

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING July 17, 2017

ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

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

ABSENT: Dr. Jeffrey P. Peal

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

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Monday, July 17, 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 Commissioner Mayberry led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Vice-Chairman Reese thanked everyone involved in the Independence Day Celebration held this past Saturday, noting that his family attended and enjoyed the day.

Commissioner Lail reported that Kiplinger Magazine recently listed Hickory as one of the best places to retire in NC which he hoped would also trigger some development and growth in Alexander County.

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

The following comments were heard:

Frank Lopez discussed religious freedom in Alexander County and mentioned a recent incident at the Sheriff's Office where he placed a copy of the Koran, the Torah, and a book on Buddhism next to the Bibles on a lobby table, which were removed by staff as were the Bibles at a later date. He also stated that, after asking on June 19th to personally give the invocation at the next meeting was told that the County Commissioners gave the invocation, and he pointed out the US 4th Circuit Court of Appeals decision on July 14th regarding invocations at Rowan County Board of Commissioners Meetings (did not state name of case but is referring to 15-1591 Lund vs. Rowan County). Mr. Lopez suggested religious tolerance training for all County employees and quoted the 14th Dalai Lama.

Carole Rogers requested that the History Room located at the Alexander County Library be named in memory of Genealogist and Historian Opal Watts Harrington who was instrumental in preserving the history of Alexander County, that the room be used for its original intent of only research, and that nothing be removed, discarded, or disturbed without a review by a committee of true historians.

Glenn Mays indicated that the Friends of the Library also supported honoring Opal Harrington but proposed naming the collection in her memory instead of the History Room itself. He felt because Ms. Harrington was responsible for supplying many of the books and documents, it was more logical to name the collection, which could be moved to a new location if expansion occurred, a new library was constructed, or the purpose of the room changed.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF 4-H EVENT

Local 4-H participant Sarah Perry invited the Board to attend a 4-H Youth Voice Summit scheduled for August 11-12, 2017 to be held in conjunction with the NCACC Annual Conference in Durham County. She explained that the Youth Voice Summit, created by the NCACC, 4-H Youth Development, and the Boys & Girls Club of NC, would feature workshops focusing on communication and leadership as well as activities related to planning, governing, and budgeting to help attendees understand the role of County Commissioner.

PUBLIC HEARING: FY 2018 CONSOLIDATED CAPITAL CALL FOR PROJECTS

Patricia Baker, DSS Director, discussed the FY 2018 Public Transportation Consolidated Capital Call for Projects Program that would provide transportation for Alexander County seniors and

disabled citizens to nutritional sites, doctor appointments, and other life sustaining activities. The grant project budget totals \$100,000 broken down as 80% Federal 10% State, and 10% local that has been included in the 2017-2018 approved County budget. Ms. Baker added that plans were to continue utilizing Greenway Transportation who provided over 6,000 trips last fiscal year.

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

Commissioner Mayberry made a motion allowing staff to move forward with applying for the FY 2018 Public Transportation Consolidated Capital Call for Projects Program Grant and approving the coinciding resolution. Commissioner Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING: BOREALIS COMPOUNDS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Sherry Long, WPCOG Assistant Executive Director, requested approval to submit a CDBG grant application to the NC Department of Commerce for a \$750,000 loan to assist Borealis Compounds, Inc. with the up-fit of their recently purchased shell building located in the Alexander Industrial Park. Borealis has pledged to create 37 jobs by 2020 and is required to maintain those positions for a term of 5 years. She added that no County match was required, only payment of the administrative fees associated with the project.

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

Commissioner Mayberry made a motion to approve the resolution authorizing the submittal of the CDBG application for the Borealis Compounds Building Reuse Project. Commissioner Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Mayberry also made a motion to approve all other accompanying documents including the legally binding commitment between Alexander County and Borealis Compounds, the procurement plan and resolution, fair housing plan, citizens participation plan, citizens complaint procedure, Section 3 plan, equal opportunity plan, and anti-displacement and relocation plan. Vice-Chairman Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR CONSTRUCTION & USE OF PERFORMANCE STAGE

Rick French, County Manager, presented a Memorandum of Understanding for Construction and Use of a Performance Stage on the Dayton Property between Alexander County and the Taylorsville Rotary Club, Inc., noting that the agreement outlined that Rotary would provide 100% of design and construction costs of the stage, which would then be gifted to the County upon completion. Other specifics include that, while events will be scheduled through the County, Rotary will have priority in use of the stage and will not be charged a fee.

Vice-Chairman Reese made a motion to approve the MOU with the Taylorsville Rotary Club for Construction and Use of the Performance Stage. Commissioner Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

FLAG POLE PROJECT

Rick French, County Manager, asked for consideration to move forward with the placement of two additional flag poles at the Alexander County office complex with funds contributed by Wal-Mart to the American Legion Post 170. The poles should be in place by November 2017 and plans for a monument representing the 3 branches of service are being discussed for 2018.

Commissioner Mayberry made a motion to move forward with the Flag Pole Project as presented. Vice-Chairman Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ALEXANDER INDUSTRIAL PARK PUMP STATION RELOCATION BID RESULTS

Rick French, County Manager, asked for discussion regarding the Alexander Industrial Park Pump Station Relocation Project bids to be tabled until after consideration of Agenda Item #10 (Budget Ordinance Amendments #1 & #2).

Commissioner Mayberry made a motion to table discussion of the Alexander Industrial Park Pump Station Relocation Project bids as requested. Commissioner Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

DESIGNATION OF VOTING DELEGATE FOR NCACC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Commissioner Mayberry made a motion to designate Rick French, County Manager, to serve as Voting Delegate at the NCACC Annual Conference scheduled for August 10-13, 2017 in Durham County. Vice-Chairman Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS

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

ABC Feasibility Study Committee – Appoint Judy Caywood, Gary Sain, Zac Bryant, Marissa Cooper Winstead, John Watts, Sharon Mehaffey, Bill Lebo, John Dahlstrom, Dennis Cain, and Larry Yoder.

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council – Appoint Laura Harrison and reappoint Chris Bowman, Krista Hiatt, Milton Campbell, Leeanne Whisnant, and Darren Conner all for two year terms.

Commissioner Lail made a motion to approve the appointments and reappointments as requested with the understanding that the remaining vacancy on the ABC Feasibility Study Committee could be filled by the Chairman without approval by the full Board. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #1 & #2

Rick French, County Manager, reviewed the purpose of Budget Amendments #1 & #2 as follows:

Budget Amendment #1 – To adjust the project budget for revised cost estimates from the June 27, 2017 bid opening for the Industrial Park Pump Station Replacement Project.

Budget Amendment #2 – To increase the General Fund local match for the Industrial Park Pump Station Replacement Project.

Commissioner Mayberry made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #1 & #2. Chairman Campbell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ALEXANDER INDUSTRIAL PARK PUMP STATION RELOCATION BID RESULTS

Rick French, County Manager, stated that a bid opening for the Alexander Industrial Park Pump Station Relocation Project was held on June 27, 2017 with a low base bid submitted by Stillwell Enterprises, Inc. from Sylvania, NC in the amount of \$554,605. Alternate bid items total an additional \$31,045 and include increasing the size of the force main and relocating the existing force main from under a railroad spur which will increase capacity by at least 15% and enable future increased with larger pumps. He advised that staff recommended the contract be awarded to Stillwell Enterprises, Inc. to also include the alternate bid items for a total of \$585,650.

Vice-Chairman Reese made a motion to accept the bid submitted by Stillwell Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of \$585,650 for the Alexander Industrial Park Pump Station Relocation Project. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

- A. The Shurtape Technologies Wastewater Project bid opening was re-advertised and held on July 13th. Bid results will be presented for consideration at the August 7, 2017 Commissioners' Meeting.
- B. County staff including County Engineer Darrell Robertson has met with CBSA concerning the Community One Bank Renovation Project. A number of cost reduction options are being reviewed and plans will be presented at the August 7th meeting.
- C. Staff is working on drafting a new special event application and policy for use of County-owned property.
- D. The applications for low interest water and sewer loans recently submitted for sewer in the Bethlehem area and to complete the 2008 list of needed water projects has been recommended to the State Water Infrastructure Authority Board for approval. It appears that the first \$3 million of each loan will be interest-free and the remaining balance will be low interest. Mr. French requested approval to move forward with an RFQ for qualified engineering firms to begin the process.

Vice-Chairman Reese made a motion to move forward with the publishing of an RFQ for qualified engineering firms. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from the June 19, 2017 Regular Meeting.
- B. Tax Release Requests (\$567.00) and Tax Refunds (\$1,832.02) for June 10 – July 7, 2017.
- C. Approval of road names – Ethan Lane (off Stout Farm Road) and Mountain Top Trail (off Blair Road).

Vice-Chairman Reese made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Mayberry 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 6:59 PM to discuss economic development, contractual matters, and personnel issues pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4, 5, & 6). Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Mayberry made a motion to adjourn at 7:53 PM. Vice-Chairman Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Milton H. Campbell, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board