

Regular Meeting
Monday, February 17, 2014
5:30 pm
Chowan County Public Safety Center
305 West Freemason St. Edenton, NC

MINUTES

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting at 5:30pm on Monday, February 17, 2014.

Present Chairman Keith Nixon, Commissioners Jeff Smith, Greg Bonner, Alex Kehayes, Emmett Winborne and John Mitchener.

Commissioner Ellis Lawrence was absent.

Staff present Interim Manager Clifton Hardison, Finance Officer Willie Carawan and Board Clerk Susanne Stallings.

Call to Order

Chairman Nixon called the meeting to order and led the pledge. Commissioner Kehayes offered the invocation.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Bonner moved to approve the agenda. Chairman Nixon asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Public Comment

Chairman Nixon opened the floor to public comment. There was none.

Consent Agenda

Chairman Nixon then provided the consent agenda.

a. Approval of Minutes

Attached are the minutes of the February 3, 2014 meeting for the Board's review and approval.

Commissioner Mitchener moved to approve the minutes as presented. Chairman Nixon asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

b. Budget Amendments

BA1314-041

Account Code	Description	Old	+ or (-)	New
11-4249-352-00	Maint & Repair - Equipment	4,547.00	(2,000.00)	2,547.00
11-4240-299-00	Departmental Supplies	4,000.00	1,000.00	5,000.00
11-4240-122-00	Salaries & Wages - Overtime	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
Maintenance				
	Balanced:	\$ 9,547.00	\$ -	\$ 9,547.00
Justification:				
<i>Transfers are needed to cover costs associated with the recent weather /flooding events and supplies (salt)</i>				

Mr. Carawan stated this amendment is to cover overtime in the Maintenance Department related to the water leaks during the snow storm.

Commissioner Winborne asked if there was any overtime from the Recreation Department.

Mr. Carawan stated that no budget amendment has been requested by the Recreation Department.

Commissioner Winborne asked if the expense for the volunteer fire department could be included in the insurance claim.

Mr. Hardison stated that expense cannot be claimed.

Commissioner Winborne moved to approve the budget amendment as presented. Chairman Nixon asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Public Hearing – Tax

Tax Administrator Hosea Wilson stated he was there to present the schedule of values to the Board and to hold a public hearing for public comment.

Commissioner Smith moved to go into public hearing to receive public comment. Chairman Nixon asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Chairman Nixon called for public comment, there was none.

Commissioner Smith moved to close the public hearing. Chairman Nixon asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Mr. Wilson stated that he expects more public comment once the notices are mailed. He stated that currently he is in the review phase looking at subdivisions for discrepancies to make sure

there are no glitches with the software. He stated that his office has updated the appeal form. He stated that taxpayers will be able to appeal their values to the Board of Equalization and Review. He stated that he hoped to mail notices in March or by mid-March. He stated that there will be 30 days to hold informal appeals. He stated the Board would adopt the schedule of values at the next meeting.

Voluntary Ag District Ordinance Amendment

Commissioner Smith stated that the Voluntary Ag District Committee has recommended changes to the Voluntary Ag District Ordinance. He stated that he would recommend this Ordinance Amendment be placed on the March 3, 2014 agenda for a public hearing.

Chairman Nixon requested that the clerk run this item by the County Attorney for his review/comment. He asked if the VAD certificate is recorded on the deed.

Commissioner Smith stated that the certificate has never been recorded on the deed. He stated that this is recorded on maps at Land Records and Register of Deeds.

Soil and Water Technician Scott Alons stated that the map is kept at Land Records, Register of Deeds, Planning and Extension. He noted a statement is included on the map that the property is on or adjacent to a Voluntary Ag District.

Commissioner Kehayes stated that he wants to ensure that the public is notified of their proximity to a Voluntary Ag District when they purchase land.

Reappointment

Commissioner Smith moved that the Board reappoint Carey Parrish and Joey Byrum to the Voluntary Ag District Board. Chairman Nixon asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Recreation Annual Report

Recreation Director Jason Petersen provided the Board with a report on the activities of the Recreation Department.

Timely and Important Matters

Animal Control/Sheriff

Commissioner Winborne provided the Board with a letter from Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin regarding Animal Control. Sheriff Goodwin has indicated that effective July 1, 2014 the Sheriff's Office will no longer be handling Animal Control duties.

Sheriff Goodwin stated he has discussed the matter with Animal Shelter Director Dana Goheen and feels that currently the Animal Shelter is moving in the right direction.

Commissioner Winborne stated that the County needs to look into how other Counties handle Animal Control.

Chairman Nixon stated that this matter can be addressed during the budget meetings. He recommended that this discussion be sent to the Planning and Enterprise Committee. He stated that he would recommend including the Town in the discussions as the Town has more strict ordinances for Animal Control.

Sheriff Goodwin noted that of the 500 Animal Control calls responded to, 300 were located within the jurisdiction of the Town of Edenton.

Hydrilla Meeting

Chairman Nixon stated that he attended an informative session the past Saturday on Hydrilla.

Commissioner Smith recommended getting the Department of Transportation involved in the discussions.

Reception

Chairman Nixon stated that he has requested that the Clerk coordinate a reception for the new County Manager before the Board meeting on March 3, 2014.

Closed Session

Commissioner Smith moved that the Board go into closed session in accordance with NCGS 143-318 11 a 5 and 6 Chairman Nixon asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

The minutes of the closed session are sealed.

Commissioner Kehayes moved to come out of closed session. Chairman Nixon asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Stipend for Interim Manager

Commissioner Mitchener moved to pay Clifton Hardison a one-time stipend of \$2,500 for his time serving as interim manager. The monies for this stipend should be paid from 11-4120-121-00 (savings from lapsed salary for the manager). Chairman Nixon asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Red Banks House

Chairman Nixon requested that the Maintenance Director obtain quotes to power wash and paint the window trim of the Red Banks House and bring them to the next meeting.

Being no further business, Commissioner Smith moved that the meeting be adjourned. Chairman Nixon asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

D. Keith Nixon, Chairman

Susanne Stallings, Clerk