

Draft

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**      February 7, 2005

**ALEXANDER COUNTY**  
**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**PRESENT:**    William L. Hammer, Chairman  
                  W. Darrell Robertson, Vice-Chairman  
                  Wesley E. Bolick  
                  Larry Yoder

**ABSENT:**     W. Norris Kever

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

**MEDIA:**      Gary Herman, The Taylorsville Times

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Monday, February 7, 2005 in the Catawba Valley Community College / Alexander Center Multipurpose Room, Taylorsville, North Carolina. A quorum was present.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Hammer called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

**\*\*\*SPECIAL RECOGNITION\*\*\***

David Icenhour, Economic Development Director, briefly discussed the Schneider Mills Academy, which began on December 6, 2004. He explained that the purpose of the program was to provide training to county residents in the textile industry for a guaranteed job interview with Schneider Mills upon completion of the program with a strong likelihood of employment. He also stated that the County agreed to house the program, handle scheduling, and publicizing of the program.

Sheila Bailey, Course Instructor, began by giving some information about Schneider Mills. She informed the Board that Schneider Mills produced diverse fabrics for a variety of uses including material for airline industry life vests, medical fabrics for reducing static in operating rooms and on medical tables, uniform and parachute material for the armed forces, banner and flag material, and police jacket material. Some styles have even been used in caskets. Ms. Bailey stated that the Schneider Mills Academy began with the interviewing of prospective students that were interested in working in the textile industry. The students learned about fabrics, toured the

Schneider Mills facility to witness different operations, and learned the proper methods used in production. Ms. Bailey stated that the students were also spoken to regarding what would be expected of an employee in the weave room.

After successful completion of 2 types of hands on tests and one written test, there were 5 students that completed the program and would graduate from the Schneider Mills Academy. Ms. Bailey recognized those individuals which included Tyrone Barnes, Kristina Finney, Denver Flowers, Morton Howell, and Brenda Anthony (not present). Chip Swinnie and Dr. Lee Gonzales, members of Schneider Mills Management staff, presented certificates to the graduates.

Ms. Bailey pointed out that 3 of the graduates, Tyrone Barnes, Denver Flowers, and Morton Howell, had already received employment with Schneider Mills. She thanked David Icenhour and the County Commissioners as well as the management of Schneider Mills for allowing her to be a part of the first academy. She also noted that the next academy would begin on March 14, 2005.

Mr. Swinnie extended thanks to the Board as well. He also thanked Mr. Icenhour, Ms. Bailey, and Schneider Mills staff for their participation in the academy. Mr. Swinnie felt that this was a step forward in recruiting and retaining good employees.

Chairman Hammer felt that the academy was a great success that would continue to improve. The Board thanked all those involved in this program.

## **INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Robertson gave the invocation and Stephanie Curtiss, student at Ellendale Elementary School, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

## **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Chairman Hammer informed the Board that Commissioner Keever was ill and would not be attending the meeting.

Chairman Hammer discussed events that occurred during the last 2 weeks including a "Send Off" Ceremony for Representative Mark Hollo that was held on January 25, 2005. The ceremony was held to wish Representative Hollo luck in the General Assembly which convened on January 26, 2005.

Chairman Hammer stated that he attended a WPCOG Transportation Improvement Program Meeting on January 26, 2005. He pointed out that the group discussed the construction of Highway 321 that would take place during the next 3 years. Chairman Hammer stated that the construction would create a 4-lane highway from Caldwell County into Boone, N.C. He noted that blasting would take place from 12:00 Noon to 2:00 PM each day.



Chairman Hammer also stated that he attended an LEPC Meeting on January 27, 2005, a quarterly Cooperative Extension Meeting on January 28, 2005, and the Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet on February 3, 2005.

Commissioner Bolick stated that he had spoken with Gary Hoyle, Library Director, about forming a task force to study a library in Bethlehem. Commissioner Bolick encouraged anyone interested in serving on this task force to contact him, Mr. Hoyle, or Janie McCall.

## **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

## **AMERICAN RED CROSS – ALEXANDER COUNTY OFFICE UPDATE**

Dave Bristol, American Red Cross – Alexander County Branch Manager, stated that the American Red Cross was a humanitarian organization led by volunteers. He noted that its primary purpose was to prevent and respond to disasters and prepare people to deal with those disasters through training and education.

Mr. Bristol thanked the County for allowing the Red Cross to establish a presence in Alexander County. He felt that having a presence would allow for the enhancement of Red Cross services and he noted that he was already working with the school system, the Emergency Management Office, Department of Social Services, Health Department, and EMS in order to provide better services to the citizens.

Mr. Bristol informed the Board that he met with one of the local churches yesterday to discuss ways families could survive disasters without causing harm to themselves. He stated that he was working with DSS, the Health Department, and Emergency Management to improve the sheltering program. He pointed out that the Red Cross provided CPR, first aid, and external defibrillator training and he noted that basic aid and water safety training was being provided in the school system. Mr. Bristol also stated that the Red Cross collected blood and sponsored many blood drives.

Mr. Bristol mentioned that all of these things required the help of volunteers and he urged anyone interested in volunteering to visit his office. He informed the Board that 8 volunteers had taken part in the first orientation held on Thursday, February 3, 2005 and he noted that 2 more volunteers had signed up today. He again thanked the County for being so helpful in bringing a Red Cross office to the Alexander County.

Chairman Hammer conveyed his appreciation to Mr. Bristol for his work with Red Cross. Commissioner Yoder stated that Red Cross was a great organization and he noted that he was glad to see an office in Alexander County.

Commissioner Robertson pointed out that the Red Cross would be sponsoring blood drives on February 16, 2005 at Shiloh Lutheran Church from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM and on February 18, 2005 at Alexander Central High School from 8:00 AM to 1:30 PM. He encouraged all county citizens to attend and give blood.

Rick French, County Manager, mentioned that he was a member on the Red Cross Board. He stated that Mr. Bristol was a great person to have on board. Mr. French also stressed the importance of volunteers.

Russell Greene, Fire Marshal, briefly spoke regarding the efforts of Dave Bristol and the American Red Cross. Mr. Greene stated that sheltering citizens was critical in the event of a disaster and he noted that Mr. Bristol was doing an outstanding job at training DSS and Health Department employees on basic sheltering techniques. He also noted that Mr. Bristol was very instrumental in bringing the DSS, Health Department, and Emergency Management offices together to coordinate standard operating procedures for shelters.

### **LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC) ANNUAL REPORT**

Russell Greene, Fire Marshal, presented the Local Emergency Planning Committee Annual Report, which was submitted and approved by the LEPC on January 27, 2005. The report was as follows:

The Alexander County LEPC met on Thursday, February 5, 2004. Fourteen members were present at this meeting. The committee was informed as to the Board of Commissioners appointee for chair and member LeeAnne Whisnant was elected to serve as Vice-Chair. The chair reported the following:

1. The Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan had been returned by the State for some simple clarifications.
2. Hazard Mitigation funds from the ice storm of December 2002 had been tentatively approved.
3. The Emergency Operations Planning Grant funds had been approved and the Emergency Operations Plan was in draft.
4. An update was given on 2003 Homeland Security Grants.
5. The Exercise and Training Grants were both approved.
6. Training had begun concerning the Incident Management System.
7. The annual report was approved.
8. A newspaper public notice was approved.



During the April 27, 2004 meeting, the 10 members present heard reports from the chair on the following and took action as necessary:

1. A report was given concerning the status of the Hazard Mitigation Plan.
2. A short report was given concerning the status of 2003 Homeland Security funds.
3. An explanation was given as to how 2004 Homeland Security funds were to be distributed.
4. An update was given concerning Incident Management System Plan and training.
5. Tier II information was presented to the group.
6. Discussion was held concerning a Mass Decon Standard Operating Procedure for the county.
7. The Emergency Operations Plan was presented and approved by the committee for submission to Board of Commissioners, which was approved at the July 26, 2004 Commissioners' Meeting.

Unfortunately, due to scheduling conflicts and personnel changes within County government, no other business was conducted by the LEPC during the 2004 calendar year. To date in 2005, the committee has met once on January 27, 2005 and staff has developed plans to make the committee a more active participant in emergency planning for Alexander County.

Commissioner Robertson asked if the LEPC had a regular meeting schedule established. Mr. Greene replied that the LEPC would meet a minimum of quarterly; however, he noted that at the January 27, 2005 meeting, the LEPC members discussed organizing subcommittees with particular functions that would meet more than once a quarter.

Commissioner Robertson also asked how citizens would be advised of what shelters were open in the event of a disaster. Mr. Greene replied that 911 telecommunicators would be notified of shelter openings immediately and that radio stations would also be notified.

## **MEDICAID RESOLUTION**

Chairman Hammer presented a Resolution Supporting State Assumption of County Share of Medicaid. Commissioner Robertson stated that North Carolina was one of only 2 states, New York being the other, that passed Medicaid reimbursement back to counties. Commissioner Robertson explained that 35% of Medicaid reimbursement came back to N.C. as required by the federal government and he noted the state then passed 15% of those costs back to the counties. He pointed out that \$1.5 million of the Alexander County budget was for Medicaid, which

equaled 7 cents on the property tax rate. He stated that the N.C. Association of County Commissioners had recommended all counties in N.C. approve this resolution that would request the state to pick up the full reimbursement rather than passing the costs back to counties.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve the Resolution Supporting State Assumption of County Share of Medicaid. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

### **BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT #23**

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendment #23, which included the following information:

Budget Amendment #23 – To budget for prepayment fees / accrued interest to refinance existing debt with BB&T and Wachovia. To budget for the first year's annual support on a new financial / personnel software system.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #23. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

### **BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS**

Chairman Hammer presented the following appointments and reappointments to County boards and committees:

#### **A. WPCOG SISTER CITIES ASSOCIATION**

Reappoint Jon Molesa	1 year
Appoint Dwight Shook as alternate	1 year

#### **B. LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)**

Appoint Bradley Earp	3 years
Appoint Jason Williams	3 years
Appoint Jamie Starnes	3 years
Appoint Steve Icenhour	2 years
Appoint Keith Whitener	2 years
Appoint Carol Cammer	1 year
Appoint John McCurdy	1 year
Appoint Dave Bristol	1 year
Appoint Karen Hoyle	1 year
Reappoint William Hammer	3 years

Reappoint Russell Greene	3 years
Reappoint Tony Setzer	2 years
Reappoint Lynn Marshall	2 years
Reappoint Gary Herman	2 years
Reappoint David Odom	1 year
Reappoint Leeanne Whisnant	1 year
Reappoint Hayden Bentley	1 year
Reappoint Sylvia Turnmire	1 year
Reappoint Patti Foster	1 year
Reappoint David Icenhour	1 year

Chairman Hammer made a motion to approve the appointments and reappointments as presented. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

### **SCHEDULING OF FEBRUARY WORK SESSION**

Chairman Hammer suggested the Board schedule a work session for Wednesday, February 23, 2005 at 6:00 PM in the Agriculture Extension Learning Center.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to schedule the work session on February 23, 2005 as requested. Chairman Hammer seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

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

- A. County staff has received a copy of the Catawba County Noise Ordinance, which was adopted on January 18, 2005. Copies of noise ordinances have also been received from Surry, Wilkes, and Iredell Counties. Mr. French suggested the Board discuss the ordinances at the February 23, 2005 work session in order to update Alexander County's noise ordinance.
- B. County staff has received the information packet for the N.C. Outstanding Volunteer Service Award Program. Mr. French stated that nominations needed by be submitted by May 31, 2005
- C. The loan closing for the \$160,000 loan for new finance and personnel software with BB&T was held today at 2:00 PM at the County Administration Building.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**



- D. Minutes from January 24, 2005 Commissioners' Meeting.
- E. Tax Release Requests for January \$4,962.98 and Tax Refund Requests for January \$1,466.74.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

**CLOSED SESSION – N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1, 5, & 6) TO PREVENT DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION, CONTRACTUAL, & PERSONNEL**

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 6:45 PM to prevent the disclosure of confidential information as well as to discuss contractual matters and personnel issues pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1, 5, & 6). Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Commissioner Robertson made a motion to adjourn at 8:14 PM. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

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William L. Hammer, Chairman

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Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board