

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING February 3, 2014

ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

PRESENT: James “Burkie” Jennings, Acting Chairman
 Ryan Mayberry, Vice-Chairman
 Andrew Ferguson
 Judy M. Moose

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

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Monday, February 3, 2014 at the CVCC / Alexander Center in Room 103, Taylorsville, North Carolina.

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

Ginger Annas, Veterans Committee Chairperson, presented Dr. Jeff Peal with a plaque in appreciation of his efforts in and dedication to making the 2013 Veterans Day Celebration a success. She explained that in years past, only the veteran and one family member was able to take part in the meal following the event; however, this past year, every attendee was able to participate.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Acting Chairman Jennings announced that Chairman Yoder would not be attending tonight’s meeting due to illness and that Vice-Chairman Mayberry would be late due to a death in the family.

He also welcomed Commissioner Andrew Ferguson who was sworn in prior to the meeting to fill the unexpired term of Darrell Robertson. Commissioner Ferguson provided a statement related to his appointment to this position, the current financial status of the county, and needed preparations for the future, specifically issues related to property taxes, lack of growth, etc.

Commissioner Moose added that successful boards and individuals dwelled on solutions instead of problems and felt the current Board represented such.

Acting Chairman Jennings hoped to see all 5 members work together on solving the upcoming budget issues.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following comments were heard:

- Darrell Seaford, Chairman of the Alexander County Republican Party, explained the process of filling a vacant seat on the Board of County Commissioners.
- Glenn Mays announced that an Independence Day Celebration was in its planning stages and discussed possible events to be held during the day.

Vice-Chairman Mayberry entered the meeting at 6:27 PM.

PUBLIC HEARING: REZONING CASE 14-1 – MAYBERRY

Seth Harris, County Planner, presented Rezoning Case 14-1 submitted by Linda Mayberry et al. who requested rezoning of property located at 2485 NC Hwy 90 East from L-I (Light Industrial) to H-C (Highway Commercial) to allow for a broader variety of uses and to make the property more marketable. The size of the property is 3.71 acres and the current land use is vacant residential. Zoning within 100 feet of the property is RA-20 to the north and south, L-I to the north, east, and west, as well as H-C to the south. Land uses within 100 feet of the property include a church, vacant and residential property to the north, a railroad to the south, industrial to the east, and commercial to the west.

The subject property was zoned L-I when countywide zoning was adopted in 2001. Public water and sewer is available at the site.

He advised that Section 154.190 of the Alexander County Zoning Ordinance stated that the purpose of the L-I District is to provide for the development of areas devoted to light manufacturing, processing and assembly uses, warehousing, distribution and servicing enterprises, etc. Section 154.170 states that the H-C District is to provide suitable locations for those commercial activities which serve primarily the traveling public, including those which function rather independently of each other.

The 2008 Comprehensive Plan shows the proposed future use of the area as being industrial. The 2012 average daily traffic count for this section of Highway 90 was 5,400 trips per day.

Mr. Harris noted that letters were sent by first class mail to the property owners within 100 feet of the parcel boundary, a sign was posted on the property, and an advertisement was placed in *The Taylorsville Times*. Staff received a call from Carpenter Furniture regarding how the rezoning would affect access for their truck traffic and another call from the Ratliff property with questions about the triangle portion of the subject property remaining as RA-20.

He informed the Board that Planning & Development staff recommended approval of the request due to similar nearby zoning districts. The Planning & Zoning Commission met on January 2, 2014 to review the request and voted unanimously to recommend approval based on similar nearby zoning districts as well.

Mr. Harris advised that based on the information provided, the Board must determine whether the rezoning request meets the guidelines set forth above and is reasonable in regards to the public interest.

Acting Chairman Jennings called the public hearing to order and requested any comments. There being no comments made, Commissioner Moose made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Ferguson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Vice-Chairman Mayberry made a motion to approve Rezoning Case 14-1 based on staff recommendation due to similar nearby zoning districts. Commissioner Ferguson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

PUBLIC HEARING: APPROVAL OF ROAD NAMES

Rick French, County Manager, submitted the following road names for approval:

<u>Road No.</u>	<u>Road Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
3776ER	Brookfield Place	Off Paul Payne Store Road
3739JJ	CG Stine Lane	Off US Hwy 64/90 West
3757MA	Poppy Lane	Off County Home Road
3709CW	Squirrel Run Lane	Off Houck Mountain Road

He advised that all names met required regulations and had been checked for duplication and sound indexing.

Acting Chairman Jennings called the public hearing to order and requested any comments. There being no comments made, Vice-Chairman Mayberry made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Moose seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Vice-Chairman Mayberry made a motion to approve the road names as presented. Commissioner Moose seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

CRAFTMASTER FURNITURE GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT

David Icenhour, Economic Development Director, announced that Craftmaster Furniture had been awarded a \$480,000 Building Reuse Program grant from the NC Department of Commerce's Rural Development Division to provide funds for renovation of the former Broyhill building. This is an investment of more than \$1.5 million that will create at least 48 jobs.

Roy Calcagne, Craftmaster President & CEO, discussed growth of the company as well as renovation plans for the Broyhill building, noting that he projected 100 new jobs to be created.

SAFE SCHOOLS UPDATE

Dr. Jeff Peal, Associate Superintendent, gave an update on progress made to make all Alexander County schools more secure since the incident at Sandy Hook Elementary. The presentation included information related to:

- Meeting with Law Enforcement and Emergency Management regarding protocols, potential threats, and general practices resulting in the creation of the Safe Schools Committee.
- Review of incident management plans, individual school plans, and data from lockdowns, fire drills, and fire inspections.
- Development of strict sign in and out procedures at each school, Community Alert Now program for parents, updating of black boxes and all included info, installation of cameras and buzzers at all schools (ACHS will be budgeted in 2014-2015), grant submitted for panic alarms / lock boxes / FOBS, security fencing at ACHS installed, camera access for 911 and Emergency Management.

Russell Greene, Emergency Services Director, discussed school crisis plan and emergency planning training research as well as school staff training, guidelines for disasters, enhancement of school communication capabilities, etc.

Board members inquired about several issues such as efforts to eliminate bullying, clear avenues for students to report threats, staff ability to carry concealed weapons (regulated by general statutes), panic buttons in each classroom, lack of mental health resources and program implementation on recognizing abnormal or threatening behavior.

2013 STATE OF THE COUNTY HEALTH REPORT

Leeanne Whisnant, Health Director, gave the 2013 State of the County Health Report which included services and programs provided by the Health Department, leading causes of death in Alexander County, areas of focus, Healthy Families Program, mental health and substance abuse efforts, access to health care statistics for Alexander County compared to the state average, etc. The full 13-page report can be viewed on the Health Department's website at www.alexanderhealth.org.

She also promoted the flu vaccine, advising that a total of 44 individuals statewide had died due to influenza, 3 of which were from Alexander County.

NC FAST PRESENTATION

Cindy Holman, DSS Director, discussed the NC FAST program designed to improve the way the NC Department of Health & Human Services and county departments of social services do business. Other items mentioned included system issues, new laws and policies, and steps to avoid significant backlog of work including comp time, part-time staffing, and lobby kiosks.

She also advised the Board of 75% Federal Financial Participation for eligibility activities for all Medicaid programs performed in NC FAST as well as possible federal actions to withhold county administrative reimbursement for food stamp processing due to continued implementation issues with NC FAST – an \$80 million cost-share statewide.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE POLICY AMENDMENT

David Icenhour, Economic Development Director, reviewed a proposed amendment to the current Economic Development Incentive Policy that would include incentive grants for job retention as well as for tourism.

He explained that a job retention grant (Level 1) would be available for existing businesses investing \$1 million or more in machinery, equipment, or improvement to real property to remain competitive and retain employment. Tourism projects with a minimum investment of \$500,000 will be eligible to recover a percentage of the project's local property tax payments for up to a 10-year period.

He reported that once the amendment was approved and implemented, a public hearing and signed agreement would be required for each business receiving a grant according to current policy and procedure.

The Board agreed to discuss this matter further at a later date.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS

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

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

Library Board of Trustees – Appoint Margo Elder to replace Betty Lovette whose term expires in July 2014. Reappoint Doris Stephens for 3 years.

WPCOG Sister Cities Association – Reappoint Dwight Shook and David Icenhour (alternate) for one year.

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council – Appoint Jason Williams to replace Jennifer Nance, Rick French, and Jack Simms for 2 years.

Senior Center Advisory Committee – Appoint Diane Collinworth to replace Nan Campbell whose term expires in June 2015.

Smoky Mountain Center Board of Directors - Appoint Rick French and endorse appointments from other 22 counties in the LME/MCO. (Amended since original approval at 11/18/2013 meeting)

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

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT #25 - #27

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendments #25 - #27, as follows:

Budget Amendment #25 – To increase the Senior Center budget for an Extra Help Grant from the SHIIP Program. To decrease the TECS Program estimated revenue due to an amended contract with no services for Intensive Outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment.

Budget Amendment #26 – To budget for payment of the NCDENR loan fee for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan out of the Bethlehem Water Fund with the loan reimbursement proceeds allowed per the reimbursement resolution.

Budget Amendment #27 – To increase the General Fund budget for the matching portion of the NC Commerce grant for the Craftmaster Furniture Building Renovation Grant Project.

Vice-Chairman Mayberry made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #25 - #27. Commissioner Moose seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

OTHER BUSINESS

Rick French, County Manager, reviewed the following items during Other Business:

- A. For January 2014, 134 animals were taken into the animal shelter. Of that total, 7 animals were adopted, 4 were returned to owners, 94 were rescued, and 19 were euthanized (11 cats, 8 dogs).
- B. Mr. French requested a second meeting for February 17th at 6:00 PM to discuss budget issues and other items.

Acting Chairman Jennings made a motion to schedule a second meeting on February 17th at 6:00 PM at the CVCC / Alexander Center if available. Commissioner Ferguson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Tax Release Requests (\$2,163.28) and Tax Refunds (\$3,055.94) for January 2014.
- B. Minutes from the January 6, 2014 Regular Commissioners' Meeting.
- C. Approval to surplus 1999 4x4 Ford Ranger, VIN #1FTYR11V8YPA09685.
- D. Contract to audit accounts for Alexander County for the year ending June 30, 2014.
- E. Contract to audit accounts for the Bethlehem Water District for the year ending June 30, 2014.
- F. Local Emergency Planning Committee 2013 Annual Report.

Vice-Chairman Mayberry 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

Vice-Chairman Mayberry made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 8:49 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, Vice-Chairman Mayberry made a motion to adjourn at 9:21 PM. Commissioner Moose seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

James H. Jennings, Acting Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board