

Draft

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**      November 4, 2019

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

**PRESENT:**    Dr. Jeff Peal, Chairman  
                  Ronnie Reese, Vice-Chairman  
                  Ryan Mayberry  
                  Marty Pennell

**ABSENT:**     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, November 4, 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 Boy Scouts Troop #274 led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**\*\*\*SPECIAL RECOGNITION\*\*\***

Chairman Peal recognized Assistant Scout Master Vic Ridisi and members of Boy Scouts Troop #274 who were attending tonight's meeting to earn their Citizenship in the Community merit badge. He commended the scouts for their desire to make a positive impact and become better citizens.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Chairman Peal attended the Farm City Banquet held last week at Emerald Hill in Hiddenite, NC. He thanked the Cooperative Extension staff for planning the event where he learned that in 2017, Alexander County's net cash farm income was \$71,515,000 and market value of products sold

totaled \$176,342,000. He also mentioned recent openings of two Little Caesar's locations as well as current construction of Arby's, a successful Friends of the Library Book Sale in October (earned \$3,300), and discussions between CVCC and Borealis Compounds related to possible courses specific to the plastics industry.

Commissioner Mayberry attended the Rock Climbing Festival on Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at Rocky Face Park.

Rick French, County Manager, added that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Run for the Dogs was held in conjunction with the Rock Climbing Festival to raise money for the Alexander County Animal Shelter. Seventy-five runners participated and the winner of the 12-mile race was a local resident.

### **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Mayberry 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: 5310 GRANT ENHANCEMENT FOR SENIORS & THE DISABLED**

Patricia Baker, DSS Director, discussed the Federal 5310 Program (Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities) for FY 2021 that would provide transportation for Alexander County seniors age 65 and older as well as disabled citizens to nutritional sites, medical appointments, and other life sustaining activities through Greenway services. The grant project budget totals \$194,592 and requires a 10% local match. To date only positive feedback has been received from the public in response to the notice placed in *The Taylorsville Times* and *The Hickory Daily Record*. Ms. Baker advised that this grant has been utilized annually for many years and, if approved tonight, would be included in the 2020-2021 budget request.

After a motion by Vice-Chairman Reese, second by Commissioner Mayberry, and unanimous vote, Chairman Peal called the public hearing to order and requested any comments.

#### Public Comment

Vic Ridisi asked if distance limitations were imposed and if transportation to doctor visits was provided. Ms. Baker replied that medical appointments were considered life sustaining activities as well as grocery shopping and even social activities. She also mentioned that, although most travel was done locally, efforts were made to assist citizens needing services in other counties.

There being no further comment, Commissioner Mayberry made a motion to close the public hearing. Vice-Chairman Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Mayberry made a motion to move forward with applying for the 5310 Program Grant and approve the coinciding resolution. Commissioner Pennell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## **PUBLIC HEARING: SPECIAL EVENTS ORDINANCE**

Rick French, County Manager, stated that this was the second of two public hearings regarding the proposed Special Events Ordinance that would establish a structured process for permitting and staging of planned public events to ensure adequate allocation of county resources. He discussed specifics of the ordinance, which has been reviewed by several County departments including Emergency Services, Sheriff's Office, 911 Communications, EMS, and Inspections as well as the Taylorsville Police Department. Mr. French advised that the Town of Taylorsville has had an ordinance, process, and fee schedule for special events for many years.

Chairman Peal explained that this ordinance was not an attempt to tell people what to do with their property, but to secure liability and control over major events to ease the burden on emergency services. He added that several revisions had been made in response to public input and he urged citizens to contact County staff with other suggestions prior to consideration of the ordinance on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Commissioner Mayberry asked that County staff reach out to representatives for known events throughout the county to begin the process once the ordinance is adopted and that the application be made available for submittal through the County website.

After a motion by Commissioner Mayberry, second by Commissioner Pennell, 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 Mayberry seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## **CHRISTMAS PARADE REPORT**

Lenny Rogers, Extension Director, announced that the 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Alexander County Christmas Parade was scheduled for Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM. Late registration this year will not begin until December 2<sup>nd</sup> to allow for as many entries as possible without additional fees (200 entries available). He also announced that the ACHS FFA would again be collecting canned/dry goods and cash/check donations along the parade route to supply local food pantries and the Grand Marshall will be chosen in the next couple of weeks.

New this year will be the lighting of a 20-foot Christmas tree on the green between the Alexander County Courthouse and Services Center. Festivities will begin at 1:30 PM on December 7<sup>th</sup> and

will include music provided by the East Alexander Middle School band and chorus as well as various food vendors. The Grand Marshall will flip the switch to light the tree at 1:45 PM.

Parade entry forms are available online at [www.alexandercountync.gov/parade](http://www.alexandercountync.gov/parade). The event will be broadcast live on WACB and the taped version will be shown on the Government Channel and YouTube.

### **SCHEDULING OF CALLED MEETING FOR DECEMBER 16, 2019**

Chairman Peal requested a called meeting for Monday, December 16, 2019 to award bids for the Bethlehem Sewer Extension Project.

Commissioner Mayberry made a motion to schedule a called meeting on December 16, 2019. Commissioner Pennell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

### **ADOPTION OF 2020 COMMISSIONERS' MEETING SCHEDULE**

Rick French, County Manager, presented the 2020 Commissioners' Meeting Schedule as follows:

January 6, 2020 / CHSB Meeting	July 20, 2020 / CHSB Meeting
February 3, 2020	August 3, 2020
March 9, 2020 / CHSB Meeting	September 14, 2020 / CHSB Meeting
April 6, 2020	September 21, 2010 (if needed)
April 20, 2020	October 5, 2020
May 4, 2020 / CHSB Meeting	November 2, 2020 / CHSB Meeting
May 18, 2020	November 16, 2020 (if needed)
June 1, 2020	December 7, 2020
June 15, 2020	

Commissioner Pennell made a motion to approve the 2020 Commissioners' Meeting Schedule as presented. Vice-Chairman Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

### **ADOPTION OF 2020 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

Rick French, County Manager, presented the 2020 Holiday Schedule as follows:

New Year's Day . . . . .	Wednesday, January 1, 2020
Martin Luther King Jr. Day . . . . .	Monday, January 20, 2020
Good Friday . . . . .	Friday, April 10, 2020
Memorial Day . . . . .	Monday, May 25, 2020
Independence Day . . . . .	Friday, July 4, 2020
Labor Day . . . . .	Monday, September 7, 2020
Veterans Day . . . . .	Wednesday, November 11, 2020

Thanksgiving . . . . . Thursday & Friday, November 26 & 27, 2020  
Christmas . . . . . Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, December 23, 24, & 25, 2020

Commissioner Mayberry made a motion to approve the 2020 Holiday Schedule as presented. Vice-Chairman Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #19 - #23**

Rick French, County Manager, reviewed the purpose of Budget Amendments #19 - #23 as follows:

Budget Amendment #19 – To increase the Health Department budget for additional State Title X Funds and a Walmart grant for the Safe Sleep Study.

Budget Amendment #20 – To budget for the purchase of shelves to store and display DVDs, CDs, magazines, and newspapers (half the cost will be paid with a Friends of the Library donation).

Budget Amendment #21 – To budget for the establishment of a fitness program for public safety and emergency services employees.

Budget Amendment #22 – To budget for a security system at the County Administration Building.

Budget Amendment #23 – To budget for the NC Farm School to be held by the Cooperative Extension Department.

Vice-Chairman Reese made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #19 - #23. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

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

- A. Buckeye Bridge is carefully working in the Wittenburg Subdivision as the kick-off to the Water System Extension Project. This portion should take approximately 7 weeks to complete.
- B. A pre-bid meeting for the Bethlehem Sewer Extension Project was held on October 28<sup>th</sup>. The bid opening is scheduled for December 5<sup>th</sup> and bids will be awarded at the December 16<sup>th</sup> Called Meeting.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Minutes from the September 23, 2019 Work Session and the October 7, 2019 Regular Meeting.
- B. Tax Release Requests (\$2,569.62) and Tax Refunds (\$1,261.62) for October 1-25, 2019.
- C. Records disposition request from the Human Resources Department.

Commissioner Pennell made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## **CONSOLIDATED HUMAN SERVICES BOARD ACTIVITIES**

At 6:37 PM, the Board transitioned into the Consolidated Human Services Board Meeting and proceeded as follows:

- Public Comment – there was no one signed up to speak.
- LIEAP and CIP Programs – Patricia Baker, DSS Director, stated that the Low Income Energy Assistance Program provides a one-time vendor payment to help eligible households pay heating bills. Low-income persons age 60 and older as well as the disabled receiving NC Division of Aging & Adult services can sign up from December 1-31<sup>st</sup>. All other households may apply from January 1 – March 31<sup>st</sup> or until funds are exhausted. During FY 2018-2019, 507 applications were approved and \$127,000 was issued to Alexander County residents (\$117,086 available this year with increased allocation amounts).

The Crisis Intervention Program assists low-income citizens experiencing a heating or cooling related crisis (such as no heating/cooling source or a disconnect notice that places their health or well-being in danger if not alleviated). During FY 2018-2019, 627 applications were approved and \$138,077 was issued to Alexander County residents. (\$117,086 available this year, 150 applications approved so far and \$26,042 issued).

Ms. Baker also advised that November was National Adoption Awareness Month, noting that Alexander County DSS was able to place 5 children in permanent homes in 2017, two in 2018, and 6 so far for 2019 with another 4 expected by the end of the year. There are currently 55 Alexander County children in foster care (two available for adoption) and more than 2,000 statewide waiting for adoption.

- Communicable Disease Annual Report – Billie Walker, Assistant Health Director, discussed the Health Department's role regarding communicable diseases such as control, prevention, surveillance, and reporting as well as 2014-2019 statistics and trends related to general communicable, vaccine preventable, and sexually transmitted diseases. Gastrointestinal diseases are the most common and frequent; however, there was one influenza death in 2018-2019 and CRE bacteria at a long-term care facility.
- NCCARE 360 – LEEANNE WHISNANT, Consolidated Human Services Director, stated that 21 NC counties were currently enrolled in NCCARE360, a statewide network that unites

health care and human services organizations with a shared technology program to help clients access services electronically. Alexander County is included in phase two with 22 other counties and community service providers (health, housing, transportation, employment, etc.) can begin enrolling in the new few weeks to be ready to go live by the first of 2020. Approximately 15 providers attended the first informational meeting and staff plans to continue outreach efforts.

- Proposed Fees for Behavioral Health Services – Ms. Whisnant stated that, thanks to a two-year grant, a behavioral health program is now being implemented at the Health Department. A licensed clinical social worker has been hired, written policies are drafted, and staff is working on contracts. The final step is the setting of fees and she reported that the Consolidated Human Services Advisory Committee had voted unanimously to recommend a sliding fee scale no less than 40% (similar to the dental program).

Hopefully beginning in January 2020, these services will be offered first to in-house Health Department clients beginning with pregnant moms, then family planning clients, and finally to the general public.

Commissioner Mayberry made a motion to approve the fee schedule with a 40% sliding scale as recommended by the Consolidated Human Services Advisory Board. Commissioner Pennell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**\*\*\*SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT\*\*\***

Chairman Peal mentioned that he, Macy Jones, and Darren Scott was recently interviewed by Xiavier Wang, originally from Beijing, China, who is currently doing a special on all 100 NC counties for WBTV.

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

Vice-Chairman Reese made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 7:36 PM to discuss personnel issues pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6). Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Vice-Chairman Reese made a motion to adjourn at 8:41 PM. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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Jeffrey P. Peal, Chairman

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Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board