

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING December 7, 2015

ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

PRESENT: Larry Yoder, Chairman
 Ryan Mayberry, Vice-Chairman
 Milton H. Campbell
 Josh Lail (left at 6:43 PM)
 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, December 7, 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

In remembrance of Pearl Harbor Day, Sal Rao (retired Navy) gave the invocation and James “Burkie” Jennings (Navy) led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mr. Jennings gave several statistics related to the attack at Pearl Harbor as well as WWII.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Commissioner Lail reported that Cherie Berry, NC Commissioner of Labor, attended the CVCC Advisory Board Meeting today and discussed the importance of teaching and learning workforce trades such as plumbing, electricity, construction, welding, HVAC, etc., noting that construction/renovation of the Alexander Applied Technologies Building began last week.

Commissioner Reese advised that Senior Center volunteers assisted 489 seniors from October 15 thru December 7th during the recent Medicare Part D open enrollment, saving them a total of \$505,088.

Vice-Chairman Mayberry stated that, in response to a letter from Chairman Yoder regarding the U.S. Department of Labor's proposed rule on overtime pay, Representative Virginia Foxx had joined several colleagues on the House Committee on Education in the Workforce in writing a letter to U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Thomas Perez requesting a 60-day extension of the comment period to allow adequate time for the public to review, evaluate, and comment on the changes; however, Mr. Perez replied that no such extension would be granted. Vice-Chairman Mayberry added that these mandates would be financially detrimental to all small, rural counties, towns, and cities.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman Yoder requested that Agenda Item #5 (Election of Chairman) and Agenda Item #6 (Election of Vice-Chairman) be heard as Agenda Items #2 and #3 due to Commissioner Lail needing to leave the meeting early and made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. Vice-Chairman Mayberry seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chairman Yoder also made a motion to excuse Commissioner Lail from the meeting when necessary. Vice-Chairman Mayberry seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Chairman Yoder called for nominations for Chairman. Commissioner Lail nominated Ryan Mayberry to serve as Chairman for 2016.

There being no further nominations, Commissioner Lail made a motion to close the nominations and approve the election of Ryan Mayberry as Chairman for 2016. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Chairman Yoder called for nominations for Vice-Chairman. Vice-Chairman Mayberry nominated Milton Campbell to serve as Vice-Chairman for 2016.

There being no further nominations, Vice-Chairman Mayberry made a motion to close the nominations and approve the election of Milton Campbell as Vice-Chairman for 2016. Commissioner Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

2014-2015 AUDIT REPORT

Erica Brown with Martin Starnes & Associates gave a slide show presentation for the 2014-2015 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

Commissioner Lail made a motion to accept the 2014-2015 Audit Summary as presented. Vice-Chairman Mayberry seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ELECTIONS EQUIPMENT SALES ORDER AGREEMENT APPROVAL

Judy Lail, Elections Director, discussed the need to replace current ballot tabulating equipment due to age (10 years) and memory cards being obsolete, noting that a demo of a DS200 digital imaging scanner was given in February and a unit was tested during the Town of Taylorsville municipal election. In addition, this equipment is the only type certified by the NC State Board of Elections.

She provided a Sales Order Agreement with Election Systems & Software for 15 DS200 scanners with accompanying equipment and supplies totaling \$82,255.44 after a trade in allowance for 25 scanners and ballot boxes along with 7 AutoMARKs. Also reviewed was a resolution approved by the Alexander County Board of Elections recommending acceptance of the Sales Order Agreement. Ms. Lail advised that funding for equipment replacement had been approved with the 2015-2016 budget.

Commissioner Campbell made a motion to approve the Sales Order Agreement with Election Systems & Software as presented. Commissioner Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

RECOGNITION OF SANTA COPS

Captain Mike Harrison, Jail Administrator, promoted the Santa Cops Program that began in 2009 when the Sheriff's Office began soliciting donations of toys to be distributed to children of Alexander County Detention Center inmates with the hope of reaching young children who are without a parent at Christmas or may not get a visit from Santa. Each year, the community is asked for contributions of new, unwrapped toys that are then wrapped by volunteers and delivered on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day by officers of the Sheriff's Office, Taylorsville

Police Department, State Highway Patrol, and Adult Probation / Parole. So far, the program has served the families of approximately 100 children.

Donations will be accepted through December 17th at several locations including the lower lobby of the Courthouse, the lobby of the Law Enforcement Center, the Taylorsville Police Department, Stony Point Fire Department, the Bethlehem Branch Library, and Ole Still Golf Club.

Each commissioner presented a gift for the Santa Cops Program.

MITCHELL GOLD + BOB WILLIAMS NATURAL GAS PROJECT RESOLUTION

David Icenhour, Economic Development Director, advised that the bids for the Mitchell Gold + Box Williams natural gas lines that were opened on November 10th came in significantly higher than anticipated. The project budget is now approximately \$440,000 when including the \$315,000 construction bid, right-of-way acquisition, engineering fees, etc.

Staff has requested additional funds from the NC Department of Commerce which is anticipated for approval on December 17th and will total \$352,000 which requires a 25% local match or \$88,000. Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams has pledged up to \$10,000 for this project along with 20 new jobs. PSNC will be contributing more than \$50,000 in construction costs. Mr. Icenhour provided a resolution approving the new grant and match amount.

Vice-Chairman Mayberry made a motion to approve the Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams Natural Gas Project resolution. Commissioner Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

FELBURN FOUNDATION GRANT AWARD

David Icenhour, Economic Development Director, announced that Alexander County had received a grant in the amount of \$20,000 from the Felburn Foundation to purchase a 1.27 acre tract across from Rocky Face Park. This is a 100% grant that requires no local match.

The Felburn Foundation, a land preservation society, originally purchased the Rocky Face Park property which was later deeded to Carolina Land & Lakes RC&D and then to Alexander County. The Felburn Foundation has also awarded other grants to the County in the past to benefit the park.

PROCLAMATION DECLARING DECEMBER 1-31, 2015 AS CHRISTMAS IN BETHLEHEM

Vice-Chairman Mayberry presented and made a motion to approve a proclamation declaring December 1-31, 2015 as Christmas in Bethlehem. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

NUISANCE PROPERTY UPDATE

Rick French, County Manager, stated that citizens who wish to report any nuisance property in Alexander County should call (828) 632-1372 and leave a detailed message with their name, contact information, address of the subject property, and nature of complaint. This is in response to the addition of nuisance provisions to the Solid Waste Ordinance approved in September.

SALES TAX REPORT

Rick French, County Manager, reported that a total \$705,778.51 had been collected in sales tax revenue through October 2015 and \$1,053,281.11 through November 2015. This is an increase over last year of 10.20% and 9.92% respectfully.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS

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

Senior Center Advisory Committee – Appoint Douglas Howes, Nancy Mecimore, and Fred Keslar and reappoint Chris Howes, all for 3 years.

Health Board – Appoint Janet Bowles, Jeff Peal, and Macy Jones and reappoint Jennifer Hull, all for 3 years.

WPCOG MPO/RPO Transportation Advisory Committee – Appoint Commissioner Larry Yoder.

WPCOG Region E Adult Care & Nursing Home CAC – Reappoint Phyllis Douglas for 3 years.

Local Emergency Planning Committee – Appoint Jeff Peal and reappoint Steve Icenhour, Micah Henry, John McCurdy, and Keith Hertlzer, all for 3 years. Appoint Robert Chapman to fill the unexpired term of Bob Johnson that expires 12/2017.

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

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #16 - #21

Rick French, County Manager, reviewed the purpose of Budget Amendments #16 - #21 as follows:

Budget Amendment #16 – To increase the Public Buildings budget for unexpected replacements of several heat pumps. To increase the Sheriff’s Department budget for the purchase of add on software for the records management system, a computer forensics program, and a cell phone surveillance device with Federal Equitable Share Funds received from Homeland Security in prior years. To increase the Soil & Water budget for a State grant to purchase a handheld GPS and associated software. To increase the Rocky Face Park budget for a grant from the Felburn Foundation to purchase a 1.27 acre tract.

Budget Amendment #17 – To increase the Health Department budget for Medicaid reimbursement funds carried forward from prior years that must be spent in FY 2016 only for the Care Coordination for Children and Pregnancy Care Management Programs. To increase the Library budget for training/travel costs associated with the Building the Bench Grant Program.

Budget Amendment #18 – To reimburse the Emergency Telephone System Fund for FY 2015 expenditures that should have been paid from the General Fund.

Budget Amendment #19 – To increase the Alexander Applied Technologies Renovation Project Fund budget to include the ventilation system for the welding equipment based on CVCC’s receipt of approval from Golden Leaf to move the system from “welding lab equipment” to “building renovation.”

Budget Amendment #20 – To increase the Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams Natural Gas Project Fund budget to match the approved funding from the NC Department of Commerce.

Budget Amendment #21 – To increase the General Fund budget for the increase in the County’s matching portion of the NC Department of Commerce grant for the Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams Natural Gas Project.

Commissioner Reese made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #16 - #21. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

- A. The Alexander Applied Technologies Project is underway and signs are up on the property. The estimated completion date for this project is 6 months.
- B. Anthony Starr, WPCOG Executive Director, has reported that new State budget reforms will add new roadway projects and will accelerate several current projects in the Unifour area. Alexander County has two projects on the schedule – improvements to Highway 16 from the Catawba County line to the Wilkes County line (construction scheduled to begin

in 2024) and improvements to the intersection of Highway 16 and County Home Road (construction to begin in 2022).

- C. Chairman Yoder thanked everyone involved with the Christmas Parade this past weekend including staff, volunteers, law enforcement, and emergency personnel. He also mentioned that Taylorsville Mayor George Holleman was elected as Chairman of the WPCOG Executive Committee.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from the November 2, 2015 Regular Meeting.
B. Tax Release Requests (\$3,525.92) and Tax Refunds (\$10,117.43) for October 24 – November 27, 2015.
C. Local Emergency Planning Committee 2015 Annual Report.
D. Vehicles to be approved as surplus – 2006 Ford Crown Victoria VIN #2FAFP71W46X163607, 2004 Ford Crown Victoria VIN #2FAFP71W14X107122, and 1998 Ford Crown Victoria VIN #2FAFP71W7WX163441.

Vice-Chairman Mayberry 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

Rick French, County Manager, announced that subsection 3 (Attorney / Client Privilege) should be removed due to the County Attorney not being present.

Chairman Yoder made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 7:25 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). Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Yoder made a motion to adjourn at 7:53 PM. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Larry G. Yoder, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board