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**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**     August 15, 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, August 15, 2011 at the CVCC / Alexander Center in Room 103, Taylorsville, North Carolina.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Robertson called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman Robertson gave the invocation and Commissioner Mayberry led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**COMMISSIONER’S REPORT**

Chairman Robertson mentioned the 8 firefighters from Asheville who were recently injured in the line of duty, including Captain Jeffrey Scott Bowman who lost his life. He asked everyone to remember the family members of these individuals.

Commissioner Jennings discussed the recall elections in Wisconsin related to those who voted to end collective bargaining and remove benefits from state workers. He also noted that Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker had turned a \$1.3 billion deficit into a \$350 million surplus and he hoped that would be an example nationally.

Commissioner Moose stated that she recently visited the County landfill and was very proud of the way it looked, noting that the grass was mowed and there was no litter along the roadway into the landfill. She commended the staff for the service they were providing to the citizens.

Commissioner Jennings thanked Representative Hollo and Senator Soucek for their efforts in reigning in government spending during budget discussion in Raleigh.

## **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Chairman Robertson requested the addition of Budget Amendment #7 to the agenda.

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

## **2010 CENSUS REPORT**

Tom Bell, WPCOG GIS Analyst, gave a power point presentation reviewing the 2010 census report, which included the following comparisons between Alexander County and the Hickory Metro area:

- Population totals 1960-2010
- Population growth by race/origin and age groups 2000-2010
- Household composition – average number of persons per household 1970-2010, group quarters and household type 2000-2010
- Housing – number of units 1970-2010, occupied and vacant units 1990-2010, building permits 2000-2010, foreclosure cases 2000-2010

Other items pointed out were that the average yearly wage in Alexander County was \$28,548 compared to the state average of \$41,132. The 2030 population projections also show that Alexander County will see a large increase in population while Catawba's growth will be moderate, Caldwell's will be even, and Burke's will decline.

## **RECOMMENDATION TO OBTAIN FEES FOR THE ROADWAYS, RIGHT OF WAY AREAS, AND SIDEWALKS ORDINANCE**

Chairman Robertson reported that Sheriff Bowman wished to charge a \$50 fee to individuals applying for permits in relation to this ordinance to exclude any civic or non-profit group as well as churches.

Commissioner Mayberry pointed out that this cost would off-set the time staff spent performing background checks on applicants.

Chairman Robertson made a motion to approve the fee amount. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

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## **VOTING DELEGATE FOR NCACC ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to nominate Commissioner Jennings to serve as the Voting Delegate for the NCACC Annual Conference to be held in Concord on August 18-21, 2011. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion.

Commissioner Jennings advised that he would be leaving the conference on Saturday morning and would not be present to vote at sessions that day. Therefore, Commissioner Mayberry made a motion to remove the nomination of Commissioner Jennings as Voting Delegate. Commissioner Moose seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Jennings made a motion to nominate Commissioner Yoder as Voting Delegate. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

## **APPOINT NCACC DISTRICT DIRECTOR**

Chairman Robertson requested any nominations for the NCACC District Director for District 13 (Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, and Catawba). Caucuses will be held at the NCACC Annual Conference on Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup> where a nominating and election process will take place. The chosen director will serve a 2-year term to commence with the swearing in at the business session.

Chairman Robertson made a motion to nominate Commissioner Yoder. Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

## **BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #5 - #7**

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendments #5 - #7 as follows:

Budget Amendment #5 – To increase the Sheriff's Department budget to paint a box truck purchased from Iredell County in spring 2011 (state drug funds are being used). To increase the Health Department budget for additional state funds for the Breast Feeding Peer Counselor program. To increase the Health Department budget for the Project Lazarus Grant. To adjust the amount budgeted for the Senior Center Operations Grant revenue to match the report provided by the Home and Community Care Block Grant for Older Adults.

Budget Amendment #6 – To budget for additional local funds to extend the Church Road Water Project south of the original project area (total being increased from \$635,815 to \$780,000).

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Budget Amendment #7 – To increase the Governing Body budget for payment of attorney fees related to litigation. To increase the EMS Department budget for reimbursement of back wages to resolve litigation.

Commissioner Mayberry made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #5 - #7. Commissioner Moose seconded the motion. The Board voted 4 in favor of the motion (Commissioners Jennings, Mayberry, Moose, and Robertson) and one against (Commissioner Yoder). The motion carried.

Commissioner Yoder stated that he disagreed with Budget Amendment #7 and the use of funds in this particular manner.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the following issues during Other Business:

- A. The Church Road Water Project started this morning.
- B. A total of \$3,277,885 in sales tax revenues was collected for 2010-2011. This is in excess of the \$3,071,100 budgeted for the year.
- C. The Board has been invited to the Cooperative Extension Report to the People scheduled for August 26, 2011 at 12:00 PM.
- D. There will be two items for action at the August 29<sup>th</sup> work session.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Minutes from the August 1, 2011 Regular Commissioners' Meeting.

Commissioner Jennings 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 6:53 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 Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

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## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Commissioner Mayberry made a motion to adjourn at 7:21 PM. Commissioner Jennings 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