

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING April 21, 2008

ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

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

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 21, 2008 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

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

*****SPECIAL RECOGNITION*****

Robin Bradley, NCACC Member Services Associate, presented the NCACC 2007 Outstanding County Program Award to Alexander County and the students from last year's Alexander Central High School GIS Class for the Alexander County Map Book. She stated that the map book project was one of 12 county programs from around the state that received the award.

She explained that the intent of the Outstanding County Program Award was to recognize and share information with other counties about programs that involved a uniquely innovative process. She pointed out that Alexander County was one of 5 winners in the General Government Category.

George Brown, GIS Coordinator, informed the Board that the map book was receiving worldwide attention. He reported that he and the GIS Class had been invited to attend the annual ESRI conference in California, the largest GIS conference in the world, this year to present the map book. An article about the map book will also be featured in ArcNews, a quarterly worldwide publication. Mr. Brown also noted that the GIS class was currently working on other projects for the Health Department and for Rocky Face Mountain.

Members of the Board congratulated Mr. Brown and the GIS Class for receiving the award.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Hammer announced that this past Saturday was Commissioner Robertson's 60th birthday.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman Yoder requested the addition of approval of surplus items as Agenda Item #7B.

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

PUBLIC HEARING: ALEXANDER COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Eric Fritz, Planning & Zoning Commission Chairman, informed the Board that on April 3, 2008, the Planning & Zoning Commission held a public hearing to formally consider the Alexander County Comprehensive Plan, which was discussed in depth with the Board of Commissioners at the March 31, 2008 work session. He stated that only one individual spoke at the public hearing regarding a few points of consideration. Mr. Fritz pointed out that the Planning & Zoning Commission unanimously approved the Comprehensive Plan to also include the following revisions:

Page 15 – **Open Space & Steep Slopes:** revised the height limitations to read “35 feet in height above the existing ground level.”

Page 23 – **Transportation:** revised setback/right-of-way dedication for general locations which formerly recommended widening setbacks only on Highway 16.

Map 6 – **Economic Development:** The future commercial area on Rink Dam Road was extended east to abut the Huntington House Furniture Plan.

Chairman Yoder called the public hearing to order and requested any public comment. There being no public comment, Commissioner Hammer made a motion to close the public hearing.

Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Bolick made a motion to approve the Comprehensive Plan. Commissioner Odom seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Robertson thanked the Planning & Zoning Commission and members of the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee for developing the Comprehensive Plan. He stated that this plan was intended to provide a general guide to address growth in the county but noted that some exceptions would be made as needed. He also mentioned that the primary concern of 50% of the citizens that took part in the community meetings was maintaining the rural setting of Alexander County. He explained that having this plan in place would help the County to do that.

Chairman Yoder also commended those same individuals for their time and efforts.

Commissioner Bolick mentioned that the plan could be viewed on the County website.

NEW EPA OZONE STANDARDS

Sylvia Turnmire, Director of Planning & Development, informed the Board that on March 12, 2008, the Environmental Protection Agency officially lowered 8-hour ozone standards from .084 ppm to .075 ppm as well as altered the categories of sensitivity. She explained that due to the Clean Air Act, the EPA was required to review and revise the ozone standards every 5 years.

She stated that Alexander County participated in the Early Action Compact formed in December 2002 and noted that the Unifour area was considered in attainment as of April 15, 2008; however, she pointed out that the county could once again be labeled as non-attainment due to the new ozone standards.

Ms. Turnmire provided a slide show presentation that included information regarding counties within the country whose monitors violated the current standards, revised air quality index, Taylorsville and Lenoir monitor ozone readings for 2004-2007, preliminary ozone values for 2005-2007, and an expected timeline for revised ozone designations as follows:

Final Rule -----March 12, 2008
State Designation Recommendations -----March 12, 2009
Final Designations ----- March 12, 2010
Attainment SIP's Due ----- 2013
Attainment Dates ----- 2013-2040

Commissioner Robertson suggested staff prepare a letter to the EPA requesting instructions on how Alexander County could improve its ozone.

RENEWABLE ENERGY REPORT

Josh Mitchell, Solid Waste Director, reviewed items of discussion from the 5th annual NC Sustainable Energy Conference that he attended April 8-9, 2008 including efforts to make new and existing buildings more energy efficient by 2010. He mentioned two websites – www.ashrae.org and www.energystar.gov that provided tips on how businesses, schools, and homeowners could become more energy efficient.

Mr. Mitchell stated that homeowners could greatly save energy by purchasing different light bulbs for the home. He stated that energy efficient bulbs, while costing slightly more, would save money on power bills and last much longer than a regular light bulb.

The Board thanked Mr. Mitchell for attending the conference and providing this information.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY

Josh Mitchell, Solid Waste Director, promoted the Alexander County Household Hazardous Waste Day scheduled for Saturday, April 26, 2008 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM in the County Administration Building Parking Lot. He stated that citizens (not businesses) could dispose of the following items for free:

- Household cleaners – drain openers, toilet bowl cleaners, oven cleaners, disinfectants, etc.
- Paint products – latex and oil based paints, solvents, thinners, shellacs, varnishes, wood preservatives, and sealers.
- Automotive products – lead-acid batteries, used motor oil, antifreeze, brake fluid, and starter fluid.
- Miscellaneous materials – acids, bases, kerosene, household batteries, photographic chemicals, aerosol cans, pool chemicals, propane gas cylinders, and metallic mercury.
- Pesticides and insecticides – poisons, aerosols, and weed killers.
- Electronics

Items that are unacceptable include:

- Compressed gas cylinders (except propane).
- Explosive or shock sensitive materials and ammunition.
- Radioactive materials including smoke detectors.
- Infectious or biologically active materials.

Mr. Mitchell mentioned that the co-sponsors for this event were Alexander County Government, the NC Department of Agriculture, and the Alexander County Cooperative Extension Service.

He also informed the Board that convenience centers were now recycling plastic bags and that he was working on a contract to allow disposal of electronics and car batteries at convenience centers.

Commissioner Hammer thanked Mr. Mitchell and the Solid Waste staff for the improved appearance and maintenance of the convenience centers.

EMERGENCY SERVICES EXERCISE

Russell Greene, Emergency Services Director, reported that Alexander County Emergency Services, in cooperation with the NC Department of Agriculture, NC Emergency Management, and local poultry growers, would be participating in a state-wide High Path Avian Flu exercise on Tuesday, April 29, 2008 in the Ellendale community.

He mentioned several other agencies that would be participating including the Health Department, Sheriff's Office, Cooperative Extension, School Transportation, EMS, Emergency Management, Red Cross, Ellendale Fire Department, Sugar Loaf Fire Department, and GIS Department.

Mr. Greene asked that citizens take extra precautions from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM in the Three Forks Church Road and All Healing Springs Road areas.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #45 - #48

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendments #45 - #48, which included the following:

Budget Amendment #45 – To increase the Public Buildings budget for 1) utility bills for the remainder of the 2007-2008 fiscal year, 2) miscellaneous repairs in excess of original budget estimates, 3) pest control services for the remainder of the 2007-2008 fiscal year, 4) additional property insurance premiums for 2007-2008 due to the purchase of the Alexander Opportunities building. To increase the Garage budget for fuel cost increases (estimated amount needed for the remainder of 2007-2008 fiscal year). To increase the Court Facility budget for estimated fuel costs for the bus to transport Davie County jurors to and from Taylorsville during a trial and estimated catering costs for lunches for jurors. To increase the Library budget for the receipt of a grant from Wal-Mart. To increase the Special Appropriations budget for Alexander County's share of start-up costs for the new Western Piedmont Regional Transit Authority.

Budget Amendment #46 – To increase the budget for additional state funds from a NC DWI grant. To increase the budget for additional Family Planning state funds. To increase the budget for additional Child Health funds for a child health update. To increase the budget for additional Food & Lodging state funds.

Budget Amendment #47 – To increase the Work First budget for additional state NCDOT funds. To budget for wages and payroll taxes of workers formerly classified as contracted services workers due to IRS regulations. To transfer funds between DSS

functions due to an error in estimation of 2007-2008 costs for the Special Assistance Program.

Budget Amendment #48 – To increase the Resource Center budget for additional funds reallocated from the Criminal Justice Partnership Program. To transfer funds within the Pre-Trial Release budget due to a delay in implementing program funded by a 75% grant from the Governor's Crime Commission. Transferred funds to be used for additional treatment services and the purchase of a computer and desk. To provide a 25% local match for a Pre-Trial Release computer with technology funds from the Capital Improvements Fund.

Commissioner Odom inquired as to the purpose of the salary increase line item in the General Health budget. Mr. French replied that he would investigate the increase with staff.

Commissioner Hammer made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #45 - #48. Commissioner Bolick 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 groundbreaking for the Hiddenite Water & Sewer Project will be held on Wednesday, April 23, 2008 at 6:00 PM at Craftmaster Furniture.
- B. The County/Schools joint surplus property sale is scheduled for Thursday, April 24, 2008 at 6:00 PM at the old Dayton property parking lot.
- C. Community grant applications are due on Friday, May 9, 2008 by 5:00 PM.

SURPLUS PROPERTY ITEMS

Rick French, County Manager, requested that the Board declare the following items as surplus to be auctioned at the joint surplus sale on April 24, 2008:

Furniture / Storage

Wooden and metal desks

Desk chairs

File cabinets

Storage cabinets

Computer Equipment / Electronics

Keyboards

Typewriters

Computer monitors
Security monitors

Landscaping / Lawn

Chainsaws
Weed eaters

Miscellaneous

Washing machine

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to declare the items as surplus property to be auctioned as planned. Commissioner Hammer seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from the March 31, 2008 Regular Commissioners' Meeting and the April 7, 2008 Regular Commissioners' Meeting.
- B. Revisions to the Retiree Health Benefits Policy.
- C. Alexander County Parks Rules & Regulations.
- D. Revision to the Tobacco Use in County Buildings & Vehicles Policy.

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

OTHER COMMENTS

Chairman Yoder announced that Alexander County had been featured in *Business Leader Magazine*. He asked that the article be placed on the County website for public viewing.

Rick French, County Manager, provided several photos of progress made on the Northeast Water Project.

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 Bolick made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 7:13 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 Hammer 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 7:24 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