

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING October 7, 2013

ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

PRESENT: James “Burkie” Jennings, Chairman
 Larry Yoder, Vice-Chairman
 W. Darrell Robertson

ABSENT: Ryan Mayberry
 Judy Moose

STAFF: Rick French, County Manager

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Monday, October 7, 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

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

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

Ginger Annas, Veterans Committee Chairperson and Veterans Service Officer, recognized Chad Ritchie in appreciation for his devotion, professionalism, and attention to detail involved in the “Our History, Our Heroes” Project which has preserved the military history and experience of Alexander County veterans.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Chairman Jennings encouraged the public to attend the Veterans Day Ceremony on November 11, 2013 at 10:30 AM at the ACHS Auditorium. He also added that Tanisha Watts, a native of Alexander County, would be competing on *The Voice* on NBC tonight at 8:00 PM.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman Jennings requested the surplus of a Dodge van be added to the Consent Agenda.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kathy Riddle with CFAC announced that a second meeting would be held on October 10, 2013 at 7:00 PM in Room 103 of the CVCC / Alexander Center to discuss how to proceed in rebuilding Alexander County's economy based on information gathered at the public forum held in September. All citizens are invited to attend.

NCACC VIDEO

A video from the NC Association of County Commissioners was shown that included information on steering committee participation, an upcoming seminar on how the Affordable Care Act will affect counties, and the Association's Risk Management Services.

AGREEMENT WITH WPCOG FOR PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE – UPDATE TO DUSTY RIDGE PARK

Rick French, County Manager, requested approval of an agreement with the WPCOG for technical assistance related to the updating of the Dusty Ridge Park Plan. He advised that WPCOG staff would be working with County GIS staff to develop maps of proposed changes to the park and accurately map existing trails. An addendum will also be developed for the current plan, which will be presented at a future meeting for approval.

Commissioner Robertson questioned the timeframe specified under within the agreement (August 28, 2013 – October 15, 2013). Mr. French replied that those dates would be revised and extended.

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

CLEAN ALEXANDER DAY ANNOUNCEMENT

Josh Mitchell, Solid Waste Director, announced that the next Clean Alexander Day would be held on Saturday, October 26, 2013. All Alexander County citizens will be allowed to dispose of their trash for free at the landfill and convenience sites from 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM.

Convenience sites will only accept bagged household trash. The landfill will not accept any liquid material, hazardous materials, or any material containing asbestos.

PUBLIC NOTICE WAIVER OF BIDS FOR AMBULANCE

Bradley Earp, EMS Director, requested the Board consider a waiver of the bid procedure for letting of public contracts pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-129 and “piggyback” off Davidson County’s contract with Northwestern Emergency Vehicles for the purchase of a 2013 Chevrolet G4500 Type III Class One ambulance in the amount of \$119,231.

Commissioner Robertson pointed out that \$2,975 was included in that price for lettering, striping, and graphics and he asked if that service could be done locally. Mr. Earp replied that the lettering, etc. provided by Northwestern would be consistent with the other County ambulances and would be cheaper than using someone local, noting that locals in the past had been reluctant to tackle such a large order.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to waive the formal bidding process, piggybacking off Davidson County and proceed with contract negotiations with Northwestern Emergency Vehicles. He requested that staff inquire about striping and graphic options locally to determine the best price. Vice-Chairman Yoder seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

NC PARTF PROJECT AGREEMENT – ROCKY FACE PARK PHASE 2

Rick French, County Manager, presented two grant contracts with the NC Department of Environment & Natural Resources for the Rocky Face Park Phase 2 Project. The \$225,000 grant requires an equal match; however, the County has 3 years to spend the grant funding and provide the match.

Vice-Chairman Yoder added that approval of the contracts did not mean the money would be spent at this time, noting that a budget amendment would need to be approved prior the appropriation.

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

SALES TAX REPORT & 2014 / 2015 BUDGET FORECAST

Rick French, County Manager, reported that \$280,485 had been collected in sales tax revenue for the first month of the 2013-2014 budget year. This is \$44,533 less than what was collected for this same time last year. The hold harmless amount from Article 42 set aside for school construction and debt service totals \$35,065.

He also discussed the possible need for a 6 to 8 cent property tax increase due to the amount of fund balance used to balance this year's budget as well as operating costs for the new law enforcement and detention center.

Vice-Chairman Yoder suggested Sheriff Bowman attend a future meeting to provide an update on operations and acceptance of out-of-county inmates. He also mentioned the effects of the government shutdown.

Mr. French advised that the shutdown had affected WPRTA and that staff was making efforts to obtain ROAP funding. The shutdown will also soon affect Health Department and DSS programs.

BOARD APPOINTMENT

Rick French, County Manager, requested the reappointment of Dr. Thomas Rider to the Health Board for 3 years.

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

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT #5

Rick French, County Manager, stated that the purpose of Budget Amendment #5 was to budget for the purchase of an ice machine and drink cooler for the East Park concession stand, to decrease the revenue budget for the Soil & Water Department due to final revenue amounts from the state being lower than estimated, and to revise the DSS budget for individual revenue line items due to keying errors during the budget process.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #5. Vice-Chairman Yoder seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

OTHER BUSINESS

Rick French, County Manager, announced that the two gas chambers from the Animal Shelter (one from storage) had been dismantled and destroyed for which the County will receive a \$10,000 U.S. Humane Society grant.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Tax Release Requests (\$4,955.86) and Tax Refunds (\$571.73) for September 2013.

- B. Minutes from the September 9, 2013 Regular Commissioners' Meeting and September 25, 2013 Called Meeting.
- C. Resolution for Surplus and Sale of Sheriff's Office K-9 Jake.
- D. Surplus of 2000 Dodge Caravan Vin #2B4GP2535YR756706.

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.

*****NC FAST & NC TRACKS*****

Vice-Chairman Yoder inquired about the process and implementation of the new NC Fast and NC Tracks systems at DSS.

Cindy Holman, DSS Director, spoke about staff efforts to learn and implement the new NC Fast and NC Tracks systems, noting that staff had put in a lot of overtime. She also noted that 4 computer kiosks would soon be placed in the DSS lobby so citizens could complete their paperwork during their wait.

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 6:54 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). Vice-Chairman Yoder 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 7:15 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