

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING September 9, 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, September 9, 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

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

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Commissioner Mayberry stated that his wife was not feeling well and he would be leaving the meeting after consideration of board appointments.

Chairman Jennings urged the public to visit the 68th annual Lion’s Club Agricultural Fair this week, which began tonight and runs through Saturday night.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman Jennings requested that Agenda Item #7 (Board Appointments & Reappointments) be moved up and heard as Agenda Item #1.

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

BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS

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

Region E Development Corporation – Reappoint Andrew Jackson for 3 years.

Jury Commission – Reappoint Bud Yost 2 years.

Health Board – Appoint Jason Mull for 3 years.

CVCC Board of Trustees – Reappoint John Watts for 4 years.

Firefighters Relief Fund Trustees – Appoint Andrew Peeler for Bethlehem Community Fire & Rescue, Kenneth Pennell for Ellendale Volunteer Fire Department, and Steve Icenhour for Wittenburg Volunteer Fire Department.

School Health Advisory Committee – Appoint Judy Moose.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Judy Caywood from the Bethlehem Community Development Association promoted the 4th annual Bethlehem Day scheduled for Saturday, September 28, 2013 from 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM in the Lowes Food Parking Lot. Activities include a classic car & truck show, children's inflatables, arts and crafts vendors, and the Ride for Pride Freightliner Truck will make an appearance in honor of veterans. Cub Scout Pack #275 will present the colors at 10:00 AM and all veterans are welcome to take part in the Pledge of Allegiance. Citizens may visit www.bethlehem-cda.org for more information.

32ND ANNUAL HIDDENITE CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS REPORT

Karen Walker, Interim Hiddenite Center Director, was present to announce the 32nd annual Hiddenite Celebration of the ARTS to be held on Saturday, September 28, 2013 on Church Street in Hiddenite from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM. More than 50 arts and crafts vendors are scheduled in addition to 40 plus hands-on exhibits in the Folk Life Tent. This year's festival, themed "A North Carolina Homecoming," will feature 4 entertainment stages, Victorian horse and carriage rides, the ASU Steely Pan Band, and a free "sluicing trough" where visitors can pan

for gold and gems. Charlotte artist Jerry Kirk's landscape painting exhibit will be housed on the 2nd floor of the Lucas Mansion.

She also mentioned Celebration Week events including an Emerald Squares kickoff dance on Saturday, 9/21 at 7:00 PM, Gospel Fest on Sunday, 9/22 at 3:00 PM, the Senior Adult Luncheon and "Rosie the Riveter" performance on Tuesday, 9/24 at 10:00 AM, and Family Night Dinner Theater featuring Mr. Marvel's Magic Show on Thursday, 9/26 at 7:00 PM.

More information is available at www.hiddenitecenter.com.

CITIZENS FOR THE FUTURE OF ALEXANDER COUNTY PUBLIC FORUM

Kathy Riddle encouraged the public to attend the first Citizens for the Future of Alexander County Public Forum on September 12, 2013 from 7:00-9:00 PM in Room 103 of the CVCC / Alexander Center. Citizens will have the opportunity to voice their opinions and ideas on ways to create a stronger financial future for Alexander County. Topics for input include revitalizing the local economy, travel and tourism development, creating a cultural arts environment, and developing retirement opportunities.

She requested the Board's endorsement of the CFAC public forum and also extended the invitation to the commissioners.

Vice-Chairman Yoder made a motion to endorse the CFAC public forum and encouraged public involvement. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

ALEXANDER CHRISTIAN ACADEMY REPORT

Greg & Angela Gettler, Founders of Alexander Christian Academy, presented a slide show with information about ACA, a Christ centered, private, non-denominational, independently supported life preparatory Christian academy. ACA is enrolling 3 and 4 years old in Junior Academy and grades K-6 for the 2013-2014 school year.

Ms. Gettler discussed curriculum for each grade level as well as hours of operation, noting that hours would hopefully be extended in January to provide before and after school care. She explained that there was currently no set tuition per child. Instead, parents are required to attend parenting classes during the school year, volunteer a minimum of 10 hours per semester, and make a monthly financial commitment. The staff is highly qualified, with over 100 years of combined experience.

ACA is located in the former Country Care Child Development Center and current Community Christian Fellowship in Bethlehem. More information can be obtained by visiting the ACA website at www.alexanderchristianacademy.com.

MULTI-JURISDICTION HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Russell Greene, Emergency Services Director, discussed the Alexander County Hazard Mitigation Plan as required by SB 300 and the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 for post disaster and mitigation grant funding eligibility. The plan identifies critical areas and facilities within the county that may be affected by natural and man-made disasters and recommends potential solutions that may effectively reduce or prevent catastrophic damage, casualties, physical or financial losses.

He advised that Alexander County's plan was due for a 5-year update in 2014 and that the process of developing a regional plan with Caldwell, Catawba, and Burke Counties had begun due to similar plan objectives.

Staff is seeking public input on the proposed plan update and would like for citizens could take a 19-question survey at www.alexalert.org. Mr. Greene stated that once drafted, the proposed plan would be reviewed by the commissioners, the state, and then FEMA, before finally being formally adopted by the Board of Commissioners.

SALES TAX REPORT

Rick French, County Manager, reported that \$3,645,189 had been collected in sales tax revenue for the 2012-2013 budget year. This is \$36,189 more than what was budgeted for the year and \$125,002 more than what was collected for 2011-2013 or 3.55%. However, the hold harmless amount totals \$101,609.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendments #2 - #3, as follows:

Budget Amendment #2 – To increase the Senior Center budget for Title III-D Health Promotion grant funds with a 10% local match (match will be made by reducing the Senior Center Activities from donations line item). To decrease the Senior Center budget for SHIIP grant being lower than original estimates.

Budget Amendment #3 – To increase the Sheriff's Department budget for a federal Justice Assistance grant through the Governor's Crime Commission. (Any change in grant scope from the application will be need to be approved again by the Board of Commissioners).

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #2 - #3. Vice-Chairman Yoder seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

CANCEL SEPTEMBER 23RD WORK SESSION

Rick French, County Manager, requested the work session scheduled for Monday, September 23, 2013 be cancelled due to lack of agenda items. The Board agreed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Rick French, County Manager, mentioned the 7th annual Hiddenite Festival Road Race to be held in conjunction with the Hiddenite Celebration of the Arts on September 28, 2013. All races (half-marathon, 10K, & 5K) begin at 8:30 AM and registration will be at Hiddenite Elementary School.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Tax Release Requests (\$5,222.87) and Tax Refunds (\$1,482.53) for August 2013.
- B. Minutes from the August 5, 2013 Regular Commissioners' Meeting and September 3, 2013 Called Meeting.
- C. No cost lease for County provided space for Probation & Parole.

Commissioner Robertson 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, 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 6:53 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 7:12 PM. Vice-Chairman Yoder seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

James H. Jennings, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board