

Regular Meeting  
October 4, 2004

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, October 4, 2004 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 Downum presented the invocation.

#### Consent Agenda

Commissioner Jones moved that the Consent Agenda be approved, including the September meeting minutes and the following budget amendments and tax releases.

ayes 7

no 0

#### Budget Amendments

DSS 5374	decrease	\$719	NCDOT transportation funding
DSS 5333	increase	\$11292	SmartStart Day Care funding
DSS 5372	increase	\$19306	Crisis Intervention Prev fund
DSS 5333	decrease	\$33651	SmartStart funding
CWMTF		\$290475	County serving as Fiscal Agent for Clean Water Mgmt Trust Fund grant for drainage/water quality improvements
1st District		\$54239	County serving as Fiscal Agent for state grant
Sentencing Services			
Library Renovation		\$10056	budget for library renovation

#### Tax Releases

EG Bond	\$105.68	vehicle repossessed
JP Bradner	\$111.82	military-listed in Virginia
JL Horton	\$259.22	military-listed in Pennsylvania
JC James	\$108.13	wind damage
AW Wehrhan	\$211.82	mobile home lost in fire

#### Planning and Inspections Report

Planner Elizabeth Bryant reported that the number of permits is increasing with September revenues at \$7510, and year to date revenue at \$94,042. Most storm repair is done and contractors are bringing in more new construction.

Mrs. Bryant continues to visit civic organization to discuss planning initiatives.

She presented proposed guidelines for enforcement of abandoned and junk motor vehicles to accompany the County Ordinance.

“The abandoned/junk motor vehicle must be found to be:

1. A breeding ground or harbor for mosquitoes or other insects, snakes, rates or other pests; or
2. A point of heavy growth of weeds or other noxious vegetation over eight inches in height; or
3. A point of collection for pools or ponds of water; or
4. A point of collection for gasoline, oil or other flammable or explosive materials; or
5. So located that there is danger of the vehicle falling or turning over; or
6. A source of danger for children through entrapment in areas of confinement that cannot be opened from the inside or from exposed surfaces of metal, glass, or other materials; or

7. A danger to the public health or safety for other reasons. Commissioner Goodwin made a motion that this policy be approved for use by the enforcement staff.

ayes 7  
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#### Edenton Planning Board

Bill Gardner stated that the County had been given incorrect information, that he does wish to continue his appointment to the Edenton Planning Board as a county appointment to the ETJ district. By motion of Commissioner Allgood, Mr. Gardner was reappointed and Bob Partin was appointed to fill the vacant position.

ayes 7  
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#### Resolution - Weatherization Day in Chowan County

By motion of Commissioner Allgood, the following resolution was approved, designating October 30, 2004 as Weatherization Day in Chowan County.

ayes 7  
no 0

### RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Energy provides core funding that delivers weatherization services to people living in every county in America, including the elderly, disabled and low-income families with children. More than 125,000 homes received weatherization services last year; and,

WHEREAS, the Country is struggling with severe energy shortages and escalating energy prices; and,

WHEREAS, weatherization is a solution to long-term problems of energy conservation, safer homes and increased self-sufficiency; and,

WHEREAS, the Weatherization Assistance Program serves an important function to make the nation's housing more energy efficient, thereby reducing consumption of fuels, reducing dependency on foreign oil and declining domestic energy sources, improving the ability of families to pay their energy bills and improving the environment by avoiding wasteful energy use.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Chowan County Board of Commissioners does hereby designate October 30, 2004, as Weatherization Day in Chowan County, to promote long-term energy conservation strategies to Americans.

Adopted today, October 4, 2004.  
Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk

#### Phase I Stream Cleanup

Chowan County solicited and received bids for the State grant project for clearing waterways of storm debris as follows:

Alan Polk	\$85,200
J&J Construction	\$98,432
Kenneth Allen	\$124,630
Johnny Bass	\$450,000

A staff committee reviewed the bids and disqualified the low bid due to pending legal issues against the bidder, and recommended that the contract be awarded to J&J Construction at \$98,432. Commissioner Goodwin moved that the County award the contract to J&J Construction.

ayes 7  
no 0

Application for Phase II will be submitted to the State for 2005 for the remaining waterways in Chowan County.

#### Planning and Enterprise Committee Report

Engineer Bill Diehl presented information to the Committee concerning proposed statewide changes in the discharge permit regulations, to which counties across the State will not be able to comply. A letter has been submitted to the State commenting on the identified issues but no response has been received. What to do with the backwash discharge is still not resolved and the proposal to require certified on-site labs and lab technicians are included in the problematic proposals.

Planner Elizabeth Bryant commented on some proposed updates to, the County Subdivision Ordinance that the Planning Board is considering and will make a recommendation to the Commissioners, concerning the amount of greenspace required in subdivisions.

#### Finance Committee Report

County Manager Cliff Copeland reported that reserves are increasing as a result of the water system rate increase and that work on the water system equipment improvements are progressing. He also stated that the contract with the invoice processing collection firm for billing and collection for EMS services is going well and payments are increasing.

Resolution - Change Meeting Location of the Board of Commissioners The County Clerk read the following resolution for consideration by the Board. Commissioner Jones made a motion that the Board approve the resolution to locate the meetings of the Commissioners back to the Old Courthouse.

ayes 7  
no 0

### RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the restoration of the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse is now complete; and,

WHEREAS, the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse will be re-opened on October 8, 2004; and,

WHEREAS, the 1767 Courthouse has historically served as the center of government in Chowan County; and,

WHEREAS, the Chowan County Board of Commissioners met in the Panel Room of the 1767 Courthouse until September, 1977; and,

WHEREAS, the 1767 Courthouse is now fully accessible to all citizens of Chowan County and possesses a greater seating capacity than the present meeting location.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Chowan County Board of Commissioners does hereby establish the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse Panel Room as the official meeting location of the Chowan County Board of Commissioners; and,

FURTHER, DIRECTS that this relocation be effective for the November 1, 2004 meeting of the Board of Commissioners and properly advertised in accordance with the General Statutes of North Carolina; and,

FURTHER, the Board of Commissioners does hereby express its appreciation to the Register of Deeds and the Clerk of Court and their staffs for hosting the County Commissioners since 1980.

Adopted today, October 4, 2004.  
Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk

#### Public Comment

Dossey Pruden commended the Board in its selection of J&J Construction to do the waterway clearing project.

#### Manager's Report

Mr. Copeland informed the Board that UNC-TV has petitioned the FCC to change its corporate address to Columbia/Edenton. This will enable the northeastern part of North Carolina to receive public television satellite service from the UNC-TV system as well as the Tidewater channels.

#### Cell Phone Coverage Petition

Mr. Copeland announced that in an effort to persuade cell phone providers to improve the service coverage in the County and surrounding areas, a petition has been placed on the County's website and will be published in the Chowan Herald for citizens to use in support of the County's campaign to secure improved service.

Peter Rascoe announced that the Chief Justice will make a presentation to the County in honor of the Supreme Court holding session in the Chowan County Courthouse on October 8. This will be the first time since at least 1860 that the Supreme Court has met outside Raleigh/Wake County. Security for the Supreme Court Justices will be provided by the Sheriff's Department.

The meeting was adjourned.

Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk