

Draft

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**WORK SESSION** August 29, 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  
Seth Harris, County Planner  
Josh Mitchell, Solid Waste Director  
Jamie Starnes, Clerk to the Board

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a work session on Monday, August 29, 2011 in the County Administration building downstairs conference room, Taylorsville, North Carolina.

**SOLID WASTE COMPLAINTS / CLEANUPS**

Josh Mitchell, Solid Waste Director, informed the Board that he had received 59 complaints for littering, dumping or accumulation of trash, and abandoned buildings so far in 2011. He presented a slide show of before and after photos of properties that have been cleaned up due to complaints being received.

He explained the process from receipt of complaint, site visits and photos, mailing of letters with cited violations, to other site visits for discussion and aid in cleanup. There are currently 12 open cases.

Mr. Mitchell reviewed several properties that he was at a standstill with due to lack of cooperation by property owners including a burned home and abandoned pool on Green Acres Lane owned by Charles & Ann Oakley and accumulated junk and trash on property owned by Richard Watts on Gravel Hill Court. Both of these cases have been turned over to the County Attorney.

**PROPOSED MINIMUM HOUSING CODE ORDINANCE**

Seth Harris, County Planner, presented a draft Minimum Housing Code Ordinance for review, explaining that the original ordinance was drafted in 1999 and was revisited by later boards in

both 2003 and 2005. He noted that the current draft was modeled after the School of Government and NC League of Municipalities' ordinances as well as counties similar in size.

He reviewed the ordinance, specifically pointing out sections relating to unsafe conditions that would deem a property unfit for human habitation, number of complaints needed from neighbors to pursue action (5 complaints – 18 or older), and the procedure for enforcement.

The Board discussed the need for a minimum housing ordinance and agreed to review at a later date.

## **JAIL INSPECTION**

Rick French, County Manager, advised that an inspection of the County jail was held on August 24, 2011 where several problems were discovered, including:

- 43 inmates were housed at the facility that only has a capacity of 27. The additional 16 inmates were transferred to Ashe County. Mr. French noted that an agreement was needed with Ashe County for housing of inmates.
- No hot water was available in the sinks of the housing areas. This will cost approximately \$3,000 to fix.
- There was a female inmate housed at the facility for court; however, there was no female detention officer on duty as required by rule 10A NCAC 14J.0601(f).
- An electrical extension cord was run through a door and in use to supply power to an oxygen machine used by an inmate housed in the isolation area. Immediate removal of the cord was not requested due to the possible imminent danger to the inmate's health even though this violated the NC fire code.

Commissioner Yoder asked staff to talk with the Attorney General to determine if it was necessary for this jail to remain open during the construction of the new facility. He felt there was no need to spend additional taxpayer funds on this outdated jail when they could be used for the new one. Commissioner Jennings agreed.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

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

- A. Staff has drafted a letter requesting 911 funds to be used for computers in Sheriff's Department vehicles. Legislation allows for half of 911 funds collected to be used for these types of purchases.

- B. Mr. French has instructed Finance staff to locate funding in the County budget for installation of water lines on Sipe Road and Corner Store Road. The project will cost approximately \$350,000.
- C. A school resource officer wrecked a Sheriff's Department vehicle last week responding to a fight.
- D. Mr. French requested approval of a grant application to the NC Governor's Highway Safety Program for a traffic deputy position. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the 3-year grant.

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

### **CLOSED SESSION – 143.318.11(a)(5) CONTRACTUAL**

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to enter into Closed Session a 7:00 PM to discuss a contractual matter. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Yoder made a motion to adjourn at 7:39 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