

Draft

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**      October 24, 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, October 24, 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 RECOGNITION\*\*\***

David Icenhour, Economic Development Director, was pleased to announce that Paragon Films, Inc. had been featured as one of the top 5 economic development projects in North Carolina for 2005 in the North Carolina Magazine, which is published by the N.C. Citizens for Business and Industry. Mr. Icenhour thanked many individuals for their assistance in the progress of economic development in Alexander County.

Mike Whitten, Paragon Films Inc. Plant Manager, discussed the progress of the Paragon Films building located within the Industrial Park. He stated that staff hoped to receive the temporary occupancy permit this week which would put them on schedule to begin storing and delivering film by October 31, 2005. He informed the Board that the first wave of employees had been hired and were being trained in Oklahoma at the present time and he noted that those employees would return in a couple weeks to train at the Alexander County facility so that production could begin shortly thereafter. He also mentioned that more employees would be hired in March or April 2006 for the second production line. Mr. Whitman stated that the first rail car of raw materials had been received and he thanked the County for the assistance with the rail spur. He

also pointed out that plans for a 60,000 square foot expansion were already in the works. He thanked the Board and County staff for their support.

## **INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

## **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Chairman Hammer stated that the annual Lion's Club fair, which began on October 11, 2005, was a great success with a large attendance. He congratulated the Lion's Club for their efforts.

Chairman Hammer stated that the annual Apple Festival was held on Saturday, October 15, 2005. He mentioned that many citizens attended the festival this year.

Chairman Hammer mentioned the Board's work session on October 17, 2005 as well as the DSS Open House held on October 20, 2005. He also discussed the Auditorium Grand Opening held on October 23, 2005.

Chairman Hammer informed the Board that a retirement ceremony would be held for Susie Barkley on October 25, 2005 from 2:00-4:00 PM at the CVCC / Alexander Center. He stated that Ms. Barkley was an asset to CVCC and would be missed.

Commissioner Bolick encouraged the Board members, staff, and citizens to volunteer for Habitat for Humanity. He explained that Habitat was currently trying to finish a home so that the family could be moved in by Christmas.

## **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Chairman Hammer requested Don Harrington be removed from the list of appointees to the Building Services Advisory Committee and replaced with Ryan Mayberry. He also noted that a commissioner needed to be appointed to this committee. Chairman Hammer also stated the need for a Closed Session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4, 5, & 6).

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

## **N.C. HIGHWAY 127 WATER PROJECT BIDS**

Rick French, County Manager, informed the Board that bids for the Highway 127 CDBG Water Project were received on October 18, 2005; however, he noted that the lowest responsible bid, \$497,595 submitted by Hickory Sand Company Inc., was well over the amount allowed by



CDBG funding and did not include engineering fees which would cost an additional \$47,000. Mr. French recommended the Board delay action on these bids to allow staff to possibly come to an agreement with Hickory Sand Company Inc.

Mr. French explained that increased fuel prices had caused a significant increase in building materials. He mentioned that the project, although delayed, would still be completed as planned.

## **RESOLUTION REQUESTING RECONVEYANCE OF MENTAL HEALTH CENTER TO ALEXANDER COUNTY**

Commissioner Robertson explained that the County's mental health center had been conveyed to Foothills Area Mental Health, Development Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Authority several years ago so that services could be provided by Foothills to county citizens. He also explained that General Assembly legislation now required mental health providers to be transitioned to more of a management entity rather than a provider relieving the need for the mental health building.

Commissioner Robertson discussed the Resolution Requesting Reconveyance of the Alexander Mental Health Center to the County of Alexander. He requested that the wording "or until June 30, 2006" be added under paragraph #1 to read as follows:

That the County of Alexander will provide the existing space presently utilized by Foothills Area Mental Health, Development Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Authority rent and utility cost free from the time of conveyance of the real property until space is no longer need by Foothills Area Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Authority or *until June 30, 2006*.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve the Resolution Requesting Reconveyance of the Alexander Mental Health Center to the County of Alexander to include the stated amendment. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

## **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT – ALEXANDER COUNTY / FOOTHILLS SERVICES, INC.**

Commissioner Robertson explained that the Memorandum of Agreement was simply a legal document showing that Alexander County was committed to the reconveyance of property as previously discussed. However, he requested his previous addition of the June 30, 2006 be added throughout the document as needed.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement to include the stated amendment. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

## **DISCUSSION OF BUILDING SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Kever explained that staff was working to improve the inspections and permitting process to better serve Alexander County citizens. He noted that staff had held meetings with contractors throughout the county for their ideas on how the system could be improved. Many contractors suggested modeling Catawba County, who has a Building Services Advisory Committee. Therefore, Commissioner Kever stated that the Board wished to form a similar committee for Inspections, Environmental Health, and Planning Departments to hear concerns, discuss parts of the code that weren't clear as well as code interpretation, difference of opinion, and new codes, and make recommendations to the commissioners. The Board agreed to make necessary appointments during the next agenda item.

## **BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS**

Chairman Hammer requested the following individuals be appointed to the Building Services Advisory Committee for one-year terms:

Ryan Mayberry, Northwest Building Company  
Clint Canaday, MCL Engineers  
Larry Jenkins, Kever Heating and Cooling  
Brent Fox, Fox Construction  
Mark Foy, R.E. Foy & Son Construction  
Tony Lackey, Lackey Plumbing  
David Land, Land's Electric  
Commissioner Robertson/Commissioner Kever

Chairman Hammer mentioned that either or both commissioners could attend the meetings.

Chairman Hammer made a motion to approve the appointments to the Building Services Advisory Committee. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

## **DECLARE DECEMBER 3-17, 2005 AS CHRISTMAS IN BETHLEHEM**

Commissioner Bolick mentioned several events to occur in Bethlehem during the Christmas holiday including the lighting of the Bethlehem Star on December 3, 2005 at 7:00 PM, the Christmas in Bethlehem Drive-Thru on December 9-11, 2005 from 6:30-9:00 PM, and a Christmas Dinner Theater on December 15-17, 2005 at 6:00 PM. Commissioner Bolick stated that there would be a \$10.00 charge for the dinner theater and noted that proceeds would benefit the Bethlehem Ministerial Association and Forgiven Ministry. He urged all citizens to attend or volunteer for these events and requested these dates be published in the local newspapers.

Commissioner Bolick made a motion to declare December 3-17, 2005 as Christmas in Bethlehem. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

#### **BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #23 - #27**

Rick French, County Manger, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendments #23 - #27, which included the following information:

Budget Amendment #23 – To budget for a 2.5% cost-of-living adjustment for 2005-2006.

Budget Amendment #24 – Also to budget for a 2.5% cost of living adjustment for 2005-2006.

Budget Amendment #25 – To increase the budget for an additional insurance premium due as a result of the 2004-2005 workers compensation audit. To increase the Elections budget for additional hours for a part-time employee due to a full-time employee's surgery. To budget for pre-employment costs associated with a Purchasing Agent position. To decrease the Resource Center budget due to a decrease in State funding. To increase the budget for an emergency management (HMEP) grant. To budget for training costs associated with the new financial / personnel software.

Budget Amendment #26 – To increase the budget for training costs associated with the new financial / personnel software.

Budget Amendment #27 – To increase the budget for completion of the Paragon Films Rail Project.

Commissioner Keever made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #23 - #27. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

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

- A. The Cooperative Extension Office has successfully relocated into the Alexander County Mental Health Center (formally Foothills Mental Health).
- B. The Clean Alexander Day held on Saturday, October 22, 2005 was a success. Chairman Hammer felt the day went more smoothly because of additional employees on staff to aid citizens.



- C. The next Commissioners' Meeting will be held on Monday, November 7, 2005 at 6:00 PM in the CVCC / Alexander Center Multipurpose Room.
- D. The N.C. Outstanding Volunteer Service Award ceremonies have been cancelled. The Board plans to hold a local recognition ceremony once all certificates and related materials have been received.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Minutes from the October 3, 2005 Regular Commissioners' Meeting.
- B. Tax Release Requests for September \$12,571.56 and Tax Refund Requests for September \$632.34.

Commissioner Kever 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)(4, 5, & 6) CONTRACTUAL & PERSONNEL**

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 6:38 PM to discuss economic development, contractual matters, and personnel issues pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4, 5, & 6). Commissioner Kever 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 7:32 PM. Commissioner Robertson 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