

Regular Meeting
February 3, 2003

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, February 3, 2003 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 Belfield called the meeting to order and Commissioner Cole presented the invocation.

Consent Agenda

By motion of Commissioner Jones, the Consent Agenda, including the January meetings minutes and the following budget amendments and tax reliefs, was approved.

ayes 7
no 0

Budget Amendments

5372 DSS	inc	4,788	inc in crisis funding
4248 Walker	inc	27,637	improvements to Walker Community Center/COA
7120 Water	inc	107,740	upgrade water lines(contract
4268 Sr Center	inc	1,504	state grant to Sr Center
4317 Sheriff	inc	11,491	drug seizures budget

Capital Project Ordinance for Library Renovation \$52,000

Tax Reliefs

JC Bass	\$137.67	vehicle traded
CISCO	\$302.67	billed to wrong accoun
JC Gloe	\$107.09	listed in Perquimans Co
WM Hollowell	\$163.30	billed to wrong account
CH Perry	\$185.72	billed to wrong account
RC Williams	\$180.09	vehicle turned in
J Williford	\$114.26	vehicle traded

Financing for Fire Equipment

By motion of Commissioner Alligood, the Board approved financing documents, including a resolution, approving a contract with RBC Centura to finance fire equipment for the Center Hill Crossroads Volunteer Fire Dept and the Edenton Fire Dept at a cost of \$380,814 and an interest rate of 2.74%.

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Public Safety Committee Report

Doug Belch, EMS Coordinator, reported on efforts to recruit new rescue volunteers. Extensive training requirements make it difficult to recruit citizens to volunteer. Part-time staffing has been increased.

He also explained the County's investigation to establish a 6-mile fire district for the Center Hill Crossroads Fire Dept area, which would improve fire insurance rates. County staff and the Fire Dept will continue to work on this with further reports to the

Commissioners.

Planning and Enterprise Committee

Land Records Manager Gail Forehand presented a proposal to digitize the County's maps which will benefit land pricing by soil types, county-wide addressing and the Enhanced-911 system, through the implementation of a Geographic Information System (GIS - computerized mapping). The ability to identify the location of cell phone calls coming into Central Communications was also noted as a benefit to public safety.

Cadastral maps were originally prepared in 1979 and again in 2000. Data Processing Manager Phyllis Cranford reported that 8-12 months would be required to interface the software with the County's land records and that the project should be budgeted over a two-year completion. Digitizing the cadastral maps is estimated at \$96,000; digitizing the soil maps at \$18,000 and computerizing the E-911 addressing is estimated at \$55,000. Telephone Fund money will be used to fund the E-911 update.

After investigating the work reputations of several companies, Kimball and Associates stands out with its experience and quality work and competitive prices. Kimball also prepared Chowan County's first cadastral maps back in 1979. This work would be completed before the County's next revaluation cycle.

Commissioner Goodwin made a motion that the County approve the GIS project and authorize County staff to negotiate a contract with Kimball and Associates to perform the work.

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Finance Committee

County Manager Cliff Copeland reported that the audit is complete with no negative findings. Some growth was noted in the Reserve Funds and the Water Fund has shown a significant improvement since the rate increase. For the first time, Sales Tax Revenue has shown a drop. Chowan County continues to lose market share to surrounding retail areas. The \$100,000 drop is equivalent to 1.5 cents on the tax rate. Mr. Copeland noted that while revenue sources are not increasing, County expenses are significantly climbing -- Medicaid, gasoline, other DSS programs and medical insurance.

Commissioner Downum moved that the County audit be accepted as presented and that the auditor's contract be extended through January 31, 2003.

eyes 7

no 0

Tax Administrator Lynda Hendricks reported that real estate collections are at 97% and other collections at 95.5%. She noted a major business bankruptcy has influenced the percentages. With the recent attachment of tax refunds for delinquent taxes of \$130,000, the County's collection of delinquent taxes is up \$7,000 over last year.

Public Comment

None offered.

Manager's Report

Mr. Copeland noted the death of former Commissioner James E. Taylor and that services are scheduled for Wednesday, February 5. Mr. Taylor served twelve years, two years as Chairman, and on various committees and boards, including Albemarle Commission and the Public Health Board. He previously served on the Board of Education.

Baptist Children's Home

Mr. Copeland reported that a group, including Judge J.C. Cole, Sheriff Spruill and School Superintendent Smith, met with a representative from the North Carolina Baptist Children's Homes to discuss the possibility of the location of a home in Northeastern North Carolina. Rev. Don English, Moderator of the Chowan Baptist Association and a member of the Baptist State Convention Social Services Committee, spoke in support of the County participating in this project. He noted NCBCCH's excellent reputation of services for children and their families, and a commitment by the NCBCCH to locate services in Northeastern North Carolina.

Commissioner Goodwin noted his interest in seeing facilities to support children in crisis being available to Chowan County and said that this proposal might be an answer since such a home is not feasible on a county level.

County staff will continue to work with the Baptist Children's Home staff.

Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Richard Bunch reported that a job fair was held February 1 to recruit employees for George C Moore Company.

The meeting was adjourned.

Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk