

Draft

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING** October 6, 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, October 6, 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

Tony Sipe gave the invocation and Isaiah Campbell, student at Stony Point Elementary School, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

Chairman Yoder, on behalf of the entire Board of Commissioners, presented a Key to the County to Sipe Lumber Company for their contribution to the economic development in Alexander County for over 70 years. He mentioned the history of the family business which included Sipe Lumber Company and Sipe Wholesale Company.

The Board thanked Sipe Lumber Company for keeping their prices low and providing much-needed building supplies for Alexander County citizens.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

David Icenhour, Economic Development Director, announced that Westgate Home Fashions would be locating in the former Fashion House Furniture Building on Highway 16 South and would create at least 30 new jobs. He explained that a \$300,000 Rural Center Building Reuse and Restoration Grant had been applied for and received which would be matched by Westgate. Mr. Icenhour thanked the NC Rural Center, the NC Department of Commerce, as well as Representative Ray Warren and Senator Steve Goss for their assistance with the grant.

Ron Leach from the Rural Center presented Westgate Home Fashions with a Lennox plate manufactured in North Carolina and congratulated the company on their receipt of the grant.

Tom Carter, Westgate Home Fashions President, stated that the company was one of 20 divisions of Home Fashions International in the United States manufacturing whole home goods similar to items available at JC Penney, Bed Bath & Beyond, etc. Other divisions are located in China, Belgium, Canada, and Brazil. He explained that Westgate Home Fashions would offer a benefit package to include health, dental, and life insurance along with 401(k) and vacation and noted that they also planned to utilize the entire 8 acres where the current facility was located in the future.

He introduced his wife along with several staff members from Westgate. He stated that he looked forward to working with Alexander County and thanked the Board and staff for their support.

The Board conveyed their appreciation to Westgate and wished them luck.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

ALEXANDER COUNTY WORK FIRST PLAN 2009-2011

Karen Hoyle, DSS Director, presented the proposed Work First Plan for 2009-2011 for the Board's consideration. She informed the Board that the plan, which only included a few changes compared to the 2007-2009 plan, had been approved by the DSS Board. Those changes relate to the recent merger between Foothills Mental Health and the Smoky Mountain Center, the new Western Piedmont Regional Transit Authority, and a travel reimbursement increase.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve the proposed Work First Plan for 2009-2011. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

CLEAN ALEXANDER DAY ANNOUNCEMENT

Josh Mitchell, Solid Waste Director, announced that the annual Clean Alexander Day would be held on Saturday, October 25, 2008 from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM allowing all Alexander County citizens to dispose of their trash at any convenience site and the landfill for free. He explained that convenience centers would only accept household trash and that the landfill would not accept any liquid materials, light ballast, fluorescent bulbs, hazardous materials, or items containing asbestos.

Mr. Mitchell also mentioned a few other issues including free television recycling beginning in December, free tarps being distributed at the landfill to help reduce roadside litter, and the school recycling program with a collection total of 25 tons of paper, bottles, and cans during this school year. He also discussed a GDS material recycling facility allowing business owners to dispose of cardboard, fabrics, etc., noting that Taylor King had saved approximately \$800 per month.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE REIMBURSEMENT FROM THE NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY

Rick French, County Manager, presented a Resolution to Approve the Reimbursement from the NC Department of Transportation for the Purchase of Property. He reviewed the County's recent purchase of property located on Highway 16 South as requested by the NCDOT to allow for the construction of a turning lane at Sugar Loaf Elementary School. The resolution stated that the NCDOT would reimburse the County in full for any and all funds appropriated for the purchase, clearing, and cleanup of the property.

Commissioner Hammer made a motion to approve the Resolution to Approve the Reimbursement from the NC Department of Transportation for the Purchase of Property. Commissioner Odom seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

NORTHEAST AREA WATER PROJECT UPDATE

Rick French, County Manager, reviewed photos of crews working along Rocky Springs Road as well as Vashti Road. He stated that crews had run into a few problems with NCDOT and erosion control; however, he noted that progress was continuing and that some right-of-way seeding was taking place.

HIDDENITE SEWER PROJECT UPDATE

Rick French, County Manager, presented a few photos of work being done on Highway 90 near Craftmaster Lane. He noted that crews were also seeding right-of-ways on this project.

JAIL PROJECT UPDATE

Rick French, County Manager, reported that Inenco, Inc. performed a wetlands field inspection of the future jail and law enforcement site on October 1, 2008. Findings have determined that none of the property examined would be subject to wetland consideration. Mr. French also stated that this information would be passed on to Carl D. Bunton & Associates for survey preparation.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #6 & #7

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendments #6 and #7, which included the following information:

Budget Amendment #6 – To budget for the purchase of road signs from the Information Technology budget instead of the 911 Special Revenue Fund budget. To budget for a refund to the NC Department of Juvenile Justice for the 2007-2008 JCPC leftover balance. To increase the appropriation to the Economic Development Corporation for additional funds needed for the Industrial Development Incentive Grant Program.

Budget Amendment #7 – To budget for a transfer of Revolving Loan Fund case of \$73,952.95 to the Economic Development Corporation as well as the transfer of \$112,411.05 in receivable balances for existing loans to local companies. (The Revolving Loan Fund is being given to the Economic Development Corporation to operate).

Commissioner Hammer made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #6 and #7. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

CANCELLATION OF THE NOVEMBER 3, 2008 COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

Rick French, County Manager, requested that the November 3, 2008 Commissioners' Meeting be canceled. He explained that the Board had planned to meet with Jack Hemphill, Jail Architect, at that time; however, Mr. Hemphill had a conflict and would be unable to attend. Therefore, the meeting will be rescheduled at a later date once staff determines a more suitable time to hold the meeting.

Commissioner Bolick made a motion to cancel the November 3, 2008 Commissioners' Meeting as requested to be rescheduled at a later date. 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. A meeting has been scheduled with Senators Steve Goss and Marc Basnight for October 9, 2008 at 4:00 PM at CVCC / Room 103. Representatives from the County, School System, Town, and Chamber will be present.
- B. Caring Hearts Pregnancy Center of Alexander County will be sponsoring "Walk for Life 2008" at Matheson Park on October 11, 2008 from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Registration begins at 10:00 AM.
- C. The Soil & Water Conservation District 5th grade Environmental Field Days will be held at Donald Payne's Farm on October 14th for Bethlehem, Sugar Loaf, Stony Point, and Taylorsville Elementary Schools and October 16th for Ellendale, Hiddenite, and Wittenburg Elementary Schools. Events begin at 9:15 AM.
- D. The second annual Hiddenite Half-Marathon held on Saturday, September 27, 2008 in conjunction with the Hiddenite Celebration of the Arts was a success. Josh Marcus of Boone won and Joe Cornwell of Taylorsville was second. A 10K was added this year which was won by Ed Hedrick, age 16 of Taylorsville. Several local residents and County employees participated or volunteered.
- E. The Apple Festival is planned for Saturday, October 18, 2008. The YMCA has scheduled a 5K race for that date as well.
- F. Mr. French presented 3 items for the Board's consideration including the waiver of an EMS bill for a volunteer who was injured in the line of duty, a resolution for designation of applicant's agent to the NC Division of Emergency Management, and a list of vehicles to be declared surplus including a 1992 Dodge van, two 2000 Crown Victorias, 1985 Jeep Cherokee, 1997 F150 truck, and a 1988 Chevy 1500 truck.

Commissioner Hammer made a motion to approve the EMS bill waiver, the resolution, and the list of surplus vehicles. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Tax Release Requests for September \$9,566.00 and Tax Refund Requests for September \$1,451.41.

- B. Minutes from the September 22, 2008 Regular Commissioners' Meeting.
- C. Alexander County Road Naming Ordinance.

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, 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 7:05 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 Bolick made a motion to adjourn at 7:38 PM. Commissioner Odom seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Larry G. Yoder, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board