

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING December 12, 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 M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Monday, December 12, 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

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

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Chairman Robertson congratulated *The Taylorsville Times* for 125 years of keeping Alexander County informed on news and sports as well as civic and social affairs.

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

Jackie Hickman voiced complaints against Sheriff's deputies Shay Starnes and Jon Hayes who came to her home on November 27, 2011 and accused her of selling and snorting pills. The deputies claimed they witnessed her and others at the residence snorting pills from her front porch, which she stated didn't occur, then changed their story stating they had received a tip that they had been doing such on the porch. Deputies Starnes and Hayes also came onto her porch with their hands on their guns and ordered her to the front yard before telling her the reason they were there. She also reported that the deputies asked to enter the home to look at the coffee table and proceeded to examine all of her prescription medications. Ms. Hickman accused the deputies of slander, defamation of character, and kidnapping for holding her outside her property for a false reason and informed the Board that she was not the only person in the area that this had happened to.

Ms. Hickman also stated that after she contacted the Sheriff's Department to report the incident, Detective Mark St.Clair and a female detective came to her home to document her complaint; however, when she requested a copy of that report she was informed that she would need to make a written complaint against the officers for an internal investigation to occur. She asked the Board what direction to take to get this solved.

Chairman Robertson suggested that Ms. Hickman speak directly to Sheriff Chris Bowman about the incident since he was in control of the Sheriff's Department and the deputies employed there.

ELECTION OF BOARD CHAIRMAN

Chairman Robertson called for nominations for Chairman. Commissioner Moose nominated Commissioner Mayberry to serve as Chairman for 2012.

There being no further nominations, Commissioner Moose made a motion to close the nominations and approve the election of Commissioner Mayberry as Chairman for 2012. Commissioner Moose Jennings the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

ELECTION OF BOARD VICE-CHAIRMAN

Chairman Robertson called for nominations for Vice-Chairman. Commissioner Mayberry nominated Commissioner Jennings to serve as Vice-Chairman for 2012.

There being no further nominations, Commissioner Mayberry made a motion to close the nominations and approve the election of Commissioner Jennings as Vice-Chairman for 2012. Commissioner Moose seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

PUBLIC HEARING: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM

Nancy Coley, WPCOG Community Development Administrator, informed the Board that North Carolina received CDBG funds each year from the Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Small Cities Program which local governments can apply for various activities that benefited low to moderate income persons. She stated that two public hearings must be held to receive public comment on any project and noted that this was the first public hearing. The following categories are available:

Infrastructure Program includes installation and/or replacement of public water or sewer lines in residential areas and improvements to water or sewer treatment plants with special problems with priority given to drought related activities. Seventy percent of the residents must be low or moderate income and the area must exhibit a severity of need. The grant maximum is \$750,000 with no local match and the cycle is open February 1-29, 2012.

Infrastructure Hook-Up Program enabled local governments with existing public water and/or sewer lines to connect or “hook-up” low and moderate income households to non-CDBG funded lines. The grant maximum is \$75,000 and the cycle is open January 4 – March 4, 2012.

Scattered Site Rehabilitation grants are made on a non-competitive basis to each county every three years to address the most critical housing needs of households with incomes at or below 50% of the area median income. Alexander County is eligible to apply for \$400,000 and applications must be submitted by March 30, 2012.

Small Business & Entrepreneurial Assistance programs provide funding to local governments to jumpstart growth of existing businesses, thus creating new jobs or retaining existing jobs, as well as to develop a plan for creating an entrepreneurial environment in the community. The small business must create at least one job per \$25,000. Grants range from \$150,000 to \$250,000 and applications are due by April 30, 2012.

NC Catalyst is a new grant category to provide grants to local government to develop viable communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income. Public facilities can be assisted as well as domestic violence shelters, transitional housing, senior centers, etc. The grant maximum is \$500,000 and applications are due by April 30, 2012.

Economic Development funds are granted for infrastructure improvements to assist for-profit business in creating or retaining jobs. Sixty percent of the jobs created or retained in a project must be for persons qualifying as prior low and moderate income. Financial assistance is also available for private companies as loans under certain conditions and loans for publicly owned industrial shell buildings are available.

Ms. Coley stated that local governments could not receive more than a total of \$1,250,000 in combined awards in one year; however, she noted that Scattered Site Housing funds received by counties were not included in the annual maximum.

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

PROJECT LIFESAVER PROGRAM DEMONSTRATION

Sheriff Chris Bowman and Sergeant David Moose discussed the Project Lifesaver Program which was designed to aid officers in the recovery of adults and children who wander due to Alzheimer's, autism, Down syndrome, dementia, and other cognitive or mental conditions. The program reduces the number of hours spent searching for an individual as well as the cost incurred from required assistance from other agencies (average is 8-9 hours at a cost of \$13,000). Sheriff Bowman advised that Alexander County was the only county in the region not participating in this program.

Sergeant Moose explained that individuals enrolled in the program would be given a tamper proof radio tracking bracelet that would emit a signal that could be tracked by a transmitter and allowing the person to be found in an average of 30 minutes or less. He explained that the batteries and bracelet bands would need to be changed every month by Sheriff's Department staff; therefore, a fee of \$25 per month would be charged to the individual (or \$10 a month for hardship cases). Alexander County received a grant which allowed for the purchase of 2 transmitters, bracelets, and batteries; however, more need to be purchased to get the program started.

Alton Price from Catawba County informed the Board that Catawba County Sheriff's Department had taken part in this program since 2004 and currently had 25 residents enrolled. He stated that recovery times in Catawba County ranged from 5-12 minutes with the longest at 29 minutes.

At this time, Chairman Robertson left the meeting. The clock read 7:15 PM. As Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Mayberry took over duties as Chairman for the remainder of the meeting.

Acting Chairman Mayberry asked Sheriff Bowman to determine an amount needed to purchase additional transmitters and present to the Board for a future agenda item.

PROCLAMATION DECLARING DECEMBER 1-31, 2011 AS CHRISTMAS IN BETHLEHEM

Acting Chairman Mayberry presented a Proclamation Declaring December 1-31, 2011 as Christmas in Bethlehem. He noted that the annual Bethlehem Star Lighting had taken place on December 3rd and the live nativity drive through on December 9-11th.

Commissioner Jennings made a motion to approve the proclamation. Commissioner Moose seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS

Acting Chairman Mayberry presented the following appointments and reappointments:

CVCC Board of Trustees – Appoint Jeremy Fortner (term expiring 6/2015).

Joint Nursing & Adult Care Community Advisory Committee – Reappoint Mary Inman for 3 years.

Acting Chairman Mayberry made a motion to approve the appointments and reappointments as presented. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion. The Board voted 2 in favor of the motion (Commissioners Mayberry and Yoder), one against (Commissioner Jennings opposing the appointment of Jeremy Fortner) and one abstention (Commissioner Moose). The motion carried.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #20 - #22

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendments #20 - #22 as follows:

Budget Amendment #20 – To increase the Health Department budget for the School Employee Vaccine Project. To increase the DSS budget for additional state funding for Low-Income Home Energy Assistance and TANF Job Boost II Program. To increase the Library budget for receipt of a grant from Walmart.

Budget Amendment #21 – To increase the Senior Center budget for 1) a part-time temporary position to assist with the Medicare Part D open enrollment period with allocations from a SHIP grant and a Senior Center operations grant and 2) to purchase MySeniorCenter software with Senior Center General Purpose grants funds.

Budget Amendment #22 – To budget for the purchase of a 1999 dump truck from proceeds from the sale of 3 surplus landfill trucks – 2 sold through GovDeals online auction and the third being sold for scrap metal.

Commissioner Jennings made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #20 - #22. Commissioner Moose 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. Sales tax collected for the first 3 months of this fiscal year totaled \$866,489. This is \$27,195 or 3.24% more than the same time last year.
- B. The bids for Hoyle Keller Loop have been opened. A total of 8 bids were received with Neil Grading submitting the lowest bid of \$47,530. Engineers Davis & Floyd recommend approval of the low bidder.

Commissioner Jennings made a motion to accept the low bid of \$47,530 from Neil Grading for Hoyle Keller Loop. Commissioner Moose seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

- C. Crews are finishing up the Church Road water line and will begin Cornerstore & Sipe Roads next week.
- D. At the monthly Law Enforcement and Detention Center Project Meeting held on November 30th, Vice-President David Bordeaux reported that the Law Enforcement Center portion should be completed in June or July 2012 and the Detention Center in November 2012.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from the November 21, 2011 Regular Commissioners' Meeting.
- B. Waiver of the NC Bid Requirements to Purchase off State Contract.
- C. Tax Release Requests for November \$4,989.57 and Tax Refunds for November \$594.03.

Commissioner Jennings 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

Acting Chairman Mayberry made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 7:27 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 Jennings made a motion to adjourn at 8:15 PM. Commissioner Moose seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Ryan Mayberry, Acting Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board