

Regular Meeting
July 10, 2006

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, July 10, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. in the Panel Room of the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse.

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

On behalf of Chairman Goodwin, Vice Chairman Cole called the meeting to order and Commissioner Belfield presented the invocation. Vice Chairman Cole wished Chairman Goodwin continued progress in his recovery from sickness.

Consent Agenda

By motion of Commissioner Winslow, the Consent Agenda was approved, including the June meetings minutes and the following tax releases.

Ayes 7

No 0

Tax Releases

RD Clapper	\$136.04	listed in Florida
JC Hardman	\$212.48	vehicle turned in
SL Hurdle	\$134.96	listed in Perquimans County
R Pilkington	\$115.41	vehicle totaled

Recognition – “I Made the Right Call” Award – Austin Laing

Sheriff Fred Spruill said that two years ago, Chowan County elected to train the Central Communicators to do Emergency Dispatch, which has been very successful. He introduced Jim Carr, Central Communications Director, who announced that on June 9, 2006, Austin Laing placed a call to 911 and told the Dispatcher, Monica Stulick, that his mother was having a seizure. Ten-year-old Austin gave information which expedited the dispatch of help to his home for his mother, and took instructions to assist his mother until the EMT-I’s arrived at his home.

Mr. Carr stated that the award was presented to Austin to recognize his courage and good judgment to make the right call, and to raise awareness about how children should be taught to give information and take instructions to secure help in an emergency situation. Austin Laing is the first recipient of the “I Made the Right Call Award”.

Public Hearing – Secondary Roads Program

The regular meeting was recessed to enter a public hearing to receive comment on the proposed Secondary Road Program.

NCDOT representatives included: Division Engineer Anthony Roper, Division Maintenance Engineer Sterling Baker, and District Engineer Darrick Lee.

Mr. Roper explained that with the financial issues being experienced in the Department of Transportation, projects have been approved, but not yet funded. He presented a list

for the calendar year of 2006 naming approved projects which have received spending authority, Emperor Landing Road and Sycamore Road, for a total of \$226,000. Other projects funded, including funding through NC Moving Ahead and Spot Safety include: Highway 32, Rocky Hock Road, Sandy Ridge Road, Perry Road, Cannon Ferry Road, Bella Vista Road, and Broad Street.

Speaking from the audience, Rick Flora asked about maintenance for Drummond's Point Road, specifically about the placement of weight limits on trucks damaging the road. Mr. Baker responded that it was decided to try to avoid placing weight limits since restricting the loads on trucks going to construction sites would have significantly increased the amount of traffic on the road.

Robbie Laughton asked about the possibility of bike paths being included in the road improvements plans. He also asked about the status of work to Bennett's Millpond Road. Mr. Roper responded that surveying has been completed and right-of-way and permits are now in progress.

With no other comments, the public hearing was closed, and the regular meeting reconvened.

Commissioner Alligood made a motion that the following resolution be approved, accepting the proposed Secondary Road Improvement Program as presented by NCDOT.

Resolution

WHEREAS, the Chowan County Board of Commissioners, meeting in regular session on Monday, July 10, 2006, met with representatives of the North Carolina Department of Transportation; and,

WHEREAS, the DOT representatives presented the proposed Secondary Road Improvement Program for 2006, including improvements to Emperor Landing Road and Sycamore Road, and improvements to NC 32; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners conducted a public hearing to receive comment on the proposed plan as advertised.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Chowan County Board of Commissioners, by this resolution, approves the 2006 Secondary Road Program as submitted by the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

Resolved today, July 10, 2006.

Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk

Planning and Inspections Report

Planner Elizabeth Bryant presented monthly reports on the activities of the Planning and Inspections Department and presented a technical amendment to the Ordinance Regulating Abandoned and Junked Motor Vehicles, specifically, to clarify the appeals rights as follows: The hearing request shall be filed in writing with the Director of the

County Planning and Inspections Department no later than ten (10) days following notification of removal. Upon receipt of a timely request, a hearing date and time shall be promptly set.....An appeal from the decision of the Director may be timely made to the Chowan County District Court.

Commissioner Belfield moved that the County approve the clarification of the appeals rights in the Abandoned Motor Vehicles Section 3. Notification and Probable Cause Hearing, and the same in the Junked Motor Vehicles Section 3.

Ayes 7
No 0

Mrs. Bryant also reminded the Commissioners of the meeting with the Planning Board to discuss preliminary proposals for a county-wide zoning map and ordinance and a proposed revised subdivision ordinance.

Designation of DSS Work First Program

Every three years, the County has to designate the DSS Work First Program as a “Standard” or “Electing” Program. This designation drives how services will be delivered in the Work First Program. Chowan DSS has always been a “Standard” county and has performed extremely well in this category, especially over the past year, claiming one of the highest participation rates in the State. DSS Director Ben Rose and the County Manager recommended that the County remain a “Standard” Program county.

By motion of Commissioner Downum, the County elected to remain a “Standard” Program county.

Ayes 7
No 0

Debris Contract with DOT

EMS Director Doug Belch presented a proposed contract between NC DOT and Chowan County for the emergency removal of debris during a State of Disaster or Imminent Threat of Disaster and/or a State of Emergency. Mr. Copeland stated that such an arrangement for assistance from the State would make a big difference in the first few hours after a storm in opening roads.

Also included in the recommendation was a resolution for Designation of Applicant’s Agent, naming County Attorney Peter Rascoe and Finance Officer Lisa Jones to represent the County.

Commissioner Gardner moved that the County enter into this contract with NCDOT as recommended, and to approve the Designation of Applicant’s Agent Resolution.

Ayes 7
No 0

Schedule Public Hearing – 2004 CDBG Grant Closeout

Chairman Goodwin made a motion that the County schedule a public hearing for August 7 at 6:00pm. to receive comment on the proposed 2004 CDBG Grant Closeout. Carolyn Morris, Grant Administrator, will provide information for the closeout.

Ayes 7
No 0

Public Comment

None offered.

Manager's Report

County Manager Cliff Copeland announced that in this new fiscal year, the County has many projects going, including the beginning of construction of the Public Safety Center. He noted that particularly since Hurricane Isabel, the County has recognized the need for better organization of the County's public safety agencies and he is excited to see this project construction nearing.

Tax Settlement Report

Mr. Copeland recognized Tax Administrator Lynda Hendricks to present the Tax Settlement Report. By motion of Commissioner Alligood, the Report was accepted.

Ayes 7

No 0

The meeting was adjourned.

Following the meeting, the Board of Commissioners, Sheriff Fred Spruill and guests celebrated the operation of the new communications tower on Virginia Road at a ribbon cutting sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Copeland stated that when the communication tower where the County rented space collapsed during Hurricane Isabel, and the supply of County water was halted because of the lack of electric power, and the 911 Communications Center flooded to the top of the doorstep, all this made the County Commissioners and the administration realize three things:

1. that Chowan County needed a communications tower;
2. that Chowan County had to have generators for the Water System; and
3. that a Public Safety Center had to be located in a more efficient and safer environment.

The generators are in place, the communications tower is now standing and in operation, and construction should begin later this year on the Public Safety Center.

Sheriff Fred Spruill called the day an historic event. He noted that since the September 11 tragedy, radio operability has been recognized across the nation as a priority to correct. He expressed excitement to recognize the federal government for the grant award of \$978,000 to assist in the construction of the Chowan County tower. Combined with other grants for a total of more than \$1 million, the tower holds state-of-the-art equipment for the VIPER radio system, being used across the State, which will allow unlimited communications between agencies. Chowan, Tyrrell and Bertie are currently the only counties in the Northeast with the VIPER system.

Chairman Goodwin and Vice Chairman Cole praised the cooperative efforts to complete the tower construction project .

Sheriff Spruill took great pleasure in providing tours of the tower plant.

Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk

