

Draft

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CALLED MEETING** December 8, 2014

**ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

PRESENT: Larry Yoder, Chairman (arrived at 6:11 PM)
 Ryan Mayberry, Vice-Chairman
 Milton H. Campbell
 Josh Lail
 Ronnie Reese

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

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a called meeting on Monday, December 8, 2014 at the Administration Building conference room, Taylorsville, North Carolina.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Mayberry called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Vice-Chairman Mayberry made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

UPDATE ON 2015 PROPERTY TAX REVALUATION

Guy Kerley, Tax Administrator, reviewed the revaluation process, which must occur at a minimum of 8 years according to N.C.G.S. 105-286, from adoption of the Schedule of Values to billing. He advised that property owners would receive their new values mid-January and would have 15 days to appeal.

Doug Fox, Tax Assessor, reported that staff estimated a real property reduction of 5%, which does not reflect personal property or motor vehicle values nor does it include any assessed value reductions from appeals and future exemptions or deferments. He reviewed sales ratios from 2012-2014 in several subdivisions as well as estimated changes to real property values in neighboring counties (ranging from 1% to 10%).

Ron McCarthy, Tyler Technologies, discussed specifics regarding how staff actually performed the reappraisals.

RESOLUTION – APPLICATION FOR NC RURAL CENTER BUILDING REUSE FUNDS FOR HUNTINGTON HOUSE

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 Huntington House in the amount of \$500,000. The company plans to renovate an existing empty industrial facility which will result in the creation of a minimum of 40 new full-time jobs. The County will provide a required 5% match.

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

NC ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Cindy Holman, DSS Director, discussed the Low Income Energy Assistance Program available through DSS which provides families with a one-time annual vendor payment to help pay their heating expenses. Families must meet several guidelines to qualify including having income below 130% of the Federal Poverty Level. Beginning December 1, 2014, eligible individuals who are 60 and over, receive Social Security disability payments, or a veteran receiving 100% VA disability payments can apply. All other eligible households may apply beginning January 1, 2015. She advised that the department received \$187,584 for this program this year and that approximately \$151,000 remained.

She relayed concerns with available funding for the Crisis Intervention Program that provides financial aid to households with heating and cooling related emergencies. Eligible households meeting requirements may receive assistance multiple times with a cap of \$600. The amount received this year totaled \$124,859; however, only \$9,267.81 was left as of today.

Ms. Holman advised that the Emergency Assistance Program was also available to be used for assistance with water, power, and rent payments. A maximum amount of \$300 can be paid out within a 12-month period. Temperatures must be below 40 or above 90 for 3 consecutive days to access this funding. A total of \$15,757 remains out of \$25,000.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT #17

Rick French, County Manager, reviewed Budget Amendment #17 to increase the Health Department budget for 1) additional Healthy Community funds, 2) WIC Crossroads funds to cover travel for Crossroads system training, and 3) additional TB Control and STD Prevention state funds as well as to adjust the Health Department revenue line items for Immunization funds grouped with Child Health funds by mistake during the budget process.

Commissioner Mayberry made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #17. Commissioner Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

DESIGNATION OF VOTING DELEGATE FOR NCACC LEGISLATIVE GOALS CONFERENCE

Vice-Chairman Mayberry made a motion to designate Chairman Yoder as the Voting Delegate for the NCACC Legislative Goals Conference scheduled for January 15-16, 2015 in Pinehurst. Commissioner Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

- A. County managers and law enforcement representatives are meeting on December 10th to discuss the creation of a regional forensics lab in the Unifour. A consultant representing a private forensics lab center for advanced forensic DNA analysis will be present to discuss the project.
- B. Doug Gillispie, Interim EMS Director, received a complaint from a citizen regarding the County's billing company, EMS Management and Consultants, regarding their lack of promptness in filing insurance and billing as well as phone conversations and customer service.
- C. Alexander County has been awarded the 2014-2015 LSTA EZ Edge Technology grant for \$4,540 with no match required that will be used to purchase 5 tablets to increase the Library's device access hours per capita.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Contract for Professional Services between Alexander County TECS acting by and through the NC Department of Public Safety and Counseling and Support Associates, PC at Lake Norman.

Vice-Chairman Mayberry made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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 6:55 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, which passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Vice-Chairman Mayberry made a motion to adjourn at 7:39 PM. Commissioner Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Larry Yoder, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board