

Draft

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
CALLED MEETING**      January 12, 2015

**ALEXANDER COUNTY  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**PRESENT:**    Larry Yoder, Chairman  
                  Ryan Mayberry, Vice-Chairman  
                  Milton H. Campbell  
                  Josh Lail  
                  Ronnie Reese

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

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Monday, January 12, 2015 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 Campbell gave the invocation and Vice-Chairman Mayberry led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**\*\*\*SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS\*\*\***

Anthony Starr, WPCOG Executive Director, presented a National Association of Development Organization Innovation Award to Alexander County for the EMS Response Study developed by the WPCOG and County staff.

Chairman Yoder presented Letters of Commendation to Deputies Heath Pennell, Lee Hoyle, and Aaron Millsaps for their assistance with a fire that occurred on December 17, 2014 at the New Outlook Assisted Living Facility, which saved the lives of many residents.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Campbell made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Vice-Chairman Mayberry seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no one present to speak during the public comment period.

## **2014 AUDIT REPORT**

Chris Costner, Senior Audit Manager with Martin Starnes & Associates, gave a slide show presentation for the 2013-2014 Audit Summary, which included the following information:

- General fund revenues (ad valorem taxes, local option sales taxes, restricted intergovernmental (grant revenue), sales and services, permits and fees, and other)
- General fund expenditures (general government, public safety, environmental protection, economic and physical development, human services, culture and recreation, education, and debt service)
- Fund Balance overview
- Solid Waste Fund overview
- Water Funds overview

Vice-Chairman Mayberry made a motion to accept the 2013-2014 Audit Summary as presented. Commissioner Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## **RETAIL MARKET RESEARCH & STRATEGIC PLAN OVERVIEW**

Laura Hudson and Lacy Beasley with Retail Strategies, LLC gave a slide show of market analysis research performed for Alexander County consisting of demographic reports (age, gender, income, consumer behavior), segmentation and peer analysis, retail spending reports, etc., noting that this was the first step in the development of a strategic plan that would aide Alexander County in the marketing and recruitment of retail business.

The County has a 3-year contract with Retail Strategies who works with 100 municipalities in 18 states to create marketing guides and develop recruitment objectives. The company also travels to shows all over the United States where this information is provided to potential entrepreneurs and business owners.

The Board welcomed periodic updates as progress was made.

## **NEW DEVIATED FIXED ROUTE FOR ALEXANDER COUNTY**

Camille Sterling, WPRTA Executive Director, advised that, in an effort to maximize potential, staff was working with existing grants and route structures to provide a new deviated fixed route of the W. Taylorsville Bus Service that is currently offered 3 times a day on Mondays and Wednesdays. The new stops are Milstead Mobile Home Park / Herman Road, Food Lion, and Walmart. This route is approximately 4.1 miles and will feed into the Taylorsville Bus Service with a deviation on either side of  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile. Fares are \$1.25 for a single ride or 60 cents for riders 65 and older or disabled. Ms. Sterling discussed leave and arrive times and asked that citizens contact her for more information or to submit public comment.

She also mentioned that, in response to inquiries from former Commissioner Burkie Jennings, staff had met with local veterans organizations last week to provide information regarding current schedules for trips and fares to Salisbury and Asheville VA facilities as well as the Hickory Office.

## **2014 LEPC ANNUAL REPORT / HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

Russell Greene, Emergency Services Director, submitted the 2014 LEPC Annual Report which reviewed action taken and information discussed at quarterly LEPC meetings held throughout the year. Included in the report was a roster of current LEPC members that Mr. Greene reported would be changing with new appointments being made later in the meeting.

He also informed the Board that he received an email today with notice that the Hazard Mitigation Plan had been approved by FEMA as of January 11<sup>th</sup> with a new expiration date of January 11, 2020; therefore, no further action is needed at this time.

## **SALES TAX REPORT**

Rick French, County Manager, reported that \$1,254,523.98 had been collected in sales tax revenue so far for the 2014-2015 fiscal year which is 7.96% more than this time last year. The total revenue budgeted for the year is \$3,605,000.

## **BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS**

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

Building Services Advisory Committee – Reappoint Clint Canaday, Larry Jenkins, Brent Fox, Mark Foy, Tony Lackey, David Land, Darrell Robertson, Commissioner Ryan Mayberry, Lynn Teague, Bert Gibson, and Seth Harris for one year.

Joint Nursing & Adult Care Community Advisory Committee – Reappoint Mary Inman for 3 years.

Local Emergency Planning Committee – Appoint Dennis James, Bob Johnson, Patti Foster, Seth Harris, and Commissioner Milton Campbell for 3 years.

Planning & Zoning Commission – Reappoint Coy Reese for two years.

Veterans Committee – Appoint Burkie Jennings as an at-large member.

Commissioner Appointments – Appoint Commissioner Milton Campbell to the Agriculture Extension Advisory Committee, Finance Committee, JCPC, LEPC, Personnel Committee, Voluntary Farmland Preservation Program Board, and the WPCOG Policy Board as an alternate.

Appoint Commissioner Josh Lail to the Comprehensive Plan Committee, CVCC / Alexander Center Advisory Board, DSS Board, Minimum Housing Committee, Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee, and Partnership for Children Board of Directors.

Appoint Commissioner Ronnie Reese to the Council on Aging, Library Board, Senior Center Advisory Committee, Unifour Air Quality Committee, and the Veterans Committee.

Vice-Chairman Mayberry made a motion to approve the appointments and reappointments as presented. Commissioner Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## **BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #18 - #20 & PROJECT BUDGET ORDINANCE P-2**

Rick French, County Manager, reviewed the purpose of Budget Amendments #18 - #20 and Project Budget Ordinance P-2, as follows:

Budget Amendment #18 – To increase the Planning Department budget to amend the contract with the WPCOG to expand planning assistance from one day to 3 days per week for February-June 2015. To increase the Register of Deeds budget for accrued leave payout due to an employee leaving County employment. To increase the Sheriff's Department budget for accrued leave payouts due to 1) an employee leaving County employment and 2) two employees receiving comp time payouts during July-December 2014 after reaching the 480 comp time limit. To increase the Detention budget for accrued leave payout due to an employee transferring from full-time to part-time status.

Budget Amendment #19 – To increase the Health Department budget for additional immunization funding. To increase the DSS budget to 1) use \$50 of Adult Services donation revenue received in May 2014 but not included in the 2015 expense budget and 2) to spend down the final \$33 of donations received in prior years for heating assistance. To increase the EMS budget for 1) the start-up costs of hiring 5 new part-time EMT/Paramedics, 2) for accrued leave payouts due to two employees transferring from

full-time to part-time status, and 3) to pay for the tax and tag on the new ambulance and to purchase a power stretcher.

Budget Amendment #20 – To budget for payment to the school system for pass-through funds from the NCDOT's purchase of school property on White Plains Road for the bridge replacement near East Alexander Middle School. To increase the General Fund for the County's matching portion of the NC Commerce grant for the Precision Materials Building Expansion Grant Project.

Project Budget Ordinance P-2 – To budget for the Precision Materials Building Reuse Grant Expansion Project.

Vice-Chairman Mayberry made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #18 - #20 and Project Budget Ordinance P-2. Commissioner Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the following issues during Other Business:

- A. According to December statistics provided by Mike Harrison, Jail Administrator, the average jail population per day was 111 with 100.5 male and 10.5 female. The high male population day was December 19<sup>th</sup> with 116 inmates and the low male population day was December 30<sup>th</sup> with 92 inmates. The high female population day was December 5<sup>th</sup> with 19 inmates and the low female population day was December 30<sup>th</sup> with 6 inmates. On December 12<sup>th</sup>, Wilkes County removed all their inmates for housing in their new detention facility and staff is researching the housing of female inmates through the State Misdemeanant Confinement Program.
- B. Chairman Yoder, Vice-Chairman Mayberry, and County Manager French will be attending the NCACC Legislative Goals Conference January 15-16, 2015 in Pinehurst.
- C. County offices are closed on Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup> for Martin Luther King Day.
- D. The next Commissioners' Meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2015.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Minutes from the December 1, 2014 Regular Meeting and December 8, 2014 Called Meeting.
- B. Tax Release Requests (\$8,435.51) and Tax Refunds (\$5,980.70) for November 22 – December 31, 2014.
- C. Request for items to be approved as surplus – 2000 Dodge Ram Van VIN #1B5WB35Z8YK159963 and 1996 Chevrolet S10 VIN #1GCCS19XXT8145128.
- D. Rules of Procedure for the Alexander County Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Reese made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Vice-Chairman Mayberry seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**CLOSED SESSION – N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1, 4, 5, & 6) TO PREVENT THE DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CONTRACTUAL, & PERSONNEL**

Chairman Yoder made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 7:38 PM to prevent the disclosure of confidential information and to discuss economic development, contractual matters, and personnel issues pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1, 4, 5, & 6). Vice-Chairman Mayberry seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Vice-Chairman Mayberry made a motion to adjourn at 8:18 PM. Commissioner Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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Larry Yoder, Chairman

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Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board