

Draft

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CALLED MEETING** February 25, 2013

**ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

PRESENT: James “Burkie” Jennings, Chairman
Larry Yoder, Vice-Chairman
Ryan Mayberry
Judy M. Moose
W. Darrell Robertson

STAFF: Rick French, County Manager
Jamie Starnes, Clerk to the Board

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a called meeting on Monday, February 25, 2013 in the Administration Building downstairs conference room, Taylorsville, North Carolina.

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Commissioner Moose noted she was pleased with the recent cleanup of roadways in the county thanks to the NC Department of Transportation.

Chairman Jennings announced the 4th Annual Dine Out Day set for February 26, 2013 at Blondies, Bojangles, PJ’s Seafood & Steak, and Village Inn restaurants in the Bethlehem Community. Each restaurant will donate 10% of food sales to the Backpack Program.

NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION REPORT TO THE COMMISSIONERS

The NC Cooperative Extension / Alexander County Center staff gave their annual report to the Board. Each agent gave an overview of their activities as follows:

Allison Brown, Extension Agent – Agriculture

- \$10,000 Golden Leaf grant used to purchase a portable corral rented per week from the Cattlemen's Association.
- The kudzu bug, originating from Asia, is spreading through the southeast and is harmful to soybean crops.
- Corn yield variety project – 22 varieties planted over 8 counties to determine the best type for farmers to plant.
- Grazing project free to farmers through NC State University – currently grazing 120 jerseys on ½ acre for 4 hours a day forcing cattle to utilize every blade of grass.
- Alexander Top Shots Shooting Sports 4-H Club educates youth on gun safety and competitions are held.
- Youth livestock activities include livestock shows and judging teams.

Kathy Bunton, Area Specialized Extension Agent – Poultry

- Poultry brings in \$79 million to North Carolina which has total agriculture revenue of \$100 million.
- Alexander County ranks 6th in NC for layer houses and has 196 farm families with 480 houses.
- Litter for fertilizer is income to farmers.
- State is promoting use of LED lights in houses for research of best lights, production of birds, etc.
- Backyard flocks – 20 week old healthy, vaccinated birds can be purchased for \$6.75 each.
- Aspire Program – 30-hour course teaching kids how to take the ACT.

Lenny Rogers, County Extension Director

- Involved in many aspects of agriculture in county such as fruit growers, lawn/turf management, trees/shrubs, pesticides, Master Gardener, etc.
- Raised bed garden program teaches children how to plant, grow, and harvest crops. CVCC received a grant to construct raised beds this spring. ACHS received a \$3,000 grant for 20 raised beds.
- Pick of the Week Blog to highlight local growers and produce available.
- Farmer's Market may have a new location this year due to some insurance issues.
- Taylorsville Community Garden – 16 beds available on Town property for \$10 per year per bed.
- WPCOG Septic System Repair Program – low interest loans for qualifying individuals to repair septic system through a NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund grant.
- Now taking applications for Commissioner's Choice Award recipients. Ceremony to be held on March 23, 2013.

Suzanne, Extension Agent – 4-H Youth Development

- Will be retiring May 1, 2013 after 29 plus years.
- Slide show highlights of 4-H activities such as Backpack Community Service, Horse Bowl, March Mystery Trip, 4-H Team Retreat, Expressive Arts, WHEP State Conference, Yellow Ribbon Event, Farm to Form, Rock Climbing Day Camp, Zoo Snooze, Shooting Sports, Mini Garden Contest, Beginning Sewing, Rafting Trip, NCACC Youth Summit, etc.
- Holly Yongue will be taking over Juvenile Crime Prevention Council duties.

The Board added that the Cooperative Extension staff was very involved in the 2012 Alexander County Christmas Parade after the Chamber of Commerce closed for which they were very appreciative.

RESOLUTION TO PROTECT THE PRIVACY AND SECURITY OF LAW ABIDING GUN OWNERS IN NORTH CAROLINA

Chairman Jennings read the resolution requesting the Governor and General Assembly to enact legislation protecting gun owners from the unwanted release of personal information by exempting information from the public records laws.

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

RESOLUTION TO PRESERVE AND DEFEND THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND NORTH CAROLINA CONSTITUTION

Chairman Jennings stated that he had pledged to “support, maintain, and defend the Constitution of the United States” as well as “be faithful and bear true allegiance to the State of North Carolina, and to the constitutional powers and authorities which are...” during his oath of office on December 6, 2010. Therefore, he presented the resolution defending the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution and Article I, Sec. 30 of the NC Constitution and requesting the Governor and General Assembly to pass legislation guaranteeing protection of our right in the defense of our liberty and persons.

Vice-Chairman Yoder stated that he would only stand behind any such law as long as it banned the right to own assault rifles and high capacity ammunition. He felt those types of weapons and clips should only be used by our military and appropriate law enforcement.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Moose seconded the motion. The Board voted 4 in favor (Commissioners Jennings, Mayberry, Moose, and Robertson) and one against (Commissioner Yoder). The motion carried.

SALES TAX REPORT

Rick French, County Manager, informed the Board that \$1,489,971 in sales tax revenue had been collected so far for 2012-2013, which is \$38,852 or 2.68% more than that which was collected this time last year. However, a total of \$50,729 has been paid for hold harmless funds.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #40 - #43

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendments #40 - #43, as follows:

Budget Amendment #40 – To increase the Information Technology Department budget for jail software licenses and computer work stations at the new detention center.

Budget Amendment #41 – To use funds set aside for parks and recreation improvements for the construction of a new trail at Rocky Face Park.

Budget Amendment #42 – To budget for a transfer to the School Capital Improvements Funds based on FY 2012 school sales tax revenue in excess of FY 2012 school debt service payments.

Budget Amendment #43 – To transfer 6/30/12 DARE fund balance from a separate gender ledger fund to the General Fund to eliminate the need to combine amounts for financial statement reporting.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #40 - #43. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

OTHER BUSINESS

The following issues were discussed during Other Business:

- A. Sheriff Chris Bowman announced that staff planned to move inmates into the new Detention Center on March 11th. Other items mentioned were staffing for the new facility as well as salary increases due to increased workload, the need for a box truck for meal pickup and delivery, and retention of the contract with Ashe County to house inmates for emergencies.

The Board asked Sheriff Bowman to provide needed specifications for the box truck that could be given to local dealers in an effort to purchase locally.

- B. Mike Harrison, Detention Center Administrator, gave updates on video visitation training, a recent Department of Correction sanitization to locate items that could be used as weapons by inmates, and shift staffing. He advised that enough personnel was available to staff 4 officers per shift beginning on March 11th; however, no one would be on-staff for inmate transport or meal pickup unless one of those 4 officers left his post to do so.
- C. Rick French, County Manager, reported that Architect Mackie Johnson has submitted plans for the Animal Shelter renovations and the new County garage and that both projects were ready to bid with approval from the Board. Estimated costs are \$170,000 for the Animal Shelter and \$260,000 for the garage.
- D. CVCC has applied for a Golden Leaf grant to renovate the old Taylor Togs building. A lease between CVCC and the County is currently being reviewed.
- E. Habitat for Humanity has requested a waiver for County inspections and building fees in the amount of \$514.

Vice-Chairman Yoder made a motion to approve both the waiver of fees for Habitat for Humanity and to allow staff to move forward with the bid process for the Animal Shelter renovations and the garage. Commissioner Moose seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from the January 28, 2013 work session and February 4, 2013 Regular Commissioners' Meeting.
- B. Bids for Ben Eller Water Line Replacement Project.
- C. Contract to Audit Accounts of Alexander County.
- D. Contract to Audit Accounts of Bethlehem Water District.
- E. Alexander County DWSRF Water Project – Agreement for Engineering Services – McGill Associates.
- F. Agreement for 2015 Reappraisal – Tyler Technologies.

Rick French, County Manager, added a Reimbursement Resolution for the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund Water System Improvements Project as part of Item E.

Commissioner Mayberry made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Robertson 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

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 8:10 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.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Mayberry made a motion to adjourn at 9:12 PM. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

James H. Jennings, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board