

Draft

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CALLED MEETING** April 21, 2014

**ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

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

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

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a called meeting on Monday, April 21, 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

Chairman Yoder gave the invocation and Commissioner Ferguson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Chairman Yoder gave the following announcements:

- Duke Energy is currently experiencing outages in the Stony Point area near the Iredell County line. Crews are on scene and hope to have power restored within the hour.
- The CFAC “Meet the Candidates” public forum is scheduled for Thursday, April 24th at 7:00 PM at the CVCC / Alexander Center in Room 103.
- Joseph Bathanti, NC Poet Laureate, will be at the Bethlehem Branch Library on April 29th at 7:00 PM.

Commissioner Ferguson mentioned that a film written and directed by former Taylorsville resident Onur Tukul was featured last week at the Tribeca Film Festival in New York City. Tukul also starred in the film which was produced by Taylorsville resident Clifford McCurdy.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

EMS STUDY RESULTS

Anthony Starr, WPCOG Assistant Executive Director, discussed a response time analysis performed for Alexander County EMS by WPCOG staff. Scott Miller, WPCOG GIS Manager, was also present.

Vice-Chairman Mayberry entered the meeting at 6:11 PM.

The presentation included the following information:

- Data researched included EMS call data from February 2008 to January 2014, school and EMS/fire station locations, population statistics, and NCDOT traffic counts.
- Alexander County call times exceed state average for transport and back in service time due to lack of a local hospital and primary unit being tied up with other calls.
- Of 26,401 calls reviewed, a total of 5,654 or 21% of calls fell outside the 8 minute response time standard. Average call time was 73.3 minutes and average response time to scene was 7.2 minutes.
- Call volume on certain days or certain hours was not an issue.
- 48% of calls with greater than 8 minute response time were beyond the normal distance that an EMS crew could travel within 8 minutes; therefore, the data suggests an additional unit and station is justified.
- WPCOG researched feasibility of stations at the intersections of Highway 16 North and Little River Church Road, Church Road and Liledoun Road, Church Road and Teague Town Road, and Highway 16 South and Macedonia Church Road and determined that adding a station at Church Road and Liledoun Road provided the best solution. However, this location provides close to the same results at the Church/Teague Town and Hwy 16 S/Macedonia locations.

Commissioner Ferguson asked if future growth of the county was considered during research and if non-emergency calls had been removed for data analyzed. Mr. Starr replied that growth had been factored and that only true emergency calls had been researched.

Commissioner Ferguson also inquired about call time when responding to incidents at the Alexander Correctional Institution as well as differences in ALS and BLS crews. Bradley Earp, EMS Director, advised that on scene-time was calculated when the crew reached the gate of the

facility. He also explained that Basic Life Support staff provides splints, oxygen, and transportation and Advanced Life Support are paramedics that administer medications and IV fluids, noting that the state required two paramedics on scene. Most Alexander County EMS staff is paramedics.

Chairman Yoder expressed concerns with the average back-in-service time being 31.9 minutes. Mr. Earp explained that time included getting patients placed within the medical facility, cleaning and restocking the truck, and travel back into the county.

Rick French, County Manager, informed the Board that stationing an EMS unit at those locations for the time being could provide the same results as building a new station. He also mentioned relationships with fire departments and the Rescue Squad that could be utilized.

MINIMUM HOUSING CODE UPDATE

Anthony Starr, WPCOG Assistant Executive Director, presented a draft minimum housing code developed by WPCOG and Alexander County staff with the intent to protect communities from absentee property owners, establish minimum standards for dwellings to be habitable, and prevent the deterioration of dwellings. He advised that the code addressed unsanitary conditions, overcrowding, substandard living conditions, unsafe structures, and exposure to the elements for single and multi-family stick building, modular, and manufactured homes. The code requires that dwellings have adequate plumbing facilities, be structurally sound, free from fire and safety hazards, capable of maintaining indoor temperature, and free from unsanitary conditions.

He discussed the condemnation process and pointed out that residents would not be removed from their homes overnight. He also explained enforcement of the code, noting that it would be complaint driven or based on violations reported by zoning officials or building inspectors. The Planning Department could administer the program or the County could contract with the WPCOG at a cost of \$22,093 (includes staff, vehicle costs, training, setting up brochures/procedures/forms, obtaining necessary certification).

Chairman Yoder asked if grants were available to property owners responsible for correcting problems to be in compliance. Mr. Starr replied that a few grants were available which property owners would be made aware of.

Vice-Chairman Mayberry asked if the code addressed failing septic systems as well as unfinished homes. Mr. Starr advised that septic systems were currently regulated by the Environmental Health Department. He also noted that unfinished construction was harder to address and depended on many factors such as date construction ceased, how exactly the structure violated the code (aesthetics, unsafe standard, elemental exposure, etc.), if repair costs exceeded thresholds for demolition, etc. He reported that these issues would need to be handled on a case by case basis.

The Board thanked Mr. Starr and Mr. Miller for the information.

OTHER BUSINESS

Rick French, County Manager, reported that County department heads had been advised that all capital items in the current budget were now on hold and that budget amendments must be at a minimum. In addition, any full or part-time position vacancies must be reviewed on a case by case basis before they are advertised and filled. He felt budget savings for the next two months would be crucial to the upcoming budget.

He also mentioned that the next Commissioners' Meeting was scheduled for May 5, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Jennings made a motion to adjourn at 7:15 PM. Commissioner Ferguson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Larry Yoder, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board