

Regular Meeting
Tuesday February 19, 2013
8:00 am
Chowan County Public Safety Center
305 West Freemason Street

Minutes

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, February 19, 2013 at 8:00 am at the Chowan County Public Safety Center. Present: Chairman Keith Nixon, Commissioners Jeff Smith, Ellis Lawrence, Greg Bonner, Emmett Winborne, Alex Kehayes and John Mitchener.

Staff present: County Manager Zee Lamb, Finance Officer Kim Woodley and Board Clerk Susanne Stallings.

Chairman Nixon called the meeting to order. He requested that an additional item be added to the agenda "Grant Application Request". He then requested approval of the agenda as presented with the addition of one item. Commissioner Winborne moved to approve the agenda. Chairman Nixon asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Public Comment

Chairman Nixon opened the floor to public comment, there was none.

Finance Committee

Chairman Nixon noted that the Board will meet as a Finance Committee and review the proposed budget amendments (below). He stated that Board members may also discuss any finance related matters.

BA 1213-058:		INCR	DECR			
11-3438-894-00	Donations	2,000				
11-4381-126-00	Part-time wages	1,370				
11-4381-191-00	Vet contract		1,370			
11-4381-600-00	Donations expense	2,000				
		3,370	1,370			

One part-time position at the Animal Shelter was extended through June 30, 2013. Funding was covered by paying part of the vet contract with donations revenues. The appropriation of the additional donations revenues is also included herein.

11-3438-891-00	Perquimans County reimb		3,502			
11-3438-891-00	Gates County reimb		2,956			
11-3438-896-00	Shelter admin fees		152			
			6,610			
11-9900-999-00	Contingency		6,610			

Adoption fees, donations, and miscellaneous revenues reduce the allocated expenditures for the three counties in the Animal Shelter budget, and the related admin fees from Gates and Perquimans counties. When the budget amounts for these three revenues are amended, this results in a change in the budgeted amounts due from Gates and Perquimans counties. These adjustments are posted through the Contingency line item. Previous amendments for the Animal Shelter have added \$15,357 to Contingency this year. The reduction in the reimbursements from Gates and Perquimans counties reduces the amount put into Contingency earlier this year.

BA 1213-059:		INCR	DECR			
11-4330-121-00	Salary	2,063				
11-4330-181-00	FICA/Med tax	142				
11-4330-182-00	Retirement	139				
11-4330-184-00	Supplemental retirement	103				
11-4310-122-00	Overtime		2,063			
11-4310-181-00	FICA/Med tax		142			
11-4310-182-00	Retirement		139			
11-4310-184-00	Supplemental retirement		103			
		2,447	2,447			

With the change in the 911 Director position, additional funding is needed for salary/fringe costs that will occur in the Emergency Management Department. The position is 50/50 split between 911 and Emergency Management. Overtime that was being paid in the Sheriff's Department will no longer be realized, therefore, the funding is being moved to the EM Department. The 911 Director position was already budgeted in Central Communications. There is lapsed salary funding in 911 to cover the remainder of the year.

BA 1213-060:		INCR	DECR
11-3616-535-00	Donations-fitness room	1,420	
11-4268-351-00	Building repair & maintenance	1,420	
Appropriation of additional donations for fitness room improvements.			

Ms. Woodley reviewed the proposed budget amendments. She then notified the Board that she has begun the process of sending out the banking RFP. She stated a pre-bid conference is scheduled for Thursday. She added that she hopes to bring a contract to the Board for approval on April 1st. She said the results of the bids will be ready by the March work session.

Mr. Lamb added that all the banks in Chowan County received a bid packet.

Meherrin - Chowanoke Nation

Delois Chavis 1414 Millpoint Court Suffolk Virginia stated that at the February 4, 2013 meeting the Board received a request from the Meherrin-Chowanoke Nation requesting a letter of support of the group's efforts to obtain Federal and State recognition as a Native American Indian Tribe. She stated that the group's main concern is achieving State recognition. She stated she also wanted to reiterate her point from the last meeting that the tribe has no intention of opening a casino with Federal recognition.

Commissioner Kehayes stated that he researched the tribe and learned that there is some dispute between the Meherrin Tribe and the Meherrin-Chowanoke Tribe with their affiliation.

Ms. Chavis explained that the Meherrin Tribe does not recognize the Meherrin-Chowanoke Tribe because their origin is not the same.

Commissioner Smith asked why not join the Chowanoke Tribe.

Ms. Chavis stated that the two tribes were separate and did not share the same reservation.

Commissioner Kehayes asked if the Meherrin-Chowanoke Tribe was seeking a nation to nation treaty.

Ms. Chavis stated yes but that process is very lengthy and more stringent than the state recognition. She noted that only the Cherokee nation is federally recognized. She stated the Lumbee tribe has worked on this for years and has not obtained recognition.

Commissioner Nixon asked about legislative support.

Ms. Chavis stated she has the support of Bob Steinburg however Annie Mobley has not indicated her support.

Douglas Patterson of Mebane NC explained the difference in the philosophy of the Meherrin and Meherrin-Chowanoke tribes. He stated the groups have been separate since the 1990s. He stated the situation in North Carolina is no different than other tribes in the United States.

Commissioner Mitchener asked what the advantages were to obtaining this recognition.

Mr. Patterson stated the goal is to gain recognition from the state to allow tribe members to sell artwork as Native American Art. Currently they are prohibited from doing so.

Commissioner Winborne asked how many descendants of the Meherrin-Chowanoke Tribe reside in Chowan County.

Ms. Chavis stated approximately 25.

After discussion on the request, Commissioner Mitchener moved to allow the Chairman to draft a letter of support for the efforts of the Meherrin-Chowanoke Nation to obtain State recognition.

The motion was discussed and clarified to be State only.

Chairman Nixon asked for all in favor, the motion passed (6-1 Winborne).

Library Presentation

Linda Van Yost, Librarian of the Shepard Pruden Memorial Library presented to the Board information on the activities of the Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library with a PowerPoint. A copy of the PowerPoint is in the meeting file labeled February 19, 2013.

Committee Referrals

Commissioner Winborne noted that the Board received copies of the minutes of the Planning/Enterprise Committee as well as the Salary Study Committee last meetings. He stated the following items were referred by the Planning/Enterprise Committee to this work session agenda for full board discussion:

- Former County Office Building (Hotel Hinton) discussion

Claudia Deviney, 420 Elliot Street Edenton presented the Board with a PowerPoint on the projects completed by Preservation North Carolina (PNC). A copy of the PowerPoint is in the meeting file labeled February 19, 2013. She stated that PNC typically requests one year to market the building but sometimes the process can take much longer.

Chairman Nixon stated he felt the Board is interested in attracting commerce into that building.

Ms. Deviney stated that PNC does not accept property donations. She said that the seller should leave the property as it is and let PNC market it.

Commissioner Winborne asked if PNC was willing to partner with other organizations in marketing the building.

Ms. Deviney stated she would like for PNC to be the lead agency in marketing the building but would like to work with the community in marketing the building.

Anne-Marie Knighton, Edenton Town Manager provided a PowerPoint on behalf of Destination Downtown Edenton. She stated the Director of Destination Downtown, Jennifer Harriss is out of Town on business and was sorry she was not able to participate in the discussion. A copy of the PowerPoint is in the meeting file labeled February 19, 2013. She shared that Destination Downtown has requested \$10,000 from Golden Leaf to fund advertising the building. She stated that Destination Downtown will request permission to install signage in the window of the building. She stated that the organization is optimistic regarding the future of the building. She stated that Destination Downtown is willing to work with various agencies to market the building effectively.

Commissioner Smith moved to allow Commissioner Lawrence to be excused from the meeting. (7-0).

Jim Blount an adjoining property owner to the County Office Building stated he is working to keep the weeds down in the alley beside the County Office Building.

Frank Mcglorie, with the Edenton-Chowan Partnership (ECP) stated his organization was eager to work with others on the project and bring his economic development resources to the table. He asked for information on an engineering study.

Request from Pasquotank County – District Attorney and Public Defender Office Space

Mr. Lamb stated that Chowan has received a request from Pasquotank County to provide monies for the District Attorney Office space in Elizabeth City. He stated that the law requires a county to provide space for the District Attorney if they choose to have an office in a county. He stated that Pasquotank has billed the counties that are sharing the District Attorney. He added that recently the Public Defender's Office relocated from Chowan County to Pasquotank County. He stated that the County was paying rent for the office space here. He stated that when the offices were here in Chowan, Chowan County did not bill other counties for the space. Mr. Lamb stated he does not support entering into an agreement with Pasquotank County. He stated that he would recommend a voluntary contribution from Chowan to Pasquotank but not to enter into an agreement. He stated based on the agreement Chowan would be responsible for \$12,053 for the District Attorney office space and \$5225 for the Public Defender office space based on square footage calculations.

Commissioner Winborne asked for the Sheriff to comment on the request.

Sheriff Goodwin stated that he provides office space currently to staff from the DA office.

The Board discussed the legal obligation on the County. It was decided by a consensus of the Board to not sign the agreement nor contribute to Pasquotank County.

Chairman Nixon called for a 10 minute recess. After 10 minutes he called the meeting to order.

Recreation Grant Pre-Application Request

Recreation Director Jason Petersen provided the Board with information on a CAMA grant available for recreational purposes. He stated that after meeting with various groups including the Bayside Bass Club, Recreation Advisory Board and a Conservation Group it was determined that enhancement of the Pembroke Creek. He stated that he met with the ARC&D board and it was determined the grant was a good opportunity. He stated the grant requires a 10% match (5% in cash and 5% in-kind). He provided the Board with information prepared by Mark Powell and Linda Peterson from ARC&D on a proposed project. He stated the cost to the county is \$14,000, \$10,000 in cash for labor and \$4,000 for ARC&D application and site planning. The total grant is estimated to be around \$20,000. He provided the Board with a spreadsheet on the proposed cost estimates and an image of the site plan. A copy of the proposed site plan is in the meeting file labeled February 19, 2013.

Linda Peterson added that administrative fees have been built into the grant.

Commissioner Mitchener asked if the funds have been allocated by CAMA.

Ms. Peterson stated the pre-application is due in April which indicates the funds have been allocated.

The Board discussed a need for shade, weed eradication/treatment, restrooms, pavilions and picnic areas.

Mr. Powell explained that permanent structures at the site would change the application from a minor CAMA permit to a major permit which is more costly and time consuming.

Mr. Petersen indicated that private groups as well as County staff have offered their services including the removal of the weeds. He stated the County Maintenance Director is licensed to treat the reeds at the park. He stated the Bass Club will provide benches and/or tables. He stated there have been discussions with the Marina about managing the kayak rentals.

Chairman Nixon recommended that Mr. Petersen present the proposed project to the Tourism Development Authority to see if there is any interest in contributing to the project.

Timely and Important Matters

Ms. Stallings provided the Board with an invitation from NC North East for a State of the Region address on Friday, March 1, 2013.

Mr. Lamb discussed the offer from Onslow County for use of the new Onslow County jail at \$50 per night per inmate. He recommended that the Board send this to the Planning and Enterprise Committee for more discussion.

Mr. Lamb discussed a need for a truck to replace the vandalized truck at the Animal Shelter. The Board recommended this be discussed at the Shelter Advisory Committee.

Mr. Lamb reported that the contract from Colleton Software has come up for renewal and has been negotiated to drop the current rate from 7% to 6.5%.

Mr. Lamb stated that the county has begun receiving quotes for employee health insurance.

EMS Truck

EMS Director Colin Ryan informed the Board of an opportunity to purchase an ambulance from Tyrrell County. He stated they are liquidating assets and have approached Chowan to see if the County is interested in purchasing the ambulance for around \$55,000.

The Board discussed the offer and requested that Mr. Ryan negotiate a price and bring it back to the Board. They also requested information on warranties, mileage and service records.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

D. Keith Nixon, Chairman

Susanne Stallings, Clerk