

Draft

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING** April 11, 2005

**ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

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

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, April 11, 2005 in the Catawba Valley Community College / Alexander Center Multipurpose Room, Taylorsville, North Carolina.

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Rev. David Ross, Fellowship Advent Christian Church, gave the invocation and Kensley Loudermelk, student at Sugar Loaf Elementary School, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Kever stated that he, along with Chairman Hammer, Commissioner Robertson, and County Manager Rick French, attended a NCACC Multi-District Education Seminar and Membership Briefing on Wednesday, April 6, 2005 in Catawba County. Chairman Hammer pointed out that Jack Hoke, Alexander County Schools Superintendent, and Craig Mayberry, Board of Education Chairman, also attended the meeting.

Commissioner Robertson stated that the topic for the Multi-District Meeting was the importance of a good working relationship between the Board of Commissioners and the Board of Education. Commissioner Robertson noted that he was very proud that the Alexander County

Board of Commissioners and the Alexander County Board of Education had such an open working relationship and that both boards worked together for the benefit of the children.

Chairman Hammer stated that he and Commissioner Keever attended the School of Government's Spring Social and Dinner at the Lowe's Motor Speedway on April 7, 2005. Chairman Hammer stated that the School of Government's budget was discussed.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Commissioner Keever suggested the Board move Agenda Item #6 – Presentation of the New County Ambulance to the very end of the agenda since the Board would be going outside to view the ambulance.

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

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFICER GRANT AWARD

Hayden Bentley, Alexander County Sheriff, informed the Board that he had received a letter from the Governor's Crime Commission which stated that Alexander County's pre-application for a Domestic Violence Officer Grant had been selected to submit a full grant application. Sheriff Bentley stated that the total amount of federal funds recommended for this project was \$58,778.55. He also explained that if the grant was approved, the first year's local match would total \$10,944.35 and the second year's local match would total \$8,648.50.

Sheriff Bentley stated that he as well as Karen Hoyle, DSS Director, and Ingrid Townsend, Domestic Violence Resource Center Director, had met to review memorandums of understanding and to discuss protocols regarding the Domestic Violence Officer. Sheriff Bentley also mentioned the increased problem in domestic violence in the county. He noted that 7 of 20 citizens taken into custody this past weekend were arrested for domestic violence related cases.

Commissioner Bolick asked what responsibilities the Domestic Violence Officer would have when not involved in domestic violence related cases. Sheriff Bentley replied that the grant was very specific in regards to what duties the Domestic Violence Officer would have. He stated that position would include a shift of 2:00 PM to 10:00 PM and he noted that the officer would spend a lot of time following-up on domestic violence cases taken in by other officers during the previous night shift.

Commissioner Robertson inquired about the timeline for notification of the grant. Sheriff Bentley replied that staff should know by June if approved for the grant.

RESOLUTION FOR COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEEK

Chairman Hammer presented a Resolution Proclaiming April 10-16, 2005 as National County Government Week in Alexander County. Chairman Hammer stated that this was an opportunity to recognize County employees for their hard work and dedication. He stated that the Public Buildings/Maintenance team had recently completed some up fitting of the courthouse including repairing a hole in the court room floor, replaced the lighting, painting, and planting of new shrubs outside the courthouse. Chairman Hammer stated that this was an example of the great job County employees did and he thanked each of them.

Commissioner Robertson stated the all County employees worked together to provide services to the public. He stated that many larger counties had often commented that Alexander County's departments worked well together and he conveyed his appreciation to the County employees.

Commissioner Bolick stated that the Alexander Correctional Institute would be honoring all volunteers this Thursday, April 14, 2005

BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS

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

A. COUNCIL ON AGING

Appoint Scott Ross	3 year terms
Appoint Gaye Moone	
Appoint Kathleen Rowe	
Appoint Nan Campbell	
Reappoint Margo Mosley	
Reappoint Tim Lackey	
Reappoint Pat Fox	

B. SENIOR CENTER ADVISORY BOARD

Reappoint Max Smith	2 year terms
Reappoint Bill Shepherd	
Reappoint Shirley Mayes	

C. WPCOG WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Reappoint David Icenhour	2 years
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Chairman Hammer made a motion to approve the appointments and reappointments as presented. Commissioner Keever seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #31 & #32

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendments #31 and #32, which included the following information:

Budget Amendment #31 – To transfer funds to the Garage budget from other departments for vehicles repaired by the County Garage. To transfer funds for salaries and wages due to employees moving between departments. To budget for donations from Wal-Mart (\$1,000) and Fiberline, Inc. (\$100). To budget for a bioterrorism grant for EMS (protective equipment, patient tracking, training.)

Budget Amendment #32 – To transfer funds to the General Fund Garage budget for vehicles repaired by the County Garage.

Commissioner Keever made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #31 and #32. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

SCHEDULING OF WORK SESSION

Chairman Hammer requested the Board schedule a work session on Monday, April 18, 2005 at 6:00 PM in the CVCC / Alexander Center Multipurpose Room.

Commissioner Keever made a motion to schedule a work session on Monday, April 18, 2005 at 6:00 PM in the CVCC / Alexander Center Multipurpose Room. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

OTHER BUSINESS

The following issues were discussed during Other Business:

- A. Rick French, County Manager, stated that he would be attending a County Manager's Medicaid Relief Day on April 12, 2005 in Raleigh. He noted that the NCACC had requested all County Manager's meet with legislators, especially the Senators, regarding the Medicaid goal; therefore, he stated that he would be meeting with Senator John Garwood.
- B. Mr. French presented a list of several items to be declared surplus including:

1994 Chevrolet Cavalier
Various pieces of computer equipment
Assorted lamp posts
Assorted furniture
Various pieces of playground equipment

Mr. French stated that these items would be sold in an surplus auction that would be held by the Alexander County School System in the near future.

Commissioner Bolick made a motion to declare the items surplus as requested. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

- C. Mr. French stated that County leaders had been invited by Duke Power to attend a Community Leaders Appreciation Luncheon at Rock Barn Golf and Spa on May 3, 2005. Mr. French stated that the meeting started at 9:30 AM and ended at 12:00 Noon. He requested any Board member interested in attending the luncheon to contact Jamie Starnes, Clerk to the Board.
- D. Mr. French stated that nominations for the N.C. Outstanding Volunteer Service Awards needed by be submitted no later than May 31, 2005. He asked that nominees be submitted to Jamie Starnes, Clerk to the Board.
- E. Commissioner Robertson pointed out that Mr. French had participated in the 2005 Umstead 100 Mile Endurance Run this past Saturday. Commissioner Robertson stated that there were 225 starters and 87 finishers and he noted that Mr. French finished in 62nd place in 27 hours and 25 minutes. He also stated that Kurt Barkley, son of Paul & Susie Barkley, finished in 8th place in 20 hours and 48 minutes.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from March 28, 2005 Regular Commissioners' Meeting.
- B. Tax Release Requests for March \$177.52 and Tax Refund Requests for March \$1,105.08.

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

PRESENTATION OF NEW COUNTY AMBULANCE

Bradley Earp, EMS Director, conveyed his appreciation to the Board for allowing staff to purchase this much-needed piece of equipment. He stated that the new ambulance was a Ford E-450 XL 6.0 liter diesel cutaway chassis with 164" patient compartment. He stated that the total cost of the new ambulance was \$88,211 which included a new 650 pound Stryker MX-Pro stretcher (\$3,500 value). He also noted that a trade-in of \$10,221 was allowed for the 1998 van

type ambulance with 140,000 miles. Mr. Earp informed the Board that EMS took delivery of the new ambulance on March 23, 2005 and placed the ambulance into service on April 10, 2005 following state inspection by the N.C. Office of EMS.

Mr. Earp pointed out that several user-friendly changes had been made to the new ambulance that had not included in the other ambulances including:

- Rubber fender well trim and runner trim
- Tapered corners on the bumper
- Recessed doors and windows
- New lighting package for easier cleaning and maintenance
- New 3/8 inch reflective blue pin striping for more visibility of the ambulance
- Larger spinal equipment compartment to accommodate new boards
- Tapered interior cabinets which are safer to technicians and provide more room
- New heat/AC unit is plumbed down the interior roof and is filtered through household filters. This system keeps the patient compartment temperature more evenly distributed. The filters can be replaced with charcoal filters or HEPA filters to clean the air more efficiently.

Mr. Earp thanked the Board and Mr. French for their help in purchasing the ambulance. He stated that the ambulances were accumulating more mileage than ever before due to the lack of in-patient beds and limited capacity at the local hospital.

Commissioner Bolick asked where most patients were transported. Mr. Earp replied that most patients were taken to Frye Regional Medical Center in Hickory, followed by Catawba Valley Medical Center, Iredell Memorial Hospital, and Davis Regional Medical Center.

Commissioner Yoder conveyed his appreciation to Mr. Earp and the EMS staff for the great job they did on duty.

Chairman Hammer felt that this was another good example of the dedicated County employees that the Board was discussing earlier in the meeting. He stated that Mr. Earp had done his best to get the best "bang for the buck" with this ambulance.

At this time, the Board and staff exited the meeting to view the new ambulance and return for Closed Session. The time was 6:36 PM.

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

Commissioner Keever made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 6:55 PM to prevent the disclosure of confidential information and 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 Yoder made a motion to adjourn at 8:40 PM. Commissioner Keever seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

William L. Hammer, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board