

Draft

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**      September 26, 2005

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

**PRESENT:** William L. Hammer, Chairman  
W. Darrell Robertson, Vice-Chairman  
W. Norris Keever  
Larry Yoder

**ABSENT:** Wesley E. Bolick

**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, September 26, 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**

Commissioner Robertson gave the invocation and also led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Keever discussed the final meeting of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) Long Range Planning Committee which he attended on Thursday, September 22, 2005. He pointed out the committee had developed suggestions and goals that would be reviewed by the NCACC Executive Committee and staff and issued to all county commissioners. He also stated that a new executive director has been hired.

Chairman Hammer stated that Commissioner Bolick would not be present at the meeting because his sister-in-law was very ill and he was spending time with her and other family members.

## 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: N.C. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION 2005-2006 SECONDARY ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Clay Lunsford, Division 12 District II Engineer, presented the 2005-2006 Secondary Road Construction Program for Alexander County. He also introduced Mike Holder, Division 12 Engineer, and Reuben Chandler, Division 12 Maintenance Engineer.

Mr. Lunsford discussed the 2005-2006 Secondary Road Construction Program and allocations, which included the following information:

### \* FY 2005-2005 Anticipated Allocation:

Highway Fund - \$1,290,833.73  
Trust Fund - \$1,231,408.27  
Total - \$2,522,242.00

### \* Rural Paving Priority:

Priority No.	SR No.	Length (Miles)	Road Name & Description	Est. Cost
1F	SR1631	2.10	Stikeleather Road (additional funding) from SR1630 to SR1617	\$470,000
2F	SR1309	0.60	Boone Gap Road (additional funding) from SR1310 to dead end	\$190,000
3F	SR1548	0.62	Calvin Johnson Road from SR1404 to dead end	\$120,000
4F	SR1547	0.50	Joe Barnes Lane from SR1419 to dead end	\$140,000
5F	SR1471	0.70	Robertson Road from SR1472 to SR1469	\$100,000
6F	SR1619	1.10	Matheson Road from SR1605 to SR1630	\$350,000
7F	SR1335	0.80	Russell Gap Road from SR1335 to county line	\$195,000
8F	SR1518	0.70	Keever Lane from SR1496 to dead end	\$170,000
P.O.P.	SR1492	0.50	Duncan Lane from SR1491 to dead end	\$205,000
Total Miles: 7.62			Subtotal: \$1,940,000	

**\* Rural Paving Alternatives:**

Priority No.	SR No.	Length (Miles)	Road Name & Description	Est. Cost
9F	SR1504	0.54	Lackey Road from SR1503 to SR1001	\$130,000

**\* Subdivision Paving Priority:**

Priority No.	SR No.	Length (Miles)	Road Name & Description	Est. Cost
1F	SR1364	0.10	Renee's Rocky Top Drive (Houch Mountain) from SR1300 to dead end	\$25,000
2F	SR1449	0.10	Fox Mountain Road from SR1449 to Iredell County line	\$40,000
3F	SR1532	0.34	Winterhaven Road from SR1532 E.O.P. to dead end	\$50,000
4F	SR1583	0.34	Haven Circle from SR1582 to dead end	\$80,000
Total Miles: 0.88			Subtotal: \$195,000	

**\* Various Spot Stabilization and Secondary Maintenance Subtotal - \$250,175**

**\* Funds reserved for surveying, right of way acquisition, road additions, contingencies, overdrafts, and paving entrances to certified fire departments, rescue squads, etc. subtotal - \$137,067**

Mr. Lunsford stated that there had not been any subdivision paving alternates listed or any improvements to already paved roads. There will also not be any Trust Fund Safety improvements. Mr. Lunsford stated that the program was subject to availability of funding, right of way, and environmental review.

Chairman Hammer requested a new list of unpaved road throughout the entire county. He stated that latest list he had was from 2001. Mr. Lunsford stated that staff was currently working on a new list that he would forward to Chairman Hammer or County Manager Rick French once completed.

Commissioner Yoder asked how many miles of unpaved roads were left in Alexander County. Mr. Lunsford stated that there was approximately 70 miles of unpaved roads in Alexander County, which he felt was on the high side when comparing to surrounding counties.

Chairman Hammer called the public hearing to order and requested any public comment.

**Public Comment**

Claude Reeves stated that he lived in the Ridge Creek Subdivision off of Jake Reece Court. He stated that the road had been staked since the first of the year but no work had been completed and he noted that he had called the NCDOT and no one could tell him



when the work would be completed. Mr. Reeves stated that the road was in bad condition and he was concerned that the road had not been included in the list for paving.

Clay Lunsford replied that Jake Reece Court was included in the 2004-2005 Secondary Road Program. He noted that he would speak with Mr. Reeves after the presentation regarding his road paving.

There being no further public comment, Commissioner Keever made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve the 2005-2006 Secondary Road Improvement Program as presented. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Chairman Hammer asked what road projects had been completed with the N.C. Moving Ahead funding. Mr. Lunsford replied that the following projects had been completed: Richey Road, Highway 64/90 from the golf course to the county line, Old Wilkesboro Road, and Martin Luther King Drive. He noted that all other projects, including signalization, had been delayed because of the state budget shortfall.

Chairman Hammer mentioned that the Board of Commissioners had met with Mr. Lunsford and NCDOT staff members on April 23, 2003 and developed a list of project priorities for the N.C. Moving Ahead funding. Included in that list was the widening of Highway 16 South to a 3-lane from Macedonia Church Road to Alspaugh Dam Road and the widening of Highway 90 to a 3-lane for its entirety. Chairman Hammer stated that the 2003 traffic count for Highway 90 was 9,000 and 13,000 for Highway 16 South. He also discussed the need for a traffic light at the intersection of Macedonia Church Road and Highway 16 South because of the prison. He felt these projects should be first priority when the funding was available for road construction.

Chairman Hammer also stated that there was a School Bus Stop Ahead sign on Alspaugh Dam Road that was no longer needed. Mr. Lunsford stated that the NCDOT Division Traffic Engineer would contact the School Bus Garage Director of Transportation to get that removed.

Mike Holder, Division 12 Engineer, explained that the NCDOT had cut back on all projects because of the budget shortfall and revenue shortfall. He also stated that the cost of concrete, steel, asphalt, and even fuel had increased the operating costs for NCDOT. He noted that the NCDOT would have been below the cash reserves in October and November 2005 and would not have been able to pay daily operating costs and payroll if spending for projects continued.

Commissioner Keever suggested cutting back on scraping and reseeded to save some fuel.

Commissioner Yoder stated that there were currently no roads in Alexander County that allowed trucks hauling 53 foot trailers to operate efficiently even though permits could be issued. He asked that a study be done to determine a road(s) in Alexander County for that purpose and he

mentioned Highway 16 from Taylorsville to Wilkesboro. Mr. Holder replied that 2 studies were currently underway for Highway 16 and 321.

The Board thanked Mr. Holder and Mr. Lunsford for the report. The Board also congratulated Mr. Lunsford on his forthcoming retirement in December and wished him the best of luck in the future.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING: REZONING CASE 05-4: INGRAM FARM ROAD**

Sylvia Turnmire, Director of Planning & Development, presented Rezoning Case 05-4 submitted by Gary & Shirley Brown, Michael & Gale Hoover, Phillip A. Hoover, Phillip G. Hoover, Lisa W. McNeely, Dwayne Warren, John Warren, Gary Warren, Matthew Warren, Michael Warren, Paul & Martha Warren, and Steve & Susan Wike. The applicants requested rezoning of properties located on both Warren Road and Ingram Farm Road from R-20 (Residential) to RA-20 (Residential-Agricultural). The size of the properties (18 total properties) is 106 acres and the existing land uses include manufactured homes, single-family site-built homes, agricultural, and vacant land. Ms. Turnmire stated that zoning within 100 feet of the properties was R-20 to the north, R-20 and RA-20 to the south, and RA-20 to the east and west. There are single-family site-built homes, agricultural property, and vacant land to the north, east, and west of the subject properties as well as single-family site-built homes and agricultural property to the south.

Ms. Turnmire stated that the applicants wished to rezone the property for future residential and farming uses. She also stated that Matthew Warren intended to place a singlewide manufactured home on his property.

Ms. Turnmire explained that the Alexander County Zoning Ordinances identified RA-20 as a zoning district intended to provide for low density residential and agricultural purposes, including single-family site-built homes and individual manufactured homes. Primary, common uses allowed in RA-20 include but are not limited to site-built, modular, and manufactured homes, as well as agricultural uses. Ms. Turnmire stated that all of the uses allowed in RA-20 should be considered, not only the use for which the applicants were applying.

Ms. Turnmire mentioned that the Alexander County Land Development Plan showed these properties as being in an "Urban Transition Area" due to the close proximity to the Town of Taylorsville's planning jurisdiction and she explained that the purpose of the Urban Transition class was "to provide for future intensive urban development on lands that are suitable and that will be provided with the necessary urban services to support intense urban development. Areas meeting the intent of Urban Transition classification are presently being developed for urban purposes or will be developed in the next 5 to 10 years to accommodate anticipated urban growth." Ms. Turnmire noted that the primary difference between the RA-20 and R-20 zoning districts is that RA-20 allowed for manufactured homes and R-20 did not. Most other residential and agricultural uses are allowed in both districts.

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 properties. She noted that staff received



3 calls in regards to the case including Sylvia Boutwell, adjoining property owner, who asked several questions but did not state a position to the request. An individual with plans to purchase property within the area also called with questions and no position. Greg Kiziah, adjoining property owner, called with several questions regarding permitted uses within the RA-20 and R-20 district. Ms. Turnmire informed the Board that Mr. Kiziah stated that he "was not interested in seeing any additional mobile homes placed on the property." He also expressed a desire to submit an opposition letter prior to the Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting; however, staff has not received such letter to date.

Ms. Turnmire informed the Board that the Planning & Development staff recommended approval of the rezoning request. She also stated that the Planning & Zoning Commission met on September 1, 2005 and unanimously recommended approval of the rezoning.

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

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve Rezoning Case 05-4. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING: REVOLVING LOAN FUND**

David Icenhour, Economic Development Director, explained that the Revolving Loan Fund was created from state funds and was established for the sole purpose of supporting local economic development projects which created new employment opportunities. He stated that no local ad valorem taxes had been used to create the Revolving Loan Fund.

Mr. Icenhour requested approval of a \$50,000 loan to Royale Comfort Seating Inc. from the Revolving Loan Fund to aid in the relocation of manufacturing equipment from Catawba County to Alexander County. He also stated that the public benefit derived from making this loan consisted of the creation of 50 new jobs and the retention of 150 jobs as well as an expanded tax base. Mr. Icenhour mentioned that the repayment terms of the loan would be annual payments over a 5-year period at one percent interest.

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 Yoder seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Keever made a motion to approve the \$50,000 loan to Royale Comfort Seating from the Revolving Loan Fund to be paid back in annual payments over a 5-year period at one percent interest contingent upon loan documents being prepared and approved by the County Attorney. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

## **CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICE REPORT**

Karen Hoyle, Director of Social Services, informed the Board that there has been a significant increase in child neglect and abuse in Alexander County since 2003 and she noted that the trend was continuing. She presented graphs and charts explaining the number of reports and investigations for Child Protective Services for each month since 2000-2001. She also discussed in detail the number of reports and investigations for July and August 2005 including what type of abuse was involved, reporters of the abuse, and what location of the county the abuse took place.

Ms. Hoyle felt that a community wide effort was needed to halt and hopefully reverse the escalating trend of neglect and abuse. Therefore, she recommended a time-limited task force be formed to examine the current child neglect and abuse situation and to develop strategies aimed toward reversing this trend. She recommended representatives from the following organizations for the task force:

- DSS Board Representative
- School Superintendent
- Sheriff
- Police Chief
- District Attorney
- Chief District Court Judge
- Health Director
- Domestic Violence Shelter Director
- Partnership for Children Director
- Foothills Mental Health Director
- Community Child Protection Team Representative
- Social Services Director
- Others deemed appropriate by commissioners

Commissioner Robertson suggested a county commissioner and a representative from the Clerk of Court's Office to serve on the task force as well.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve the forming of a task force to develop strategies to stop child abuse and neglect. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

## **BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT #18**

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendment #18, which included the following information:



Budget Amendment #18 – To budget for a refund to the N.C. Department of Juvenile Justice for 2004-2005 JCPC leftover balances. To increase the budget for site clean-up for economic development.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #18. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

### **ALEXANDER COUNTY GOVERNMENT TRAVEL POLICY**

Rick French, County Manager, presented a revised Travel Policy that was initially presented at the September 12, 2005 Commissioners' Meeting for review by the Board. Mr. French explained that this policy was similar to other counties and covered items such as reimbursement rates for meals and mileage, travel modes, travel advances, and items not reimbursable.

Commissioner Keever made a motion to approve the Alexander County Government Travel Policy as proposed. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

### **RESOLUTION FOR DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS FORGET-ME-NOT WEEK**

Commissioner Robertson presented the Disabled American Veterans Forget-Me-Not Week Resolution declaring the week of October 8 – 15, 2005 as the annual Forget-Me-Not campaign in the community to raise funds to be used for the benefit of disabled veterans and their families. Commissioner Robertson pointed out that the DAV offered free services to disabled veterans and their families such as filling claims for government benefits and help with medical and employment problems.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve the DAV Forget-Me-Not Week Resolution. Commissioner Keever 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 Jail Committee will be meeting on Wednesday, October 5, 2005 at the Alexander County Courthouse. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the courthouse security, handicap concerns, and new facilities.
- B. The DSS Open House is scheduled for Thursday, October 20, 2005 from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM. The annual Clean Alexander Day is scheduled for October 22, 2005 from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The Grand Opening of the Auditorium will be held on October 23, 2005 at 3:00 PM.



- C. Commissioner Robertson, Health Director LeeAnne Whisnant, and Mr. French will be attending the Foothills Mental Health Retreat in Boone on October 7-8, 2005.
- D. A work session will be held on Monday, October 17, 2005 at the CVCC / Alexander Center.
- E. County staff just received notice concerning upcoming NCDOT outreach forums that will focus on the subject of revenue and the large gap in transportation needs in the state. One of the forums will be held on Thursday, October 13, 2005 at the Broyhill Center on U.S. 321 in Lenoir from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM.
- F. Mr. French presented some revisions to the Alexander County Email, Internet, & Computer Resources Policy and the Substance Abuse Policy to be discussed at the next Commissioners' Meeting.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Minutes from the September 12, 2005 Regular Commissioners' Meeting.

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

#### **CLOSED SESSION – N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1, 4, 5, & 6) TO PREVENT DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CONTRACTUAL, & PERSONNEL**

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 7:38 PM to prevent the disclosure of confidential information and to discuss economic development, contractual matters, and personnel issues pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1, 4, 5, & 6). Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Commissioner Keever made a motion to adjourn at 9:37 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