

Regular Meeting
April 5, 2004

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, April 5, 2004, at 6:00pm 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 Jones presented the invocation.

Consent Agenda

By motion of Commissioner Jones, the Consent Agenda, including the minutes, the following budget amendments and tax releases, and the following Resolution honoring Dr. James N. Slade, were approved.

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Budget Amendments

DSS	5345	inc	\$29,487	increase in child care funding
Sr Center	4268	inc	10,977	grants from Title III Aging
DSS	5333	inc	13,053	increase in SmartStart Funding
Coop.Ext.	4953	inc	1,500	specialty crops grant

Tax Releases

PEW Inc	\$131.10	listed in Virginia
CR Mastracco	\$167.16	corrected value
WH Jordan	\$164.87	listed in Perquimans Co.
BS Devault	\$163.19	listed in Virginia
CM Cooper	\$147.28	listed in Perquimans
FD Alexander	\$158.36	listed in Perquimans
AE Blount	\$381.51	military

The following resolution was presented to Dr. James Slade at the reception in his honor by Chairman Louis Belfield, and is enclosed to become a part of the Board of Commissioners meeting minutes.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, James Norfleet Slade was born on September 7, 1930, in Edenton, the son of Martha Bemridge Slade and Alonzo Victor Slade; and,

WHEREAS, he graduated from the Edenton High School as Valedictorian, Summa Cum Laude from the Agricultural and Technical College in Greensboro, and later, pursued a medical degree from the University of North Carolina School of Medicine, graduating Cum Laude on June 3, 1957, and served as intern at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA and later, pursued a residency in pediatrics in Los Angeles County General Hospital in Los Angeles, CA; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Slade served as a captain in the US Army Medical Corp from August 17, 1958 to December 16, 1960; and,

WHEREAS, he returned to his home county of Chowan and opened a

pediatric and adult practice on March 1, 1965, and remained open for 38 years, and he also served on the Chowan Hospital Medical Staff for the same period of time; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Slade received numerous awards, including Alpha Omega Honor Medical Society at the University of North Carolina, Better Life Award for the North Carolina Health Care Facilities Association, Marvin Barham Humanitarian Person of the Year Award from the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce and the Distinguished Service Award by the Elizabeth City SDA Church; and,

WHEREAS, during his career, he has striven to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Chowan County by delivering excellent medical care to our County residents; and,

WHEREAS, he has provided excellent medical care to the citizens of Chowan County without regard to income, providing untold hours of "pro bono" services to Chowan County residents; and,

WHEREAS, Chowan County is a far better place because of the efforts of James Norfleet Slade, MD.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Chowan County Board of Commissioners does officially recognize the contributions of Dr. James Norfleet Slade; and,

FURTHER, directs that this Resolution be presented to Dr. James Norfleet Slade on March 29, 2004.

C. Louis Belfield

Chairman, Chowan County Board of Commissioners

The regular meeting was recessed to enter a public hearing to receive comment on the closeout of the 2001 CDBG grant.

Public Hearing - 2001 Community Development Block Grant Closeout Carolyn Morris, representing Albemarle Commission, the administrator for the grant, presented information concerning the expenditures of the grant, including: 2 homes demolished and cleared

8 substandard homes repaired

2 households relocated.

No comment was offered by the public. The public hearing was closed and the regular meeting reconvened. No action was required by the Board relative to the grant closeout.

The regular meeting was again recessed to hold a public hearing to receive comment on the proposed use of Rural Operating Assistance funds.

Public Hearing - Rural Operating Assistance Program

County Manager Cliff Copeland presented the County's application to the State for rural transportation assistance in the amount of \$62,986. The funds will be allocated to the Inter County Transportation Authority, to assist the elderly, disabled and WorkFirst clients in their transportation needs.

No public comment was offered, the public hearing was closed and the regular meeting was reconvened.

By motion of Commissioner Downum, the County authorized submission of the ROAP grant application.

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Methamphetamine Awareness Information

Deputy Dwayne Goodwin and DSS Director Ben Rose presented information about concerns facing the County and its employees relative to the problems arising from the production and use of Methamphetamine in Chowan County. Mr. Rose reported that in the 177 homes/labs raided by law enforcement last year in North Carolina, there were 69 children removed from those locations. Other than neglect and abuse of these children, the long term effects on their health and well being cannot yet be measured.

The State DSS office has issued information to agencies to protect employees as they visit homes. Deputy

Goodwin has received extensive training in the dangers and precautions in dealing with Methamphetamine and is now training other law enforcement, public safety providers, other staff and interested groups. The SBI has organized response teams to assist local governments.

Deputy Goodwin discussed the dangers, that the drug can be in liquid or powder form and any color. The ingredients are readily available and the procedures are available on the Internet and from recruiters and drug organizations -- anyone can produce this drug. Things to be aware of at a suspected site include: a strong smell, darkened windows, excessive trash (containers), excessive traffic especially at unusual hours, and using large amounts of cash.

Introduction - Maintenance Supervisor

Mr. Copeland introduced Orville Mason, who was employed as Maintenance Supervisor, effective March 16. Mr. Mason has extensive training and experience in electrical, boiler repair and general maintenance. He is a native of Michigan and has lived in Chowan County for four years.

Mr. Copeland noted that Mr. Mason has already contributed to improvements in correcting drainage at Swain Auditorium and beginning a renovation project at the Old Walker School. He has initiated a preventive maintenance program for all County buildings.

Storm Debris Cleanup Closeout

Willie Boone was hired through the FEMA cleanup to serve as supervisor of 15 monitors for the contract hauling of storm debris. Mr. Boone reported that the cleanup started October 6, 2003 and was closed out March 1, 2004. Debris totaled 234,606 cubic yards, four times the FEMA estimates.

Staff Attorney Peter Rascoe is a speaker at the National Hurricane Conference in Florida this week and prepared a letter of recognition to Mr. Boone prior to his trip. Mr. Copeland presented the letter noting Mr. Boone's efforts to not only address the FEMA requirements but also to represent the best interests of the County. Mr. Rascoe noted Mr. Boone's ability to negotiate labor and subcontractor disputes, neighbor disputes and other efforts to expedite the completion of the cleanup.

Chairman Belfield presented a plaque to Mr. Boone recognizing his efforts to assist the Chowan County/Town of Edenton community.

Mr. Copeland announced that FEMA has approved an extension to May 1 that Chowan County residents may dispose storm debris in the landfill at no cost.

Division of Community Corrections Annual Report

Roy Daniels, District Supervisor of the Division of Community Corrections presented an annual report including 150 Chowan County residents entering probation, 130 new convictions, and 5 entering parole for the 2003 year. There are 50 employees in the six-county district, with six in Chowan County.

Tourism Affecting Communities Report

Commissioner Ralph Cole attended the Northeast Partnership's Tourism Affecting Communities conference last month in Elizabeth City. Tourism is the State's largest industry. Considering the value to the State, the Legislature appropriated \$10 million in its budget to assist communities in their efforts to attract tourists. Tourists spent \$12.6 billion in North Carolina last year, according to the Travel Industry Association of America.

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

Sheriff Fred Spruill presented the Council's recommendations for allocation of State funds awarded to the County from the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council as follows:

Edenton Chowan Schools

Intensive Supervision of

	Juvenile Justice and At-Risk Students	\$50,466
Recreation Dept	After School Program/Victims Restitution Program	\$22,000
Albemarle Dispute Ctr	Mediation/Conflict Resolution Program	2,000
Albemarle Commission	Strengthening Families	3,000

Commissioner Alligood made a motion that the allocations be approved as submitted.

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Planning and Inspections Report

Planner Elizabeth Bryant thanked Willie Boone for his assistance to identify junked cars and abandoned damaged mobile homes following the storm.

She reported that the Planning Board has begun its work to review County ordinances and to look at various initiatives, as instructed by the Board of Commissioners at the joint meeting last month.

Mrs. Bryant noted the success of the Mobile Home Task Force project to remove abandoned damaged mobile homes, with 8 applications received so far in Chowan County -- 6 have been removed and 2 are pending removal.

Inspections total 829 for the months of January, February and March.

Ordinance to Create the Belvidere-Chappell Hill Fire Insurance District of Perquimans County and Chowan County

Commissioner Winslow moved that the Ordinance to Create the Belvidere

-Chappell Hill Fire Insurance District of Perquimans County and Chowan County be approved, as presented by the County Manager.

The Ordinance will provide additional fire protection to the northern end of Chowan County, from the Belvidere-Chappell Hill Volunteer Fire Department, in cooperation and agreement with the Center Hill -Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department.

Chowan Central Communications is now in the process of amending its data base to reflect this new responder district. All communications equipment has been ordered and it is anticipated that when the approval is received from the State, the County will be prepared to initiate the new district immediately.

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Schedule Board of Equalization and Review

Commissioner Jones made a motion that the Board of Commissioners schedule a meeting of the Board of Equalization and Review for the May meeting, May 3, at 10:00am. No cases are scheduled at this time.

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Stream Cleanup

Mr. Copeland announced that the Farm Services Agency turned down a request for assistance to clean up the waterways of storm debris. Rodney Johnson from Albemarle Resources Conservation and Development has filed an application for the fourteen counties affected by Hurricane Isabel, including Chowan County, for assistance. An assessment done following the storm estimated cleanup at \$3,370,302 for the fourteen counties. Mr. Johnson is working through the Division of Water Resources and the legislative delegations. No action was requested from the County at this time.

Sewer Study

Engineer Bill Diehl presented a preliminary draft of the Southeastern Chowan County Sewer Collection Feasibility Study. Financial data is not yet complete since information is needed from the Town of Edenton

and the Sandy Point Development Project before specific recommendations can be made. Options available relative to the types of systems and system configurations were discussed.

Funding assistance is being solicited from the NC Rural Center and possible federal assistance.

Mr. Diehl also announced that he completed an application for the County to apply for Rural Center funds to assist in funding the costs of the generators for the water system.

Mr. Copeland thanked Mr. Diehl for his assistance during the hurricane when he came to Chowan County and stayed for five days to get the water system back in operation and to assure that the system was secure and the water safe.

Public Comment

None offered.

Manager's Report

Mr. Copeland reported that the Finance Committee reviewed the preliminary audit figures provided by Mr. Timberlake. The unqualified audit placed the County's assessed valuation at \$781,978,116 with healthy reserves and a tax collection rate of 95.95%. Mr. Timberlake is expected to submit the final audit next week. By motion of Commissioner Jones, the County was authorized to submit the final audit to the State.

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U.S. Cellular Tower

The County staff is corresponding with U.S. Cellular concerning locating a tower in northern Chowan County. This location would provide much needed improved service.

Old Courthouse Re-opening

Plans are proceeding for a celebration to re-open the Old Courthouse for October 8. The County has received word that the North Carolina Supreme Court will hold a session in the Old Courthouse on October 7.

Representative Bill Culpepper successfully submitted legislation last year that would allow the NC Supreme Court to hold sessions outside of Raleigh, with this event in mind.

Public events are being planned for October 8.

Bennett's Millpond

Recreation Director Robbie Laughton reported on activities at Bennett's Millpond, including: storm repairs to the boardwalk and trails and removal of trees and debris. The water quality is improving since the storm. The North Carolina Science House continues to use the Millpond for student research and projects, with a student symposium scheduled for April 28.

Current projects include restocking the millpond with game fish, installation of an excluder device on the millpond dam and stocking the millpond with sterile grass carp, building renovations to the old millhouse, repairs to the Boy Scouts camping area and installation of information and regulatory signs.

Partners cooperating in these efforts include: The NC State University Science House, Albemarle Learning Center, the local Boy Scouts, Chowan County Cooperative Extension Service, NC Wildlife Commission, Division of Inland Fisheries, Albemarle RC&D Council, and many local citizens and millpond property owners.

First-Citizens Bank and Trust Company Custody Agreement

By motion of Commissioner Goodwin, the County approved a custody agreement with First-Citizens Bank and Trust Company for funds invested at RBC Centura (who no longer provides the custody service), by the following resolution.

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Resolution

RESOLVED, that the officers listed below are authorized Representatives of Chowan County with the authority to execute all Trust Business on behalf of the County with First-Citizens Bank and Trust Company.

Name	Title
Luther C. Copeland	County Manager/Finance Officer
Lisa S. Jones	Asst. Finance Officer

The meeting was adjourned.

Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk