

Regular Meeting
April 7, 2003

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, April 7, 2003 at 6:00 pm in the Commissioners Room, Courthouse.

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

Chairman Belfield called the meeting to order and Commissioner Winslow presented the invocation.

Consent Agenda

By motion of Commissioner Jones, the Consent Agenda was approved, including the minutes of the March meeting, and the following budget amendments and tax reliefs.

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no 0

Budget Amendments

4370	EMS	inc	\$12,789	EMS fees received
5345	DSS	inc	\$78,024	child care subsidy funding
5333	DSS	inc	\$44,773	smart start funding
4268	Sr Center	inc	\$ 650	Aging grant
4268	Sr Center	inc	3,160	Aging grant
5311,5321,5351,5361	DSS	dec	\$95,718	reduction in rev-cost savings measures
4910	Indus.Dev.	inc	\$ 5,000	Contracted Services-OLF
4310	Sheriff	inc	\$77,000	lease/purchase 3 vehicles
6131	Rec	dec	\$ 321	after school program grant reduced

Tax Reliefs

BD Rinehart	\$106.80	vehicle wrecked
DW Buchanan	\$185.96	vehicle sold
Colony Tire Corp	\$106.44	incorrect value
JA Francis	\$147.89	listed in Bertie Co
VR Hare	\$127.17	double listed by DMV
JA Norris	\$105.78	vehicle traded
JA Norris	\$108.84	listed in Perquimans Co
R Parks	\$162.07	mobile home sold
RM Stewart	\$404.83	moved to Arizona and sold

Public Hearing - Pembroke Creek No Wake Zone

Chairman Belfield recessed the regular meeting and declared a public hearing open to receive comment on the proposal to seek legislation from the General Assembly establishing a No Wake Zone in the Pembroke Creek from the Highway 17 Bridge northwest into the Pembroke Creek and around Dillard's Island.

Speaking in favor of such legislation were landowners bordering the Creek, Thomas Jackson, Ben Rinhart and Jim Badger, citing safety concerns with colliding boats and fishing boats being washed over by skiers.

Opposing the legislation as stated were Hackney High, Dr. Peter Boehling and Mike McArthur. All three gentlemen requested that the County work to find a middleground for all parties interested in using

the Creek for recreation. Dr. Boehling stated that he tried to resolve the issues with the skiers last summer when he spoke to the skiers about speeding boats, courtesy to the landowners, and not skiing in the Creek during fishing tournaments, hoping that would relieve the problems. He also sent a letter describing his actions to the landowners from which he received no response. He requested that the County seek a greater presence from the wildlife Commission so that violators might be prosecuted.

Mr. McArthur noted that "better manners cannot be regulated" and noted a significant increase in noise and annoyance in the last two years. He also noted that because the Bay is too rough for skiing alot of the time, skiers go to the Creek for smoother waters. He believes that sufficient laws are in place and requested that the County encourage all users to work to determine specific problems and the specific violators.

With no further comment offered, the Chairman adjourned the Public Hearing and reconvened the regular meeting.

Commissioner Goodwin asked about other options available to the County. County Manager Cliff Copeland stated that he was not aware of alternatives but could investigate the question. Following discussion, Commissioner Alligood made a motion that the Board request the No Wake Zone legislation.

The vote was 3 ayes, 3 noes, without Chairman Belfield's vote. Chairman Belfield requested that Commissioner Alligood amend his motion. The vote was 3 ayes, 4 noes.

Mr. Alligood made a motion that the County staff be instructed to meet with the Wildlife Commission to determine what options might be available short of a no wake zone.

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Public Hearing - 10 -Year Solid Waste plan

Chairman Belfield recessed the regular meeting and declared a public hearing open to receive comment on the proposed 1a-Year Solid Waste Plan.

Ann Blindt, representing the Tri-County Solid Waste Authority, presented the plan with the following priorities:

1. source reduction programs for all sectors
2. current collection practices
3. reuse and recycling programs
4. compposting and mulching elements
5. methods of waste transfer
6. practices of purchasing recycled products
7. education and information programs
8. disposals requiring special handling
9. enforcement programs and ordinances for illegal disposal/litter
10. disaster response

No public comment was offered.

The public hearing was adjourned and the regular meeting reconvened.

Commissioner Goodwin noted his conviction that a cardboard compactor and a debris compactor -would pay for themselves through their efficiency. The idea to do a pilot program with one of the convenience centers was suggested to be included in the plan.

The three-county Solid Waste Authority will prepare and submit the completed plan to the State. No action by the Board was required.

Schedule Meeting of Board of Equalization and Review
Schedule Public Hearing - Secondary Roads Program
Schedule Public Hearing - Greenways Plan
Schedule Public Hearing - Hazard Mitigation Plan

Schedule Public Hearing - Rural Operating Assistance Program
By motion of Commissioner Jones, the Board voted to schedule a meeting of the Board of Equalization and Review for the May 5 meeting at 10:00am in the Commissioners Room, Courthouse; and also to schedule public hearings for Secondary Roads Program, Greenways Plan, Hazard Mitigation Plan, and Rural Operating Assistance Program in the Commissioners Room, Courthouse, for the May 5 meeting beginning at 9:00am and following.

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Board Appointment - North Carolina Senior Tarheel
Commissioner Alligood made a motion that Bill Miller be appointed as Chowan County's representative to the North Carolina Senior Tarheel organization.

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Financing for Sheriff's Dept Vehicles
Bids submitted to finance three vehicles for the Sheriff's Dept are as follows: RBC Centura 2.25%, BB&T 2.29%, Bank of America 2.74%, Gateway no bid, Southern Bank 2.93%.

Commissioner Downum moved that the Board accept the low bid from RBC Centura at 2.25%, and approve the necessary paperwork, including a resolution authorizing its acceptance.

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Medicaid Program Costs to County
Commissioner Goodwin moved that the Board approve the following resolution seeking legislative relief for the County's share of Medicaid costs. This action is also being pursued by the Association of County Commissioners.

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RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Chowan County is responsible for the administration of the Medicaid Insurance program for its residents; and,

WHEREAS, Chowan County is required to contribute approximately 6% of the funding for all program costs associated with Medicaid; and,

WHEREAS, Chowan County has seen an increase of Medicaid Program costs equaling 35% over the past five years; and,

WHEREAS, the costs of health care in the current climate is rising at rates substantially higher than inflation; and,

WHEREAS, Chowan County has no control over these rising Medicaid costs and must meet the payment under Federal and State laws; and,

WHEREAS, counties all across the State are having flat revenues due to

economic conditions and other variables involving Federal and State cuts to counties; and,

WHEREAS, North Carolina is one of an extremely small pool of states where the counties actually contribute to Medicaid program costs.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Chowan County Board of Commissioners, in conjunction with the Chowan County Board of Social Services, to support fully the passage of House Bill 411, which seeks to lower and eventually eliminate the local government contribution for the Medicaid program. In lieu of this bill, the Chowan County Board of Commissioners fully supports the passage of House Bill 410, which would lower the local government contribution based on tier classification. The Chowan County Board of Commissioners fully supports both bills, with HB 411 being the preferred legislation.

Adopted today, April 7, 2003.
Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Funding
Sheriff Fred Spruill presented the Council's recommendation for allocation of the \$77,466 received by the County.

Intensive Supervision of Juvenile Justice and At Risk Students	\$52,185
After School Program/Victims Restitution Program	21,281
Mediation/Conflict Resolution Program	4,000

Commissioner Goodwin made a motion that the allocation be distributed as recommended by the Sheriff.
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Cooperative Extension Service
CES Director Mike Williams presented information on the upcoming Livestock Show, scheduled for April 16. Last year's show brought in \$35,000 in bids for the animals to the 62 students participating. Mr. Williams expressed appreciation for the community's support.
Mr. Williams also discussed the status of the constructed wetlands project at the Agriculture Building and adjacent to the Mental Health Building and toward the Chowan Life Center on Granville Street, ongoing since 1997. This system is the natural drainage for North Edenton, and has provided considerable pollution control into the Edenton Bay, Albemarle Sound and Chowan River. Significant increases in bird, animal and fish life have been noted. An interesting note: the small fish have been identified as "mosquito fish" which feed on mosquitoes, and no mosquito larvae have been found in the system.

Feasibility Study for Sewer Service in Southeastern Chowan County
Commissioner Alligood made a motion that the County accept a \$40,000 grant from the NC Rural Center to conduct a feasibility study for sewer service in the Cape Colony/Country Club area, and that Diehl & Phillips be contracted to conduct the study. The estimated time to complete the study is three months.
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Report from the Planning and Enterprise Committee
Recommendations for GIS project/E911 Project
Data Processing Director Phyllis Cranford and Sheriff Fred Spruill presented
a proposal to the Commissioners as follows:

1. that the County contract with Robert Kimball and Associates to produce digital and soil maps at a total cost of \$111,500;
2. that the County contract with Kimball and Associates to provide center line maps that include structures and house numbering identification, at a cost of \$96,900;
3. that the County contract with GeoComm to provide the necessary 911 software to interface with the GIS System for a total cost of \$21,865.

Funds needed in this budget year are allocated for this year.

Commissioner Winslow made a motion that the contracts be approved.

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Manager's Report

Hunting Laws

Mr. Copeland reported that hunt clubs in the County are being identified and contacted to arrange a group to meet to discuss hunting laws.

Cannon's Ferry Riverwalk/Hendrix Park Dedication

Work is complete and a dedication is scheduled for Sunday, April 27 at 2:00pm. By motion of Commissioner Goodwin, the following resolution will be presented.

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RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, James Robert Hendrix is a life-long resident of Chowan County, born to Mattie and June Hendrix in September of 1927; and,

WHEREAS, as a resident of Chowan County, he has served his County in many capacities, including employment as Director of the Department of Social Services from 1968 to 1973, and then as Supervisor of Juvenile Probation Services until his retirement in 1987; and,

WHEREAS, J. Robert Hendrix and his family desire to preserve the heritage of Cannon's Ferry's fishing industry and also to enhance public access to Cannon's Ferry and the Chowan River; and,

WHEREAS, J. Robert Hendrix and Chowan County have worked together to develop a Park and Riverwalk facility to accomplish these goals; and,

WHEREAS, the recreational opportunities to the citizens of Chowan County will be forever enhanced by the generous dedication of land by the Hendrix Family necessary to the development of these facilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Chowan County Board of Commissioners resolves

that this site be dedicated to J. Robert Hendrix and be officially named the J. Robert Hendrix Park and the Cannon's Ferry Riverwalk; and,

ALSO, directs that this Resolution be presented to J. Robert Hendrix on Sunday, April 27, 2003, at the dedication of the Cannon's Ferry Riverwalk and the J. Robert Hendrix Park.

Presented Sunday, April 27, 2003

C. Louis Belfield

Chairman

Chowan County Board of Commissioners

Old Courthouse

The County has received word that the change order has been signed to begin work on the last phase of the Old Courthouse renovation.

County Insurance for Workers Compensation and Liability and Property Pool
Commissioner Alligood moved that the County approve renewal of the County's Interlocal Agreements with the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Risk Management Pool.

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Bennett's Mill Pond

Recreation Director Robbie Laughton presented a proposal for cleanup of the Bennett's Mill Pond to treat surface and sub-surface grass in 35 acres of the pond by a spraying program. This recommendation is proposed after extensive discussion with the wildlife Commission, Soil and Water Conservation staff, Cooperative Extension staff, NC State University staff, farmers, environmentalists and citizens. This contact herbicide will not harm fish or wildlife in the pond. Commissioner Alligood made a motion that the County allocate \$11,000 to spray 35 acres of the mill pond at Bennett's Mill. Mr. Copeland stated that the funds can be drawn from the current budget.

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15th Anniversary of Telecommunications Center

Sheriff Spruill invited the Commissioners to attend a lunch on Monday, April 14 in celebration of the 15th anniversary of the Chowan Telecommunication Center.

Chowan Herald Reporter

Mr. Copeland introduced David Taylor, representing The Chowan Herald.

Resolution - Drug Treatment Court

Commissioner Winslow moved that the County approve the following resolution endorsing a regional Family Dependency/Drug Treatment Court to the First Judicial District to serve youth and families struggling with substance use and abuse, as supported by Judge J.C. Cole.

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Resolution

WHEREAS, Drug Courts are a promising alternative to divert nonviolent offenders with drug problems into treatment and other community-based services instead of incarceration; and,

WHEREAS, the problem of substance use and abuse is destroying families and communities in the First Judicial District; and,

WHEREAS, the First Judicial District would like to be considered for this training and can assemble the required team; and,

WHEREAS, having this training will give the First Judicial District an advantage in applying for federal grants for substance abuse treatment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chowan County Board of Commissioners supports the effort to bring the Family Dependency/Drug Treatment Court to the First Judicial District to serve youth and families struggling with substance use and abuse.

Adopted today, April 7, 2003.
Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk

Public Comment
None offered.

The meeting was adjourned.

Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk