

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING February 6, 2017

ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

PRESENT: Milton H. Campbell, Chairman
 Ronnie Reese, Vice-Chairman
 Josh Lail
 Dr. Jeffrey P. Peal

ABSENT: Ryan Mayberry

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

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Monday, February 6, 2017 at the CVCC / Alexander Center in Room 103, Taylorsville, North Carolina.

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Peal attended a CVCC / Alexander Center Advisory Board Meeting today where he learned that the 1:1 digital initiative at the middle schools is doing well. The initiative is being piloting in grades 3-5 at all elementary schools and staff is researching best practices for the K-2 model. In addition, over 200 applications have been received for the Alexander Early College Program (100 will be accepted), the first Furniture Academy class has graduated and obtained employment, and the second Furniture Academy class has begun.

Vice-Chairman Reese recently attended the Stony Point Volunteer Fire Department banquet along with Commissioner Peal and Mayberry. He was impressed with the years of service by volunteers and thanked all Alexander County fire departments for their commitment to serving

the county and working towards their ISO ratings which affects homeowner's insurance premiums.

Chairman Campbell reported that the Law Enforcement Center Renaming Committee met this morning to discuss thoughts and ideas. Plans are to continue with a monthly meeting until the project is complete.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

EMERGENCY WATER AGREEMENT WITH ENERGYUNITED WATER CORP

Rick French, County Manager, presented a draft agreement with the EnergyUnited Water Corporation to provide water in the case of an emergency that would result in the inability to provide Alexander County water customers an adequate water supply. A connection would be made on Millersville Road since there is now a connecting line between the EnergyUnited and Alexander County water systems. He advised that a final copy would be provided at the March meeting for consideration.

SALES TAX & FINANCIAL REPORT

Rick French, County Manager, reported that a total of \$1,778,922.92 had been collected in sales tax revenue through January 2017 (\$563,418.23 is new sales tax for economic development, public education, and community colleges). This amount is 40.23% of the \$4,422,000 budgeted with 41.67% of the budget year expired and an increase over last year of 8.02%.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS

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

Equalization & Review Board – Reappoint Doug Ramsey, David Odom, Linda Barnette, Bobby Norton, and Donovan Douglas for one year.

WPCOG Sister Cities Association – Reappoint Dwight Shook and David Icenhour (alternate) for one year.

WPCOG Adult Care & Nursing Home CAC – Reappoint Glenn Deal Jr. for 3 years.

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council – Appoint Leeanne Whisnant for two years.

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

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #22 - #26 & PROJECT BUDGET ORDINANCE #P-3

Rick French, County Manager, reviewed the purpose of Budget Amendments #22 - #26 and Project Budget Ordinance #P-3 as follows:

Budget Amendment #22 – To increase the Health Department budget for 1) additional State funds for Maternal Health, Family Planning, and Ebola through the Health Preparedness Fund, 2) additional State funds for the State-mandated Electronic Medical Records System, and 3) the Smiles for Kids Grant from the Delta Dental Foundation.

Budget Amendment #23 – To increase the Animal Services budget to use private grant funds to purchase a box for the truck purchased in December 2016 and to increase the Senior Center budget for additional revenues to purchase ceiling fans for the large room, paint, and ventilation fans in the restrooms.

Budget Amendment #24 – To budget for repair of the exterior canopy at the Stony Point building per an estimate from Harrington Construction Company.

Budget Amendment #25 – To reimburse the Emergency 911 Fund for FY 2016 expenditures that should have been paid from the General Fund.

Budget Amendment #26 – To budget for the close out of the Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams Natural Gas Expansion Project grant and transfer remaining balance of local funds back to the General Fund.

Project Budget Ordinance #P-3 – To budget for the Industrial Park Pump Station Replacement Project.

Commissioner Lail made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #22 - #26 and Project Budget Ordinance #P-3. Vice-Chairman Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

- A. A tap fee incentive is being offered to Alexander County water customers. City of Hickory tap fees will double on July 1, 2017 so citizens are urged to take advantage of the discounted rates. Also, customers will likely notice a slight difference in their water bills due to rates being unified throughout the entire county.
- B. A recent new article from the Morganton New Herald quoted the Burke / Catawba Jail Administrator saying that the Alexander County Detention Center was full and had no bed space for rent. Mr. French clarified that the statement was false and noting that he has contacted Burke County Manager Bryan Steen regarding the statement. As of February 6, 2017, the Alexander County Detention Center, which has 162 beds, housed 82 inmates.
- C. The opening of the CVCC / Alexander Applied Technologies Center is set for February 20, 2017. Furniture is currently being delivered and a Certificate of Occupancy is expected any day.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Tax Release Requests (\$1,149.15) and Tax Refunds (\$3,935.60) for January 1-27, 2017.
- B. Minutes from the January 17, 2017 Regular Meeting.
- C. Surplus a 2008 Chevrolet C4500 Ambulance, VIN #1GBE4V1958F404848 with 184,417 miles and a LS-16 Sullair Air Compressor, Serial #003-102612.

Vice-Chairman Reese 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)(4, 5, & 6) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CONTRACTUAL, & PERSONNEL

Commissioner Lail made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 6:25 PM to discuss economic development, contractual matters, and personnel issues pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4, 5, & 6). Vice-Chairman Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Vice-Chairman Reese made a motion to adjourn at 7:49 PM. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Milton H. Campbell, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board