

Draft

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**     September 22, 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:**        Stephanie Cass, The Taylorsville Times

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Monday, September 22, 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**

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

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

**ALEXANDER COUNTY SCHOOLS "A YEAR IN REVIEW" PRESENTATION**

Jack Hoke, School Superintendent, gave a power point presentation which highlighted the following from the 2007-2008 year:

- Opening Session held in the Alexander Central Auditorium to kickoff the school year.

- Alexander County Schools became tobacco free in July 2007.
- Jean St.Clair was recognized as the 2007 Award of Honor recipient.
- Cary Cash from Sugar Loaf Elementary was named the 2008 Principal of the Year.
- Tammy Bailey from Wittenburg Elementary was named the 2008 Counselor of the Year.
- Laura Sprinkle from Ellendale Elementary was named the Wachovia Outstanding Educator of the Year and also the Alexander County Schools Teacher of the Year.
- Anne Julian was named Bus Driver of the Year.
- Natalie Holleman received the First Year Teacher of the Year Award.
- Pam Johnston and Stefanie Smith represented Alexander County in the Corning Cable Systems High School Math and Science Teacher of the Year competition.
- 195 events were held in the Alexander Central Auditorium with 67,390 attendees.
- 15,897 square feet was added to Hiddenite Elementary.
- The American Cancer Society Relay for Life Campaign recognized Alexander County Schools for service to the community through fundraising efforts.
- Emily Killian from Ellendale Elementary was the top speller in the 2007-2008 spelling bee.
- Trevor Fry from West Alexander Middle School was named winner of Geography Bee and Jordan Renegar from East Alexander Middle was named runner up.
- Grayson Bedenbaugh, Ethan Ford, Caitlyn Price, Kelly McLawhon, Amber Webster, Nathan Bowman, Payton Payne, Jenna Reese, and Abbey Watts received Teaching Fellow Scholarships.
- 8 teachers received National Board Certification in 2008, bringing the total to 58.
- Participation in the World View International Program for Educators.
- North Carolina Professional Teaching Standards update.
- New Evaluation Instrument Implementation in 10 Alexander County Schools.
- Alternative Learning Program statistics.
- ABC and AYP (math only) preliminary results by school.
- EOG math data comparison by grade.
- Preliminary turnover rate was 5.71% and preliminary "Highly Qualified" status was 100%
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Strategic Plan (2008-2011) review.
- Mission/values/commitments.

Several board members mentioned the productive working relationship between the Board of Commissioners and the Board of Education. They also thanked Mr. Hoke for his report.

### **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A TURNING LANE AT SUGAR LOAF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Rick French, County Manager, presented a resolution in support of a turning lane at Sugar Loaf Elementary School on Highway 16 North. He explained that the resolution requested the General Assembly to appropriate \$50,000 or more to the NC Department of Transportation so that the turning lane could be constructed.

Commissioner Odom made a motion to approve the resolution in support of a turning lane at Sugar Loaf Elementary School as presented. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

### **BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #4 & #5**

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendments #4 and #5, which included the following information:

Budget Amendment #4 – To budget for the transfer of NC Department of Transportation grant funds to the Western Regional Transit Authority (first of two installments). To budget for the allocation from the Smoky Mountain Center to DSS for mental health services (quarterly installments).

Budget Amendment #5 – To increase the Health Department budget for state DWI grant funds and other additional state funds.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #4 and #5 as presented. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

After viewing a video prepared by the NC Association of County Commissioners regarding services provided by county governments, Rick French, County Manager, discussed the following issues during Other Business:

- A. The Alexander County Board of Education has invited commissioners and staff to attend a reception honoring Gary Lail, the 2008 Award of Honor recipient on Sunday, September 28, 2008 at 2:30 PM at ACHS.
- B. The Hiddenite Half-Marathon and 10K races are scheduled for Saturday, September 27, 2008 in conjunction with the Hiddenite Celebration of the Arts. Several County employees are either running, walking, or volunteering.
- C. According to Rod Watts from EnergyUnited, we have received our first water customers from the Northeast Water Project.
- D. The Soil & Water Environmental Field Days will be held on October 14-15, 2008. All commissioners are invited to attend.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Minutes from the September 8, 2008 Regular Commissioners' Meeting.

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 THE DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CONTRACTUAL, & PERSONNEL**

Chairman Yoder made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 6:49 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 Bolick made a motion to adjourn at 7:25 PM. Commissioner Hammer seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

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Larry G. Yoder, Chairman

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Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board