

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING September 10, 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, September 10, 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 following a moment of silence in memory of the victims of September 11, 2001. Chairman Mayberry led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

*****SPECIAL RECOGNITION*****

The Board presented a Key to the County to Keith Warren who recently retired with 30 years of service to the Alexander County Sheriff’s Department. Commissioner Yoder stated that Mr. Warren had served with professionalism and dignity and he wished him well during his retirement.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Commissioner Yoder gave a recap of the NC Association of County Commissioners Annual Conference held August 15-18, 2012. He also urged the Board and department heads to submit ideas for legislative goals by the September 17, 2012 deadline.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman Mayberry requested moving Agenda Item #9 (Approval of Law Enforcement & Detention Center Furniture Quotes) to be heard as Agenda Item #11 A.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Connie Killian, Chair of the Bethlehem Community Development Association, announced several upcoming events in the Bethlehem community including,

- 3rd Annual Bethlehem Day and Car Show on October 4, 2012.
- Community Clean-Up Day in October (date to be announced).
- Annual Star Lighting on December 1, 2012.

TAYLORSVILLE LION'S CLUB AGRICULTURE FAIR ANNOUNCEMENT

Charles Wells and Hazel Yoder with the Taylorsville Lions Club were present to promote the Alexander County Agricultural Fair being held September 10-15, 2012. Opening ceremonies will take place on Tuesday, September 11th at 6:00 PM and there will be special presentations, livestock displays, and entertainment each night. The Lions Vision Van will be available on Thursday, September 13th from 3:00-9:00 PM and is provided at no charge.

Ms. Yoder urged anyone with vision problems to contact a member of the Lions Club. She also mentioned that the Lions Club could assist with hearing aids, organ procurement, and possible matching funds for specific surgeries for those in need.

PUBLIC HEARING – TEXT AMENDMENT 12-1: SIGN REGULATION REVISIONS

Seth Harris, County Planner, presented a proposal for revisions to the Sign Regulations portion of the Alexander County Zoning Ordinance. The revisions include updates to the exempt sign section, increased enforcement options for portable signs, and changes to the requirements for off-premise directional signs. In preparation for this amendment, staff contacted adjoining counties and other counties of similar size to compare their sign enforcement procedures, types of exempt signs, and maximum sign size. Therefore, the proposed additions and revisions are within those parameters.

He informed the Board that the Planning & Zoning Commission held a public hearing on August 2, 2012 where the text amendment was unanimously approved. Revisions were made in the following sections:

154.111 Signs Exempt from Regulation – moved home occupation sign regulations from Section 154.121 to this section and added regulations for agricultural signs.

154.113 Temporary Signs – added size requirements for civic or non-profit event signs and time limit for removal.

154.114 Prohibited Sign Locations – added the authority to remove and dispose of signs located within road right-of-way.

154.122 On-Premise Wall Signs – changed the size of wall signs from 32 to 200 square feet.

154.126 Off-Premise Directional Signs – added a maximum number of 3 directional signs per use.

Chairman Mayberry expressed his concerns with several portions of the ordinance and after discussion suggested the following:

- Change the title of Section 154.111 to read Signs Not Requiring a Permit.
- Remove (A) under Section 154.113 because it would limit a citizen's right to freedom of speech. Commissioner Jennings agreed.
- Allow construction signs under Section 154.113 (B) to remain for 30 days after issuance of a certificate of occupancy instead of 7 days.

He also questioned the prohibition of flashing lights or sources of illumination in Section 154.115 when there was mention of replacement of burned out bulbs in Section 154.116. Mr. Harris explained that Section 154.115 prohibited flashing bulbs or illumination on signs in any road right-of-way.

Chairman Mayberry also asked Mr. Harris to investigate whether the Board had the authority to allow him to remove and dispose of signs located within right-of-way as mentioned in Section 154.114.

Commissioner Yoder felt that due to the amount of changes discussed, a work session needed to be held at a later date and he made a motion to table the consideration of Text Amendment 12-1 until that time. Chairman Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

**PUBLIC HEARING – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE GRANT
(COMPOSITE FABRICS OF AMERICA)**

David Icenhour, Economic Development Director, reviewed an application by Composite Fabrics of America for an Economic Development Incentive Grant relating to the addition of manufacturing equipment resulting in 2 new jobs and a tax valuation increase of \$127,071. Jobs will pay over the county average wage.

He advised that the proposed Level II grant would consist of payment to the company equal to a percentage of the property taxes paid by the company for the first 5 years after the completion of the capital investment with 85% being the highest percentage in the first full year following the completion.

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 Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the Economic Development Incentive Grant for Composite Fabrics of America. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

PUBLIC HEARING – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE GRANT (SCHNEIDER MILLS)

David Icenhour, Economic Development Director, reviewed an application by Schneider Mills for an Economic Development Incentive Grant relating to the addition of manufacturing equipment resulting in 3 new jobs and a tax valuation increase of \$2,794,360. Jobs will pay over the county average wage.

He advised that the proposed Level II grant would consist of payment to the company equal to a percentage of the property taxes paid by the company for the first 5 years after the completion of the capital investment with 85% being the highest percentage in the first full year following the completion.

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 Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the Economic Development Incentive Grant for Schneider Mills. Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

I-CARE, INC. CDBG FUNDING FOR ALEXANDER COUNTY

Bryan Duncan, I-CARE, Inc. Executive Director, reported that I-Care, Inc had been named the Community Action Agency designated to provide services to low-income families in Alexander County through CDBG funding. A total of \$48,762 has been appropriated.

He reviewed the I-CARE anti-poverty plan, noting that his staff worked closely with DSS to identify suitable individuals and families who were serious about improving their situation and willing to do that which is necessary. A few services available include employment assistance, education, housing, literacy training, etc.

Mr. Duncan informed the Board that a staff member would be available at the Employment Security Office 2 half days per week.

SALES TAX REPORT

Rick French, County Manager, advised that a total of \$3,520,187 in sales tax revenues had been collected for the 2011-2012 year. That total is 8.04% more than what was budgeted. The total amount held for hold harmless was \$129,018.

HIDDENITE CENTER CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS WEEK PROCLAMATION

Chairman Mayberry presented a proclamation declaring September 16-22, 2012 as the Hiddenite Celebration of the ARTS Week. Karen Walker, Acting Director of the Hiddenite Center, discussed the many events taking place that week prior to the festival on Saturday.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the proclamation. Chairman Mayberry 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:

WPCOG Region E Development Corporation – Appoint Doug Caudle and reappoint David Icenhour, both for 3 years.

I-CARE, Inc. Board of Directors – Appoint Jerry Ratchford for 3 years.

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

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #5 - #9

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendments #5 - #9, as follows:

Budget Amendment #5 – To increase the County Water & Sewer Fund budget for relocation of a water line on Ben Eller Lane.

Budget Amendment #6 – To increase the Pre-Trial Release Department budget for the yearly maintenance fee on a database system. To increase the Health Department budget for Public Health Quality Improvement funds. To increase the Health Department budget for the purchase of an ultrasound machine with grant funds from the BCBS of NC Foundation.

Budget Amendment #7 – To increase the Sheriff’s Department budget for the purchase of a 1999 Dodge Ram truck with funds received in prior years from the Unauthorized Substance Abuse Tax distributions.

Budget Amendment #8 – To increase the Jail Department budget for the purchase of furniture for the new Law Enforcement and Detention Center.

Budget Amendment #9 – To budget for a CDBG Rehabilitation Grant.

Commissioner Jennings pointed out that the County Purchasing Policy states that large purchases needed prior approval as well as a purchase order. He asked if the policy was adhered to for the purchase of the 1999 Dodge Ram truck. Mr. French replied that the policy was not followed. Commissioner Jennings also expressed concerns with the fact that the vehicle was not purchased in NC and asked if the vehicle had been covered by insurance during the transport from VA to NC. Mr. French replied that he did not know the answer to that question.

Commissioner Jennings felt that departments needed to be reminded that the County had a purchasing policy that needed to be followed. Mr. French stated that he would prepare a memo to all departments as well as mention this at the next Department Head Meeting. Commissioner Robertson suggested that staff develop an acknowledgement form for employees to sign and return.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #5 - #9. Commissioner Moose seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

APPROVAL OF LAW ENFORCEMENT & DETENTION CENTER FURNITURE QUOTES

Rick French, County Manager, provided quotes from 6 different companies for furniture for the new Law Enforcement and Detention Center. The lowest quote for furniture was received from Office Furniture USA based out of Hickory for \$61,045 and from DOC Enterprise for Room 152 (Patrol) for \$8,250. Mr. French also pointed out that all furniture was made in the USA in either Kentucky or New York.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve the quotes from Office Furniture USA and DOC Enterprise. Commissioner Jennings 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. As of September 1, 2012, a total of \$6,271,357 has been spent on the new Law Enforcement and Detention Center. The projected total is \$8,268,677; however, that does not include operational costs. Plans are to move into the new facility in December.
- B. In conjunction with the Hiddenite Celebration of the Arts on September 22nd, the Hiddenite Trail Race will begin at 8:00 AM at Rocky Face Park. A dedication ceremony for the park will also be held on Saturday at 1:00 PM.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Tax Release Requests for August \$9,112.95 and Tax Refunds for July \$2,707.61.
- B. August 6, 2012 Regular Commissioners Meeting minutes.
- C. WPCOG Grant Management Contract.
- D. Adoption if the Updated Language Access Plan.

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 7:40 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 9:15 PM. Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Ryan Mayberry, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board