

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING June 6, 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, June 6, 2011 at the CVCC / Alexander Center in Room 103, Taylorsville, North Carolina.

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Jennings gave the invocation and Commissioner Moose led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Commissioner Yoder commended the ACHS Softball Team who won the State Championship in Raleigh over the weekend. He also congratulated all of the 2011 ACHS graduates.

Commissioner Mayberry stated that the 2nd Annual Bethlehem Day Festival and Classic Car and Truck Show was a success and he thanked the Bethlehem Community Development Association for their sponsorship of the event.

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

There was no one present to speak during the Public Comment Period.

PUBLIC HEARING: 2011-2012 ALEXANDER COUNTY PROPOSED BUDGET

Rick French, County Manager, provided the following budget message for the 2011-2012 Alexander County proposed budget:

The 2011-2012 general fund proposed budget for Alexander County is \$29,389,456. This is a 1% increase over the 2010-2011 budget which totaled \$29,044,630. The increase is due to the \$980,000 debt service payment on the Law Enforcement & Detention Center and the courthouse renovation. Without the new debt, the 2011-2012 budget would be \$28,409,456 or a 2% decrease. The 2011-2012 budget is \$2,609,046 less than the 2008-2009 budget or an 8% decrease from 3 years ago.

There is no tax increased proposed in the 2011-2012 budget. The tax rate will remain at 60.5 cents. There are no water rate, landfill, or any fee increases.

The budget does not include any new employees. Two employees are retiring and only one will be replaced. There are currently 242 full-time employees, 4 less than in the 2009-2010 budget. No COLA or holiday bonus has been budgeted.

Alexander County School funding was once again drastically reduced by the state. The County will fund the school \$5 million, the same amount as last year. The County will again pick up 100% of the cost for school resource officers, which has been shared 50/50 between the schools and County in the past.

A number of capital outlay projects will be under construction or completed during the 2011-2012 fiscal year:

- The Law Enforcement & Detention Center should be completed in late 2012. After its completion, the courthouse renovation will begin and should be completed by the end of the 2012-2013 fiscal year. This is a \$10 million project.
- The Rocky Face Park Project should be completed by the end of the 2011-2012 fiscal year. This project was funded with a PARTF grant and the property used as a match. No local dollars were used in the match.
- The Church Road Water Project should be starting by late summer. A NC Rural Center grant was received for the project and \$317,000 in water funds are budgeted for the match.

- \$380,000 is budgeted for additional jail space in the Caldwell County jail.
- The County has applied for state revolving loan funds for water system improvements.
- \$110,000 is budgeted for new vehicles for the Sheriff's Department.
- \$66,500 is budgeted for EMS & Sheriff's Department radio replacement equipment.
- \$126,645 is budgeted for the first full year of operating the License Plate Agency.
- Several project funds will be set up including Information Technology, School Project, and County Building Project Fund.

Mr. French discussed a few other items including the part-time attorney position, which he noted would be funded through the contractual line item in the Governing Body budget.

Chairman Robertson pointed out that the school bus replacement and housing of misdemeanants mandates had been removed from the state budget, both of which would have created major financial burdens on counties.

Commissioner Jennings informed the Board that he, Commissioner Moose, and Mr. French met with Representative Mark Hollo and Senator Dan Soucek the night prior to County Assembly Day and expressed the Board's opposition to these mandates. He thanked them both for their support in getting the mandates removed.

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 Jennings seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

**PUBLIC HEARING: SCATTERED SITE 2008 PROJECT CDBG #08-C-1813
CLOSEOUT**

Nancy Coley, WPCOG Community Development Administrator, stated that the \$400,000 CDBG #08-C-1813 Scattered Site 2008 Housing Rehabilitation Project was used to clear and relocate (replace with a new doublewide) one severely substandard home and to rehabilitate 4 homes benefitting 9 low and very low income persons. This project also provided emergency repairs to 13 homes which benefitted 25 persons. She noted that CDBG funds provided 100% of the total expenditures.

She advised that \$16,936.68 remained unspent in grant funds. This amount is not enough to rehabilitate another home and therefore must be de-obligated by the County. She requested the Board's approval to submit the Closeout Performance Report for CDBG #08-C-1813 to the Division of Community Assistance, NC Department of Commerce and de-obligate the unspent funds.

Chairman Robertson called the meeting 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 Jennings made a motion to submit the closeout papers for the grant and also de-obligate the \$16,936.68 in unspent funds. Commissioner Moose seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

GOLDEN LEAF SUMMER INTERNSHIP & WEBSITE GRANT PROGRAM

David Icenhour, EDC Director, introduced Jonathan Williams, a native of Alexander County and student at Wake Forest University, who will be completing a summer internship in economic development through the Golden Leaf Scholarship Program. He explained Mr. Williams' duties throughout his internship would include developing options for the Small Business & Entrepreneurial Assistance Grant, developing a new entrepreneurial section for the Economic Development website, and administering the current cycle of the Website Assistance Grant Program.

Mr. Williams elaborated on his efforts, noting that he would be working with the WPCOG and CVCC to identify needs of entrepreneurs for the SBEA grant as well as creating a resource guidebook on how to start a business in Alexander County.

2011 COUNTY ASSEMBLY DAY & LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Rick French, County Manager, reviewed information provided at the 2011 County Assembly Day, held on May 26, 2011, as it relates to how counties will be affected by state budget impacts, which included:

- Appropriates \$100 million in county lottery school construction funding allocated on a per pupil basis totaling \$383,453 in Alexander County.
- Rejects the original proposal to shift \$56.9 million in annual school bus replacement costs to counties.
- Reduces the original proposed recurring cut of \$30 million on community mental health dollars to a one-time \$20 million cut.

- Rejects the Governor's proposal to shift school workers' compensation costs.
- Increases school flexibility cut to \$124 million for a total of \$429 million.
- Cuts More at Four by 20% and transfers the program to NC DHHS.
- Reduces Smart Start by 20% but does not dissolve the NC Partnership Council, also limits Smart Start salaries.
- Repeals \$100 million in statutory appropriations for the Clean Water Trust Funds and appropriates \$11.25 million
- Transfers Soil & Water and Forestry to Ag.
- Eliminates the 21st Century Communities Program.
- Accepts House's diversion of Parks & Recreation & Natural Heritage Trust Funds.
- Reduces state aid to libraries by 13% or \$2 million.
- Reduces veteran's affairs state aid by \$50,000.
- Permits some Master Settlement funds to continue to fund the Golden Leaf Foundation.
- Continues Tobacco Trust funds but redirects funds.

Commissioner Jennings mentioned the change of sales tax distribution formulas, from per capita to point of sale, which was devastating to small rural counties such as Alexander. He felt those rural counties needed to work together to force a change from the state.

ADOPTION OF THE 2011 COMMISSIONERS' MEETING SCHEDULE (JULY-DECEMBER 2011)

Chairman Robertson presented the last 6 months of the 2011 Commissioners' Meeting Schedule as follows:

July 11, 2011 (only one meeting)	October 3, 2011 October 17, 2011
August 1, 2011 August 15, 2011	November 7, 2011 November 21, 2011
September 6, 2011	December 12, 2011

September 19, 2011

(only one meeting)

Commissioner Jennings made a motion to approve the last 6 months of the 2011 Commissioners' Meeting Schedule as presented. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted four in favor of the motion (Commissioners Jennings, Mayberry, Moose, and Robertson) and one against (Commissioner Yoder). The motion carried.

Commissioner Yoder explained that the Board of Health had recently changed their meeting schedule to work around the Board of Commissioners' schedule so that he could attend the meetings, and he noted that this schedule would interfere with those meetings.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS

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

Council on Aging – Reappoint Scott Ross, Julie Sebastian, Kathleen Wittington, Nan Campbell, and Margo Mosley for 3 years.

CVCC Board of Trustees – Reappoint Dr. Josephine Foster for 4 years.

DSS Board – Reappoint Darrell Robertson for 3 years.

Joint Nursing & Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee – Reappoint Joe Civitarese for 3 years.

Region E Aging Committee – Appoint Pat Fox for 2 years.

Senior Center Advisory Committee – Reappoint Genny Masters for 3 years.

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

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #50 - #54

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendments #50 - #54 as follows:

Budget Amendment #50 – To increase the Senior Center budget to use donations received in the 2009-2010 budget year for activities at the Senior Center in 2010-2011. To increase the Sheriff's Department budget for lights for a box truck purchased from the Iredell County Sheriff's Department auction.

Budget Amendment #51 – To budget for the EDC’s final payment on the Caye property and the Chamber of Commerce building.

Budget Amendment #52 – To budget for additional parking spaces as a part of the Dusty Ridge Park paving project.

Budget Amendment #53 – To set aside funds from the General Fund to the Capital Projects Fund for future parks and recreation improvements, major capital repairs to County buildings, and information technology needs.

Budget Amendment #54 – To set asides funds from the General Fund to the School Capital Improvements Fund for school repairs and improvements.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #50 - #54. 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 new paving at Dusty Ridge Park is getting positive reviews.
- B. The residents of Wildlife Club Lane have paid for the materials to construct a water line. The City of Hickory has agreed to do the project later in the summer.
- C. McGill Engineering has advised that the Church Road water project will be ready to bid next week. Staff hopes to award the bid at the June 20th Commissioners’ Meeting.
- D. NCDOT is in the process of paving Church Road. County staff requested that DOT wait until after the water line was installed; however, they declined.

Commissioner Yoder reported the DOT needed to complete this project within the 2010-2011 budget year.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Tax Release Requests for May \$5,179.40 and Tax Refunds for May \$2,531.57.
- B. Minutes from the May 23, 2011 Regular Commissioners’ Meeting.
- C. Home & Community Care Block Grant SFY 2011-2012.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Moose 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 7:03 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 Jennings made a motion to adjourn at 7:45 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