

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING April 18, 2017

ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

PRESENT: Milton H. Campbell, Chairman
 Ronnie Reese, Vice-Chairman
 Ryan Mayberry (arrived at 6:32 PM)
 Dr. Jeffrey P. Peal

ABSENT: Josh Lail

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

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 18, 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

Prior to giving the invocation, Chairman Campbell requested a moment of silence in memory of Michael Eric “Bubba” Pennell, a 911 Communications Dispatcher and long-time volunteer firefighter, who passed away unexpectedly yesterday. He provided arrangement details and asked the public to remember the Pennell family in thoughts and prayers. Vice-Chairman Reese led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman Campbell requested Agenda Item #6 (NC Clean Water State Revolving Fund Resolutions for Water & Sewer Projects) be heard as Agenda Item #11 as well as the addition of Budget Amendment #36 under Agenda Item #10.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

PUBLIC HEARING: CDBG PROGRAM

Gary Herman, Small Business Development Coordinator, reported that this was the first public hearing required as part of the planning process for CDBG applications to be submitted to the NC Department of Commerce for 2017. Funding is available for installation of infrastructure for businesses that will create jobs for low and moderate income persons, building renovation loans to businesses creating jobs for low and moderate income persons, and demolition of vacant or dilapidated buildings to create reusable industrial sites.

He added that submission of any application meeting the above criteria would require a second public hearing to disclose project details, size, location, costs, etc.

Upon a motion by Vice-Chairman Reese, second by Commissioner Peal, and a unanimous vote, Chairman Campbell called the public hearing to order and requested any public comment. There being none, Commissioner Peal made a motion to close the public hearing. Vice-Chairman Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

UPDATE ON ROCKYFEST 2017 AND OTHER EVENTS

Gary Herman, Small Business Development Coordinator, promoted RockyFest 2017 set for Saturday, April 22, 2017 at Rocky Face Park. At 8:00 AM the 5K, 10K, & 20K trail races will start and free rock climbing and rappelling classes will begin at 10:00 AM (all slots are full with the exception of no shows). Also, a corn hole tournament sponsored by the DAV Chapter 84 Auxiliary will be held at 12:00 Noon. All other activities will be available from 10:00 AM until 6:00 PM and will include inflatables, face painting, and train rides for children, food/craft/non-profit/business vendors, a picking tent, telescopes for sun viewing provided by the Piedmont Amateur Astronomers, and live music. Artists include the Alexander Junior Appalachian Musicians, the Slate Mountain Ramblers, Strictly Strings, ShadowGrass, Carolina Express Bluegrass, Danny Wicker, Madison Elmore, the Trailblazers, and flat foot dancer Rodney Sutton.

Parking for the event will be located at Rocky Face Baptist Church (old and current locations) as well as the Rocky Springs Community Building. Citizens are also urged to park safely along the roadway. Shuttles will be provided by Greenway throughout the day.

Mr. Herman expressed thanks to the many sponsors of RockyFest 2017 including Duke Energy, Craftmaster Furniture, Alexander Railroad Company, EnergyUnited Electric, Huntington House Furniture, Schneider Mills, Paragon Films, Hancock and Moore, West Consultants, Taylor King Furniture, and McGill Associates.

Other events mentioned included the 2nd Annual YMCA Color Fun Run 5K on May 6th, the 2nd Annual Apple Blossom Festival also on May 6th, a performance by the 440th NC National Guard Armory Band on July 2nd, and the Independence Celebration on July 8th.

LIBRARY 50TH ANNIVERSARY APPRECIATION WEEK PROCLAMATION

Laura Crooks, Library Director, gave the history of the Alexander County Library which originally began in 1936 but closed 7 years later due to lack of funding. The Library was re-opened in 1967 and will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a week-long celebration that began yesterday. Activities include fun photo-ops, community art projects, scavenger hunts, games, and a 70's block party.

Commissioner Peal made a motion to approve the proclamation declaring the week of April 17-21, 2017 as Alexander County Library Appreciation Week: Celebrating 50 Years of Library Service. Vice-Chairman Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

STEPPING UP INITIATIVE

Rick French, County Manager, explained that the Stepping Up Initiative was a collaboration between the National Association of Counties, Council of State Governments Justice Center, and American Psychiatric Foundation in an effort to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails. Approval of a resolution is the first step in the process which will also include development of a plan to address the problem and training for officials.

Vice-Chairman Reese made a motion to approve the Stepping Up resolution. Commissioner Peal seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

RESCHEDULE MAY 15TH MEETING TO MAY 23RD

Rick French, County Manager, requested the Board to reschedule the May 15th Regular Commissioners' Meeting to Tuesday, May 23rd to allow for a special announcement.

Commissioner Peal made a motion to reschedule the May 15th meeting to May 23rd as requested. Vice-Chairman Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE & DOCUMENT DESTRUCTION DAY

Rick French, County Manager, announced that this year's Household Hazardous Waste & Document Destruction Day would be held on Saturday, April 22, 2017 at the Alexander County Administration Building parking lot from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM in conjunction with Earth Day. County residents will be allowed to dispose of environmentally harmful materials found around

the home as well as personal documents for free and farmers are welcome; however, businesses will not be allowed.

Items that will be accepted include household cleaners (drain openers, toilet bowl cleaners, oven cleaners, and disinfectants), paint products (latex and oil based paint, solvents, thinners, shellacs, varnishes, wood preservatives, and sealers), pesticides (herbicides, insecticides, fungicides in the form of aerosols, liquids, granular, etc.), and miscellaneous items (acids, bases, kerosene, household batteries, photographic chemicals, fluorescent bulbs, electronics, aerosol cans, pool chemicals, propane gas cylinders, and metallic mercury). Also, any type of personal documents will be shredded on site.

SALES TAX & FINANCIAL REPORT

Rick French, County Manager, reported that a total of \$2,571,486.88 had been collected in sales tax revenue through March 2017 (\$788,732.85 is new sales tax for economic development, public education, and community colleges). This amount is 58.15% of the \$4,422,000 budgeted with 58.33% of the budget year expired and an increase over last year of 8.19%.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #18 & #33 - #36

Rick French, County Manager, reviewed the purpose of Budget Amendments #18 and #33 - #36 as follows:

Budget Amendment #18 – To budget for the architect’s design fee for Phase One of the bank building renovations (fees paid by the General Fund can be reimbursed from loan proceeds if the County borrows money for renovations).

Budget Amendment #33 – To increase the Governing Body budget to contribute \$2,000 to the Habitat for Humanity Independence Celebration and fireworks display. To increase the Library budget for State grant funding in excess of original estimates and for donations received. To increase the Bethlehem Library budget for donations received.

Budget Amendment #34 – To increase the Public Buildings budget for \$15,000 to cover costs of exterior paint, windows, and roofing for the old service station on the Dayton property and \$10,000 for painting the exterior of the old jail across from Town Hall.

Budget Amendment #35 – To increase the Health Department budget for additional State funds for Food / Lodging and Meaningful Use Funds for General and Maternal Health.

Budget Amendment #36 – To increase the Planning & Inspections budget to hire a full-time inspector to begin work in June 2017.

Mr. French added that Budget Amendment #18 had originally been presented at the January 17, 2017 Commissioners’ Meeting but was tabled until architects could be interviewed, which took

place on March 21st and 22nd. The January budget amendment was for the estimated architect fees for the entire project; however, the new amendment is for Phase One Schematic Design only.

Vice-Chairman Reese made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #18 and #33 - #36. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

NC CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND RESOLUTIONS FOR WATER & SEWER PROJECTS

Rick French, County Manager, advised that low interest loans were available through the NC Department of Environmental Quality / Division of Water Infrastructure Clean Water, State Revolving Fund for water and sewer projects and the deadline to apply for funding is April 28, 2017. A meeting was held on April 6, 2017 to discuss projects which included expanding sewer in the Bethlehem area as well as completion of the list drafted in 2006 of needed water lines in Alexander County.

He added that staff planned to apply for a CDBG grant this summer to extend sewer in the Stony Point area as well.

Commissioner Mayberry pointed out that submitting a loan application to the NCDEQ simply put the County's name in the pot and that a detailed plan would be created at a later date if funding was approved. He felt sewer would create strong economic development activity once installed and he attributed the recent growth in the Hiddenite area to sewer.

Commissioner Peal made a motion to approve the necessary resolutions to begin the process of applying for low interest loans through the NCDEQ. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

- A. The WPCOG Annual Meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2017 at the Crowne Plaza in Hickory.
- B. Lynn Teague, Lead Building Inspector, will be retiring July 1, 2017. Staff plans to advertise for an experienced building inspector later this month.
- C. Mr. French asked the Board to check their schedule for a budget work session on Monday, May 15th since Room 103 at the CVCC / Alexander Center is already scheduled.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Tax Release Requests (\$1,885.88) and Tax Refunds (\$1,257.34) for February 25 – March 24, 2017.
- B. Minutes from the March 6, 2017 Regular Meeting.
- C. Standard Fire Protection Contracts for all fire departments.
- D. Light Rescue Contracts for Bethlehem Fire & Rescue and Stony Point Fire Department.
- E. Rescue, Staffing, and EMS Contracts for Alexander Rescue Squad & EMS, Inc.
- F. Records Disposition request from the Human Resources Department.
- G. Surplus a 2002 Dodge Van, VIN #2B7LB31Z72K122443 with 174,131 miles.
- H. Surplus a 2000 Dodge Van, VIN #2B5WB352XYK159964 with 163,424 miles.
- I. Surplus a 2005 Fleetwood Prowler Lynx Travel Trailer, VIN #IEC2S292552813178.
- J. Surplus the following items from the Sheriff's Office:
 - 17 sets of back seats for Dodge Chargers, a Ford SUV, and a Chevy Caprice.
 - 25 rear door panels for Dodge Chargers, a Ford SUV, and a Chevy Caprice.
 - 5 Dodge Charger headrests.
 - 8 Ford Crown Vic prisoner cages.
 - 1 Ford Crown Vic K-9 prisoner cage.
 - 2 light bars.
 - 3 MCS 2000 radio sets, 2 extra heads, and 1 mic.
 - 6 siren control heads.
 - 30 holsters for Smith and Wesson M&P 45.
 - 16 holsters for H&K USP 45.
 - 2 police consoles.
 - 2 deck lights.
 - 2 MDT docks.

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

CLOSED SESSION – N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4, 5, & 6) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CONTRACTUAL, & PERSONNEL

Vice-Chairman Reese made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 6:51 PM to discuss economic development, contractual matters, and personnel issues pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4, 5, & 6). Commissioner Peal seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Mayberry made a motion to adjourn at 8:03 PM. Vice-Chairman Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Milton H. Campbell, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board