

Draft

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**      November 6, 2017

**ALEXANDER COUNTY**  
**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**PRESENT:** Milton H. Campbell, Chairman  
Ronnie Reese, Vice-Chairman  
Josh Lail  
Ryan Mayberry  
Dr. Jeffrey P. Peal (arrived at 6:20 PM)

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

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

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Vice-Chairman Reese commented on the amount of property damage as a result of the tornado on October 23, 2017.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

### **PUBLIC HEARING: CDBG-I STONY POINT SCHOOL WASTEWATER PROJECT**

Sherry Long, WPCOG Assistant Executive Director, read the required minutes and reviewed the resolution to request funding not to exceed \$894,750 from the NCDEQ's CDBG-I Program that will be used to construct a pump station along with 2,900 linear feet of force main and 600 linear feet of gravity sewer that will allow Stony Point Elementary School to abandon two existing septic systems and connect to the new sewer line. She advised that, due to the severe weather and power outages on October 23<sup>rd</sup> that caused the original public hearing to be rescheduled, the County was granted an extension by the State for submission of the grant application past the November 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.

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, Vice-Chairman Reese made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Vice-Chairman Reese made a motion to move approve the resolution authorizing the funding request from the NCDEQ's CDBG-I Program for the Stony Point Elementary School Wastewater Project. Commissioner Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Mayberry made a motion to approve the minutes read by Ms. Long to accompany the grant application. Commissioner Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

### **PUBLIC HEARING: REZONING CASE 17-4 – HAYES FOR BMGC, LLC**

Jon Pilkenton, Director of Planning & Development, presented Rezoning Case 17-4 submitted by Baxter Hayes for BMGC, LLC who requested rezoning of two parcels located at 300 Golf Course Lane from R-20 / C-R (Residential / Commercial Recreational) to RA-20 (Residential-Agricultural) to allow for the construction of a Planned Residential Development that will require additional public hearings by the Planning & Zoning Commission as well as the Board of Commissioners for conditional use approval. The size of the property tracts are approximately 200 acres. Zoning districts within 100 feet include R-1 & R-2 (Taylorsville Residential) to the north and east, R-20 to the south, and RA-20 to the west. Land uses within 100 feet are residential on all sides.

He reviewed staff comments related to size of the tract, compatibility of the disputed zoning action with an existing comprehensive plan, benefits and detriments resulting from the zoning action for the petitioning property owner / neighbors / and surrounding community, and the relationship between the uses envisioned under the new zoning and the current uses of adjacent land. He advised that the rezoning was consistent with the adopted goals and policies of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan, which identifies this area being designated for residential use.

Letters were sent by first class mail to the property owners within 100 feet of the parcel boundary, a sign was posted on the property, and a notice was placed in *The Taylorsville Times*.

Mr. Pilkenton informed the Board that, in addition to staff's recommendation for approval, the Planning & Zoning Commission held a public hearing on October 5, 2017 to review the request and voted unanimously to recommend approval based on the following:

1. The rezoning request is consistent with the future land use map in the 2008 Comprehensive Plan and its adopted goals and policies.
2. The request will not negatively impact the surrounding properties with regards to residential development.

He advised that based on the information provided, the Board must determine whether the rezoning request meets the guidelines set forth and is reasonable in regards to the public interest considering all uses within the requested zoning district, not merely the use of which the applicant proposes.

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 Rezoning Case 17-4 based on recommendations from staff and the Planning & Zoning Commission that the rezoning request is consistent with the future land use map and adopted goals and policies in the 2008 Comprehensive Plan and would not negatively affect the surrounding properties in regards to residential development. Commissioner Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## **OCTOBER 2017 STORM DAMAGE UPDATE**

Russell Greene, Emergency Services Director, discussed the October 23, 2017 EF2 tornado that traveled through Cleveland, Rutherford, Catawba, Burke, Alexander, and Wilkes Counties causing extensive damage to property and leaving over 11,000 without power in Alexander County alone. While providing a photo slide show of damage, he explained that a municipality must spend 1% of its annual budget to qualify for FEMA public assistance (approximately \$380,000 for Alexander County) and have 25 uninsured or underinsured homes or businesses with 40% or more damage to qualify for individual assistance, neither of which will be met; however, he reported that the NC Emergency Management staff plans to combine totals for all counties affected to hopefully qualify for a Presidential Declaration of Disaster request from the State. Current damages include an estimated loss of \$753,476 for agriculture, \$1,513,378 for residential, and \$369,500 for commercial (estimates are low and continue to increase as more damage is reported).

A total of 61 calls for assistance was received during the storm. Mr. Greene thanked the Sugar Loaf, Ellendale, and Bethlehem Fire Departments as well as NCDOT, the NC Bridge Crew, NC Emergency Management, NC Department of Agriculture, Alexander County Forest Ranger, and

all volunteers involved. In addition, he conveyed his appreciation to the assessment teams made up of County staff from the Sheriff's Office, GIS, Planning, EMS, and Emergency Services. He urged citizens needing help with cleanup efforts to call 211 to register with several volunteer organizations such as the Red Cross, NC Baptist Men, and NC Methodist Men.

Lastly, Mr. Greene asked everyone to remember the family of Brian Keith Wilmoth who was killed after the storm while removing a downed tree from a power line.

### **SCHOOL TELEHEALTH PROGRAM**

Leeanne Whisnant, Health Director, announced that a pilot of the School Telehealth Program would begin in January 2018 at Stony Point Elementary, East Middle School, and Alexander Central High School allowing sick children at these schools to be seen by a provider based at the Health Department through a video appointment. A Blue Cross and Blue Shield grant paid for all necessary equipment that will allow the provider to hear heartbeat and lung sounds as well as view the inner ear, etc. to diagnose and electronically prescribe medications if needed. Parent consent is required and insurance can be billed just like a normal medical appointment.

She added that staff hopes to eventually utilize the School Telehealth Program at all Alexander County schools if the pilot program proves to be successful.

### **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 4, 2017 meeting.

Commissioner Lail 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. Vice-Chairman Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

### **NAACP PROCLAMATION**

Vice-Chairman Reese presented and made a motion to approve a proclamation recognizing the NAACP Unit #5361 Alexander County Branch. Commissioner Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

### **CHRISTMAS IN BETHLEHEM PROCLAMATION**

Commissioner Lail presented a proclamation declaring December 1-31, 2017 as Christmas in Bethlehem. Commissioner Mayberry made a motion to approve the Christmas in Bethlehem proclamation. Commissioner Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

### **NCDOT PUBLIC MEETING REGARDING UPGRADES TO HIGHWAY 127**

Rick French, County Manager, urged the public to attend an NCDOT public meeting on Tuesday, November 14, 2017 regarding proposed improvements to NC Highway 127 from Cloninger Mill Road in Catawba County to Richey Road in Alexander County consisting of widening from 2 lanes to 4 lanes with a median and replacement of the existing bridge over Lake Hickory. The meeting will be held at Mt. Bethel United Methodist Church from 4:00-7:00 PM.

### **ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING WAIVING OF LANDFILL TIPPING FEES**

Rick French, County Manager, announced that, in an effort to aid property owners with clean-up following the October 23<sup>rd</sup> tornado, the Alexander County landfill would be waiving tipping fees for vegetation and brush through Saturday, November 25, 2017. Normal fees will go back into effect on Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **NC COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM BUDGET FY 2017-2018 SIGN-OFF**

Rick French, County Manager, requested approval of the NC Community College System Budget sign-off form for the appropriation to the CVCC / Alexander Center for FY 2017-2018 (\$22,000 for Compensatory Education Class and \$10,000 for normal funding budgetary funding = \$32,000).

Commissioner Peal made a motion to approve the NC Community College sign-off form. Commissioner Lail seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

### **RESOLUTION APPROVING INTERFUND CAPITAL LOAN FOR EQUIPMENT PURCHASE**

Rick French, County Manager, stated that the purchase of a new wheel loader for the landfill was included in the 2017-2018 budget; however, approval of a resolution authorizing an interfund capital loan is necessary to finalize proceedings. He explained that a loan not to exceed \$160,000 would be taken from the General Fund and transferred to the Solid Waste Fund. Annual repayments from the Solid Waste Fund will be approximately \$35,000.

Vice-Chairman Reese made a motion to approve the resolution authorizing an interfund capital loan for equipment purchase. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**ADOPTION OF 2018 COMMISSIONERS' MEETING SCHEDULE**

Rick French, County Manager, presented the 2018 Commissioners' Meeting Schedule as follows:

January 8, 2018	June 18, 2018
February 5, 2018	July 16, 2018
March 5, 2018	August 6, 2018
April 9, 2018	September 10, 2018
May 7, 2018	October 1, 2018
May 14, 2018	November 5, 2018
June 4, 2018	December 3, 2018

Commissioner Mayberry made a motion to approve the 2018 Commissioners' Meeting Schedule as presented. Commissioner Peal seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**ADOPTION OF 2018 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

Rick French, County Manager, presented the 2018 Holiday Schedule as follows:

New Year's Day . . . . .	Monday, January 1, 2018
Martin Luther King Jr. Day . . . . .	Monday, January 15, 2018
Good Friday . . . . .	Friday, March 30, 2018
Memorial Day . . . . .	Monday, May 28, 2018
Independence Day . . . . .	Wednesday, July 4, 2018
Labor Day . . . . .	Monday, September 3, 2018
Veteran's Day . . . . .	Monday, November 12, 2018
Thanksgiving . . . . .	Thursday & Friday, November 22 & 23, 2018
Christmas . . . . .	Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday, December 24, 25, & 26, 2018

Commissioner Peal made a motion to approve the 2018 Holiday Schedule as presented. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS**

Rick French, County Manager, requested the appointment of Dr. Thomas Rider and Dr. Richard Williams to the Board of Health for 3-year terms.

Commissioner Lail made a motion to approve the appointments to the Board of Health. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #19 - #24**

Rick French, County Manager, reviewed the purpose of Budget Amendments #19 - #24 as follows:

Budget Amendment #19 – To budget for a refund to the NC Department of Juvenile Justice for 2016-2017 funds that service providers were unable to spend due to the juvenile case classification.

Budget Amendment #20 – To amend the County Water & Sewer Fund annual budget to meet the 5% contingency limit.

Budget Amendment #21 – To amend the Bethlehem Water Fund annual budget to meet the 5% contingency limit.

Budget Amendment #22 – To amend the Bethlehem Sewer Fund annual budget to meet the 5% contingency limit.

Budget Amendment #23 – To amend the Landfill Closure Fund annual budget to meet the 5% contingency limit.

Budget Amendment #24 – To budget for a true-up of payments for FY 2017 tax revenues in excess of FY 2017 disbursements to fire districts.

Commissioner Mayberry made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #19 - #24. Commissioner Peal seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

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

- A. A total of \$780,970.37 has been collected in sales tax revenue through October 2017 (\$241,847.36 is new sales tax for economic development, public education, and community colleges). This amount is 17.14% of the \$4,556,000 budgeted with 16.67% of the budget year expired and an increase over last year of 7.74%.
- B. Both the Shurtape Job Retention Wastewater and Industrial Park Sewer Lift Station Projects are well underway. Planning meetings are being held with engineers for the upcoming water and Bethlehem sewer projects.
- C. Crews for the City of Hickory are working on a number of small water projects along Teague Town Road including Auton Valley Lane and Liberty Lane.
- D. The Rocky Face Rock Climbing Festival and Run for the Dogs Trail Race are scheduled for Saturday, November 11, 2017 at Rocky Face Park.
- E. County offices will be closed on Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup> for Veterans Day as well as Thursday and Friday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> for Thanksgiving.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Minutes from the October 2, 2017 Regular Meeting and October 9, 2017 Called Meeting.
- B. Tax Release Requests (\$1,953.98) and Tax Refunds (\$1,770.43) for September 22 – October 26, 2017.

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

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

Commissioner Mayberry made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 7:38 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 8:40 PM. Commissioner Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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Milton H. Campbell, Chairman

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Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board