

Regular Meeting
January 8, 2007

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, January 8, 2007 at 9:00am. in the Panel Room of the 1767 Courthouse.

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

Chairman Ralph Cole called the meeting to order and presented the invocation.

Presentation of the Chowan County Democratic Party's Nomination to Fill the Vacant Commissioner Seat

A letter from Derrick Wadsworth, Chairman of the Chowan County Democratic Party, was presented by Chairman Cole. Mr. Wadsworth stated in the letter that Kenny Goodwin was nominated by the Democratic Party to fill the commissioner seat made vacant by the death of Chairman Wayne Goodwin. Others considered by the Democratic Party were Jim Brock and Jeff Smith.

Chairman Cole presented Mr. Goodwin's name for consideration and asked if there were other nominations from the Commissioners. No names were offered.

Commissioner Gardner made a motion that Kenny Goodwin be appointed to fill the vacant commissioner seat for District 1, Seat 2.

Ayes 6

No 0

Swearing-In of New Commissioner

County Clerk Nancy Morgan received the oath of office of County Commissioner from the newly-appointed Commissioner Kenny Goodwin.

Consent Agenda

By motion of Commissioner Alligood, the Consent Agenda, including the minutes of the December meeting and the following tax releases, budget amendments and amended capital project ordinances, was approved.

Ayes 7

No 0

Tax Releases

AR Bass	\$122.15	traded vehicle
SE Brabble	\$100.94	purchased commercial tag
RJ Fallis	\$1263.13	mistake in interest calculations on two accounts
LE Harrell	\$103.22	traded vehicle
EI McMillian	\$182.52	military, listed in Illinois
Mediacom	\$330.93	listed in Henderson County

Budget Amendments

School-Cap Reserve Fund	\$103,573	lottery proceeds
School-Cap Project Fund	\$103,573	repayment budget for QZAB loan
4310 Sheriff	\$7230	insurance proceeds from 2 accidents

Amended Capital Project Ordinances

Water/Sewer Extension Project

To extend water and sewer service for Phase II/Airport Industrial Park

New Total \$287,473

Library Renovation

To update contractor payment and include other expenses not currently under budget such as legal services, other professional/contracted services, dept supplies, advertising and interest payments.

New Total \$3,263,790

American Red Cross Presentation

John Gillis, Executive Director of the Greater Albemarle Area American Red Cross, introduced the area program which serves eight counties, including Chowan. The Red Cross serves many functions in the local communities, including responding to needs following accidents and house fires. The Red Cross responded to five home fires in Chowan County in 2006. He stated that his purpose in visiting the Board of Commissioners was to solicit its help to recruit representatives to the Greater Albemarle Area Board of Directors. The Board meets bi-monthly at Albemarle Hospital in Elizabeth City. Mr. Gillis introduced India Foy, Wellness Coordinator from Chowan Hospital, a Chowan County board member.

The Board agreed to assist Mr. Gillis and Ms. Foy to identify potential recruits to the Greater Albemarle Area Board.

Albemarle Mental Health Center's Quarterly Fiscal Monitoring Report

By motion of Commissioner Alligood, the Board of Commissioners received the AMHC's Quarterly Fiscal Monitoring Report for the period ending September 20, 2006.

Ayes 7

No 0

Planning and Inspections Report

Planner Elizabeth Bryant announced that Chowan County and the Town of Edenton have been awarded a grant for \$200,000 from the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency, for substandard housing rehabilitation in the County and Town.

She also announced that the County and Town Boards of Adjustment met in a joint workshop session recently for a training session about zoning guidelines.

County Manager Cliff Copeland stated that the Sandy Point developers submitted a variance request to the Coastal Resources Commission to build waterways within the development. The hearing will be January 25.

Rules of Procedure for Zoning Public Hearings to be Heard by the Board of Commissioners

County Attorney Peter Rascoe requested that the Board consider a meeting procedure whereby zoning public hearings can be placed on the Agenda without being previously scheduled by the Board of Commissioners. Rules of procedure for Commissioner meetings now require public hearings to be scheduled at a prior meeting and advertisement be authorized. Mr. Rascoe and Mrs. Bryant requested that they, in consultation with the County Manager, be allowed to schedule and advertise zoning public hearings following recommendations by the Planning Board and within the month prior to the next Commissioner meeting. This procedure will allow for a more expedient process for the resolution of zoning requests and public hearings.

By motion of Commissioner Allgood, the Board approved a rule of procedure for zoning public hearings as stated above.

Ayes 7

No 0

Schedule Joint Meeting of the Board of Commissioners and the Town Council

Commissioner Allgood made a motion that the Town Council and the County and Town Planning Boards be invited to the February 5 Board of Commissioners meeting for a joint meeting to receive information about the Joint County and Town Land Use Plan.

Ayes 7

No 0

Finance Report

Lease Purchase Agreement

Finance Officer Lisa Jones presented a financing proposal for the purchase of three Sheriff's Department vehicles, one Water Department truck, and one ambulance for the Emergency Medical Services Department. The total financing is \$167,500. Two bids were received: RBC Centura 3.71% and BB&T 3.98%.

By motion of Commissioner Downum, a financing agreement at 3.71% and the required resolution with RBC Centura, was approved.

Ayes 7

No 0

Schedule Public Hearing – 2007 Scattered Site Housing CDBG

By motion of Commissioner Downum, the Board agreed to schedule a public hearing at the February meeting to receive citizen comment concerning the 2007 CDBG Scattered Site Housing Application that the County is eligible to submit to the Department of Commerce, Division of Community Assistance.

Ayes 7

No 0

Request for Reduced Speed Limit – Greenhall Road and Drummond's Point Road

A request signed by residents of Greenhall Road has been received by the County, whereby the residents asked for a reduction in the speed limit on Greenhall Road to 45

mph. Mr. Copeland also presented a request from residents on Drummond's Point Road, requesting a reduction in the speed limit on Drummond's Point Road.

By motion of Commissioner Belfield, the Board agreed to accept the requests and forward them to the NC Department of Transportation for its review.

Ayes 7

No 0

Board Appointments

Community Advisory Committee (Nursing Home Advisory Committee)

By motion of Commissioner Alligood, Dellie Rae Bass was appointed to a three-year term as a member of the Chowan County Community Advisory Committee.

Ayes 7

No 0

Edenton Board of Adjustments

By motion of Commissioner Downum, Larry McLaughlin was appointed to the Edenton Board of Adjustments as the County's representative for the extra-territorial jurisdiction.

Ayes 7

No 0

Request for Review of Dog Hunting Regulations

A letter from Mark A. Byrum was presented, requesting that the County consider stricter dog hunting laws in Chowan County. Mr. Rascoe noted current dog hunting laws in Chowan County, including the prohibition of hunting with dogs on all property south of US 17 and the legislation more recently enacted requiring hunters to have written permission from a landowner before hunting on that landowner's property.

By consensus, the Board requested that Mr. Copeland and Mr. Rascoe meet with Wildlife Officer Mark Rich, Mr. Byrum and representatives of the local hunting clubs to reach a compromise that will protect landowners and their property and attempt to preserve the dog hunting sport in Chowan County.

Public Comment

None offered.

Manager's Report

The footings for the Library renovation are in place and blockwork has begun.

Excavation and drainage work is in progress at the Public Safety Center.

Mr. Copeland also announced that Senator Robert Holloman and Representative Howard Hunter both passed away during the weekend.

Economic Development Update

Richard Bunch, Executive Director of the Economic Development Corporation, said that retail stores reported a busy holiday season.

He also reported that Chowan County presently has a 5.4% unemployment rate with layoffs at George C. Moore and slow-downs at some of the boatbuilders being predominant factors. On the positive side of economic wellbeing in the County, Seabrook has started a multi-million dollar expansion at the Edenton plant. Two boat companies are also interested in property at the Airport Industrial Park, with visits from the companies scheduled this month. Another positive note is that Chowan County farmers are selling corn to Rose Acres, the egg producing plant located in Hyde County.

Executive Session

The Chairman recessed the regular meeting and convened an executive session to consider a personnel matter. Following discussion, the executive session was adjourned and the regular meeting reconvened, by motion of Commissioner Alligood.

Salary of County Manager

By motion of Commissioner Gardner, the salary of the County Manager, effective January 1, 2007, will be \$120,000.

Ayes 7

No 0

Chairman Cole presented the following committee assignments for the 2007 year.

Commissioner Committee Assignments

Chairman Cole presents the following committee appointments for the 2007 year.

Town/County	Cole, Alligood
TDA	Alligood (Chair), Gardner
DSS	Cole
Solid Waste Authority	Winslow, Goodwin
Public Health	Winslow
Mental Health	Cole
Hospital Local Directors Council	Downum
Recreation Adv Board	Alligood
Community Foundation	Gardner
Albemarle Commission/ Workforce Consortium	Goodwin
Airport	Gardner
Economic Dev Corp	Gardner, Downum
Education	Belfield, Cole
Albemarle Learning Center	Belfield
Chamber of Commerce	Belfield
COA Board	Winslow
Arts Council	Downum
Partnership for Children	Belfield

Finance Committee
Cole, Belfield, Downum

Public Safety Committee
Alligood, Winslow, Gardner

Human Services Committee
Gardner, Alligood, Goodwin

Planning/Enterprise
Gardner, Winslow, Goodwin

Legislative Liaison
Cole

The meeting was adjourned.

Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk