

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING April 5, 2010

ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

PRESENT: Larry G. Yoder, Chairman
 Ryan Mayberry, 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 5, 2010 in the CVCC / 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 Odom gave the invocation and also led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

*****ERNIE MATHESON TOURNAMENT SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT*****

Jon Presnell, Recreation Director, announced that the 23rd annual Ernie Matheson Tournament would begin tonight and end on April 15, 2010. Games will be played at East Alexander and Dusty Ridge Park and admission prices are \$2 for adults and \$1 for students with all proceeds being used for park upgrades. He stated that there were 54 teams signed up which included approximately 600 participants. Teams consist of boys and girls T-ball, 7-8 years old, 9-10 years old, and 11-12 years old.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dru Deuel, resident of Oliver’s Landing, requested the Board’s consideration of an ordinance to address the upkeep of abandoned businesses. She felt that property owners should be responsible for keeping lawns mowed at least monthly, removing downed shrubs and trees, replacement of broken windows and fallen railing, maintenance of water features to prevent mosquitoes, exterior lighting to deter crime, etc.

She explained that the golf course and restaurant in Oliver’s Landing may close soon and she was concerned that a vacant building without any upkeep would lead to crime, graffiti, and an unwanted neighborhood. Ms. Deuel felt the Board should consider such an ordinance countywide; however, she specifically asked for one in the Bethlehem community.

Commissioner Bolick asked if the golf course was a member of the Oliver’s Landing Homeowners Association. Ms. Deuel replied that the golf course was privately owned and not a part of the association.

Chairman Yoder stated that staff would review regulations enforced in other counties to determine what would best fit Alexander County.

PUBLIC HEARING: APPROVAL OF ROAD NAMES

Rick French, County Manager, presented the following road names for approval by the Board, pointing out that the names met regulations as required and had been checked for duplication and sound indexing:

<u>Road Name</u>	<u>Road Location</u>
Cooksey Court	Off Helen’s Way
Harrington Ridge Drive	Off Walt Russell Road
Helen’s Way	Off Will Wilson Lane
Lynwood Lane	Off Shiloh Church Road
Muscadine Trail	Off Bowman Hills Road
Southern Skies Drive	Off Jolly Cemetery Road

He also noted that a petition had been submitted to remove L & M Trailer Court because the road was no longer in use.

Chairman Yoder called the public hearing to order and requested any public comment. The following comments were heard:

Public Comment

Howard Mayberry stated that the property surrounding L & M Trailer Court was family-owned by him, his sister, and his brother and no longer used as a mobile home park, which prompted the request to remove the road sign.

Commissioner Robertson mentioned concerns with removing the sign for emergency purposes; however, Mr. Mayberry noted that each had a Lewittes Road address.

There being no further comments, Commissioner Bolick made a motion to a close the public hearing. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Mayberry made a motion to approve the road names as presented. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

TRANSPORTATION ANNOUNCEMENT – US 64/90 BRIDGE CLOSURES

Russell Greene, Emergency Services Director, updated the Board on two bridge closures on US Highway 64/90 beginning tomorrow. NCDOT is closing the bridges, including one just across the Caldwell County line and the other east of Gilbert Place in Alexander County, in order to mill off 1 ½ inches of concrete, repair spots, and resurface with latex modified concrete, a process that could take up to 14 days. He stated that Emergency Services in both Alexander and Caldwell Counties had made plans to adjust response routes due to the closings and he also discussed the posted detour.

Also mentioned were plans for repair to the Highway 127 bridge. Mr. Greene reported that the contract had been let to Lanford & Sons of Virginia and work could begin after April 26 to be completed by mid-June. Emergency Services will have access to the bridge at all times and will also be invited to the pre-construction meeting.

Commissioner Robertson suggested that information related to the Highway 127 bridge closing be provided to the Hickory Daily Record to inform citizens of the closing as soon as possible.

NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH PROCLAMATION

Commissioner Bolick made a motion to approve a proclamation proclaiming April 2010 as National County Government Month with the focus of “Healthy Counties.” Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

PUBLIC HEALTH MONTH PROCLAMATION

Leeanne Whisnant, Health Director, gave a brief overview of the services provided at the Health Department by slide show presentation, which included:

- Maternal Health, Environmental Health, WIC, Child Health, Preparedness, Adult Health, Dental Clinic, Home Health, Family Planning, Immunizations, Communicable Diseases, and Health Education.
- **Top health priorities** – influenza, asthma, cardiovascular disease, sexually transmitted disease, and mental health.
- **Death rates** – Alexander County’s death rates are higher than the state average for diseases of the heart, anus/rectum/colon cancer, trachea/bronchus/lung cancer, chronic lower respiratory diseases, unintentional motor vehicle injuries, non-intentional injuries, and suicide.
- **Cancer rates** – the second leading cause of death in NC and the United States. Alexander County’s cancer death rate was at 24.4% in 2007 compared to the state’s rate of 23%.
- **Sexually Transmitted Disease Reports** – HIV confirmed cases have increased in the past several years as well as other STD’s.
- **Home Health services** – skilled nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, medical social worker, home health aides, infusion nursing, pediatric nursing.
- **NACo Prescription Drug Discount Card** – one card covers the whole family and can be used by the uninsured or for prescriptions not covered by an insurance policy.
- **Dental Clinic** – primarily for the underserved and uninsured but available to any child without a dental provider.

Ms. Whisnant also announced that April was Public Health Month and she provided a proclamation for the Board’s consideration.

Commissioner Bolick made a motion to approve the proclamation in recognition of Public Health Month. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH PROCLAMATION

Holly Yongue, DSS Children’s Service Program Manager, requested the Board’s recognition of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month by proclamation. She gave some background information about the efforts to promote awareness of child abuse and announced that a ceremony would be held on April 13, 2010 at 12:30 PM on the courthouse square to remember the 33 children in North Carolina that died as a result of child abuse in 2008.

Chairman Yoder made a motion to approve the proclamation declaring April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Alexander County. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

ALEXANDER COUNTY RECYCLING UPDATE

Josh Mitchell, Solid Waste Director, gave a slide show presentation related to recycling in Alexander County. Items discussed were as follows:

- Alexander ranked 26th for per capita recycling in the state in 2009 with 129 pounds per person recycled.
- **New recycling opportunities** – waste cooking oil, fluorescent tube bulbs, electronics, oil filters. Staff is working on CFL recycling and completed a grant for park recycling bins.
- **Cell Phones for Soldiers Program** – 6,120 minutes of talk time collected for soldiers and their families.
- **Latest landfill bans** – plastic bottles, pallets, oil filters, televisions and computers to be banned in 2011. All items can be recycled at the landfill! Pallets and yard waste are ground up to make free mulch and composting material.
- **Energy conservation** – replacement of incandescent bulbs with 14w CFL's, programmable thermostats, changing exit signs to LED, retrofit 4-bul t12 fixtures to 2-bulb t8.
- **Increased education and awareness** – quarterly environmental newsletter, emails, website links, and trash truck ads.
- 40th anniversary of Earth Day history and events.
- No plans for Household Hazardous Waste Day this year. The event will be held bi-annually.

Commissioner Robertson asked that Mr. Mitchell's slide show be placed on the PEG channel for public information. Commissioner Bolick suggested scheduled public tours of the landfill.

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK PROCLAMATION

Chairman Yoder made a motion to approve a proclamation declaring the week of April 18-24, 2010 as Crime Victims' Rights Week and reaffirming Alexander County's commitment to respect and enforcement of victims' rights. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

CANCELLATION OF MAY 3, 2010 REGULAR COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

Rick French, County Manager, requested the cancellation of the May 3, 2010 Commissioners' Meeting, stating that he would be in Raleigh for a state mental health meeting.

Chairman Yoder made a motion to cancel the May 3, 2010 meeting as requested. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

FINANCE REPORT

Rick French, County Manager, reported that property tax collections were at 94.5%, the same percentage as this time last year. However, automobile tax collections are down from 90% last year to 88.6% currently.

In regard to sales tax, \$2,054,133 has been collected for 2009-2010, which is currently \$350,000 below what was originally budgeted. Mr. French explained that this time last year, \$3,172,008 had been collected. Therefore, sales tax revenues are down by a total \$1,117,875 or 35.24%. In addition, the County had to add \$18,585 to revenues collected from Article 42 to meet the state's regulations of the percentage to be given to school systems. He also noted that December 2009's sales tax collections were also lower than normal.

Mr. French informed the Board that he planned to post a breakdown of the sales tax collections on the PEG channel to educate the public.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #34 - #36

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendments #34 - #36, which included the following information:

Budget Amendment #34 – To increase the budget for Workers Comp insurance due to individual claims that will exceed the \$10,000 deductible. To increase the Board of Elections budget for HAVA non-cash grants. To decrease the Board of Elections budget and move funds to contingency due to the state's payment of annual computer maintenance expenses for the County. To increase the Health Department's budget for additional State funds. To adjust the Health Department revenues to match NC DWI grant revenue with the expenses in the Health Promotions Program. To increase the Extension Service budget for donations from outside sponsors received in February/March 2010. To increase the DSS budget for additional State Crisis Intervention Payment funds.

Budget Amendment #35 – To increase the EMS budget for the purchase of two used ambulances.

Budget Amendment #36 – To budget for the Piedmont Wood Products CDBG Small Business & Entrepreneurial Assistance.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #34 - #36. 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. Bids for the 6-mile Vashti Road Water Project will be opened on Tuesday, April 6, 2010 at 2:00 PM at the County Administration Office.
- B. The annual surplus property sale is scheduled for Thursday, April 29, 2010 at 6:00 PM in the Central Park parking lot.
- C. The NCACC has announced 6 district meetings to be held across the state in April. The one in our district is scheduled for Tuesday, April 27, 2010 in Clemmons at the Tanglewood Country Club from 5:30-7:30 pm. Dinner is included and there is no charge to attend. However, ethics training will not be provided at this meeting but will be at some of the other district meetings.

Chairman Yoder pointed out that Jamie Bowers, Traffic Anchor/Reporter for WSOC-TV had emailed Linda Mundy, Elections Director, regarding how impressed she was with the Board of Elections website, stating that its quality and quantity far surpassed the websites of larger counties.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from the March 15, 2010 Regular Commissioners' Meeting.
- B. Tax Release Requests for March \$7,597.50 and Tax Refund Requests for March \$1,832.11
- C. Agreement between the WPCOG and Alexander County for the Provision of Grant Management Assistance for Piedmont Wood Products.

Commissioner Bolick 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 8:14 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 Mayberry 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 8:50 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