

Draft

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING** October 21, 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, October 21, 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

Vice-Chairman Yoder gave the invocation and Commissioner Mayberry led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman Jennings advised that the Board would hold a Closed Session tonight according to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1, 5, & 6) instead of (4) (Attorney-Client Privilege) as printed.

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

UPDATE ON 2ND CFAC PUBLIC FORUM

Kathy Riddle reported on the 2nd Citizens for the Future of Alexander County Public Forum held on October 10th where citizens discussed the 15 priorities developed from the September 12th

forum and established goal statements based on those priorities. These goals will lead to action plans which will be formulated by volunteer committees.

The top 3 identified priorities are #1 Beautification of Taylorsville and Alexander County, #2 Greenways and Outdoor Spaces, and #3 Health Care / Urgent Care.

Ms. Riddle encouraged anyone interested in serving on a committee to contact her at (828) 635-5510 or kkriddle16@gmail.com. She also noted that a 3rd public forum would be held in early 2014.

Commissioner Robertson suggested Ms. Riddle's presentation be placed on the County website along with contact information, meeting schedules, etc.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE EVIDENCE STORAGE FACILITY DISCUSSION

Sgt. David Moose discussed the need for an evidence storage facility, noting that the Sheriff's Office currently housed seized property and evidence in 5 locations, none of which were equipped with video surveillance. Common problems are water leaks and mold, lack of storage space for large/bulky items, lack of appropriate ventilation for narcotics storage, problems regulating temperature and humidity to prevent DNA evidence degradation, and overcrowding of evidence items in storage. He also advised that the vehicle impound lot was unsecure with a fence enclosing only 3 sides and insufficient outside lighting, leaving the vehicles vulnerable to theft and damage. There is also no secure location for investigators to process large items and vehicles for trace evidence.

He provided photos of water damage to evidence containers in the old Dayton building, overcrowding conditions at old Dayton (main and shop) and the storage trailer on Waggin' Trail, the unsecure vehicle lot with grass thrown onto cars from mowers (County is liable for any damage to vehicle while in storage), as well as photos taken during a recent tour of Henderson County Sheriff's Office Property and Evidence Section.

Sgt. Moose was aware that \$100,000 was set aside in Contingency for the construction of a new evidence facility but mentioned that the 7,500 square foot vacant commercial building located adjacent to the new Sheriff's Office would provide adequate evidence storage and that the acreage was suitable for a secure fenced and graveled lot for vehicle storage. However, he was informed by Mr. French prior to the meeting that the building had been set aside for CVCC.

Commissioner Robertson suggested Sgt. Moose or Sheriff Bowman determine if NC had adopted the SBI guidelines for retention and preservation of evidence before proceeding with the International Association for Property and Evidence Professional Standards as presented.

Sgt. Moose also added that a per day storage fee could be charged with the addition of a secure impound lot, which would generate some revenue for the County.

UPDATE ON INMATE POPULATION

Sheriff Bowman reported that as of 10:00 AM today there were 114 prisoners housed at the Alexander County Detention Center, 9 of which were delivered from Caldwell County on October 16th at a \$55 daily rate. Of those 114 inmates, 24 are females.

He advised that a contract was being negotiated with Caldwell County for 32 male beds. After information was submitted to the Sheriff's Association, Burke County called with an interest of at least 10 beds and possibly more; however, Sheriff Bowman did not feel more beds would be available as they were filling up fast. Anita Price is working to get inmates eligible for the Pre-Trial Release Program out to free up bed space. He also mentioned ongoing discussions with Chief District Court Judge Dale Graham regarding charging "weekenders" the \$55 per day rate for use of bed space.

Sheriff Bowman reiterated the need for adequate evidence storage space, pointing out that some type of evidence was taken in with every arrest. The Sheriff's Office is also responsible for storage of vehicles for the Highway Patrol and Town of Taylorsville.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #6 & #7

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendments #6 & #7, as follows:

Budget Amendment #6 – To budget for a grant from the Humane Society of the United States – grant awarded in recognition of the County's elimination of the gas chamber at Animal Control.

Budget Amendment #7 – To transfer funds from the Detention Center budget to the Sheriff's Office budget for the purchase of tactical body armor for the SRT Team – funds to be transferred from the Detention Center salaries and wages line item due to new employees being hired later in the budget year than originally estimated.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #6 and #7. Vice-Chairman Yoder seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

2013-2014 BUDGET UPDATE / 2014-2015 BUDGET PROCESS REPORT

Rick French, County Manager, reviewed expenses and revenues for several departments for the current budget year as well as for 3 years prior. Debt service totals were also discussed. He also recommended the the 2014-2015 budget process begin a little earlier this year with the following schedule:

January 9, 2014 – budget meetings with department heads
January 23, 2014 – technology requests due to I.T.

February 2, 2014 – budget requests due to Finance Department
February 28, 2014 – budget request reports given to County Manager
March 2014 – new or unusual requests presented
May 2014 – approve budget

Vice-Chairman Yoder requested a printout of the information presented tonight.

OTHER BUSINESS

Rick French, County Manager, noted the need for only one meeting in November and requested the November 18th meeting be cancelled.

After discussion of conflicts, Commissioner Moose made a motion to cancel the November 4th meeting and hold the regular meeting on November 18th. Vice-Chairman Yoder seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Home & Community Care Block Grant SFY 2013-2014.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Vice-Chairman Yoder seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

CLOSED SESSION – N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1, 5, & 6) TO PREVENT THE DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION, CONTRACTUAL, & PERSONNEL

Commissioner Mayberry made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 7:23 PM to prevent the disclosure of confidential information and to discuss contractual matters and personnel issues pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1, 5, & 6). Vice-Chairman Yoder seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Robertson made a motion to adjourn at 7:49 PM. Commissioner Moose seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

James H. Jennings, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board