

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING October 1, 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, October 1, 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 Yoder gave the invocation and Commissioner Moose led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

The Board presented a Key to the County to Coach Richard White for his dedicated service to his church, the Alexander County School System, and the citizens of Alexander County. Coach White began his teaching career with Alexander County in 1957 and has taught Sunday School for 42 years. Commissioner Jennings stated that Coach White was a US Navy Veteran and had received the Award of Honor from the Alexander County School System.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Commissioner Jennings announced the Annual Veteran’s Day Celebration scheduled for November 11, 2012 at 5:00 PM as well as the free US Air Force Band concert planned for

November 13, 2012 at 7:00 PM. Both events will be held at the ACHS Auditorium. Ben Hines, Register of Deeds, was present to promote these events.

Commissioner Yoder advised that October 7-13, 2012 was Fire Prevention Week, noting that local fire departments and the Fire Marshal's Office would be visiting Alexander County Schools during the week to promote this year's campaign of "Have Two Ways Out." He recognized each of the county's volunteer fire departments, their chiefs, and volunteers:

Bethlehem Fire & Rescue – Chief Shannon Lowrance, 38 volunteers
Central Alexander Fire Department (Taylorsville) – Chief Matt Jordan, 32 volunteers
Ellendale Fire Department – Chief John Fletcher, 31 volunteers
Hiddenite Fire Department – Chief Tim Keever, 32 volunteers
East Alexander Fire Department (Stony Point) – Chief Scotty Abernathy, 50 volunteers
Sugar Loaf Fire Department – Chief Steven Davis, 31 volunteers
Vashti Fire Department – Chief Steve Carson, 25 volunteers
Wittenburg Fire Department – Randy Walker, 27 volunteers

Commissioner Yoder also stated that the dedication activities for the new Bethlehem Fire & Rescue Station would be held on Saturday, November 17, 2012 beginning at 9:00 AM with the dedication ceremony taking place at 3:00 PM.

Chairman Mayberry mentioned that the 3rd Annual Bethlehem Day and Car Show was held on Saturday, September 29, 2012. He introduced Bud Caywood with the Bethlehem Community Development Association who gave details of the event which was a success.

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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

ALEXANDER COUNTY & CVCC – BUILDING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

Dr. Garrett Hinshaw, CVCC President, presented a project proposal slide show for expansion of the CVCC / Alexander Center to consist of technical / vocational training (welding, machining, industrial maintenance, and upholstery), workforce development training (workforce led certifications, leadership, etc.) and a college transfer program. He provided video interviews of Alexander County citizens who had benefited from the CVCC / Alexander Center. The following comments were given:

Dr. Brock Womble, Alexander County Schools Superintendent, introduced ACHS Principal Doug Rhoney as well as Board of Education members Milton Campbell, Harry Schrum, and David Odom. He advised that the Board of Education has approved a resolution of support for the expansion of the CVCC / Alexander Center at its last meeting.

Milton Campbell, Board of Education member, felt technical / vocational training could greatly enhance the workforce opportunities in the county and that dual enrollment and college transfer programs provided a financial savings to both student and parent when considering the cost of 4-year university tuition and books. He also felt this proposal would have a considerable impact on the dropout rate.

Bud Caywood, Caywood Studios freelance furniture design consultant and member of the CVCC / Alexander Center Advisory Board, stated that many individuals working in the product development departments of manufacturing facilities had began their careers in production, gradually working their way up, which had now left an aging and retiring workforce and untrained workforce pool. However, he added that this dilemma created an opportunity with the expansion of the CVCC / Alexander Center to create unique job training that would ensure employment upon completion. Mr. Caywood felt this effort could also keep jobs in this county and bring workers in from other counties.

Roy Calcagne, CEO & President of Craftmaster Furniture, expressed support for the initiative to expand the CVCC / Alexander Center due to the need for skilled sewers and upholsterers. Currently 20% of Craftmaster's business is cut and sew kits made off shore to support business from the lack of trained workers which was taking jobs away from citizens in this county. He also felt the initiative would be an attraction for outside businesses and industries. Mr. Calcagne informed the Board that Craftmaster planned to grow the company in the future and would be forced to move to another county if skilled workers were not available here.

Kevin Mann, Vice-President of Operations for Craftmaster Furniture, added that most applicants were either fresh out of high school or drop outs with no training. Training an unskilled worker costs the company money and makes them less competitive. He pointed out that Craftmaster had chosen to purchase minimal amounts of the cut and sew kits unlike their competitors, but would be forced to purchase more in the future without trained workers. He felt that education would be the beginning to keeping workers in this county.

Hank Byrd, President of Schneider Mills, advised that 7 years ago the company stopped hiring workers without a high school diploma. He discussed the need to hire computer literate individuals, welders, electricians, and HVAC certified as well as the need for facilities to train. Mr. Byrd also noted that staff was currently enrolled in computer and other courses at the CVCC / Alexander Center and that the company offered a scholarship to a high school student to be educated by CVCC. Schneider Mills has been in Alexander County since 1946 but 60% of its workforce is from Wilkes County.

John Watts, CVCC Board of Trustee member, felt it was the commissioner's duty to provide the vision and opportunity for the citizens of Alexander County, noting that this was an opportunity to make a lasting change for the betterment of the citizens. He stated that investing in education was also investing in the foundation of which jobs, businesses, and personal successes were made and he urged the Board to take action tonight to allow the expansion of the CVCC / Alexander Center.

Several members of the Board made comments and it was noted that initial discussions regarding the expansion of the CVCC / Alexander Center had begun over 3 years ago.

**CONSIDERATION OF CONTRACT FOR PURCHASE & SALE OF REAL PROPERTY
– TAYLOR TOGS 1.410 ACRE TRACT, COMMERCIAL PARK AVENUE**

Rick French, County Manager, presented a contract to purchase the 1.410 acre tract of the Taylor Togs property which will be used as the entrance to the new Law Enforcement and Detention Center. A total of \$159,000 will be paid to the seller at closing.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the contract to purchase the 1.410 acre tract of the Taylor Togs property. Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

**CONSIDERATION OF CONTRACT FOR PURCHASE & SALE OF REAL PROPERTY
– TAYLOR TOGS MULTIPLE TRACTS, COMMERCIAL PARK AVENUE**

Rick French, County Manager, presented a contract to purchase the other portion of the Taylor Togs property which totals over 24 acres and two buildings located across from the CVCC / Alexander Center and adjoining the property for the new Law Enforcement and Detention Center. This property will be used for the expansion of the CVCC / Alexander Center and future County offices.

He explained that a third of \$580,407.62 would be paid to the seller at closing. Financing will be provided by the seller at a rate of 3% and there will be two annual installments – the first being \$580,704.62 plus interest of \$33,317.77 in October 2013 and the second being \$580,407.62 plus interest of \$16,905.09 in October 2014.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the contract for purchase of the multiple tract property of Taylor Togs. Commissioner Moose seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

PUBLIC HEARING: CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT 12-2 = SOMMERS

Seth Harris, County Planner, presented Conditional Use Permit 12-2 submitted by Jonathan Sommers who requested conditional use approval for a private church cemetery at property

located on Berea Church Quincy Road. The size of the property is 5.52 acres, zoned RA-20. The current land use is vacant. Mr. Harris stated that zoning within 100 feet of the subject property was RA-20 on all sides. Land uses within 100 feet include vacant property to the north, south, and west, agricultural to the north, east, and west, as well residential to the south.

He explained that the subject property had frontage on Berea Church Quincy Road and the project site is located in the rear of the property. The applicant plans to maintain an area consisting of approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre for the cemetery.

The RA-20 District allows the proposed use with conditional use approval from the Board. The Zoning Ordinance requires that cemeteries be located a minimum of 30 feet from any property line. NC Environmental Health regulations require a 50-foot setback radius from springs and wells as well as a 15-foot setback from any sanitary sewage system. The NC Cemetery Commission recommends a survey description be created.

Letters were sent by first class mail to adjoining property owners, a sign was posted on the property, and a legal advertisement was placed in *The Taylorsville Times* to announce the public hearing. Staff has not received any calls regarding this request.

Mr. Harris reported that staff recommended approval of the conditional use permit with the following conditions:

1. Maintain existing vegetation for screening.
2. Burial plots shall be set back 50 feet, measured radially, from any spring or well.
3. Burial plots shall be set back 15 feet from any sanitary sewage system.
4. A 30-foot setback be maintain from all property lines.

Commissioner Robertson suggested the applicant refer to N.C.G.S. Chapter 65 as well.

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

Commissioner Moose made a motion to approve Conditional Use Permit 12-2. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

PUBLIC HEARING: CONSIDERATION OF WAIVER OF COMPETITIVE BIDDING PROCESS UNDER N.C.G.S. 143-129(g)

Bradley Earp, EMS Director, requested the Board waive the formal bidding process for letting of public contracts by using the exception to “piggyback” a previously bid contract by Yadkin County for an ambulance from Northwestern Emergency Vehicles pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-129(g). The original price of the selected ambulance totals \$126,700; however, it can be purchased for \$119,000 with the “piggyback” option.

He reported that American Emergency Vehicles was the only ambulance manufacturer located in NC and that Northwestern Emergency Vehicles was the sales company for AEV. The last two Alexander County ambulances have been manufactured by AEV. He also advised that with the close proximity, mid-point inspection by staff during construction is possible.

Mr. Earp stated that the final Northwestern Emergency Vehicles contract would be submitted for approval at the November Commissioners' Meeting.

Chairman Mayberry 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 Jennings seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to waive the formal bidding process and piggyback off Yadkin County's previously bid contract and proceed with negotiations for the purchase of an ambulance by AEV. Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

ALEXANDER COUNTY DSS 2011-2012 ANNUAL REPORT

Cindy Holman, DSS Director, introduced several staff members including Trena Riddle, Matt Reese, Julie Sebastian, Sherry Deal, and Holly Yongue prior to giving the 2011-2012 annual report, which included the following information:

- The total number of children in foster care custody increased from 30 in June 2011 to 45 in June 2012; however, there are currently only 21 homes licensed. There is an extreme need for qualified and committed foster-to-adopt parents.
- Food & Nutrition staff has been gearing up for a new automated system called NCFAST. A new automated system called SEEK is also being used by Child Care staff.
- The number of individuals eligible for Medicaid continues to increase. It is estimated that an additional 700,000 will be eligible for Medicaid in NC due to the Health Care Reform. Seventy percent of the DSS budget is allotted for Medicaid.
- The adult guardianship caseload increased from 2 to 5.
- A total of \$2,149,331 was collected in child support.
- A total of \$208,172 was received (38% less in total funding than the previous year) for the LIEAP and CIP Programs that provide heating and cooling assistance to the public.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF UPCOMING CLEAN ALEXANDER DAY

Josh Mitchell, Solid Waste Director, announced that the next Clean Alexander Day would be held on Saturday, October 27, 2012. 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.

He explained that convenience sites will only accept bagged household trash. The landfill will not accept any liquid material, hazardous materials, or any material containing asbestos.

DEDICATION DATE FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT & DETENTION CENTER

Rick French, County Manager, suggested scheduling the dedication ceremony for the new Law Enforcement & Detention Center on Saturday, November 17, 2012 at 1:00 PM. An open house will also be held throughout the day and tours will be given.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the date of November 17th at 1:00 PM for the dedication ceremony. Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS

Rick French, County Manager, requested the following reappointments be made:

Joint Nursing & Adult Care Community Advisory Committee – Reappoint Phyllis Douglas for 3 years.

WPCOG Unifour Consortium – Reappoint Rick French for 2 years.

He also advised that there were two vacancies on the Joint Nursing & Adult Care Community Advisory Committee that needed to be filled as soon as possible.

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

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #10 - #13

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendments #10 - #13, as follows:

Budget Amendment #10 – To budget for estimated expenses and revenues for the Christmas parade. To revise the budget for the former Resource Center, now called the

TECS Program, which is no longer funded by a grant (a contract with the State allows for a maximum annual amount to be paid to the County for providing services to offenders). To decrease the revenue budget for the Soil & Water Department due to final revenue amounts from the State that are lower than original estimates.

Budget Amendment #11 – To budget for the first of 3 annual debt service payments for the purchase of the Taylor Togs property. Debt service payments are accounted for in the General Fund instead of the County Capital Projects Fund.

Budget Amendment #12 – To amend the budget for the County Building Acquisition and Renovation Project: 1) to purchase vacant land to be used for the entrance road to the new Law Enforcement and Detention Center and 2) to account for the first of 3 debt service payments in the General Fund instead of in the County Capital Projects Fund.

Budget Amendment #13 – To increase the Jail Department budget for the purchase of items needed for the opening of the new Law Enforcement and Detention Center – inmate beddings and personal supplies, laundry service supplies, food service supplies, maintenance and janitorial supplies, officer equipment and uniforms, and security equipment.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #10 - #13. Commissioner Moose 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. Commissioner Jennings and Mr. French attended the first Golden Leaf Foundation meeting on September 25, 2012. The next meetings are scheduled for October 23rd and November 13th.
- B. The next Commissioners Meeting is planned for November 19, 2012. A work session needs to be scheduled for either November 14th or 15th.
- C. The first Hiddenite Festival Trail Race was held at Rocky Face Park on September 22, 2012 with a total of 35 runners.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Tax Release Requests for September \$2,629.07 and Tax Refunds for September \$803.17.
- B. Minutes from the September 10, 2012 Regular Commissioners Meeting.
- C. Request for EMS Invoice for Stony Point Fire Department volunteer injured from scaffolding fall.

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 8:52 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 Yoder made a motion to adjourn at 9:44 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