

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING April 7, 2014

ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

PRESENT: Larry Yoder, Chairman
 Andrew Ferguson
 James “Burkie” Jennings

ABSENT: Ryan Mayberry, Vice-Chairman
 Judy M. Moose

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

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Monday, April 7, 2014 at the CVCC / Alexander Center in Room 103, Taylorsville, North Carolina. A reception honoring former commissioner Darrell Robertson was held prior to the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Yoder gave the invocation and Commissioner Ferguson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

*****SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS*****

The following recognitions took place:

Darrell Robertson

Chairman Yoder presented a Key to the County as well as an Order of the Long Leaf Pine to former commissioner Darrell Robertson for 17 years of outstanding service as an Alexander County Commissioner from 1996-2013. Chairman Yoder also mentioned that Mr. Robertson had been a member of the Foothills Mental Health Board as well as the Smoky Mountain Center Board for many years.

Holly Yongue, Children's Service Program Manager, conveyed her appreciation to Mr. Robertson for his service on the DSS Board.

Mr. Robertson thanked the Board for the recognition, his family for their support over the years, and the County staff.

Habitat / Lions Club Project

Matt Cooksey from Habitat for Humanity and several members of the Lions Club were present to promote their joint effort to build a home for Ray Coleman, graduate of the Governor Morehead School for the Blind. They distributed ticket vouchers for the May 25th Hickory Crawdads game allowing \$4 of the ticket price to be donated to this effort.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Chairman Yoder discussed the current and upcoming budgets, also reviewed at a recent Finance Committee Meeting. He pointed out that \$3.5 million had been taken from Fund Balance by a 3/2 vote to balance the 2013-2014 budget and also that County departments had requested over \$8 million in increases for the 2014-2015 year. He felt it was apparent that a property tax increase would not be voted in by the majority of the Board for the upcoming year which meant services would be reduced and more Fund Balance would be needed. In addition, he mentioned that, in his opinion, the following projects and requests would be delayed without a tax increase:

- Phase II of the Rocky Face Park Project – PARTF grant match.
- Evidence storage building for the Sheriff's Office.
- New County garage.
- Demolition of the Dayton property.
- 4th EMS crew.
- Replacement vehicles for the Sheriff's Office.
- Additional funding for the School System.

Chairman Yoder advised that the appropriation of more Fund Balance would also result in the inability to borrow money for projects, industry recruitment, etc. including 0% interest loans and he noted that the NCACC did not feel the General Assembly would be favorable to approving a sales tax increase for Alexander County in the upcoming year.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Commissioner Jennings made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Commissioner Ferguson 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.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COUNTY INMATES TO WORK ON PROJECTS TO BENEFIT ALEXANDER COUNTY

Commissioner Ferguson presented a resolution giving the Sheriff the ability and discretion to select non-violent inmates housed at the detention center to work on County projects. He advised that any County employees chosen to supervise these inmates would be trained by the Sheriff's Office.

Commissioner Ferguson made a motion to approve the resolution authorizing County inmates to work on projects benefitting Alexander County. Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

MILLERSVILLE SEWER AGREEMENT

Rick French, County Manager, presented an Intergovernmental Agreement between Alexander County and the Town of Taylorsville for the Millersville Sanitary Sewer Project, noting that the agreement included provisions for the County to pay \$15,000 per year for 20 years towards the debt service of the project once sewer lines are installed along Highway 16 South and the project is completed. Tap fees and minimums will be split between the two municipalities.

Commissioner Jennings made a motion to approve the Millersville Sanitary Sewer Project Agreement. Commissioner Ferguson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Holly Yongue, Children's Services Program Manager, provided 5-year statistics related to child abuse reports, cases, juvenile petitions, children entering DSS custody, and those placed in permanent homes and discussed goals of the Community Child Protection and Community Collaborative Teams. She also requested the Board's approval of a proclamation declaring April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Alexander County.

Chairman Yoder made a motion to approve the Child Abuse Prevention Month proclamation. Commissioner Ferguson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SHRED-IT DAY

Josh Mitchell, Public Works Director, announced that Shred-It Day would be held on Saturday, April 26th from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM in the County Administration Building parking lot. This event is for Alexander County residents only and there is a limit of 5 boxes per person.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT TRENDS

Josh Mitchell, Public Works Director, reported that Alexander County had increased its state rating for recycling per capita from 85 (34.53 lbs. per person) in 2003 to 16 (166.6 lbs. per person) in 2012. This is due to increased public recycling programs throughout the county.

The Board thanked Mr. Mitchell and his staff for their efforts leading to this state ranking.

ROAD TO GRADUATION

Captain Chad Pennell discussed the Communities In Schools Program, the country's leading dropout prevention organization, which has led to a task force of community leaders being formed in the county and the creation of an advisory board to guide the Alexander County program. There are currently Site Coordinators at both middle schools and ACHS to surround students with support and empowering them to stay in school.

He invited the Board to attend the Road to Graduation reception, an introduction to the Communities in Schools Experience, on Tuesday, May 6th from 5:30-7:00 PM at the ACHS Auditorium.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN CENTER UPDATE

Shelly Foreman, Senior Director of Planning & Public Affairs with the Smoky Mountain Center, provided background information related to how counties formerly associated with Foothills Mental Health came to be a part of Smoky Mountain Center. She also discussed ongoing issues with improving service along with the recruitment and retention of qualified professionals, the restructuring of the Smoky Board of Directors due to SB216, and changes in Medicaid affecting providers and service recipients.

PROCLAMATION IN APPRECIATION OF DANA B. ROBERTS FOR 43 YEARS OF SERVICE

Chairman Yoder requested approval of a proclamation in appreciation of Dana B. Roberts for 43 years of service to the Western Piedmont Council of Governments, noting that a surprise reception was held for Ms. Roberts on April 3rd where a proclamation from each county and municipality affiliated with the WPCOG was presented.

Commissioner Jennings made a motion to approve the proclamation. Commissioner Ferguson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

ALEXANDER COUNTY RUNNING EVENTS

Rick French, County Manager, presented the following schedule of running events in Alexander County:

- Robin's Run 5K on April 5, 2014
- Rocky Face Trail Race 10K & 5K on May 24, 2014
- Lake Hickory YMCA Triathlon on May 31, 2014
- Caring Hearts 5K on June 7, 2014
- Governor's 5K on August 30, 2014
- Hiddenite Festival Road Race (Half Marathon/10K/5K) on September 27, 2014
- Apple Festival 5K on October 18, 2014
- Race to the Cove 5K on November 1, 2014
- Rocky 50K on November 15, 2014
- Rotary Reindeer Rom 8K & Fun Run on November 29, 2014

He also mentioned that County staff organized RockyFest II scheduled for May 24, 2014 as well as the Christmas Parade on December 6, 2014.

SALES TAX UPDATE

Rick French, County Manager, reported that \$2,109,037 had been collected in sales tax revenue for the first 7 months of the 2013-2014 fiscal year which is \$2,966 less than this time last year. This is also 58.4% of the amount budgeted for 2013-2014 which is \$3,611,000. The hold harmless total is at \$103,027.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS

Rick French, County Manager, requested Bonnie Simms, Jerri Perry, and Lisa Smith be appointed and Jill Woodie, Julie Sebastian, and Margo Mosley be reappointed to the Council on Aging for 3 years.

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

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT #32

Rick French, County Manager, stated that the purpose of Budget Amendment #32 was to increase the budget for Workers Comp insurance based on the unpaid balances of open claims, to increase the TECS Program budget for the state's amendment to the contract, to increase the DSS budget for additional CIP funding from the Division of Health and Human Services, and to

increase the Library budget for receipt of NC Humanities Council grant funds for the “Let’s Talk About It” book discussion groups with area scholars.

Commissioner Jennings made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #32. Commissioner Ferguson 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. Alexander County can request an additional \$321,000 from NCDENR for the Bethlehem/Ellendale Water Project for more water lines at 0% interest without approval from the Local Government Commission. To move forward, staff needs approval from the Board to draft a letter of request.

Chairman Yoder made a motion to allow staff to draft the letter to NCDENR to request the additional funding for the Bethlehem/Ellendale Water Project. Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

- B. Mr. French requested an additional meeting in April to discuss the EMS Study and the draft minimum housing code, both of which were developed by WPCOG Staff, and suggested April 21st.

Chairman Yoder made a motion to hold a called meeting on Monday, April 21st at 6:00 PM at the CVCC / Alexander Center if available or the County Administration conference room. Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Tax Release Requests (\$1,600.63) and Tax Refunds (\$1,028.90) for March 8-31, 2014.
- B. Minutes from the March 10, 2014 Regular Commissioners’ Meeting and March 24, 2014 Called Meeting.

Commissioner Jennings made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Ferguson 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

Chairman Yoder made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 7:40 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 Ferguson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Jennings made a motion to adjourn at 8:21 PM. Commissioner Ferguson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Larry Yoder, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board