

Regular Meeting
August 7, 2006

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, August 7, 2006 at 6:00pm. in the Panel Room of the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse.

Present: Jimmy Alligood, Louis Belfield, Ralph Cole, Jerry Downum, Bill Gardner, Wayne Goodwin, Harry Lee Winslow.

Chairman Wayne Goodwin called the meeting to order and Commissioner Winslow offered the invocation.

Consent Agenda

By motion of Commissioner Belfield, the Consent Agenda, including the following budget amendments and tax releases and refunds, and the minutes of the July meetings, was approved.

Ayes 7

No 0

Budget Amendments

4340 Fire	\$ 500	inc	increase in tax penalty and interest
4270 E911 Fund	\$25000	inc	E911 wireless mapping expenses
4140 Revaluation	\$ 4179	inc	revaluation contract services expense
4930 FEMA fund	\$132,326	inc	balance in Hurricane Isabel fund transferred to General Fund
7120 Storm Prep. Cap.Reserve	\$40,000	inc	transfer storm preparedness funds to Water plant generator cap project fund
4350 Planning	\$1132	inc	CAMA grant reimbursement
4380 Animal Control	\$ 999	inc	insurance proceeds to repair vandalism damage to vehicle

Tax Reliefs and Refunds

Alltel	\$177.74		not within city limits
RA Arrowood	\$259.25		house not 2-story as listed
BB&T Leasing Corp	\$125.93		vehicle sold
SM Bird	\$260.60		military-listed in Missouri
Creywood Associates	\$297.69		incorrect listing by taxpayer
DA Kelly	\$172.18		vehicle sold
JD Mizelle	\$245.77		listed in Bertie Co
C Williams	\$119.00		due senior exemption
R Brown	\$139.68		listed in Virginia

Public Hearing–2004 CDBG Grant Closeout

The Chairman recessed the regular meeting and opened a public hearing to receive comment on the closing documents for the 2004 CDBG grant. Carolyn Morris, Albemarle Commission Grant Administrator, provided information concerning the closeout of the grant, and presented documentation for consideration. The grant provided \$400,000 which either repaired or relocated six homes.

No comment was offered from the public.

The Public Hearing was closed and the regular meeting reconvened.

Chairman Goodwin presented the closeout documents for approval. By motion of Commissioner Cole, the closeout documents were approved for submission to the State.

Ayes 7

No 0

Planning/Inspections Report

Planner Elizabeth Bryant presented the monthly report of activities including 316 building inspections performed, three final plat reviews, and 16 nuisance code enforcement inspections with ten abated. Total revenue for the month of July was \$14,396.

Mrs. Bryant also commented on the successful meeting of the Planning Board and the Board of Commissioners to review and discuss the zoning ordinance proposal and the subdivision ordinance revision on July 24. She announced the public meeting schedule for August 15 at the Broad Street Courthouse, August 22 at Advance Ruritan Club Building, and August 29 at the Northern Chowan Community Center, for public review of the plans and maps for the zoning ordinance proposal.

Work First Planning Committee

DSS Director Ben Rose presented a proposed membership for the Work First Planning Committee, for the Board's consideration, as follows:

Lynn Hurdle Winslow, Richard Bunch, Ricky Coltrain, Anna Copeland, Karen Parks, Rev. James Huskins, Commissioner Ralph Cole, Herb Mullen, Rev Randy Pierce, Sandra Willard, Celeste Gregory, Teresa Forward, Darlene Carter, Mitza Autry, Jesse Holley, Priscilla Gardner, a DSS Work First Client to be named, and a representative from Chowan Hospital to be named.

Commissioner Alligood moved that the recommended list of members be approved.

Ayes 7

No 0

Home Care/Community Block Grant County Contracts

Susan Scurria, representing the Area Agency on Aging of The Albemarle Commission, presented contracts for consideration. The County has participated in these programs for many years and these contracts provide continuing in-home services, respite care, adult day health care, some transportation funds, meals for home delivery and served at the Senior Center, and some small home repair for the 60-years-and-over community.

These programs currently serve 301 Chowan County citizens.

Commissioner Belfield made a motion that the County approve the contracts and authorize the appropriate signatures for the contracts.

Ayes 6

Abstain 1, Mr. Gardner abstained as he wanted more time to review the contracts.

Schedule Special Meeting–Public Hearing–Occupancy Tax Increase

County Attorney Peter Rascoe stated that the General Assembly approved Chowan County's request for authorization to increase its occupancy tax by 2%. The approved legislation requires that the County hold a public hearing to receive comment on the proposal to increase the occupancy tax rate.

Commissioner Gardner moved that the Board of Commissioners conduct a public hearing on Monday, August 28 at 5:00pm to receive comment on the proposal to increase the occupancy tax rate.

Ayes 7

No 0

Board Appointments–Child Fatality Prevention Team

The Child Fatality Prevention Team is a representation of various agencies working to prevent child fatalities and to review fatalities. Nominations were presented by Mr. Rose, that Lorrie Meads from Albemarle Hopeline and June Bond from the Partnership for Children, be appointed.

By motion of Commissioner Alligood, Ms. Meads and Ms. Bond were appointed to serve as members of the Child Fatality Prevention Team.

Ayes 7

No 0

College of the Albemarle Advisory Board

By motion of Commissioner Winslow, Richard Bunch was reappointed to serve as a member of the College of the Albemarle Advisory Board.

Ayes 7

No 0

Report of Assessment of Heritage, Cultural and Tourism Opportunities in Chowan County/Edenton

Mr. Rascoe presented a summary of the assessment as prepared by Consultant Louise Glickman to identify strengths and weaknesses relative to the preservation of the rich history as growth and development occurs. The assessment will also define a process that can help the community work together to insure a positive direction for preservation and growth. Eight sites were visited, and interviews with thirteen leaders and three focus groups have been conducted by Ms. Glickman. She noted three key issues: heritage and cultural tourism, downtown revitalization and County planning, and waterfront and alternative tourism.

Suggestions included: programs to spur creative arts in the community; ideas to expand current heritage themes for conferences, tours, and events to attract regional visitors; the importance of extending retail and restaurant hours, concerns about affordable housing, and development of the waterfront in keeping with sustainable heritage and tourism

parameters. She concluded that the County cannot rely on assets as they were or used to be. It is important that the Town and County leadership concur on how to proceed to both protect their assets and to creatively develop and market them to both a local and a visitor market. Workshops for the community are planned for September and November, the first being September 13.

Public Safety Committee Report

Medical Director for EMS

Commissioner Alligood reported that the Public Safety Committee received updates on the plans for the Public Safety Center and efforts to improve courthouse security. Two items were presented for consideration by the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Alligood presented the Public Safety Committee's recommendation and made a motion that Dr. Ahmad Ali be named Medical Director for the Chowan County EMS.

Ayes 7

No 0

Oppose Legislation to Remove Franchise Granting Authority to Counties for Ambulance Services

Commissioner Alligood made a motion that the County strongly oppose Senator Holloman's proposal to remove the franchise granting authority of counties to permit ambulance services. General Statutes now provide that counties are responsible to provide quality ambulance services, and if this franchise granting authority is removed, counties will no longer be able to assure that credible, quality care is provided.

Commissioner Alligood's motion stated that the County prepare a letter of strong opposition to be submitted to Senator Holloman and the County's legislative delegation, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, the State EMS agency and to surrounding counties to solicit their support.

Ayes 7

No 0

Wildlife Commission

Mr. Rascoe presented information concerning the Wildlife Commission's study of possible changes to the regulations governing coyote hunting in North Carolina. Coyote hunting is now permitted except on Sunday and at night. The coyote population is increasing, and is also being seen in the southern part of Chowan County. A request has been submitted to the Wildlife Commission to allow night hunting, which is not favored by the Commission, as well as most law enforcement officers and citizens. Other options, including trapping, are being investigated by the Wildlife Commission. The Wildlife Commission is soliciting input from the Counties, and will be scheduling hearings. That information will be shared as the meeting dates are set.

Public Comment

None offered.

Manager's Report

Traffic Study Request

Residents of Drummond's Point have requested a traffic study of that area to solicit assistance for road work. Mr. Copeland will contact DOT to make that request.

Fishing Pier

Recreation Director Robbie Laughton reported that he and Mr. Rascoe met with representatives from the Wildlife Resources Commission and the Marine Fisheries Commission to discuss renovation of the portion of the old Chowan River Bridge that was left in place when the new bridge was constructed several years ago into a fishing pier.

The State agencies expressed an interest in using the Chowan River fishing pier as a pilot for the projects to be planned as a part of the State Saltwater fishing license funds.

Mr. Laughton stated that he hopes that word of approval will come in three or four months.

Sandy Point Project

Mr. Copeland reported that the Sandy Point Project developers continue to work through the permitting process, specifically the submerged aquatic vegetation question that has complicated the approval process.

2005-06 Annual Report from the NC Forest Service

The Annual Report from the NC Forest Services, submitted by Forest Ranger Ferrell Banks, was presented. Twenty-five forest management plans included 1304 acres, and no Southern Pine Beetles activity has been reported. Ten fires were reported in 2005, for a total of 101.6 acres, with debris burning the cause of most of the fires.

Smoke and burning complaints have increased due to the urban interface communities now located in the County. When forestry officials cannot find an acceptable solution to these complaints, the Division of Air Quality is called. The Division of Air Quality has responded to several complaints and the responsible parties have received notices of violation, with one responsible party being fined due to the seriousness of the violation.

The meeting was adjourned.

Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk