

Draft

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**      October 5, 2015

**ALEXANDER COUNTY**  
**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**PRESENT:**    Larry Yoder, Chairman  
                 Milton H. Campbell  
                 Josh Lail  
                 Ronnie Reese

**ABSENT:**     Ryan Mayberry, Vice-Chairman

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

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Monday, October 5, 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 Lail gave the invocation and Commissioner Reese led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Chairman Yoder discussed the significant rainfall received over the weekend that resulted in at least one residence with major damage along with Taylorsville Presbyterian Church, both from fallen trees. The Emergency Services Director requested the County declare a State of Emergency in order to obtain any state and federal funding available to assist property owners with any necessary repairs.

He also advised that Duke Power was planning an outage on October 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 AM to perform upgrades to the system.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Kathy Riddle with the Friends of the Library thanked the Board for the use of the small Taylor Togs building for the recent book sale held October 1-3, 2015. She reported that this book sale was one of the best ever and felt the location and lighting was the reason. The group started with 11,000 books to sale and ended with a net profit of \$3,000 for the year.

## **HICKORY MSA COMMUTING & ECONOMIC DATA TRENDS**

Anthony Starr, WPCOG Executive Director, gave a slide show that included the following information for both the Hickory MSA and Alexander County:

- 2006-2013 commuting workflows by county.
- Percentage of workers who reside outside MSA.
- Number of persons who reside in Hickory MSA but work outside MSA.
- Percentage of Alexander County employed residents that are “out-commuters.”
- 2000-2013 Unifour commuting patterns.
- 2007-2015 employment.
- 2010-2015 unemployment rate, labor force population vs. employed persons, average weekly wage, and employment losses and gains by sector.
- 2010-2014 population by age group.
- 2008-2013 Poverty rates and median household income.
- 2010 & 2014 Educational attainment comparison.
- 2010-2014 vacant housing trends.

The Board thanked Mr. Starr for his report.

## **ARC GRANT FOR SHURTAPE WASTEWATER EXPANSION PROJECT**

David Icenhour, Economic Development Director, announced that the Shurtape Wastewater Expansion Project had been awarded an Appalachian Regional Commission grant in the amount of \$278,640. The project will result in 3 miles of new wastewater lines extending sewer service from Hiddenite to the Shurtape Technologies facility who will also retain 160 jobs. Including the \$930,560 from the Golden Leaf Foundation, grant funding for this project totals \$1,209,200 which is equal to preliminary construction estimates for the project.

He thanked the ARC for the appropriation, specifically Executive Director Scott Hamilton and Area Manager Olivia Collier as well as WPCOG staff Anthony Starr, Sherry Long, and Leah Martin who developed the application and will also administer the grant.

The next phase will be procurement of engineering services that will take 6-10 months. Awarding of the construction contract will take place in approximately one year.

### **APPROVAL FOR PIGGYBACK PURCHASE OF TYPE III AMBULANCE**

Doug Gillispie, EMS Director, requested approval to purchase an American Emergency Vehicles ambulance from Northwestern Emergency Vehicles for the price of \$131,023, noting that the Board approved a piggyback off Davidson County's contract at the September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. This price is only \$1,023 more than the ambulance purchased last year.

Commissioner Reese made a motion to approve the purchase of the AEV ambulance from Northwestern Emergency Vehicles for \$131,023. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

### **ALEXANDER APPLIED TECHNOLOGIES PROJECT BID OPENING**

Rick French, County Manager, advised that the bid opening for the Alexander Applied Technologies Project was scheduled for October 15, 2015 at the Administration Building. The bids will be awarded at a Special Called Meeting set for October 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at the CVCC / Alexander Center.

### **CLEAN ALEXANDER DAY ANNOUNCEMENT**

Rick French, County Manager, announced that the next Clean Alexander Day would be held on Saturday, October 31, 2015. All Alexander County citizens will be allowed to dispose of their trash for free at the landfill and convenience sites from 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM.

He explained that convenience sites will only accept bagged household trash. The landfill will not accept any liquid material, hazardous materials, or any material containing asbestos.

### **SPECIAL CALLED MEETING & WORK SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT**

Rick French, County Manager, requested a Special Called Meeting on October 19, 2015 and a work session on November 16, 2016, both at 6:00 PM at the CVCC / Alexander Center. The bids for the Alexander Applied Technologies Project will be awarded at the meeting on October 19<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Campbell made a motion to approve the meetings on October 19<sup>th</sup> and November 16<sup>th</sup> as requested. Commissioner Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## **NCACC VIDEO UPDATE**

A video prepared by the NC Association of County Commissioners was shown featuring information related to the Annual Conference held in Pitt County, new officers, the 2015 Snapshots publication, and the 2015 Strategic Plan Final Report.

## **BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #11 & #12**

Rick French, County Manager, reviewed the purpose of Budget Amendments #11 & # 12 as follows:

Budget Amendment #11 – To increase the Sheriff’s budget to restore positions that were frozen during the 2015-2016 budget process – 1 full time and 2 part time positions. To increase the 911 Communications budget to restore positions that were frozen during the 2015-2016 budget process – 3 part time positions.

Budget Amendment #12 – To increase the EMS budget for updated salary estimates.

Mr. French also requested approval to work with department heads on a case-by-case basis to begin filling vacant positions as needed, especially in smaller departments. Budget amendments will not be needed as funding was included in the 2015-2016 budget for these positions.

Commissioner Reese made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #11 & #12. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Campbell made a motion to allow Mr. French to fill vacancies as needed. Chairman Yoder seconded the motion, which passed with 3 in favor (Commissioners Campbell, Reese, and Yoder) and one against (Commissioner Lail).

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

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

- A. The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Hiddenite Festival Road Race was held on September 26<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the Hiddenite Celebration of the Arts. Alexander County has promoted 10 local races this year, 3 of which are organized by Alexander County. He thanked all volunteers involved.
- B. Cleaning, renovation, and repair are underway at Jaycee and Bethlehem Parks.
- C. On October 12<sup>th</sup> the Caldwell County Commissioners are expected to approve a facility based crisis and detoxification project to house citizens with mental health and substance abuse needs from Alexander, Caldwell, and McDowell Counties.

- D. Two small roofing projects were approved with the 2015-2016 budget including the Dusty Ridge Park concession building which has been completed and the Senior Center which is underway.
- E. The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Apple Festival is scheduled for October 17, 2015. The YMCA is sponsoring a fun run beginning that morning at 8:00 AM and a 5K beginning at 8:30 AM, both at Matheson Park.
- F. The first Rocky Face Climbing Festival is set for October 24<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM until 7:00 PM.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Minutes from the September 14, 2015 Regular Meeting and September 23, 2015 Called Meeting.
- B. Tax Release Requests (\$819.23) and Tax Refunds (\$1,142.96) for September 4-25, 2015.
- C. Approval of road names – Campbell Mountain Drive, Marshall Court, and Old Shoals Lane.
- D. NAACP Birthday Celebration Proclamation.

Commissioner Lail made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Reese 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 7:30 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, 3, 4, 5, & 6). Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Commissioner Campbell made a motion to adjourn at 8:38 PM. Commissioner Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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Larry G. Yoder, Chairman

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Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board