

Regular Meeting
September 12, 2005

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, September 12, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. in the 1767 Courthouse Panel Room.

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

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

Consent Agenda

By motion of Commissioner Winslow, the Consent Agenda, including the following tax releases and budget amendments and the August meeting minutes, was approved.

Ayes 7

No 0

Tax Releases

M Kostiak	\$177.20	wrong information provided for vehicle
MK Vanert	\$133.51	vehicle sold
JH Coston	\$147.58	vehicle traded
RD Dixon	\$179.33	vehicle sold
Elan Skin Therapy	\$148.14	corrected report
JS Freeman	\$103.39	vehicle sold
BV Furr	\$268.21	listed in Perquimans
JA Griffin	\$111.47	vehicle sold
HL Hollowell	\$350.02	listed to incorrect account
HE Johnson	\$200.04	vehicle sold
JL Nixon	\$104.70	vehicle sold
LE Perry	\$153.42	listed in Perquimans
WT Phelps	\$472.01	incorrect information provided
AL Potter	\$325.00	nuisance ordinance administrative fee relieved
DJ Bryant	\$250.00	nuisance ordinance administrative fee relieved

Budget Amendments

4268	Sr Center	\$5,000	inc	Aging Grant to Sr. Center for programs
5372	DSS	\$1235	inc	increase in crisis intervention Prevention funding
4370	EMS	\$22,240	inc	increase to EMS budget for additional Dept expenses
6100	ALC	\$10,617	inc	Albemarle Learning Center expenses
4341	Fire	\$137		Town of Edenton Fire cap outlay
4370	EMS	\$44,100	inc	loan proceeds for new Rescue boat

5351 DSS

\$155 dec

decrease in TANF Domestic Violence
Funding

Public Hearing – Schedule of Values for the 2006 Revaluation

The regular meeting was recessed and a public hearing declared to receive comment on the proposed Schedule of Values for the 2006 Revaluation.

Tax Administrator Lynda Hendricks reported that the public hearing was duly advertised in the local newspaper.

No comment was offered.

County Manager Cliff Copeland stated that the Board would be requested to take action on the Schedule at the October meeting.

The public hearing was closed and the regular meeting reconvened.

Presentation

North Carolina Wildlife Officer Mark Rich presented a plaque to Emergency Management Coordinator Patty Madry in appreciation for her support to the North Carolina Wildlife Officers District 1 annual CPR training.

Cycle Speedway

Brian White could not attend today's meeting due to illness and requested that he be allowed to visit the Board meeting at a later date.

College of the Albemarle/Workforce Development

Chamber of Commerce Director Richard Bunch and Lynn Winslow from College of the Albemarle presented information on the community's workforce development initiatives, specifically, the boatbuilding course conducted by COA, in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce, Albemarle Boats, Regulator Marine and the Northeast Partnership. The 35-hour course teaches basic skills with hand and power tools and employability classes to teach resume writing and employment requirements. A recent lamination class of 80 hours taught basic skills for the preparation of boat molds. Ms. Winslow reported that other technical classes provided by COA include construction, electrical, HVAC and culinary training.

She stated that the boatbuilding training center, funded by a Golden Leaf \$300,000 grant, is expected to be completed by March, 2006.

Mr. Bunch shared recommendations from the Stakeholders' meeting held early this summer, as submitted by the Chamber Board of Directors, which included assistance with teacher housing, a strategic planning process for the community, continuing efforts be placed on the boatbuilding course and emphasize communications between the Chamber and COA, a request for a Chamber representative on the newly appointed Housing Committee, and a request for quarterly updates from the Edenton-Chowan Schools concerning initiatives on workforce development.

The Board received these recommendations and Commissioner Alligood moved that the Chamber be authorized to appoint a representative to the Commissioners' Housing Committee.

Ayes 7

No 0

Introduction of New Employee

Data Processing Manager Phyllis Cranford introduced Sidney King, recently hired as the County's Technology Specialist.

Planning/Inspections Report

Planner Elizabeth Bryant reported that the Planning Board will meet September 20 with contractor Wooten Company to discuss ordinance revisions and the progress of the zoning study.

She noted August inspections totals at 106 permits and 334 inspections and 25 nuisance violations investigated.

Mrs. Bryant also provided information concerning an unsafe building at 309 Cypress Drive, saying that the owner, Marvin Rae, provided a plan for repair late Friday afternoon and has been given until the end of this week to pick up his building permit and has until the October Commissioners meeting to show progress to repair (or demolish) the property.

She also requested approval of the County/Town Land Use Plan contract with Wooten Company. She recommended that Wooten Company be hired since it is already performing the zoning study and the two studies overlap in many areas, and Wooten submitted a competitive bid of \$67,750. Matching funds from the Town and County are budgeted.

Commissioner Alligood moved that the contract with Wooten Company be approved.

Ayes 7

No 0

Finance Report

Finance Officer Lisa Jones requested approval of a lease purchase agreement with BB&T for \$44,100 for the new EMS rescue boat at an interest rate of 3.71%, for a total payoff of \$46,667. Other bids were Southern Bank, 3.53% and a \$200 bank fee, for a payoff of \$46,755; East Carolina Bank, 4.674% and a \$50 bank fee and a payoff of \$47,399; and Gateway Bank, 6.375% and a payoff of \$48,364.

Commissioner Downum moved that the County authorize financing with BB&T.

Ayes 7

No 0

Human Services Committee Report

Commissioner Gardner reported on the recent Human Services Committee meeting and introduced DSS Director Ben Rose to present the reorganization plan for the Department of Social Services. The plan has been approved by the State and will lend efficiencies to the department operations and save the County an estimated \$40,000 per year. The plan will strengthen management of the department and the quality of work in the department. Three positions have been eliminated as the needs of the department changed, and were accomplished through retirements and resignations. Other positions will be reviewed, particularly the Children Services division.

Recreation Department Director Robbie Laughton presented a proposed contract with East Carolina University to update the department's master plan. All grants and loan

applications refer to a master plan and must be kept updated every five years in order for the County to be eligible to apply for grant funds.

Commissioner Gardner moved that the County approve the contract for the update of the master plan for the Recreation Department with East Carolina University in the amount of \$8900.

Ayes 7

No 0

Mr. Laughton reported that over 400 children were registered for baseball and softball this summer and 530 children participated in the summer programs such as swimming, arts and crafts and day trips. He announced that Pembroke Fishing Center will host the North Carolina Bass Fishing Tournament in October.

He also stated that the privately owned pool that has been made available to the Recreation Department for swimming lessons for the last several years is on the market for sale with the home and surrounding property. That could very well mean that the Recreation Department may not have a pool for swimming lessons next summer.

Board Appointment – Jury Commission

Commissioner Gardner made a motion that Marion Goodman be re-appointed to the Jury Commission.

Ayes 7

No 0

Board Appointment – Tourism Development Authority

Commissioner Belfield moved that Tori Byrd be appointed to the Tourism Development Authority to fill the unexpired term of Gail Howard who resigned.

Ayes 7

No 0

Occupancy Tax Legislation

Mr. Copeland discussed the legislation approved by the General Assembly authorizing Chowan County to increase its occupancy tax by 2%, to 5%.

He noted that a change in the composition of the membership may be needed, and information will be presented at the October meeting.

He also requested that the Board schedule a public hearing for the October 3 meeting to receive comment on the proposed increase in occupancy tax.

Commissioner Gardner made a motion that the public hearing be scheduled for the October 3 meeting at 6:00 pm.

Ayes 7

No 0

Library Board By-Laws Amendment and Appointment of New Members

Mr. Copeland presented a request from the Shepard-Pruden Library Board of Trustees to amend the by-laws to increase the number of members on the Board, in an effort to allow more diversity among the Board of Trustees. The following names were submitted for consideration: Dennis Robison (retired university library director), Jolyquin Belfield (retired school librarian), David Blomquist (past president of Friends of the Library),

John Fox (retired businessperson and treasurer of Friends of the Library), and Anne Rosenblatt (active member of Friends of the Library).

Commissioner Downum made a motion that the amended by-laws be approved and that Mr. Robison, Mrs. Belfield, Mr. Blomquist, Mr. Fox and Mrs. Rosenblatt be appointed to the Board of Trustees.

Ayes 7

No 0

Board Appointment – Coastal Resources Advisory Council

This agenda item was tabled until the October meeting.

Resolution – Governor’s Highway Safety Program

Sheriff Fred Spruill presented the enclosed resolution for consideration to draw down funds from the Governor’s Highway Safety Program to purchase a generator, light set and other equipment for traffic control, in the amount of \$39,187. Matching funds of \$17,563 are included in this year’s budget.

Commissioner Cole moved that the following resolution be approved.

Ayes 7

No 0

Resolution

WHEREAS, the Chowan County Sheriff’s Office has completed an application contract for the traffic safety funding; and that the Board of Commissioners of Chowan County has thoroughly considered the problem identified and has reviewed the project and has reviewed the project identified in the contract:

THEREFORE, NOW BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Chowan County, in open meeting assembled in the Town of Edenton, North Carolina, this 12th day of September, 2005, as follows:

1. That the project referenced above is in the best interest of the Board of Commissioners and the general public; and
2. That Cliff Copeland, County Manager, is authorized to file, on behalf of the Board of Commissioners, an application contract in the form prescribed by the Governor’s Highway Safety program for federal funding in the amount of \$39,187 to be made to the Board of Commissioners to assist in defraying the cost of the project described in the contract application; and
3. That the Board of Commissioners has formally appropriated the cash contribution of \$17,563 as required by the project contract; and,
4. That the Project Director designated in the application contract shall furnish or make arrangement for other appropriate persons to furnish such information, data, documents and reports as required by the contract, if approved, or as may be required by the Governor’s Highway Safety Program; and
5. That certified copies of this resolution be included as part of the contract referenced above; and
6. That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Done and ordered in open meeting by R. Wayne Goodwin, Chairman.
Attested by Nancy B. Morgan, Clerk
September 12, 2005

Resolution in Support of a Regional Water Study

Considering the anticipated growth in this area, Chowan County and the region need a long range plan to protect the water supply. Such a study would insure that the counties in the northeast work together on a regional level. Mr. Copeland presented a resolution to participate in a regional water study.

By motion of Commissioner Allgood, the Board of Commissioners adopted the following resolution supporting a regional water study.

Ayes 7

No 0

Resolution

WHEREAS, the Albemarle Commission is the regional planning arm of the ten-county planning area comprised of Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell and Washington counties; and,

WHEREAS, the named counties have a mutual dependency and symbiosis in that the actions of one or a few counties which affect positively or negatively the rivers and sounds of the Albemarle area thereby have a profound effect on the quality of life, economic development and tourism in other counties abutting the waters of the Albemarle Sound area; and,

WHEREAS, a consistent and vast supply of potable water is a pre-condition to the continued good health of the citizens of and visitors to the Albemarle Region, and is a requirement for both short- and long-range economic prosperity in every town and county in the Albemarle region; and,

WHEREAS, the health of our rivers and sounds is directly affected by the run-off and substances placed both in upstream waters and discharged in downstream estuaries and sound waters; and,

WHEREAS, the Albemarle area counties have positioned themselves by the installation of new water purification systems and innovations in sewage disposal to be subject to substantial growth both in industries and new, permanent arrivals of people and vacationing visitors, and,

WHEREAS, the collective effects and interactions, if any, of the drawdowns, discharges, run-offs and outfalls on the overall water supplies and broad environment of northeast North Carolina must be learned in order to assure a prosperous future for the entire Albemarle area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chowan County Board of Commissioners endorses this resolution and expresses its support for the broad area review and engineering study to be arranged by the Albemarle Commission concerning sources of adequate water supplies, environmental impacts concerning the drawdown of each source, economic impacts of water shortages, environmental impacts of treated discharge on estuarine systems, storage of emergency water supplies and such other matters as will assist the elected boards of the counties in the planning local and regional methods of dealing with these matters.

Adopted today, September 12, 2005.

Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk

Resolution for the Adoption of the National Incident Management System

By motion of Commissioner Belfield, the Board of Commissioners adopted the following resolution, to allow the County to establish the National Incident Management System as the local standard for the management of routine and catastrophic emergencies. This resolution is required to maintain the County's eligibility to apply for certain grant funding from the federal and state levels.

Ayes 7

No 0

Resolution

WHEREAS, the President of the United States in Homeland Security Directive (HSPD)-5, directed the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to develop and administer a National Incident Management System (NIMS), which would provide a consistent nationwide approach for federal, state, local and tribal governments to work together more effectively and efficiently to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from domestic incidents, regardless of cause, size or complexity; and,

WHEREAS, the collective input and guidance from all federal, state, local and tribal homeland security partners has been, and will continue to be, vital to the development, effective implementation and utilization of a comprehensive NIMS; and,

WHEREAS, it is necessary and desirable that all federal, state, local and tribal emergency agencies and personnel coordinate their efforts to effectively and efficiently provide the highest levels of incident management; and,

WHEREAS, to facilitate the most efficient and effective incident management it is critical that federal, state, local and tribal organizations utilize standardized terminology, standardized organizational structures, interoperable communications, consolidated action plans, unified command structures, uniform personnel qualification standards, uniform standards for planning, training and exercising, comprehensive resource management, and designated incident facilities during emergencies or disasters; and,

WHEREAS, the NIMS standardized procedures for managing personnel, communications, facilities and resources will improve the County's ability to utilize

federal funding to enhance local and state agency readiness, maintain first responder safety, and streamline incident management processes; and,

WHEREAS, the Incident Command System components of NIMS are already an integral part of various incident management activities throughout the County as required by the Chowan County Emergency Operations Plan; and,

WHEREAS, the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks (9-11 Commission) recommended adoption of a standardized Incident Command System.

THEREFORE, the Chowan County Board of Commissioners, on September 12, 2005, hereby establishes the National Incident Management System as the local standard for the management of routine and catastrophic emergencies.

Adopted today, September 12, 2005

Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk

Response to Hurricane Katrina Recovery

The Sheriff has agreed to send four deputies, on a rotating schedule, to the Gulf states to assist in storm recovery, and is waiting for instructions. Colony Tire Corporation and the local Episcopal and Catholic churches spearheaded efforts from the community to send supplies to Louisiana and Mississippi.

Chowan Interfaith is conducting a county-wide meeting Wednesday to coordinate local Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts. Construction crews from the Baptist and Methodist church organizations are scheduling trips to provide home repairs.

County employees collected money and supplies for Katrina refugees who came to Chowan County, and also for the family of Ben and Brenda Rose in New Orleans. Effects from Hurricane Ophelia are expected locally by the end of this week. Storm preparations are in progress. Generators are in place for the water system, public buildings and shelters.

Forestry Service Annual Report

The 2004-05 Annual Report to the Commissioners from the Division of Forest Resources was presented by Mr. Copeland.

Public Comment

None offered.

Manager's Report

Communications Tower

Mr. Copeland reported that the footings for the communications tower have been poured and the tower construction is scheduled to begin by the end of October.

Hospital Helicopter Pad

Approval from the FAA has been requested.

Sewer Study

The lead person from the USDA working with the County on the Sewer Study recently died in a car accident. The USDA Director requested that the County delay further work on the study until a replacement can be named. The appointment is anticipated soon.

Lottery Proceeds

Mr. Copeland discussed the legislation authorizing a North Carolina lottery which will be distributed: 5% to lottery reserve fund until fund reaches \$50 million, with remaining revenue distributed as follows: 50% to support early grade class size reduction (1:18) and academic pre-kindergarten for at-risk 4-year olds, 40% to public school building capital fund and 10% to fund college and university scholarships.

The public school building capital fund lottery monies are allocated:

65% allocated to counties on an average daily membership basis and 35% allocated to counties whose effective tax rate is greater than the state average effective tax rate.

Chowan County can expect \$360,775 in FY2006-07 for school construction.

NC Association of County Commissioners Annual Meeting

Commissioner Cole and Chairman Goodwin reported on their attendance to the Annual Meeting in Charlotte in August. Sessions on Medicaid, the lottery, voting machines and law enforcement efforts to control meth labs were among the subjects discussed.

Chairman Goodwin reported that the junk yard being cleaned up on Center Hill Road is approximately 90% cleaned.

The meeting was adjourned.

Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk