

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING February 5, 2018

ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

PRESENT: Ronnie L. Reese, Chairman
 Josh Lail, Vice-Chairman (arrived at 6:03 PM)
 Milton H. Campbell
 Ryan Mayberry
 Dr. Jeff Peal

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

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Monday, February 5, 2018 at the CVCC / Alexander Center in Room 103, Taylorsville, North Carolina.

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Campbell gave the invocation and Commissioner Mayberry led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

*****SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS*****

Commissioner Peal presented a Key to the County to Billy Killian in recognition of over 33 years of service with Alexander County EMS. The Board wished Mr. Killian well during his retirement.

Chairman Reese also announced that Boy Scouts Troop #275 was present at tonight's meeting. Leader Brian Heath recognized the group along with several members of the leadership team.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Chairman Reese mentioned the grand opening and ribbon cutting for the Stony Point Branch Library held this morning that was well attended.

Commissioner Peal commended the Alexander County Health Department and mentioned a few of the programs currently offered such as the dental clinic, telehealth program, etc.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

PUBLIC HEARING: EDC PROPERTY TAX INCENTIVE GRANT – SCHNEIDER MILLS

David Icenhour, Economic Development Director, requested approval of a Property Tax Incentive Grant for Schneider Mills relating to the purchase of new equipment with an investment of at least \$1 million. The proposed grant will consist of a payment to the company equal to 50% of taxes paid on the new investment over a period of 4 years. Mr. Icenhour added that the grant requires Schneider Mills must retain at least 95% of its current 274 full-time employees.

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

Vice-Chairman Lail made a motion to approve the Property Tax Incentive Grant Schneider Mills. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PROJECT BUDGET ORDINANCE #P-2 FOR BOREALIS COMPOUNDS, INC.

David Icenhour, Economic Development Director, presented Project Budget Ordinance #P-2 for Borealis Compounds, Inc. which budgets for a \$740,000 CDBG Building Reuse grant along with \$30,000 from Alexander County for environmental review and administration costs through the WPCOG. Borealis Compounds, an automotive plastics company, recently purchased the Alexander Railroad shell building in the Industrial Park and has pledged the creation of at least 37 jobs.

Commissioner Mayberry made a motion to approve Project Budget Ordinance #P-2 for Borealis Compounds, Inc. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY PRESENTATION

Dale Clary, ACPC Board Chair, began the presentation with an overview of services and programs provided by the Alexander County Partnership for Children for children ages birth to 5 to ensure they enter school healthy and ready to succeed such as NC Pre-K, Circle of Parents, Safe Kids, etc. Natasha Williams, ACPC Literacy Coordinator, elaborated on the Play to Learn and Raising a Reader Programs.

Dolly Parton began her Imagination Library in 1995 to provide books to children in her Tennessee hometown. The program was such a success that it became national in 2000 and now serves over one million children worldwide. Ms. Williams explained that each child enrolled receives one age appropriate book in the mail each month until their 5th birthday, noting that NC lawmakers appropriated funding for Smart Start to administer the Imagination Library across the entire state. The Partnership has enrolled 495 Alexander County children in the program since November 2017 and distributed 757 books.

Online registration can be completed at www.alexanderchildren.org and paper registration forms are available at the Partnership Office and at each Library branch. A kick-off event is scheduled for Friday, February 16th at the ACHS Auditorium at 6:30 PM.

2017 YEAR IN REVIEW

Rick French, County Manager, gave the 2017 Year in Review that included the following projects:

Borealis Compounds, Inc. – This automotive plastics company purchased the Alexander Railroad shell building in the Alexander Industrial Park in May 2017 and plans to invest \$15 million initially and create 37 jobs.

Industrial Park Pump Station – Alexander County has pledged \$298,349 to match a grant from the ARC to construct a new sewer pump station in the Industrial Park to serve the Borealis plant along with other possible industries.

Shurtape Technologies Sewer Project – Includes installation of 18,000 linear feet of 6-inch force main sewer lines and a 175 gallon-per-minute pump station made possible by the Golden LEAF Foundation, ARC, and Alexander County. Once completed, Shurtape will no longer be dependent on its aging, on-site treatment facility. They have pledged to retain 160 jobs for the grant.

Stony Point Elementary School Sewer – In November 2017, the County applied for a CDBG-I grant through the NCDEQ in the amount of \$894,750 to extend sewer from the Shurtape line to Stony Point Elementary School. The grant requires a County match of \$89,250.

Bethlehem Sewer Project – The County has applied for a loan through the NC Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund to install over 30,000 linear feet of sewer lines, upgrade two

pump stations, and construct a new pump station in the Bethlehem area. The first \$3 million will be zero-interest and the rate for the remaining \$2,181,300 will be a maximum of 1.91% over 20 years. Pending loan approval, construction should begin in the first quarter of 2019 with completion in 18-24 months.

Water System Extension Project – Another Clean Water Revolving Loan application will extend 76,000 linear feet of water lines to unserved areas of Teague Town Road, Polly Bowman Road, B&T Lane, Ned Herman Road, Zeb Watts Road, Liberty Grove Church Road, Dula Loop, Fox Court, and Icard Ridge Road. The first \$3 million of this loan will also be interest free and the remaining \$1,971,335 at no more than 1.91%.

Broadband Feasibility Study – Open Broadband, LLC recently completed the Broadband Feasibility Study that identified vertical assets and recommended the utilization of fixed-wireless service as well as a pilot program with a new ISP to deploy symmetric high-speed broadband in un/underserved areas.

CVCC /Alexander Applied Technologies Center – Made possible with grants from EDA, Golden LEAF, ARC, and Duke Energy Foundation along with County funding, this 37,500 square foot training center houses the Furniture Academy, a welding lab, and classroom space. As of December 2017, 53 students have graduated from the Furniture Academy.

Rocky Face Park Phase 2 – Thanks to a \$225,106 NCPARTF grant and \$325,106 in County funding, Rocky Face Park now has additional amenities including a multipurpose building with restrooms and office space, an adventure playground, outdoor classroom, individual picnic shelters, and a wetlands observation area.

Highway 127 Widening Project – A public meeting was held on November 14, 2017 to share details regarding NCDOT's plans to widen NC Highway 127 to four lanes with a median from Richey Road in Bethlehem to Cloninger Mill Road in Catawba County. Right-of-way acquisition is expected to begin in 2021 and construction in 2023.

Chairman Reese added that the workforce training offered at the CVCC / Alexander Applied Technologies Center was a major factor in Borealis Compounds' decision to locate in Alexander County.

REIMBURSEMENT RESOLUTION – BETHLEHEM SEWER PROJECT

Rick French, County Manager, presented a reimbursement resolution for the Bethlehem Sewer Project #E-SRP-W-17-0067, noting that approval was necessary for the County to be reimbursed by the NCDEQ financing proceeds for project costs.

Commissioner Mayberry made a motion to approve the reimbursement resolution for the Bethlehem Sewer Project. Commissioner Peal seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

REIMBURSEMENT RESOLUTION – WATER SYSTEM EXTENSION PROJECT

Rick French, County Manager, also presented a reimbursement resolution for the Water System Extension Project #H-SRP-D-17-0098, alluding to earlier statements regarding reimbursement from financing proceeds.

Commissioner Peal made a motion to approve the reimbursement resolution for the Water System Extension Project. Vice-Chairman Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Mayberry pointed out that this loan would be paid back with water user fees, not property or sales tax revenue. Vice-Chairman Lail agreed, also noting that only citizens that use the water pay the fees.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS

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

Planning & Zoning Commission – Reappoint Don Harrington and Sam Davis, Jr. for two years.

Region E Adult Care & Nursing Home CAC – Reappoint Mary Inman for 3 years.

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

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

Finance Committee – Appoint Chairman Reese and Vice-Chairman Lail.

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

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #32 - #35

Rick French, County Manager, reviewed the purpose of Budget Amendments #32 - #35 as follows:

Budget Amendment #32 – To budget for the General Fund local match for the Borealis Compounds CDBG Building Reuse grant to be taken from the new sales tax (Article 44*524) for economic development, public education, and community colleges.

Budget Amendment #33 – To increase the Bethlehem Sewer Fund annual budget for estimated costs of an engineering contract for surveying and easement for the Bethlehem Sewer Project using revenue from Article 44*524.

Budget Amendment #34 – To amend the County Water & Sewer Fund annual budget for estimated costs of an engineering contract for the Water System Extension Project.

Budget Amendment #35 – To budget for receipt of a Homeland Security grant to be used for the purchase of a generator.

Vice-Chairman Lail made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #32 - #35. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Rick French, County Manager, reported that the closing for purchase of the Sheriff's Office evidence storage building property located at 91 Industrial Boulevard was held on January 30, 2018.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from the January 8, 2018 Regular Meeting.
- B. Tax Release Requests (\$1,142.36) and Tax Refunds (\$4,550.33) for January 1-26, 2018.
- C. Audit Contract for year ending June 30, 2018.
- D. Surplus a 2002 Dodge van, VIN #2B7LB31Z12K117190 with 154,879 miles.

Vice-Chairman Lail 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 Peal made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 7:16 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 Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Vice-Chairman Lail made a motion to adjourn at 8:47 PM. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ronnie L. Reese, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board