

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING July 25, 2005

ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

PRESENT: William L. Hammer, Chairman
 W. Darrell Robertson, Vice-Chairman
 Wesley E. Bolick
 W. Norris Keever
 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, July 25, 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.

*****SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT*****

Chairman Hammer announced that the North Carolina Division of Air Quality had forecasted a High Ozone Action Day or Code Orange for tomorrow, July 26, 2005. He explained that the projected ozone levels would be unhealthy for the general public and especially harmful to children, the elderly, and anyone with respiratory or lung disease such as asthma, pneumonia, emphysema, and bronchitis. Chairman Hammer encouraged everyone to limit outdoor activity from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM.

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

Chairman Hammer recognized Janice W. Jones as the July 2005 Citizen of the Month for her contribution to Alexander County through her many volunteer activities and for her recent induction as National President of Kappa Kappa Iota, a Professional Organization for Educators.

Ms. Jones stated that Kappa Kappa Iota was the first and oldest educational organization for teachers in the United States. She also thanked the Board for the proclamation declaring July 2, 2005 at Janice W. Jones Day in Alexander County, which was read at the National Kappa Kappa Iota Convention in Savannah, GA.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pastor Jamie Steele, East Taylorsville Baptist Church, gave the invocation and also led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Keever stated that he was pleased that H1638 "911 Services Tax" had been put on hold for the time being. He explained that the House Public Utilities Committee had agreed to keep in place the current method of funding county 911 systems through a surcharge on telephone subscriber bills.

Commissioner Keever also announced that a special cook-out would be held in honor of the National Guard on Sunday, July 31, 2005 at 1:00 PM at the National Guard Armory. He stated that several troops would be sent to Iraq very soon and he urged everyone's prayers and best wishes for the troops.

Commissioner Bolick informed the Board that he had the honor of presenting a Key to the County to Erica Harold, Miss America 2003, who attended Forgiven Ministry's "One Day with God Camp" held on July 16, 2005. Commissioner Bolick explained that the program allowed children to spend a day with their fathers who have been incarcerated. He also stated that 18 churches and 135 volunteers helped throughout the day.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC HEARING: REZONING CASE 05-3: H & H ARENA

Sylvia Turnmire, Director of Planning & Development, presented Rezoning Case 05-3 submitted by Kent and Ritchie Herman, owners of H & H Arena. The applicants requested rezoning of property located at 533 Ned Herman Road from RA-20 (Residential-Agricultural) to H-C (Highway-Commercial). The size of the property is 10.72 acres and the existing land use is non-conforming use (H & H Arena) and a conforming use (Happy Trails Cowboy Church). Ms. Turnmire stated that zoning within 100 feet of the property was RA-20 to the north, south, east, and west. There is agricultural property to the north of the subject property, single-family site-

built homes and agricultural property to the south and east, and a singlewide manufactured home and agricultural property to the west.

Ms. Turnmire stated that the applicants wished to rezone the property for future use of a western store, restaurant, and to bring the arena into conforming status. She explained that the existing structure was permitted as a 170 x 275 foot farm building exempt from zoning regulations due to the bona fide farm definition. However, she noted that the use of the structure changed to an arena / rodeo after it was erected. Ms. Turnmire pointed out that since properties along Ned Herman Road were not served by public water, the subject property was served by a well and did not have an individual septic disposal system. She also mentioned that Ned Herman Road was a 60-foot right-of-way. Ms. Turnmire stated that if approved, the uses would have to meet the parking, signage, landscaping, and dimensional requirements of the Zoning Ordinance.

Ms. Turnmire stated that the property was surrounded by residential zoning, creating an issue of spot zoning, which is "invalid or illegal unless there is a clear reasonable basis for treating the singled out property differently from adjacent land." Ms. Turnmire noted that for any case involving spot zoning, the boards must address the following questions:

1. Did the zoning activity in the case constitute spot zoning as our courts have defined that term; and
2. If so, did the zoning authority make a clear showing of a reasonable basis for the zoning? The clear reasonable basis can be determined by reviewing 4 factors:
 - a. The size of the tract;
 - b. The compatibility of the disputed zoning action with an existing comprehensive plan;
 - c. The benefits and detriments resulting from the zoning action for the petitioning property owners, neighbors, and surrounding community; and
 - d. The relationship between the uses envisioned under the new zoning and the current uses of adjacent land.

Ms. Turnmire addressed staff comments in regard to these 4 factors to show a reasonable basis for zoning, which included:

2a. The size of the tract:

The subject property is 10.72 acres. The surrounding properties are:

West – 5.45 acres
North – 24 and 19 acres
South – 5.6 and 62.78 acres
East – 5 acres

2b. The compatibility of the disputed zoning action with an existing comprehensive plan:

1. Section 154.170: The purpose of the H-C Highway Commercial District is to provide suitable locations for those commercial activities which serve primarily the traveling public, including those which function rather independently of each other.
2. Section 154.140: The RA-20 District is established as a district in which the principal use of the land is for low-density residential and agricultural purposes including single-family dwellings, two-family dwellings, individual manufactured homes, and related uses necessary for a sound neighborhood. The regulations for this district are designed to stabilize and encourage a healthful environment for family life in areas where neither public nor community water or sewer facilities are available.
3. The Alexander County 1993 Comprehensive Plan identifies this area as lying in a "Limited Transition" area which is "to provide for development in areas that will have some services but that are only suitable for lower densities than those associated with the Urban Transition class and/or areas that are geographically remote from existing towns and municipalities. Areas meeting the intent of the Limited Transition classification will experience increased development (primarily residential) during the planning period. They will be in a state of development necessitating some municipal type services such as community water or sewage systems.

2c. The benefits and detriments resulting from the zoning action for the petitioning property owner, neighbors, and surrounding community:

The board must determine what effect the rezoning will have upon the entire community as a social, economic, and political unit.

2d. The relationship between the uses envisioned under the new zoning and the current uses of adjacent land.

If rezoned to H-C, any use listed in the use matrix would be allowed not just the use of which the applicant is applying. Common uses allowed in H-C include but are not limited to retail stores, automobile sales lots, restaurants, lodging establishments, and offices. All of the uses allowed in H-C should be considered, not only the use for which the applicant is applying. All immediate adjacent land is used for residential and agricultural purposes.

The closest commercially zoned properties are at the corner of U.S. Highway 64/90 West and Herman Road. Those properties are measured approximately 1,989 feet to the closest corner of the subject properties.

The closest industrially zoned properties are on U.S. Highway 64/90 West. Those properties are measured approximately 1,390 feet to the closest corner of the subject properties.

Ms. Turnmire stated that letters were sent by first class mail to the property owners within 100 feet of the parcel boundary and a sign was posted on the property. She noted that an adjoining property owner, Ms. Irene Price, called to ask several questions; however, she did not state a position in favor of or in opposition to the request.

Ms. Turnmire informed the Board that the Planning & Zoning Commission met on July 7, 2005 and recommended approval of the rezoning request by a majority vote.

Chairman Hammer called the public hearing to order and requested any public comment. There being no public comment, Commissioner Bolick made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Bolick made a motion to approve Rezoning Case 05-3. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

PUBLIC HEARING: PARAGON FILMS RAIL PROJECT

David Icenhour, Economic Development Director, discussed the expenditure of public funds for the Paragon Films Rail Project and he presented a Project Budget Ordinance totaling \$287,000. He explained that grants had been received for this project including an \$110,000 grant from the N.C. Department of Commerce and a \$148,372 grant from the Golden Leaf Foundation. In addition, the N.C. Department of Commerce has \$21,471 reserved that the County will be requesting to finish the project. Mr. Icenhour stated that a local match in the amount of \$7,157 was needed for the project as well.

Mr. Icenhour stated that bids for construction of the rail line were opened on Tuesday, July 19, 2005. He informed the Board that bids were received from Benfield Construction in the amount of \$282,991 and from Tar Heel Construction in the amount of \$286,770.

Chairman Hammer thanked Mr. Icenhour and Ben Zachary, Alexander Railroad, for their work on this project. He noted that the County would be gaining a \$10 to \$15 million investment and 25 jobs by spending only \$7,157.

Commissioner Yoder asked if the rail construction would be monitored. Mr. Icenhour replied that the project would be inspected throughout the construction as part of the NCDOT grant requirements.

Commissioner Robertson suggested that the base drawings and specs for the rail project be included in the contract.

Chairman Hammer called the public hearing to order and requested any public comment. There being no public comment, Commissioner Bolick made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Keever made a motion to accept the bid of \$282,991 submitted by Benfield Construction and to approve the Project Budget Ordinance for the Paragon Films Rail Project for expenditure of public funds. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

PUBLIC HEARING: PARAGON FILMS RAIL LEASE

David Icenhour, Economic Development Director, stated that rail lines would be constructed on County-owned property to serve the Paragon Films, Inc. facility as part of the Paragon Films Economic Development Project. Therefore, he presented a draft lease between Alexander County and Paragon Films, Inc. for the lease of a 1.15 acre parcel and rail lines to Paragon Films, Inc. by the County.

Mr. Icenhour stated that the property including the rail lines was estimated at \$164,217 and he noted that the property was being leased pursuant to N.C.G.S. 158-7.1 for the purpose of aiding and encouraging the location of a manufacturing enterprise within Alexander County. He explained that, as part of the lease agreement, Paragon Films, Inc. shall create no less than 25 jobs over a 2-year period within an average hourly wage that is higher than the average weekly wage for Alexander County as determined by the N.C. Department of Commerce and shall maintain and operate a manufacturing business in the County during the period of the lease. The County will also receive increased sales tax revenues generated in the area over the 10-year period following execution of the lease.

Mr. Icenhour again noted that this was a draft lease and that staff was currently working on the specific details. He asked that the Board approve the lease in concept until the details could be further reviewed.

The Board briefly discussed the lease with Mr. Icenhour, County Attorney Robert Campbell, and Ben Zachary, Alexander Railroad.

Chairman Hammer called the public hearing to order and requested any public comment. There being no public comment, Commissioner Bolick made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Keever seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Keever made a motion to approve the lease in concept subject to final review by the County Attorney, County Manager, and Chairman Hammer. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

PUBLIC HEARING: WAVE BID LAWS TO PIGGYBACK FOR NEW SUNGUARD CAD SYSTEM

Greg Cronk, Information Technology Director, requested the Board consider a waiver of the bid procedure for letting of public contracts for the purchase of equipment for the new 911 Communications system upgrade. He explained that N.C.G.S. 143-129 covered the formal bidding requirements for purchase contracts estimated to cost more than \$90,000 and he noted that Section 143-129(g) contained an exception to the formal bidding requirements for previously bid or "piggybacking" contracts allowing the County to "piggyback" off another governmental unit's contract for the purchase of a Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD).

Mr. Cronk also stated that Section 143-129(e)(9) contained an exception to the formal bidding requirements for purchases from contracts established by the State or any agency of the State if the contractor is willing to extend to a political subdivision of the State the same or more favorable price, term, and conditions as established in the State contract. He noted that this exception would allow the County to purchase the proposed radio equipment from North Carolina State Contract.

Commissioner Robertson asked how the 911 Communications system upgrade would affect emergency calls coming into the system. Mr. Cronk replied that the CAD system would electronically track all incoming calls for assistance and provide for quicker dispatching of emergency calls. Also, the system would keep track of all units dispatched, response time, and status of resources called in. Mr. Cronk also noted that the new system would track the location of a call instead of the caller giving directions to the dispatcher. Mr. Cronk mentioned that the existing radio equipment was in excess of 10 years old and would not be eligible for maintenance coverage after January 2006.

Commissioner Yoder asked if the equipment upgrade would eliminate the "dead spots" in the areas of the county for police and sheriff communications. Hayden Bentley, Sheriff, was present at the meeting and replied to Commissioner Yoder's question by explaining that the "dead spots" would only be eliminated by having more repeaters and antennas.

Chairman Hammer called the public hearing to order and requested any public comment. There being no public comment, Commissioner Keever made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Keever made a motion to allow a waiver of the bid procedure for letting of public contracts and to "piggyback" off another governmental unit's contract for the purchase of a CAD system as well as purchase the proposed radio equipment from North Carolina State Contract according to N.C.G.S. 143-129. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

AWARD CAD CONTRACT TO SUNGUARD

Greg Cronk, Information Technology Director, recommended the purchase of a Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system from SunGuard OSSI based on recommendations from the 911 Communications, Sheriff's Department, EMS, Fire, and Information Technology staff. Mr. Cronk informed the Board that the County currently used the SunGuard OSSI Records and Jail Management package and he noted that the CAD system would integrate directly into this system.

Mr. Cronk explained that the total funding requested for the CAD software purchase was \$196,747.16, which included \$159,278 for the OSSI CAD software, installation, and training along with \$24,469.16 for the necessary server hardware to run the system, \$7,000 for the PC hardware, and \$6,000 for setting up the server hardware. He stated that the County had a \$74,482 Homeland Security grant that must be used for the purchase of a CAD system and he noted that \$88,599.87 of the total CAD software costs could be paid from the E-911 Wireless Fund. The remaining \$33,665.29 would be paid from the funds that the County is looking to borrow for the upgrade of the communications center, which would be discussed later by Jennifer Herman, Finance Director.

Commissioner Keever made a motion to award the contract for the CAD software to SunGuard OSSI. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

AWARD RADIO CONTRACT TO WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS

Greg Cronk, Information Technology Director, recommended the purchase of new Motorola radio equipment from Wireless Communications, Inc. He stated that several software demonstrations of different radio systems were hosted for the 911 Communications, EMS, Fire, and County staff over the past year and he noted that staff also visited many different 911 centers in other counties to review radio systems and general operations. Mr. Cronk informed the Board that the County currently utilized Motorola radio equipment at the tower site on Linneys Mountain and remote site at Bethlehem EMS and Vashti Fire Department as well as a contracted with Wireless Communications Inc. for the support and maintenance of the present radio equipment.

Mr. Cronk explained that the total funding requested for the radio equipment purchase was \$121,532.52, which included \$113,345.81 for the radio equipment, installation, and training along with \$8,186.71 for a Spectracom Netclock. He stated that the County had a \$98,664 COPS grant that must be used for the purchase of the radio equipment and he noted that \$4,093 of the total radio equipment costs could be paid from the E-911 Wireless Fund. The remaining \$18,775.52 would be paid from the funds that the County is looking to borrow for the upgrade of the communications center, also to be discussed later in the meeting by Ms. Herman.

Commissioner Keever made a motion to award the contract for new Motorola radio equipment to Wireless Communications, Inc. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Project Funding Discussion

Jennifer Herman, Finance Director, reiterated Mr. Cronk's comments regarding the total cost of the CAD system and radio equipment as well as the amount of funding from the Homeland Security grant, the COPS grant, and the available monies from the E-911 Wireless Fund. Ms. Herman stated that the total projected cost of all components of the communications upgrade project totaled \$625,000. She informed the Board that Request for Proposals (RFP's) had been forwarded to several banks in order to borrow a maximum of \$475,000 (\$250,000 for the communications upgrade and \$225,000 for County building renovation). Ms. Herman stated that the RFP's requested semiannual payments for 4 ½ years, which would require no LGC approval. She mentioned that RFP's were to be returned by August 1, 2005; therefore, she would have a recommendation for a lending institution at the August 8, 2005 Commissioners' Meeting.

REIMBURSEMENT RESOLUTION FOR 911 COMMUNICATIONS PROJECT

Rick French, County Manager, presented a Resolution for Declaration of Official Intent to Reimburse. He explained that this would allow the County to receive a reimbursement from loan proceeds for any funds spent up front for the 911 Communications system upgrade project.

Commissioner Keever made a motion to approve the Resolution for Declaration of Official Intent to Reimburse. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

REPORT ON JULY 7, 2005 TORNADO DAMAGE IN WITTENBURG COMMUNITY

Chairman Hammer discussed the recent tornado in Alexander County. He conveyed his appreciation to all agencies and volunteers that were involved in helping with the damage caused by the storm including every fire departments in Alexander County particularly the Wittenburg, Hiddenite, and Taylorsville Fire Departments, Oxford Fire Department, Alexander Rescue, Claremont Rescue, Hickory Rescue, Troutman Fire and Rescue, Alexander County Sheriff's Department Patrol and Communications, Alexander County EMS, Alexander County staff at Old Wittenburg School, American Red Cross, Wittenburg Ladies Auxiliary, N.C. Emergency Management, N.C. Highway Patrol, N.C. Department of Transportation, and the National Weather Service.

Russell Greene, Emergency Services Director, thanked those citizens who helped their friends and neighbors. He also recognized Alan Townsend and Tim Chewning from the Alexander Rescue Squad and Chris Barnes from the Taylorsville Fire Department who were present at the meeting.

Mr. Greene stated that an F2 tornado with estimated 125 mile per hour winds touched down in Alexander County at 1:10 PM on July 7, 2005. Damage occurred on Dexter Deal Lane, Whittington Ridge, Highway 16 South, Barkley Lane, Stan-de-la Subdivision, Wittenburg Road,

Wittenburg Development Park, Millersville Road, and Old Charlotte Road. Mr. Greene discussed the damage at Lyndon's Riverview Sports and Country Road Greenhouse. He also mentioned that a Damage Assessment was conducted which determined damage to 27 homes (11 with major damage, 10 with minor damage, and 6 destroyed) as well as 3 businesses (one with major damage, one with minor damage, and one destroyed). Mr. Greene stated that residential damage totaled \$1,552,000 and commercial damage totaled \$810,000 for a total of \$2,362,000 not including out building, barns, or detached car sheds.

Mr. Greene presented a Power Point slide show presentation with photos of damage to property as a result of the tornado as well as repairs and replacements to property thus far.

Mr. Greene presented a Resolution Requesting the Governor Proclaim an Agricultural Disaster for Iredell, Alexander and Yadkin Counties. He explained that Julia Hout, U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agent, had informed him that crop damage had been reported in Alexander County including a corn crop on Barkley Road and a bean crop in Bethlehem. Mr. Greene stated that these folks would receive help rebuilding fences or recovery on their crops if the Governor declared an agricultural disaster.

Chairman Hammer made a motion to approve the Resolution Requesting the Governor Proclaim an Agricultural Disaster for Iredell, Alexander and Yadkin Counties. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Mr. Greene also briefly discussed a U.S. Department of Agriculture program that allowed for home improvement loans and grants. He mentioned that brochures were available at Starlite Grill, Highway 16 Superette, the County Administration Office, and Emergency Services Office for anyone interested.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS

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

A. GREATER HICKORY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Reappoint William Hammer

B. SENIOR CENTER ADVISORY BOARD

Appoint Ardeal Roseboro 2 years

Appoint Salvatore Rao

Appoint Kathleen Rowe

Appoint Phil Icard

Reappoint Gary Jennings

Reappoint Elaine Bowman

Reappoint Marie Sipe
Reappoint LeeAnne Whisnant
Reappoint William Hammer
Reappoint Karl Lenz (as ex-officio member only)

Commissioner Keever 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.

DESIGNATION OF VOTING DELEGATE FOR NCACC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Chairman Hammer informed the Board that a Voting Delegate needed to be designated for the NCACC Conference to be held August 25-28, 2005 in Charlotte, N.C.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to nominate Chairman Hammer to serve as the Voting Delegate. Commissioner Keever seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #44 - #49 (FY 2004-2005)

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendments #44 - #49, which included the following information:

Budget Amendment #44 – To increase the budget for revised revenue figures and for expenditures greater than original estimates.

Budget Amendment #45 – To increase the budget for revised revenue figures and for expenditures greater than original estimates.

Budget Amendment #46 – To increase the budget for expenditures in the Fire District Funds.

Budget Amendment #47 – To increase the budget for the 2007 revaluation project.

Budget Amendment #48 – To budget for additional half-cent sales tax funds received for schools.

Budget Amendment #49 – To increase the budget for expenditures in the Solid Waste Fund and the Enterprise Capital Reserve Fund.

Commissioner Keever made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #44 - #49. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #1 - #4 (FY 2005-2006)

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendments #1 - #4, which included the following information:

Budget Amendment #1 – To budget for a grant from Wal-Mart to purchase smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. To budget for the purchase of a replacement vehicle with funds carried over from 2004-2005 NCDOT grant. To budget for the use of Federal and State asset seizure funds by Sheriff's Department.

Budget Amendment #2 – To transfer funds from the DSS Capital Project to the General Fund to receive partial reimbursement from the State. To transfer funds between line items within the DSS Capital Project.

Budget Amendment #3 – To transfer funds between departments for allocation of annual insurance premiums for property and liability and workers' compensation.

Budget Amendment #4 – To transfer funds between departments for allocation of annual insurance premiums for property and liability and workers' compensation.

Commissioner Keever made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #1 - #4. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

DISCUSSION OF HOUSE BILL 635: PUBLIC COMMENT AT REGULAR LOCAL BOARD MEETINGS

Rick French, County Manager, informed the Board that House Bill 635 became effective July 11, 2005. He explained that this new law requires at least one period for public comment per month at a regular meeting. Mr. French stated that this new law applied to local boards of education, county boards of commissioners, and municipal governing boards. He also pointed out that Senator John Garwood and Representative Mark Hollo voted in favor of this bill.

Mr. French suggested the Board adopt reasonable rules governing the conduct of the public comment period and noted that these rules could be prepared and placed on the August 8, 2005 agenda.

The Board discussed several issues with the public comment period including where the period should be placed on the agenda, the time limit to be allowed, and other specifics to be included in the final draft of the rules.

Chairman Hammer asked if there was anyone in the audience who wished to speak on any particular issue. There being no public comment, Commissioner Bolick made a motion to close the public comment period. Commissioner Robertson 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. The Chamber of Commerce Street Dance will be held on Saturday, July 30, 2005.
- B. Mr. French suggested the October 10, 2005 Commissioners' Meeting be changed to October 3, 2005 and the December 5, 2005 Commissioners' Meeting be changed to December 12, 2005. He also suggested the second meeting in December be canceled. The Board agreed.
- C. Since the Clean Alexander Day was such a big success, Mr. French proposed scheduling another clean-up day in the fall and he suggested October 22, 2005. The Board agreed.
- D. Mr. French requested the Board declare the old dog lots (fencing) located at the landfill be declared surplus.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to declare the fencing as surplus. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

- E. Mr. French discussed a draft "Workers' Compensation Policy" and he stated that the policy could be placed on the August 8, 2005 agenda.

Commissioner Robertson asked that the OSHA / Safety Director be clarified in the policy.

- F. The next Greater Hickory Metropolitan Planning Organization and Urban Rural Planning Organization Transportation Meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 27, 2005 at 2:00 PM at the WPCOG Offices.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from June 6, 2005 Regular Commissioners' Meeting; Minutes from June 13, 2005 Special Called Meeting; and Minutes from June 20, 2005 Regular Commissioners' Meeting.
- B. Tax Release Requests for June \$2,294.38 and Tax Refund Requests for June \$449.12.
- C. Approval of Deputy Finance Officer.
- D. CDBG Project Number 05-C-1352 Scattered Site Housing Project Budget Ordinance and Agreement between the Western Piedmont Council of Governments and Alexander County for the Provision of Grant Management Assistance.
- E. 2005-2006 Water Rate Increase.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Keever 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 7:51 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 Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Bolick 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