

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING April 13, 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, April 13, 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 Commissioner Reese led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

*****SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS*****

The Board recognized Cindy Holman for 4 years of service as the DSS Director. Ms. Holman came to work for Alexander County on January 24, 2011 and has since been instrumental in the implementation of the NCFAST System, the acquiring of an automated Day Sheet Program to greatly reduce time required to process day sheets, and the restructuring of staff for greater efficiency throughout the agency. Her last day with Alexander County will be April 24, 2015.

Zenda Townsend was presented with a Key to the County for 30 years of service with EMS. She began working for Alexander County in January 1985 and was the first female full-time paramedic. Ms. Townsend's official retirement date will be May 1, 2015.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman Yoder requested the addition of Budget Amendment #40 to Agenda Item #14 (Budget Ordinance Amendments).

Commissioner Lail made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no one present to speak during the Public Comment Period.

PUBLIC HEARING: INTENT TO SELL ALEXANDER COUNTY HOME HEALTH

Leeanne Whisnant, Health Director, advised that following approval of a resolution declaring the County's intent to sell the Alexander County Home Health Agency on March 2, 2015, a public hearing was required pursuant to N.C.G.S. 131E-13(d)(3). She thanked the public for its continued support of the Home Health Program, noting that there were 69 patients as of today.

Chairman Yoder called the public hearing to order and requested any comments. One individual spoke:

Public Comment

Linda Cromartie, Registered Nurse, asked the Board to reconsider selling the Home Health Program and felt it could be self-supporting if brought out from under the Health Department and marketed properly.

There being no further comments, Vice-Chairman Mayberry made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING: REZONING CASE 15-1 – SHELL-HIDDENITE, LLC

Jon Pilkenton, County Planner, presented Rezoning Case 15-1 submitted by Shell-Hiddenite, LLC who requested rezoning of property located at 11 Johnny Walker MHP Lane from RA-20 (Residential-Agricultural) to H-C (Highway Commercial) to allow for a gas station. The size of the property tract is .333 acre and the current land use is a mobile home park. Zoning and land uses 100 feet of the property is H-C to the north, RA-20 to the south and west, and L-I to the east.

Shell-Hiddenite, LLC recently purchased the subject property and will be combining it with their current property to the north with the intent to construct a new gas station/convenience store at the corner of Highway 90 and Ervin Lane. Rezoning and subsequent development of land will require removal of 4 existing mobile homes. The remainder of the parcel owned by Jerry and Denise Hayes will continue use as a mobile home park.

Mr. Pilkenton advised that the 2008 Comprehensive Plan showed the proposed future use of the area labeled as commercial and that the proposed gas station/convenience store was a suitable use for the area since development of these types of commercial uses typically occurred along a major thoroughfare.

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 a notice was placed in *The Taylorsville Times*. Staff received one call for information purposes with no opposition.

He informed the Board that Planning & Development staff recommended approval of the request due to the following:

- The proposed rezoning is consistent with the future land use patterns in the County's 2008 Comprehensive Plan.
- The request will not negatively impact surrounding properties and will provide the potential for future commercial growth.

The Planning & Zoning Commission held a public hearing on March 5, 2015 to review the request and voted unanimously to recommend approval based on those same staff recommendations.

Mr. Pilkenton advised that based on the information provided, the Board must determine whether the rezoning request meets the guidelines set forth and is reasonable in regards to the public interest considering all uses within the requested zoning district, not merely the use of which the applicant proposes.

Chairman Yoder called the public hearing to order and requested any comments. One individual spoke:

Public Comment

Larry Riddle asked for clarification on the proposed entrance to the gas station and the location of Highway 90 on the provided map, which was illustrated.

There being no further comments, Vice-Chairman Mayberry made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Vice-Chairman Mayberry made a motion to approve Rezoning Case 15-1 due to the proposed rezoning being consistent with future land use patterns in the 2008 Comprehensive Plan and because the request will not negatively impact surrounding property and will provide the potential for future commercial growth. Commissioner Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING: MINIMUM HOUSING & NUISANCE ORDINANCES

Jon Pilkenton, County Planner, presented a proposed amendment to the Solid Waste Ordinance that would add nuisance provisions as Chapter 50.07 to address overgrown lots, accumulation of rubbish and debris, etc. for properties one acre or less in size. The amendment would also provide abatement procedures for properties that fail to comply with requirements.

He also discussed a draft Minimum Housing Ordinance to deal with dilapidated and residential structures unfit for human habitation, provide minimum living standards for residential structures, and address remedies and penalties for structures in violation of the rules.

Mr. Pilkenton stated that these ordinances were for review only and recommended the public hearing be continued until the May Commissioners' Meeting to allow time for the public to review and provide input.

Rick French, County Manager, advised that approval of these items would require the addition of a Code Enforcement position which would be included in the 2015-2016 budget requests.

Chairman Yoder called the public hearing to order and requested any comments. There being none, Vice-Chairman Mayberry made a motion to continue the public hearing until May. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE DISPLAY OF THE NATIONAL MOTTO "IN GOD WE TRUST" IN & ON ALEXANDER COUNTY GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

Vice-Chairman Mayberry reported that, following a presentation made by Rick Lanier with the US Motto Action Committee on March 2nd, the Board had consulted with the County Attorney regarding the placement of "In God We Trust" on County facilities. He presented a resolution authorizing the displaying of the motto in and on Alexander County facilities as chosen solely by the County Commissioners for consideration.

Commissioner Reese made a motion to approve the resolution supporting the display of the National Motto "In God We Trust." Commissioner Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chairman Yoder introduced Fred McClure, Davidson County Commissioner as well as NCACC First Vice-President and US Motto Action Committee member.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH PROCLAMATION

Cindy Holman, DSS Director, provided state and county statistics for FY 2013-2014 related to child abuse reports and cases, children entering DSS custody and placed in foster or permanent homes, number of child deaths related to abuse, etc. She also requested the Board's approval of a proclamation declaring April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Alexander County and, while passing out pinwheels and lapel pins for each commissioner and staff, noted that the theme for the past several years was Pinwheels for Prevention.

Chairman Yoder made a motion to approve the Child Abuse Prevention Month proclamation. Commissioner Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

RECOGNITION OF PRECISION MATERIALS

David Icenhour, Economic Development Director, stated that Precision Materials, LLC located on Highway 16 South provided services such as CNC routing of plywoods, cut-to-size, furniture production, and machining of wood and plastic components. In 2013, the company received a \$25,000 NC Rural Center Building Renovation Grant that resulted in the creation of 6 new jobs and in December 2014 received a \$150,000 NC Department of Commerce Building Renovation Grant that will aid in a 15,000 square foot expansion and the creation of 15 jobs. Alexander County provided matching funds for both grants.

He introduced Scott McHugh, President of Precision Materials, LLC who thanked the Board for their support of the company which began in February 2009 with 3 employees. Mr. McHugh reported that Precision Materials now employs 63 individuals as well as an additional 17 at its sister company in Asheville. They are also in the process of acquiring another company in June or July of this year.

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY DAY & LIBRARY APPRECIATION WEEK PROCLAMATION

Chairman Yoder presented a proclamation declaring March 21, 2015 as Little Free Library Day as well as the week of April 6-11, 2015 as Alexander County Library Appreciation Week for consideration. He advised that this proclamation was read at the Little Free Library Day Dedication Ceremony held on Saturday, March 21st at Rocky Face Park.

Chairman Yoder made a motion to approve the Little Free Library Day and Library Appreciation Week Proclamation. Vice-Chairman Mayberry seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ANIMAL SERVICES REPORT

Jennifer Sigmon, Animal Services Director, gave a slide show regarding the Animal Services Department, which included the following information:

- Staff, branches (shelter & enforcement), and duties/responsibilities.
- State laws / County ordinance requirements.
- Upgrades – kennel floors, truck outfitting to control ambient temperatures, additional cages.
- Shelter - number of animals received, reclaims, adoptions, rescue placement, and euthanasia.

- Programs – rabies clinics, low cost spay/neuter, and microchipping of all adopted animals.
- Enforcement – number and type of calls and recent puppy mill busts.
- Special events – NC Rural Shelter Project showcase, HSUS billboard at the Super Bowl, and Puppy Bowl.
- New Facebook page and website redesign.

The Board thanked Ms. Sigmon for the report.

ROCKY FACE PARK & ROCKYFEST 2015 UPDATE

Alisha Stamey, Rocky Face Park Ranger, gave a slide show update for Rocky Face Park and RockyFest 2015, which included the following information:

- 318-acre park made possible by \$477,000 PARTF grant.
- Activities available and usage - hiking 48%, walking 24%, picnicking 13%, rock climbing 6%, education 5%, wildlife 3%, geocaching 1%, camping less than 1%.
- Educational programs for schools, civic clubs, and general public.
- Hawk watch station, emergency training, eagle scout/volunteer projects, past grant projects.
- Total of 43,686 registered visitors since May 2012 opening and monthly usage – 71% in-county and 29% out-of-county.
- RockyFest scheduled for Saturday, May 9th with sponsorships provided by Duke Energy, EnergyUnited, Craftmaster Furniture, Huntington House, Main Avenue Music, Schneider Mills, and Shurtape Technologies.

The Board thanked Ms. Stamey for the update.

NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH PROCLAMATION

Rick French, County Manger, presented a proclamation declaring April 2015 as National County Government Month and encouraged all County officials, employees, schools, and residents to participate in any celebration activities.

Vice-Chairman Mayberry made a motion to approve the National County Government Month proclamation. Commissioner Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION APPROVING AMOUNT TO BE SPENT BY ALEXANDER COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM FOR ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY

Rick French, County Manager, provided a resolution approving an amount to be spent by the Alexander County School System for the acquisition of property currently owned by the Sugar Loaf Fire Department for school site purposes, such amount not to exceed \$175,000.

Vice-Chairman Mayberry made a motion to approve the resolution approving the amount spent by the School System for acquisition of real property. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS

Rick French, County Manager, presented the following reappointments:

Voluntary Agriculture District Advisory Board / Farmland Preservation – Reappoint Eugene White and Tim Glass for 3 years.

Town of Taylorsville Board of Adjustments – Reappoint Sallie Hartis for one year.

Council on Aging – Reappoint Angell Barnes, Angela Johnson, Janette Johnson, and Sally Goodnight for 3 years.

Tax Administrator & Tax Assessor – Reappoint Guy Kerley as Tax Administrator / Collector and Doug Fox as Tax Assessor, both for 4 years.

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

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #32 - #40

Rick French, County Manager, reviewed the purpose of Budget Amendments #32 - #40 as follows:

Budget Amendment #32 – To adjust the Applied Technologies Project budget revenue line items to match the County Engineer’s break down of revenues.

Budget Amendment #33 – To increase the Administration Department’s group insurance budget due to an incorrect estimate used for FY 2015. To increase the Health Department budget for additional WIC State monies. To increase the Medical Examiner’s budget for estimated expenses through June 30, 2015. To increase the Recreation Department budget for anticipated sponsor revenue from Academy Sports in exchange for displaying banners provided at County recreation sports events. To decrease the TECS Program revenue estimate to match the State’s contract to provide substance abuse services for high risk / high need offenders.

Budget Amendment #34 – To increase the Extension Service budget for donations from outside sponsors received during FY 2015. To increase the Governing Body budget for a \$2,000 contribution to the 2015 Independence Celebration. To increase the Senior Center

budget for two MIPPA grants for FY 2015 in case they need to be carried forward beyond 6/30/15.

Budget Amendment #35 – To increase the DSS budget for additional State funds plus additional donations received.

Budget Amendment #36 – To increase the Detention budget for 1) Institutional Medical Services' monthly fee increase which began in August 2014 and 2) to cover inmate meals through the end of FY 2015.

Budget Amendment #37 – To increase the Inspections budget for a salary increase due to an employee earning additional certification. To increase the Sheriff's Department budget for accrued leave payouts due to two employees receiving comp time payouts in March and April after reaching the 480-hour limit.

Budget Amendment #38 – To budget for Fire District tax distributions.

Budget Amendment #39 – To increase the 911 Emergency Telephone System budget for a lease of 911 radio consoles and related equipment.

Budget Amendment #40 – To increase the DSS budget for a contract with ExecLink, LLC to provide interim DSS Director services for April 20 – June 30, 2015.

Vice-Chairman Mayberry made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #32 - #40. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

NCACC UPDATE VIDEO

A portion of a video prepared by the NC Association of County Commissioners was shown featuring an interview with Kevin Leonard, NCACC Executive Director, who discussed the impact of SB369 & SB608 related to the redistribution of county levied sales taxes as well as proposed alternatives to the bills.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

- A. A total of \$2,257,264 has been collected in sales tax revenue for the 2014-2015 budget year, which is an increase of approximately 7% over last year. The amount budgeted for the year was \$3,605,000.
- B. A Household Hazardous Waste / Shred It Day is planned for Saturday, April 25th from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM in the County Administration Building parking lot.

- C. Mr. French requested the scheduling of a budget work session on Monday, April 20th at 6:00 PM in the County Administration Building downstairs conference room.

Vice-Chairman Mayberry made a motion to approve the scheduling of a work session on April 20th as requested. Commissioner Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from the March 2, 2015 Regular Meeting.
- B. Approval of 911 Radio Console Lease.
- C. Tax Release Requests (\$2,175.35) and Tax Refunds (\$3,289.49) for February 23 – April 3, 2015.
- D. Scheduling of 2015-2016 Budget Work Session for April 20, 2015.

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

CLOSED SESSION – N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1, 3, 4, 5, & 6) TO PREVENT THE DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION, ATTORNEY/CLIENT PRIVILEGE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CONTRACTUAL, & PERSONNEL

Chairman Yoder made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 8:26 PM to prevent the disclosure of confidential information, for the purpose of attorney/client privilege, 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, Chairman Yoder made a motion to adjourn at 9:36 PM. Commissioner Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Larry G. Yoder, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board