

Regular Meeting
Monday, December 6, 2010
6:00pm
Chowan County Public Safety Center
305 West Freemason Street

MINUTES

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Monday, December 6, 2010 at 6:00pm in the Chowan County Public Safety Center, 305 West Freemason Street Edenton NC. Present Chairman Eddy Goodwin, Vice Chairman Emmett Winborne, Commissioners Keith Nixon, Kenny Goodwin, Ralph Cole, Jimmy Alligood and Louis Belfield. Staff Present Finance Officer Lisa Jones; County Manager Paul Parker; Board Clerk Susanne Stallings and County Attorney John Morrison.

Chairman Eddy Goodwin called the meeting to order and then led the group in the pledge. Commissioner Alligood then provided the invocation.

Old Business

- a. Minutes from October 4, 2010, October 19, 2010, November 1, 2010 5:00pm and November 1, 2010 6:00pm meetings.
- b. Resolution Honoring Fredrick Davis

RESOLUTION

Honoring Fredrick Davis for his service to Chowan County

WHEREAS, Fredrick Davis began public service to Chowan County on June 1, 2010 when he began his internship with the Northeast Partnership through the CERC, Carolina Economic Revitalization Corps program; and,

WHEREAS, Fredrick Davis is trained in City and Regional Planning through the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; and,

WHEREAS, Fredrick Davis will graduate with a Masters of City and Regional Planning in May 2011; and,

WHEREAS, members of the Chowan County Board of Commissioners Finance Subcommittee requested a study on the Department of Social Services and Cost Benefit Analysis for office consolidations ; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners were presented with an analysis from Mr. Davis in July 2010; and,

WHEREAS, the study has provided invaluable and unbiased statistical data on the existing conditions, direct economic benefit to the County and direct/indirect impact on the proposed relocation of Social Services, and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chowan County Board of Commissioners recognizes, appreciates, and honors the service provided to Chowan County by Frederick Davis.

ADOPTED 6th day of December, 2010

Commissioner Allgood moved that the Board approve items a & b. Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

c. Employee Recognition Ceremony

Chairman Eddy Goodwin, County Manager Paul Parker and Human Resources Manager Carrie Byrum presented the following employees with years of service recognition gifts:

2005 - 5 Year Anniversary

L Susanne Stallings	Administration
Alan M Stulick	Sheriff
Thomas E Havemann	EMS
C Nicholas Lolies	Water
Rebecca Lowe	Elections

2000 – 10 Year Anniversary

Teresa D Johnson	Tax
Rena L Skinner	Tax
Frances M Bond	Maintenance
Darleane M Perkins	Central Communications
Kenneth M White	Sheriff
Jeanette C Ferebee	Jail
Sharon C Armstead	Recreation
Larnell Valentine	Sheriff

1995 – 15 Year Anniversary

Donald Wheeler	Maintenance
Holly J Colombo	Inspections
Cheri L Blount	DSS

1990 – 20 Year Anniversary

Kimberly B Smith	Administration
Rita A Saunders	Central Communications

1985 – 25 Year Anniversary

Lisa S Jones	Administration
Faye C Boyce	Tax
Louis E Perry	Water

1980 – 30 Year Anniversary

Desiree S Blanchard	DSS
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d. Commissioner Recognition Ceremony

Following receipt of recognition gifts Commissioner Kenny Goodwin, Louis Belfield and Jimmy Alligood made remarks and then were seated in the audience.

Administration of Oaths of Office

Clerk to the Board, Susanne Stallings administered the oath to the following Commissioners Elect:

- Ellis Lawrence
- John Mitchener
- Jeff Smith

Organizational Meeting

Election of Chairman

In accordance with NCGS § 153A-39 (2) the Board of Commissioners must, at its first regular meeting in December of each even-numbered year, choose one of its members as chairman for the ensuing year. Board Clerk, Susanne Stallings moderated the organizational meeting for the 2010 for the election of the Chairman. She opened the floor to nominations.

Commissioner Ralph Cole nominated John Mitchener.

Commissioner Keith Nixon nominated Eddy Goodwin.

Being no further nominations, Ms. Stallings closed the floor. She asked for all in favor for selection of John Mitchener as Chairman. The motion failed (3-4 Nixon, Smith, Winborne, Goodwin).

Ms. Stallings then asked for all in favor for selection of Eddy Goodwin as chairman. The motion passed (4-3 Cole, Mitchener, Lawrence).

Ms. Stallings then turned the gavel over to Chairman Eddy Goodwin to continue the organizational meeting for selection of Vice Chairman.

Election of Vice Chairman

Chairman Eddy Goodwin stated that in accordance with NCGS § 153A-39 (2) the Board of Commissioners must also choose one of its members as Vice Chairman for the ensuing year. He opened the floor to nominations.

Commissioner Cole nominated Keith Nixon.

Being no further nominations Chairman Eddy Goodwin closed the floor. He asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

2011 Meeting Schedule

Chairman Eddy Goodwin noted that in accordance with NCGS § 153A-40 (a) the Board shall approve a meeting schedule for 2011. He noted that a proposed meeting schedule was included in the Board packet.

The Board discussed the meeting schedule.

Commissioner Smith suggested the meeting schedule be the 1st Monday of each month 6:00pm, 3rd Monday of each month 9:00am.

Mr. Parker suggested an amendment to the schedule.

Commissioner Mitchener moved that the Board adopt the schedule and eliminate the July 5th and December 19th meetings.

Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion failed (2-5 Lawrence, Winborne, Smith, Nixon and Goodwin).

Commissioner Nixon moved that the Board adopt the schedule as presented with the 1st Monday of each month be at 6:00pm, 3rd Monday of each month be at 9:00am.

Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Reception

Chairman Eddy Goodwin called for a brief recess of the meeting for a reception.

At 6:51pm the meeting was called to order by Chairman Eddy Goodwin.

Public Comment

Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked for public comment in accordance with NCGS 153A-52.1.

(there was none)

Consent Agenda

a. Tax Release and Collector's Report (attached)

Beasley, F.	\$273.32	SITUS Bertie Co.
Copeland, L.	110.25	3 month tag billed
Credle, T.	128.48	Vehicle given to son
Nixons, F.	178.91	Vehicle sold
Winslow, T.	108.39	Valued too high by computer

b. Recommended Budget Amendments

BA-1011-030

3471	Solid Waste	\$ 15,000	Increase revenue from NCDENR for scrap tire grants
4710	Solid Waste	\$ 15,000	Increase expense to disburse scrap tire grants to PCG Landfill Commission for scrap tire disposal expense

BA-1011-031

3418	ROD	\$ 1,200	Increase revenue for marriage license fees (revenue projection underestimated)
4180	ROD	\$ 1,200	Increase expense to remit marriage license fees to State of NC

BA-1011-032

3418	ROD	\$ 1,700	Increase revenue for deed of trust recording fee increases per GS 161-11.5 (revenue projection underestimated)
4180	ROD	\$ 1,700	Increase expense to remit recording fee increase to State of NC general fund for additional register of deeds recording fees imposed per State budget

BA-1011-033

3418	ROD	\$ 600	Increase revenue for deed of trust filing fee increase per GS 161-11.6 (revenue projection underestimated)
4180	ROD	\$ 600	Increase expense to remit deed of trust filing fee increase to NC Dept of Cultural Arts to provide records management & archival services for public records per State budget

BA-1011-34

3418	ROD	\$ 1,900	Increase revenue from floodplain mapping fees collected per NCGS 161-10(a) (revenue projection underestimated)
4180	ROD	\$ 1,900	Increase expense to remit floodplain mapping fees to NC Dept of Crime Control & Public Safety per NCGS 161-11.3

BA-1011-035

3417	Sanitation	\$	2,500	Increase revenue from health septic fees collected in Tax Office (revenue projection underestimated)
4710	Sanitation	\$	2,500	Increase expense to disburse health septic fees collected to Albemarle Regional Health

BA-1011-036

3990	Fund Bal	\$	450	Increase fund balance appropriated for automation/preservation set aside per G.S. 161-11.3
4180	ROD	\$	450	Increase expense for computer or imaging technology associated with preservation and storage of public record

BA-1011-037

3839	Misc-Town	\$	10,000	Decrease revenue from the Town of Edenton for Public Safety Center operations (revenue projection overestimated)
4252	PSC Bldg	\$	10,000	Decrease expense for utilities for the Public Safety Center

Commissioner Smith requested clarification on the budget amendments. Being no further discussion, Commissioner Nixon moved that the Board approve items a & b as presented.

Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

c. Recommended Budget Transfers

BT-1011-002

9900	Contingency	\$	250	Decrease contingency
5820	VA	\$	250	Increase telephone expense for new line established for Veterans Service Officer, shared with County Manager prior to manager's office move 6/2010

BT-1011-003

4120	Admin	\$48,000	Decrease Admin salary
6130	Recreation	\$42,000	Decrease Recreation salary
9900	Contingency	\$90,000	Increase contingency from lapsed salary of County Manager and Recreation Director

d. Capital Project Ordinance

Attached is a capital project ordinance establishing amounts previously appropriated for the school projects indulging installing energy efficient lights and new ceilings in select classrooms at John A. Holmes High School, converting gas equipment to natural gas at John A. Holmes High School, and repair of covered walkway at Chowan Middle School to be financed by lottery proceeds. (a copy of the ordinance is in the meeting file labeled December 6, 2010).

Commissioner Winborne moved that the Board approve items c & d.

Being no further discussion, Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Resolution – Regional Agriscience and Biotechnology School

Anita Johnson with the Northeast Partnership presented a resolution for the Board's consideration that supports establishment of a regional Agriscience and Biotechnology at the Vernon James Research and Extension Center in Washington County.

Commissioner Mitchener asked if the program would survive the cuts from the General Assembly.

Ms. Johnson stated the school has the support of the Lt. Governor.

Commissioner Smith asked if the school would impact the programs at the school in Bertie.

Ms. Johnson stated that there are hopes it would not impact enrollment.

Commissioner Cole asked about the impact on transfers.

Ms. Johnson stated it would not.

Commissioner Mitchener moved that the Board approve the resolution as presented.

Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, NC Senate Bill 1199 established the Agriscience and Biotechnology Regional School Planning Commission to develop a plan for a regional school and ensure that the model is replicable, sustainable, and scalable, and;

WHEREAS, the economy of Chowan County, NC and the surrounding area is heavily influenced by agriculture and agricultural related industries and is a prime location for the development of value-added crops and sustainable agriculture, and;

WHEREAS, many students live in rural areas or on farms where they learn the value of work, the multi-craftsmanship of entrepreneurship, and the skill of building networking support combined with independence, and;

WHEREAS, Edenton-Chowan Schools has a sustainable vocational agriculture program at John A. Holmes High School, and;

WHEREAS, an Agriscience and Biotechnology Regional High School in northeast North Carolina would provide additional educational opportunities for a wider geographic area, and;

WHEREAS, the Vernon G. James Research and Extension Center located in Washington County is an ideal location for a model school that supports the plans of the Agriscience and Biotechnology Regional School Planning Commission, and;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chowan County Board of Commissioners supports the establishment of a regional Agriscience and Biotechnology Regional High School located in Washington County, NC at the site of the Vernon G. James Research and Extension Center.

Adopted this 6th day of December, 2010.

2006 Community Development Block Grant Close Out - Public Hearing

Michael Scott presented highlights and answered questions on Chowan County's 2006 CDBG-Economic Development grant that extended sewer service to the Wharf Landing development on US Hwy 17. He stated the purpose of the public hearing is to meet a requirement to close out the grant. (A copy of the close out letter is in the meeting file labeled December 6, 2010).

Chairman Eddy Goodwin then declared the floor open for the public hearing. He asked for public comment. (there was none) He then closed the floor to the public hearing.

Commissioner Smith moved that the Board close out the grant and de-obligate the monies for the grant.

Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Internal Committee Reports

COA/DF Walker Alumni Association

Commissioner Nixon stated the Planning/Enterprise Committee met on Tuesday, November 16, 2010. He asked that Mr. Parker provide a history on the next discussion item.

Mr. Parker stated that he began meeting in July with the President of COA, Dr. Kandi Deitemeyer and the DF Walker Alumni president Douglas Stallings on the COA space requirement and shared space at DF Walker Campus. He noted the lease at the shopping center on Broad Street will expire on November 2011. He stated the Board has a goal to consolidate the campus of the college. He stated the committee has recommended that the DF Walker Alumni Association and the College work together to share the space while preserving the heritage of the Alumni Association.

Commissioner Nixon added that the Committee has recommended that COA continue to work with the school on the shared space at the IT building. He stated the committee recommends approval of a letter (a copy of the letter is in the meeting file labeled December 6, 2010) to be sent to Dr. Deitemeyer.

Dr. Deitemeyer requested a copy of the draft letter. After reviewing the letter she stated that she has provided a plan that provides the smallest amount of classroom and job loss to the college while keeping the plan for the move at the least expensive amount of money. She stated the problem is the campus as it is, does not allow room for the college. She stated there is a problem with the schools occupying space in the IT Building but due to costs for moving fiber, there is nowhere for the schools to move. She stated she is willing to work with the Alumni Association but has not been invited by the Association to meet with them to discuss their concerns.

Douglas Stallings president of the Alumni Association stated he has held several meetings with the Board of Commissioners. He stated his concern was that he felt COA was not fully utilizing space already occupied on the DF Walker Campus. He discussed his observations of usage of the shopping center campus during the daytime. He pleaded with the Board to consider not allowing COA to use the Alumni Building and consider providing a lease for the space occupied by the Alumni Association with the County.

Chairman Eddy Goodwin stated that the County is caught in the middle of a struggle between the agencies involved. He stated it pained him to see it take this long and no party has agreed to work together to develop a solution to the space. He stated the money being spent for a lease at the shopping center should remain with the county. He stated that he felt the Board of Commissioners would have to make the hard decision for the Alumni Association and the College.

Commissioner Mitchener asked if the County has a legal lease with the Alumni Association.

Chairman Eddy Goodwin stated that the County does not.

Commissioner Nixon stated that he has met several times with the Board Chairman, County Manager and Dr. Deitemeyer. He stated the Board has appropriated \$100,000. He noted the plan to move the IT Dept belonging to the school did not show the cost (\$85,000) and that would put the project way over budget. He stated he wants the various agencies to work together. He stated he felt the Board of Commissioners is in the middle however a decision must be made to move forward.

Commissioner Smith stated he understood both sides but he felt a compromise is needed to move forward. He stated he felt both parties could work together.

Commissioner Winborne stated he supports COA and hopes the college can continue to move forward and grow. He stated that several meetings have been held to get both parties to work together and a decision must be made to better Chowan County.

Dr. Deitemeyer stated that she would ask the Board to not support the draft letter. She said the school system is a good partner and she feels the heritage and legacy of the Alumni Association could be preserved by allowing the association to use the facility for meetings. She asked that the Board approve the plan she has presented and give her time to work with the schools and the Board of Commissioner representative on the plan.

Mr. Stallings stated that the Association never stated they wanted to partner. He stated for the costs of renovating the campus, the college could build a new building on the campus. He stated he feels the Alumni Association is being pushed out. He stated his concerns over the 2003 lease between the college and the County. He stated he and the Association do not want to share the building with the college.

Being no further discussion, Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked for all in favor of the unanimous motion from the committee to send the draft letter to Dr. Deitemeyer. The motion passed (5-2 Cole, Lawrence).

214 East Hicks Street

Ms. Stallings presented an amended offer 214 East Hicks street, the committee recommended rejection of the offer after notifying bidder of this recommendation a new offer was submitted. It is recommended by members of the committee that the full Board considers the revised offer and advertise it in the Chowan Herald for the 10 day upset bid period. Ms. Stallings clarified the final bid would come back to the Board for approval/acceptance.

Commissioner Nixon moved that the Board advertise the amended offer. Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

EMS Collections

Chairman Eddy Goodwin stated the Finance Sub-Committee met on Tuesday, November 16, 2010. He stated the Finance Officer would present information on the following:

Ms. Jones stated that after reviewing 2 bids for delinquent EMS collection accounts and the fees, she recommends that the Board select Southern Credit for delinquent EMS accounts collection.

Al Cox owner of Applied Business services stated he was the other bidder. He stated that Alex Giambelli would provide more information.

Mr. Giambelli stated what he felt were the benefits of securing his company. He stated that the company is local and did decrease its fee % at the initial bid.

County Attorney John Morrison asked if the other bidder was aware that the Board would be discussing the bids that evening.

Ms. Jones stated yes she had notified them of this.

After detailed discussion on the bid Commissioner Nixon moved that the Board table this item to allow the new Board members time to research the bids in more detail and discuss this again at the January Board meeting.

Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Recreation Offices at Walker Gym

Mr. Parker presented information on consolidation of offices from the “L Building” to the gym at DF Walker campus.

Commissioner Nixon moved that the Board set a goal to consolidate Recreation Offices into gymnasium at the DF Walker Campus by June 30, 2011.

Commissioner Mitchener stated he felt it needed to be done right.

Being no further discussion, Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Human Services Committee – did not meet

Public Safety Committee – did not meet

External Board/Committee Reports

Chairman Eddy Goodwin stated that the Board members are asked to report on the activities of the external boards to which they have been appointed.

He provided information from past Commissioner Belfield on the activities of the ARHS Board.

Tourism Development Authority (TDA) Annual Report

TDA Director Nancy Nicholls provided the Board with an update on the annual activities of the Tourism Development Authority.

Finance Officer Report

Finance Officer Lisa Jones provided the Board with the finance report for October 2010 Cash and Investment Balance Report with a total of \$6,985,589 (a copy of the report is in the meeting file labeled December 6, 2010).

Timely and Important Matters

Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked if there were any timely and important matters, there were none.

Dawn Cherry in the audience stated her concern over the Ag program and the resolution approved by the Board.

Adjourn

Being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Chairman
Edward C. Goodwin

Clerk