

Chowan County Board of Equalization and Review
Meeting
Monday June 1, 2015
6:00pm
Chowan County Public Safety Center
305 West Freemason Street

Chowan County Board of Equalization and Review
Minutes June 1, 2015

At 6:00 PM the Board convened the Chowan County Board of Equalization and Review for the June 1, 2015 meeting. Tax Administrator Hosea Wilson advised the Board that he had no scheduled appeals to come before the Board at this meeting. Mr. Wilson also inquired if anyone in the audience intended to make an appeal before the Board. Hearing none, Mr. Wilson then made the recommendation to the Board that they recess until the June 15, 2015 meeting at 6:00 P.M. A motion was made and unanimously approved, 6-0, to recess until June 1, 2015 at 6:00 P.M. Mr. John Mitchener was not present for the meeting.

Regular Meeting
Monday, June 1, 2015
Chowan County Public Safety Center
305 West Freemason St.
Edenton, NC
6:00pm

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

Commissioner John Mitchener was absent.

Staff present County Manager Kevin Howard Finance Officer Willie Carawan and Clerk Susanne Stallings. County Attorney Lauren Arizaga-Womble was also present.

Regular Meeting

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order and led all in attendance in the pledge of allegiance.

Commissioner Kehayes then offered the invocation.

Approval of Agenda

Chairman Smith asked that the agenda to be amended to include two budget amendments and a request from the schools

Commissioner Winborne moved to approve the agenda as amended. Chairman Smith asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Public Comment

Chairman Smith opened the floor to public comment in accordance with NCGS 153A-52.1

There was none.

Consent Agenda

Chairman Smith presented the consent agenda.

a. Minutes

Attached are the minutes of the May 18, 2015 meeting for the Board's review and consideration.

Commissioner Kehayes moved to approve the minutes with a correction. Chairman Smith asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

b. Budget Amendments

BA14-15-049

Account Code	Description	Old	+ or (-)	New
11-4380-126-00	Salaries & Wages - PT	13,500.00	(1,000.00)	12,500.00
11-4380-251-00	Automotive Supplies	2,800.00	1,000.00	3,800.00
		Balanced:	16,300.00	16,300.00

Justification:

Purchasing a Light Bar for Animal Control Truck

BA1415-050

Account Code	Description	Old	+ or (-)	New
12-5310-261-00	Office Supplies	28,000.00	(8,000.00)	20,000.00
12-5380-539-28	WF- Daycare	25,000.00	(10,000.00)	15,000.00
12-5310-510-00	C/O - Equipment		18,000.00	18,000.00
Balanced:		53,000.00		53,000.00

Justification:

Request to purchase 4 network copier/printer/scanner/fax machines to replace 4 copiers & up to 25 desktop printers that are more than 5 years old reaching end of life

Commissioner Bonner moved to approve the budget amendments as presented. Chairman Smith asked for all in favor the motion passed unanimously (6-0)

Request from Edenton Chowan Schools

Mr. Howard presented the Board with a request from Superintendent Rob Jackson to release funds for the bleacher project at John A. Holmes High School. He noted the school's quote is \$15,000 less than originally thought. He noted these funds are being pulled from the current fiscal year but are part of the projects listed in the FY 2015-16 tiered capital projects.

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

Commissioner Winborne suggested the school look into declaring the original bleacher boards as surplus and sell the boards as a fund raiser.

Mr. Howard stated he would mention this to the Superintendent.

Fireworks Display Permission

Ms. Stallings noted that as required annually by statute, a request for permission is submitted for Atlanta Pyrotechnics International, Inc. to provide the fireworks display sponsored by the Chowan-Edenton Optimist Club on July 4, 2015. [NCGS § 14-410 & §14-413]. She noted the Board has been provided with the certificate of liability insurance, fireworks display permit and operators licenses.

Commissioner Bonner moved to approve the request. Chairman Smith asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

5. Resolutions

a. **Register of Deeds Office Closure/Relocation**

Mr. Howard provided the Board with a resolution authorizing the closure/relocation of the Chowan County Register of Deeds and Land Records Offices for repairs to the Heating and Air System. Dates for the closure/relocation are June 11, 12 and the 15.

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

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING OFFICE CLOSURE AND RELOCATION

WHEREAS, Chowan County owns real property located at 101 South Broad Street, Edenton, NC, also known as the Chowan County Courthouse which contains the offices of the Chowan County Register of Deeds and Land Records offices ; and

WHEREAS, urgent repairs are needed for the Heating and Air System that heats and cools these offices; and

WHEREAS, the heating and air unit is located above the ceiling directly above the entrance to the Land Records/Register of Deeds Office which would create a hazard for the public and staff entering and exiting the office during the repairs; and

WHEREAS, at their meeting on May 14, 2015 the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to allow the Register of Deeds and Land Records to close not more than 3 business days to ensure safety for visitors to the office; and

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners awarded a bid from Eastern Heating and Cooling to make the necessary repairs; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners requested that contractor perform the work as expeditiously as possible by working on nights and over the weekend; and

WHEREAS, the repair would require the office space of the Register of Deeds and Land Records to be closed on June 11, 12 and 15; and

WHEREAS, County staff will utilize temporary office space on the second floor of the County Courthouse

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chowan County Board of Commissioners authorizes the closure and temporary relocation of the Register of Deeds and Land Records Offices on June 11, 12 and 15, 2015 for emergency repairs to the Heating and Air system

b. 2015 Tobacco and Smoke Free Parks and Playgrounds Proclamation

Interim Recreation Director Shannon Ray noted that in 2007 the Chowan County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution that discourages the use of tobacco in County Operated parks and playgrounds. The Recreation Advisory Board has provided a resolution requesting that the Board amend the 2007 resolution to "prohibit" the use of tobacco and smoking products in the County Operated parks and playgrounds.

Commissioner Nixon asked if the Town currently has a policy in place.

Mr. Ray stated she was not sure but would look into it.

Commissioner Winborne asked how this could be enforced.

Ms. Ray stated this would be enforced by staff.

Commissioner Bonner stated his support of the recommended resolution. He stated he is a member of the Recreation Advisory Board and he felt that posting the signage at the sites would help in discouraging the use of tobacco products.

Board members discussed if the staff would have the authority to stop smoking on the property.

Ms. Womble stated that they could ask someone to stop smoking.

Commissioner Kehayes stated he has concerns about tobacco use around children at the parks, but noted he also has some concerns with the legality of a smoking ban at all the parks. He stated that people fishing on the waters are not impacting those enjoying the parks and playgrounds.

Chairman Smith asked if the policy could be narrowed down to just prohibit smoking at ballfields.

Mr. Ray stated she could take the resolution back to the Advisory Board for more discussion.

Commissioner Nixon asked if this was brought up based on complaints from parents.

Ms. Ray stated that some parents have complained about smoking.

Commissioner Nixon stated he would like more information from the Advisory Board, he stated he would like a ban on profanity at the facilities.

Commissioner Winborne stated his concern with banning smoking at the millponds and creeks.

Commissioner Nixon stated his concern with banning smoking at Pembroke Creek, where he stated that many of those that participate in the fishing tournaments smoke. He stated he would like to hear more from his constituents on this issue. He suggested that the Town and County look at a joint effort if this is going to be put in place.

c. Connect NC 2015 Bond Referendum

Chairman Smith stated that the Governor's Office has requested that County Commissioners review the Connect NC 2015 Bond Information and sample resolutions in support of the bond referendum and requests the Chowan County consider adoption of the same.

Commissioner Winborne asked if there would be any expense to the County.

Chairman Smith stated the Governor has proposed that the State will pay the expense for the special election.

Commissioner Nixon stated his concern with the State putting monies towards special projects. He stated that while the economy in Raleigh has turned around the Northeast is still not fully recovered.

Commissioner Bonner stated his support of the resolution.

Commissioner Kehayes stated that he hoped COA would get some of the monies.

Chairman Smith noted that this would be voted on in a referendum state wide.

Commissioner Bonner moved to approve a resolution of support.

Commissioner Lawrence stated he hoped northeast NC would get more monies in the proposal.

Commissioner Winborne asked if there were time constraints on approval of the resolution.

Chairman Smith stated this would need to be sent in before the legislators leave Raleigh.

Commissioner Winborne asked Mr. Howard if he felt the resolution would benefit Chowan County.

Mr. Howard stated that this is a political decision.

Commissioner Nixon stated that he did not want to appear to not be a team player, however he felt that this is increasing the State's debt and monies will be taken from Counties for other mandates to pay for the project.

Chairman Smith asked for all in favor, the motion passed (4-2 Nixon, Winborne)

**Resolution in
Support of
Governor Pat
McCrory's
Connect NC
Bond
Proposals**

WHEREAS, Governor Pat McCrory has proposed a \$2.85 billion bond initiative intended to connect North Carolina cities and towns in the 21st century by building roads, upgrading technology, constructing and improving educational facilities, enhancing medical services, supporting our military installations, improving parks and recreational facilities, and building and improving port and rail infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, these strategic investments, as proposed, are designed to benefit every community across this great State and will create jobs and improve

the quality of life and environment for every North Carolinian; and

WHEREAS, because of North Carolina's fiscal strength and strong balance sheet, no tax increase will be required to fund these bonds and in addition, the State's Triple A bond rating will be preserved; and

WHEREAS, by not addressing our serious infrastructure deficiencies now, our State will lose its ability to compete in the future, interest rates will go up, costs to taxpayers will increase, congestion will worsen and jobs will not expand at the rate needed to sustain a healthy and vibrant North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of North Carolina must be allowed to make the important decision of investing in the opportunities provided to our future generations through the Connect NC bond initiative.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chowan County Board of Commissioners support Governor McCrory's Connect NC bond initiative and encourage the General Assembly to allow North Carolina's citizens to vote on this critical bond proposal to ensure North Carolina's future on the global stage.

Eastern 4-H Center

Mr. Howard noted that the Board is asked to consider a resolution requesting the NC State Legislature to restore \$400,000.00 in funds to the center budget of the Eastern 4_H Center in Tyrrell County.

The Board discussed the closing of other camp facilities in the state.

Commissioner Kehayes moved to support the resolution as presented. Chairman Smith asked for all in favor, the motion passed (6-0).

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE EASTERN 4-H ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION CENTER**

WHEREAS, the Eastern 4-H Environmental Education Center (4H Center) is located in Tyrrell County and opened in 2001; and

WHEREAS, the 4-H Center serves 4-H and youth from all counties in North Carolina as well as from other states and countries; and

WHEREAS, the 4-H Center provides educational, conference and retreat facilities for public and private organizations, industries and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the 4-H Center is operated by the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service, North Carolina State University; and

WHEREAS, the 4-H Center provides vital professional employment and economic development to Tyrrell County and the surrounding counties of northeaster North Carolina; and

WHEREAS; operational funding has been drastically reduced, jeopardizing the effective and continued operation of this valuable state resource,

NOW THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED that the Chowan County Board of Commissioners requests that the North Carolina State Legislature restore \$400,000.00 to the 4-H Center budget, and that copies of this resolution be sent to the local State legislative delegation, the President Pro-tern of the N.C. State Senate, the Speaker of the NC House of Representatives, the Dean of the N.C. State University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and the Director of the Eastern 4-H Environmental Education Center.

Emergency Management (EM) Annual Report

EM Director Cord Palmer provided the Board with a PowerPoint update on the activities of the Emergency Management for the past year. He noted the calls for EM for 2012 were 46, 2013 were 40 and 2014 were 44. He shared information on the status of tornado repairs He noted that the debris contract is being rebid. He also noted that the Emergency Ordinance will soon be reviewed for a rewrite.

Tom Ponte, Chairman of the LEPC provided information and photographs from the Local Emergency Planning Committee and information on excesses that were conducted in May 2015.

Chairman Smith thanked Mr. Palmer for his report

Property and Liability Quote

Mr. Howard stated that at the May 18, 2015 meeting, the Board requested that staff obtain quotes for Property and Liability Insurance to increase the deductibles to potentially lower the premiums. He stated that the NCACC has revised the quote from \$1,000 up to \$5,000 for buildings deductibles only. Resulting in a savings of approximately \$9,000 annually. By reducing to liability coverage on trailers saves approximately \$7,000 annually.

Commissioner Lawrence moved to accept the revised property and liability quote and amended workers compensation quote.

Chairman Smith asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Schedule FY 2015-16 Budget Public Hearing

Mr. Howard stated that at the budget work session on May 27, 2015 he presented the Board with the proposed budget and budget message for FY 2015-16. He stated that it is recommended that the Board schedule the public hearing to receive public comment on the proposed budget for the June 15, 2015 meeting at 6:00pm.

Commissioner Nixon moved to schedule the public hearing for June 15, 2015 at 6:00pm. Chairman Smith asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

External Board/Committee Report

Chairman Smith noted that the Board members are asked to report on the activities of the external boards to which they have been appointed.

There were no reports.

Manager's Report

County Manager Kevin Howard noted the oil tank removal at the Hotel Hinton has been completed.

Timely and Important Matters

The Board discussed having a proposal come back with a staff recommendation on appointment of Planning Board.

Closed Session

Commissioner Nixon moved that the Board go into closed session, in accordance with NCGS 143-318 (11) (a) (5 and 6) contract negotiations and personnel.

Chairman Smith asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

The minutes of the closed session are sealed.

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

Adjourn

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

Jeffery Smith, Chairman

Susanne Stallings, Clerk