

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING July 13, 2015

ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

PRESENT: Larry Yoder, Chairman
 Milton H. Campbell
 Josh Lail
 Ronnie Reese

ABSENT: Ryan Mayberry, Vice-Chairman

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

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Monday, July 13, 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 Campbell gave the invocation and Commissioner Reese led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Campbell announced plans for a SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, & Threats) to be held tentatively on August 17, 2015, noting that County staff would be sending invitations to all past County Commissioners, School System officials, law enforcement, and other strategic partners.

He also reported that Board members had reviewed County health and property/liability insurance policies and had identified several cost saving measures that could be implemented in the 2016-2017 budget year such as higher deductibles for employees and removing collision coverage on older vehicles. Upcoming reviews will include utilities and fuel.

Commissioner Reese mentioned his tour of the Sheriff's Office and Detention Center last week.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman Yoder requested the addition of a contract with WPCOG for the provision of technical planning assistance (Jon Pilkenton's services).

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

PUBLIC HEARING: TEXT AMENDMENT 15-1 – MULTI-FAMILY & COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

Jon Pilkenton, County Planner, presented Text Amendment 15-1 which would add multi-family and commercial development standards to the Zoning Ordinance as Section 154.226. He reported that the standards were developed by a joint committee of Planning & Zoning Commission members along with two County Commissioners with the goal to enhance the appearance of new or expanding commercial and multi-family development. The text amendment was unanimously approved by the Planning & Zoning Commission on May 7, 2015.

Commissioner Lail mentioned concerns with Section (D) b. related to restricting the use of vinyl on multi-family units. After discussion, the Board agreed to remove any wordage related to multi-family development from the text amendment leaving it to only apply to commercial structures.

Chairman Yoder called the public hearing to order and requested any comments. There being none, Commissioner Lail made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Lail made a motion to approve Text Amendment 15-1, removing all multi-family development provisions. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING: PARAGON FILMS PROPERTY TRANSFER

David Icenhour, Economic Development Director, requested the conveyance of 1.1515 acres of property that includes approximately 2,000 linear feet of rail line and one rail switch to Paragon Films pursuant to N.C.G.S. 158-7.1 for the purpose of aiding and encouraging job growth via continued operations and future expansions of Paragon Films within Alexander County. He

explained that the grant requiring Alexander County to own the property was now closed, noting that the County would receive property tax revenue and would no longer provide maintenance and repair to the rail spur once transferred to Paragon.

Chairman Yoder called the public hearing to order and requested any comments. There being none, Commissioner Campbell made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Reese made a motion to approve the conveyance of property to Paragon Films as requested. Commissioner Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING: PROPOSALS TO PURCHASE HOME HEALTH AGENCY

Leeanne Whisnant, Health Director, reported that 6 bids had been received for purchase of the Alexander County Home Health Program ranging from \$250,000 to \$1.1 million. Bid packets were made available for public viewing as required by general statutes; however, no one came forward to inspect the bids. She advised that the top 3 bids would be evaluated by the Board during Closed Session.

Chairman Yoder called the public hearing and requested any comments. There being none, Commissioner Campbell made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT REPORT

Leeanne Whisnant, Health Director, advised that a community health assessment identified factors affecting the health of the population and determined the availability of resources within the community to address them. The process included surveying the community, analyzing responses, selecting priorities, identifying resources, and finalization of focus areas. She provided the following information related to Alexander County's assessment:

- Most important health problems – cancer, drug abuse, mental health, obesity/overweight, and teenage pregnancy.
- Top unhealthy behaviors – alcohol abuse, drug abuse, lack of exercise, poor eating habits, and smoking/tobacco use.
- Healthy Alexandrians and Alexander County Board of Health identified top 3 issues as mental health, substance abuse, and healthy families (cancer, heart disease, physical activity).
- Areas of concern – overdose and poisoning, alcohol related traffic accidents, obesity measures, heart disease rates, suicide rates, and teen pregnancy rates.

She noted that the Community Health Assessment was available for public viewing at the Health Department, Administration Office, the Library, and online at www.alexanderhealth.org.

LOCAL AVIAN INFLUENZA PLANNING

Russell Greene, Emergency Services Director, discussed the avian influenza outbreak that began in December 2014 in a backyard flock in the State of Washington. California saw its first infected commercial flocks in January 2015 and the disease spread to Minnesota and Iowa by April 2015. So far, a total of 49.6 million birds have been put down; however, no new cases have been reported within the last 30 days. He felt migratory flight paths could bring avian influenza to the east coast by this fall and noted that the Commissioner of Agriculture had suspended all poultry shows and small bird auctions from August 2015 to January 2016.

Mr. Greene also reviewed the 2015 Incident Action Plan to address water needs for potential avian influenza depopulation and assured the Board that staff was prepared if necessary.

SALES TAX REPORT

Rick French, County Manager, reported that \$3,194,432.66 had been collected so far in sales tax revenue for the 2014-2015 budget year. This is 88.61% of the \$3,605,000 budgeted and a 6.17% increase from this time last year.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS

Rick French, County Manager, requested the following appointments and reappointments:

WPCOG Region E Aging Committee – Reappoint Margo Mosley for 2 years.

Town Planning Board of Adjustments – Reappoint Carolyn Johnson and Bruce Johnson for 3 years.

Veterans Committee – Appoint Terry Harrington with DAV to replace Jim Brewer, Ray Bruder with American Legion to replace Richard Robeson, Dr. Betsy Curry with the School System to replace Dr. Jeff Peal, and Dr. Jeff Peal as an at-large member.

Commissioner Lail made a motion to approve the appointments and reappointments as presented. Commissioner Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #1 - #3

Rick French, County Manager, reviewed the purpose of Budget Amendments #1 - #3 as follows:

Budget Amendment #1 – To increase the Recreation budget by \$15,000 for the estimated costs of maintenance/replacement items at Jaycee Park – 1) \$3,500 to fill in cracks and seal upper and lower basketball courts, 2) \$2,000 to stripe both basketball courts, 3) \$3,500 to replace landscaping timbers, mulch, additional picnic tables, recycling/trash receptacles, paint fence, and other miscellaneous repairs, and 4) \$6,000 for two basketball goals and posts for the upper court. To increase the Sheriff’s Department budget for equipment ordered in May 2015 that was not delivered by June 30, 2015 due to a delay with the supplier – SRT equipment approved with Budget Amendment #44 on May 4, 2015 and paid with Federal Equitable Share Funds received from Homeland Security in prior years. To increase the DSS budget for estimated costs of a contract with ExecLink, LLC to provide interim DSS Director services for August and September 2015.

Budget Amendment #2 – To amend the Bethlehem / Ellendale Water Improvements project budget ordinance for updated engineering estimates of expanded project scope (installation of water lines to improve supply to the Advent Church Road area).

Budget Amendment #3 – To amend the budget for an additional transfer of local funds to the Bethlehem / Ellendale Water Capital Project Fund to expand the project scope (installation of water lines to improve supply to the Advent Church Road area).

Commissioner Campbell made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #1 - #3. Commissioner Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Campbell thanked Darren Conner, Park Place Humanity, Inc. who was instrumental in bringing the needed repairs at Jaycee Park to light. Mr. Conner added that he was working to get churches and the community involved in policing local parks to prevent vandalism.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

- A. Staff has received numerous calls from citizens regarding noise complaints. The County’s noise ordinance, which was adopted in 2005, makes it unlawful to discharge a firearm or operate construction machinery/equipment between the hours of 11:00 PM and 7:00 AM. Other types of noise are allowed with a permit from either the Sheriff’s Department (music and entertainment events) or the Fire Marshal’s Office (fireworks). Complaints should be directed to the Sheriff’s Department who enforces the ordinance.
- B. A second conference call is scheduled with the NC School of Government on June 14th to discuss Consolidated Human Services.
- C. The NCDOT Bike & Pedestrian Transportation Division has removed 19 ½ miles of bicycle routes in Alexander County from the NC State Route 2 bike map. Staff is working with the WPCOG to determine the best point of contact to address this issue.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from the June 8, 2015 and June 15, 2015 Regular Meetings.
- B. Tax Release Requests (\$994.01) and Tax Refunds (\$3,217.30) for June 1 – July 5, 2015.
- C. Alexander County Library Digital Device Checkout and Usage Policy and Liability Agreement Form.
- D. Greater Hickory MPO Amended Memorandum of Understanding for Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, and Catawba Counties.
- E. Home and Community Care Block Grant SFY 2015-2016 Agreement with the WPCOG for the Provision of County-Based Aging Services.
- F. Agreement with the WPCOG for the Provision of Technical Planning Assistance – Jon Pilkenton.

Commissioner Reese made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Commissioner Campbell reported that Baxter Hayes, Brushy Mountain Golf Course, and Richard Mull, Brushy Mountain Motorsports, had been invited to tonight's meeting as featured businesses but were unable to attend due to scheduling conflicts. He hoped these individuals could attend the upcoming meeting in August.

Chairman Yoder thanked Kathy Riddle and all members of the Independence Day Committee as well as the volunteers for making the Independence Day Celebration held on Saturday, July 11th a success.

Chairman Yoder also recognized Boy Scouts Troop #347 from Ellendale who was present to earn their citizenship merit badge. Troop Leader Jim Sebastian spoke briefly.

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 7:08 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). Commissioner Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Campbell made a motion to adjourn at 8:12 PM. Commissioner Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Larry G. Yoder, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board