

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION September 23, 2019

ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

PRESENT: Dr. Jeff Peal, Chairman
Ronnie Reese, Vice-Chairman
Larry Yoder
Ryan Mayberry
Marty Pennell

STAFF: Rick French, County Manager
Russell Greene, Emergency Services Director
Gary Herman, PIO
David Icenhour, Economic Development Director
Josh Mitchell, Solid Waste / Public Works Director
Jamie Starnes, Clerk to the Board

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a work session on Monday, September 23, 2019 in the Administration Building lower level conference room in Taylorsville, North Carolina.

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice-Chairman Reese gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

SERVICES CENTER ROOF REPLACEMENT

Rick French, County Manager, advised that 3 quotes had been received for replacement of the roof at the Alexander Services Center as follows:

TQM Roofing - \$112,480
Statesville Roofing & Building Restoration - \$103,150
Conover Construction & Roofing - \$94,720

A purchase order has been obtained and Conover Construction & Roofing has been instructed to proceed.

SPECIAL EVENTS ORDINANCE

Russell Greene, Emergency Services Director, presented a draft Special Events Ordinance that would establish a structured process for permitting and staging of planned public events to ensure adequate allocation of county resources. He explained that the ordinance would not apply to local, state, federal, or school sponsored events (as planning for these events and allocation of resources is already coordinated) and would require 90 days' notice by all others to be considered by an application review committee. Other specifics included:

- Creation of applicable fees if desired.
- Event standards such as compliance with NC Building Code, National Electric Code, ADA requirements, local fire safety standards, etc.
- Proof of liability and/or special events insurance coverage naming Alexander County as additionally insured for events held on County-owned property.
- Ability for review committee to inquire into the nature or content of speech to be held (but cannot deny an application because of content or purpose of event).
- Possible signage at County parks.

Commissioner Yoder felt a public hearing(s) would be beneficial to inform citizens and get feedback. It was agreed that public hearings would be held at the October and November Commissioners' Meetings and the Special Events Ordinance would be placed on the agenda in December for consideration (with an effective date of January 1, 2020).

BETHLEHEM COMMUNITY PLAN

Mr. French reported that, after a review by several County staff members, 139 errors were found within the Bethlehem Community Plan that was presented to the Board on September 9th. Mistakes included misspelled names and words, incorrect facts pertaining to utilities and partnerships, and mention of organizations that did not exist. He added that he had scheduled a meeting with Anthony Starr, WPCOG Executive Director, to discuss.

Chairman Peal was disappointed in the product produced by the WPCOG given the amount paid for these services.

WATER SYSTEM EXTENSION PROJECT REPORT

Mr. French announced that Buckeye Bridge would begin the Water System Extension Project later this week with replacement of a 6-inch PVC pipe in the Wittenburg Springs subdivision with ductile iron pipe, a 7-week process costing \$232,863. This portion is in addition to the original

project but is priority due to repeated leaks and line breaks from substandard pipe installed by the developer.

Once the Wittenburg Springs portion is completed, the contractor will move on with the planned installation of 70,690 linear feet of 2-inch to 8-inch water lines in 8 different project areas of the county complete with valves, hydrants, fittings, etc. Final completion is estimated in 300 days.

Mr. French informed the Board that he, along with Josh Mitchell and David Moose, would be working closely with McGill Associates and Buckeye Bridge throughout the process.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. French discussed the following issues:

- A. The Historic Preservation Committee will meet on October 1st and the last public recreation planning meeting is set for October 3rd at Rocky Face Park, both at 6:00 PM.
- B. Engineer Dan Shabeldeen will attend the October 7th Commissioners' Meeting to discuss the Bethlehem Sewer Extension Project. A \$907,050 budget amendment will also be on the agenda for consideration, bringing the project budget up to approximately \$6.2 million (original NCDEQ loan is for \$5,181,300). Mr. French explained that once the project is bid staff can apply for an additional 10% in loan proceeds to reimburse the County budget. In addition, he mentioned that 1,200 sewer customers paying double rates would be needed to pay the debt service on the NCDEQ loan.

CLOSED SESSION – N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Vice-Chairman Reese made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 6:42 PM to discuss economic development pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4). Commissioner Pennell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Yoder made a motion to adjourn at 8:21 PM. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Jeffrey P. Peal, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board