

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING April 10, 2006

ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

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

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

MEDIA: Micah Henry, The Taylorsville Times

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Monday, April 10, 2006 in the Catawba Valley Community College / Alexander Center Multipurpose Room, Taylorsville, North Carolina.

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Javier Rodriguez, President of Seminar Theology of Baja California, gave the invocation and Russ Hooks, student at Bethlehem Elementary School, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Keever stated that he attended a N.C. Essentials of Economic Development meeting in Hickory on April 6, 2006 where a regional development project was discussed. He mentioned that the need to teach students workforce skills in the schools was also discussed.

Commissioner Keever informed the Board that the House Medicaid Subcommittee had adopted a proposal that would use \$65 million in state Medicaid savings to provide Medicaid relief for counties in 2006-2007. He explained that under the plan, \$30.4 million would be used to cap county Medicaid costs at the 2005-2006 level of \$459.8 million and the additional \$34.6 million

would be used to provide targeted relief to all counties based on the percentage of Medicaid-eligible citizens in each county.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

David Icenhour, Economic Development Director, began with an update on his first week at the University of Oklahoma for the International Economic Development Institute's Certified Economic Developer Program. He thanked the International Economic Development Council for the Jack Ervin EDI Scholarship which paid for his tuition costs. He also thanked the Charlotte Regional Partnership who will be reimbursing the County for his airfare and hotel expenses.

Mr. Icenhour stated that the Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams Company had completed the renovation of the former Bassett Upholstery Building. He pointed out that the County had provided the company with a \$100,000 loan from the Revolving Loan Fund and had assisted them in receiving a \$125,000 N.C. Rural Center grant for the project.

Mr. Icenhour introduced several individuals from the Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams Company including John Bounous, Chief Financial Officer; Steve Bruton, Director of Administration; and John Forshee, Controller. Mr. Bruton presented a slide show which included before and after photos of the building and costs associated with the project. He also noted that 47 jobs had been created from July 1 to December 31, 2005.

The Board thanked the Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams Company for the job creation and congratulated them on their success.

HEALTH REPORT ON METHAMPHETAMINE

Leeanne Whisnant, Health Director, gave a slide show presentation on methamphetamine labs and implications for childcare providers. She explained that public health staff was trying to educate the public and childcare providers about this problem. The slide show included information regarding how methamphetamine was used and made as well as effects the drug had on the body. She explained the dangers to children who have been exposed to the drug as well as hazards to pregnant women and their unborn children. Ms. Whisnant informed the Board that public health was responsible for decontaminating methamphetamine lab sites, notifying surrounding property owners, and remediation of health hazards prior to re-occupancy of homes.

Karen Hoyle, DSS Director, spoke about the increase in child abuse, both physical and sexual, as a result from methamphetamine use. She stated that 87% of child abuse cases involved drugs of some kind. She also discussed the Alexander County Drug Endangered Child Protocol which outlined responsibilities for law enforcement, DSS, EMS, SBI, Health Department, etc. in the event that a methamphetamine lab is discovered.

Hayden Bentley, Sheriff, discussed the Sheriff's Department efforts to stop the production and distribution of methamphetamine in the county. He also gave some signs the public could look for in identifying labs in their communities including suspicious behavior and a strong pet urine odor. He urged citizens to contact the Sheriff's Department if they suspected a lab in their area. Mr. Bentley also stated that the N.C. Methamphetamine Lab Prevention Act of 2005 mandated that several key ingredients used in making methamphetamine be placed behind the counter and purchased in limited amounts.

Commissioner Bolick felt the County should provide some funding for billboards to get the word out to the public regarding what signs to look for. Commissioner Keever suggested posting some information on the County website.

The Board thanked these individuals for attending the meeting and presenting this information. The Board also felt that efforts to educate the public needed to continue to fight this problem.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no one present to speak during the Public Comment Period.

PROCLAMATION FOR NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEEK

Chairman Yoder presented a Proclamation Declaring the Week of April 23 – 29, 2006 as National County Government Week in Alexander County and recognizing the services and protection county governments provided for their citizens.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve the Proclamation Declaring the Week of April 23 – 29, 2006 as National County Government Week in Alexander County. Commissioner Keever seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #53 & #54

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendments #53 and #54, which included the following information:

Budget Amendment #53 – To increase the budget for Criminal Justice Partnership Program reallocation funding. To increase the budget for additional Medicare generated revenue in Home Health. To increase the budget for updated cost estimates to complete

the veteran flag holder project. To increase the budget for CVCC telephone and janitorial costs for the remainder of 2005-2006. To budget for the State Public School Building Capital Fund grant for the air conditioning project in the Taylorsville Elementary School gym. To decrease a budgeted transfer from Solid Waste funds needed to purchase equipment for the landfill.

Budget Amendment #54 – To budget for the purchase of a used road tractor (\$8,500) and a used loader (\$40,000).

Commissioner Keever made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #53 and #54. Commissioner 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. Graham Fields from Senator Elizabeth Dole's Office will be at the County Administration Building on Thursday, April 20, 2006 from 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM. Mr. Fields will be available to meet with the public during that time.
- B. County staff is in the process of developing an Energy Conservation Plan for all County buildings. Craig Mayberry, Purchasing Agent, will be studying the square footage of each building and comparing energy costs. Mr. French stated that cutting energy costs by 15% would save the County approximately \$30,000.
- C. The NCACC District Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 22, 2006 from 12:00 Noon to 4:00 PM at the Iredell County Agricultural Center in Statesville. Several department heads along with Commissioners Keever and Hammer plan to attend.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from the March 27, 2006 Regular Commissioners' Meeting.
- B. Resolution Opposing the Inclusion of National Forest Land in the Secure Rural Schools Land Sales Initiative.
- C. Resolution in Support of Video Competition Everywhere.
- D. Tax Release Request for March \$3,008.11 and Tax Refund Requests for March \$2,101.89.

Commissioner Keever made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Hammer 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 Keever made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 7:29 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 Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Hammer made a motion to adjourn at 7:58 PM. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Larry G. Yoder, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board