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**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**     May 1, 2023

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

**PRESENT:**    Marty Pennell, Chairman  
                  Josh Lail, Vice-Chairman  
                  Kent Herman  
                  Ronnie Reese

**ABSENT:**     Larry Yoder

**STAFF:**      Ben Faulkenberry, County Attorney  
                  Jamie Starnes, Clerk to the Board

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Monday, May 1, 2023 in Room 103 of the CVCC / Alexander Center in Taylorsville, North Carolina.

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

A moment of silence was held in memory of David Odom, former Alexander County Commissioner and Taylorsville Town Manager.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Board members discussed several recent events:

- Commissioner Herman attended Ellendale Fire Department's Annual Meeting on April 18, 2023.

- Vice-Chairman Lail presented Guy Kerley, Alexander County Tax Assessor and former Tax Administrator, with a Key to the County at his retirement reception on April 24, 2023.
- Chairman Pennell attended Paragon Films’ groundbreaking ceremony for their new 75,000 sq. ft. warehouse on April 26, 2023.

## **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Chairman Pennell requested addition of an agreement with McDaniel Supply Company for commissary at the Alexander County Detention Center to the Consent Agenda.

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

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Todd Lail of White Farm Lane conveyed his appreciation for County water that was installed a couple of years ago but expressed concerns with drainage issues that resulted from construction. He explained that the contractor, Buckeye Bridge, LLC, had failed to replace a culvert on White Farm Road when installing the Zeb Watts Road water line. Since then, the road has dropped several inches and most of the gravel has washed away. He asked the Board to investigate a possible solution.

## **FIRE PREVENTION ORDINANCE UPDATE & FALSE FIRE ALARM ORDINANCE**

Mark Earle, Fire Marshal, presented minor changes to the Fire Prevention & Protection Ordinance that included updated terminology referencing the NC Fire Prevention Code previously known as “Volume V – Fire Prevention” 1999 Edition. There were no proposed fee increases for fire inspections or violations to this specific section.

An additional section entitled Alexander County False Fire Alarm Ordinance was proposed. Mr. Earle explained that fire departments are required to respond to fire alarm calls, which can occur multiple times at the same location, usually on weekends when a key holder is difficult to locate. Responding to repeated false alarms puts a strain on emergency personnel and wastes taxpayer dollars; therefore, a fee schedule was recommended as follows below, with a 12-month tracking schedule that starts with the first false alarm:

- 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> alarm – no charge
- 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> alarm - \$50 each
- 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> alarm - \$100 each
- 7<sup>th</sup> and above - \$250 each

Commissioner Reese made a motion to approve updates to the Fire Prevention & Protection Ordinance to include the new False Fire Alarm Ordinance section and associated fees. Commissioner Herman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chairman Pennell asked if all fire departments had submitted requested financials to the County Finance Office in preparation of the FY 2024 budget. Jennifer Herman, Finance Director, who was in attendance at the meeting, responded that Sugar Loaf Fire Department had not yet provided all requested information. Mr. Earle assured the Board that he would look into the matter.

## **BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #58 - #62**

Jamie Starnes, Clerk to the Board, reviewed the purpose of Budget Amendments #58 - #62 as follows:

Budget Amendment #58 – To increase 1) the Register of Deeds budget for the second round of State grants funds for the preservation of records and files plus a 100% local match requirement and 2) budgeted revenue for the Senior Center Operations grant due to a reallocation of funds from the Home & Community Care Block Grant.

Budget Amendment #59 – To increase the Detention Center budget for the County’s share of estimated juvenile detention costs for the remainder of FY 2023.

Budget Amendment #60 – To adjust the multi-year grant project budget for the ARPA Special Revenue Fund to contribute \$92,584.13 in matching funds to the Yakin Valley Telephone Membership Corporation for the GREAT Grant Broadband Project.

Budget Amendment #61 – To adjust the multi-year grant project budget for the ARPA Water Line Extension Project due to the County using a portion of the ARPA grant funds as the financial match for the Yadkin Valley Telephone Membership Corporation GREAT Grant Broadband Project.

Budget Amendment #62 – To budget for FY 2023 estimated expenses for the Bethlehem and Sugar Loaf Elementary School Projects approved for the State Needs-Based Public School Building Capital Fund Grants.

Commissioner Reese made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #58 - #62. Vice-Chairman Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## **BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS**

Jamie Starnes, Clerk to the Board, requested the reappointment of Carol Biggs to the Region E Long-Term Care Community Advisory Committee.

Chairman Pennell made a motion to approve the reappointment. Commissioner Herman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no items discussed during Other Business.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Tax Abatements & Adjustments (\$858.95) for Tax Refunds (\$862.31) for April 10-23, 2023.
- B. Surplus two deed book shelving systems at the request of the Register of Deeds.
- C. McDaniel Supply Company Commissary Service Agreement.

Commissioner Reese 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)(5 & 6) CONTRACTUAL & PERSONNEL**

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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chairman Pennell made a motion to adjourn at 7:51 PM. Commissioner Herman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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Marty A. Pennell, Chairman

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Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board