

Draft

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING** October 6, 2014

**ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

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

STAFF: Jamie Starnes, Clerk to the Board

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Monday, October 6, 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

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

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman Yoder requested the addition of results from a mold study performed at the Courthouse following Agenda Item #3 and made a motion as such. Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

CVCC / ALEXANDER CENTER COLLEGE TRANSFER COHORT PROGRAM

Linda Graham, CVCC / Alexander Center Executive Director, discussed the College Transfer Cohort Program designed to allow high school students the opportunity to attend classes at the CVCC / Alexander Center to earn college credits. She advised that this program, now in its second year, had become a model for other schools interested in establishing a similar program. A total of 20 ACHS students are currently enrolled.

Kay Gregory, Dean of the CVCC School of Academics, Education, and Fine Arts, gave a slide show presentation that included specific program information. She reported that tuition for the first year was free and that Alexander County Schools provided free textbooks and loaned Chromebooks to cohort students. Credit hours will transfer to any state university and some private schools.

Dr. Jennifer Hefner, Superintendent of Alexander County Schools, mentioned that interested high school students must pass an access test to be eligible for participation in the cohort program. She also noted that there was interest in expanding the program to be offered to high school juniors as well as seniors.

Laura Hertzler, CVCC Emerging Leader Scholarship recipient, participated in last year's cohort program and discussed the financial benefits of the program.

NCDOT BRIDGE REPLACEMENT 53 PROJECT (WHITE PLAINS ROAD)

Darrell Robertson, County Engineer, stated that the NC Department of Transportation was planning a replacement of the bridge on White Plains Road over Greasy Creek near East Alexander Middle School. Due to financing for past school projects, the deed for the property needed for NCDOT and public utility right-of-way is in the name of Alexander County Commissioners, for which NCDOT will pay Alexander County \$5,300.

He advised that the current bridge will remain open while the new bridge is being constructed. All shut downs will be coordinated with East Middle School to keep school traffic backups to a minimum.

Commissioner Jennings made a motion to approve the transfer of property as requested. Commissioner Moose seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

COURTHOUSE INSPECTION REPORT

Darrell Robertson, County Engineer, provided the results of an inspection performed at the Alexander County Courthouse on September 23rd in response to a court order issued by Superior Court Judge Theodore Royster Jr. regarding the presence of mold and mildew. Of the 23 samples collected, the highest measured spore count was 400 spores per cubic meter of air, which is considered a low count according to the National Allergy Bureau scale as follows:

0-6,499 spores per cubic meter of air – low

6,500-12,999 spores – moderate
13,000-49,999 spores – high
Above 50,000 spores – very high

Chairman Yoder requested a letter be drafted to Judge Royster regarding the inspection and mailed along with the inspection results with copies also sent to Superior Court Judge Joseph Crosswhite, District Court Judge Dale Graham, Sheriff Chris Bowman, the Grand Jury Foreman, and the Taylorsville Times.

In addition, the NC Department of Labor also received a complaint related to mold at the Courthouse. Mr. Robertson advised that copies of the results would be mailed to them as well.

CLEAN ALEXANDER DAY

Chairman Yoder announced that the next Clean Alexander Day would be held on Saturday, October 25, 2014. 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.

SALES TAX UPDATE

Chairman Yoder reported that \$350,803.21 had been collected in sales tax revenue for the 2014-2015 fiscal year which is 25.07% more than this time last year.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS

Chairman Yoder made a motion to reappoint Rick French, County Manager, to the WPCOG Unifour Home Consortium for a two-year term. Vice-Chairman Mayberry seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PROJECT BUDGET ORDINANCE – APPLIED TECHNOLOGIES BUILDING RENOVATION PROJECT

David Icenhour, Economic Development Director, presented a project budget ordinance for the Applied Technologies Building Renovation Project, which specified revenues from a U.S. Department of Commerce grant as well as contributions from CVCC and Alexander County (through grants, local funding, and industry contributions). Expenditures for the project were also discussed. He advised that the project was still in the design phase and that an architect recommendation would be provided at the next Commissioners' Meeting.

Vice-Chairman Mayberry made a motion to approve the project budget ordinance. Commissioner Ferguson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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 \$150,000. The company plans to expand its existing facility which will result in the creation of a minimum of 15 new full-time jobs. The County will provide a required 5% match.

Commissioner Jennings made a motion to approve the resolution authorizing the NC Rural Center grant application for Precision Materials. Vice-Chairman Mayberry seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #10 & #11

Chairman Yoder discussed the purpose of Budget Amendments #10 and #11, as follows:

Budget Amendment #10 – To increase the Sheriff's Office budget for a subscription to LeadsOnline, an online investigation system to help recover stolen property. To increase the Detention budget for an accrued leave payout due to an employee leaving County employment. To increase the Soil & Water budget to provide funds for attendance at various technical and educational training meetings and the annual NC Soil & Water Conservation Conference. To increase the DSS budget to add 6 part-time positions as approved by the Board of Commissioners on 9/8/14.

Budget Amendment #11 – To budget for the County's local match for the Federal EDA grant for the Applied Technologies Building Renovation Project.

Commissioner Jennings made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #10 and #11. Commissioner Ferguson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Yoder discussed the following issues during Other Business:

- A. Rick French, County Manager, was appointed to the NCACC Tax & Finance Steering Committee which reviews key financial legislative matters. The first meeting is set for October 14th in Raleigh.
- B. The next Commissioners' Meeting will be held on November 3, 2014.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from the September 8, 2014 Regular Commissioners' Meeting.
- B. Tax Release Requests (\$2,789.74) and Tax Refunds (\$871.50) for September 1-26, 2014.
- C. Agreement with WPCOG for the Provision of Grant Management Assistance for the EDA Applied Technologies Building Renovations Project for October 1, 2014 – December 31, 2016.

Commissioner Jennings made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Ferguson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Ferguson made a motion to adjourn at 7:15 PM. Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Larry Yoder, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board