

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING July 16, 2018

ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

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

ABSENT: 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, July 16, 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

Commissioner Campbell gave the invocation and Vice-Chairman Lail led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Campbell reported that a recent *Business North Carolina* publication listed Alexander County as having the 2nd lowest unemployment rate in the state a 3%. Buncombe County ranks 1st with an unemployment rate of 2.8%.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

STATEWIDE AVIAN INFLUENZA EMERGENCY EXERCISE

Russell Greene, Emergency Services Director, reported that Alexander County Emergency Services, in cooperation with the NC Department of Agriculture, NC Emergency Management, and local poultry growers, took part in a statewide low path avian influenza full-scale exercise on June 19-21, 2018. He was happy to report that County staff was able to fulfill every request made by the State during the exercise and noted that an after action review would be provided in early August.

Other County departments and local agencies that participated included the Health Department, Sheriff's Office, Cooperative Extension, EMS, GIS, Public Works, and the NC Forestry Service along with Hiddenite, Sugar Loaf, and Vashti Fire Departments. Several key staff members were also called in briefly to assist in the EOC.

Emergency Operations Plan

Mr. Greene also advised that the current Emergency Operations Plan was approximately 10 years old and needed to be updated and rewritten. A revised plan will be presented to the Board in September or October for approval.

RESOLUTION FOR WATER LINE EXTENSION PROJECT

Rick French, County Manager, advised that approval of this resolution was required by the NCDEQ to accept the State bond loan offer of \$4,971,335 for the Water Line Extension Project that will be used to install approximately 14 miles of water lines in Alexander County. The resolution also states that the County agrees to adhere to all assurances specified in the loan offer.

Commissioner Campbell made a motion to approve the resolution accepting the NCDEQ loan offer for the Water Line Extension Project. Vice-Chairman Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION DECLARING THE OPIOID CRISIS A PUBLIC NUISANCE

Chairman Reese explained that, although the Board had already approved a resolution declaring the opioid crisis a public nuisance in March 2018, the legal team handling the opioid litigation had recommended consideration of an alternate version comparable with resolutions approved by other counties involved in the suit.

Vice-Chairman Lail made a motion to approve the latest version of the resolution declaring the opioid crisis a public nuisance in Alexander County. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

DESIGNATION OF VOTING DELEGATE FOR NCACC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Vice-Chairman Lail made a motion to designate Chairman Reese to serve as Voting Delegate at the NCACC Annual Conference scheduled for August 23-25, 2018 in Catawba County. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

SALES TAX & FINANCIAL REPORT

Rick French, County Manager, reported that a total of \$3,756,278.03 has been collected in sales tax revenue through June 2018 (\$1,206,485.37 is new sales tax for economic development, public education, and community colleges). This amount is 82.45% of the \$4,556,000 budgeted with 83.33% of the budget year expired and an increase over last year of 3.30%.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #1 - #3 & PROJECT BUDGET ORDINANCES #P-1 & #P-2

Rick French, County Manager, reviewed the purpose of Budget Amendments #1 - #3 as well as Project Budget Ordinances #P-1 and #P-2 as follows:

Budget Amendment #1 – To increase the Health Department budget for a NCDHHS Community Health grant to provide services to uninsured patients and to cover costs included in the 2018-2019 budget.

Budget Amendment #2 – To increase the Health Department budget for receipt of a Duke Endowment grant to establish an integrated behavioral health program.

Budget Amendment #3 – To increase the Sheriff's Office budget for insurance claims received in June for a patrol car wrecked in May and deemed a total loss.

Project Budget Ordinance #P-1 – To budget for the Stony Point Elementary School Sewer Project (\$894,750 CDBG grant and \$89,250 County match).

Project Budget Ordinance #P-2 – To budget for the Water Line Extension Project (\$4,971,335 NCDEQ loan and \$99,427 County loan fee).

Commissioner Campbell made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #1 - #3 as well as Project Budget Ordinances #P-1 and #P-2. Vice-Chairman Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

The following issues were discussed during Other Business:

- A. The contract with the NC Division of Water Infrastructure Grant Contract for the Stony Point Elementary School CDBG-I Sewer Project has been executed and submitted to Raleigh for signatures. Staff has also advertised for RFQ's for engineering services.
- B. Staff has received a letter of approval from the Local Government Commission for the Bethlehem Sewer Extension Project.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from the June 18, 2018 Regular Meeting.
- B. Tax Release Requests (\$534.36) and Tax Refunds (\$1,226.42) for June 8-30, 2018.
- C. Revision to the Alexander County Personnel Policy to reinstate longevity for employees with 5 year of service or more.
- D. Revision to the Alexander County Uniform Guidance Procurement Policy related to OMB's increase of the micro-purchase threshold from \$3,500 to \$10,000 and simplified acquisition threshold from \$150,000 to \$250,000.
- E. Surplus a 2013 Bobcat zero turn mower, VIN #94250401334 / Asset #0157 with 1,088 hours.

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

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

Commissioner Campbell made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 6:31 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, Commissioner Campbell made a motion to adjourn at 7:30 PM. Vice-Chairman Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ronnie L. Reese, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board