

Draft

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**     October 18, 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, October 18, 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.

**\*\*\*SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS\*\*\***

David Icenhour, Economic Development Director, announced the winners of the Business and Industry Website Creation Grant Program:

Brigette's Staffing – full service staffing agency  
R.E. Foy & Son Builders – residential and commercial contractors  
Seaworthy Seating – custom upholstery for the boating industry  
Habitat for Humanity – build homes for low income families  
Beasley Power Equipment – mowers and steel power equipment, storage, and repair  
Little Egypt Automotive – car parts, rebuild, resell, recycle service  
Warren's Complete Auto Care – automobile service and repair  
Harrington Construction – residential, commercial, institutional contractors  
Royal Comfort Bedding – mattresses for home and custom orders (boats, trailers, etc.)  
Harrington's Machine Shop – parts for racing industry and general purpose auto parts

He stated that these \$500 grants targeted businesses with the best opportunity to export their products outside the county, businesses that were likely to increase visitor traffic to the county, and that were most likely to create or maintain local employment. Presentations on the Web will provide website design for the selected companies.

### **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Robertson stated that the Apple Festival was a success and he congratulated the individuals that put the event together.

### **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

### **PUBLIC HEARING: TRANSFER OF COUNTY OWNED PROPERTY TO EDC**

David Icenhour, Economic Development Director, discussed the transfer of 25.613 acres located in the Alexander Industrial Park from the County to the Alexander County Economic Development Corporation. He stated that the EDC would fund marketing efforts intended to locate new employers paying at least the county average annual wage and noted that, prior to any transfer, the County and EDC would enter into an agreement restricting the use of the property to economic development purposes and restricting the EDC from profiting from any future sale or transfer.

Commissioner Robertson pointed out that this was the intent of the County when the property was purchased.

Chairman Yoder called the public hearing to order and requested any public comment. There being no comments made, Commissioner Bolick made motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Odom seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to allow the County Attorney to move forward with drafting an agreement to transfer the property to the EDC as outlined by Mr. Icenhour to include provisions for the property to be reverted back to the County if at any time the property is not used for economic development purposes. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

### **PUBLIC HEARING: CLOSEOUT OF CRAFTMASTER FURNITURE CDBG SEWER & ARC WATER PROJECT**

Nancy Coley, WPCOG Community Development Administrator, presented the Closeout Performance Reports for CDBG #06-E-1582 and ARC #06-A-1618, the Craftmaster Furniture Water and Sewer Economic Development Project. She explained that the \$750,000 CDBG grant and the \$200,000 ARC grant provided public sewer service and upgraded the water lines to Craftmaster Furniture, Inc. In return for the services, Craftmaster expanded, retained 420 jobs, and created 77 new jobs, 60 of which were filled by previously very low, low, and moderate income persons.

She informed the Board that before the project, Craftmaster was served by a package treatment facility that was costly to operate and could not be expanded. The company needed public sewer service to remain competitive. She reported that with the installation of force mains, gravity lines, and two pumping stations, Craftmaster was now connected to the Town of Taylorsville's wastewater treatment plant.

The water line and water tank located on Craftmaster Road did not provide adequate pressure for fire protection for the two furniture industries located there. Ms. Coley stated that adequate flow and pressure for fire protection had been provided with the installation of 12-inch water lines.

Chairman Yoder called the public hearing to order and requested any public comment. There being no comments made, Commissioner Robertson made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to submit the closeout papers to the Commerce Finance Center, NC Department of Commerce, as presented for the project. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

## **REPORT ON ENERGY AWARENESS MONTH & CLEAN ALEXANDER DAY**

Josh Mitchell, Solid Waste Director, stated that October had been observed as Energy Awareness Month since 1991 and he discussed the major sources of energy production in the United States and North Carolina (coal, natural gas, nuclear, etc). He also provided a list of low or no cost ways to save energy including:

- Install programmable thermostats
- Use compact fluorescent light bulbs
- Air dry dishes instead of using dishwasher's drying cycle
- Turn off computer and monitor when not in use
- Plug electronics into power strips and turn off power strips when not in use
- Lower thermostat on hot water heater to 120 degrees
- Take short showers instead of baths
- Wash full loads of dishes and clothes
- Check for air leaks around windows and doors
- Buy Energy Star appliances and products

He advised that County government had been taking part in energy saving efforts by installing programmable thermostats in County buildings with lock boxes to prevent tampering, replacing expired t12 bulbs and ballasts with new t8 bulbs and ballasts, replacing old incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent lamps, installing room occupancy sensors, and changing out exit signs. This has resulted in the County receiving \$3,200 in rebates from Duke Energy. Tax credits up to \$1,500 are available to citizens for certain efficiency measures.

Mr. Mitchell also announced that the next "Clean Alexander Day" would be held on Saturday, October 30, 2010. All Alexander County citizens will be allowed to dispose of their trash for free at the landfill and convenience sites from 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM.

## **SALES TAX REPORT**

Rick French, County Manager, reviewed distributions to the school system from Article 42 for the past 4 years, which has decreased mainly due to the economy. The total has decreased from \$1,282,955 in 2007 to \$1,021,389 in 2010 or 13.9%.

The County's distribution of Article 42 has decreased due to the formula change from per capita to point of origin as well as mandates requiring the County to hold the Town and school system harmless. The total has decreased from \$855,304 in 2007 to \$166,621 in 2010 or 78.93%.

Mr. French also mentioned the other sales tax revenue distributions which have shown an increase as follows: Article 39 – 10.46%, Article 40 – 7.77%, Article 46 – 10.01%. This is an overall increase of 9.30% in revenue.

## **MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT FOR ANIMAL SERVICES WITH CATAWBA COUNTY**

Rick French, County Manager, presented a Mutual Aid Agreement with Catawba County for animal services in the event of a disaster. He explained that the agreement would expire on June 30, 2011 and that either party had an option to terminate the agreement with 30 days notice. Staff hopes to develop mutual aid agreements with all surrounding counties.

Commissioner Mayberry asked if prices for services would be agreed upon before said services were performed. Mr. French replied that prices would be set beforehand.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve the Mutual Aid Agreement for Animal Services with Catawba County. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

## **BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS**

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

**Health Board** – Reappoint Thomas Rider for 3 years.

**Building Services Advisory Committee** – Reappoint Clint Canaday, Larry Jenkins, Brent Fox, Mark Foy, Tony Lackey, David Land, Darrell Robertson, Ryan Mayberry, Sylvia Turnmire, and Lynn Teague for one year.

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

## **BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #17 & #18**

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendments #17 & #18, which included the following information:

Budget Amendment #17 – To transfer funds from salaries in the Social Services budget to pay the contract for the Interim Director. To increase the Social Services budget for TANF Emergency Contingency Funds – Subsidized Employment Program and for Crisis Intervention Payment funds.

Budget Amendment #18 – To transfer funds for purchase of used truck for the Animal Control Department.

Commissioner Bolick made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #17 and #18. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

The following issues were discussed during Other Business:

- A. Mr. French presented a draft Panhandler / Begging Ordinance prepared by the County Attorney which included provisions for door to door sales but excluded bona fide charities, religious, educational, civic, or fraternal organization. He stated that the ordinance would be presented for consideration at the November 1, 2010 Commissioners' Meeting and he requested changes before that date.
- B. The old asphalt at the Bethlehem Park tennis courts has been removed and the new surface is down. Mr. French advised that the fence was also up and gates were locked. He noted that the contractor would provide a quote on redoing the basketball court at Jaycee Park.

- C. A drop-in reception is scheduled for Sherry Hart on Tuesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-4:30 PM at DSS. Sherry will be retiring after 29 years service.
- D. County staff is working on a FY2011 Homeland Security Grant for law enforcement capital funded through FEMA. Mr. French presented a timeline and implementation plan.
- E. The City of Hickory announced a Stage 1 drought and requested customers conserve water by 3-5%; however this is not mandatory.
- F. Commissioner Robertson noted that the 2010 property valuation is \$2,326,478,858.
- G. Commissioner Robertson informed the Board that the EPA had proposed a reduction in the allowable dust levels which could have a serious affect on farmers. He also noted that California and 3 other states had restricted the use of wood and charcoal for cooking.

Commissioner Odom made a motion to approve the County Manager's Report. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Minutes from the October 4, 2010 Regular Commissioners' Meeting.
- B. 2000 Ford Crown Victoria Vin #2FAFP71W1YX138439 to be deemed surplus.
- C. Smoky Mountain Center Fiscal Monitoring Report.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Mayberry 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 6:55 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 Robertson 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 7:51 PM. Commissioner Odom 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