

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING April 4, 2022

ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

PRESENT: Ronnie Reese, Chairman
 Marty Pennell, Vice-Chairman
 Kent Herman
 Josh Lail
 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, April 4, 2022 in Room 103 of the CVCC / Alexander Center in Taylorsville, North Carolina.

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

*****SPECIAL RECOGNITION*****

Chairman Reese presented a Key to the County to Walter “Lee” Sharpe, longtime owner and publisher of *The Taylorsville Times*, for his many years of service to Alexander County. Following comments made by Dr. Warren Hollar related to his life, career, and community service, Mr. Sharpe was also given the Order of the Long Leaf Pine Award.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Natasha Anderson with Kepro (Keystone Peer Review Organization, Inc.) promoted the company’s efforts to provide outreach services to marginalized populations impacted by COVID-19. Services offered include rent and utility payments as well as food insecurity assistance. Team members routinely visit the Alexander County Senior Center as well as the 957 Mobile Café on Tuesdays and Thursdays if anyone in the community needs more information.

PUBLIC HEARING: APPROVAL OF ROAD NAMES

Rick French, County Manager, submitted the following road name for approval, which has met required regulations and was checked for duplication and sound indexing:

Road No.	Road Name	Location
3715GK2	Sunny Vista Drive	Off Bolick Lane

After a motion by Chairman Reese, second by Commissioner Lail, and unanimous vote, the public hearing was called to order and comments requested. There being none, Chairman Reese made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Lail made a motion to approve the road name as presented. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION TO PARTNER WITH YADKIN VALLEY TELEPHONE FOR GREAT GRANT APPLICATION

David Moose, Compliance & Procurement Specialist, presented a resolution authorizing a partnership with Yadkin Valley Telephone Membership Corporation (dba Zirrus/formerly Yadtel) on a 2022 GREAT grant application. The Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology Grant Program is administered by the NC Department of Information Technology and allocates funding to private internet service providers to expand broadband access into rural areas not typically served. He advised that if awarded, Yadkin Valley would utilize the grant to construct fiber-to-the-home broadband services in the eastern part of Alexander County, requiring a financial match not to exceed \$163,815 from the County’s American Rescue Plan Act funding.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the resolution to partner with Yadkin Valley Telephone Membership Corporation for a GREAT grant. Commissioner Herman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

BOWMAN COURT PUMP STATION PROJECT ENGINEERING AGREEMENT

David Moose, Compliance & Procurement Specialist, explained that, in response to the January 24, 2022 engineering services RFQ, staff received 4 proposals for the Bowman Court Pump Station Project. He presented an agreement with McGill Associates, P.A. to provide engineering, design, and construction administration services for the pump station and associated force main, noting that the project would be funded through an appropriation in the State budget under SL 2021-180 (SB 105) Section 12.13(f). The cost of this contract is approx. \$152,000.

Chairman Reese made a motion to approve the engineering agreement with McGill Associates for the Bowman Court Pump Station Project. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

BETHLEHEM ELEVATED WATER TANK PROJECT ENGINEERING AGREEMENT

David Moose, Compliance & Procurement Specialist, explained that, in response to the January 24, 2022 engineering services RFQ, staff received two proposals for the Bethlehem Elevated Water Tank Project. He presented an agreement with West Consultants, PLLC to provide engineering, design, and construction administration services for the tank, noting that a portion of the project would be funded through an appropriation in the State budget under SL 2021-180 (SB 105) Section 12.13(f). The cost of this contract is approx. \$360,000.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the engineering agreement with West Consultants for the Bethlehem Elevated Water Tank Project. Commissioner Herman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ENERGYUNITED WATER CORPORATION WATER PURCHASE AGREEMENT

Rick French, County Manager, presented an agreement authorizing Alexander County to sell up to 500,000 gallons of water per day to EnergyUnited Water Corporation for \$1.50 per thousand gallons for a period of 4 years. This will allow EnergyUnited the ability to resale water to one of its own customers.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the water purchase agreement with EnergyUnited Water Corporation. Commissioner Pennell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK PROCLAMATION

Commissioner Lail made a motion to approve a proclamation declaring April 4-10, 2022 as National Public Health Week in Alexander County. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #76 - #84 & PROJECT BUDGET ORDINANCE #P-4

Rick French, County Manager, reviewed the purpose of Budget Amendments #76 - #84 as follows:

Budget Amendment #76 – To 1) increase the Tax Office budget for NCDOT fees charged to the County for collecting motor vehicle taxes for the remainder of FY 2022, 2) increase the Garage budget due to price increases for parts and more in-house repairs, 3) increase the EMS budget for estimated administrative fees paid to NCACC for the annual Medicaid Cost Report, 4) increase the Medical Examiner budget due to an increased number of autopsies and death investigations, and 5) reduce the estimated use of Fund Balance appropriated based on sales tax revenue projections for FY 2022.

Budget Amendment #77 – To increase the Sheriff's Office budget for the use of State Unauthorized Substance Tax distributions to equip two K-9 officers with vehicle kennels, concrete pads and dog lots, leashes, and other items for two K-9 bloodhounds.

Budget Amendment #78 – To increase the Fire / Emergency Services budget for receipt of FEMA Public Assistance grant funds to reimburse the County for costs incurred from Tropical Storm Eta in November 2020.

Budget Amendment #79 – To increase the Library budget for donations received and for revised State aid funds.

Budget Amendment #80 – To increase the Cooperative Extension budget for additional revenues received.

Budget Amendment #81 – To increase the budget for estimated interest earnings on the Landfill Closure Fund cash balance.

Budget Amendment #82 – To provide local matching funds of \$5,000 to the Stony Point Volunteer Fire Department for a grant received for a vehicle exhaust system that removes exhaust fumes from the parking bay.

Budget Amendment #83 – To budget for estimated expenses in FY 2022 related to the Bethlehem Elevated Water Tank Project engineering contract.

Budget Amendment #84 – To budget for estimated expenses in FY 2022 related to the Bowman Court Pump Station Project engineering contract.

Project Budget Ordinance #P-4 – To establish a budget for the Alexander EDC Site Development Project and receipt of a \$500,000 grant from NC Railroad Company

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #76 - #84 and Project Budget Ordinance #P-4. Commissioner Herman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS

Rick French, County Manager, requested the following appointment and reappointment:

Farmland Preservation VAD Board – reappoint Traci Fox for 4 years.

Council on Aging – appoint Peggy Smith for 3 years.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the appointments and reappointments. Commissioner Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

- A. The Alexander County School System submitted their 2022-2023 budget request totaling \$7,317,428, an increase of \$252,368 over the current year.
- B. A total of \$3,992,022 has been collected in sales tax revenue for the 2021-2022 budget year (\$1,118,687 is new sales tax for economic development, public education, and community colleges). This amount is 62.47% of the \$6,390,460 budgeted with 58.33% of the budget year expired and an increase of 8.55% over last year.
- C. In conjunction with the required 160D changes approved in 2021, the County must also develop a new Comprehensive Plan. Mr. French provided a draft agreement with the WPCOG to assist staff and the Planning & Zoning Commission with this process at a cost of \$56,330 over two fiscal years.
- D. The 10th anniversary of Rocky Face Park will be celebrated on April 23, 2022 during RockyFest.

Commissioner Pennell reported that the owner of the former Alexander Community Hospital was interested in selling the property to the County at a reduced price in exchange for construction of an aquatics center / gym facility.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Tax Release Requests (\$2,028.20) and Tax Refunds (\$1,002.47) for March 1-24, 2022.
- B. Minutes from the March 7, 2022 Regular Meeting and March 21, 2022 Special Called Meeting.
- C. 2021 Records Retention & Disposition Schedule for Local Government Agencies (General Records and Program Records).
- D. Resolution approving the NC Deferred Compensation Plan for Alexander County.
- E. 2022 fee approvals for Alexander County Public Health.
- F. Alexander County JCPC Funding Plan & Certification for FY 2022-2023.

Chairman Reese made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION – N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4, 5, & 6) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CONTRACTUAL, & PERSONNEL

Chairman Reese made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 6:49 PM to discuss economic development, contractual matters, and personnel issues pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4, 5, & 6). Commissioner Pennell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Yoder made a motion to adjourn at 7:45 PM. Commissioner Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ronnie L. Reese, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board