement actions were limited with no active complaints on file. Mr. Wike's website lists him as the owner of BPW Transport which is described as providing "rush truck load and some LTL services" with a location given as "just north of Hickory, NC off of NC HWY 127." He informed the Board that if this business is still being operated on the subject property, it would be considered an illegal non-conforming use.

Because the property is completely surrounded by a zoning district considerably different from the requested district, this is a “small scale rezoning” or spot zoning request which is “invalid or illegal unless there is a clear reasonable basis for treating the singled out property differently from adjacent land.” Mr. Harris mentioned that for any case involving spot zoning, the following questions must be addressed:

1. Did the zoning activity in the case constitute spot zoning as our courts have defined that term?; and
2. If so, did the zoning authority make a clear showing of a reasonable basis for the zoning by determining the following 4 factors?:
 - a. The size of the tract.
 - b. The compatibility of the disputed zoning action with an existing comprehensive plan.
 - c. The benefits and detriments resulting from the zoning action for the petitioning property owner, neighbors, and surrounding community.
 - d. The relationship between the uses envisioned under the new zoning and the current uses of adjacent land.

Mr. Harris addressed staff comments in regard to these 4 factors to show a reasonable basis for zoning, which included:

2a. The size of the tract:

The size of the subject property is 1.89 acres. The sizes of surrounding properties are:

North – 51.2 acres
South – 2 acres
East – 51.2 acres, 1.02 acres, 2.4 acres
West – 53.29 acres

2b. The compatibility of the disputed zoning action with an existing comprehensive plan:

1. Section 154.140 of the Alexander County Zoning Ordinance states that the RA-20 District is established to provide low-density residential and agricultural purposes including single-family dwellings, two-family dwellings, individual manufactured homes, and related uses necessary for a sound neighborhood.
2. Section 154.170 of the Alexander County Zoning Ordinance states that the H-C District is to provide suitable locations for those commercial activities which serve primarily the traveling public, including those which function rather independently of each other.

3. The 2008 Comprehensive Plan shows this property as being primarily residential in nature.
4. The 1995 Thoroughfare Plan does not identify Teague Town Road for future expansion. The 2009 annual average traffic county for a nearby portion of Teague Town Road was 2,000 trips per day.

2c. The benefits and detriments resulting from the zoning action for the petitioning property owner, neighbors, and surrounding community:

The Board must determine what impact the rezoning will have upon the adjacent property owners and the surrounding community. The benefits of the rezoning should outweigh any potential inconvenience or harm to the community.

2d. The relationship between the uses envisioned under the new zoning and the current uses of adjacent land.

The nearest H-C zoning district lies approximately 2,000 feet away. Property zoned L-I (Light Industrial) lies within approximately 1,200 feet. There are commercial uses within the more immediate vicinity; however, these uses are considered legal non-conforming uses.

Mr. Harris stated that letters were sent by first class mail to the property owners within 100 feet of the parcel boundary, a sign was posted on the property, and an advertisement was placed in *The Taylorsville Times*. Staff has not received any calls regarding this request.

He informed the Board that Planning & Development staff recommended denial of the request due to:

1. Inconsistency with the existing comprehensive plan.
2. Lack of similar adjacent zoning districts.
3. The small size of the subject property in relation to larger surrounding tracts.

He also stated that the Planning & Zoning Commission met on March 3, 2011 to review the request and voted unanimously to recommend denial based on the following supporting facts.

1. Inconsistency with the comprehensive plan.
2. Lack of similar adjacent zoning districts.
3. The small size of the subject property in relation to larger surrounding tracts.

Mr. Harris advised that based on the information provided, the Board must determine whether the rezoning request meets the guidelines set forth above. He also noted that Section 154.351(C)(2) of the Alexander County Zoning Ordinance required the Board to provide a statement analyzing the reasonableness of the proposed rezoning and reflecting consideration of the 4 legitimate factors for differential zoning treatment of the property involved.

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

Several commissioners inquired as to when the other buildings located on the property were constructed and if building permits had been issued for them. Other questions asked included if electrical permits and inspections had been completed and if the buildings had been legal since none of them would have been allowed for their current uses under RA-20 zoning.

Commissioner Yoder felt the Board could not make an informed decision on this rezoning case without having the abovementioned questions answered and therefore made a motion to table Rezoning Case 11-1 until this information could be obtained. Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion.

Chairman Robertson moved to add an amendment that the business could continue to operate until the rezoning issue was resolved. Commissioner Yoder accepted the amendment. Commissioner Moose seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

The motion including the amendment passed unanimously.

STATE OF THE COUNTY MESSAGE – 2010

Chairman Robertson gave the following State of the County Message for 2010:

I appreciate the opportunity to continue the tradition of presenting the State of the County message to the citizens of Alexander County. The State of the County was extremely challenging in 2010. Despite a poor economy with high unemployment, there were a number of positive signs ahead.

Alexander County's unemployment rate for 2010 averaged 12.8 percent per month. While that is higher than the desired, the rate is 1.5% lower than in 2009. Additionally, Alexander County's unemployment rate in 2010 continued to be the lowest in the Unifour area.

Existing industry continued to be the backbone of the local economy and during 2010. Paragon Films completed a 60,000 square foot expansion resulting in new investment of approximately \$10 million and creating 15 new jobs.

Other existing industry continued to provide a solid economic base for Alexander County such as Schneider Mills, Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams, Craftmaster Furniture, Shurtape Technologies, Taylor King, Hancock & Moore, and others.

Planning continued for development of sites in the Alexander Industrial Park. In May of 2010, that planning resulted in a site in the Industrial Park being recognized as a "Best Small Industrial Site" by the NC Railroad Company during their annual forum in Raleigh. Of 34 rail sites submitted across the state by economic development agencies, only 10 were selected for this recognition. Also, with funding assistance from EnergyUnited, at least one new industrial site is expected to be completed by the end of 2011. Preparation of new sites is critical in attracting new industry to the county and is a priority for Economic Development.

With funding from Duke Energy in 2010, the Economic Development Corporation also completed a marketing study which is intended to help target specific industries which are likely to locate in Alexander County, and Duke also provided funding for a Data Center Site Study to identify a potential data center location in Alexander County.

As a result of funding from County government, the Economic Development Corporation launched its first Website Creation Grant Program during 2010. This program provided critical funding which allowed 10 small businesses without websites to create a presence on the Internet. The program will continue during 2011 with the goal of growing small businesses in the county.

The Rocky Face Park Project is a planned passive park to be located in the northeastern section of Alexander County, located along Rocky Face Church Road at the site of the former quarry. Construction of the park is being funded by a NC Parks & Recreation Trust Fund Grant and the match for those funds came from the park property, which was donated to Alexander County by the Land Trust (that formerly owned it). The first phase of this park project will include a 1.3-mile hiking trail across the mountain, along with a 0.46-mile ADA compliant walking trail, picnic shelter, restrooms, and a parking area for visitors. Preliminary designs for the project have been prepared and actual construction design has begun. The NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund grant was for \$476,000.

The contract for the locally owned and operated NC License Plate Agency in Alexander County was terminated February 2010. The NC Department of Motor Vehicles advertised for applicants to re-open a license plate agency in Alexander County. After several months, a contract had not been awarded, and the County applied for the contract. In May of 2010, the NCDMV awarded the contract to re-open a license plate agency to Alexander County. A site, which met NCDMV approval, had to be selected. There was much interest, particularly from the Town of Taylorsville and local merchants, to relocate in downtown Taylorsville. A site was selected at 85 East Main Ave. Per NCDMV guidelines, based on projected volume of transactions, a minimum staff of 2.5 positions was advertised for, interviewed, and hired. The staff was required to attend a 3-week training session at the Raleigh DMV Office and on August 24, 2010 the Alexander County License Plate Agency re-opened. The LPA is currently averaging 3,000 transactions per month, with most of the volume being annual license plate renewals and motor vehicle title transfers.

The fund balance of Alexander County's General Fund has improved to 18.95% as of June 30, 2010, but remains less than the average fund balance for comparably sized counties (24.45% at June 30, 2010). The Local Government Commission continues to recommend improvement in the County's financial condition and operations. Increasing fund balance helps local governments to: 1) finance operations during periods of declining revenues, 2) address emergencies and unexpected expenditures, and 3) take advantage of financial opportunities, such as grants with local match requirements.

The first debt service payment on the \$3,600,645 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan (Northeast Water Project) is due in May 2011. The first payment will be approximately \$339,000, including interest at 2.10%. Thereafter, the annual debt service will consist of interest-only payments each November and principal plus interest payments each May through 2028.

The County recently borrowed \$10,000,000 for the new Jail / Law Enforcement Center construction and Courthouse Renovation Project. Debt service payments will be due each July and January, including both principal and interest at 3.19% through January 2026. Debt service payments for this loan during the 2011-2012 year will be approximately \$980,000.

In October 2009, the State changed the allocation method for the Article 42 half-cent sales tax. This local sales tax is now allocated on a point of origin basis, which hurts counties like Alexander that do not have large retail shopping areas. As a result, the County is losing approximately 60% of this revenue stream. By NC Statute, a portion of the Article 42 local sales tax must be set aside for school construction and school debt service. In January 2010, a hold-harmless provision became effective that requires the County to set aside enough money so the school system will not receive less than it did before the State changed the allocation method for Article 42 sales tax. The school hold-harmless provision has resulted in Alexander County setting aside more money for the school system's share of Article 42 sales tax than the County actually receives from Article 42. The amount budgeted for the school hold-harmless in 2010-2011 is \$264,000.

Counties receive their share of local sales taxes each month and as of the March 2011 distribution, the County's portion of total sales tax revenue is down 7% compared to the same time last year.

Some of the local sales taxes were not part of the State's action to change the allocation method to local governments. Article 39 one-cent sales tax, Article 40 half-cent sales tax, and Article 46 quarter-cent sales tax are the three local sales taxes that still have the same allocation method. As of the March 2011 distribution, the County's portion of these three sales tax articles is up almost 8% in the last 10 months.

The Alexander County Schools percentage of highly qualified teachers was 97.09%. We were the only system in the state to have 100% Highly Qualified Teachers during the previous three out of four years. (We are no longer 100% due to changes in the certification process for EC teachers).

Our school system ranked 27th out of 115 school systems with a teacher turnover rate of 8.29% (this counts our retirements which is approximately 3% of this total). The state average was 11.10%.

We have 76 active nationally certified teachers or 17.88% of all certified personnel employed and holding NBPTS Certification.

The Alexander County School System ranks well compared with other Unifour systems in all of these categories. Out of Burke County, Catawba County, Hickory City, Newton-Conover, Caldwell County, Iredell-Statesville, and Wilkes County, only Burke County had a lower teacher turnover rate (5.27%) and only Caldwell County has a higher percentage of National Board Certified Teachers (18.66%).

The Alexander County Schools have 428 certified staff and 414 non-certified staff.

There are 240 classrooms that have the Promethean ActivBoards, document cameras, and projectors installed. These 21st Century Classrooms are interactive for students and this project has been the number one priority of the Alexander County Board of Education for the past three years.

The 2010-2011 budget has been very challenging. The Alexander County Board of Education had to revert \$1,144,861 back to the state before we completed our budget.

The 2011-2012 budget is currently being developed by the NC House of Representatives and the NC Senate. The state of North Carolina faces a budget deficit in excess of \$3 billion dollars. The projected budget decreases to education are alarming and are cause for concern.

On November 17, 2010, the Alexander County GIS Department coordinated the second annual GIS Day at the Alexander Central High School Auditorium with the help from the Alexander School System. Over 600 students and members of the general public attended this free event that was the largest GIS Day event in the State of North Carolina. Nearly 30 different booths were on display to demonstrate GIS uses throughout county government as well as local companies. In addition to 14 County departments, presenters included: Baptist Hospital Air Care Helicopter, Caldwell County GIS, Carl Bunton & Associates, Central Fire Department, Energy United, ESRI, Kucera International, Mobile 311, NC State Highway Patrol, Quality Maps, US Census Bureau, West Consultants, Western Piedmont Council of Governments, and several Alexander County High School student presenters.

The Alexander County GIS Department also headed up a regional seven county GIS mapping website, the first of its kind in the state of North Carolina. This simple and easy to use website allows citizens to browse real estate records and view maps for all of Alexander, Burke, Catawba, Caldwell, Iredell, Lincoln and Wilkes counties in a single site. The greatest benefit is the ability for users to access this information from a single

website instead of having to visit seven different county mapping sites. This mapping site was developed at no cost to the counties with the assistance of ROK Technologies from Charleston, SC. This project received a second place award at the 2011 North Carolina GIS Conference. Users can visit this site by following the link on the Alexander County's homepage or by linking directly at this web address <http://maps.roktech.net/WesternFootHills/>.

The Church Road Water Line Project will extend an 8-inch diameter waterline along Church Road from US Highway 64/90 South to Liledown Road with an alternated proposal to extend service to Friendship Church Road depending on funding. This project will provide much-needed water service to an estimated 80 residences along the route. The overall project has an estimated cost of \$700,000 and is being partially funded by a 2010 grant from the NC Rural Economic Development Center. Design for the project has been completed and permits are currently being prepared. It is estimated that construction could begin as early as this summer.

On April 19, 2010, Alexander County signed an agreement with the Town of Taylorsville for the County to bill and collect all taxes for the Town. We have had minimal problems with this process and it has been a success. The 2010 levy for the Town is \$579,080.

We are continuing to have great success with collections of delinquent taxes on real property being transferred. This is due to a resolution adopted by the Alexander County Commissioners on May 18, 2009. This action has prevented a lot of problems for the Tax Office and continues help collection of delinquent tax accounts.

Status on collection for the levy year 2010

Our overall collection as of March 18, 2011 is as follows:

Levy Year 2010 07/01/2010 thru 03/18/2011

RGC	Billed	Collected	Outstanding	Collections %
Totals	\$16,640,039.82	\$15,463,357.37	\$1,176,712.45	92.92

Note these numbers includes the Town of Taylorsville Levy

The Senior Center continues to be a vibrant source for programs and activities for our senior community. During the course of this past year, the Senior Center has provided over 1,500 programs and activities which served over 16,000 seniors. Our growing percentage of seniors in our community has prompted us to expand the scope and focus of its mission. Today's seniors are more educated, and more technologically sophisticated which demands a different approach to the program.

The Senior Center deals with Medicare and health insurance needs daily throughout the year, as they assist people with Medicare Part D enrollments, issues and problems.

During this past Medicare Part D Open Enrollment Period, they assisted over 400 individuals in selecting the least expensive drug plan for their specific medications. This research resulted in changing over 90% to a different and less expensive plan for 2011 which was a great savings for our Alexander County seniors.

Alexander County Board of Commissioners' Meetings and other important public information concerning Alexander County can be viewed on the Alexander County Government Channel. This is broadcasted on channel 3 on Charter Communications and can also be viewed online at www.alexandercountync.tv and www.vimeo.com/alexandercounty. Alexander County will also broadcast extended coverage of the last two space shuttle flights via a live NASA satellite feed on the Government Channel. These flights are currently scheduled for April 19, 2011 and June 28, 2011 and are subject to change according to NASA's schedule.

Citizens of Alexander County can now get important updates such as weather alerts, closings, and other critical information through Facebook and Twitter. You can go to the County website at www.alexandercountync.gov and follow the links at the bottom of the page to subscribe to Alexander County's Facebook and Twitter page. Citizens can also get lots of information about County services by following the Alexander County blog page. The County blog can also be reached through the links at the bottom of the Alexander County web page.

Alexander County citizens continue to volunteer many hours each year to help our communities. Whether it's volunteering in Recreation, Senior Center, or the Library, our citizens step up to assist others in need. Alexander County is a great place to live because of the contribution of so many volunteers.

In closing, Alexander County will continue to feel the economic impacts of the worst recession since the Great Depression. Statewide numbers indicate large loses in income and sales tax collections. Governor Perdue has ordered state agencies to reduce 10% from their budgets, which are currently greatly reduced. Our state is looking at a \$3 billion reduction in budget for the upcoming year. The impacts on citizens will be dramatic. Our budget challenges will continue to be very difficult, but working together, we will do our best for all the citizens of Alexander County. Thank you to my fellow commissioners and our County employees and May God Bless You. Thank you.

Jobs created or committed:

Lake Norman Propane	--4--	IDI grant
Paragon Films	--26--	IDI grant, state grants rail construction
ARC Technologies	--6--	Site cleanup assistance
Liberty Reload	--6--	IDI grant, state grant rail construction
Mitchell Gold	--40--	Building Reuse Grant for old Bassett building & Revolving Loan Fund
Royale Comfort	--50--	Revolving Loan Fund to assist relocation
Carrigan Trucking	--20--	Revolving Loan Fund to purchase new equip., retain jobs
Schneider Mills	--12--	IDI grant for new equipment
Industrial Timber	--42--	Site assistance
Craftmaster	--77--	CDBG for sewer construction, new job creation
Jasper Seating	--40--	Building Reuse Grant
Piedmont Fiberglass	--75--	Building Reuse Grant
Schneider Mills	--17--	IDI grant for new equipment
Schneider Mills	--20--	IDI grant for new equipment
Schneider Mills	--20--	IDI grant for new equipment
Mitchell Gold	--24--	IDI grant for new equipment
Westgate Home	--30--	Building Reuse Grant
Piedmont Fiberglass	--5---	Building Reuse Grant
Caye Home, et al.	--165--	One NC Grant
Paragon Films	--15--	IDF Grant, Rural Center Economic Infrastructure Grant
Composite Fabrics	--10--	Building Reuse Grant
Total	--704--	

Grant Funds Obtained

Paragon Films Rail	\$428,372 – NCDOT, CDBG, Norfolk Southern, Golden Leaf
Mitchell Gold	\$125,000 – NC Rural Center Building Reuse
ARC Technologies	\$51,500 – Alexander County site cleanup assistance
Liberty Reload	\$80,500 – Rail grant NCDOT
Hiddenite Sewer	\$750,000 – CDBG
Hiddenite Sewer	\$500,000 – CDBG
Hiddenite Water	\$200,000 – Appalachian Regional Commission
Hiddenite Sewer	\$100,000 – County matching funds
Piedmont Wood	\$5,000 – Clean up assistance
Piedmont Fiberglass	\$250,000 – NC Rural Center Building Reuse
Jasper Seating	\$83,000 – NC Rural Center Building Reuse
Westgate	\$300,000 – NC Rural Center Building Reuse
Piedmont Fiberglass	\$56,653 – NC Rural Center Building Reuse
Caye Home Furnishings	\$250,000 – One NC Grant
Paragon Films	\$150,000 – NC Rural Center Economic Infrastructure Grant

Paragon Films	\$150,000 – Industrial Development Fund
Composite Fabrics	\$19,000 – NC Rural center Building Reuse
Website Grant	\$5,000 – Alexander EDC
Total	\$3,504,025

Revolving Loan Fund Activity

Mitchell Gold	\$100,000
Royale Comfort	\$50,000
Carrigan Trucking	\$30,000
Piedmont Wood	\$25,000
Hometown Medical	\$8,100
Total	\$213,100

Industrial Development Incentive Grants Awarded:

(Estimated benefit over period of grant)

Paragon Films	\$275,700
Lake Norman Propane	\$4,400
Liberty Reload	\$20,200
Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams	\$43,300
Schneider Mills	\$215,878
Paragon Films (2010 Expansion)	\$300,000 (grant to be awarded in 2011)
Total	\$859,478

Commissioner Yoder mentioned that the state was considering attacking county fund balances to help balance the state's budget which he was strongly against.

Chairman Robertson agreed, noting that the state was also considering mandating counties to house misdemeanor state inmates for free. He thanked the County employees for cutting back and assisting the Board with raising the fund balance.

Commissioner Jennings added that other discussions have included forcing counties to take over maintenance of school buses as well as worker's compensation for school system employees. He urged citizens to contact Representative Mark Hollo and Senator Dan Soucek to voice their opposition.

Commissioner Mayberry stated that information provided to the House and Senate by the Governor omitted key information regarding county fund balances. The information provided gave the impression that counties were sitting on huge amounts of money which is not the case.

Commissioner Moose thanked the citizens and homeowners who also helped the County raise its fund balance.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY ANNOUNCEMENT

Josh Mitchell, Solid Waste Director, presented a slide show which included the following information:

- Alexander County moved up to 18th in NC per capita recycling ranking, up from 86th in 2003.
- New recycling opportunities – waste cooking oil, fluorescent tube bulbs, CFL recycling, light ballasts, mercury thermostats, electronics (16,000 lbs. per month), oil filters (citizens only), cell phones for soldiers, park recycling.
- Landfill bans – plastic bottles, pallets, oil filters, aluminum cans, car batteries, antifreeze, tires, oil, and yard waste. (These materials can still be disposed of at the landfill or convenience sites but must be recycled). New landfill ban – computer equipment and televisions effective July 1, 2011.

Mr. Mitchell also announced that in conjunction with Earth Day on April 22nd, the Household Hazardous Waste Day would be held on Saturday, April 30, 2011 from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM in the Alexander County Administration building parking lot. Items accepted for disposal include:

Household cleaners – drain openers, toilet bowl cleaners, oven cleaners, and disinfectants.

Paint products – latex and oil based paint, solvents, thinners, shellacs, varnishes, wood preservatives, and sealers.

Pesticides – herbicides, insecticides, fungicides in the form of aerosols, liquids, granular, etc.

Miscellaneous – acids, bases, kerosene, household batteries, photographic chemicals, fluorescent bulbs, electronics, aerosol cans, pool chemicals, propane gas cylinders, and metallic mercury.

He pointed out that this was free for residents of Alexander County only and that businesses would not be allowed, with the exception of farmers.

APPROVAL FOR REGISTER OF DEEDS SOFTWARE CONTRACT

Greg Cronk, I.T. Director, requested approval of a contract with Cott Systems for the Register of Deeds public web access site. A committee consisting of Ben Hines, Register of Deeds, Linda Honeycutt, Register of Deeds staff, and Mr. Cronk reviewed several software vendors and

traveled to two counties to talk with the users of the systems. Based on the pricing and recommendation from Ben Hines, the committee chose Cott Systems.

He explained that the funds necessary to cover the initial costs for the implementation of the software were already budgeted in the 2010-2011 Information Technology and Register of Deeds budgets. A one-time fee of \$27,467 will be charged and recurring costs will total \$11,328. Mr. Cronk stated that the new system should be up and running by July 2011.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the contract with Cott Systems and allow the County Manager to execute the necessary documents. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #41 - #43

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendments #41 - #43, which included the following information:

Budget Amendment #41 – To account for school tax funds set aside for future school construction / repairs.

Budget Amendment #42 – To increase the Garage budget to cover maintenance, repair, and gasoline for the remainder of the 2010-2011 fiscal year. To increase the Sheriff's Department budget for paint and body work for a box truck purchased from Iredell County using state drug funds. To budget for a refund to the NC Department of Juvenile Justice for the 2009-2010 JCPC leftover balances. To increase the Social Services budget for Crisis Intervention Payment funds.

Budget Amendment #43 – To increase the Library budget due to more revenue from library fees than originally estimated. To increase the Library budget for a donation from the Friends of the Library for two tables for the Children's Program. To increase the Bethlehem Library budget for a donation from the Bethlehem Community Development Association.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #41 - #43. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

OTHER BUSINESS

No information was given during Other Business.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from the March 28, 2011 Regular Commissioners' Meeting.

B. Tax Release Requests for March \$7,740.39 and Tax Refunds for March \$2,008.13.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Mayberry 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 Robertson made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 7:37 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 8:28 PM. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

W. Darrell Robertson, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board