

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING June 15, 2026

ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

PRESENT: Larry Yoder, Chairman
 Josh Lail, Vice-Chairman
 Kent Herman
 Marty Pennell
 Ronnie Reese

STAFF: Ben Faulkenberry, County Attorney
 Gary Herman, PIO
 Justin Mundy, County Manager
 Jamie Starnes, Clerk to the Board

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Monday, June 15, 2026 in Room 103 of the CVCC / Alexander Center in Taylorsville, North Carolina.

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Chairman Yoder asked everyone to remember the family of Jack Simms, Town of Taylorsville Commissioner, whose mother passed away earlier today.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The Board recognized Josh Mitchell, a 22-year employee, who will assume the role of Assistant County Manager effective July 6, 2026.

FY 2026-2027 ALEXANDER COUNTY BUDGET ORDINANCE

Justin Mundy, County Manager, presented the FY 2026-2027 Alexander County Budget Ordinance that totaled \$68,802,717 and included a 5-cent property tax decrease, bringing the tax rate to 60 cents per \$100 valuation. He also reviewed totals for each separate funds – Fire District Fund (\$2,953,244), Opioid Settlement Fund (\$446,090), Revaluation Fund (\$307,708), Solid Waste Fund (\$3,081,400), Landfill Closure Fund (\$170,000), County Water & Sewer Fund (\$4,560,000), School Capital Improvements Fund (\$10,509,726), and Emergency Telephone System Fund (\$616,972). The budget contains an appropriated Fund Balance of \$7,379,760 and fully funds the \$8,426,361 request from Alexander County Schools.

Vice-Chairman Lail felt the County would face tough decisions as a result of the proposed tax cut and its impact on revenue. He stated that the Board has accomplished many positive things for the community but expressed concern that it would be difficult to continue improving the county's quality of life while reducing the tax rate, especially given the rising costs of goods and services. He referenced information from the WPCOG, which indicates that counties need annual growth of 2% to 3% to maintain current service levels. By comparison, Alexander County has experienced approx. 0.8% growth over the past 20 years, while the Consumer Price Index has increased by roughly 4%. Vice-Chairman Lail also mentioned uncertainties surrounding tax reform and moratoriums on revaluations and stated that, while he understands the desire to provide tax relief to citizens, this was a volatile time due to inflation and the increasing cost of living, making long-term financial decisions more difficult.

Chairman Yoder agreed, stating that he was in favor of a two-cent reduction in the tax rate but did not support a larger decrease. He felt further adjustments should be postponed until the revaluation process was complete.

Commissioner Reese made a motion to approve the FY 2026-2027 Alexander County Budget Ordinance as presented. Commissioner Pennell seconded the motion, which passed 3 in favor (Commissioners Herman, Pennell, and Reese) and two against (Commissioners Lail and Yoder). The motion carried.

STERLING ROAD CDBG PROJECT BID AWARD RECOMMENDATION

Chairman Yoder reported that a bid opening for the Sterling Road CDBG Project was held on June 1, 2026 where 4 sealed bids were received. The lowest bidder was DDI of Hickory who submitted a bid of \$398,069.88; however, the bid and accompanying documents were reviewed and found to be incomplete due to the submittal of an incorrect bid form.

The second lowest bidder was Bell Construction Co., Inc. who submitted a bid of \$452,779.25. The bid and accompanying documentation were reviewed and found to be complete. West Consultants recommends awarding the contract to Bell Construction Co., Inc. The project will include 820 linear feet of grading and asphalt paving, storm drainage improvements, and erosion control measures.

Chairman Yoder made a motion to accept the low bid of \$452,779.25 for the Sterling Road CDBG Project and award the contract to Bell Construction Co., Inc. Commissioner Herman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #32 - #35

Justin Mundy, County Manager, reviewed the purpose of Budget Amendments #32 - #35 as follows:

Budget Amendment #32 – To increase:

- the Register of Deeds budget to cover estimated expenses for the remainder of FY 2026.
- the Public Buildings / Maintenance budget to cover estimated utility bills for the remainder of FY 2026.
- the Senior Center budget for a reallocation of Senior Operations grant funds from the Home and Community Care Block grant. The 10% match requirement is being met with expenses already included in the Senior Center budget.

Budget Amendment #33 – To adjust the General Fund budget for operating costs that differed from original budget estimates as well as for revised revenue estimates.

Budget Amendment #34 – To increase the Health Department budget to use carry-forward dental health grant funds for FY 2026 expenses.

Budget Amendment #35 – To adjust the Solid Waste Fund for FY 2026 operating costs that differed from original budget estimates and for accounting entries required by GASB 101.

Commissioner Reese made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #32 - #35. Commissioner Herman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from the May 18, 2026 Regular Meeting.
- B. Board / Committee Appointments – Council on Aging, Sister Cities Association, Region E Aging Advisory Committee, and Region E Long Term Care CAC.
- C. FY 2026-2027 Alexander County Fee Schedule.
- D. Resolution to approve the annual bonding of County officials.

Vice-Chairman Lail 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)(5 & 6) CONTRACTUAL & PERSONNEL

Commissioner Reese made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 6:27 PM to discuss contractual matters and personnel issues pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5 & 6). Commissioner Herman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Reese made a motion to adjourn at 7:09 PM. Commissioner Herman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Larry G. Yoder, Vice-Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board