

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING March 11, 2013

ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

PRESENT: James “Burkie” Jennings, Chairman
Larry Yoder, Vice-Chairman
Ryan Mayberry
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, March 11, 2013 at the CVCC / Alexander Center in Room 103, Taylorsville, North Carolina.

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice-Chairman Yoder gave the invocation and Commissioner Moose led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Vice-Chairman Yoder made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Jennings announced that, in an effort to provide more structure to the Public Comment Period, The Board would approve revised procedures at the May 13th Commissioners’ Meeting. The original procedures were approved in August 2005.

The following comments were heard:

Gary Sain promoted a NC Cyclo-Cross set for Saturday, October 5, 2013, noting that this event would be held in Alexander County if a suitable location was obtained. Approximately 4-5 acres with hills, open stretches, and woods is needed along with adequate space for parking and vendors. The cyclo-cross will attract between 200-400 people to the area and will offer activities for beginners and professionals.

Bud Caywood, Chairman of Citizens for the Future of Alexander County, discussed the need for an Arts Council in Alexander County to promote local talent, noting that Alexander County was the only county within the Unifour as well as the surrounding 26 counties that did not have an such a council. He informed the Board that since 2010, the Bethlehem Branch Library has showcased local artists' work and was currently booked through mid-2015. He promoted a brainstorming event titled "Visioning for the Future" scheduled for March 26th supported by the Lucas Mansion and the Hiddenite Center.

Mack McCall, Treasurer for Citizens for the Future of Alexander County, thanked the Board for granting the citizens an opportunity to vote on a county-wide ABC referendum on March 19th. He felt the Board had made the right decision for allowing the people to decide what they wanted in their county.

ALEXANDER COUNTY DSS MONITORING REPORTS

Cindy Holman, DSS Director, elaborated on several positive monitoring reports received at DSS from the NC Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services, which included review of the Community Alternatives, Foster Care, and Child Support Programs with no errors reported. She added that only 2 errors related to processing time were found from the Division of Medical Assistance on 65 cases that were reviewed.

She thanked her staff for their hard work and dedication as did Commissioner Robertson who also serves as a member of the DSS Board.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE & DETENTION CENTER FINAL CHANGE ORDER / PROJECT CLOSE OUT

Rick French, County Manager, submitted the following for the close-out of the Sheriff's Office and Detention Center Project:

- Final change order request totaling \$40,158.
- Final pay request from David Bordeaux totaling \$107,496.14.
- Letter from Hemphill-Randel Associates explaining a credit/reimbursement to Alexander County for \$9,291 for design corrections.

- Memo from Russell Greene with construction cost breakdown totaling \$8,473,997 with an additional \$550,283 in change orders and \$76,078 for furniture and shelving.

Mr. French thanked Russell Greene, Lynn Teague, and Greg Cronk for their work and assistance throughout the entire building process.

Vice-Chairman Yoder made a motion to approve the close-out documents as presented. Commissioner Moose seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

RESOLUTION FOR BOND ORDER AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS FOR BETHLEHEM WATER DISTRICT

Rick French, County Manager, explained that approval of this resolution was necessary to move forward with the refinancing of the Bethlehem Water Refunding Bonds from a rate of 3.97% to 1.91% with a total net interest savings of \$41,000.

Vice-Chairman Yoder made a motion to approve the resolution for the refinancing of the Bethlehem Water Refunding Bonds. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

RESOLUTION APPROVING AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING FINANCING AGREEMENTS TO REDUCE THE INTEREST RATES PAYABLE BY THE COUNTY

Rick French, County Manager, explained that approval of this resolution was necessary to move forward with the refinancing of the Ellendale Elementary School debt as well as the East and West Middle, Sugar Loaf, and Stony Point Elementary School classroom debt. He noted that the Ellendale debt would be refinanced from a rate of 4.97% to 2.59% for a total interest savings of \$332,976. The classroom debt will be refinanced from a rate of 4.05% to 1.73% for a total interest savings of \$66,990.

Vice-Chairman Yoder made a motion to approve the resolution for refinancing of the Ellendale school debt and East/West Middle, Sugar Loaf, and Stony Point classroom debt. Commissioner Moose seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

RESOLUTION APPROVING ALEXANDER COUNTY WATER DISTRICT (PWS: 01-02-020) WATER SHORTAGE RESPONSE PLAN

Rick French, County Manager, advised that the Water Shortage Management Implementation Plan, which was required by general statute, outlined response to drought or other water related emergencies. The plan for Alexander County follows the City of Hickory Water Shortage Management Plan, which has been reviewed and approved by NCDENR.

Vice-Chairman Yoder made a motion in favor of the resolution approving Alexander County's Water Shortage Response Plan. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

SALES TAX REPORT

Rick French, County Manager, reported that \$1,787,897.28 in sales tax revenue had been collected so far for 2012-2013, which is \$39,483 or 2.2% more than that which was collected this time last year. However, a total of \$62,071 has been paid for hold harmless funds, leaving Alexander County with a loss of \$22,588.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS

Rick French, County Manager, presented the following appointments and reappointments:

Voluntary Farmland Preservation Program Board – Appoint Dustin Queen and reappoint Coy Reese and Scott Sink for 4 years.

Equalization & Review Board – Appoint Bobby Norton and reappoint Doug Ramsey, David Odom, Patsy Little, Linda Barnette, and Ron Roseman (alternate) for one year.

Library Board of Trustees – Appoint Darren Conner (replacing Anna Ferguson whose term expires 1/2016).

Vice-Chairman Yoder made a motion to approve the appointments and reappointments as presented. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #44

Rick French, County Manager, stated that Budget Amendment #44 was to increase the Board of Elections budget for a Help America Vote Act grant, to increase the DSS budget for award of additional FEMA Phase 30 grant funds, to increase the Senior Center budget for an expected increase in collections for Senior Center activities, to budget for payment to the WPCOG for the Clean Water Management Trust Fund Regional Septic Grant Project No. 2010-616A, and to increase the Jail budget for estimated cost of contracted detention through March 2013.

Vice-Chairman Yoder made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #44. Commissioner Robertson 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. Information related to the Affordable Care Act Medicaid expansion, a NC Caucus Meeting held on March 4th, and the 2013 NCACC Legislative Priorities was discussed.
- B. The Commissioner's Choice Awards Banquet is scheduled for March 21st at 6:30 PM at ACHS.
- C. Robin's Run is set for April 6th and the YMCA 5K and 10K is set for April 27th.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Tax Release Requests (\$3,804.17) and Tax Refunds (\$2,045.79) for January 2013.
- B. Minutes from the February 25, 2013 Called Meeting.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Vice-Chairman Yoder seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

CLOSED SESSION – N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1, 2, 4, 5, & 6) TO PREVENT THE DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION, DEGREES / PRIZES / AWARDS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CONTRACTUAL, & PERSONNEL

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 7:07 PM to prevent the disclosure of confidential information and to discuss degrees/prizes/awards, economic development, contractual matters, and personnel issues pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1, 2, 4, 5, & 6). Commissioner Moose seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Robertson made a motion to adjourn at 8:09 PM. Commissioner Moose seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

James H. Jennings, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board