

Draft

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**     June 11, 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  
                  Kim Gilliland, Hickory Daily Record

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Monday, June 11, 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**

Rev. Bill Smith, Bethel Baptist Church, gave the invocation and C.J. McPherson, student at East Alexander Middle School, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

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

## **PUBLIC HEARING: 2007 – 2008 PROPOSED ALEXANDER COUNTY BUDGET**

Rick French, County Manager, reviewed the proposed 2007-2008 Alexander County budget. He stated that the proposed budget for the General Fund was \$31,488,084 or 6.3% more than the current amended budget. He also noted that he was recommending a property tax rate of 53.5 cents, a 2.5 cent increase from the current rate. Mr. French explained that the property growth rate for the past 4 years increased less than 6.5% or 1.6% per year, which did not generate enough revenue to even pay for increases in insurance premiums. He provided the following reasons for the tax rate increase:

- Increases in EMS costs of nearly \$430,000 will be needed due to the closing of our local emergency room. This proposal will add 9 new paramedics and allow Alexander County to be more competitive with surrounding counties in the recruitment and retention of paramedics. EMS will be changing from a 24/48 hour schedule to a 24/72 hour schedule and the purchase of a new replacement ambulance is being recommended as a result of the increased mileage being traveled for emergency services. The Alexander County Rescue Squad will be provided funding for a full-time employee to work during day shifts, a partnership that will only strengthen our emergency services.
- A 3% salary increase for all full-time County employees effective September 2007 will cost \$267,000. Wages for Alexander County employees currently average an estimated 5% less for counties of similar size. We have 231 full-time employees and 101 part-time employees and most of those are employed in DSS (57 employees), Sheriff's Department/Jail/Court Facility/Communications (44 employees), Health Department (28 employees), and EMS (22 employees).
- There are 14 new employees proposed in the budget and 9 of those are in EMS. Other positions include a County Engineer position to replace a senior inspector position not included in the budget, a Communications Supervisor, a Benefits / Wellness Coordinator, a Jail Supervisor, and an Animal Control employee.
- \$250,000 is budgeted for the purchase of property for a new industry. This is 50% of the total cost; the other half will be budgeted in 2008-2009.
- \$115,000 is budgeted for increased worker's compensation costs.
- \$100,000 is budgeted for providing security at the Alexander County Courthouse. Metal detectors were added last year and are manned during all business hours and extra security is provided during court.
- \$125,000 represents the increase in the debt service payment for the auditorium. This year, Alexander County will pay a total of \$325,000.

- A \$100,000 increase in the annual appropriation to the school system (from \$4.9 million to \$5 million).
- \$85,000 is budgeted for the Bethlehem Branch Library operational costs.
- The Elections Department budget increased by over \$55,000 for next year's town election and Presidential primaries.
- Over \$175,000 is budget for fuel. Four departments use over 80% of the fuel in the County budget including the Sheriff's Department, EMS, Transportation, and the Landfill.
- Tipping fees will increase from \$44.33 to \$50.00 per ton. Foothills Environmental has increased their costs over \$2.15 per ton and the floor at the transfer station needs to be repaired; an estimated cost of \$60,000. In addition, the state is proposing to increase the per tonnage fee by \$2.50 which could cost Alexander County \$63,252 annually. The \$2.50 charge from the state would have to be collected locally and reimbursed for the following state programs - \$1.00 per ton for orphan landfills, \$1.00 per ton for fluorescent lamp recycling, 45 cents per ton for litter programs, and 5 cents per ton for oyster shell recycling.
- The monthly fee for water will be increased by \$2.00 and the usage fee will be increased by 5%. This is in response to an increase in rates by the City of Hickory.

Mr. French also presented several graphs and charts that provided information regarding increases in property valuation from 2003 to 2008, property tax history and future projections, comparisons of property tax rates, fund balance, general fund, and number of employees for Alexander County and counties similar in size, general fund expenditures for 2007-2008, EMS call volume from 2003 to present, Rescue Squad dispatches from June 1, 2006 to May 31, 2007, and fire department dispatches from June 1, 2006 to May 31, 2007.

Mr. French explained that the jail project had been put on hold for the time being to determine what would take place with the hospital. He stated that the debt service for a new jail would cost 4 or 5 cents on the tax rate and he noted that another 7 or 8 cents would be needed if the County purchased, renovated, and operated the hospital. He briefly mentioned that the Senate was discussing a swap for all Medicaid costs from counties in exchange for a sales tax or other revenue stream.

Mr. French thanked several individuals for their work with the budget including Finance Director Jennifer Herman, the Finance staff, the Finance Committee, and the department heads.

**Board Comment**

Commissioner Hammer thanked Mr. French along with Ms. Herman, the Finance Committee, and the department heads. He stated that all major projects that the County had planned to do during this budget year had been put on hold until a decision was made with the hospital. He explained that Alexander County had been a training ground for

several years because wages were lower than surrounding counties and he pointed out that the 3% increase was needed to put Alexander County more comparable with other counties. Commissioner Hammer discussed the number of County employees and mentioned that most departments were very small; some with only one employee. He reviewed how many employees were in each department, pointing out that many DSS and Health Department employees' salaries were mostly paid by the state. Commissioner Hammer stated that counties were required to adopt a balanced budget by June 30<sup>th</sup>; however, he noted that the state budget was usually not adopted until several months later, forcing counties to adopt budgets without any certainties regarding Medicaid relief, possible sales tax monies, etc. He mentioned that the Board was being forced to increase the property tax rate due to these uncertainties along with the hospital situation.

Commissioner Yoder stated that he was expecting a 6 to 8 cent property tax increase when the Finance Committee initially began looking at the budget but he noted that he was thankful that they were able to get the increase down to 2.5 cents. He pointed out that many departments would not be receiving everything they had asked for in 2007-2008. He felt that a 2.5 cent increase was the only way to allow the County to continue to provide services. Commissioner Yoder felt the 3% COLA was needed for County employees because they did an excellent job. He reiterated that the hospital was the Board's top priority at the moment and that the effort had been bipartisan. He mentioned that EMS had taken on more calls and responsibility since the closing of the hospital which had promoted the EMS schedule change from a 24/48 hour schedule to a 24/72 hour schedule to help boost morale and create a better working environment. Commissioner Yoder stated that the Board sincerely wished to spend the budget wisely to provide a better life for the citizens.

Commissioner Bolick thanked John Watts, liaison to Representative Ray Warren, for his assistance with the hospital situation. He also discussed his initial concerns with appropriating \$250,000 for a new industry and noted that he later realized that new industries were needed to boost the growth in the county. Commissioner Bolick also mentioned that \$175,000 had been budgeted for fuel costs. He stated that he had recently purchased a hybrid vehicle and was researching its gas mileage daily. He felt that purchasing hybrid vehicles was something the County may need to do in the future.

Commissioner Odom stated that he had made a promise to the citizens when he ran for county commissioner in 2006 to reduce property taxes and he noted that he would be voting against the budget for that reason. However, he felt that this year's budget was a good one and that the Board had done the best it could. He mentioned that the closing of the hospital was something the Board had no control over and that steps had been taken in a bipartisan way to resolve the problem. He stated that the Board would like to see an outside investor purchase the hospital property and operate a hospital / emergency room facility so that the County wouldn't have to spend the tax payer's money on operating a hospital. Commissioner Odom also noted that even though the project was on hold, the County would eventually be forced to construct a new jail which would cost several million dollars to complete. He pointed out that the accident last year involving the ambulance had increased the worker's compensation rates tremendously.

Chairman Robertson stated that this had been a tough budget preparation due to the many increases as well as the uncertainty of the hospital. He discussed the difference in revenue of a one cent property tax increase in counties similar in size to Alexander and noted that the decrease in growth in Alexander County had an effect on that revenue. He stated that Alexander County had one of the lowest tax rates in the state and he noted that the Board was able to keep the tax rate low because of the efficiency of the County employees. Chairman Robertson also addressed the jail project and noted that the project could possibly be addressed soon if the General Assembly relieved counties of the Medicaid burden.

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

**Public Comment**

Lana Davidson asked if one of the EMS stations could be converted into a walk-in emergency station. She stated that many people were able to drive to the emergency room without being transported by EMS and she felt that EMS paramedics could be trained to read x-rays and perform minor sutures. She asked the Board to consider this option due to the lack of an emergency room.

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

Chairman Robertson stated that the proposed 2007-2008 budget was available for the public to view at the County Administration Building. He also noted that an additional public hearing would be held on June 25, 2007.

**PUBLIC HEARING: HOSPITAL / EMERGENCY ROOM**

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the recent closing of the hospital / emergency room and the options for the property. He explained that 6 different companies or investment groups had visited the property and that there were currently 2 companies that were very interested in possibly purchasing the property, one that's interested in operating a small hospital and the other a treatment facility. Mr. French stated that the County would like to either find a partner to operate an emergency room or an outside company or investment group to purchase the property and operate the facility. He pointed out that the property tax rate would have to be increased 7 to 8 cents for the County to be able to purchase, renovate, and operate the hospital.

Chairman Robertson informed everyone that several commissioners along with County Manager French had met with Serge Dihoff, Office of Rural Health & Resources, Division of Facility Services on May 8, 2007 where the license, provider number, and critical access designation for the hospital was discussed. He pointed out that, based on those conversations, a time period of approximately 12 months was needed to identify a service provider, establish management terms, complete renovations, and receive inspections to have the existing facility operational.

### **Board Comment**

Commissioner Hammer stated that Alexander County was unique in having a hospital within 25 miles in any direction; however, that had not stopped the Board from trying to reopen our hospital facility. He discussed the need for an emergency room or an urgent care facility in the county. He pointed out that 20% of the citizens that used the hospital in the past did not have insurance which contributed to the decision by Frye Regional Medical Center to leave.

Commissioner Yoder stated that the Board was not looking to open another full-size hospital because the facility would not be supported like it had been many years ago when specialized treatment was available there. He stated that the Board was more interested in an emergency room along with a few observation / medical treatment rooms. He discussed the additional costs incurred by EMS and the Sheriff's Department since the closing of the hospital. Commissioner Yoder mentioned that it was going to cost tax dollars for the County to purchase, renovate, and operate the hospital and he felt that a referendum should be held to allow the citizens of the county to decide if that's what they wanted to happen.

Commissioner Bolick stated that staffing the hospital would be the biggest cost incurred if the County purchased the hospital at approximately \$1 million per year for emergency room staff. He agreed with Commissioner Yoder that the citizens should have an opportunity to vote on the issue during a referendum.

Commissioner Odom stated that the hospital was a situation the County couldn't walk away from and he also felt that the decision as to whether or not the County purchased and operated the hospital should be left up to the voters.

Chairman Robertson discussed the many needs at the hospital building including a new boiler, heating / cooling system repair, a new roof, fire protection system upgrades, asbestos removal, and interior upgrades. He stated that there had been discussions with the Department of Corrections and Foothills Mental Health regarding use of the facility; however, he noted that neither had any additional funding for the use or purchase of the property. Chairman Robertson also noted that Representative Ray Warren and Senator Steve Goss was aware of the situation and was investigating some one-time funds for the purchase of the property if needed.

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

### **Public Comment / Board Response**

Melissa Albright, former employee of Frye Regional Medical Center / Alexander Campus, stated that she and other employees had been informed by Frye management that money had not been a factor in their decision to cease operations. She stated that she had heard that the facility had always operated in the black. She also felt that it would be better to build a new facility and start fresh instead of trying to renovate the current building. She felt that the lack of use wouldn't be an issue if a new facility was

constructed and designed to cater to the unique needs of the county. Ms. Albright also inquired as to when the license for the facility expired. She felt that the elderly needed a hospital facility and noted that she would help in any way.

Chairman Robertson replied that the decision to renovate the building or construct a new facility would be determined by the party who purchased the property. He also stated that the license would expire June 30, 2007; however, he noted that the Division of Facility Services had assured the Board that the license would be held as long as progress was being made to establish another facility.

Clyde Ingle, liaison to Senator Steve Goss, was present to assure the Board and citizens of Senator Goss' concern regarding the absence of a hospital facility in Alexander County and was ready to be of assistance in any way possible. He stated that Senator Goss had recently been appointed to a Joint Select Committee on Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Management Recovery where he would investigate emergency services in the region and make recommendations for changes in state law and policies to better these efforts. Mr. Ingle mentioned that Senator Goss was willing to meet with local officials regarding this issue.

Jessie Mayes, local barber shop owner, stated that he was pleased to hear that the County was making efforts to establish a medical facility in the county and mentioned that he knew several people whose lives had been saved because of the emergency room. He noted that he would be willing to pay a 10 cent tax increase to have the facility re-opened and knew others who would be willing to do the same. He felt that the recent school bus accident was evidence of the need of an emergency room.

Lana Davidson also stated that she would be willing to pay an extra 10 cents on the property tax rate to have the hospital / emergency room re-opened. She also urged the Board to work with Representative Ray Warren and Senator Steve Goss to force insurance agencies to accept all surgeons within the state of North Carolina instead of a select few in "the network."

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

Chairman Robertson also pointed out that the County had met with Town of Taylorsville representatives regarding the future of the hospital facility. He stated that the Board would keep the public informed of any progress made.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING: CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT 07-1 – SWARTZ**

Sylvia Turnmire, Director of Planning & Development, presented Conditional Use Permit 07-1 submitted by Jeffrey J. Swartz who requested conditional use approval to construct a bed and breakfast facility on property located on Crappie Hollow Lane currently owned by Connly and

Teresa Spencer. The size of the property is 2.554 acres and the existing land use is vacant. Ms. Turnmire stated that zoning within 100 feet of the property was RA-20 on all sides. There is vacant land to the north and west of the property, single-family site-built residential to the south and east as well as some wooded areas to the east.

Ms. Turnmire explained that the applicant was proposing to construct a bed and breakfast facility of approximately 5,000 square feet on the subject property with the estimated cost of construction at \$300,000 to include 5 bedrooms for rent, one bedroom for the owner, and an additional bedroom for a physically and mentally challenged relative, totaling 7 bedrooms. She presented copies of the application, site plan, elevation drawings, and location map for the Board's review.

Ms. Turnmire stated that the property would be served by an individual well and private septic system and she noted that the Environmental Health Department was in the process of reviewing the septic application. She mentioned that Bert Gibson, Environmental Health Supervisor, was "fairly confident" that the property would support a 5-bedroom unit. She informed the Board that Crappie Hollow Lane was connected to B&T Lane (Off Rink Dam Road) and was a privately maintained paved road with a 20 foot right-of-way for 782.41 feet beginning at the intersection and then a 45 foot right-of-way for 1,020.77 feet to the subject property. She also pointed out that the property was subject to the 100-year flood and that a portion of it lied in Zone AE, while noting that the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance required that all structures be located one foot above the base flood elevation level. Ms. Turnmire stated that for this particular lot, all structures would have to be located above 936 feet.

Ms. Turnmire stated that a minimum of 30,000 square feet was required in the RA-20 zoning district with no public water or sewer and she noted that this lot met the requirement at 2.554 acres (111,257.34 square feet). She mentioned that the proposed structure met the principal structure setbacks as drawn on the site plan. Ms. Turnmire stated that one parking space for each rented bedroom and two spaces for each bedroom providing permanent residence was required with one of those spaces being handicap accessible. She also noted that the Zoning Ordinance did not currently require landscaping between residential uses / districts.

She reported that letters were sent by first class mail to the property owners within 100 feet of the parcel boundary, a sign was posted on the property, and an advertisement was placed in *The Taylorsville Times*. She noted that staff had received one call from Fred Lackey, an adjoining property owner, who is opposed to the request due to safety concerns with the increased traffic on Crappie Hollow Lane.

Ms. Turnmire informed the Board that the RA-20 zoning district allowed the proposed use as a conditional use permit with approval by the County Commissioners. She stated that the Board could choose to place conditions on the proposed project in terms of dimensional requirements, landscaping, and other conditions. Ms. Turnmire stated that, given the intense nature of this residential / commercial-related use, the Planning & Development staff recommended approval of the conditional use permit with the following conditions:

1. A maximum of 5 rented bedrooms.

2. Provide a 10-foot buffer in accordance with Section 154.039 (Landscaping and Screening Requirements) along the side and rear property lines (which could be achieved mostly by retaining some of the natural vegetation).

Commissioner Yoder addressed the width of Crappie Hollow Lane, pointing out that, according to provided photographs, it appeared to only be wide enough for one vehicle. Ms. Turnmire stated that the Zoning Ordinance did not require a private drive be widened; however, she informed Commissioner Yoder that the Board could consider placing a condition on the proposed use that the road would need to be widened.

Commissioner Bolick inquired as to who maintained Crappie Hollow Lane. Ms. Turnmire replied that the residents maintained the road.

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

**Public Comment / Board Response**

Jeffrey Swartz agreed that Bert Gibson was confident the soil that the property would perk for 5 bedrooms; however, he noted that Mr. Gibson would be doing more site review for the full 7 bedrooms.

Chairman Robertson asked if the Swartz's would remain interested in constructing the bed and breakfast if the soil only perked for 5 bedrooms. Mr. Swartz replied that he and his wife would remain interested in a 5-bedroom bed and breakfast.

Connly Spencer stated that he would be willing to provide more property to the Swartz's if more was needed for the 7 bedrooms.

Fred Lackey, adjoining property owner, stated that his family had maintained Crappie Hollow Lane since 1952. He was concerned that constructing a commercial establishment such as a bed and breakfast would increase traffic significantly and create a major safety issue for residents as well as motorists who aren't familiar with the area. He explained that Crappie Hollow Lane had many blind curves and hilltops and that he was forced to an emergency stop at least twice a week. He pointed out that strangers traveling the road would put children and pets at risk. Mr. Lackey also mentioned that the road was not wide enough for an emergency vehicle to pass, creating a major fire protection issue for the bed and breakfast. He discussed other reasons he felt that the proposed property would not be suitable for a bed and breakfast including the lack of county water or sewer service, heavy iron content in wells, a very narrow and shallow cove that cannot be dredged or deepened, and the decrease of surrounding property values. He also made mention that two bed and breakfasts previously established in the county had not been successful which raised the question of whether the property would be maintained if this one was unsuccessful as well.

Lana Davidson stated that this property reminded her of her father's property which was a one-lane gravel road leading to a private residence. She explained that there were 2 pull-offs along the gravel road which she and her brother used frequently. She felt that

pull-offs would definitely be needed along Crappie Hollow Lane for guests of a bed and breakfast. She urged the Board to carefully consider this before approving the request.

Robert Lackey, adjoining property owner, stated that Crappie Hollow Lane was 10 feet wide to B&T Lane. He informed the Board that many residents rode horses and four-wheelers and he noted that his aunt and uncle like to walk for exercise. He expressed his concern for their safety with increased and unfamiliar traffic.

Mr. Swartz stated that he would be willing to place some pull-offs along Crappie Hollow Lane as well as appropriate signage to address some of the concerns with increased traffic. He assured the residents that his guests would be notified of the condition of the road. He pointed out that this bed and breakfast would also be his and his wife's permanent residence, allowing them to work from home.

Mr. Spencer felt that a bed and breakfast would be a positive addition to the community and would generate some much-needed revenue for the county.

Robert Lackey stated that pull-offs would not solve any problems because it would not address the blind curves and hilltops along Crappie Hollow Lane.

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

Commissioner Yoder asked if the Board could enforce a condition that the blind curves along Crappie Hollow Lane be straightened. Ms. Turnmire replied that the Board could enforce such a condition.

Chairman Robertson stated that he was concerned with several issues including the number of bedrooms not being definitive, the safety issue with the road, and the limited access of emergency vehicles to the property. He didn't feel that he could make an appropriate, informed decision on the conditional use permit until these issues were addressed. He suggested a meeting be set up between the Swartz's and the adjoining property owners to possibly resolve some of these issues.

Commissioner Bolick stated that he was opposed to the conditional use permit at the present time.

Commissioner Hammer made a motion to table consideration of Conditional Use Permit 07-1 until the June 25, 2007 Commissioners' Meeting to allow time for Mr. Swartz and residents of Crappie Hollow Lane to meet in order to resolve several issues relating to the construction of the bed and breakfast. Commissioner Odom seconded the motion. The Board voted 4 in favor of the motion (Commissioners Hammer, Odom, Robertson, and Yoder) and one against the motion (Commissioner Bolick). The motion carried.

## CONDITIONAL REZONING & PUD FEE PROPOSAL

Sylvia Turnmire, Director of Planning & Development, presented conditional rezoning application fees and planned development district site plan review fees for several other jurisdictions. She reported that this was a follow-up to action recently taken by the Board to amend the Zoning Ordinance to allow for planned development districts and conditional rezoning applications. The fees were as follows:

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Conditional Rezoning Fee</u>	<u>Plan Review</u>
Asheville	\$350 (1 acre) to \$2,050 (25+ acres)	incorporated with rezoning
Buncombe County	\$200	\$200 + \$10 per lot
Caldwell County	\$300	incorporated with rezoning
Catawba County	\$650	\$200
Davie County	\$200 + \$50 per acre	\$100 + \$50/acre or \$20/unit
Gaston County	\$300 + \$30 per acre	incorporated with rezoning
Iredell County	\$375	incorporated with rezoning
Mooresville	\$500 or \$1,000	incorporated with rezoning

Ms. Turnmire stated that items to consider included the size of the parent tract, the number of property owners that require notification for the rezoning, and review of the site plan including detailed review of individual lots within the parent tract.

She informed the Board that Planning & Development staff recommended two separate fees, one for the conditional rezoning request and another for the site plan review, effective June 11, 2007. The proposals were as follows:

Conditional rezoning application - \$250 (1-25 acres), \$500 (25 + acres)  
Planned development district site plan review - \$100 + \$5 per lot

Commissioner Bolick made a motion to approve the recommended fees for conditional rezoning applications and PUD site plan reviews.

Chairman Robertson expressed his concerns with the fee for PUD site plan review and he requested a friendly amendment that the motion be changed to \$10 per lot instead of \$5 per lot. Commissioner Bolick accepted the friendly amendment to change the fee of \$5 per lot for PUD site plan reviews to \$10 per lot. Commissioner Hammer seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

## RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE BUDGET FOR THE STATE OF N.C. BE APPROVED BY JULY 1, 2007

Rick French, County Manager, presented a resolution requesting the budget for the state of North Carolina be approved by July 1, 2007. He stated that N.C. counties were required by law to adopt a balanced budget by July 1, 2007; however, he explained that the state's budget did not have to be adopted by that date creating a problem for counties.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the resolution requesting the budget for the state of North Carolina be approved by July 1, 2007. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

**CONSIDERATION OF THE 2007 COMMISSIONERS' MEETING SCHEDULE (JULY 2007 – DECEMBER 2007)**

Rick French, County Manager, presented the last 6 months of the 2007 Commissioners' Meeting Schedule. He stated that staff had developed the schedule by working around specific conferences and conflicts; therefore, he noted that the meetings would not necessarily be held on the first and third Mondays. The schedule was as follows:

July 23, 2007 (only one meeting in July)	October 8, 2007 October 22, 2007
August 6, 2007 August 20, 2007	November 5, 2007 November 19, 2007
September 10, 2007 September 24, 2007	December 10, 2007 (only one meeting in December)

Commissioner Hammer made a motion to approve the last 6 months of the 2007 Commissioners' Meeting Schedule as presented. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

**BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS**

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

**A. CVCC BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Reappoint Dr. Josephine Foster      4 years

**B. BI-STATE CATAWBA RIVER TASK FORCE / CATAWBA RIVER STUDY COMMITTEE**

Reappoint Guy Barriger      3 years

**C. DSS BOARD**

Reappoint Norris Kever      3 years

## D. FUTURE FORWARD ECONOMIC ALLIANCE

Appoint Wes Bolick

Commissioner Hammer also stated that someone was needed to serve a one-year term on the Town of Taylorsville Planning Board of Adjustments.

Commissioner Hammer 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.

## **BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #45 - #46**

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendments #45 and #46, which included the following information:

Budget Amendment #45 – To increase the JCPC budget for additional state funding for the Rainbow Center. To budget for an allocation of state funds to purchase a computer for the Child Health Clinic area. To increase the Library budget for the receipt of a grant from Wal-mart. To increase the budget for a contribution to the Red Cross “Ride for the Red” fundraiser.

Budget Amendment #46 – To appropriate funds for the N.C. Housing Finance Agency Single-Family Rehabilitation Program.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #45 and #46. 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. The Commissioners’ Task Force against Child Endangerment and Substance Abuse will be meeting on Friday, June 22, 2007 at 9:00 AM at the CVCC / Alexander Center.
- B. A retirement reception for Carolyn Campbell is scheduled for Friday, June 22, 2007 from 2:00-4:00 PM at the Board of Elections Office.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Minutes from the May 21, 2007 Regular Commissioners' Meeting and the May 30, 2007 Work Session.
- B. Tax Release Requests for May \$6,736.83 and Tax Refund Requests for May \$902.83.

Commissioner Bolick 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 Yoder made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 8:34 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 Odom made a motion to adjourn at 9:00 PM. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

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W. Darrell Robertson, Chairman

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Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board