

Draft

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**     March 26, 2007

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

**PRESENT:**    W. Darrell Robertson, Chairman  
                  Wes Bolick, Vice-Chairman  
                  William L. Hammer  
                  Harold M. Odom  
                  Larry G. Yoder

**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, March 27, 2007 in the Catawba Valley Community College / Alexander Center Multipurpose Room, Taylorsville, North Carolina.

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**\*\*\*SPECIAL RECOGNITION\*\*\***

Chairman Robertson presented a Key to the County to Sam Zachary in appreciation of 50 years of outstanding service to the citizens of Alexander County. Chairman Robertson mentioned the many memberships, volunteer and leadership roles Mr. Zachary held in the county as well as several awards he had received including the N.C. Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

Mr. Zachary thanked the Board for honoring him.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Hammer mentioned an upcoming N.C. Association of County Commissioners Agriculture Forum on April 27, 2007 in Johnston County for discussion of "The Business of Farming: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Challenges and Opportunities." He also stated that bio fuels would be discussed.

### **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Chairman Robertson requested a Public Comment Period be added as Agenda Item #2A and a Board Appointment be added as Agenda Item #4A.

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

### **AMERICAN RED CROSS CATAWBA VALLEY CHAPTER 90<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY PROCLAMATION**

Commissioner Hammer presented a proclamation recognizing the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Catawba Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross. He presented a Key to the County to the organization in recognition of its commitment to humanitarian services and to the citizens of Catawba and Alexander Counties.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the proclamation recognizing the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Catawba Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross. Commissioner Odom seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Jerry Cates, Red Cross Board Chairman, thanked the Board for the recognition and stated that it was a pleasure to have an active office in Alexander County and to have citizens involved. He also thanked the Board and County staff for support of the office.

Bob Burns, Alexander Branch Director, thanked several individuals for their support including the Alexander County Board of Commissioners, County Manager Rick French, United Way Director Gail Drum, Town Manager David Odom and the Town Commissioners, Mr. Cates and the Red Cross Board, Emergency Services Director Russell Greene, and all emergency personnel.

### **ALEXANDER CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL GIS CLASS PRESENTATION**

Jake Lowman and Bruce Bentley, Alexander Central High School GIS Class students, gave a slide show presentation with photos and information about an Alexander County atlas book project originally mentioned by George Brown, GIS Analyst, at the February 12, 2007 Commissioners' Meeting. The presentation included photos and data collected for the project relating to education and economic development in the county. The students also mentioned

other chapters covered in the atlas book project including location and geography, history and culture, retail, vital services, and arts and recreation.

Mr. Brown mentioned that the class had generated new data layers that would be used in the County's GIS Department.

Eric Walker, GIS Class Instructor, informed the Board that the class began working on this project 3 weeks ago after receiving the ArcView software from ESRI and he noted that, once completed, the atlas book would be available for purchase and could also be placed online. He conveyed his appreciation for the partnership with the County on this project.

The Board thanked the class for attending and for their hard work on this project.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Dennis Duval stated that he lived on Dandelion Drive and he asked for some assistance from the County with smoothing out the gravel along the road. Chairman Robertson explained that the County did not have authority over the roads in the county but that he would forward Mr. Duval's request to the N.C. Department of Transportation.

### **ASSESSMENT, CLEANUP, & REDEVELOPMENT OF OLD LANDFILL SITES**

Rick French, County Manager, stated that Governor Mike Easley was proposing the development of a partnership between the state and local governments to clean up old landfill sites throughout state and also provide funding for redevelopment of the sites. He explained that there were approximately 700 old landfills sites statewide, 6 of which were in Alexander County, that were closed before the state's permitting system became effective in 1983. Mr. French pointed out that Governor Easley's proposed \$2.00 per ton disposal surcharge would apply to residential, commercial, industrial, and construction and demolition debris type waste. He also noted that, if approved, this clean-up process could cost Alexander County up to \$50,000.

Chairman Robertson suggested action on this issue be tabled so that it could be reviewed during the budget process to allow staff time to determine where each site in Alexander County was located and who was liable for them.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to table this issue. Commissioner Hammer seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

### **BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT #38**

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendment #38, which included the following information:

Budget Amendment #38 – To budget for architect fees for the Jail Project to be paid during the 2007 fiscal year. To increase the Health Department budget for one time funds for the Family Planning Program. To increase the Health Department budget for dental kits and other educational materials for two new children's groups. To increase the budget for autopsies and investigations performed by the Medical Examiner's Office.

Commissioner Bolick made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #38. Commissioner Hammer seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

## **BOARD APPOINTMENT**

Commissioner Hammer stated that he had been appointed to the Equalization & Review Board in February but would not be able to attend the meetings due to other commitments. Therefore, Commissioner Hammer made a motion to appoint Commissioner Bolick to the Equalization & Review Board as his replacement. Commissioner Odom 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 County has advertised for lawn mowing bids to be submitted by 3:45 PM on April 4, 2007. A bid opening will be held at 4:00 PM.
- B. The County, along with the School System, will hold a joint surplus property auction on April 26, 2007. The auction will begin at 6:00 PM at the old Dayton property.
- C. The NCACC has scheduled its annual series of district meetings to update commissioners and other county officials on the latest legislative developments in Raleigh. Our district meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2007 at the Broyhill Civic Center in Lenoir.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Minutes from the March 12, 2007 Regular Commissioners' Meeting.

Commissioner Hammer made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Odom 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 Odom made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 6:58 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 Hammer made a motion to adjourn at 8:05 PM. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

---

W. Darrell Robertson, Chairman

---

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board