

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING May 5, 2014

ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

PRESENT: Larry Yoder, Chairman
 Ryan Mayberry, Vice-Chairman (entered at 6:07 PM)
 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 regular meeting on Monday, May 5, 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 Jennings gave the invocation and Commissioner Moose led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Chairman Yoder announced that Alexander County had been awarded a \$1.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration to assist in funding a workforce training program in conjunction with CVCC in the former Apparel Technologies building. The construction and renovation project is estimated at a cost of \$2,613,596 for upholstery, sewing, welding, and metallurgy with contributions from Alexander County, the Golden Leaf Foundation, and many industries.

Commissioner Ferguson mentioned the Supreme Court ruling today regarding prayer before local government meetings in Greece NY, which could possibly affect other local governments. Commissioner Jennings felt the ruling was very narrow, noting that it was undetermined how it would affect other municipalities nationwide.

Commissioner Moose commended the Alexander Cougars girls softball teams (8 & Under / 10 & Under) that played in Concord over the weekend as well as the coaches who serve as mentors to our youth.

Vice-Chairman Mayberry mentioned the Hickory and Catawba Valley Homebuilders Association Parade of Homes held on May 3-4, 2014. Don Harrington serves as the Chairman for the Association.

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

Russell Greene, Emergency Services Director, announced that a multi-campus training exercise would be held on May 8th from 8:00 AM until approximately 12:00 Noon involving both CVCC campuses in Catawba and Alexander Counties. He advised that the intersection of Commercial Park Avenue and Industrial Boulevard would be briefly blocked during the exercise. Organizations involved in the event include Alexander County Emergency Services, EMS, and Sheriff's Department as well as volunteer fire departments, Rescue Squad, and the Taylorsville Police Department. Evaluators include several members of the Alexander County School System staff, State Emergency Management, and Commissioner Ferguson.

PUBLIC HEARING: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE GRANT

David Icenhour, Economic Development Director, requested approval of a Tourism Development Incentive Grant for Brushy Mountain Golf Course relating to the addition of a new clubhouse, lodge, and equipment which will result in the creation of 15 new jobs and a tax valuation increase of approximately \$1.4 million. The grant will consist of payment to the golf course equal to 100% of the property taxes paid for the first 10 years after completion of the capital investment (equal to approximately \$86,000 over a 10-year period depending on tax valuation and property tax rate – 95% returned to golf course and 5% retained by EDC for grant administration).

Owner Baxter Hayes updated the Board on the initial project which includes a 6,000 square foot clubhouse, 3,300 square foot multipurpose room for conferences, wedding receptions, etc. and 10 overnight lodges, all of which will be open to the public. The restaurant will be open for 3 meals a day / 7 days a week for 6 months to determine demand. He advised that a family membership would cost \$85 per month. Plans are to have the clubhouse and multipurpose room completed by late May and the lodges by September 1st.

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

Commissioner Jennings made a motion to approve the Tourism Development Incentive Grant for Brushy Mountain Golf Course as requested. Commissioner Moose seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

NC TREASURER'S EXCELLENCE AWARD

Jim Burke, State & Local Finance Division Assistant Director, presented a Governmental Award for Excellence in Accounting and Financial Management to Jennifer Herman, Alexander County Finance Director, for creation of an electronic document storage and retrieval system for accounts payable functions.

Ms. Herman thanked her staff, especially Assistant Finance Director Linda Williams who was the project leader, and the Information Technology Department.

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH PROCLAMATION

Jill Woodie, Senior Center Director, presented a slide show of activities available at the Senior Center for older residents and many upcoming events. She also requested consideration of a proclamation declaring May as Older Americans.

Commissioner Jennings made a motion to approve the proclamation declaring May as Older Americans Month. Commissioner Ferguson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

RESOLUTION TYING ALEXANDER COUNTY COMMISSIONER COMPENSATION TO COUNTY VALUATION

Commissioner Ferguson presented a resolution that would set the salary and compensation of the Board of Commissioners at a rate contingent on the county's property tax valuation process - .00000325% of the county valuation as determined by the Tax Office. He explained that adjustments to the rate would be done after the county had received and updated the official valuation, preferably every 8 years, and capped at an amount not to exceed the average compensation for counties adjoining Alexander County. Compensation for travel expenses would not be limited by the resolution, which he proposed to become effective with the 2014-2015 budget year.

He discussed how Alexander County's pay for commissioners compared with surrounding counties and those similar in size as well as the increases made last year, noting that the salary

would drop to \$8,495 if using the method proposed within the resolution making it more in line with compensation before the increase and more comparable with neighbors.

Commissioner Ferguson made a motion to approve the resolution tying Alexander County Commissioner compensation to County valuation. No second was given. Chairman Yoder advised that a second was not necessary and called for discussion. Vice-Chairman Mayberry seconded the motion for the purpose of discussion.

Vice-Chairman Mayberry did not feel comfortable considering this resolution one day prior to an election and also that he didn't have enough information to make a decision. He also advised that after comparing all county commissioner pay throughout the state, Alexander County's pay was comparable if not less than average.

Commissioner Moose made a motion to table consideration of the resolution. No second was given. The Board voted one in favor of the motion (Commissioner Moose) and 4 against (Commissioners Ferguson, Jennings, Mayberry, and Yoder). The motion failed.

Commissioner Jennings made a motion to vote on the resolution. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Back to the original motion made by Commissioner Ferguson to approve the resolution, the Board voted one in favor of the motion (Commissioner Ferguson) and 4 against (Commissioners Jennings, Mayberry, Moose, and Yoder). The motion failed.

AMMUNITION ORDER FOR SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Rick French, County Manager, provided a request from Captain Chad Pennell to place an order for ammunition for the 2014-2015 budget year costing approximately \$12,000, noting that ammo orders were taking 12 to 18 months for delivery.

Vice-Chairman Mayberry made a motion to approve the ammunition purchase as requested. Commissioner Ferguson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

NCACC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE VIDEO

A video prepared by the NC Association of County Commissioners was shown that included information relating to the upcoming legislative session as well as legal cases of interest to counties, a promo for the 2014 Annual Legislative Conference, and information about County Assembly Day.

SALES TAX UPDATE

Rick French, County Manager, reported that \$2,381,68 had been collected in sales tax revenue for the first 8 months of the 2013-2014 fiscal year which is \$13,040 less than this time last year. The hold harmless total is at \$103,790.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS

Rick French, County Manager, requested the following appointment and reappointments to County boards and committees:

Planning & Zoning Commission – Reappoint Bud Caywood for 2 years.

Voluntary Farmland Preservation Board – Appoint Traci Fox to replace Cathy Chatham for 4 years.

CVCC State Board of Trustees – Appoint Hazel Yoder.

Vice-Chairman Mayberry made a motion to approve the appointments and reappointments to the Planning & Zoning Commission and Voluntary Farmland Preservation Board. Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Jennings made a motion to approve the appointment of Hazel Yoder to the CVCC State Board of Trustees. Vice-Chairman Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted 4 in favor of the motion (Commissioners Ferguson, Jennings, Mayberry, and Moose) and one abstention (Commissioner Yoder). The motion carried.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #33 & #34

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendments #33 & #34, as follows:

Budget Amendment #33 – To budget for prior year Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) expense claims paid out in 2014. To budget for the difference between FY 2014 self-insured medical insurance claims paid and premiums charged to County departments as estimated by the County's insurance consultant.

Budget Amendment #34 – To budget for the Child Passenger Safety Diversion Grant Program. To increase the Medical Examiner budget for estimated expenses through June 30, 2014. To increase the Extension Service budget for donations from outside sponsors received during the 2012-2013 budget year. To increase the Recreation budget for anticipated sponsor revenue from Academy Sports in exchange for displaying banners provided at the County's recreation sports fields.

Commissioner Jennings made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #33 & #34. Commissioner Ferguson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

OTHER BUSINESS

Rick French, County Manager, mentioned several upcoming events including:

- Cooperative Extension's Annual Report to the People on May 8th from 12:00-1:00 PM at the local office.
- He requested a budget work session on May 12th at 6:00 PM at the CVCC / Alexander Center.
- Budget public hearing on May 19th at 6:00 PM at the CVCC / Alexander Center.
- Approval of the budget on June 2nd at 6:00 PM at the CVCC / Alexander Center.

Vice-Chairman Mayberry felt the Board should consider the budget at the last meeting in June. Mr. French explained that an earlier approval date had been recommended since the process began earlier.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Tax Release Requests (\$2,654.13) and Tax Refunds (\$1,033.09) for April 1-25, 2014.
- B. Minutes from the March 31, 2014 Work Session and April 7, 2014 Regular Commissioners' Meeting.

Commissioner Jennings made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Vice-Chairman Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Jennings made a motion to adjourn at 7:38 PM. Commissioner Moose seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Larry Yoder, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board