

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING January 7, 2019

ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

PRESENT: Dr. Jeff Peal, Chairman
 Ronnie Reese, Vice-Chairman
 Ryan Mayberry (arrived at 6:21 PM)
 Marty Pennell
 Larry Yoder

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

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Monday, January 7, 2019 in Room 103 of the CVCC / Alexander Center in Taylorsville, North Carolina.

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Commissioner Yoder 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: APPROVAL OF ROAD NAMES

Rick French, County Manager, submitted the following road names for approval, noting that all names met required regulations and had been checked for duplication and sound indexing:

<u>Road No.</u>	<u>Road Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
3758ZO	Red Arrow Drive	Off Macedonia Church Road

In addition, he advised that a petition had been received to rename Baker Poultry Lane to Richey Farm Road.

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

Vice-Chairman Reese made a motion to approve the road names as presented. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ACHS & DREAM ON 3

Gordon Palmer, ACHS Principal, explained that Dream On 3 was a 501(c)3 organization similar to the Make-A-Wish Foundation that creates sports experiences for children with chronic illnesses, intellectual and developmental disabilities, or life-altering conditions. The Jr. Dream Team Program partners with high schools and universities to empower student leaders to plan a dream experience for fellow students. Mr. Palmer advised that ACHS recently submitted a candidate to Dream On 3 who has been accepted; therefore, student/faculty teams have been established and the planning process has begun.

Jr. Dream Team member Casey Gilbert announced that this year's Dream on 3 recipient was ACHS Senior Davian Washington who stands at the front door of the school every morning, no matter the weather, to greet every single student and staff member with waves, smiles, high fives, and fist bumps. She added that Davian was the most kind-hearted and deserving person for this recognition.

Abbie Dejarnette, also a member of the Jr. Dream Team, spoke about a recent trip for her brother made possible through Make-A-Wish and how important those moments were for her family. She was excited to pass a similar opportunity on to Davian who she was a blessing to her and ACHS.

Mr. Palmer added that Davian assisted with many school activities and provided a weekly update on weekend sporting events.

Brian Lewis, ACHS Assistant Principal, stated that students serving on the Jr. Dream Team were able to utilize their passion for helping fellow classmates while also gaining leadership skills in the process. He felt participation in this program created a positive message and a sense of unity for the entire school as well as the community.

SENIOR CENTER 2018 MEDICARE SAVINGS

Christine Gates, Senior Center Director, stated that since 2006, the Senior Center had assisted Alexander County seniors with their Medicare plans in an effort to help them find the best coverage for the least amount of out-of-pocket expense. Staff members attend quarterly training through the NC Department of Insurance to keep updated on the program as well as an annual conference. She reported that staff had assisted 422 seniors with their Medicare plans in 2018 resulting in a savings of \$1,110,979, exceeding the \$1 million goal. Most of the savings (\$826,848,422) occurred during the Medicare open enrollment period from October 15 to December 7; however, because assistance is available year round for individuals new to Medicare, an additional \$133,445 in savings occurred the remainder of the year.

Ms. Gates advised that one individual alone saved over \$133,000. In addition, she mentioned that attendance at all 3 Senior Center locations was increasing.

2017-2018 AUDIT REPORT

Kelly Gooderham with Martin Starnes & Associates gave a slide show presentation for the 2017-2018 Audit Summary, which included the following information:

- General Fund revenues (ad valorem taxes, local option sales taxes, restricted intergovernmental (grant revenue), sales and services, permits and fees, and other)
- General Fund expenditures (general government, public safety, environmental protection, economic and physical development, human services, culture and recreation, education, and debt service)
- General Fund debt – \$6,883,656 as of 6/30/2018
- Fund Balance overview – 31.01%
- Solid Waste Fund overview
- Water Funds overview

Commissioner Mayberry made a motion to accept the 2017-2018 Audit Summary as presented. Vice-Chairman Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

WATER SYSTEM EXTENSION PROJECT UPDATE

Doug Chapman with McGill Associates began with a brief history of water lines in Alexander County that included maps and illustrations of new lines and equipment improvements since 2005. He reported that the 2018 Water System Extension Project made possible by a low interest loan from the NC Division of Water Infrastructure would result in the installation of another 71,090 feet of water lines to approximately 300 customers along the following roads – Zeb Watts, Liberty Grove Church, Dula Loop, Ned Herman, Poly Bowman, Deal Farm, KirkPatrick Lane, Espie Little, remainder of Teague Town, Icard Ridge, B&T Lane, and Fox Court. He also provided the following project schedule:

- Approval of design and permitting from the State expected by early March.
- Easement acquisition completed by mid-April.
- Bid advertisement and opening by late May.
- Bid award by late June.
- Construction contract executed by early August.
- Preconstruction meeting by mid-August.
- Construction begins early to mid-November.

Mr. Chapman also suggested the Board give consideration to the next phase of the water system such as updates to hydraulics as well as unserved areas in the northwest portion of the county.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #23 & #24

Rick French, County Manager, reviewed the purpose of Budget Amendments #23 & #24 as follows:

Budget Amendment #23 – To increase the County’s local match for the Stony Point Elementary School CDBG-I Sewer Project to pay for costs of the engineering report within the project budget fund (match paid from the Article 44*524 sales tax revenue)

Budget Amendment #24 – To increase the General Fund local match for the Stony Point Elementary School CDBG-I Sewer Project.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #23 & #24. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS

Rick French, County Manager, requested the following reappointments:

WPCOG Region E Aging Advisory Committee – Appoint Judith Rao for two years.

Senior Center Advisory Committee – Appoint Warren Hollar, Judith Rao, and Beth Patterson for 3 years.

Planning & Zoning Commission – Reappoint Coy Reese for 3 years.

Commissioner Appointments – Appoint Chairman Peal to the Finance Committee and County/Schools Relations Committee.

Appoint Vice-Chairman Reese to the Finance Committee, Agriculture Extension Advisory Committee, Juvenile Crime Prevention Council, and Farmland Preservation VAD Board.

Appoint Commissioner Yoder to the WPCOG Policy Board.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the appointment and reappointments. Commissioner Pennell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

- A. A 2019-2020 budget calendar had been included in the agenda packet and has also emailed to department heads.
- B. A work session is needed on either January 14th or January 17th to discuss projects and financial matters. The Board should also consider holding a work session in February.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from the December 3, 2018 Regular Meeting.
- B. Tax Release Requests (\$2,755.92) and Tax Refunds (\$8,385.80) for November 17 – December 31, 2018.
- C. Request to surplus two iPads purchased December 2014 to former commissioners Milton Campbell and Josh Lail.
- D. Application for I-CARE CSBG funding for Iredell and Alexander Counties for 2019-2020.

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)(5 & 6) CONTRACTUAL & PERSONNEL

Vice-Chairman Reese made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 7:18 PM to discuss contractual matters and personnel issues pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5 & 6). Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Yoder made a motion to adjourn at 7:54 PM. Commissioner Pennell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Jeffrey P. Peal, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board