

Regular Meeting
November 1, 2004

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Old Chowan County Courthouse Panel Room on Monday, November 1, 2004 at 9:00a.m.

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

The Board of Commissioners and a group of guests met at the Courthouse Door at 9:00a.m.

County Manager Cliff Copeland welcomed the group and Special Projects Officer Peter Rascoe read the resolution passed at the last meeting of the Board of Commissioners, designating the Panel Room of the Old Courthouse as the meeting site for the Board of Commissioners.

Chairman Belfield welcomed the audience. Former Commissioners Dallas Jethro, J.D. Peele and David Bateman congratulated the County and its staff on the successful renovation of the Old Courthouse and noted their pleasure that the Commissioners will be holding the Board meetings in the Old Courthouse.

Boards of Commissioners met in the Old Courthouse until 1977.

Mr. Belfield expressed his pleasure to invite the group to proceed to the Panel Room for the official Board meeting.

Chairman Belfield called the meeting to order in the Panel Room and Commissioner Cole presented the invocation.

Chairman Belfield and the other Commissioners unveiled a plaque that will hang in the Courthouse, noting the meeting place of the Board of Commissioners.

First Meeting of the
Chowan County Board of Commissioners
since October 8, 2004 reopening of the
1767 Chowan County Courthouse
National Historic Landmark
held November 1, 2004

C. Louis Belfield, Chairman

James "Jimmy" M. Alligood

Wayne Goodwin

Ralph V. Cole Sr.

George E. Jones

A.F. "Jerry" Downum, Jr.

Harry Lee Winslow

Luther C. "Cliff" Copeland, County Manager

Nancy B. Morgan, Clerk

Carrie B. Byrum, Deputy Clerk

J. Peter Rascoe III, Special Projects Officer

Presentation by Margaret Sellers

Margaret Sellers, an employee of the Central Communications Center, presented a needlepoint work of the Old Courthouse to the County. In her presentation, she said:

"I moved to Edenton-Chowan County a little over a year ago and you have embraced and given me such a warm welcome. I moved away from the chaos and insanity of Southern California to this lovely place that I now call home.

I extend to you this token of my appreciation for your gentle hearts and kind souls. A symbol of Chowan County, the Historical County Courthouse. I designed and created this needlepoint and I wish to give it to the people of the county. Thank you all so much for allowing me to serve and be a part of this lovely community.

With much appreciation,
Peggy M. Sellers"

Recognition of Guests

County Manager Cliff Copeland recognized special guests attending the meeting, including former Commissioners David Bateman, Dallas Jethro and J.D. Peele, Ross and Frances Inglis, County employees including Department Heads and others, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Richard Bunch, and Commissioner candidates Bill Gardner and Dawsey Pruden.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Jones moved that the Consent Agenda, including the minutes of the last meeting and the following budget amendments. be approved.

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Budget Amendments

5351 DSS	increase	\$14,700	Income Maintenance Salary Adjustments
5311 DSS	decrease	\$ 3,000	reallocation of funds
4330 CPrep.	increase	\$ 1,200	grant-Emerg.Oper.Center
4268 SrCenter	increase	\$ 1,728	grant-AlbemarleCommission
4930 CDBG grant	increase	\$400,000	Scattered Site Housing

Work First Program

DSS Director Ben Rose presented the completed plan which must be updated every two years. He highlighted renewed partnerships with Vocational Rehabilitation and the College of the Albemarle to deal with particular challenges for clients. He thanked the County departments for providing job experience for clients. He noted that discussion is taking place with Perquimans and Gates counties service units about the possibility of doing a regional partnership for Work First.

Commissioner Downum made a motion that the Plan be approved.

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Commissioner Jones complimented Mr. Rose on the quality of the plan, noting that "it takes alot of work to put something like this together".

American Red Cross

John Gillis, Executive Director of the Greater Albemarle Area Chapter of the American Red Cross made a presentation. The Greater Albemarle Area Chapter serves eight counties including Chowan. The American Red Cross was born in the mind of a young Swiss banker, Jean Henri Dunant, in 1863 when he was a witness to the battle of Solferino, where thousands of French, German and Austrian soldiers suffered the agonies of war.

During the response and recovery after Hurricane Isabel, the Greater Albemarle Chapter operated six shelters housing over 1200 people and furnished more than 200,000 meals. The victims of 65 house fires were assisted, 85 lifeguards were trained, 2379 people were certified in CPR and first aid, 555 people learned to swim, and 3000 pints of blood were collected through American Red Cross sponsored programs in 2003. Military families are assisted by the Greater Albemarle Chapter and it is also one of the highest contributing chapters in North Carolina to the 2004 Florida Hurricane Relief.

Mr. Gillis requested the County's support to identify volunteers from Chowan County, particularly one to serve as as Chapter Board Member.

Schedule Special Meeting - Boys and Girls Club Presentation

Commissioner Jones moved that the County schedule a special meeting for Monday, November 8, 2004 at 4:00 p.m. in the Old Courthouse Panel Room to receive information on the location of Boys and Girls Club services in Chowan County, and that the Boys and Girls Club committee be allowed to tape the meeting.

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Report of Human Resources Committee

Commissioner Alligood introduced Celeste Gregory, Supervisor of the DSS Child Support Services. She reported collections of child support arrears from absent parents as follows:

in March 2004 a case collected from an accident settlement \$20,172

in June 2004 a case collected from a workers comp claim \$28,411

in September 2004 a case levied on bank accounts \$37,487.

The department has received three certifications, including "Meeting Collections Goal". The department is using many networks available through state and federal agencies to locate absent parents.

Over 1000 children born out of wedlock and under the age of 18 are in the County's system, of which paternity has been established for 965, or 89%.

Report of Finance Committee

Finance EMS Ambulance

Finance Officer Lisa Jones presented a proposal to finance an ambulance for the EMS through a lease/purchase agreement with the low bidder, BB&T at a rate of 2.91% for 36 months. The purchase is budgeted.

Commissioner Alligood made a motion that a resolution authorizing the lease/purchase be approved.

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Renovation of Old Walker Gym

Mr. Copeland reported that a grant of \$85,000 has been awarded to Chowan County for renovation of the Old Walker gym for use by the Recreation Department and other community groups. Negotiations with the low bidder at \$219,600, C.S.Lewis, continue so that the cost can be reduced. Heating and air conditioning were not included in this contract, so the Recreation Department Director and the Finance Officer are working to identify any money that may be reallocated toward the renovation.

Since the bid is good for thirty days, Mr. Copeland requested the Board's approval for the Finance Committee to review the final cost and authorize the negotiated contract.

Commissioner Goodwin made a motion that the Finance Committee be authorized to award the bid for the Old Walker renovation.

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Change December Meeting Time

Chairman Belfield requested that the December 6 meeting be changed to meet in the morning at 9:00a.m., instead of 6:00p.m. Commissioner Downum made a motion that the December meeting be held at 9:00 a.m.

ayes 7

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Public Comment

Peter Rascoe noted the work of local craftsmen in the Panel Room. Local wood craftsman Don Jordan restored the paneling in the room and local art restorer Burton Jones cleaned and restored the paintings of Queen Anne, the Duke of Albemarle, Joseph Hewes and Hugh Williamson.

Commissioner Jones, who is retiring from the Board of Commissioners at this election, thanked the County staff and Commissioners for all their hard work, that he has enjoyed working with the County.

Manager's Report

Old Courthouse Re-opening

Mr. Copeland thanked Peter Rascoe, Nancy Morgan, Carrie Byrum, Orville Mason and the Maintenance Staff for all their work to make the re-opening of the Old Courthouse so successful and also for this first meeting of the Board of Commissioners back in the Old Courthouse.

New Urban Waterfront District

He announced that the Coastal Resources Commission unanimously approved the County's land use amendment to designate the new urban waterfront district. The developers of the Sandy Point project are moving ahead with the permitting applications.

Sewer System Rate Study

The rate study for the proposed sewer system is progressing. Discussion is taking place with the Sandy Point Project developers to determine how a joint system can expedite sewer service for the community. A cooperative system will save the County significant costs.

Architect BJAC is doing some preliminary work on an Emergency Operating Center design. Grant money from Congress is anticipated to help with the cost.

Ben Rose and a staff committee presented a draft revised Personnel Policy to the County Manager and department heads for input. The revised Policy will be presented to the Finance Committee for its review later this month.

Residents of the Drummond's Point subdivision have requested the County's assistance to be connected to the County water system. The expense to do this will be funded by the residents.

The meeting was adjourned.

Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk

A reception followed in the Panel Room for the Board of Commissioners and the audience. Photographs were made to commemorate the occasion of the Board of Commissioners returning its meeting place to the Old Courthouse.