

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING November 14, 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, November 14, 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

Commissioner Yoder gave the invocation and Commissioner Lail led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Commissioner Yoder mentioned that Judy Burke, wife of Hansel Burke, a long-time EMS employee, had passed away over the weekend and he asked that the family be remembered.

*****SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS*****

The following recognitions took place:

Larry Yoder

Chairman Mayberry presented a Key to the County as well as an Order of the Long Leaf Pine to Larry Yoder for 12 years of outstanding service as an Alexander County Commissioner from 2004-2016. He spoke about Commissioner Yoder's dedication and love for Alexander County, noting that he would be missed.

George Holleman, Town of Taylorsville Mayor, and Town Manager David Odom gave Commissioner Yoder a Special Certificate of Recognition as well as a Key to the City.

Alexander County Junior Rescue Squad Members

Russell Greene, Emergency Services Director, introduced Tyler White and Austin Huntington who won the “Top Gun” first place award in the Junior Technical Rescue Competition at the State Rescue Conference. Rescue Squad Captain Terry Foxx also spoke briefly.

Volunteer Fire Departments

Mr. Greene recognized Stony Point Fire Department led by Chief Scotty Abernathy, Ellendale Fire Department led by Chief Joe Carson, and Hiddenite Fire Department led by Chief Tim Keever who all recently underwent Insurance Service Office reviews. Stony Point has received an improved class 6 rating and, although reviews for Ellendale and Hiddenite are not yet completed, Mr. Greene is confident that both departments will also receive a class 6 rating. Due to the new ratings, most homeowners in these districts will receive a savings on their homeowners’ insurance premiums beginning in January or February 2017.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bud Caywood, President of the Bethlehem Community Development Association, invited the public to attend the 39th Annual Bethlehem Star Lighting on Saturday, December 3, 2016 at Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church. Activities will include singing, a bonfire, baked goods and hot chocolate, and the reading of the Christmas Story. In addition, he mentioned the Save the Star 4K scheduled for December 10th at Bethlehem Elementary School. Proceeds will be used to replace the Bethlehem Star. On behalf of the CFAC, Mr. Caywood also thanked all supporters of the ABC Referendum as well as the Alexander County Board of Elections for their professionalism.

CONSIDERATION TO RENAME THE ALEXANDER COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT & DETENTION CENTER

Chairman Mayberry reported that the Board would like to rename the Alexander County Law Enforcement and Detention Center in honor and remembrance of former Sheriff Thomas Elisha Bebbler, Sr. who was killed in the line of duty on June 2, 1956. He explained that it was the Board’s wishes for the sign located at the entrance to the Law Enforcement Center to remain unchanged to serve as a directional tool for out-of-towners and emergency personnel but for the Law Enforcement Center building to be renamed.

Vice-Chairman Campbell felt renaming the Law Enforcement Center was an appropriate way to memorialize former Sheriff Bebber who gave the ultimate sacrifice for this county and he suggested a committee consisting of a commissioner, a law enforcement representative, and a member of the Bebber family be formed to determine the appearance and specifics related to signage.

Commissioners Lail and Reese agreed with renaming the Law Enforcement Center, as did Commissioner Yoder who also felt the effort would send the message that the Board supported law enforcement personnel. He also asked that the history of former Sheriff Bebber's life and death be displayed inside the building.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to move forward with renaming the Law Enforcement and Detention Center after former Sheriff Thomas Elisha Bebber. Chairman Mayberry seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

CHRISTMAS PARADE REPORT

Dwaine Coley, Parade Coordinator, announced that the 70th Annual Alexander County Christmas Parade was scheduled for Saturday, December 3rd at 3:00 PM. This year's parade, themed "CHRISTMAS ~ A Time for Giving", will feature 13 floats, 3 marching bands, and a variety of businesses, clubs, emergency personnel, and elected officials and Mary Wike has been chosen as the Grand Marshall. He also announced that the ACHS FFA would be collecting canned/dry goods and cash donations along the parade route to supply local food pantries.

The parade will be broadcast live on WACB and the taped version will be shown on the Government Channel and the County's YouTube site.

FOUNDATION FORWARD PROJECT DISCUSSION

Ron Lewis, Foundation Forward Treasurer, discussed a proposal to install a life size replica of the Charters of Freedom (Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution, and Bill of Rights) found at the National Archives in Washington D.C. at a central location in Alexander County with high visibility and foot traffic along with easy access for school children, noting that the project would be funded entirely by donations and private funding. He provided a slide show presentation that included the history of Foundation Forward founded by Vance Patterson and photos of monuments installed in Burke, Cherokee, and Buncombe Counties in NC as well as Jacksonville, Illinois and Kokomo, Indiana.

He explained that the first steps in the process would be to exchange letters of intent between Alexander County and Foundation Forward along with forming a committee to advise on location, materials, and identifying donors/sponsors.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to accept the Charters of Freedom monument gift to be installed by Foundation Forward. Vice-Chairman Campbell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PIGGYBACK CONTRACT REQUEST FOR PURCHASE OF AMBULANCE

Doug Gillispie, EMS Director, requested the Board to consider a waiver of the bid procedure for letting of public contracts pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-129 and “piggyback” off another governmental unit’s contract with Northwestern Emergency Vehicles for the purchase of a Type III ambulance manufactured by American Emergency Vehicles. He advised that he would present the final contract with Northwestern for approval at the December 5, 2016 meeting.

Chairman Yoder made a motion to waive the formal bidding process by using the exception for previously bid contracts and proceed with negotiations with Northwestern Emergency Vehicles. Commissioner Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

CHRISTMAS IN BETHLEHEM PROCLAMATION

Vice-Chairman Mayberry presented and made a motion to approve a proclamation declaring December 1-31, 2016 as Christmas in Bethlehem. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADOPTION OF 2017 COMMISSIONERS’ MEETING SCHEDULE

Rick French, County Manager, presented the 2017 Commissioners’ Meeting Schedule as follows:

January 9, 2017	June 19, 2017
February 6, 2017	July 17, 2017
March 6, 2017	August 7, 2017
April 3, 2017	September 11, 2017
May 1, 2017	October 2, 2017
May 15, 2017	November 6, 2017
June 5, 2017	December 4, 2017

Vice-Chairman Campbell made a motion to approve the 2017 Commissioners’ Meeting Schedule as presented. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADOPTION OF 2017 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Rick French, County Manager, presented the 2017 Holiday Schedule as follows:

New Year's Day	Monday, January 2, 2017
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Monday, January 16, 2017
Good Friday	Friday, April 14, 2017
Memorial Day	Monday, May 29, 2017
Independence Day	Tuesday, July 4, 2017
Labor Day	Monday, September 4, 2017
Veteran's Day	Friday, November 10, 2017
Thanksgiving	Thursday & Friday, November 23 & 24, 2017
Christmas	Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday, December 25, 26, & 27, 2017

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the 2017 Holiday Schedule as presented. Commissioner Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

SALES TAX & FINANCIAL REPORT

Rick French, County Manager, reported that a total of \$724,889.16 had been collected in sales tax revenue through October 2016 (\$225,344.54 is new sales tax for economic development, public education, and community colleges). This amount is 16.39% of the \$4,422,000 budgeted with 16.67% of the budget year expired and an increase over last year of 2.71%.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS

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

WPCOG Region E Development Corporation – Reappoint Andrew Jackson for 3 years.

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council – Appoint Lindsay Carver Stockman and Mike Millsaps to terms expiring 6/30/2018.

Community Child Protection Team / Child Fatality Prevention Team – Appoint Bob Benfield and Doug Gillispie.

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 #10 - #12

Rick French, County Manager, reviewed the purpose of Budget Amendments #10 - #12 as follows:

Budget Amendment #10 – To budget for an asbestos abatement and demolition of buildings on the Dayton property. To budget for a refund to the NC Department of Juvenile Justice for 2015-2016 funds that service providers were unable to spend due to

the classification of the juvenile classes. To increase the Bethlehem Library budget for donations received. To budget for the purchase of a 2017 Ford Transit 15-passenger high roof van for the Senior Center (funds received in prior years specifically for purchase of the van).

Budget Amendment #11 – To modify the Senior Center budget to change the use of State Senior Center General Purpose grant funds to purchase 5 ergonomic office chairs for the computer lab, two upholstered chairs for the library, outdoor signage for the traffic side of the building, and newspaper advertising for March-June 2017 (funds were used in prior years for staff salaries).

Budget Amendment #12 – To increase the budget for a transfer to the School Capital Improvements Fund based on the amount of FY 2016 school sales tax revenue in excess of the FY 2016 school debt service payments.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #10 - #12. Commissioner Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Rick French, County Manager, advised that the NC Forest Service had issued a burning ban for Alexander County and 24 other counties. All previously issued burning permits have been cancelled.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Tax Release Requests (\$3,760.31) and Tax Refunds (\$4,701.99) for September 23 – October 31, 2016.
- B. Minutes from the October 3, 2016 Regular Meeting.
- C. NC Community College System Budget FY 2016-2017.
- D. Surplus a 2006 Ford Crown Victoria, VIN #2FAFP71W66X163608 with 219,993 miles and a 2006 Ford Crown Victoria, VIN #2FAFP71W96X134815 with 224,053 miles.
- E. Brief synopsis of EMS call and billing process.
- F. Agreement with the City of Hickory for Operation, Maintenance, and Management of Water Distribution System for the Bethlehem Water District.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Vice-Chairman Campbell 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 7:48 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 Yoder seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #13 & #14 / ROCKY FACE PARK PHASE 2 BID ACCEPTANCE

Upon returning to Open Session, Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #13 & #14, which read as follows:

Budget Amendment #13 – To budget for additional County matching funds to complete the Rocky Face Park Phase 2 expansion per adjusted cost estimates dated November 2016 in the amount of \$90,988.

Budget Amendment #14 – To budget for additional County matching funds to complete the Rocky Face Park Phase 2 expansion per adjusted cost estimates dated November 2016 in the amount of \$90,988.

Chairman Mayberry seconded the motion, which passed which passed 4 in favor (Commissioners Campbell, Mayberry, Reese and Yoder) and one against (Commissioner Lail).

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to accept the bid submitted by MBI Builders of North Wilkesboro in the amount of \$546,300 for the Rocky Face Park Phase 2 Project. Chairman Mayberry seconded the motion, which passed 4 in favor (Commissioners Campbell, Mayberry, Reese and Yoder) and one against (Commissioner Lail).

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Yoder made a motion to adjourn at 9:04 PM. Commissioner Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ryan N. Mayberry, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board