

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING January 20, 2009

ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

PRESENT: W. Darrell Robertson, Chairman
 Wes Bolick, Vice-Chairman
 Ryan Mayberry
 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 Tuesday, January 20, 2009 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.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Chairman Robertson requested a moment of silence for President Obama who was sworn in today as well as the many local officials, Governor, judges, and General Assembly members. He asked that these and all individuals in leadership be remembered in our prayers.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

Chairman Yoder, on behalf of the Board, the Apple Festival Committee, and the citizens, presented a Key to the County to Todd Lanham, AT&T Regional Director of External Affairs,

for sponsorship of the Apple Festival for the past two years. He stated that the Apple Festival had grown tremendously thanks to this sponsorship and the work of many volunteers.

Mr. Lanham thanked the Board for the recognition and noted that it was a pleasure to offer the sponsorship and work with the volunteers. He also introduced Lavoy Spooner who will be taking over his position and representing Alexander County.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Mayberry reported on that NCACC Legislative Goals Conference where he served as the County's voting delegate for the 41 proposed goals to be provided to the General Assembly. He mentioned that he voted against many of the proposed goals. Commissioner Mayberry stated that he had the opportunity to meet many commissioners from other counties and he commended the current and former members of the Alexander County Board of Commissioners for their stand on many issues.

Commissioner Yoder mentioned that he along with Chairman Robertson and Commissioner Odom served as judges for the ACHS Senior Projects. He stated that he was very impressed with the projects that he judged and he commended the students on their hard work and preparation.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman Robertson requested the addition of a resolution regarding an appointment to the NC State Board of Community College Trustees as Item #1A.

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

RESOLUTION FOR STATE APPOINTMENT

Chairman Robertson presented a Resolution in Support of John F. Watts for State Appointment to the NC State Board of Community College Trustees. He explained that Mr. Watts had served Alexander County in many capacities, namely as a member of the Board of Education and Board of Commissioners, and had also been very instrumental in the location of the CVCC / Alexander Center. Mr. Watts is also a member of the CVCC Board of Trustees. Therefore, Chairman Robertson recommended the approval of the resolution and the appointment of Mr. Watts to the NC State Board of Community College Trustees.

Several commissioners spoke regarding Mr. Watts' passion for education and his assistance to many young people in their efforts to continue their education.

Mr. Watts thanked the Board for the recommendation and support.

2007-2008 DSS ANNUAL REPORT

Karen Hoyle, DSS Director, introduced several staff members including Shelly Elder, Holly Yongue, Sherry Hart, Susan Taffe, Sherry Deal, Carol Farthing, and Tim Lackey who presented the 2007-2008 DSS Annual Report, which detailed the following information:

- 21,685 clients were seen at the reception desk and 231 work permits were issued.
- 842 reports of alleged child abuse, neglect, and/or dependency were received, of which 595 were actively investigated involving 1,121 children. 19 children were taken into custody by court order. The average number of children in foster care each month was 47.
- 35 foster homes for children were licensed or re-licensed.
- 10 children were placed in adoptive homes and 8 adoptions were finalized.
- Day care was subsidized for an average of 432 children per month, allowing clients to maintain employment or receive job skills training. The total value of day care vouchers issued was \$1,398,939.
- 63 reports of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of elderly/disabled adults were investigated. Of those reports, 2 were provided protective services and 47 were provided outreach services. The agency served as court-appointed guardian for 2 adults.
- An average of 95 adults and 4 children per month were served through the Community alternatives Program (CAP), enabling clients to remain in their own homes instead of being placed in nursing homes. Congregate Nutrition saw an average monthly attendance of 101 and a monthly average of families receiving home delivered meals was 43.
- \$2,216,269 in child support payments for children was collected, 84 paternities and 203 support obligations were established, and 4,585 enforcement actions were initiated. Alexander County was ranked 7th in the state in this department.
- An average of \$302,246 was issued per month in food assistance to an average of 1,403 households. The total value of food stamps issued was \$3,626,954. The number of families receiving food assistance as of June 30 was 1,522.
- An average of 51 applications per month was taken for Adult Medicaid as well as 218 applications for Family Medicaid. An average of 51 children per month participated in NC Health Choice. Each month, an average of 5,430 individuals was enrolled in the Medicaid Program.

- Special Assistance for individuals in Adult Care homes averaged 99 individuals per month with an average payment of \$465 per month.
- Through the Work First Family Assistance Program, 23 public assistance recipients obtained jobs and became self-sufficient.
- Total expenses for the year totaled \$40,807,094 for all programs, of which \$2,961,673 or 7.26% is allocation from the County.

The Board thanked Ms. Hoyle and her staff for the report.

2009 GOVERNOR'S CRIME COMMISSION GRANT APPLICATION

Hayden Bentley, Sheriff, presented an application for a Governor's Crime Commission Grant to purchase 5 walkie talkies compatible with the 800 MHz Viper System. He explained that the total cost would be \$15,631.35; however, he noted that a local match of \$3,907.84 would be required from the County, leaving a total request of federal funds at \$11,723.51.

Mr. Bentley informed the Board that the grant funds would not be available until the next budget year and he pointed out that there was currently \$11,000 in the Sheriff's Department budget for technology needs which could be set aside for the County's match.

Commissioner Yoder felt that the state should be responsible for funding any and all equipment, maintenance, etc. of the new Viper System since the state was mandating the change. He asked that a letter be drafted to Representative Ray Warren and Senator Steve Goss to express those thoughts to be approved during the February 2, 2009 Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Odom made a motion to approve the submission of the Governor's Crime Commission Grant for the purchase of 5 walkie talkies. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

***At this time, Commissioner Bolick exited the meeting. The time was 7:11 PM.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS

Chairman Robertson presented the following appointments and reappointments to County boards and committees:

Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors – Reappoint Rick French for one year.

Planning & Zoning Commission – Reappoint Coy Reese for two years.

Council on Aging – Reappoint Janette Linney and Josephine Foster for three years.

Building Services Advisory Committee – Appoint Harry Schrum; reappoint Clint Canaday, Larry Jenkins, Brent Fox, Mark Foy, Tony Lackey, Ryan Mayberry, David Land, Sylvia Turnmire, and Lynn Teague for one year.

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council – Appoint Mike Goudelocke, David Moose, Lee Branch, Holly Powell, Samantha Feimster, Kevin Beale, and Matt Cooksey; reappoint Darlene Carrigan, Hayden Bentley, Carrie Garvey, Vicki Bartholomew, Holly Yongue, Rick French, Phil Addison, Harold Odom, Dale Graham, Steve Cloninger, Kim Cowart, Jerry Ratchford, Dusty McAlpin, and Suzanne Rhinehart for two years.

Commissioner Appointments – Appoint Larry Yoder to the Agriculture Extension Advisory Committee and the Local Emergency Planning Committee, appoint Wes Bolick to the Council on Aging and the Dangerous Dog Appeal Board, appoint Ryan Mayberry to the Criminal Justice Partnership Board, the Voluntary Farmland Preservation Board, the WPCOG Transportation Advisory Committee MPO/RPO, and the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the appointments and reappointments as presented. Commissioner Odom seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #17 - #20

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendments #17 - #20, which included the following information:

Budget Amendment #17 – To increase the Health Department budget for grant funds from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust to support the Health Carolinians Program. To increase the Senior Center budget for additional funds from the Senior Health Insurance Information Program Grant to pay for increased hours worked by part-time staff during November and December to assist with Medicare.

Budget Amendment #18 – To increase the Capital Improvements Fund budget for state lottery proceeds to complete the Hiddenite Elementary School Project – classroom addition / cafeteria renovation.

Budget Amendment #19 – To transfer funds between departments for the allocation of annual insurance premiums for property and liability and worker's compensation.

Budget Amendment #20 – To transfer funds between departments for the allocation of annual insurance premiums for property and liability and worker's compensation.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #17 - #20. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

OTHER BUSINESS

Rick French, County Manager, reminded the Board that the 40th annual WPCOG banquet was scheduled for Tuesday, January 27, 2009 at 6:30 PM at the Crowne Plaza in Hickory.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from the January 5, 2009 Regular Commissioners' Meeting.
- B. 2008 Scattered Site CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Project Policies, Procedures, and Plans.

Commissioner Odom 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 THE DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CONTRACTUAL, & PERSONNEL

Chairman Robertson made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 7:17 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 Yoder seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Yoder made a motion to adjourn at 7:55 PM. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

W. Darrell Robertson, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board