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**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**     June 18, 2018

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

**PRESENT:**     Ronnie L. Reese, Chairman  
                  Josh Lail, Vice-Chairman  
                  Dr. Jeff Peal

**ABSENT:**     Milton H. Campbell  
                  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, June 18, 2018 in Room 103 of the CVCC / Alexander Center in Taylorsville, North Carolina.

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman Reese gave the invocation and Commissioner Peal led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Peal asked everyone to remember the families involved in the fatal accident that occurred on Highway 64-90 this afternoon as well as the emergency personnel who responded.

Chairman Reese advised that a statewide training exercise involving several County departments and community agencies would be held tomorrow and Wednesday, noting that the public may see several Department of Agriculture vehicles in the area. In addition, he mentioned that emergency departments were taking extra measures to respond to any heat-related calls such as stocking ice in ambulances and emergency response vehicles.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

## **NC DHHS FY 2018-2019 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAMS**

Rick French, County Manager, presented a one-year MOU with the NC Department of Health and Human Services effective July 1, 2018 that includes performance requirements and administrative responsibilities related to social services programs in an effort to improve quality and consistency. Although DHHS does not plan to initiate performance improvement plans or corrective action until after January 1, 2019, the mandated MOU is a cause for serious concern because 1) it was not developed with the mutual accord of county departments of social services, 2) many of the requirements are unattainable, especially by smaller departments (one case could cause them to not meet the performance standards percentages), and 3) there is a possibility of losing State and Federal funding if departments aren't found in compliance.

The DHHS is requiring all counties to sign the MOU by June 30, 2018; therefore, Mr. French requested approval but recommended including a signing statement commenting on the agreement and expressing concerns with the inevitable obstacles regarding compliance of the MOU terms, all of which would be sent to General Assembly representatives.

Vice-Chairman Lail agreed that there were major issues with the execution of the MOU but felt some of the requirements related to child welfare and foster care could be very beneficial, especially when considering that Alexander County has children who have been in the foster care system for 3 years.

Commissioner Peal felt DHHS's vision and desired outcome was good and that standards were needed but that counties were being forced to sign a document agreeing to targets and measurements that weren't clearly defined.

Chairman Reese made a motion to approve the MOU with NCDHHS for social services programs to include the signing statement as requested. Vice-Chairman Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## **UNIFORM GUIDANCE PROCUREMENT POLICY**

Rick French, County Manager, explained that local governments who receive and spend Federal grant and loan funding were required to adopt written procurement policies conforming to the Uniform Guidance by June 30, 2018. The Uniform Guidance Procurement Policy includes guidelines for service, construction/repair, and architectural/engineering contracts over \$3,500 related to price quotes, bidding requirements, public exigency, documentation, etc.

Commissioner Peal pointed out that, while the intentions of the Federal government were good, these rules and regulations were an overreach that would cost local governments more money.

Vice-Chairman Lail made a motion to approve the Uniform Guidance Procurement Policy. Commissioner Peal seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## **BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS**

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

WPCOG Region E Aging Advisory Committee – Reappoint Shirley Mays for two years.

I-CARE Board – Appoint Brett Fansler for 3 years.

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

## **BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #61 - #66**

Rick French, County Manager, reviewed the purpose of Budget Amendments #61 - #66 as follows:

Budget Amendment #61 – To increase the Public Buildings budget for additional costs to pave parking lots at various County buildings due to the discovery of conditions requiring more work at some locations.

Budget Amendment #62 – To budget for additional revenues and expenditures in the Garage budget due to more service and repair to Town vehicles than what was budgeted.

Budget Amendment #63 – To increase the Detention Center budget for the cost of May and June inmate meals due to a higher number of inmates from other counties being housed.

Budget Amendment #64 – To budget for payouts of vacation/holiday/comp time for employees leaving during the 2017-2018 year.

Budget Amendment #65 – To budget for payouts of vacation/holiday/comp time for employees leaving during the 2017-2018 year. To increase the Solid Waste budget for expenses greater than original estimates. To budget for a General Fund transfer to assist with the Solid Waste fund expense budget adjustment.

Budget Amendment #66 – To adjust the Borealis Compounds Industrial Rail Project budget for revised cost estimates from the May 21, 2018 bid opening.

Vice-Chairman Lail made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #61 - #66. Commissioner Peal seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## **BOREALIS COMPOUNDS INDUSTRIAL RAIL PROJECT BID AWARD**

David Icenhour, Economic Development Director, reported that a bid opening was held on May 21, 2018 for the Borealis Compounds Industrial Rail Project where 6 sealed bids were received ranging from \$1,054,000 to \$541,600. The apparent low bidder was Keith Benfield Contractors in the amount of \$541,600 who was also found to be responsive and responsible. Therefore, Mr. Icenhour recommended accepting this bid and awarding the construction contract to Keith Benfield Contractors.

Vice-Chairman Lail made a motion to accept the bid of \$541,600 submitted by Keith Benfield Contractors for the Borealis Compounds Industrial Rail Project. Commissioner Peal seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Funding sources for this project include pledges from NC Railroad (\$225,000), NCDOT (up to \$175,000), Alexander Railroad Company (\$50,000), Alexander County (\$50,000), and Borealis Compounds (remaining \$41,600).

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

The following issues were discussed during Other Business:

- A. County Manager Rick French along with Chairman Reese and EDC staff attended mandatory Uniform Guidance compliance training for the Stony Point School Sewer CDBG-I Project. Staff from Emergency Services and other various departments attended a compliance webinar last week regarding expenditure of Federal funds during disasters.
- B. The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Vertical Mile Challenge was held this past Saturday at Rocky Face Park. Almost 80 participants completed the race.
- C. Vice-Chairman Lail thanked Officer Lemley with the Alexander County Sheriff's Office who patrolled the Dusty Ridge Park area during several ball games last week after a black bear sighting. In addition, he conveyed his appreciation to all law enforcement for keeping citizens safe.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Minutes from the June 4, 2018 Regular Meeting.
- B. Tax Release Requests (\$821.31) and Tax Refunds (\$1,055.02) for May 25 – June 7, 2018.
- C. NC Division of Water Infrastructure Grant Contract for the Stony Point Elementary School CDBG-I Sewer Project.
- D. Agreement with the WPCOG for the provision of grant management assistance for the Stony Point Elementary School CDBG-I Sewer Project.

- E. Updated Alexander County Purchasing Policy.
- F. Surplus a 2013 Dodge Charger, VIN #2C3CDXATXDH642329 with 75,760 miles (wrecked on 5/21/18 and deemed a total loss by insurance company) and a 2000 Ford Crown Victoria, VIN #2FAFP71W9YX138446 with 151,040 miles (wrecked on 4/6/18 and deemed a total loss by insurance company).

Commissioner Peal made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Vice-Chairman Lail 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 Lail made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 6:50 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 Peal made a motion to adjourn at 7:26 PM. Vice-Chairman Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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Ronnie L. Reese, Chairman

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Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board