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**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**     September 20, 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

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Monday, September 20, 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 Robertson gave the invocation and also led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Robertson stated that the Street Dance and Car Show held at the courthouse this past weekend was a great success and he urged the public to attend next year.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

**PROPOSED EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR CVCC / ALEXANDER CENTER**

Dr. Garrett Hinshaw, CVCC President, gave a brief history of Catawba Valley Community College, which began in 1960 with only 77 students. There are currently 5,600 students enrolled in curriculum courses and 16,000 enrolled in non-credit courses. He stated that the CVCC / Alexander Center began in 1991 in the old Duke Power building and in 1994 moved into the old Alexvale building on Highway 90. The current facility has been used since 2000.

He informed the Board that the current Alexander Center facility was at maximum capacity, forcing the need for expansion and an opportunity to consider more labor market skills. He advised that CVCC was committed to providing welding (plasma cutters, submerged welding, robotics), machinery, automotive, computer networking, and facility maintenance technology courses; however, he noted that an expansion or relocation would be needed. Mr. Hinshaw felt these trades could be a great economic development tool for the county in recruiting and maintaining business and industry, noting that local industries could utilize CVCC's services to train employees.

Commissioner Odom asked how soon these courses could be available and how CVCC could pay for renovations. Mr. Hinshaw replied that welding could be offered by the fall of 2011 with completion and implementation of all courses in 3 to 5 years following. He also mentioned that CVCC was reliant on government for bond referendums and grants and would work with the commissioners and General Assembly to retain funding for renovation.

Commissioner Robertson asked if programs could be flexible to the changes in job demands and/or needs of the community. Mr. Hinshaw replied that programs would definitely be flexible.

Chairman Yoder mentioned the possibility of an agricultural program. Mr. Hinshaw responded that CVCC currently partnered with NC State University and could offer agriculture related programs such as pesticides/chemicals, alternative crops, etc. He noted that representatives would need to meet with local farmers to determine which types of courses should be offered.

Mr. Hinshaw also reported that ground work was being done for a college transfer degree which would be offered next year.

Commissioner Bolick was concerned that the County may have to purchase a building and also fund renovations if bonds or grants couldn't be received. He stated that the Board would have to prioritize projects to determine what was most needed by the citizens.

Linda Graham, CVCC / Alexander Center Director, stated that she had seen first-hand the demand for education opportunities through requests for more programs through surveys distributed to students. She also advised that 94 graduating seniors this year had requested their final transcripts be sent to CVCC.

Jack Hoke, Superintendent, touched on the strong working relationship between the school system and CVCC. He stated that up to 200 high school students were taking advantage of the free college classes offered by CVCC before the General Assembly ended the program. He felt that a community could never do enough to enhance education.

John Watts, CVCC Board of Trustees, discussed the importance of having an education, noting that educational opportunities were the only way to move forward and become a better person. He was in favor of providing education and local training to citizens without them having to travel, which would also help the county to grow.

Vickie Deal stated that she had been laid off from Alexvale Furniture after almost 20 years employment. She was given the option of going back to school and she now attends classes at both the Hickory and Alexander campuses. She felt it was important to have something local.

Melissa Jones was laid off from Mitchell Gold Furniture Child Care Services after 10 years employment. She stated that the local campus was convenient and she felt that the community would continue to better itself with more educational opportunities.

Chairman Yoder conveyed his appreciation to those who attended to show their support for the CVCC / Alexander Center. He stated that the Board would discuss the options and make the best decision for the county.

### **FIRE PREVENTION WEEK PROCLAMATION**

Russell Greene, Emergency Services Director, discussed Fire Prevention Week set for October 3-9, 2010, stating that staff was making efforts to advertise and make the public aware of the importance of having smoke alarms in homes.

Representatives from the volunteer fire departments in the county will be present at the next meeting in recognition of Fire Prevention Week.

Chairman Yoder asked if smoke alarms were still available for seniors in the area. Mr. Greene replied that seniors could request smoke alarms at DSS and that the local fire department would install them properly.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve the Fire Prevention Week proclamation. Commissioner Odom seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

### **NC STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUND RESOLUTION**

Rick French, County Manager, distributed a revised resolution approving the application of a low interest loan to construct 56,000 linear feet of water lines, fire hydrants, valves, water storage tank along Blankenship Road, Devil Track Road, Teague Town Road, and Church Road to provide a safe and reliable source of drinking water to residents and create looped lines for higher quality and improved pressures.

Commissioner Mayberry made a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

## **BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS**

Rick French, County Manager, presented the following appointments and reappointments to County boards and committees:

**Region E Development Corporation** – Reappoint Andrew Jackson for 3 years.

**Health Board** – Reappoint April Chapman and Jody Papazekos for 3 years.

**Local Relief Fund Boards** – Appoint Chris Hicks for Bethlehem Fire Department and Jeffery Hefner for Wittenburg Fire Department.

Commissioner Bolick 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 AMENDMENT #14**

Rick French, County Manager, presented Budget Amendment #14 to transfer funds in the Court Facility budget for use of part-time employees instead of a security firm, to budget for a pass-through of NCDOT grant funds to the WPRTA, and to budget for Work First employment funds from an NCDOT grant.

Commissioner Bolick made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #14. Commissioner Robertson 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. Sales tax revenues continue to increase. September collections showed Article 39 at 9.54% ahead, Article 40 at 7.65% ahead, and Article 46 at 9.14% ahead.
- B. Mid-State Contractors will begin work on the tennis courts in approximately 2 weeks.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Minutes from September 1, 2010 Special Called Meeting and minutes from the September 7, 2010 Regular Commissioners Meeting.
- B. WPRTA Rural Operating Assistance Program Funds Administration Agreement.

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 6:50 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 7:32 PM. Commissioner Robertson 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