

Regular Meeting  
February 2, 2004

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, February 2, 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 Louis Belfield called the meeting to order and Commissioner presented the invocation.

#### Consent Agenda

Commissioner Jones made a motion that the Consent Agenda, including the January minutes and the following budget amendments and tax releases, be approved.

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#### Budget Amendments

4381 Animal Shelter	inc	\$1000	donation to assist paying part-time position SPCA adoptions
4931 Community Dev	inc	\$40000	Rural Center grant sewer feasibility study
4730 Soil/Water	inc	\$30500	grant to clean storm debris in canals

AL Glenn		\$167.10	Tax Releases temporary tag replaced with permanent tag
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#### Cycle Speedway

Brian White, representing Cycle Speedway, presented a drawing of the 3.39 acres showing the track under development on Northeast Regional Airport property. This is a project supported by the County and the Recreation Department. The first phase, the American track is scheduled to be completed for the opening event of the season in May of this year. Other phases, a parking lot and an internationally sanctioned track are planned as funds become available.

Mr. White talked about the representatives from Cycle Speedway attending the 2003 Junior World Championship races in England and that the Cycle Speedway has preliminary approval to host the 2007 race if its track facility can meet the organization's criteria for the track specifications and accommodations.

He expressed his appreciation to the County and the Recreation Department for the support and assistance to relocate the track to the new location at the Airport.

Commissioners Goodwin and Alligood both expressed their appreciation to Mr. White and the Speedway for their contributions to the community and the opportunities provided to the young people.

## Board Appointments - County Board of Adjustments

Commissioner Jones moved that Carolyn Perry, Harry Rosenblatt and Brian White be appointed to the County's Board of Adjustments.

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## Storm Recovery Efforts

Staff Attorney Peter Rascoe reported that the airport debris site is scheduled to be cleared by the end of February and that weather delays have caused the northern site at Winborne Farms to be another two weeks before all the mulch is removed.

He noted that he and the Assistant Finance Officer Lisa Jones continue to prepare reimbursement requests and to negotiate with FEMA on reimbursements. The NC Department of Transportation cleanup efforts, the third pass to clean debris from the secondary and primary roads, is in progress. Residents continue to set out debris which will not be removed by DOT in the near future, after that third pass is made. Chowan County residents may continue to deposit storm debris at the Landfill without charge until the end of March.

The County has initiated a project to identify mobile homes destroyed by the storm and is working with FEMA to fund the disposal.

## College of the Albemarle-Edenton Village Shopping Center

The County's current lease for the COA Chowan Center at the Edenton Village Shopping Center expires in 2006. Representatives from the County and COA met with the shopping center owners, Zapolski and Rudd, who proposes to extend the lease and to donate a parcel of land

(approximately 200 feet by 150 feet) adjacent to the shopping center and the County's soccer complex to the County to provide much needed parking at the soccer complex. The proposal also provides that the owners are willing to make available an additional parcel (100 feet by 150 feet) and a building on the property for the County's immediate use, stipulating that the parcel and the building will be deeded to the County at the end of the new lease in 2011. This building will provide much needed space for a maintenance shop for the Recreation and Maintenance Departments. County Manager Cliff Copeland stated that in discussion with COA officials, it is obvious that the new Chowan Campus (at the old Walker School) will not be complete by the end of the current lease in 2006. The County does not want to risk losing the use of this property since it would be almost impossible to relocate the classes and new programs to a different facility for the time waiting for the new campus. In the unlikely event that the new campus is complete before 2011, the County would be able to sublease the shopping center property or convert the property to other uses such as a business incubator.

By motion of Commissioner Alligood, the County authorized the County staff to proceed with negotiations of a new lease based on a cost of \$6.45/square foot, with a \$1.00/square foot rider that provides for utilization of the property and building immediately and acquisition by deed in 2011.

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#### Schedule Special Meeting with County Planning Board

A consensus of the Board members authorized the staff to work with the Chairman to schedule a meeting for the Commissioners and the County Planning Board to discuss a review and update of many of the County ordinances, to address the need for additional land use controls throughout the County, and to identify planning goals and objectives or growth in the County.

#### Schedule Special Meeting with Board of Education

Commissioner Goodwin made a motion that the Commissioners schedule a meeting with the Board of Education to receive a report on a proposed long range building plan for the School System.

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#### Planning and Inspections

Planner Elizabeth Bryant reported that more than 2800 building inspections were completed by the inspections staff during 2003, issued 892 permits, and drove 15,986 miles.

She also reported that the County is waiting on the State to publish the criteria for the hazard mitigation program which has been offered to citizens with hurricane destroyed homes to elevate or buyout the damaged/destroyed homes.

#### Public Comment

Dossey Pruden, a resident of Soundside Road, asked if something can be done to help with the trash coming out of the backs of vehicles traveling Soundside Road, on the way to the convenience center on Sounds side Road. Mr. Copeland noted that this is a problem everywhere but it seems especially evident on Soundside Road since that convenience center is so heavily used, and he commented on the Sheriff's efforts to use community service and inmate labor to clean the roadsides on a regular basis. The staff will investigate the use of additional signs or other litter enforcement aides.

#### Manager's Report

Mr. Copeland reported that Margaret Bass, an assistant in the Finance Office, has announced her retirement as of May 31 of this year.

#### Storm Preparedness Fee

The fee authorized at the last Board meeting to provide revenue to pay for generators and other equipment to better prepare the County Water System in the case of a storm or power outage will be included in the water bills being mailed this week. Two generators for the Valhalla Water Treatment plant will be installed by September of this year.

#### Old Courthouse

Funding to complete the plaster work in the Old Courthouse has been released by the State and the contractor predicts a June completion date.

#### Maintenance Supervisor Position

Interviews are being conducted for the Maintenance Supervisor position and it is hoped to have the position filled by March.

#### Lease/Purchase County Vehicles

Bids have been received to finance the purchase of County vehicles allocated in this year's budget for the Sheriff's Department, EMS, Animal Control and Water Department. The low bidder was RBCentura at 2.45% for \$134,400.

#### Clean Water Management Trust Fund Drainage Project

Two bids were received to perform the drainage work at the Soundshore Drive and Country Club Drive area as follows:

Aspen Corporation                   \$470,502.00

Landscapes Unlimited               \$295,945.02

with Landscapes Unlimited awarded the contract as low bidder.

A contribution from the Chowan Country Club will be combined with the CWMTF grant and in-kind match from the County and the Albemarle Resources Conservation District to complete the project.

#### Safety Issues on Highway 32

The Department of Transportation responded to the County's request for information concerning the status of improvements on Highway 32, that critical areas are now being identified and that a widening project is planned for 2005. A preliminary accident analysis for the last five years is in progress and due to be completed this spring.

#### Cape Colony Drainage

Commissioner Jimmy Alligood reported that District Engineer Sterling Baker recently reviewed several sites in Cape Colony with poor or no drainage and that Mr. Baker promised a response. Mr. Baker will be contacted to determine the schedule for drainage work.

#### County Website

Joe Sliva, from the County's Data Processing Department, demonstrated the County's new updated website for the Commissioners. Mr. Sliva has done an excellent job to revitalize the County's website which allows the users to build forms for such uses as registration forms; allows the users to develop e-mail update lists such as citizens wanting to be notified of Recreation Department sports schedules; allows every County Department to have its own web page to provide the public information; and allows for password protected pages where needed. This project was partially funded by a Rural Internet Access Authority grant.

The meeting was adjourned.

Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk