

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING May 13, 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 regular meeting on Monday, May 13, 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 Mayberry led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

The Board presented a Key to the County to Clint Canaday for 20 years of service to the Alexander County Board of Health.

Mr. Canaday thanked the current and previous commissioners for their confidence in appointing him to the Board of Health for so many years.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Commissioner Moose mentioned Country Road Greenhouse, owned and operated by Myron & Lisa Kerley, stating that this was a thriving local business which began with only two greenhouses and had grown to a total of 10.

Chairman Jennings encouraged the public to attend “RockyFest” on Saturday, May 25, 2013 for free food, live music, rock climbing, geocaching, guided nature hikes, children’s activities, and storytelling with Miss Mel. The Sugar Loaf Ramblers and the Idle Time Band will be performing. Trail races, including a 10K, 20K, and 50K, will also be held.

Chairman Jennings announced that the 9th annual Salute to Veterans Memorial Day event would be held on Sunday, May 26th at 3:00 PM on the courthouse lawn (or the Superior Courtroom in the event of rain). The keynote speaker will be Lt. Commander Matthew Polzin, Senior Navel Science Instructor for the ACHS NJROTC Unit.

Chairman Jennings also informed the public that, in conjunction with the information discussed at the May 6th work session, a committee consisting of himself, Vice-Chairman Yoder, David Icenhour and Gary Herman from the Economic Development Office, and County Manager Rick French would be meeting with a representative from the NC Department of Travel & Tourism to discuss ways to stimulate tourism and the arts in Alexander County. He noted that he would also like to hold meetings with many different groups to be facilitated by a disinterested party to develop a list of the top 5 priorities for this county.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman Jennings requested the tabling of Agenda Item #2 (Public Hearing: Approval of Road Names) until the June 10, 2013 Meeting.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following comments were heard:

Scott Ross, Hospice of Alexander County Public Relations & Marketing Coordinator, promoted Older Americans Month and also gave an overview of the services and staff available through Hospice & Home Care. He announced that an open house of the newly renovated facility would be held on Sunday, May 19th from 3:00-5:00 PM and welcomed the public to attend.

Bud Caywood, CFAC Chairman, encouraged Alexander County to get involved with and participate in the organization of the Unifour Senior Games. He added that NC hosted the largest senior games in the nation and that 17 locations in the Unifour were hosting games, none of which were in Alexander County.

CVCC COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARD

Kay Gregory, Dean of CVCC School of Academics, Education, and Fine Arts, presented the Community Partner Award to the Alexander County Board of Commissioners for their vision and foresight to invest in the value of education through the purchase of a 24-acre tract and two buildings to expand the CVCC / Alexander Center.

Chairman Jennings thanked the taxpayers, stating that the purchase would not have been possible without their contribution.

EMS WEEK PROCLAMATION & RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEES

Bradley Earp, EMS Director, presented service pins to Doug Gillispie (15 years) and Tommy Pennell (25 years) and noted that Michael Poovey (5 years), Daniel Sweat (5 years), and Dale Killian (30 years) were not able to attend the meeting and would receive their service pins at a later date.

He also requested approval of a proclamation declaring the week of May 19-25, 2013 as Emergency Medical Services Week with the theme “EMS: One Mission. One Team!”

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

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH PROCLAMATION

Holly Yongue, DSS Child Services Program Manager, presented a proclamation declaring the month of May 2013 as Foster Care Month in Alexander County. She reported that there were currently 19 licensed foster homes in the county and that 7 families had just completed training. There are 53 children in DSS custody at the present time.

Vice Chairman Yoder made a motion to approve the National Foster Care Month Proclamation. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT PROCEDURES

Chairman Jennings presented the revised Public Comment Procedures for consideration by the Board. One major change requires speakers to sign up with the Clerk to the Board by phone prior to the meeting.

Commissioner Robertson requested that “contractual items” be added as part of closed session matters under items not to be discussed by speakers and made a motion to approve the Public

Comment Procedures with said change. Commissioner Moose seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

2012-2013 BUDGET UPDATE & FINANCIAL REVIEW / 2013-2014 BUDGET REQUESTS

Rick French, County Manager, discussed revenue sources for the 2010-2011, 2011-2012, and 2012-2013 budget years from sales and ad valorem taxes as well as fees from the License Plate Agency, Register of Deeds, Inspections, EMS, Animal Control, and Recreation. He also discussed expenses for the same budget years for Administration, Tax Office, License Plate Agency, Register of Deeds, Economic Development, Animal Control, Recreation, Library, and Senior Center as well as debt services and funds transferred out.

He advised that a total of 44 new positions had been requested for the 2013-2014 budget including one code enforcement officer, one appraiser, one in Public Buildings, 7 for the Sheriff's Department, 27 for the detention, two in 911 Communications, one in Human Resources, 3 at DSS, and one at the Library (converting a 32-hour position to a 40-hour position).

Mr. French also reviewed departmental budgets with significant requested increases from the current year including Detention – 95.4%, Sheriff's Department – 36.8%, School System – 11.7%, DSS – 13.4%, Animal Control – 121.7%, DSS Foster Care – 91.3%, EMS – 14.8%, Public Buildings – 40.4%, and 911 Communications – 37.9%. He also briefly discussed the impact of health reform on the County budget.

He noted that he would be meeting with several department heads regarding their budget and that a work session would be held on May 29, 2013.

SALES TAX REPORT

Rick French, County Manager, reported that \$2,394,680 had been collected in sales tax revenue for the first 8 months of the 2012-2013 fiscal year, a total of \$54,717 or 2.34% more than this time last year; however, the hold harmless total is at \$67,997. Article 39 collections have increased 3%, Article 40 has increased 1.4%, and Article 46 has increased 3.1%.

BOARD APPOINTMENT

Rick French, County Manager, requested the appointment of Dana Shook Beach to the Planning & Zoning Commission for a 3-year term.

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

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #50 - #58

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendments #50 - #58, as follows:

Budget Amendment #50 – To increase the Cooperative Extension Service budget for a Nourishing NC grant to establish a community garden. To increase the Rocky Face Park budget for “RockyFest” to be held May 25th. To increase the Library budget for donations received. To reduce the ABC Profits revenue line item due to an oversight of the Taylorsville ABC store by the Catawba County ABC Board.

Budget Amendment #51 – To budget for the school system’s use of lottery funds from FY 2012 for the Sugar Loaf Elementary project completed in FY 2013.

Budget Amendment #52 – To reclassify the revenue sources for the Ben Eller water line relocation for financial statement reporting purposes.

Budget Amendment #53 – To budget for preliminary costs for the Animal Shelter renovations and Garage construction in the General Fund.

Budget Amendment #54 – To account for the purchase of land for the Detention Center driveway in the Jail Project fund instead of the County Building Acquisition & Renovation Project fund and to close out the Jail Project.

Budget Amendment #55 – To account for the closing costs, architect fees, and debt service related to the former Taylor Togs property in the General Fund instead of the Capital Projects Fund.

Budget Amendment #56 – To close out the Rocky Face Park Phase 1 grant project and budget for costs of Phase 2 application in the Rocky Face Park departmental budget in the General Fund.

Budget Amendment #57 – To close out the Hoyle Keller Loop Revitalization Project.

Budget Amendment #58 – To increase the ARRA JAG Program budget for equipment, tag, and installation costs related to the 2013 Chevy Tahoe purchased with JAG funds and local funds.

Vice-Chairman Yoder made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #50 - #58. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Tax Release Requests (\$1,512.27) and Tax Refunds (\$515.89) for April 2013.

- B. Minutes from the April 22, 2013 Special Called Meeting.
- C. State of the County Message for 2012.

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 Mayberry made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 8:09 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 Robertson 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 8:50 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