

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING November 21, 2011

ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

PRESENT: W. Darrell Robertson, Chairman
 Ryan Mayberry, Vice-Chairman
 James “Burkie” Jennings
 Judy M. Moose
 Larry Yoder

STAFF: Rick French, County Manager
 Jamie Starnes, Clerk to the Board

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Monday, November 21, 2011 at the CVCC / Alexander Center in Room 103, Taylorsville, North Carolina.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Robertson called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Yoder gave the invocation and Commissioner Jennings led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Chairman Robertson mentioned that Commissioner Mayberry would be late due to traffic following an automobile accident on Highway 127.

He also stated that we as Americans were fortunate to live in a nation that offered more freedoms and opportunities than any other nation in the world. He urged everyone to have a Happy Thanksgiving and to be thankful.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

2010-2011 AUDIT REPORT

Amber McGhinnis, Martin Starnes & Associates, and Jennifer Herman, Finance Director, presented a slide show presentation for the 2010-2011 Audit Summary, which included the following information:

- General fund revenues (ad valorem taxes, local option sales taxes, restricted intergovernmental, sales and services, permits and fees, interest, other)
- General fund expenditures (general government, public safety, environmental protection, economic and physical development, human services, culture and recreation, education, and debt service)
- Fund Balance overview
- Solid Waste Fund overview
- Water Funds overview

Ms. Herman explained the requirements by the Local Government Commission related to fund balance, an average of 24.63% for our population group. She also noted that the increase in fund balance for 2010-2011 was due to increases in sales tax revenue and decreases in departmental expenditures for the Sheriff's Department, Health Department, and DSS.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to accept the 2010-2011 Audit Summary as presented. Commissioner Moose seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Mayberry entered the meeting at 6:13 PM.

PUBLIC HEARING: 2011-2012 NCDOT SECONDARY ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM PROPOSAL

Patrick Norman, P.E. District Engineer, presented the 2011-2012 Secondary Road Construction Program for Alexander County and discussed the program allocations, which included the following:

* FY 2011-2012 County Allocation

Highway Fund (G.S. 136-44.5) - \$446,897.48
Trust Fund (G.S. 136-182) - \$335,689.39
Total - \$782,586.88

* Rural Paving Priority (unpaved routes)

Priority No.	SR No.	Length (Miles)	Road Name & Description	Est. Cost
2F	SR1310B	1.10	Robinette Road	\$375,000.00

			from SR1334 to SR1311	(partial funding)
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*** Rural Paving Alternatives**

Priority No.	SR No.	Length (Miles)	Road Name & Description	Est. Cost
3F	SR1314	1.10	Oxford School Road from SR1315 to SR1313	\$700,000.00
4F	SR1305	0.90	Lambert Fork Road from end of pavement to SR1307	\$650,000.00
5F	SR1311	0.45	Gill Childers Road from end of pavement to SR1310	\$350,000.00
6F	SR1308	1.50	Walt Russell Road from SR1311 to SR1307	\$900,000.00

*** Various spot stabilization and secondary maintenance for unpaved routes (G.S. 136-182)**
- \$85,689.39

*** Paved Road Improvements**

SR No.	Project Description	Est. Cost
SR1321 (Wood Road)	Full depth reclamation and resurfacing for SR1313 (Three Forks Church Road) to dead end	\$150,000.00
SR1178 (Ben Eller Lane)	Water line relocation from SR1136 (Taylorsville Beach Court) to dead end. Funds reimbursed to Alexander County	\$75,000.00

*** Various spot stabilization and secondary maintenance for paved routes - \$50,000.00**

*** Funds reserved for surveying, right-of-way acquisition, road additions, contingencies, overdrafts, and paving entrances to certified fire departments, rescue squads, etc. (G.S. 136-44.5c) - \$46,897.48**

Mr. Norman stated that the Secondary Road Construction Program did not include any funding for paving of subdivisions or trust fund safety improvements.

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

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the 2011-2012 Secondary Road Construction Program as presented. Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Mayberry asked about the hole on the Catawba side of the Highway 127 bridge. Mr. Norman stated that he would check with someone from bridge maintenance about the issue.

Commissioner Yoder expressed safety concerns regarding the intersection of Highway 16 South and County Home Road at the Shady Rest Home. Cole Gurley stated that that intersection was currently being studied. Commissioner Yoder also noted that many accidents occurred at the bottom of the hill on Highway 16 South at Oxford Dam as well.

Chairman Robertson felt that a No Turn on Red Sign was needed at the intersection of US Highway 64/90 turning right onto Liledoun Road.

INTRODUCTION OF LAURA CROOKS, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Laura Crooks, who was hired as the Library Director approximately 4 ½ months ago, informed the Board that she was a resident of Alexander County and had received her Bachelor's in English from Appalachian and her Master's of Library & Information Science from UNC-G. She also has her NC Public Library Certification.

She stated that she had worked at the Bethlehem Branch Library since its opening in 2006. Since opening, they've begun story time for preschool aged children, participated in the summer reading program, and some adult summer reading programs as well. Poetry readings are hosted there every February and local and regional art is featured there with an opening reception every other month.

Ms. Crooks mentioned the great staff at the library and she announced a special event celebrating the holidays on December 9th between 6:00-7:00 PM with live flute and harp music. Beginning in January, displays will be featured on the progress of the library since its opening to celebrate the 45th anniversary. She also read the library's mission statement.

She mentioned the possibility of offering e-books in the future which would add to the library's collection without taking up space.

ALEXANDER COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL WEAPONS POLICY

Rick French, County Manager, presented a proposed Animal Control Weapons Policy which allows Animal Control officers to carry weapons and ammunition to be utilized only when all other means of dealing with an animal situation has been exhausted. It also outlines requirements for completion of training and certification to demonstrate proficiency in the use of weapons.

Commissioner Jennings asked that wordage be added to the policy to address the use of less than deadly force such as darts, etc. that would prevent the killing of an animal unless absolutely necessary.

Commissioner Mayberry felt a clause was needed regarding an Animal Control Officer using a weapon to protect themselves against another person as well as animals.

Chairman Robertson suggested an addition under Section VII Surrender of Weapons that officers should not use weapons if sick or using medication.

Commissioner Jennings made a motion to approve the Animal Control Weapons Policy with the additional changes. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #18 & #19

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendments #18 and #19 as follows:

Budget Amendment #18 – To increase the Court Facility budget for repairs to the existing jail required by a recent jail inspection. To budget for additional state funds for the School Nurse Funding Initiative. To budget for additional state funds for immunizations.

Budget Amendment #19 – To close out the Vashti Road Water Project (Rural Center grant funds drawn down for sales tax paid to contractor).

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #18 and #19. Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

OTHER BUSINESS

The following issues were discussed during Other Business:

- A. Rick French, County Manager, stated that the annual Employee's Christmas Luncheon would be held on Friday, December 2, 2011 at the CVCC / Alexander Center.
- B. Mr. French noted that the quarry area at Rocky Face Park is being cleared and stakes are in the location for the picnic shelter.
- C. Chairman Robertson addressed the formalization of committees mentioned at the last meeting. He asked that Commissioners Mayberry and Jennings serve on the Personnel Committee and Commissioners Jennings, Mayberry, and Moose serve on both the Land Use and Growth and the Minimum Housing Committee. He asked that Commissioner Jennings chair the Land Use & Growth Committee and that Commissioner Moose chair the Minimum Housing Committee.

Commissioner Mayberry asked that the Land Use & Growth Committee be named the Comprehensive Plan Committee.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes from the November 7, 2011 Regular Commissioners' Meeting.

Commissioner Yoder 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 Robertson made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 7:15 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 8:19 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