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**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**     May 9, 2011

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

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

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

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Monday, May 9, 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**

Chairman Robertson noted that former teacher, coach, and commissioner Harold Odom passed away on Saturday, April 30, 2011. He requested Harold’s family be remembered in prayer.

Dennis Wahlers, Forest Ranger, gave the invocation and Brad Gates, Facilities Director / Risk Management Specialist and Building Code Enforcement Officer, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mr. Gates stated that the Public Buildings Department handled maintenance, grounds, and janitorial services for 60 structures at 39 sites throughout the county, including parks. As Risk Management Specialist, he oversees the safety for the County, specifically ADA and OSHA standards, training, and worker’s compensation / liability claims. Mr. Gates also fills in as Building Code Enforcement Officer as needed.

Mr. Wahlers explained that the Forestry Service provided many types of services such as fire prevention and control, forest management, inspection of logging sites, water quality, education, and emergency / disaster response.

## **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Chairman Robertson stated that he was proud of the Navy Seals and the mission they accomplished last week in Pakistan. He thanked them for the service they provided for the country's freedom.

## **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mary Short discussed her concerns with the expansion of the Medicaid managed care BC waiver and how it will affect the developmental disabilities community. She stated that the waiver included a completely new set of service definitions that no one had tried and she noted that Smoky Mountain Center's readiness report even included information on how to counter the opposition of the waiver from the developmental disabilities community. She felt that counties weren't paying enough attention to what was happening with the waiver and how it related to individuals with developmental disabilities.

She also explained that the reduction in the level of care for an alternative family living home had decreased from \$240 a day to \$200 a day for a total loss of \$14,600 per year as of April 1, 2011. Ms. Short added that LME's across the state were asking for extensions because they didn't fully understand the changes and she noted that Disability Rights North Carolina, the NC Counsel of Developmental Disabilities, and the ARC of NC were all opposed to the waiver.

Ms. Short requested the Board form a lobby group to do whatever they could to get some serious answers from the state and prevent this crisis to the development disabilities community.

## **PUBLIC HEARING: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE GRANT / PARAGON FILMS**

David Icenhour, Economic Development Director, reviewed an application by Paragon Films for an Economic Development Incentive grant relating to 60,000 square feet facility expansion and addition of manufacturing equipment resulting in 15 new jobs and a tax valuation increase of \$10,044,606. Jobs will pay 130% of the county average weekly wage.

He advised that the proposed grant would consist of payment to the company equal to 95% of the property taxes paid by the company for the first 6 years after completion of the new capital investment.

Chairman Robertson called the public hearing to order and requested any comments. 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.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the Economic Development Incentive Grant for Paragon Films. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

## **PUBLIC HEARING: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE GRANT / COMPOSITE FABRICS OF AMERICA**

David Icenhour, Economic Development Director, reviewed an application by Composite Fabrics of America for an Economic Development Incentive grant relating to the addition of manufacturing equipment resulting in 5 new jobs and a tax valuation increase of \$357,195. Jobs will pay 130% of the county average weekly wage.

He advised that the proposed grant would consist of payment to the company equal to a percentage of the property taxes paid by the company for the first 5 years after completion of the capital investment with 85% being the highest percentage in the first full year and decreasing each year thereafter.

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

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the Economic Development Incentive Grant for Composite Fabrics of America. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

## **NC ANNUAL FORESTRY REPORT**

Dennis Wahlers, Forest Ranger, provided the NC Annual Forestry Report. He discussed several key items in the report including the Barrett Mountain fire, fuel mitigation efforts provided by ARRA funding to protect homeowners who choose to participate, community wildfire protection plans for all fire districts to pinpoint areas of concern, cost share programs, and the Federal Excess Property Program. He mentioned the Environmental Field Day held every year for 5<sup>th</sup> graders as well as resources available to the Forestry Service.

He also noted that he was available to speak with civic clubs or other organizations to educate them about fire safety or forest preservation.

## **EMS WEEK PROCLAMATION**

Commissioner Yoder presented and made a motion to approve a proclamation declaring the week of May 15-21, 2011 as Emergency Medical Services Week in Alexander County. Commissioner Moose seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

## **PRESENTATION FROM THE NC ASSOCIATION OF RESCUE & EMS**

Bradley Earp, EMS Director, presented lapel pins to Connie Meredith and Charlie "Dale" Killian for being members of the NC Association of Rescue & EMS for 25 years.

He informed the Board that Mr. Killian had been employed with Alexander County since 1983 and that Ms. Meredith was hired in 1985.

## **BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #45 - #47**

Rick French, County Manager, reviewed the purpose of Budget Amendments #45 - #47 as follows:

Budget Amendment #45 – To increase the Register of Deeds budget for new computer hardware. To transfer state money from the JCPC funds to the Rainbow Center Residential Treatment for youth. To increase the Library budget for a donation from the Friends of the Library to cover shipping charges on tables for the Children's Program.

Budget Amendment #46 – To budget for the Dusty Ridge Park Paving Project.

Budget Amendment #47 – To adjust the original project budget ordinance for estimated engineering expenses for the Rocky Face Park Project.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #45 - #47. 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. The House proposal on lottery funds increased by \$43.5 million during the May 3<sup>rd</sup> debate for a total of \$98.7 million.
- B. Senate Bill 756 will completely eliminate unsecured bonds for the Pre-Trial Release Program and will mandate that counties cannot spend any funds on a pre-trial release program after July 1, 2011. This bill has the potential to greatly increase jail populations.

- C. Other state budget proposals that negatively affect counties include the housing of state misdemeanants, a 20% reduction in the More at Four Program, and loss of Golden Leaf money totaling \$2 million. The transfer of school worker's compensation and bus repair to counties has been eliminated.

Commissioner 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 April 25, 2011 Regular Commissioners' Meeting.
- B. Tax Release Requests for April \$4,025.40 and Tax Refunds for April \$2,531.57.
- C. Certified Bid Tabulation for Dusty Ridge Park Site Improvements.

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**

Chairman Robertson made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 7:24 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 Jennings 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 8:16 PM. Commissioner Moose seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

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W. Darrell Robertson, Chairman

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Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board