

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING August 6, 2012

ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

PRESENT: Ryan Mayberry, Chairman
 James “Burkie” Jennings, Vice-Chairman
 Judy M. Moose
 W. Darrell Robertson
 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 6, 2012 at the CVCC / Alexander Center in Room 103, Taylorsville, North Carolina.

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

*****SPECIAL RECOGNITION*****

The Board presented a Key to the County to Margo Mosley for 27 years of service with the Cooperative Extension Service – Alexander County Center. Ms. Mosley will retire in August 2012.

Commissioner Yoder stated that Ms. Mosley was a valuable asset to this county and a role model. He mentioned the many programs that she had conducted during her career to improve the lives of our citizens.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Commissioner Yoder received numerous complaints over the weekend regarding the paving of Ruritan Park Road in Stony Point. He advised that the NC Department of Transportation was responsible for the maintenance, construction, or paving of roads, not the County.

Commissioner Yoder also reported that David Nicholson, NCACC Outreach Associate, was attending the meeting tonight.

Commissioner Jennings stated that Rebecca Glass, daughter of former commissioner Tim Glass and his wife Bobbi, passed away recently. He asked that this family be remembered.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman Mayberry requested the addition of a surplus weapon for the Sheriff's Department as Item D under the Consent Agenda.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Faith Wahlers, who will be attending the NCACC Youth Summit in Raleigh, invited the Board to attend a Saturday morning breakfast work session on August 18th, which would allow the opportunity for those present to address their county commissioners on ways to improve their county.

She also asked for the Board's support for the Kids Vote 2012 initiative, of which she is the Youth Coordinator. She advised that this event would raise awareness about how government works and the importance of voting. Participants will take part in an election and cast their vote which will be tallied to determine who would have been elected by the youth of the county.

Ms. Wahlers has been working with the Ronald McDonald House Charities Pop Tab Program for about 5 years. This program recycles pop tabs to raise money for housing families of sick children who cannot afford to stay in a hotel.

She also requested 50 lapel pins to be given to delegates from across the country during the National 4-H Congress in Atlanta GA in November 23-27, 2012.

PUBLIC HEARING: CLOSEOUT OF CDBG 09-C-2038 PIEDMONT WOOD PRODUCTS, INC. SBEA PROJECT

Nancy Coley, WPCOG Community Development Administrator, explained that CDBG 09-C-2038 provided financial assistance to Piedmont Wood Products in the amount of \$52,000 for building rehabilitation and \$173,000 for the purchase of machinery and equipment. Piedmont

Wood Products committed to retain 12 employees and create an additional 10 new jobs within the 2-year project period. Of those 10 jobs, at least 70% had to be filled by low and moderate income persons. She announced that Piedmont Wood Products had successfully retained the 12 employees and hired an additional 22 employees, 87% of which were previously low or moderate income.

This project allowed an existing furniture frame manufacturing facility to change its customer base. Piedmont Wood Products now manufactures seating pieces for the health care industry and also manufactures custom-made decorative wood tables.

Ms. Coley also advised that this project included \$5,000 to develop and nurture an entrepreneurial environment to spur growth of other small businesses. These grant funds enabled other entrepreneurs to take a total of 24 on-line classes through the CVCC / Alexander Center. Additionally, the Alexander County Economic Development Corporation conducted a 2-day workshop "THINKING inside THE BOX: A Workshop on Entrepreneurial Creativity and Innovation" at the CVCC / Alexander Center.

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

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to submit the closeout papers for the Piedmont Wood Products SBEA Project to Community Investment, NC Department of Commerce as requested. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

RESOLUTION IN FAVOR OF ADDRESSING THE ABANDONED GOLF COURSE IN OLIVER'S LANDING SUBDIVISION

Seth Harris, County Planner, provided a proposed resolution that would allow staff to begin a public health nuisance investigation at the abandoned Rivercrest Golf Club located within the Oliver's Landing subdivision. This has been drafted in response to numerous complaints received from the residents of Oliver's Landing and The Woodlands. He advised that Capital Bank in Raleigh became the owner of the property in July 2012 through foreclosure proceedings.

Although this was not a scheduled public hearing, several residents spoke including Nancy Campbell, President of Oliver's Landing Owners Association, Dru White, and Ellen Tierney. Ms. Campbell informed the Board of efforts made to contact the owners of the golf club as well as the bank. Ms. White urged the approval of the resolution, fearing further deterioration of the property while negotiations were taking place. Ms. Tierney addressed the increased number of rodents and ticks since the abandonment of the property, which occurred in October 2011.

Several commissioners noted their concerns with approving the resolution. Commissioner Robertson felt there were other organizations that needed to be involved including the NC

Department of Transportation as related to overgrowth in the right-of-way and NCDENR for ground water, runoff, and erosion control issues. He felt that more research needed to be done before the County agreed to solely abate the problem and stated that he was not comfortable approving the resolution before Capital Bank, the property owners, and appropriate State agencies were contacted.

Chairman Mayberry agreed and felt approving the resolution would also open the door for expectations of the County abating all abandoned property in the county.

Commissioner Jennings stated that he would like to see what progress was made with Capital Bank before approving the resolution.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion recommending that the Oliver's Landing Owners Association draft a letter to Capital Bank, copied to Rivercrest Golf Club original owners and the County, outlining their concerns with how the abandonment of the golf club had affected the area. Once a copy of the letter is received, the County will draft its own letter to Capital Bank, copied to Rivercrest Golf Club original owners and the Oliver's Landing Owners Association, advising that the County had the authority to investigate the property as a public nuisance and urging steps be taken to remedy the issue.

Commissioner Yoder asked for an amendment to the motion to include notation of N.C.G.S. 153A-140 in the letter as well as explanation of the County Health Director's authority to investigate.

Commissioner Jennings seconded Commissioner Robertson's motion to include Commissioner Yoder's amendment. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TAX ADMINISTRATOR TO DETERMINE REQUESTS FOR RELEASE OR REFUND OF TAX LESS THAN \$100

Rick French, County Manager, explained that during interim fieldwork for the County's 2011-2012 financial statement audit, the auditors noted the need for a formal resolution by the Board regarding the process for tax releases and refunds. He provided a resolution that would allow the County to continue following the current practice for tax releases and refunds with one exception – that requests for a release or refund of \$100 or more will have to be approved by the Board.

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

SALES TAX REPORT

Rick French, County Manager, advised that the County had collected \$3,274,583 for 11 months, exceeding that which was budgeted – \$3,258,200. Collections are ahead \$273,032 for this same time last year. Hold harmless amounts for school construction / debt service total \$93,068.27.

NCACC SOLICITATION OF COUNTY LEGISLATIVE GOALS PROPOSALS FOR 2013-2014

Rick French, County Manager, announced that the deadline to submit legislative goal proposals for 2013-2014 is September 17, 2012. The legislative goals development timeline is as follows:

September 17th – goals submission deadline
September & October – steering committees review goals
November – Legislative Goals Committee meets
December – Board of Directors reviews and finalizes recommendations
January 24-25, 2013 – Legislative Goals Conference, approval of goals

He noted that goals could be submitted in an adopted resolution or a letter from the Chairman.

Commissioner Yoder asked that this information be given to department heads so that they could provide input on the goals is so desired. He also felt one of Alexander County's goals should be that the sales tax formula be changed from point of origin back to per capita.

Commissioner Jennings suggested that judges be partisan elected and not appointed as proposed and that secondary road maintenance remain the responsibility of the State.

DESIGNATION OF VOTING DELEGATE FOR NCACC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Commissioner Jennings made a motion to designate Commissioner Yoder as the Voting Delegate for the NCACC Annual Conference on August 16-19, 2012. Commissioner Moose seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Jennings will serve as alternate.

NOVEMBER 2012 MEETING SCHEDULE CHANGE

Rick French, County Manager, noted a conflict on the scheduled November 13, 2012 meeting and requested the meeting date either be changed to November 19th or canceled.

Commissioner Jennings advised that the Air Force Band would be performing at the ACHS Auditorium on November 13th which prompted the need for the meeting change.

Commissioner Jennings made a motion to change the November Commissioners' Meeting from November 13th to November 19th. Chairman Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

REPORT ON THE Y-RIDE & THE HIDDENITE FESTIVAL TRAIL RACE

Rick French, County Manager, announced that the Y-Ride would begin at 9:00 AM on Saturday, August 25, 2012 at Rocky Face Park. Registration for both the 30-mile and 60-mile rides is \$20 per person through August 18th and \$25 per person after August 18th. Proceeds will benefit the Alexander County YMCA.

The Hiddenite Festival Trail Race (former half-marathon and 10K race) is planned for September 22, 2012 also at Rocky Face Park. A 10-mile race and a 5-mile race are available both starting at 8:00 AM.

The Rocky Face Park grand opening will also be held on September 22, 2012 at 1:00 PM.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #2 - #4

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendments #2 - #4, as follows:

Budget Amendment #2 – To increase the Board of Elections budget for fiscal year 2012 Help America Vote Act grant to be spent in FY 2013 for the November 2012 election.

Budget Amendment #3 – To increase the Health Department budget for the Community Transformation Grant from the US Centers for Disease Control, for additional funds for WIC Breast Feeding Peer Counseling, and for additional funds for the Maternal Health Pregnancy Care Management Program.

Budget Amendment #4 – To increase the Health Department budget for the Maternal Health Program and the WIC Program.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #2 - #4. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

- A. The Carolina Land & Lakes RC&D plan to hold a council meeting and dinner at Rocky Face Park on August 8, 2012 at 6:30 PM. Commissioners are invited to attend.
- B. The first meeting for the Golden Leaf Foundation Community Assistance Initiative is set for September 25, 2012 at 3:00 PM.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Tax Release Requests for July \$2,269.39 and Tax Refunds for July \$972.75.
- B. July 16, 2012 Regular Commissioners' Meeting.
- C. Report of surplus property sold January 1 – June 30, 2012 through GovDeals.
- D. Surplus weapon for Sheriff's Department.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Yoder 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 Mayberry made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 7:19 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 8:10 PM. Commissioner Moose seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Ryan Mayberry, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board