

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING September 12, 2016

ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

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

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

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Monday, September 12, 2016 at the CVCC / Alexander Center in Room 103, Taylorsville, North Carolina.

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

*****SPECIAL RECOGNITION*****

Chairman Mayberry presented a Key to the County to Renee Williams in recognition of more than 36 years of service with the Alexander County Sheriff's Office. Ms. Williams came to work for Alexander County on a part-time basis in 1979 and transitioned to full-time Records Clerk in 1980. Since that time she has also held the positions of Administrative Assistant to the Sheriff, Evidence Tech / Detectives Administrative Assistant, and Concealed Carry / Purchase Gun Permit Clerk. Her official retirement date will be October 1, 2016.

Boy Scout Troop #275 from Bethlehem was also present to earn their Communication & Citizenship in the Community Merit Badges. Chairman Mayberry gave each Boy Scout and leader a County lapel pin.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Reese, who serves on the Library Board of Trustees, announced that the Friends of the Library Book Sale would be held October 6-8, 2016 and that the Bethlehem Branch Library 10th Anniversary Celebration would be held on October 23rd from 2:00-4:00 PM. He also mentioned a report provided by Lenny Rogers, Cooperative Extension Director, that showed a total of \$212,304,385 in revenue was generated in 2014 by agriculture in Alexander County, ranking 18th in the state.

Vice-Chairman Campbell alluded to Agenda Item #6 (Support of Bridge Replacement on State Road 1605), noting that the Local Emergency Planning Committee on which he serves felt approval of this resolution by the Board would hopefully urge the NCDOT to install a temporary bridge structure for bridge #130 on Paul Payne Store Road no later than January 1, 2017. He explained that the emergency closure of the bridge on April 29th had resulted in a 9.3 mile detour for citizens and an 8.3 mile detour for the local fire department to reach residents south of the bridge.

Chairman Mayberry asked the public to remember the Americans who died in the September 11, 2001 attacks as well as the military personnel who have sacrificed their lives since. In addition, he thanked all law enforcement and emergency personnel involved in the response to the motorcycle accident that occurred in Hiddenite last week.

Commissioner Lail conveyed his appreciation to the many volunteers involved in recreation sports, noting that it could not be possible without their hard work, dedication, and financial commitment.

Chairman Mayberry stated that he was contacted by someone interested in resurrecting the Chamber of Commerce and he asked anyone interested in assisting in this effort to contact him or David Icenhour, Economic Development Director.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman Mayberry requested the addition of the appointment of Jon Presnell to the JCPC and Rick French, County Manager, to the Broadband Committee under Agenda Item #8 (Board Appointments & Reappointments).

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following comments were heard:

Rev. Jeff Chapman, Little River Baptist Church and President of Alexander Citizens for Faith & Family Values, apologized for his mileage miscalculation presented at the July 18, 2016 Commissioners' Meeting related to the distance from the Taylorsville Saving Bank in Bethlehem to the Taylorsville ABC store, noting that he was unable to attend the August 1st meeting to address the miscalculation due to being out of town on a mission trip. He pointed out that there was never, nor would there ever be, any intention to mislead the Board or citizens. Rev. Chapman reported that an October 2015 Washington Post article stated that alcohol was costing society \$249 billion in expenses and a recent Hickory Daily Record headline addressed underage drinking as "A Real Problem" that is costing taxpayers \$1.3 billion in medical costs. He concluded his comments by reading Proverbs 16:8.

Bud Caywood with the Citizens for the Future of Alexander County promoted several upcoming events including the 7th Annual Bethlehem Day Festival on September 17th from 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM, the Bethlehem Branch Library Exhibiting Artist Series will host the Foothills Visual Arts Guild beginning October 4th from 5:30-7:00 PM, the 10th Anniversary Celebration of the Bethlehem Branch Library on October 23rd from 2:00-4:00 PM, the 38th Annual Bethlehem Star Lighting on December 3rd, and the 2nd Annual Great Race 4K on December 10th to support the Backpack Program and replacement of the Bethlehem Star.

Dale Clary urged the public to attend the annual Friends of the Library Book Sale on October 6th and 7th from 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM and October 8th from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM at 153 Industrial Boulevard. A preview sale will be held for Friends of the Library members on October 5th from 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM and memberships will also be available at that time. He thanked Bill Miller, Marie Chapman, and Lynda Dowdy who work year round to sort and box books for the sale as well as 28 businesses and organizations that provided 248 boxes.

PUBLIC HEALTH'S RESPONSE TO ZIKA VIRUS DISEASE

Leeanne Whisnant, Health Director, gave a slide show presentation regarding the Zika Virus that included symptoms, ways the disease is spread, and mosquito range map for the U.S. She informed the Board that the Florida Department of Health had identified an area in Miami where Zika is being spread by mosquitos, noting that there were currently 43 locally acquired cases in Florida. To date, there are 53 cases in NC, all of which were acquired while traveling, mostly out of the country.

She discussed ways for the public to protect themselves from bites including insect repellent, wearing long sleeves and pants, and eliminating backyard mosquito sources.

Chairman Mayberry mentioned that many EPA and DENR requirements for home builders, such as runoff ponds at construction sites, contributed to the increase in mosquito population.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN CENTER'S COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT PLAN

Shelly Foreman, Senior Director of County Relations for Smoky Mountain Center, reviewed the Community and Capital Reinvestment Plan and discussed the following projects:

- A Facility Based Crisis Center is under construction in Caldwell County and should be completed by winter. The facility, which will also serve Alexander and McDowell Counties, is one step below in-patient hospitalization for stays up to 14 days. In addition, Sheriff's deputies will be able to drop off involuntary commitment patients without having to wait for placement.
- Crisis beds have been expanded at the Balsam Center FBC and at the C3356 FBC in Buncombe County. A children's unit is being added and will be available to children in all Smoky-served counties by winter.
- Funding is being appropriated for crisis respite services for citizens with developmental disabilities.
- Staff is working on a collaborative care initiative due to the strong connection between behavioral and physical health. This program will help patients in getting their health care needs addressed in conjunction with their mental / behavioral needs.
- The SOAR Program assists patients recovering from addiction as well as those with developmental disabilities with legal aid services and housing.
- Smoky and Youth Village Staff is working with DSS departments to implement the Life Sets Program to help foster or at-risk youth ages 15-21 to develop skills needed to be successful in their transition into society.
- Smoky has hired a new Veterans Affairs Coordinator that will identify training opportunities for the Behavioral Health Staff in an effort to develop programs, treatment, and intervention services for patients with military backgrounds.

Ms. Foreman reported that the plan was a work in progress that could change over time depending on projected funding cuts by the General Assembly.

CONSTITUTION DAY AND CITIZENSHIP DAY / CONSTITUTION WEEK PROCLAMATION

Commissioner Lail made a motion to approve a proclamation declaring September 17, 2016 as Constitution Day and Citizenship Day as well as September 17-23, 2016 as Constitution Week. Vice-Chairman Campbell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE DECLARING A ROAD CLOSURE FOR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARADE

Rick French, County Manager, requested approval of an ordinance that would declare a temporary road closure annually on the first Saturday of every December from 2:00-6:00 PM for the Alexander County Christmas Parade. The route description was as follows:

Liledoun Road to intersection of Highway 90, right onto Highway 90, right on Main Avenue Drive, left on Highway 16 South, right on 1st Avenue, left on 7th Avenue, and right on Cougar Avenue. A portion of School Drive from ACHS to the intersection of Liledoun Road will also be closed.

He explained that approval of this ordinance would eliminate the need for parade staff to submit yearly permit applications to the NCDOT.

Commissioner Lail made a motion to approve the ordinance declaring a temporary road closure for the Annual Alexander County Christmas Parade. Vice-Chairman Campbell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF BRIDGE REPLACEMENT ON STATE ROAD 1605

Rick French, County Manager, reiterated Vice-Chairman Campbell's previous comments regarding the emergency closure of bridge #130 on Paul Payne Store Road which has forced residents and emergency personnel to use extensive detours. He stated that the resolution urged the NCDOT to install a temporary bridge structure no later than January 1, 2017.

Commissioner Yoder advised that according to NCDOT staff, right-of-way and utilities were currently being negotiated and that measures would be taken to replace the bridge super structure including steel girders hopefully by the end of 2016 or early 2017 depending on weather conditions.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the resolution in support of a bridge replacement on Paul Payne Store Road. Commissioner Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

FINAL SALES TAX & FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2015-2016 BUDGET

Rick French, County Manager, reported that a total of \$4,139,239.13 had been collected in sales tax revenue for the 2015-2016 budget year. This amount is 106.38% of the \$3,891,000 budgeted with 100% of the budget year expired and an increase over last year of 6.45%.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS

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

Region E Adult Care & Nursing Home CAC – Reappoint Kathleen Harvey for 3 years.

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council – Appoint Dennis James, Thelma Horton, and Jon Presnell for two years and appoint LeighAnn Perkins to fill an unexpired term ending 6/30/2018.

Broadband Committee – Appoint Chairman Ryan Mayberry, Vice-Chairman Milton Campbell, Town Commissioner Ronnie Robinette, County Manager Rick French, Greg Cronk, David Icenhour, Dr. Bill Griffin, James Fortner, Andy Warren, Russ Harrow, Terry Davis, Tim Holder, Lou Lauer, Baxter Hayes, and Chris Allen.

Board of Health – Appoint Phillip Sprinkle for 3 years.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the appointments and reappointments as presented. Vice-Chairman Campbell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #2, #4 - #6, & PROJECT BUDGET ORDINANCE #P-1

Rick French, County Manager, reviewed the purpose of Budget Amendments #2, #4 - #6, and Project Budget Ordinance P-1 as follows:

Budget Amendment #2 – To increase the DSS expense budget for 3 positions that were accidentally omitted from the FY 2017 budget worksheets (\$116,839) and to decrease the DSS revenue budget to adjust the revenue amount for State Aid that was estimated at a higher amount than what was adopted in the budget (\$123,223).

Budget Amendment #4 – To budget for the 2016-2017 portion of a lease agreement to begin October 2016 for a County garage.

Budget Amendment #5 – To increase the DSS budget for a \$1,000 grant from Wells Fargo for adult services and for \$3,026 in additional emergency assistance funds from the State.

Budget Amendment #6 – To increase the General Fund budget for the County's matching portion of the NC Commerce grant for the Craftmaster Furniture Building Renovation Grant Project Phase 2.

Project Budget Ordinance #P-1 – To budget for the Craftmaster Furniture Building Renovation Grant Project Phase 2.

Vice-Chairman Campbell made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #2 and #4 - #6. Commissioner Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve Project Budget Ordinance #P-1. Commissioner Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The Board issued apologies to DSS Director Trish Baker for the misunderstanding surrounding Budget Amendment #2.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

- A. The closing on the purchase of the former Community One Bank property was held on August 10, 2016. Departments have submitted suggested layouts which are currently under review.
- B. The Vertical Mile Challenge continues to gain popularity with approximately 1,000 participants. The 10th Annual and final Hiddenite Festival Road Race will be held on September 24th in conjunction with the Hiddenite Celebration of the Arts.
- C. Ed Wooters, a former NCACC staff member, passed away on August 21, 2016.
- D. Chairman Yoder reported that Shelby Police Officer Tim Brackeen had passed away and he asked everyone to remember his family in prayer.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Tax Release Requests (\$20,045.15) and Tax Refunds (\$3,693.88) for July 23 – September 2, 2016.
- B. Minutes from the August 1, 2016 Regular Meeting.
- C. Alexander County Senior Center Advisory Committee Bylaws.
- D. Request from Sheriff Chris Bowman to surplus a Glock Model 21 with a weapon light, Serial #TET453, 3 magazines, and case for retired Officer Jeff Sharpe.
- E. Request to appoint Clint Millsaps with the Vashti Fire Department to the Fire Department Relief Fund Board of Trustees to replace Larry Branton.
- F. Tower access request from the NC Forest Service.

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

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

Chairman Mayberry made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 7:45 PM to prevent the disclosure of confidential information and to discuss economic development, contractual matters, and personnel issues pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1, 4, 5, & 6). Commissioner Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Mayberry made a motion to adjourn at 8:35 PM. Vice-Chairman Campbell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ryan N. Mayberry, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board