

Regular Meeting  
December 6, 2004

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, December 6, 2004 at 9:00a.m. in the Panel Room of the Old 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 Goodwin presented the invocation.

#### Consent Agenda

Commissioner Jones made a motion that the Consent Agenda, including the following budget amendments, tax releases and the amended audit contract to extend the contract to December 31, 2004, be approved.

eyes 7  
no 0

#### Budget Amendments

6120 SpecAppropriations	inc	\$7010	"Pride of Edenton" book sales
4268 Sr Center	inc	\$9426	Aging Grants
5333 DSS	inc	\$33651	SmartStart funding
4270 911 Central	inc	\$3000	EMD training grant
4370 EMS	inc	8607	HRSA grant
4330 CivilPrep	inc	130919	Homeland Security grants
4330 CivilPrep	inc	1200	EOC grant
6132 RecDept	inc	28500	grant/Holladay's Is camp platforms
9841 CapProj-DFW gym	inc	85140	gym renovations

#### Tax Releases

RC Balistreri	\$101.76	vehicle sold
BS Berry	\$175.00	total loss
TM Carter	\$135.43	listed in Pasquotank
GA Bunch	\$111.99	vehicle traded
MA Bunch	\$181.31	listed in Perquimans
MK Crandall	\$120.40	Listed in Edgecombe
GW Evans	\$151.69	vehicle sold
MH Johnson	\$116.90	vehicle repossessed
LV Sieck	\$103.13	storm damage

Amendment to Audit Contract to allow for a completion date of December 31, 2004.

#### Comments

George Jones Retirement from the Board of Commissioners  
Commissioner Jones did not seek re-election, and announced that the above motion is his last as a Chowan County Commissioner. He thanked the people of Chowan County for letting him serve as a Commissioner, with continuous terms of service 1978-1982 and 1990-2004. Commissioner Jones remarked that "I hope I have done half as much for Chowan County as the County has done for me". He thanked County

Manager Cliff Copeland for his help and for his work to make the County a good place to live. He noted the quality County staff and thanked the Department Heads for their contributions to a good job for the County. He commented "You are like family, this has been a pleasure".

He said that the County has elected a good man to take my place and welcomed Bill Gardner.

Other Commissioners noted their appreciation to Commissioner Jones; Chairman Belfield commented on Commissioner Jones' part in making the Board get along well together, without bickering and friction, like is the case in so many other governing boards.

Commissioner Goodwin noted that he and Commissioner Jones are the oldest Commissioners on the Board and thanked Commissioner Jones for the pleasure of working together and his friendship.

County Manager Cliff Copeland noted that Commissioner Jones was first elected in 1978 and Mr. Copeland was hired in 1979, and they "are still here". Mr. Copeland commented on the changes in the County since 1978 -- a new Chowan River Bridge, a new Albemarle Sound Bridge, four-laned Highway 17, a much expanded County Water System, computerization of County operations, new industry, and tremendous residential growth -- and thanked Commissioner Jones for an enjoyable working experience and special friendship.

Bill Gardner thanked Commissioner Jones for his help and advice to help him gain the opportunity to serve in his vacant seat.

#### Oaths

County Clerk Nancy Morgan received the oaths of office from re-elected Commissioners Downum, Cole and Winslow and elected new Commissioner Bill Gardner.

Commissioner Belfield read a letter from Chief Justice Beverly Lake, thanking the Commissioners and the County for the hospitality shown to the Supreme Court Justices when they visited Chowan County and held session in the Old Courthouse on October 8, 2004.

The meeting was recessed.

#### Organizational Meeting

Chairman Belfield reconvened the meeting and the County Manager moderated the Organizational Meeting for the Board of Commissioners, as stipulated by the NC General Statutes.

Commissioner Belfield nominated Commissioner Goodwin to serve as Chairman.

Commissioner Downum moved that the nominations be closed.

eyes 7

no 0

Commissioner Alligood moved that Commissioner Goodwin be elected Chairman by acclamation.

eyes 7

no 0

Newly elected Chairman Goodwin accepted the gavel from out-going Chairman Belfield.

Commissioner Alligood nominated Commissioner Cole as Vice-Chairman.

Commissioner Downum moved that nominations be closed.

eyes 7

no 0

Commissioner Alligood moved that Commissioner Cole be elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

eyes 7

no 0

Chairman Goodwin expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve the Board and for its vote of confidence.

Commissioner Alligood moved that the meeting schedule be changed for alternating months at 9:00a.m. and 6:00p.m. and be set for 6:00pm on the first Monday of each month.

eyes 1

no 6

With no other meeting times suggested and other members expressing a desire to keep the current meeting schedule, Chairman Goodwin announced that the Board will continue its alternating months schedule of 9:00a.m. and 6:00p.m.

Recognition - Willis M. Privott Retirement from Rescue Squad  
Following 39 years of service in the Edenton-Chowan Rescue Squad, Willis M. Privott retired October 2004. Chairman Goodwin recognized Mr. Privott, his family and members of the Rescue Squad attending. Chairman Goodwin noted Mr. Privott's years of service as a Charter Member of the Edenton-Chowan Rescue Squad 1965-2004, and presented a plaque to Mr. Privott.

Mr. Privott commented that the Rescue Squad started in "this very building downstairs in the Courtroom in a Red Cross course", with one rusty old ambulance donated and a stretcher from a funeral home, the Edenton-Chowan Rescue Squad answered calls in Chowan, Washington, Bertie and Gates Counties.

Commissioner Alligood noted the years of service that he and Mr. Privott has taken call together and said that that time was a pleasure and honro to work with Mr. Privott.

#### Edenton Steamers

Edenton Steamers President Katy Ebersole and General Manager Tim Schuster thanked the Board of Commissioners for its support of the Edenton Steamers. Mrs. Ebersole announced that the Steamers completed its seventh successful year, this year, particularly so, since the Steamers are the 2004 Champion of the Coastal Plain League. She presented the trophy, the Petitt Cup, to the Commissioners as a thank you to the County for its support. She also announced that the Hicks Field was recognized nationwide for its preservation of the grandstand and the positive atmosphere for collegiate venue.

#### Reschedule January Meeting

By motion of Commissioner Belfield, the January meeting will be scheduled for January 10, 2005, at 9:00 am.

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no 0

#### Board Appointments

##### Nursing Home Advisory Committee

By motion of Commissioner Alligood, Della Rae Bass was appointed to the Nursing Home Advisory Committee.

eyes 7

no 0

Albemarle Commission  
Edenton Planning Board

The Board members agreed to make these appointments at the January meeting.

Planning and Inspections Report

Planner Elizabeth Bryant reported that she will be making the last scheduled civic club presentation in January and requested that the Commissioners schedule a joint meeting with the Planning Board to discuss the next step in the countywide zoning study. Mrs. Bryant and the County Clerk will determine an appropriate time and report to the Commissioners and Planning Board.

The Planning Board will consider the proposed buffer strips amendment to the Subdivision Ordinance at its December meeting and will make a recommendation to the Commissioners in January.

Holladay's Island Camping Platforms

A grant from the Resource and Conservation Service in the amount of \$22,800 to develop five camping platforms on Holladay's Island has been awarded to Chowan County. A CAMA permit is already received, and specifications are being developed for construction. The Recreation Department will supervise the use of the camping platforms. Commissioner Cole made a motion that the County accept the grant award and proceed to have the platforms constructed.

ayes 7

no 0

Finance Reports

Finance Officer Lisa Jones presented a November 30 finance report with no major variances and all funds on budget. She reported that the EMS billing and collections program is beginning to show positive returns with \$55,000-\$60,000 per month expected by the end of the fiscal year, when the new billing and collections program has had time to cycle through the insurance carriers and medicare/medicaid processes to get on a stable payment schedule to the County.

The recent water rate increase has strengthened the Water Fund by about \$180,000 since July 1.

Walker Gym Capital Project Ordinance

Mrs. Jones presented a proposed Capital Project Ordinance for the Walker Gym project, with the low bidder, A C Lewis at \$203,214, and including painting, masonry and restroom construction, a total project cost of \$238,794. Air conditioning is not addressed in this construction, but the Finance Committee has requested that the County staff investigate a proposed plan to accomplish the air conditioning during this construction phase.

Commissioner Belfield moved that the County approve the Capital Project Ordinance and authorize the air conditioning addition, if money can be located.

ayes 7

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Phase I Generator Capital Project Ordinance

Funded by the 10% surcharge on water bills, the stormproofing of the Water System is progressing. All electrical work is complete and the generator should be installed in the next few weeks.

Mr. Copeland said that the County is applying for a North Carolina Rural Center grant.

Commissioner Downum moved that the County approve the Capital

Project Ordinance for the Water System stormproofing.

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no 0

Lease/Purchase for E-911 Equipment

Mrs. Jones presented the low bid proposal from RBC Centura to finance a radio system and three servers at a rate of 2.91%. Negotiations with equipment vendors are not yet complete.

Commissioner Winslow made a motion that the County approve the financing proposal from RBC Centura.

ayes 7  
no 0

Amend Contract - J&J Construction - for Stream Cleanup

Staff Attorney Peter Rascoe reported the availability of additional funds to do more work on the stream cleanup in Chowan County. There will be no County match as funds were left in the first phase to cover this cost. The new grant amount is approximately \$171,000. The proposal is to clear approximately 10.5 miles of waterways in Rocky Hock Creek, Dillard's Millpond, Queen Anne Creek and Filbert's Creek. This additional work will clear the known flood issues and navigational hazards in the County.

Commissioner Alligood moved that the County authorize the amendment to the contract with J&J Construction.

ayes 7  
no 0

Resolution - WUNC-TV

Mr. Copeland discussed the efforts of the University of North Carolina Public Television to extend its satellite service area to northeastern North Carolina. Because WUNC-TV Columbia is not in the current service area of Norfolk, if the corporate address is moved to Edenton, then satellite TV subscribers could then receive WUNC TV programs. EcoStar satellite carrier has opposed WUNC-TV's application to the FCC for the change. Counties in the northeast and legislative members are encouraged to support the relocation to allow the expanded service area.

Commissioner Cole moved that Chowan County approve the following Resolution in support of the relocation of WUNC-TV Columbia's corporate address to Edenton.

ayes 7  
no 0

#### Resolution

WHEREAS, many residents in North Carolina receive television via satellite; and,

WHEREAS, the citizens in northeastern North Carolina are within the MDA of Norfolk, Virginia; and,

WHEREAS, WUNC-TV is seeking permission from the FCC to relocate its corporate office from Columbia to Edenton, so that residents of northeastern North Carolina might receive WUNC-TV programming; and,

WHEREAS, this relocation is being opposed by the satellite carriers.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Chowan County Board of Commissioners wholeheartedly supports the petition of WUNC-TV to relocate to Edenton and also believes that the citizens of northeastern North Carolina are

entitled to receive programming that is financed by their tax dollars.

The FCC is strongly encouraged to endorse the petition as submitted by WUNC-TV that is clearly in the public interest of the citizens of the State of North Carolina.

Approved today, December 6, 2004, by the Chowan County Board of Commissioners.

Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk

#### 911 Emergency Operating Center

Chowan County has been advised that grant and loan monies are available from the USDA to address Hurricane Isabel impacted projects. Mr. Copeland stated that the number one need identified by Chowan County and the Town of Edenton is for an upgrade of the 911 Emergency Operating Center. BJAC Architects is conducting a feasibility study and identifying projected costs. Included in this package is the possible addition of space for the Sheriff's Department and the Police Department, to provide a consolidated public safety center, and enhanced coordination of the law enforcement operations and public access.

#### Boys and Girls Club

Recreation Department Director Robbie Laughton reported that the County staff continues to work with the Boys and Girls Club to establish programs for the Boys and Girls Club. The Recreation Department will provide all the sports programs and no programs will be duplicated. The Boys and Girls Club has secured its three-year funding and will conduct interviews for its Executive Director this week. Registration will begin December 15.

Peter Rascoe said that he is working with the Boys and Girls Club to develop a memorandum of understanding for temporary space for offices, classrooms and gym use. The Boys and Girls Club will secure its own facility, before COA takes possession of the building for the College's use.

By motion of Commissioner Alligood, Mr. Rascoe was authorized to proceed with the memorandum of understanding contingent upon COA's approval of the terms.

ayes 7

no 0

#### Resolution - The Rural Center Application

The Rural Center has agreed to reconsider an application for assistance for the upgrade of the Water System and the following resolution was approved by motion of Commissioner Downum.

#### Resolution

WHEREAS, Chowan County has applied to The Rural Center for assistance in the upgrade of the electrical systems at the well sites of the Chowan County Water System; and,

WHEREAS, an appointed authorized signer for this project must be designated.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Chowan County Board of Commissioners does hereby appoint the County Manager to serve as the authorized signer for this project, Well Electrical Improvements FY 2004-05, Rd. 1 Supplemental Grant Application.

Adopted today, December 6, 2004, by the Chowan County Board of Commissioners.

R. Wayne Goodwin  
Chairman

#### Chowan County Hall of Fame

Mr. Laughton reported on the activity of a steering committee working to determine the feasibility of establishing a Chowan County Hall of Fame to preserve the sports heritage of Chowan County, including the semi-pro baseball history in Chowan County, to recognize athletes and citizens who have contributed to sports in the County, and to generate support and enthusiasm for current sports (such as the Edenton Steamers, and as a tourist attraction for visitors.

The Steering Committee is also working to identify a temporary location and to establish a long range plan for a permanent home for the Hall of Fame.

#### Economic Development Report

##### Boatbuilding Industry

Economic Developer Richard Bunch discussed the County's participation with the NorthEast Partnership in a recent boat show in Florida. He noted the three established boatbuilders in the County, and now a new boatbuilder, Calybre Boats, which has recently shipped its first boats from Chowan County, one to Japan.

He mentioned the other boat related companies in the County, particularly Ashely Welding, which builds the towers for the boat industry.

He also reported that 300 people registered at the recent job fair for boatbuilders in the County, and the classes for boatbuilder training, through COA.

#### Parton Entertainment

Mr. Bunch discussed the Parton Entertainment article in The Daily Advance. Chowan County did not submit a proposal to host a theatre for Parton Entertainment. The request for proposal listed a 200-acre tract of land on the highway with a 2000-seat theatre, water, sewer and natural gas service and a guarantee of the first year operating costs -- a estimated price of \$6 million. The Economic Development Corporation and County staff do not believe this project to be in the scope of what Chowan County can do, but does support the concept of the project in northeastern North Carolina. Currituck County has expressed an interest in the project. The EDC voted to support the Currituck proposal.

#### Winn Dixie Closing

No official word can be obtained from Winn Dixie, but talk is that surplus merchandise from the closed stores will be brought to Edenton to liquidate, and that the Edenton store will be open until March. Mr. Bunch continues to contact other grocery companies to invite interest in the space.

Public Comment

None offered.

Manager's Report

Jail

Jail capacity is a problem here in Chowan County and the Albemarle District Jail. Chowan County and Gates County (houses inmates in the Chowan County Jail) is participating with Albemarle District Jail in having a study done to determine a long range plan to address the over-crowding problem.

The meeting was adjourned.

Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk