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**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**     January 11, 2016

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

**PRESENT:**    Ryan Mayberry, Chairman  
                  Josh Lail  
                  Ronnie Reese  
                  Larry G. Yoder

**ABSENT:**     Milton H. Campbell, 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, January 11, 2016 at the CVCC / Alexander Center in Room 103, Taylorsville, North Carolina.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Mayberry called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Reese gave the invocation and Commissioner Yoder led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

A moment of silence was held in remembrance of Clint Canaday who passed away on December 8, 2015. Mr. Canaday served on the Alexander County Board of Health for over 20 years as well as the Building Services Advisory Committee since its inception in 2005.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Reese stated that, with budget time quickly approaching, the Board was investigating many cost saving measures including insurance coverage. He also mentioned that 107,622 calls (911 and non-911) were received by 911 Communications in 2015 along with 33,481 received by the Sheriff's Department.

Chairman Mayberry recognized Trish Baker who came to work for Alexander County in November 2015 as the new DSS Director.

## **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

Chairman Mayberry announced that Vice-Chairman Campbell would be absent tonight. Therefore, Commissioner Yoder made a motion to excuse Vice-Chairman Campbell from the meeting. Commissioner Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

David Icenhour, Economic Development Director, presented the first monthly Economic Development Update that included employment estimates as of November 2015 which showed a labor force of 17,322 in Alexander County. The total number of unemployed countywide totaled 832 for an unemployment rate of 4.8%. He discussed efforts to attract potential residents and business/industry to Alexander County as well as to keep tax dollars spent locally.

Mr. Icenhour introduced Mitchell Gold, co-founder of Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams, one of Alexander County's largest and strongest employers, who spoke about plans for 2016 such as the purchase of a nearby warehousing facility and opening of several new stores nationwide. Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams employs 650 people and currently has factory and executive position openings. Mr. Gold also addressed the issue of bigotry and hoped to see it eliminated in Alexander County.

## **GOODBUYS STORE OPENING**

Gary Herman, Small Business Development Coordinator, announced that the Goodwill GoodBuys Store located in the Walmart Shopping Center between Dollar Tree and Subway will hold its Grand Opening on Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. A ribbon cutting will take place at 8:45 AM and the store will open to the public at 9:00 AM.

GoodBuys is a new clearance-style store where shoppers can find clothing, shoes, and other items at 50% less than the typical Goodwill store. It is the first of its kind in Goodwill's 31-county area. The store, which will initially employ 8-10 people, will be open Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM until 8:00 PM and on Sunday from 1:00-6:00 PM.

## **2016 NC GOVERNOR'S CRIME COMMISSION GRANT APPLICATION**

Chairman Mayberry requested this item be tabled due to the absence of Sgt. David Moose. Therefore, Commissioner Yoder made a motion to table consideration of the 2016 NC Governor's Crime Commission Grant application. Commissioner Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## **SHURTAPE SEWER PROJECT ENGINEERING SERVICES RECOMMENDATION**

Rick French, County Manager, reported that proposals for the Shurtape Job Retention Wastewater Project were opened on January 4, 2016 for engineering, design, and construction oversight. Proposals were received from Clayton Engineering & Design, McGill Associates PA, Husley McCormick & Wallace, and West Consultants PLLC; however, West Consultants was the low bidder at \$85,000. He added that West Consultants had provided engineering services for water and sewer projects in this general area and was familiar with the existing utilities and subsurface conditions.

Commissioner Lail made a motion to accept the proposal submitted by West Consultants PLLC for the Shurtape Job Retention Wastewater Project. Commissioner Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## **MITCHELL GOLD + BOB WILLIAMS NATURAL GAS PROJECT CONTRACTOR RECOMMENDATION**

Rick French, County Manager, advised that proposals for the Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams Natural Gas Project were opened on November 10, 2015 for construction of the gas pipeline. Proposals were received from Appling Boring and Miller Pipeline; however, Appling Boring was the low bidder at \$315,075.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to accept the proposal submitted by Appling Boring for the Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams Natural Gas Project. Commissioner Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## **SALES TAX REPORT**

Rick French, County Manager, reported that a total of \$1,366,647.69 had been collected in sales tax revenue through December 2015. This amount is 35.12% of the \$3,891,000 budgeted with 33.33% of the budget year expired and an increase over last year of 8.94%

## **BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS**

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

Building Services Advisory Committee – Appoint Jon Pilkenton and reappoint Brent Fox, Larry Jenkins, Mark Foy, Tony Lackey, David Land, Darrell Robertson, Ryan Mayberry, Lynn Teague, Bert Gibson, and Seth Harris, all for one year.

Library Board of Trustees – Appoint Andrew Ferguson and Amy Bucknam and reappoint Sarah Lail, all for 3 years.

Planning & Zoning Commission – Reappoint Don Harrington and Sam Davis for two years.

Finance Committee – Appoint Ryan Mayberry and reappoint Milton Campbell.

Commissioner Reese made a motion to appoint the appointments and reappointments as presented. Commissioner Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## **BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #22 - #25**

Rick French, County Manager, reviewed the purpose of Budget Amendments #22 - #25 as follows:

Budget Amendment #22 – To increase the Information Technology budget for additional disk storage space needed to maintain the County’s network. To increase the JCPC budget for additional funding due to the revised 2015-2016 State appropriation for JCPC programs.

Budget Amendment #23 – To increase the Health Department budget for Evidence Based Strategies State funds.

Budget Amendment #24 – To increase the 911 Fund budget for the Server Migration Project.

Budget Amendment #25 – To decrease the Planning Department budget to terminate the FY 2016 contract with WPCOG for planning assistance, to decrease the Tax Office budget to postpone filling a vacant position due to retirement, and to increase the Inspections Department budget to hire a director to oversee Planning & Inspections and to hire a clerical position to train with the current clerical employee who will retire at the end of FY 2016.

Commissioner Lail made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #22 - #25. Commissioner Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

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

- A. The 2016-2017 budget process will begin on February 12, 2016 with a Department Head Meeting where budget information will be distributed and also mailed/emailed to outside agencies.
- B. The Smoky Mountain Center LME/MCO County Commissioners Advisory Board Meeting was held on November 24, 2015. Commissioner Yoder is the representative on this committee.
- C. Planning continues for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual RockyFest which is set for April 23, 2016 at Rocky Face Park.
- D. He requested the scheduling of a budget work session to review the 2014-2015 Audit Report, a 6-month budget report for 2015-2016, and special projects.

After discussion of dates, Chairman Mayberry made a motion to hold a budget work session on January 25, 2016 at 6:00 PM. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Minutes from the December 7, 2015 Regular Meeting.
- B. Tax Release Requests (\$3,304.12) and Tax Refunds (\$8,459.02) for November 28 – December 31, 2015.
- C. Home & Community Care Block Grant for Older Adults allocation increases - \$775 for Senior Center operations and \$3,600 for In-Home Aide Level II.
- D. Application for I-CARE CSBG funding for Iredell and Alexander Counties.

Commissioner Yoder 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, 4, 5, & 6) TO PREVENT THE DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CONTRACTUAL, & PERSONNEL**

Chairman Mayberry made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 6:54 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 Yoder seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Commissioner Yoder made a motion to adjourn at 8:45 PM. Commissioner Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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Ryan N. Mayberry, Chairman

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Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board