

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING May 5, 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, May 5, 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

Rev. Tim Marsh, First Baptist Church, gave the invocation and Zane Knight, student at Stony Point Elementary School, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Commissioner Hammer 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.

2008 CDBG SCATTERED SITE HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM

Nancy Coley, WPCOG Community Development Administrator, was present to inform the Board and public that Alexander County had been awarded \$400,000 by the NC Department of Commerce – Division of Community Assistance to provide funding to improve the housing conditions of very low income households with incomes at or below 50% of area median income. She stated that priority would be given to households whose members are elderly, disabled or handicapped, or single-parent households with one or more children residing in the home. Specific priority will be given to homes with pit privies or outhouses, homes with no indoor plumbing, or with severe on-site wastewater problems. Ms. Coley informed the Board that \$40,000 of the funds would be allocated for urgent repair needs such as leaking roofs, rotten porches and floors, etc.

Ms. Coley reviewed eligibility requirements, which included:

- Applicants must reside within Alexander County.
- Household income must be at or below 50% of area median income.
- Applicants must own and occupy the property to be rehabilitated as their primary residence.
- Applicants must not have any overdue loans or loans in default.
- Alexander County taxes and/or Taylorsville taxes must be current.
- Applicants must fit the special needs category targeted by the program.
- Homes selected for rehabilitation must be capable of being brought up to standards with the limited funding available.

She explained that the County would provide these funds in the form an interest free, deferred payment loan to the homeowner. As long as the borrower lives in the home, no payments on the loan will be required. In addition, no payment will be required as long as the home continues to be both owned and occupied by a household whose income is less than 50% of the median income. She stated, however, that payment may be due at any time during the life of the loan if the property was transferred to a non-income eligible recipient.

Ms. Coley announced that the deadline to submit an application for this program was May 20, 2008. She also noted that the program was being advertised through the local newspaper and radio station. She requested the Board approve the necessary policies and procedures for the grant to allow staff to move forward.

Commissioner Bolick made a motion to approve the policies and procedures for the 2008 CDBG Scattered Site Housing Rehabilitation Program. Commissioner Odom seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

NORTHEAST AREA WATER PROJECT UPDATE

Rick French, County Manager, provided photos of the installation of water lines along Rocky Face Church Road. He reported that lines were currently being installed along Rocky Face Church Road, Allen Road, Rocky Springs Church Road, and White Plains Road.

He also stated that Rod Watts from EnergyUnited Water Corporation would attend the June 2, 2008 Commissioners' Meeting for an update.

HIDDENITE SEWER PROJECT UPDATE

Rick French, County Manager, provided photos of the Hiddenite Sewer Project Groundbreaking Ceremony held on April 23, 2008 at Craftmaster Furniture. He stated that engineers estimated the start of construction at approximately two weeks after receipt of an easement and state approval for water line placement.

JAIL PROJECT UPDATE

Rick French, County Manager, stated that a work session was held with the Jail Committee on April 14, 2008 to discuss two potential sites for the new jail facility – the current courthouse location or behind the Juvenile Detention Center off Highway 16 South. He also announced that a public hearing would be held at the May 19, 2008 Commissioners' Meeting to allow citizens to voice their opinion on the most feasible site. Jack Hemphill, Jail Architect, will also be present at the public hearing to provide information.

Chairman Yoder asked that staff prepare some information regarding sites and costs for the new jail facility for interested citizens to be picked up at the County Administration Office.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #49 & #50

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendments #49 and #50, which included the following information:

Budget Amendment #49 – To increase the Sheriff's Department budget for a contracted services expense in excess of original budget estimates. To increase the Social Services budget for Home and Community Care Block Grant funds. To increase the Transportation budget for 1) additional hours for cross training staff due to changing positions in the WPRTA system and increased passenger trips to out of county services and 2) additional fuel costs due to rising fuel prices.

Budget Amendment #50 – To provide the County's match of \$2,440 for a NC Rural Center grant for the Jasper Group Renovation Grant Project.

Commissioner Hammer made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #49 & #50. Commissioner Robertson 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. PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

Reappoint Jim Herman 2-year term

B. SMOKY MOUNTAIN LME BOARD

Appoint Rick French
Appoint Darrell Robertson

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.

OTHER BUSINESS

The following issues were discussed during Other Business:

- A. In recognition of National Tourism Week (May 10-17), the state will hold a Tourism Day Extravaganza in Raleigh on May 13, 2008 to show lawmakers the importance of tourism to the state and local economy. Hickory Metro Tourism offices will hold a progressive tourism day on May 14, 2008 by sponsoring an open house in all four counties. Mr. French informed the Board that Alexander County's open house would be held from 3:00-4:00 PM at CVCC Room 103 on May 14th.
- B. Mr. French requested the Board extend the deadline for community grant applications from May 9, 2008 to May 16, 2008. He stated that only two applications had been submitted to date.

Commissioner Bolick made a motion to extend the deadline for community grant applications to May 16, 2008 as requested. Commissioner Hammer seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

- C. Mr. French provided an explanation for Budget Amendment #46 requested by Commissioner Odom at the last meeting. He stated that the funding was part of the

DWI grant obtained by the Health Department and was a credit for part of the Health Director's salary who was administering the grant.

- D. Chairman Yoder asked that a representative for the Western Piedmont Regional Transit Authority be present at the June 2, 2008 Commissioners' Meeting to provide an update to the public.
- E. Chairman Yoder also asked that the Smoky Mountain Center Director attend the June 2, 2008 Meeting to introduce himself and provide an update.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Tax Release Requests for \$5,544.87 and Tax Refund Requests for April \$391.54.
- B. Minutes from the April 21, 2008 Regular Commissioners' Meeting.
- C. Interlocal Agreement between the Counties of Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, and Catawba and the Cities of Hickory, Newton, and Conover to create a Public Transportation Authority and to Jointly Fund and Support the Authority.

Commissioner Hammer 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)(1, 4, 5, & 6) TO PREVENT DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CONTRACTUAL, & PERSONNEL

Commissioner Odom made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 6:35 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 Robertson 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 7:15 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