

Draft

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**     May 4, 2015

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

**PRESENT:**    Larry Yoder, Chairman  
                  Ryan Mayberry, Vice-Chairman  
                  Milton H. Campbell  
                  Josh Lail

**ABSENT:**     Ronnie Reese

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

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Monday, May 4, 2015 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 Lail gave the invocation and Vice-Chairman Mayberry led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Campbell made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Commissioner Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following comments were heard:

Anita Nicholson represented a group of parents of young adults with special needs concerning State budget cuts for the Adult Basic Education / Compensatory Education Program at the CVCC / Alexander Center that began in May 2012 with 4 students and

has grown to 18. She explained that this years' cuts would result in the loss of a full day of program time and therefore requested a line item be included in the 2015-2016 County budget with funds earmarked specifically for the Compensatory Education Program.

Keith Mackie, CVCC Executive President, discussed the importance of the Compensatory Education Program and the benefit to the participating students. He reported that cuts were occurring in all areas of the Basic Skills Department but noted that staff was dedicated to pursuing grants and pooling any resources available to continue offering these programs.

Bud Caywood announced the Healing for Life Great Race 4K, sponsored by the Bethlehem Community Development Association, scheduled for Saturday, May 16, 2015 at the Bethlehem Elementary School. All proceeds from the race will benefit the Back Pack Program.

Wesley Hammer advised that his brother attended the Compensatory Education Program, noting that the program provided structure and the opportunity for social interaction, which had added unmeasurable value to his brother and parents' lives. He urged the Board to provide funding to continue the program at its current level.

## **PUBLIC HEARING: MINIMUM HOUSING & NUISANCE ORDINANCES**

Jon Pilkenton, County Planner, again discussed the proposed amendment to the Solid Waste Ordinance to add nuisance provisions as well as the draft Minimum Housing Ordinance originally presented at the April 13<sup>th</sup> Commissioners' Meeting, noting that the public hearing from that meeting had been continued to this date.

### Public Comment

Larry Riddle felt there was a need for regulations to address empty mobile homes and suggested a \$200 fee be added to property taxes each year for any mobile home that has been unoccupied for two years or more until either the home is removed or inhabited. He felt this would increase the value of the property and also increase the tax base.

There being no further comments, Chairman Yoder made a motion to continue the public hearing until June. Vice-Chairman Mayberry seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## **MORATORIUM ON NEW SOLAR FARM DEVELOPMENTS**

Jon Pilkenton, County Planner, stated that staff was in the process of developing inspection and zoning regulations for future solar farm development and, in the meantime, requested the Board to enact a 90-day moratorium on any new solar farm application requests. He advised that the moratorium would not affect existing farms already in operation or those that have already been permitted but have not begun construction. Staff expects to have regulations ready for approval by August 2015.

Commissioner Lail mentioned that approval of the moratorium or any future regulations for solar farms was not an act against clean energy but an effort to protect the public, property owners, as well as solar farm owners.

Commissioner Lail made a motion to approve the 90-day moratorium for new solar farm application requests. Vice-Chairman Mayberry seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## **RESOLUTION TO JOIN WESTERN PIEDMONT JOBS TRAINING CONSORTIUM**

Rick French, County Manager, explained that new Federal Workforce Legislation was passed last summer replacing the Workforce Investment Act with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act which requires several changes in the design and delivery of supported workforce development activities and job related training. Approval of this resolution is necessary to participate in the Western Piedmont Workforce Development Area and Jobs Training Consortium.

Vice Chairman Mayberry made a motion to approve the Western Piedmont Jobs Training Consortium resolution. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## **ROCKYFEST 2015 UPDATE**

Gary Herman, Small Business Development Coordinator, presented a video to promote the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual RockyFest planned for Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at Rocky Face Park which included information regarding events available throughout the day such as trail races, rock climbing and rappelling, children's activities, nature hikes, live music, chainsaw carvings, etc.

## **SALES TAX REPORT**

Rick French, County Manager, reported that \$2,552,895.56 had been collected in sales tax revenue for the 2014-2015 budget year. This is 70.82% of the \$3,605,000 budgeted and a 7.19% increase from this time last year.

## **BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #41 - #44**

Rick French, County Manager, reviewed the purpose of Budget Amendments #41 - #44 as follows:

Budget Amendment #41 – To increase the Library budget technology line item for donations received. To increase the Emergency Services group insurance budget for

dental/vision insurance expenses for an employee who declined coverage in prior years. To increase the Medical Examiner budget for estimated expenses through June 30, 2015.

Budget Amendment #42 – To adjust the budget estimate for sales tax hold harmless payments to the School System based on year-to-date receipts.

Budget Amendment #43 – To increase the EMS budget for 1) accrued leave payouts due to two employees leaving County employment and 2) for payroll and benefits for the remainder of 2015 – actual expenses are more than original budget estimates. To increase the Sheriff's budget for payroll and benefits for the remainder of FY 2015.

Budget Amendment #44 – To increase the Sheriff's budget for equipment for patrol cars and silencers for Special Response Team with Federal Equitable Share funds received from Homeland Security in current and prior years.

Vice-Chairman Mayberry made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #41 - #44. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

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

- A. A budget work session is planned for May 11<sup>th</sup> at the County Administration Office and a recommended budget for 2015-2016 will be presented to the Board at the scheduled May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting at the CVCC / Alexander Center. Another budget work session is set for May 26<sup>th</sup>, also at CVCC.

Commissioner Campbell advised that he would be out of town on May 18<sup>th</sup>. After discussion, Commissioner Campbell made a motion to cancel the May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting and requested Mr. French present a recommended budget on May 26<sup>th</sup>. Vice-Chairman Mayberry seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

- B. A complaint was received from a resident of the Arbor Springs Subdivision regarding a neighbor who frequently fires a semi-automatic weapon outside. Staff is looking into how other counties address this problem.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Minutes from the April 13, 2015 Regular Meeting and April 20, 2015 Work Session.
- B. Amendment to the Alexander County Retiree Health Benefits Policy.
- C. Tax Release Requests (\$1,272.22) and Tax Refunds (\$1,475.37) for April 4-24, 2015.
- D. Solar Farm fees for Alexander County.

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

**CLOSED SESSION – N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1, 3, 4, 5, & 6) TO PREVENT THE DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION, ATTORNEY/CLIENT PRIVILEGE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CONTRACTUAL, & PERSONNEL**

Chairman Yoder made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 6:39 PM to prevent the disclosure of confidential information, for the purpose of attorney/client privilege, and to discuss economic development, contractual matters, and personnel issues pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1, 3, 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 7:24 PM. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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Larry G. Yoder, Chairman

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Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board