

Special Meeting
Monday August 31, 2009
9:00 am
Chowan County Public Safety Center
305 West Freemason Street

MINUTES

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Monday, August 31, 2009, at 9:00 am in the Chowan County Public Safety Center, 305 West Freemason Street.

Present, Chairman Eddy Goodwin, Vice Chairman Emmett Winborne, Commissioner Jimmy Alligood, Commissioner Louis Belfield, Commissioner Kenny Goodwin and Commissioner Keith Nixon. Staff Present: County Manager Peter Rascoe, Finance Officer Lisa Jones and Clerk to the Board Susanne Stallings.

Chairman Eddy Goodwin welcomed all present and turned the meeting over to County Manager, Peter Rascoe.

Mr. Rascoe welcomed COA Trustees and staff to the meeting. He said that discussions began with COA staff after the FY 09-10 budget adoption and turned the floor over to COA President, Lynn Bunch.

Ms. Bunch provided a history on COA and its locating to Edenton. She provided the Board with information on program head counts by type. (a copy of the hand out is in the meeting file labeled August 31, 2009).

Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked about how many students are Chowan County residents.

Ms. Bunch said approximately 80%. She said she can give a more definitive answer after enrollment for 09-10 closes. She noted the history of the campus locations. She noted in the 2000's the college received \$900,000 in bond funds. She said planning for a site in Chowan County began. She said the trustees and COA staff wanted to have an open honest discussion on the vision and direction for development of the Edenton-Chowan Campus. She noted that since removal of the security monies under the FY 09-10 County budget cuts there have been break-ins at the DF Walker Campus. She also noted that removal of the monies for the internet has made a crucial impact on the internet service at the campus. She stated that she wanted to get a conversation going on the vision so the college could create a timeline for the next year.

Mr. Rascoe asked for clarification that the \$900,000 has been spent.

Ms. Bunch said yes.

Mr. Rascoe said initially discussions said that COA could only move from the leased space at the shopping center if the DF Walker Campus was prepped.

Ms Bunch said that was correct.

Commissioner Nixon asked if COA received lottery monies.

Ms. Bunch said no that all monies were state grant money.

Commissioner Nixon asked if the college has received all the money it expected to receive.

Ms. Bunch said yes. She detailed the renovations that have taken place on the campus at the former DF Walker Elementary School noting building 4 has been completely renovated. She said a plan was developed for a future campus on the site with some of the monies also. She noted the facilities are by law a responsibility of the County.

Matt Wood, COA Board Trustee and Pasquotank County Commissioner stated that his county provides \$1 million per year to fund the maintenance of the facility. He said buildings and security are a responsibility of the County. He stated the College is unique because it serves 7 counties. He said he wanted to know if Chowan wanted to keep its campus in Edenton.

Commissioner Belfield asked if other counties without a campus provide funding.

Mr. Wood said that Gates and Perquimans Counties have low head counts at the campuses. He said the college cannot make the counties fund the community colleges but the counties do pay a percentage. Gates \$15,000, Perquimans \$25,000 and Currituck \$75,000.

Commissioner Kenny Goodwin asked if the rumor that Currituck wanted a campus was true.

Ms. Bunch said no.

Chairman Eddy Goodwin said he had also heard this rumor. He said he did not want to see Chowan County get kicked while it was down by the college. He added that the Board is sensitive to the college's needs and is not ready to throw in the towel. He said that if there is a concern with security at the campus, he suggested asking for more patrols by the Edenton Police Department.

Lynn Hurdle Winslow, Dean of the Edenton Campus said she met with the Edenton Police Chief. She added that during the County's budget planning, the college wanted to be respectful of the County's position.

Mr. Wood said that the COA Board wants to see the Edenton campus continue and has provided state monies to assist with security at the two locations. He said that he was not there to serve an ultimatum to the Board but wanted to have realistic discussions on the long-term future of the COA Edenton campus.

Chairman Eddy Goodwin said that the monies given to the COA Edenton Campus were the equivalent to the tax increase, and he said he hoped this showed the County's commitment to keeping a campus in Edenton.

Lynn Hurdle Winslow said that she had 7 officers that served in a pool where only one officer was on duty at a time that provided security to the Edenton Campuses. She said there is coverage Monday-Thursday 8-10, Friday 8-5 and some spot weekend coverage. She said the schedule for the college has also changed to accommodate the security issues where no classes are offered on Monday night.

Commissioner Nixon said that he sees a benefit for the school by keeping the campus in Edenton. He said the cuts provided a shared pain amongst all county departments. He shared his concern that Chowan County's representative on the COA Board had shared these concerns.

Ms. Bunch said that Chowan County's representative just recently started on the Board.

Commissioner Nixon asked for more information on the plan that was developed for the expansion and renovation of the DF Walker campus.

Ms. Bunch said the college's preference is to be consolidated on the DF Walker Campus site.

Commissioner Goodwin said that if the lease on the Edenton Shopping Center site were freed up, that would allow monies to be used for maintenance and repairs. He asked what it would take for the College to begin consolidations.

Mr. Rascoe stated the college was proactive in maintaining discussions with him on consolidation of the campuses. He said it can be done with trade-offs.

Ms. Bunch said that during the budget planning for the County's FY 09-10 budget was not the time for these discussions. She said renovations for the instructor's offices were needed and the Alumni Building was also needed for the Basic Skills program.

Mr. Rascoe said that he and Mr. Orville Mason have held discussions with the Alumni group and challenges on usage of the space could be overcome.

Ms. Bunch discussed the college's desire to have one entrance with signage on the campus. She said consolidation of the campuses would result in the loss of one classroom and seminar room.

Mr. Rascoe said there could be extensive cost in renovation.

Ms. Hurdle-Winslow said the campus could not be used as it is, she added that focus on preliminarily using the back campus.

Mr. Rascoe stated that discussions have shown the most feasible time to move the campus is the summer before the lease expires. He said he has met with the land-lord and 2011 is when the lease expires.

Ms. Bunch said she has spoken with the Schools about usage of the Technology building on the rear of the DF Walker Campus and possibly using it as shared space. She added that the main building (2 story building) would not be cost effective for immediate usage. She said in the future there would be interest in expanding the technical and vocational programs.

Commissioner Nixon asked if any programs could occupy the front building. He said this is one item he wanted to discuss with Golden Leaf at the October meeting. He added that he felt the schools would have interest in having a college transfer program.

Ms. Bunch said there is interest in the front building, but extensive renovations would be required to occupy it. She said she felt today's discussions were helpful and added that the County has her respect for the way it dealt with the financial challenges of the past year.

Chairman Eddy Goodwin said he appreciated COA coming to the Board to discuss future proposals. He said he hoped to arrange another meeting to walk through the DF Walker campus with COA staff and discuss a time line. He said that on behalf of the Board, the County is committed to keeping COA in Edenton.

Mr. Rascoe said he would arrange a meeting in the fall to continue discussions on campus consolidation.

Being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

Edward C. Goodwin, Chairman

L. Susanne Stallings, Clerk