

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING January 6, 2025

ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

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

STAFF: Todd Herms, County Manager
 Gary Herman, PIO
 Jamie Starnes, Clerk to the Board

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Monday, January 6, 2025, 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

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

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

No reports were given.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the ACHS Swim Team provided the following comments in support of a swimming pool facility in Alexander County:

Griffin Duncan addressed the topic of swimmer safety, noting that Lake Hickory was not an ideal location for learning to swim due to its murky waters. In addition, the nearest Infant Swimming Resource Program is located in Winston-Salem. He stated that a clear pool within a controlled setting and supervised by lifeguards would provide the most suitable environment for first-time swimmers.

Lucas Ritchie mentioned the health benefits of swimming for all ages, but especially young families with children and the aging population. He also felt a pool facility would attract more businesses to the area.

Emery Miller pointed out that cardiovascular disease was the leading cause of death in NC, which also ranked 9th in cardiovascular disease related deaths across the nation. She stated that a pool would encourage physical fitness among students, parents, and community members, noting that swimming provided a full-body workout that improved cardiovascular health.

Rakin Dagenhart said a community pool would draw people into Alexander County, leading to many economic benefits and the possible development of other facilities, such as a recreation center or aquatics center.

PUBLIC HEARING: APPROVAL OF ROAD NAMES

Lisa Harrington, GIS Administrator, 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>
3852AW	Grassy Creek Lane	Off NC Hwy 16 N
3736AB	Lelyn Woods Lane	Off Lelyn Drive
3787TR	Tippy Drive	Off Walter Street
3766SJ	Tucker Mountain Drive	Off Carl Fox Road

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

Vice-Chairman Yoder made a motion to approve the road names as presented. Commissioner Herman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

RFQ DISCUSSION FOR BRANDING, WEBSITE REDESIGN, & MOBILE APP

Gary Herman, Public Information Officer, discussed an RFQ to solicit assistance with development and implementation of a comprehensive branding strategy with a goal of establishing a distinct, strong brand for Alexander County. Branding can include, but is not limited to, a mission statement, color palette, logo and tag line, as well as document templates and design standards. In addition to the branding initiative, consideration is being given to website redesign and a mobile app. Community engagement will be a key part of the process with input from the public, local businesses, and County departments.

Mr. Herman stated that with the Board's approval, staff would issue the RFQ by late January or early February. Once responses are received, a firm and desired scope of services could be chosen.

The Board agreed to move forward, with cost estimates being discussed during the FY 2025-2026 budget process.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #21 - #22

Todd Herms, County Manager, reviewed the purpose of Budget Amendments #21 - #22 as follows:

Budget Amendment #21 – To increase:

- the Information Technology budget for federal Homeland Security grant funds passed through NC Department of Public Safety for the State & Local Cybersecurity Grant Program.
- the Register of Deeds budget to use restricted Automation Enhancement and Preservation funds received in prior years.
- the Detention Center budget for estimated medical supplies and inmate medical bills for the remainder of the FY 2025 budget, including a single invoice for over \$39,000.

Budget Amendment #22 – To increase the DSS budget for:

- advanced state funding allocations for rental assistance as well as support of child welfare/adult services/LIEAP Assistance Program efforts during Hurricane Helene recovery.
- donations received for the DSS Angel Tree Program that were higher than projected.

Vice-Chairman Yoder made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #21 - #22. Commissioner Herman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Tax Abatements & Adjustments (\$3,051.16) and Tax Refunds (\$2,592.87) for November 22 – December 29, 2024.
- B. Minutes from December 2, 2024 Regular Meeting.
- C. Board / Committee Appointments – Library Board of Trustees.

- D. Resolution approving the official bond for the Alexander County Register of Deeds pursuant to N.C.G.S. 161-4.
- E. Health Dept. bad debt write-off for July 1 – December 31, 2024 (Accred. 33.5 & 33.6).
- F. Request to surplus a 2007 Ford Ranger, VIN #1FTYR15E479A25181 with 152,753 miles.
- G. Request to surplus the following Sheriff's Office equipment – 19 green tactical vests, 27 black ballistic vests with outer carriers, a Panasonic Omnimovie camcorder with case, a Sirchie fingerprint comparator and evidence camera, a Canon EOS Rebel 35mm camera with case, 14 USB to 10 Mbps adapters, a Whelen LED bar light, 4 back seats for 2023 Dodge Charger, 4 back door panels for 2023 Dodge Charger, 2 iPad docks, 2 MDT docks, and 3 metal partitions for Ford Explorer.
- H. Alexander County Holiday Bonus Policy.
- I. Updated Alexander County Emergency Operations Plan.

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Lail made a motion to adjourn at 6:16 PM. Commissioner Herman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Marty A. Pennell, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board