

Draft

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**     June 2, 2014

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

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

**STAFF:**        Rick French, County Manager

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Monday, June 2, 2014 at the CVCC / Alexander Center in Room 103, Taylorsville, North Carolina.

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

**ADOPTION OF 2014-2015 BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR ALEXANDER COUNTY**

Rick French, County Manager, presented the 2014-2015 Alexander County Budget Ordinance for approval, stating that the proposed budget totaled \$34,544,007 and is \$1 million less than the

current budget of \$35,543,515. The budget contains a 6-cent property tax increase and includes the following capital items:

- Bulletproof vests for the Sheriff's Department (\$20,125)
- Replacement ambulance for EMS (\$130,000)
- State required upfitting to Animal Control truck (\$4,500)
- Mezzanine barrier for the Detention Center in Contingency (\$127,821)
- \$22,500 for technology needs (reduced from \$133,000 requested)
- EMS Pilot Program in Contingency (\$50,000)
- New 2-person Purchasing Department to begin January 1, 2015
- Funding for WPCOG assistance with overlay districts and code enforcement

There are no fee increases included in the budget with the exception of a 5% water rate increase in response to a 3.2% increase by the City of Hickory.

Mr. French also presented two supplemental policies to be considered along with the budget including reorganization of the Economic Development Corporation Board increasing membership from 5 to 13 members and new term limits and capping all full-time, part-time, and temporary/seasonal employee positions effective July 1, 2014. Also, staff will communicate to the Sheriff's Department that any revenue exceeding the amount budgeted for housing of out-of-county inmates in the Detention Center (\$574,875) will be set aside to purchase vehicles.

In response to questions from Commissioner Ferguson and Vice-Chairman Mayberry, Mr. French advised that the \$500,000 EDA grant match for the CVCC workforce training project was not included in the 2014-2015 budget; however, the final payment for the former Taylor Togs property (\$580,000) purchased for this intent is included. The last audit performed for the County showed a debt balance of \$19,133,961 and the last payment for the Auditorium is scheduled for 2019.

Commissioner Jennings made a motion to adopt the 2014-2015 Budget Ordinance as presented. Vice-Chairman Mayberry seconded the motion.

Vice-Chairman Mayberry felt no one was completely happy with the budget and that it had been a compromise between all members, also noting that it had been cut as much as possible without being detrimental to services. He also felt the CVCC project was much-needed and important to the future of Alexander County.

Commissioner Judy Moose quoted President Calvin Coolidge who said "a government which lays taxes on the people not required by urgent public necessity and sound public policy is not a protector of liberty but an instrument of tyranny. It condemns the citizens to servitude."

The Board voted 4 in favor of the motion (Commissioners Ferguson, Jennings, Mayberry, and Yoder) and one against (Commissioner Moose). The motion passed.

## **COUNTY COMMISSIONER SALARY**

Commissioner Ferguson asked to revisit the topic of lowering commissioner pay in light of the budget and suggested a minimum of one step, a reduction of approximately 8.5%, making a motion in favor of such. Vice-Chairman Mayberry seconded the motion.

Vice-Chairman Mayberry questioned whether this action would solve the budget problems, noting that it was not feasible in believing that the salaries of the Board was egregious and part of the budget problem. Commissioner Ferguson replied that, although not a significant part, it was part of the problem, a symbolic part to which Vice-Chairman Mayberry agreed.

Commissioner Jennings asked how much lowering the salary by one step would save. Mr. French answered \$85 per month per commissioner or \$5,100 total per year.

After Commissioner Moose called for the vote, the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

## **PROCLAMATION DECLARING ALEXANDER COUNTY AS A PURPLE HEART COUNTY**

Chairman Yoder presented a proclamation to declare Alexander County as a Purple Heart County in recognition of Purple Heart recipients and all veterans in honor of their sacrifice to this country.

Commissioner Jennings made a motion to approve the proclamation declaring Alexander County as a Purple Heart County. Commissioner Ferguson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

## **JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> CELEBRATION**

Matt Cooksey, Habitat for Humanity, announced events scheduled for Saturday, July 5<sup>th</sup> to celebrate Independence Day including a small foot and pedal-powered parade through town along with field games and vendors. Prizes will be given to the best decorated parade participants. He also advised that fireworks would take place in the evening at Alexander Central High School, noting that the last Fourth of July fireworks event in Alexander County took place in 1983. All events are free and open to the public.

## **REVALUATION RESOLUTION REQUIRING ALL REAL PROPERTY TO BE REAPPRAISED BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2015**

Rick French, County Manager, presented a resolution rescinding all previously adopted resolutions related to Alexander County's revaluation schedule including those adopted on May 7, 2002, May 18, 2009, and March 28, 2011 and establishing an 8-year revaluation cycle. In

addition, the resolution schedules reappraisal of all real property for January 1, 2015 utilizing Tyler Technologies, Inc. and then again on January 1, 2023 pursuant to N.C.G.S. 105-286.

Chairman Yoder made a motion to approve the revaluation resolution. Commissioner Ferguson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

## **BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS**

Rick French, County Manager, requested the Board reappoint him to the Western Piedmont Transit Authority Board as well as appoint Seth Harris as alternate, both for 3 years.

Commissioner Jennings made a motion to approve the appointment and reappointment. Commissioner Moose seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

## **BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #36 - #42**

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendments #36 - #42, as follows:

Budget Amendment #36 – To increase the Rocky Face Park budget for receipt of a grant from the Unifour Foundation Endowment of the Catawba Valley Community Foundation to purchase an informational kiosk. To increase the Tax Office budget for the 2014 fees withheld by the state to collect motor vehicles taxes under the Tax + Tags Together system. To decrease the Interfund Transfer budget for the FY 2014 portion of the local match for Rocky Face Park Phase II due to the grant project being postponed.

Budget Amendment #37 – To budget for FY 2014 salaries and benefits including year-end salary accrual for the first payroll paid in July.

Budget Amendment #38 – To adjust the County Water & Sewer Fund budget based on data from year-to-date revenue reports from the City of Hickory.

Budget Amendment #39 – To adjust the Bethlehem Water Fund budget based on data from year-to-date revenue reports from the City of Hickory.

Budget Amendment #40 – To amend the Fire District Funds for \$48,000 in increases.

Budget Amendment #41 – To amend the original Bethlehem/Ellendale Water Project budget ordinance in order to match the project budget provided by NCDENR.

Budget Amendment #42 – To amend the budget for an updated estimate of the loan fee to NCDENR for the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund to be paid with local funds transferred into the Bethlehem/Ellendale Capital Project Fund.

Vice-Chairman Mayberry made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #36 - #42. Commissioner Moose seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the following issues during Other Business:

- A. Staff received a petition from residents of County Home Road regarding concerns with the health and safety of an unoccupied home located at 587 County Home Road. Josh Mitchell, Public Works Director, is looking into the matter.
- B. Many positive remarks have been posted on Alexander County's Facebook page regarding RockyFest 2014 held on May 24<sup>th</sup>.
- C. The promissory note for the Bethlehem/Ellendale Water Project has been received and the County has submitted its first payment request of \$594,577. The project is 18% complete.
- D. The next scheduled Commissioners' Meeting is June 23, 2014.

## **MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART CHAPTER 634**

At this time, Chairman Yoder called upon Mike Stubbs, Military Order of the Purple Heart Wounded Warriors Chapter 634 Commander, who introduced Purple Heart recipients and MOPH members Ron Wade, Harold McGill, Steve Zenes, Tom Farebrother, and Mike Moore. Mr. Stubbs discussed the purpose of the MOPH and mentioned several other Purple Heart counties and organizations. The group aims to have all 100 NC counties approve similar proclamations in honor of veterans.

Commander Stubbs presented a plaque recognizing Alexander County for becoming a Purple Heart County.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Minutes from the May 12, 2014 Work Session and May 19, 2014 Regular Commissioners' Meeting.
- B. Tax Release Requests (\$893.16) and Tax Refunds (\$684.76) for April 26 – May 23, 2014.
- C. Alexander County Library Policy Update.

Commissioner Moose made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Vice-Chairman 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**

Chairman Yoder made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 6:53 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). Vice-Chairman Mayberry 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 7:14 PM. Commissioner Ferguson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

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Larry Yoder, Chairman

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Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board