

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING January 8, 2024

ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

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

ABSENT: Larry Yoder

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

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Monday, January 8, 2024 in Room 103 of the CVCC / Alexander Center in Taylorsville, North Carolina.

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

No reports were given.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Craig Childers and Loretta Savary were present to promote the game of pickleball in Alexander County, the fastest growing sport in the country. Ms. Savary, a national pickleball champion who has helped start programs in numerous cities across NC, explained that the game was easy to learn and could be played by any age group. Because tennis courts and gyms can be temporarily converted to pickleball courts with painter’s tape, they hoped more venues throughout the county would offer opportunities for this sport to be played.

PUBLIC HEARING: APPROVAL OF ROAD NAMES

Shane Fox, County Manager, submitted the following road names, which met all required regulations and were checked for duplication and sound indexing, for approval:

<u>Road No.</u>	<u>Road Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
1149JLC	Plantation Drive	Off Heritage Farm Road
1149JL	Turnberry Lane	Off Heritage Farm Road

In addition, staff also requests the renaming of private road Evening Shade Lane to Pope Mountain Drive.

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

Chairman Lail advised that he would recuse himself from consideration of this item because he owns property along two of the subject roads.

Vice-Chairman Reese made a motion to approve the road names as presented. Commissioner Herman seconded the motion, which passed 3/1 (one abstention). The motion carried.

2024 COMMISSIONERS’ MEETING SCHEDULE

Shane Fox, County Manager, presented a revised 2024 Commissioners’ Meeting Schedule, noting that the September Meeting would be held on September 9, 2024 instead of September 2nd, which was Labor Day.

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 9, 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

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

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT #12 - #14

Shane Fox, County Manager, reviewed the purpose of Budget Amendments #12 - #14 as follows:

Budget Amendment #12 – To increase the 1) Health Department budget for new State funding for lead and asbestos remediation, 2) DSS budget for donations received from Alexander Community Support Resources for the Angel Tree Program distributed by Alexander County DSS, and 3) Library budget for one-time grants received from the ARP-State Fiscal Recovery Funds to be used for ADA improvements.

Budget Amendment #13 – To budget for an updated scope of work for the 2022 State Appropriations Act Grant to use \$327,000 of the \$750,000 grant to cover the costs of initial design work for a new courthouse and maximize grant funds for County project expenses before the 6/30/2024 deadline.

Budget Amendment #14 – To budget for a grant reimbursement from the Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program (StRAP) to the Soil & Water Department in the General Funds to pay for supplies used in carrying out the stream debris removal project.

Vice-Chairman Reese made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #12 - #14. Chairman Lail seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Tax Abatements & Adjustments (\$6,158.05) and Tax Refunds (\$1,802.29) for November 27 – January 1, 2024.
- B. Minutes from the December 4, 2023 Regular Meeting.
- C. Line Item Transfer Report for December 2023.
- D. MOA with NC State University for Alexander County Cooperative Extension.
- E. Records disposition request from Human Resources.
- F. Health Dept bad debt write-off for July 1 – December 31, 2023 (Accred. 33.5 & 33.6).
- G. Resolution to appoint Martin Moose as a Review Officer.
- H. Amendment to the Fire Prevention Ordinance to incorporate by reference the appendices to the NC State Building Code.
- I. 5310 Non-Profit Title VI Program Plan for Transportation Programs administered by Alexander County DSS.

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

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Shane Fox, County Manager, reviewed the following:

- Other than a few punch list items, the Wittenburg Access Project is complete. A final walk-thru is scheduled for this Wednesday, at which point Duke Energy should turn the project over to the County.
- The Bethlehem Park Improvements Project has been advertised and a bid opening will be held on January 16th at 2:00 PM. Five contractors attended the pre-bid conference last Friday.
- The Bowman Court Sewer Project has also been advertised and a bid opening will be held on January 30th at 2:00 PM. A pre-bid conference is scheduled for this Friday.
- The ARPA Waterline Extension and Bethlehem Water Tank Projects are still in the permitting process and will be bid in late January or early February.
- Containers have been delivered and stacked for the fire training facility. Welding and painting are expected soon and the City of Hickory plans to install a hydrant and water line.

- Survey work is complete for the EMS Station 1 garage. The project will be bid out once the architect completes the design drawings.
- The Health Department canopy is still in the design phase.
- Emergency personnel are preparing for potential flooding, fallen trees, and power outages tomorrow due to forecasted high winds and significant rainfall. Two swift water teams will be on standby if needed.

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 6:24 PM to discuss economic development, contractual matters, and personnel issues pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4, 5, & 6). Commissioner Herman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Lail made a motion to adjourn at 7:37 PM. Commissioner Herman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Joshua D. Lail, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board