

Draft

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
CALLED MEETING**      December 16, 2019

**ALEXANDER COUNTY  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

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

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

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Monday, December 16, 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**

Chairman Peal gave the invocation and Commissioner Mayberry led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Chairman Peal mentioned that several commissioners recently took a tour of Schneider Mills who Alexander County is very fortunate to have a long-term relationship with.

Commissioner Mayberry, who attended the Bethlehem Star Lighting, conveyed his appreciation to everyone who made the annual event possible.

**BETHLEHEM SEWER EXTENSION PROJECT CONTRACT AWARD**

Engineer Dan Shabeldeen reported that a bid opening was held on December 5, 2019 for the Bethlehem Sewer Extension Project where 5 sealed bids were received. The lowest qualified

bidder was Two Brothers Utilities, Inc. who submitted a base bid of \$5,149,557.63 (includes contingency of \$245,217.02) and an alternate bid of \$973,881.93 for the Bowman Court pump station and associated force main to Chigger Ridge Road. He added that with tonight's bid approval, construction should begin in February 2020.

Rick French, County Manager, stated that the low base bid received was within the project budget so there would not be a need for another budget amendment. He advised that additional loan funding would be necessary if the Board wished to pursue the alternate (Bowman Court pump station), which he did not recommend when considering that debt service payments will total approximately \$300,000 per year for the current loan (comparable to 1,200 sewer customers paying double rates / there are currently less than 400 sewer customers).

Mr. Shabeldeen, who met with Bruce Alexander and engineers with McGill Associates in November, stated that the planned housing development (400 units) was in its early stages. He felt several years could pass before any construction began. In response to several questions related to existing lines, Mr. Shabeldeen also explained that line replacements were needed in several areas because current pipes were too small to handle increased capacity.

Chairman Peal asked about the status of easements. Mr. French responded that staff had obtained signatures on all but 3 easements.

Commissioner Yoder was concerned with the impact that widening of Highway 127 would have on this project. Mr. Shabeldeen only expressed concerns with one of the 3 areas where sewer would cross Highway 127 which was the intersection with Rink Dam Road, noting that efforts to coordinate with NCDOT had not been successful due to lack of finalized widening plans; however, he advised that NCDOT would be financially responsible for any sewer lines that need relocated.

Commissioner Mayberry felt the County should consider extending sewer into subdivisions at some point in the future, noting there were many failing septic systems in Bethlehem, especially near Lake Hickory.

Commissioner Mayberry made a motion to accept the base bid of \$5,149,557.63 submitted by Two Brothers Utilities, Inc. for the Bethlehem Sewer Extension Project without the alternate bid for the Bowman Court pump station. Commissioner Pennell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Rick French, County Manager, stated that the 2020 Independence Day Celebration would be held on Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup>. Contact has been made with the pyrotechnics specialist who is available on that day.

**CLOSED SESSION – N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) PERSONNEL**

The Board entered into Closed Session at 6:32 PM to discuss personnel issues pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6).

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Commissioner Mayberry made a motion to adjourn at 7:06 PM. Commissioner Pennell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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Jeffrey P. Peal, Chairman

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Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board