

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING January 9, 2012

ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

PRESENT: Ryan Mayberry, Chairman
James “Burkie” Jennings, Vice-Chairman
Judy M. Moose
W. Darrell Robertson
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, January 9, 2012 at the CVCC / Alexander Center in Room 103, Taylorsville, North Carolina.

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Commissioner Moose visited the future Rocky Face Mountain Park on Saturday and was pleased to report that crews were there working. She felt this would be a great asset for the citizens once completed.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Luther Stocks, Tax Administrator, explained that in an effort to reduce “sticker shock,” the revaluation process in Alexander County was changed from an 8-year to a 4-year cycle in 2007. Due to the economy, the revaluation scheduled for 2011 was postponed to 2013 by resolution in May 2009 and then again in March 2011 until 2015. He noted that most counties in the state had also taken similar action.

He informed the Board that revaluation must take place in 2015 according to state law and he pointed out that, since the process took approximately 2 years to complete, staff would need to begin work in January 2013.

MEDICARE PART D PROGRAM REPORT

Scott Ross, Senior Center Director, reported that during the recent Medicare Part D open enrollment period of October 15th through December 7th, Senior Center staff and volunteers conducted research and counseled with 480 Alexander County seniors. Through this process, many seniors were able to change to a different prescription drug plan that will save a total of more than \$206,000 this year.

He stated that these efforts were mostly done by volunteers but he noted that the SHIP grant received by the center was doubled this year which also allowed for the hiring of a part-time employee. He also announced that one individual alone will save \$21,000 a year on their prescriptions due to the plan change.

Mr. Ross briefly mentioned that NC ranked 9th in the United States for a population of 60 and over and that Alexander County’s Senior Center ranked 16th in the state for most active senior centers.

PROJECT LIFESAVE REQUEST FOR FUNDING

Sergeant David Moose discussed the estimated start-up costs for the Project Lifesaver Program in Alexander County which totaled \$4,000 (Budget Amendment #25). Those expenses include the purchase of the following items:

- 9 one-year transmitter kits – current style at \$280 per kit or new style to be released in late February at \$360 per kit.
- 1 leather band at \$14
- 1 round style transmitter for use with leather band kit at \$235
- 2 headsets for use with LSI-G2 receiver at \$75 each

He noted that shipping costs would be additional. Also presented again was the contracts for approval, one for \$25 per month and another for \$10 per month for low income families for participation in the program. Sergeant Moose reiterated that the fees would cover the monthly

replacement of batteries and bands as well as to recoup some of the costs of the transmitters. So far, 5 families are interested.

Sheriff Chris Bowman informed the Board that staff planned to speak with civic groups in the county for donations in an effort to stockpile more kits and assist more individuals.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the purchase of 10 kits (some of both the current style and new style) as well as Budget Amendment #25 and the two proposed contracts. Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

SALES TAX UPDATE

Rick French, County Manager, stated that \$3,258,200 had been budgeted for sales tax collections in the 2011-2012 budget. A total of \$1,163,418 has been collected for the first 4 months which is \$120,494 more than what had been collected at this time last year; however, \$51,715 was appropriated to the school hold harmless.

Commissioner Yoder stressed the need for sales taxes formulas to be changed back to per capita instead of point of origin, which hurts smaller counties.

DISCUSSION OF VETERAN'S COMMITTEE

Commissioner Jennings presented the following list of individuals to serve on the Veteran's Committee:

Ginger Annas, Alexander County Veterans Service Officer
Jim Brewer, DAV Post 84 Commander
Stan Hubbard, DAV Post 84 Post Adjutant
Bill Randlett, VFW Post 10,000 Commander
Mack Oliver, VFW Post 10,000 Quartermaster Representative
Elbert Harrington, VFW Post 5466 Senior Vice Commander
Herb Poole, VFW Post 5466 Quartermaster
Dale Chapman, Alexander Legion Post 170 Commander
Mike Annas, Alexander Legion Post 170 Post Adjutant
Rev. Jamie Steele, East Taylorsville Baptist Church Pastor
Ben Hines, Register of Deeds
Burkie Jennings, Commissioner
Micah Henry, Media Representative

Commissioner Jennings explained that the committee would help organize and coordinate veteran's events in the community as well as raise attendance and awareness. He stated that these appointments would be for one-year, that anyone not residing in Alexander County would

be ad hoc members, and that current members would become ex-officio members when they stepped down from their post and were replaced.

Commissioner Jennings made a motion to approve the appointments to the Veteran's Committee. Commissioner Moose 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:

Planning & Zoning Commission – Reappoint Don Harrington for 2 years.

Council on Aging – Reappoint Dr. Josephine Foster for 3 years.

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council – Appoint Joe Rochelle, Genesis McWhorter, and Jan Barriger for 2 years. Reappoint Jennifer Hefner, Chris Bowman, Carrie Nitzu, Krista Hiatt, Holly Yongue, Brandon Lowe, Commissioner Judy Moose, Kevin Beale, Matt Cooksey, Kim Cowart, Jerry Ratchford, and Suzanne Rhinehart for 2 years.

Local Emergency Planning Committee – Reappoint David Odom, Seth Harris, Patti Foster, Jason Williams, Bob Burns, and Commissioner Burkie Jennings for 3 years.

LEPC Chairman – Appoint Russell Greene.

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

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #23 & #24

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendments #23 & #24 as follows:

Budget Amendment #23 – To increase the Sheriff's Department for an increase in the fee for the civil process service from \$15 to \$30 effective 8/1/11. To transfer \$8,700 from the JCPC Administrative budget to the Residential Treatment Program and to decrease the JCPC Administrative budget by \$2,276 for the statewide administrative cost for Project Challenge, Inc. To increase the DSS budget for 1) Federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Funds and 2) Adult Daycare funds passed through the WPCOG Home and Community Care Block Grant.

Budget Amendment #24 – To increase the Senior Center budget for 1) FY 2012 expense of printing more cookbooks - \$6,551, 2) Senior Center activity expenses in excess of funds collected - \$1,500, 3) Estimated expenses for “Taste of Taylorsville” party to be held in February or March 2012 - \$1,330, 4) Contingency (\$1,299) to be used as needed in FY 2012 from part of the revenues from FY 2011 cookbook sales, 5) Contingency (\$3,000) to be used as needed in FY 2012 from donations given to the Senior Center in prior years when it was also a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. The budget increases will be paid for with funds collected from cookbook sales in FY 2012 and FY 2011 and from donations from the 501(c)3 period.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #23 & #24. Commissioner Roberson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

OTHER BUSINESS

Rick French, County Manager, reviewed the following issues during Other Business:

- A. The trail contractor began work at Rocky Face Mountain Park today.
- B. Crews are halfway completed with water lines along Sipe and Cornerstore Roads.
- C. The roof at the new Law Enforcement Center is 99% complete and the last concrete pad will be poured for the Detention Center on Thursday.
- D. The WPCOG Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2012. Please let Jamie Starnes, Clerk to the Board, know if you plan to attend.
- E. The next County Commissioners’ Meeting will be held on February 6, 2012.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from the December 12, 2011 Regular Commissioners’ Meeting.
- B. Approval of LEPC Annual Report and membership.
- C. Tax Release Requests for December \$5,668.34 and Tax Refunds for December \$47,759.24.

Commissioner Yoder 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 Mayberry made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 7:05 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 Jennings made a motion to adjourn at 9:00 PM. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Ryan Mayberry, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board