

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING November 6, 2023

ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

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

STAFF: Ben Faulkenberry, County Attorney
 Shane Fox, County Manager
 Jamie Starnes, Clerk to the Board

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Monday, November 6, 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 Yoder gave the invocation and Vice-Chairman Lail led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Chairman Pennell reminded the Board that a new chairman and vice-chairman needed to be chosen in December to serve in 2024.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Commissioner Herman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one spoke during the Public Comment Period.

VAYA HEALTH PRESENTATION

Zack Shepherd, Vaya Health Community Relations Regional Director, gave a slide show that included the following:

- The 2023-2025 State budget directed NC DHHS to reduce LME/MCOs to no more than 5 and no fewer than 4, which led to the dissolution of the Sandhills LME/MCO. Rockingham County has been assigned to Vaya and all others will become part of the Eastpoint/Trillium consolidation.
- Medicaid expansion begins December 1, 2023 and Vaya's Tailored Plan will go live no later than July 1, 2024 with 76 expected Tailored Plan members from Alexander County.
- The Consolidated Innovations Waiver waitlist dashboard has been released and is based on county of residence instead of eligibility. In addition, the Healthy Opportunities Program will go live on February 1, 2024.
- There are no funding changes in the I/DD and TBI budgets from FY 2024 to FY 2025 but there are several increases in the Behavioral Health budget provisions.
- The Pathways to Permanency Program will include a training series for DSS and Vaya staff along with providers, placing agencies, and foster parents. The program will ensure foster children receive adequate assessments and services.

OPERATION GREEN LIGHT PROCLAMATION

Cherry Kilby, Veteran Services Officer, read a proclamation in support of Operation Green Light for Veterans and declaring the timeframe of October 1st through November 11th each year as a time to salute and honor veterans transitioning from active service to civilian life. She encouraged citizens and businesses to display a green light during the week prior to and on Veterans Day.

Commissioner Reese made a motion to approve the Operation Green Light Proclamation. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION TO CONSOLIDATE WATER & SEWER FUNDS & BUDGET AMENDMENT #11

To improve budgeting and accounting efficiency, Shane Fox, County Manager, proposed the consolidation of the Bethlehem Water Fund, Bethlehem Sewer Fund, and County Water & Sewer

Fund. He explained that the Bethlehem and Highway 16 South Water Districts were created in October 1981, followed by the Sugarloaf Water District in 1986. Debt was issued for all 3 water districts in the 1980s and 1990s in the form of water bonds, all of which has been paid in full. In FY 2010, the Highway 16 South and Sugarloaf Water Funds were combined into a single fund called the County Water & Sewer Fund and in FY 2011, the Bethlehem Sewer Fund was created when the County began receiving sewer surcharge revenue from the City of Hickory.

Mr. Fox recommended approval of a resolution as well as Budget Amendment #11 to consolidate these funds, noting there would be no impact to the County’s financials or increase in expenditures for water and sewer operations.

Vice-Chairman Lail made a motion to approve the resolution to consolidate the Bethlehem Water, Bethlehem Sewer, and County Water & Sewer Fund as well as Budget Amendment #11. Commissioner Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

2024 COMMISSIONERS’ MEETING SCHEDULE

Shane Fox, County Manager, presented the 2024 Commissioners’ Meeting Schedule as follows:

Date	Location	Meeting Type
January 8, 2024	CVCC/Alexander Center	Regular
February 5, 2024	CVCC/Alexander Center	Regular
March 4, 2024	CVCC/Alexander Center	Regular / CHSB
April 8, 2024	CVCC/Alexander Center	Regular
April 22, 2024	Alexander Services Center	Budget Work Session
May 6, 2024	CVCC/Alexander Center	Regular
May 20, 2024	CVCC/Alexander Center	Regular
June 3, 2024	CVCC/Alexander Center	Regular / CHSB
June 17, 2024	CVCC/Alexander Center	Regular
July 15, 2024	CVCC/Alexander Center	Regular
August 5, 2024	CVCC/Alexander Center	Regular
September 2, 2024	CVCC/Alexander Center	Regular / CHSB
October 7, 2024	CVCC/Alexander Center	Regular

November 4, 2024	CVCC/Alexander Center	Regular
December 2, 2024	CVCC/Alexander Center	Regular / CHSB

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the 2024 Commissioners’ Meeting Schedule as presented. Commissioner Herman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

2024 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Shane Fox, County Manager, presented the 2024 Holiday Schedule as follows:

Holiday	Date(s) Observed	Day(s) of Week
New Year’s Day	January 1, 2024	Monday
Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday	January 15, 2024	Monday
Good Friday	March 29, 2024	Friday
Memorial Day	May 27, 2024	Monday
Independence Day	July 4, 2024	Thursday
Labor Day	September 2, 2024	Monday
Veterans Day	November 11, 2024	Monday
Thanksgiving	November 28 & 29, 2024	Thursday & Friday
Christmas	December 23, 24, & 25, 2024	Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the 2024 Holiday Schedule as presented. Vice-Chairman Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT #10

Shane Fox, County Manager, explained that Budget Amendment #10 would transfer budgeted funds from the Legal and Finance Departments to Administration for deployment and first year subscription costs of procurement software and also increase the Sheriff’s Office budget for use of State funds from Unauthorized Substance Tax distributions to purchase bulletproof vest rifle plates.

He added that staff was working hard to keep budget amendments to a minimum and was making progress, noting that 23 budget amendments had been approved this same time last year along with 33 the year prior.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #10. Commissioner Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS

Vice-Chairman Lail made a motion to approve the appointment of Vicki Martin to the Council on Aging for 3 years. Commissioner Herman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Tax Abatements & Adjustments (\$256.00) and Tax Refunds (\$2,804.52) for October 6-27, 2023.
- B. Minutes from the October 16, 2023 Regular Meeting.
- C. Line Item Transfer Report for October 9-25, 2023.

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

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Shane Fox, County Manager, reviewed the following:

- This year's Apple Festival was a success with only 4 medical or public safety incidences (a record low), which he attributed to an abundance of pre-planning among County staff and event officials. He thanked Gina Kay Honosky, Taylorsville Apple Festival Executive Director, for her cooperation with County staff this year.
- Over 400 5th graders attended the Soil & Water Conservation District Field Days held on October 25th and 26th at H&H Arena. He thanked everyone who participated and/or made the event possible – Herman Dairy Farm, Dairy Farmers of America, Sugarloaf Orchards, New South Tractor of Newton, Chapman Jersey Farm LLC, NC Forestry Service, Tuttle Educational State Forest, ACHS FFA, and Lincoln, Caldwell, and Burke County Soil & Water Conservation Districts along with Alexander County Soil & Water Conservation District Board and staff, Cooperative Extension, GIS, 911 Communications, and Rocky Face Park.
- With the expansion of Medicaid that was approved with the State budget, NC DHHS anticipates an additional 2,000 Medicaid-eligible citizens in Alexander County. There are still many unknowns and staff is preparing for the impact to departments.

- The Alexander County Comprehensive Plan has been updated and will be reviewed by the Planning Board in December. Staff will present the updated plan to the Board of Commissioners for approval in early 2024.
- The County's audit for FY 2022 has been completed with no findings. Martin Starnes & Associates will be at the December Commissioners' Meeting to present results.
- Our PORT Community Paramedic is now working with 20 clients; one was accepted into a recovery program last week and another is in the works.

CLOSED SESSION – N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3, 4, 5, & 6) ATTORNEY/CLIENT PRIVILEGE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CONTRACTUAL, & PERSONNEL

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 6:31 PM to allow for attorney/client privilege and to discuss economic development, contractual matters, and personnel issues pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3, 4, 5, & 6). Commissioner Herman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ALEXANDER HOUSING OUR TEACHERS PROJECT BID

Vice-Chairman Lail made a motion to deny the bid of \$1,076,000 submitted by Garanco, Inc. for the Alexander Housing our Teachers Project and instructed staff to rebid the project. Commissioner Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Yoder made a motion to adjourn at 7:31 PM. Commissioner Reese seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Marty A. Pennell, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board