

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING June 3, 2019

ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

PRESENT: Dr. Jeff Peal, Chairman
 Ronnie Reese, Vice-Chairman
 Larry Yoder

ABSENT: Ryan Mayberry
 Marty Pennell

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

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Monday, June 3, 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

Vice-Chairman Reese gave the invocation and Commissioner Yoder 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

Lana Davidson requested that a supply of toner purchased and made available for the microfilm equipment printer in the Alexander County Library History Room, noting that the printer is frequently low or completely out of toner. She also thanked the Board for the many updates and/or renovations at all 3 library branches as well as library staff for their assistance to citizens.

PUBLIC HEARING: 2019-2020 ALEXANDER COUNTY PROPOSED BUDGET

Rick French, County Manager, reviewed several components of the 2019-2020 proposed budget as follows:

- After meeting with Alexander County Schools representatives last Thursday, it was determined that the 2019-2020 appropriation to the School System would total \$6,800,000, an increase of \$234,149 that includes \$45,000 for the CTE Program at ACHS. In addition, the Board intends to provide an additional \$200,000 to the School System in the 2020-2021 budget for a total of \$7,000,000.
- Several fees increases are included in the proposed budget for planning and zoning, building inspections, and fire inspections as well as a small fire tax increase for all fire districts. All fire departments work hard to improve ISO rating that reduce homeowner's insurance premiums and more than offset the fire tax increase.
- City of Hickory rates for water and sewer service will increase by 3.75%. Alexander County also plans to increase the \$5 debt service charge to \$16.00 to assist in repayment of the NCDEQ loan for the Bethlehem Sewer Extension Project.
- A total of \$1,843,135 of Fund Balance is appropriated in the 2019-2020 budget.

After a motion by Commissioner Yoder, second by Vice-Chairman Reese, and unanimous vote, Chairman Peal 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 Yoder seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS

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

CVCC Board of Trustees – reappoint Jeremy Fortner for 4 years.

Region E Aging Committee – reappoint Paulette Huffman for two years.

Planning & Zoning Commission – reappoint Dawn Shealy for 3 years.

Consolidated Human Services Director – appoint Leeanne Whisnant.

Consolidated Human Services Advisory Committee – appoint Barbara Hayes, Dr. Thomas Rider, Dr. Richard Williams, Dr. Jennifer Hull, Hazel Yoder, Betty Long, Scott Westmoreland, Macy Jones, Doug Howes, Geraldine Perry, Shirley Mays, Judy Rao, Pat Wilkinson, and John Watts, all for 4 years.

2020 Census Liaison – appoint George Brown.

2020 Census Complete Count Committee – appoint George Brown, Seth Harris, Gary Herman, Helen Chestnut, Renee Meade, Paula Cline, and Matt Cooksey

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

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #52 - #55

Rick French, County Manager, reviewed the purpose of Budget Amendments #52 - #55 as follows:

Budget Amendment #52 – To increase the Garage budget for estimated auto repair expenses for the remainder of the 2018-2019 budget year.

Budget Amendment #53 – To increase the Landfill budget for increased expenses due to higher volume than expected (revenues have also increased due to volume).

Budget Amendment #54 – To budget for the closeout of the County Capital Projects Fund and transfer the remaining balance of local funds to the General Fund.

Budget Amendment #55 – To adjust the Detention budget to allow for a contingency item for the 2018-2019 budget year to pay medical bills for two inmates (pending the outcome of Medicaid eligibility).

Vice-Chairman Reese made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #52 - #55. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

- A. Brian Horton with the WPCOG will attend a future meeting to discuss collaborating with NCDOT to construct sidewalks, bike lanes, and multi-use paths in conjunction with the widening of Highway 127.
- B. A total of \$3,540,204.65 has been collected in sales tax revenue through May 2019 (\$1,142,050.98 is new sales tax for economic development, public education, and community colleges). This amount is 75.36% of the \$4,698,000 budgeted with 75% of the budget year expired and an increase over last year of 6.27%.
- C. Mr. French advised that there was no need for a Closed Session to be held.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from the May 20, 2019 Regular Meeting.
- B. Tax Release Requests (\$4,005.82) and Tax Refunds (\$614.84) for May 11-24, 2019.
- C. JCPC Updated County Funding Plan FY 2020.
- D. Solid Waste Franchise Agreement (Modification & Amendment #3 to Transportation & Disposal Agreement / 2nd Amendment to Solid Waste Management Contract).
- E. Personnel Policy Revisions.

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Yoder made a motion to adjourn at 6:21 PM. Vice-Chairman Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Jeffrey P. Peal, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board