

Draft

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**      April 2, 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

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Monday, April 2, 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 Robertson gave the invocation and Commissioner Yoder led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**COMMISSIONER’S REPORT**

Commissioner Robertson stated he was thankful for the mild winter we experienced when considering the state cuts to funding used to help the elderly with their heating bills.

Commissioner Jennings reported that the Veterans Committee was beginning the process of recording video interviews of veterans in the County. One interview has already been recorded and several others are being scheduled. He encouraged those interested in having their story recorded to contact Ginger Annas, Veterans Service Office. Any conflict will be accepted but WWII stories are especially needed.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Chairman Mayberry requested the addition of Budget Amendment #42 to Agenda Item #7.

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

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no one present to speak during the Public Comment Period.

## **STATE OF THE COUNTY MESSAGE – 2011**

Chairman Mayberry gave the following State of the County Message for 2011:

I appreciate the opportunity to continue the tradition of presenting the State of the County message to the citizens of Alexander County. The State of the County was again extremely challenging in 2011. Despite a poor economy with high unemployment, there were a number of positive and negative signs indicating the road ahead.

Alexander County's average unemployment rate for 2011 decreased significantly from 2010. For the past year, the average rate was 11% which was a decrease from an average of 13% in 2010. In addition, Alexander County's monthly average unemployment rate for 2011 was the lowest among the Unifour counties of Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, and Catawba.

Work began on the development of a new site in the Alexander Industrial Park. With a zero interest loan from EnergyUnited, grading began in 2011 on a 25-acre industrial rail site on White Plains Road. Prior to completion of this site, the county did not have a graded industrial site which is critical in attracting new industry.

As a result of funding from County government, the Economic Development Corporation continued with its second year of the Website Creation Grant Program. During 2011, this program provided critical funding allowing 8 small businesses without websites to create a presence on the Internet. Since its inception, the program has assisted 18 local businesses.

Construction began in March 2011 with site grading for the Alexander County Law Enforcement and Detention Center. At present, the Law Enforcement Center is under roof. This portion of the project should be completed in July 2012. The Detention Center portion of the project is well underway. Block work is more than 70% complete. Precast roof panels were set the week of March 26, 2012. The projected completion date for the entire site is October 24, 2012 with a total estimated cost for this project at just under \$8 million.

In the past year, the water line installation in the northeast through the Vashti Community has been completed. The Church Road Water Project has recently been completed,

connecting lines from US 64 to the area of Friendship Church Road as well as Corner Store and Sipe Road extensions. This project tied up dead ends on the system. To date, approximately 20 residential taps have been made on these new lines.

Construction on the Rocky Face Mountain Park Project began in October of 2011. The park is located in the northeastern section of Alexander County, along Rocky Face Church Road at the site of the former quarry. Construction of the park is being funded by a NC Parks & Recreation Trust Fund Grant and the match for those funds came from the park property, which was donated to Alexander County by Carolina Land and Lakes Resource Conservation and Development District. The first phase of this project will include approximately two miles of hiking trails across the mountain, along with a half-mile ADA compliant walking trail, picnic shelter, restrooms, and a parking area for visitors. Construction is currently scheduled for completion by April 30<sup>th</sup> of this year.

The Alexander County School System is approaching the end of another exciting year at each of its member schools. The students and staff have been working with diligence and efficiency to provide another year of quality instruction for the students, thereby giving every opportunity for learning to occur in each classroom. Here is an "Around the County Tour" of what's been happening!

There have been many success stories from Alexander Central High School this year that exemplify the impact on the school's culture and progress. ACHS is now offering students the opportunity to recover credit during the school day and "5th" period. This is providing a service to students that don't have transportation to the Alternative Learning Program, thus giving many students the opportunity to get back on track to graduate. Another initiative is the Minimum Credit Diploma which gives students who are at risk of not graduating an opportunity to do so.

The high school also used innovative ways to improve what can be offered to the students. For example, ACHS received a grant to get one social studies teacher AP certified over the summer, thus allowing ACHS the ability to offer AP US History. Reducing class size in many of the math classes has allowed the teachers more one-on-one time. This allows for a reduction in classroom disruptions which should drastically improve the success rate in Algebra 1.

With the focus on opportunities to gain credit, the successes of students at the Alexander County ALP come in small doses that slowly work to achieve the larger goal of graduation. Last year, approximately one out of every 8½ ACHS graduates took at least one course at ALP. The average for the past 4 years has been about one out of every 10 ACHS graduates. Although working under the radar for the most part, ALP has made strides in diminishing a potential higher dropout rate that has been slowly seeping into society. Working hand-in-hand with ACHS administration and staff, our goal is to continually make efforts to decrease the dropout rate.

West Alexander Middle School added a new literacy program to address reading deficits. The Positive Behavior Intervention Support implementation has reduced suspensions as

well. An emphasis was placed on the students being able to participate in club activities during the school day by creating a weekly “club schedule” to provide for this enriching social and extracurricular time. Through much collaboration and planning, the school created a transition program for rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders to include student visit/tours, counselor and band/chorus teachers’ visits to elementary schools, Parent Night, and JumpStart. Also, throughout the year the school participated in many extra-curricular activities such as Battle of the Books, Young Authors, and all middle school athletics.

East Alexander Middle School was awarded the IMPACT V: Building 21<sup>st</sup> Century School Leadership grant. East is one of 12 schools to receive this grant. Over 226 schools met the eligibility requirements to apply. The goal of this project is to develop school and district leaders who have the knowledge and skills to implement IMPACT: Guidelines for North Carolina Media and Technology Programs, fully embrace IMPACT’s role in promoting student achievement through the use of technology, and media tools to support learning across the curriculum. With this grant, 4 teachers from East will receive a free Master’s degree in Instructional Technology through UNCC and the principal will receive an Ed.S. through UNCG. These, plus the school’s Media Specialist and District Technology Facilitator, will receive coaching and extensive professional development which they will bring back to the county and share.

East has purchased 62 additional laptop computers for use in mobile labs and has worked with the Technology Department to upgrade the school’s access points for almost optimal coverage. This grant is designed to have a far-reaching impact on Alexander County Schools and the community as a whole.

The Alexander County School System worked very hard on writing a grant that would help hire individuals to implement a program that helps with the county’s dropout rate. The grant money was put into play with the hiring of 3 Transitional Student Advocates. Each of our middle schools (East and West Alexander) has a student advocate and one lead student advocate was placed at ACHS. These 3 ladies hit the ground running on August 1<sup>st</sup> through identifying at-risk students and community member mentors for those students.

Throughout the first few months of school, the student advocates continued to work with the students on their new school transition, building relationships, staying up on school work, attendance, and discipline. While the student advocates worked during the school day with the students, their second mission for after school hours was to recruit mentors for the students. The mentoring program is based off of the Communities in Schools mentoring model that is crowned the #1 accredited mentoring program and dropout prevention program in the nation.

The hope of the student advocates is to get enough funding, either through Communities in Schools (check it out on the web at [www.cisnc.org](http://www.cisnc.org)) or another resource that will allow us to continue this program into next year. We need the support of our community to make this program possible!

In the 2010-2011 school year, 50% of Alexander County's schools made AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress). Of the counties surrounding Alexander, only Caldwell equaled that figure also having 50% making AYP. Iredell-Statesville only had 31.4% make AYP, Wilkes had 45.5%, and Catawba was at a low 17.9% of their schools making AYP. As a system, Alexander managed to maintain 87% proficiency on math EOGs and grow our percent proficient on reading EOGs over a percentage point to 73.8%. ACHS grew its Algebra 1 EOC proficiency almost 3 percentage points to over 80%. Both East and West Middle Schools grew their math proficiency and West Middle grew its reading proficiency over 4 percentage points. Our elementary schools' lowest math proficiency was 86.7% (Wittenburg Elementary), where the math proficiency last year was 82.5%, a growth of 4.2 percentage points. Another bright point in math was at Stony Point Elementary which grew from 88.8% to 90.5% proficient in 2010-2011. Stony Point also grew its reading proficiency a huge 7.4 percentage points from 69.4% proficient to 76.8% proficient. Ellendale Elementary and Hiddenite Elementary also improved their reading proficiency by 3 and 4 percentage points respectively. Taylorsville Elementary, after being a school of improvement in math a few years ago, again raised its math proficiency to 87.4% while keeping its reading proficiency at 70%. Sugar Loaf raised reading proficiency over 11%. In a school year that reflected spending cuts and loss of staff statewide, Alexander County Schools once again put "Children First" and our students' results reflect that commitment.

Beginning with the 2012-13 school year, Common Core Standards in math and English language arts and NC Essential Standards in science, social studies, guidance, world languages, arts education, healthful living, career and technical education, and informational technology will be taught and assessed in the NC public schools. All teachers in the Alexander County School System have worked this school year to complete 5 on-line modules provided by the State while also working in grade level teams and specific content areas to develop an understanding of the new standards in order to make changes in their teaching practices. These content and grade level teams are currently developing curriculum maps/pacing guides to teach the new curriculum beginning in August 2012. A school calendar was designed for the 2011-2012 school year to incorporate 5 required professional development days for all staff within the system (October 31<sup>st</sup>, January 20<sup>th</sup>, February 20<sup>th</sup>, March 27<sup>th</sup>, and June 12<sup>th</sup>). These professional development days have been a critical element in the training of staff as they prepare to teach these new curriculum standards. Implementation of the Common Core Standards in the state's public schools is designed to directly address the relevance and rigor of what is being taught in classrooms. North Carolina is one of 45 states to adopt this set of standards.

The standards are designed to:

- be aligned with college and work expectations;
- be clear, understandable and consistent;
- include rigorous content and application of knowledge through higher-order thinking skills;

- build upon strengths and lessons of current state standards;
- be informed by other top-performing countries, so that all students are prepared to succeed in a global economy and society; and
- be evidence and research-based.

The Common Core and North Carolina Essential Standards are designed to define the knowledge and skills students should have throughout their K-12 education careers to help them graduate from high school fully prepared for college and careers.

Catawba Valley Community College / Alexander Center for Education 2011 accomplishments include:

- 1st Paramedic graduation in over 10 years.
- 1st time to hold the BLET degree graduation in Alexander County (held in ACHS Auditorium).
- Selected "Large Business of the Year for 2011."
- Started a "FaceBook" presence for marketing purposes.
- Provided additional lighting for the parking lot area (County paid).
- Provided a gravel parking lot for overflow parking (County paid).
- Upgraded computer software in all our classrooms and offices.
- Added a new computer lab in one of our classrooms.
- Installed Active/Smart Boards in 3 classrooms.
- "First time offered" classes include: Summerscapes for elementary and middle school-aged students in Summer 2011, Digital Photography, Spanish for Healthcare Professionals, Flyfishing, Basic Law Enforcement Continuing Education classes, Paramedic 16-month degree.
- Offered and continue to offer weekly "Starting Points" admissions sessions and COMPASS college placement testing as a weekly service to prevent students from driving to main campus to participate in the admissions process.
- Added a part-time IT position to assist with the myriad of technology needs on our campus.
- Partnered with the County IT Department to provide them with updated CVCC information to place on the government channel.
- Offered scholarships through the CVCC Dream Believe Achieve Scholarship Program for students in need of financial assistance which included, for the first time, continuing education classes. To date, 13 students have received scholarships ranging from \$200 - \$600.

The Alexander County Department of Social Services saw some concerning trends begin to unfold in 2011:

- 28% of children in DSS custody have been in our custody before.
- 54% of children in DSS custody have at least one parent with a substance abuse problem.
- MORE children in foster care and LESS foster homes to place them in.

The total number of families / children receiving Medicaid increased from 4,761 to 4,871 (110 more) AND the total number of elderly and disabled adults receiving Medicaid increased from 6,299 to 6,484 (185 more).

The total number of persons receiving cash assistance through the Work First Program decreased from 70 to 67 (3 less), but the number of Work First / Child-ONLY cases went up from 46 to 51 (5 more).

The total number of children receiving daycare assistance decreased from 328 to 278 (50 less children served) because of funding, AND Alexander County was forced to create its first-ever childcare waiting list (48 children waiting in July 2010 and 119 children waiting in June 2011).

The total number of households receiving Food & Nutrition Services increased from 2,329 on July 1, 2010 to 2,753 on June 30, 2011 (424 more households and 951 more individuals receiving food assistance through our agency). A huge workload increase.

Fifteen adoptions were completed – that means 15 children went to safe, permanent, FOREVER homes (with an average of 33 children in custody per month for the year in 2010/2011 . . . this means DSS moved almost HALF the total foster care caseload into permanence). THAT IS HUGE!!!

Six children came INTO custody during the year.

The DSS Angel Tree Program assisted 436 children. This program is supported by individuals, DSS employees, churches, and a number of local businesses in the community.

Food boxes and new baskets were supplied to 65 elderly and disabled adults on our home delivery routes through the Adult Christmas Project - supported by individuals, DSS employees, several local businesses, churches, and a Girl Scout group in the community.

- Percent of children living in poverty in Alexander County (25.7%) as compared to the state of North Carolina (24.6%) – we have a higher number of children living in poverty.
- Median Household income in Alexander is \$40,441 as compared to \$43,417 state average.
- 33.1% of Alexander County children are food insecure (may be hungry) as compared to 27.3 % state average.
- 9.6% of our children are uninsured, as compared to 11.8% statewide average.
- Per 1,000 girls ages 15-17, we have 18.4 pregnancies in Alexander County, as compared to 26.4 statewide in North Carolina.
- Per 1,000 live births, Alexander County has 5.2 infant deaths, as compared to 7.0 statewide.

- We had NO confirmed child deaths due to abuse in 2011, as compared to 19 across the state.
- We confirm child maltreatment and facilitate mandatory services in 25.65% of our child protective services cases, as compared to 20% statewide in North Carolina.
- Turnover at the agency in 2010/2011 was 16%.
- Turnover in child welfare social workers continues to be a problem – lost 3 in 2010/2011 (pay increase, caseload, and opportunity for promotion were cited most frequently as reasons). That’s 21%, and watch out for this percentage in 2011/2012 (much higher).

The Planning Department worked on several projects in 2011. A survey of the businesses in the county that were located in residentially zoned areas was completed with the help of an intern from ASU. This was an effort to determine the number of locally owned and operated businesses within the county. Unfortunately, we found many vacant buildings and businesses that had ceased to exist.

The Planning Department started the initial research into pursuing NCDENR grant monies available for the removal of abandoned manufactured homes. Preliminary surveys of the northern part of the county found close to 200 abandoned manufactured homes. This was done by visual survey, so those numbers have not been verified.

At the request of the Commissioners, The Planning Department began researching minimum housing ordinances from other counties to determine an approach that was suitable for Alexander County.

Since January 2011, the Alexander County Emergency Services Office has responded to 33 fires for investigation purposes as assistance to our volunteer fire departments. Emergency Services has had a total of 22 Emergency Management responses. Incidents include events such as a missing or lost person, tornado/storm damages, explosive devices, and others.

The Emergency Services Office conducts a quarterly meeting of our Local Emergency Planning Committee which is made up of staff and volunteer community business partners. This group reviews incidents and plans to ensure our emergency service is truly addressing the needs of Alexander County residents.

The Emergency Services Office has utilized grant funds to conduct classes for volunteers and County staff required by State and Federal agencies, such as Incident Management and Chief 101.

We have conducted or participated in no less than 3 exercises to strengthen and test our ability to respond and mitigate a variety of situations from HazMat to winter storms; i.e. Brushy Mountain Showdown (3-county full scale exercise), full scale HazMat, Closed Point of Distribution, and others.

Through the use of Homeland Security Grant monies, we have been able to complete a Countywide Resource Typing Project, acquire equipment such as a Mass Casualty Incident Trailer, and a Companion Animal Mobile Equipment Trailer.

Recycling numbers have continued to climb upward here in Alexander County. As a matter of fact, Alexander County is now ranked #18 in the state for its per capita recycling rate. We are now recycling 137 lbs per person per year. That is a long way from 2003 when we were ranked #76 and were recycling only 55 lbs per person. This can partially be contributed to a lot of new and exciting recycling options that are now available. Citizens can now recycle electronics, fluorescent bulbs, waste cooking oil, and oil filters, along with many other items. The County has partnered with Cell Phones for Soldiers, a charity that takes money made from recycling cells phones and buys calling cards for the men and women serving our country. The Alexander County School System continues to improve its recycling program. Last year the school system cut back by 742 dumpster pickups.

Now let's talk trash. Alexander County averaged exporting 1,790 tons of garbage per month in FY 2007. We are now averaging 1,420 tons per month. Some of this can be attributed to the economic downturn, but the bottom line is - trash numbers are down and recycling numbers are up.

The Solid Waste Office continues to attack illegal dumping, cleaning up almost 70 dump sites or complaints in 2011.

No new debt has been incurred since the January 2011 loan for the project to construct a new jail / law enforcement center and renovate the existing courthouse. The County has applied for approximately \$3.2 million of loan funds from the NC Drinking Water State Revolving Fund for water system improvements. If approved by NCDENR and the Local Government Commission, the loan will be repaid over 20 years with an expected interest rate of 2.20%.

The school hold-harmless provision for sales tax revenue continues to result in Alexander County setting aside more money for the school system's share of Article 42 sales tax than the County actually receives. The amount budgeted is \$92,000 for the school hold-harmless in 2011-2012.

Counties receive their share of local sales taxes each month and as of the March 2012 distribution, the County's portion of total sales tax revenue has increased almost 10% compared to the same time last year.

Some of the local sales taxes were not part of the State's action in 2009 to change the allocation method to local governments. Article 39 one-cent sales tax, Article 40 half-cent sales tax, and Article 46 quarter-cent sales tax are the 3 local sales taxes that still have the same allocation method. As of the March 2012 distribution, the County's portion of these 3 sales tax articles is up almost 8% in the last 10 months.

The fund balance of Alexander County's General Fund improved to 26.12% as of June 30, 2011, which is in line with the average fund balance for comparably sized counties. The Local Government Commission continues to recommend maintaining this level of fund balance to: 1) finance operations during periods of declining revenues, 2) address emergencies and unexpected expenditures, and 3) take advantage of financial opportunities, such as grants with local match requirements.

In closing, Alexander County continues to feel the economic pressure of the worst recession since the Great Depression. The challenges of the Alexander County budget will continue to be difficult, especially with our new Alexander County Law Enforcement / Detention Center and Rocky Face Mountain Park opening. We pledge to do our best for the citizens of Alexander County. Thank you to my fellow commissioners and our County employees. May God bless you as we move ahead. Thank you!

## **PUBLIC HEARING: SOLID WASTE ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS**

Seth Harris, County Planner, reviewed the final draft of the Solid Waste Ordinance, noting that the following changes had been added, including suggestions given at the March 12, 2012 Commissioners' Meeting.

- Added under Chapter 50.01 (Definitions) a definition for manufactured home park that is consistent with the Zoning Ordinance.
- Addressed the frequency that trash should be emptied in Chapter 50.22 (Residential Requirements).
- Cleaned up the formatting and layout of the ordinance that did not affect content.

Commissioner Jennings asked how to enforce the rule that the landfill and convenience centers only be used by county residents. Commissioner Yoder pointed out that auto stickers and hang tags had been used in the past to identify locals.

Mr. Harris replied that some counties distributed stickers based on property taxes; however, Chairman Mayberry noted that contractors working in Alexander County would no longer have access to the landfill. Commissioner Yoder mentioned the same for renters.

Josh Mitchell, Solid Waste Director, advised that Iredell and Caldwell Counties charged citizens for solid waste disposal on property tax bills, so it would not benefit citizens of those counties to dump their trash here unless they lived closer to our convenience centers. He also stated that anyone using our facilities had to pay to do so and he saw no problems with that. As far as landfill usage, Alexander County's C & D tipping fees are higher than surrounding counties, so it would be unlikely that individuals would drive from other counties to use it. Mr. Mitchell felt the easiest way to monitor usage, if so desired by the Board, would be to check vehicle registrations.

Commissioner Robertson felt there could be more expense to monitor this situation that was not a major problem. Commissioner Moose agreed and felt it could put unnecessary work on the Solid Waste employees.

Commissioner Jennings felt there was no need to include Section D under Chapter 50.35 (General Requirements) in the Solid Waste Ordinance if the County was not going to enforce it. Section D states “no person who resides outside of the boundaries of the county shall dispose of solid waste at the County landfill site or shall use County convenience sites.”

Commissioner Robertson felt Section D should remain in the ordinance but that staff should not spend a tremendous amount of time enforcing it. Commissioner Jennings disagreed and made a motion for Solid Waste employees to perform random spot checks of vehicle registrations for one month.

Chairman Mayberry asked Commissioner Jennings for more time to discuss this issue and also for Mr. Mitchell to prepare. Commissioner Jennings withdrew his motion.

Commissioner Robertson felt wording relating to dumping of hazardous materials under Chapter 50.38 (Hazardous Solid Waste and Liquid Waste) should be printed in bold lettering.

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

Public Comment

Larry Riddle felt a simple solution would be to post a sign at the gates of the landfill and convenience centers as well as placing an article in the newspaper informing the public that staff would be spot checking vehicle registrations. He felt this would eliminate the few out-of-county users. He also told the Board that a Solid Waste employee refused to allow him to dispose of his waste 9 years ago when he first moved here because he still had Illinois plates. Only when he was able to produce a receipt for homeowner’s insurance was he allowed to enter the landfill.

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

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve the amendments to the Solid Waste Ordinance as discussed. Commissioner Moose seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

**PUBLIC HEARING: APPROVAL OF ROAD NAMES**

Rick French, County Manager, submitted the following road names for approval:

<u>Road No.</u>	<u>Road Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
3718DWA	Vineyard Drive	Off Antioch Church Road
3718WRA	Fiddlers Ridge	Off Antioch Church Road

He advised that all names met required regulations and had been checked for duplication and sound indexing.

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

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

## **SALES TAX REPORT**

Rick French, County Manager, stated that \$334,846 in sales tax revenues had been collected in March which was the best month so far for this budget year. Because sales tax collections run a few months behind, March collections were from December 2011. This puts collections at 64% of what was budgeted or \$2,083,260 so far this year. He noted that we were at \$182,276 or 10% above this same time last year.

He mentioned that \$76,432 had been set aside for the Article 42 hold harmless provision for school construction and debt service.

## **BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS**

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

Council on Aging – Reappoint Angela Johnson, Janette Johnson, Glenda Hobbs, and Angell Barnes for 3 years.

Board of Health – Reappoint Eric Walker and Carrie Herman for 3 years.

Town Planning Board of Adjustments – Reappoint Sallie Hartis for 3 years.

He stated that there were two vacancies on the Town Planning Board of Adjustments that needed to be filled as soon as possible.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve the reappointments. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

## **BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #39 - #42**

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendments #39 - #42 as follows:

Budget Amendment #39 – To increase the Extension Service budget for donations from outside sponsors received during the 2011-2012 budget year. To increase the Board of Elections budget for the Help America Vote Act non-cash grants - \$18,630.62 per year paid by the State on behalf of the County for FY 2011 and FY 2012 annual maintenance fees for computer hardware, software, and firmware.

Budget Amendment #40 – To budget for the school system’s use of lottery funds in FY 2011-2012 for the Sugar Loaf Elementary School Project to construct 6 additional classrooms. The remaining \$279,000 will be included in the 2012-2013 budget.

Budget Amendment #41 – To increase the landfill budget for the County’s annual distribution from DENR for the Electronics Recycling Program.

Budget Amendment #42 – To increase the Sheriff’s Department budget for grant funds awarded from the NC Governor’s Highway Safety Program through the NC Department of Insurance / Office of State Fire Marshal to purchase a vehicle seat simulator to instruct how to properly install child restraints. To increase the Emergency Services Department budget for grant funds from Walmart to purchase smoke detectors.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #39 - #42. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

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

- A. The Solid Waste / Recycling Department will be sponsoring a Shred It Day on Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM at the County Administration Building and Bethlehem Park parking lots.
- B. The NCACC District Meeting is scheduled for April 12<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn Express in Wilkesboro at 5:30 PM.
- C. The debt issuance letter has been written to the Joint Legislative Committee and Fiscal Research Division of the General Assembly for our upcoming water project. Lines will be constructed on Teague Town, Blankenship, and Devil’s Track Roads, a new tank will be installed in Ellendale, and the water pump station in Bethlehem will be upgraded.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the County Manager’s Report. Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Tax Release Requests for March \$5,045.71 and Tax Refunds for March \$1,406.28.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Moose 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 7:31 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 8:47 PM. Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

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Ryan Mayberry, Chairman

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Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board