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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS **ALEXANDER COUNTY**
REGULAR MEETING October 5, 2026 **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, October 5, 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

Commissioner Reese reported that he attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for Glamourous Duo Nail Salon in Stony Point alongside County Manager Justin Mundy, noting that he was pleased to see continued growth in the county.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

*****SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS*****

The following recognitions took place:

- Chairman Yoder recognized Pastor Scott Henson, Betty Long, and Helen Chestnut, who attended on behalf of First Baptist Church in Taylorsville, noting that the church celebrated its 175th anniversary on October 6, 2026. He commended the church for its longstanding service to the community, particularly through the Child Development Center.

  Chairman Yoder then made a motion to approve a proclamation honoring the 175th anniversary of Taylorsville First Baptist Church. Commissioner Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

- Allison Brown, Cooperative Extension Director, read a proclamation recognizing National 4-H Week and introduced DJ Salyer, 4-H Agent, and Der Holcomb, Family and Consumer Sciences Agent.

  Ms. Brown also recognized the Alexander County 4-H Grill Billies for winning the 2026 National 4-H Food Challenge in Texas. The team made history as the first team from NC to win the national competition and the first out-of-state team to claim the title, ending Texas's 8-year winning streak. Competing against 17 teams, the Grill Billies demonstrated their culinary skills, nutrition knowledge, creativity, teamwork, and communication. Team members included Lucas Hardin, Uriah Sigmon, Lucy Icenhour, and Allie Millsaps.

PUBLIC COMMENT

J.T. Ritch, a resident of the Bethlehem community, voiced opposition to last year's increase in convenience site fees and questioned whether the County could allocate funds more effectively, giving an example of owning the convenience site properties rather than leasing them. He also felt the sites' operating hours should better accommodate working residents and asked why debit card payments or customer accounts could not be offered as alternatives to cash payments. Additionally, Mr. Ritch expressed concerns with residents leaving the county for restaurants, shopping, and entertainment, the continued need for fundraisers within Alexander County Schools, and ongoing traffic congestion and safety issues despite the County's efforts and funding.

Helen Chestnut and Betty Long, members of the Alexander County Historic Preservation Commission and America 250 Committee, thanked the Board for its support of the America 250 events held throughout the year. They invited the public to attend the 4th America 250 lecture on Saturday, November 14th at 3:00 P.M. at Bethlehem Baptist Church. Dr. Warren Hollar will serve as the guest speaker and special music will be provided.

PUBLIC HEARING: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE GRANT FOR HEFNER REELS

Michael Worley, Economic Development Director, requested approval of an Economic Development Incentive Grant for Hefner Reels, LLC, otherwise referred to as "Project Automate," to help secure a $1.3 million capital investment, create 2 to 5 new jobs, and retain 45 current jobs.

Hefner Reels plans to expand its current operations by upfitting an existing warehouse to serve as a manufacturing facility and investing in new machinery to support and strengthen the company's operations. Based on the anticipated capital investment, a Level 1 Economic Development Incentive Grant is proposed in an amount not to exceed $9,360, payable in two annual installments.

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

Vice-Chairman Lail made a motion to approve a Level 1 Economic Development Incentive Grant to Hefner Reels, LLC in an amount not to exceed $9,360. Commissioner Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING: STERLING ROAD CDBG PROJECT PUBLIC SERVICES AMENDMENT

Sherry Griffin, WPCOG Special Projects Manager, discussed a proposed amendment to the Sterling Road CDBG Project to request an additional $1.2 million in CDBG funds to purchase two ambulances. She explained that NC Commerce reached out to inquire if Alexander County had any needs, as there are unspent grant funds available from other projects statewide, which could provide an opportunity to request additional funding. She emphasized that the grant is not guaranteed; however, if awarded, the ambulances would be purchased entirely with grant funds and would be housed at EMS Station #1, which is located within a low to moderate income census tract

Ms. Griffin also provided an update on the Sterling Road Project, noting that drainage issues were recently identified along the newly paved road following heavy rainfall. Work began today to install additional storm drains to help alleviate further runoff issues and the housing rehabilitation work is expected to begin soon.

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

Commissioner Pennell made a motion to submit the formal $1.2 million grant amendment request to NC Commerce for the purchase of two ambulances. Commissioner Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #6 - #8

Justin Mundy, County Manager, reviewed the purpose of Budget Amendments #6 - #8 as follows:

Budget Amendments #6 – To increase the Sheriff's Office and Detention Center budgets to implement the Local Law Enforcement Officer Compensation Bonus Program administered by the NC SBI to comply with Section 41.3 of Session Law 2026-41.

Budget Amendment #7 – To:

- transfer funds from Governing Body to Administration for organizational changes in the filling of a vacant position.
- increase the Sheriff's Office budget for use of Federal Equitable Share funds to purchase equipment for the SRT Team to use in hazardous conditions.
- budget for a refund to the NC Department of Juvenile Justice for 2025-2026 funds that service providers were unable to spend by the end of the budget year.

Budget Amendment #8 – To increase the Economic Development budget for a second private grant from the NC Railroad Company for development site studies for property in the Alexander Industrial Park (parcel 5461).

Vice-Chairman Lail made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #6 - #8. Commissioner Herman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Tax Abatements & Adjustments ($3,879.68) and Tax Refunds ($612.99) for September 8-27, 2026.
B. Minutes from the August 31, 2026 Planning Work Session, September 14, 2026 Regular Meeting, and the September 14, 2026 Consolidated Human Services Board Meeting.
C. Line-Item Transfer Report for September 2026.
D. Update to the WPCOG Charter and Bylaws.
E. Personnel Policy Revisions – Part-Time Position (Eligible) Definition and Travel Expense and Reimbursement related to gratuity.
F. Request from Sheriff Chad Pennell to surplus retiree Captain Michael Lunsford's service weapon (Glock 43X 9mm, Serial #BYBA958) with 5 magazines and badge.

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

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

Commissioner Reese made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 6:43 PM to discuss economic development and contractual matters pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4 & 5). Commissioner Herman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Pennell made a motion to adjourn at 7:51 PM. Commissioner Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Larry G. Yoder, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board