

Draft

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**     April 8, 2013

**ALEXANDER COUNTY**  
**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

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

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

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Monday, April 8, 2013 at the CVCC / Alexander Center in Room 103, Taylorsville, North Carolina.

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**\*\*\*SPECIAL RECOGNITION\*\*\***

The Board presented a Key to the County to Suzanne Rhinehart, Extension Agent – 4-H Youth Development, who will be retiring at the end of April with almost 33 years of service to the NC Cooperative Extension Service.

Lenny Rogers, County Extension Director, stated that Ms. Rhinehart had touched the lives of thousands of young adults throughout her career.

**COMMISSIONER’S REPORT**

Commissioner Mayberry discussed his intention to present a power point presentation at the next Commissioners' Meeting on how to make progress in economic development in Alexander County based on our specific needs.

Commissioner Moose mentioned the scenery she viewed yesterday on her way to church, noting how blessed she was to live in such a beautiful place. She also pointed out the many farms and small businesses in the area which provided income to this county. Commissioner Moose also paid tribute to Margaret Thatcher who passed away today.

Chairman Jennings read a Letter to the Editor drafted by Paul Huffman that was printed in the *Hickory Daily Record* about the opening of a branch Senior Center in Bethlehem on April 2, 2013 in which Mr. Huffman thanked the commissioners, Senior Center staff, and Mount Pisgah Lutheran Church who donated space for the branch center. Chairman Jennings also mentioned plans for a branch center in the Stony Point area once a suitable location is found.

## **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Chairman Jennings requested the addition of the JCPC County Funding Allocation for 2013-2014 as Consent Agenda Item C.

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

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Jennings announced that, in an effort to provide more structure to the Public Comment Period, The Board would approve revised procedures at the May 13<sup>th</sup> Commissioners' Meeting. The original procedures were approved in August 2005.

The following comments were heard:

Josh Mitchell, Solid Waste Director, and Lenny Rogers, County Extension Director, announced the upcoming Household Hazardous Waste / Shred-It Day to be held on Saturday, April 27, 2013 in the County Administration building parking lot from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM. Items that can be disposed of include household cleaners, paint products, pesticides, and miscellaneous items such as acids, kerosene, batteries, fluorescent bulbs, electronics, pool chemicals, propane gas cylinders, and metallic mercury. Citizens can also bring personal documents for shredding. This will be a free service for Alexander County residents only; however, businesses will not be allowed to take part, with the exception of farmers.

Connie Killian, Chair for the Bethlehem Community Development Association, encouraged the Board to meet with the owners of Lowes Food in Bethlehem to convince them to remain in the community. She explained that there was concern the grocery

store, which employs 76 people and generates \$244,000 annually in sales tax revenue, may leave the area due to the defeat of the alcohol referendum, which would likely affect the other remaining stores in the shopping center. Ms. Killian felt the loss of Lowes would create an economic crisis for the area and ultimately affect the County budget.

Bud Caywood, Chairman of Citizens for the Future of Alexander County, responded to a recent editorial in *The Taylorsville Times* by Gary Jennings, President of Alexander County Citizens for Faith and Family Values, related to “CFAC’s lack of a Plan B” with the defeat of the alcohol referendum, noting that CFAC would continue to move forward with their initial plan of initiatives which included revitalizing the local economy, building tourism on natural scenic beauty, creating a cultural arts environment, and developing retirement opportunities. Even with the defeat of the alcohol election and loss of guaranteed revenue, CFAC has not lost focus. He recommended that both Town and County governments should collaborate with CFAC to plan for a better future.

Holly Yongue, Child Services Program Manager with DSS, stated that April was Child Abuse Prevention Month nationwide and requested the Board adopt a similar proclamation for Alexander County. She announced a showing of the film entitled “Finding Faith” on April 18, 2013 at 6:00 PM at Millersville Baptist Church, produced by the Safe Surfin’ Foundation and starring Erik Estrada, based on a true story of a 14-year old girl who was a victim of an online predator. Mr. Estrada is the national spokesperson for the Safe Surfin’ Foundation and will speak at this free event for the community.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to consider the proclamation as Consent Agenda Item D. Vice-Chairman Yoder seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

## **PUBLIC HEARING: CLOSEOUT OF HOYLE KELLER LOOP CDBG #02-D-2080**

Nancy Coley, WPCOG Community Development Administrator, provided the Closeout Performance Report for CDBG #02-D-2080 Hoyle Keller Loop Revitalization Project, stating that a total of \$295,777.08 in CDBG funds was spent on the project. CDBG funds provided 100% of all project costs and no local funds were spent.

The grant provided 1,714 linear feet of public water lines on Hoyle Keller Loop and 5 low/moderate income households were provided taps and connections, which benefitted 15 persons. Two vacant and dilapidated mobile homes were cleared. Three substandard homes were rehabilitated benefitting 10 low/moderate income persons.

Ms. Coley advised that owners of 3 households declined the offer of connecting to the public water line and one owner targeted for assistance declined the housing rehabilitation. Because of homeowner declines and the receipt of good bids, a total of \$93,327.92 remains in unspent funds.

Chairman Jennings called the public hearing to order and requested any comments. There being no comments made, Vice-Chairman Yoder made a motion to close the public hearing.

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

Vice-Chairman Yoder made a motion to submit the closeout papers to Community Investment, NC Department of Commerce and to de-obligate the \$93,327.92 in unspent grant funds. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

### **REPORT ON ROCKYFEST CELEBRATION MAY 25, 2013**

Gary Herman, Small Business Development Coordinator, invited the public to attend “RockyFest” on Saturday, May 25, 2013 at Rocky Face Mountain Recreational Area to celebrate the park’s one-year anniversary, noting that the day-long event would feature activities for everyone including 10K, 20K, and 50K runs, rock climbing, geocaching, children’s activities, live music, free food, and guided nature hikes. He presented the following schedule:

- 8:30 AM – start of 10K, 20K, and 50K runs
- 9:00 AM, 10:45 AM, 12:45 PM, 2:30 PM, 4:15 PM – rock climbing with Rock Dimensions Climbing Guides
- 2:00 PM – geocaching
- 3:00 – 7:00 PM – children’s activities – inflatables, scavenger hunt, face painting, storytelling with Miss Mel
- 3:00 – 7:00 PM – live music and free food (hamburgers and hot dogs)
- 5:00 PM – guided nature hikes

He added that parking would be available at Rocky Face Baptist Church and Greenway Transportation will transport visitors to the park.

### **STATE OF THE COUNTY MESSAGE – 2012**

Chairman Jennings announced that the State of the County Message would be given at the April 22, 2013 Meeting.

### **RESOLUTION APPLICATION FOR NC RURAL CENTER BUILDING REUSE FUNDS FOR HALLMAN FURNITURE**

David Icenhour, Economic Development Director, presented a resolution to authorize the submitting of a formal application to the NC Rural Economic Development Center’s Building Reuse and Restoration Grant Program to provide assistance to benefit Hallman Furniture in the amount of \$9,862. The company plans to move its operation into an existing empty industrial building, retaining 13 existing full-time jobs and creating a minimum of two new jobs. The County will provide a required 5% match paid through time spent by the Economic Development Office staff preparing the grant and administering grant funds.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve the resolution authorizing the NC Rural Center grant application for Hallman Furniture. Vice-Chairman Yoder seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

### **RESOLUTION APPLICATION FOR NC RURAL CENTER BUILDING REUSE FUNDS FOR PRECISION MATERIALS**

David Icenhour, Economic Development Director, presented a resolution to authorize the submitting of a formal application to the NC Rural Economic Development Center's Building Reuse and Restoration Grant Program to provide assistance to benefit Precision Materials in the amount of \$25,000. The company plans to renovate its facility and create a minimum of 5 new jobs. The County will provide a required 5% match paid through time spent by the Economic Development Office staff preparing the grant and administering grant funds.

Vice-Chairman Yoder made a motion to approve the resolution authorizing the NC Rural Center grant application for Precision Materials. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

### **RESOLUTION FOR THE SALE OF REFUNDING BONDS BY BETHLEHEM WATER DISTRICT**

Rick French, County Manager, explained that approval of this resolution was necessary to refinance the Bethlehem Water Refunding Bonds from a rate of 3.97% to 1.91%, saving the County approximately \$50,000 in interest as previously discussed. Attorney Bob Jessup was present to answer any questions.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve the resolution for refinancing of the Bethlehem Water Refunding Bonds. Commissioner Moose seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

### **SALES TAX REPORT**

Rick French, County Manager, reported that \$2,112,004 had been collected in sales tax revenue for the first 7 months of the 2012-2013 fiscal year, a total of \$28,744 more than this time last year; however, the hold harmless total is at \$67,997.

### **BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #45 - #47**

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendments #45 - #47, as follows:

Budget Amendment #45 – To increase the Health Department budget for additional Food & Lodging state funds, additional Healthy Communities funds, Communicable Disease Vaccination Campaign funds to replenish vaccines for clinics. To decrease the Jail budget for revenue budgeted for housing inmates from other counties (original budget estimate was based on plans to enter into contracts to house other counties' inmates in the new jail facility).

Budget Amendment #46 – To budget for Animal Shelter renovations in the County Capital Projects Fund rather than the General Fund due to the timing of the renovations that will extend into a new fiscal year.

Budget Amendment #47 – To increase the Recreation Department budget for additional lights to be purchased for Dusty Ridge Park (the County will use \$5,000 from prior years' Matheson Tournament profit and the balance to be funded by a donation from Wittenburg Recreation).

Commissioner Mayberry made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #45 - #47. 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. The NCACC District Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 11, 2013 in Lenoir from 5:30 - 8:00 PM.
- B. Mr. French presented copies of the Tax Reform slide show presented at the Tax and Finance Committee Meeting as information.
- C. The City of Hickory has agreed to design and install a water line on Poplar Grove Court. Material costs for this line are approximately \$25,000 and the County will be responsible for one-third of that total and the residents two-thirds plus tap fees.

Vice-Chairman Yoder made a motion to move forward with the Poplar Grove Court water line. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Tax Release Requests (\$3,186.26) and Tax Refunds (\$2,087.66) for March 2013.
- B. Minutes from the March 11, 2013 Regular Commissioners' Meeting.
- C. JCPC County Funding Allocation for 2013-2014.
- D. Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation.

Commissioner Robertson 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, 2, 4, 5, & 6) TO PREVENT THE DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION, DEGREES/PRIZES/AWARDS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CONTRACTUAL, & PERSONNEL**

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 6:51 PM to prevent the disclosure of confidential information and to discuss degrees/prizes/awards, economic development, contractual matters, and personnel issues pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1, 2, 4, 5, & 6). Commissioner Moose seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Commissioner Mayberry made a motion to adjourn at 7:13 PM. Commissioner Moose seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

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James H. Jennings, Chairman

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Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board