

Draft

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
CALLED MEETING**      November 28, 2016

**ALEXANDER COUNTY  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**PRESENT:** Ryan Mayberry, Chairman (arrived at 6:09 PM)  
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 28, 2016 at the CVCC / Alexander Center in Room 103, Taylorsville, North Carolina.

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

**PROCEDURES, PERMITTING, INSPECTIONS, ETC. RELATED TO THE RECENT  
PASSING OF THE ABC REFERENDUM**

Laurie Lee, NC ABC Commission Director of Pricing Division and ABC Board Auditor, discussed the County's options related to an ABC store which included:

- The County can choose to not open a second ABC store.

- If there is interest in a second ABC store, a study should be conducted to determine if the store will be economically feasible. A store must meet a minimum of \$1 million in sales to be profitable (53% of every bottle goes to the supplier and ABC Commission, 22-23% is for taxes, and 22-24% is gross profit before operating expenses).
- Steps to open an ABC store include appointing an ABC Board consisting of 3 to 5 bonded members, identifying a location, submitting a business plan, the ABC Board must secure its own funding through a bank loan or line of credit (a store cannot be funded with County dollars), notice of the location must be posted for 30 days to allow for public comment, and approval must be granted by the ABC Commission.
- Conservative startup costs include \$100,000 to upfit the space (if renting), \$100,000 to stock the store, and \$50,000 for initial payroll and other expenses.
- A merger with an existing ABC Board is possible, eliminating the need to appoint an ABC Board and secure funding for a store (the Town of Taylorsville currently has a merger agreement with Catawba County for the Taylorsville ABC store). Alexander County would have at least one member serving on the partner county's ABC Board.

In regard to businesses requesting on or off-premise sales, Ms. Lee advised that businesses must submit a permit application (available at [www.abc.nc.gov/permits](http://www.abc.nc.gov/permits)) to the ABC Commission along with accompanying documentation (copy of photo ID, fingerprint card, detailed diagram and deed or rental agreement for premises, local government opinion form signed by appropriate official, inspection/zoning compliance form, proof of alcohol seller/server training form, appropriate recycling form, and permit fee (ranges from \$400 to \$1,000) along with additional documentation for restaurants and hotels, eating establishments, and private clubs). The County will be required to conduct inspections by both the Fire Marshal and Building Code Enforcement Offices. She also stated that businesses would be required to submit a yearly renewal fee once a permit has been issued.

Sheriff Chris Bowman reported that fingerprint cards can be obtained at any County Sheriff's Office including Alexander County which charges an additional \$10 to the \$38 SBI fee.

David Huskins, CEO of Ridgetop Associates, discussed his involvement with the Citizens for the Future of Alexander County during the recent ABC Referendum and offered to provide training to businesses interested in learning more about the process of obtaining a permit.

## **QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

After asking if the November 8<sup>th</sup> election results had been certified, Gary Sain was informed that to date Board of Elections staff was still working on completing the certification.

Sheriff Bowman asked for clarification on whether he was to sign permits immediately after the election results have been certified. Ms. Lee explained that only the person designated by

resolution could sign the local government opinion forms, which requires approval by the Board of Commissioners at a regular meeting.

Jon Pilkenton, Director of Planning & Development, felt a fee should be enforced for the inspection required by the Building Code Enforcement Officer for businesses applying for a permit with the ABC Commission. It was agreed that the fee would be considered at the December 5<sup>th</sup> Commissioners' Meeting.

Rick Gilbert asked if the County was required to appoint an ABC Board regardless of whether a second ABC store was established. Ms. Lee responded that the appointment of an ABC Board would only be needed if the County chose to establish an ABC store solely instead of merging with another entity.

Judy Caywood questioned whether the County could "shop around" regarding mergers to negotiate the best agreement, to which Ms. Lee felt was definitely an option.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chairman Mayberry made a motion to adjourn at 7:29 PM. Vice-Chairman Campbell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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Ryan N. Mayberry, Chairman

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Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board