

Regular Meeting
Tuesday, July 5, 2011
6:00 pm
Chowan County Public Safety Center
305 West Freemason Street

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, July 5, 2011 at 6:00pm in the Chowan County Public Safety Center, 305 West Freemason Street Edenton NC. Present Chairman Eddy Goodwin, Vice Chairman Keith Nixon, Commissioners Ralph Cole, Jeff Smith, Emmett Winborne and Ellis Lawrence. Staff Present County Manager Paul Parker and Board Clerk Susanne Stallings

Commissioner John Mitchener was absent.

Chairman Goodwin called the meeting to order and Commissioner Cole offered the invocation.

Public Comment

Chairman Goodwin asked for public comment in accordance with NCGS 153A-52.1. There was none.

Consent Agenda

Chairman Goodwin then presented the consent agenda

Tax Release

Hartwell, J.	\$142.82	Vehicle given back
King, E.	\$159.79	Vehicle Sold
Miller, R.	\$103.75	Tag Transferred
Modlin, J.	\$110.84	Vehicle Traded
Parrish, C.	\$162.22	SITUS Perquimans Co.
Walker, C.	\$129.36	Double Billed

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the minutes of the June 6, 2011 and June 20, 2011 meetings.

Board Clerk Susanne Stallings noted a correction to the June 20, 2011 minutes.

Mr. Parker provided information on the process for formal and informal bidding.

Commissioner Cole moved that the Board approve the consent agenda as presented. Chairman Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Board Appointments

Chairman Goodwin stated that the JCPC council has requested reappointment of all members. Terms begin on July 1, 2011 and end on June 20, 2013. A membership list is attached. Additionally there are two vacant at large appointments. He stated that staff would open the position up to collect applications and appointments would be made at the July 18, 2011 meeting.

East Carolina Behavioral Health

Mike Kupecki and Joy Futrell with East Carolina Behavioral Health provided a quarterly fiscal monitoring report as well as a mid-year report on ECBH initiatives. A copy of both reports is in the meeting file labeled July 5, 2011 noting 523 residents of Chowan County were served by ECBH with a \$5.7 million value of services.

Chairman Goodwin asked how many served were inmates.

Mr. Kupecki stated inmates are served through the TASK program.

The Board discussed the fiscal monitoring report and any expansions or use of fund balance. Ms. Futrell explained that ECBH will now manage Medicaid funds locally. She stated this will create jobs and local positions in Chowan County. She stated this was the first time in several years unrestricted monies have been spent. She stated 150-160 positions will be created.

Commissioner Winborne noted that several months earlier, a representative from Recovery Innovations came to present to the Board and informed the Board that they were not able to provide their service to the residents of Chowan County because Chowan County did not make a per capita contribution.

Ms. Futrell stated that with the additional funding this fiscal year from Chowan County this service will be available as it is additional services requiring local monies.

Commissioner Nixon asked if the Board could evaluate what services it wishes to utilize with the per capita contribution. He asked also why the per capita contribution was of such concern to the ECBH Board if the funds are spent locally for additional programs.

Ms. Futrell stated that it is a statutory requirement that counties fund mental health and the ECBH Board requested a \$2 per capita minimum.

Commissioner Winborne stated he is the County's representative on that Board and he was outvoted when he voted against that request.

Commissioner Nixon and Commissioner Winborne expressed their concerns over the director telling the Board that they were ok with not funding per capita the first year, if the Board is statutorily required to fund mental health.

External Board/Committee Reports

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

Albemarle Regional Health Services (Health Department)

Commissioner Cole stated that Commissioner Nixon attended as a guest a meeting of the Health Department Board.

Commissioner Nixon stated that he went to the meeting to discuss the move of the Health Department. He stated that the Board members have been provided copies of two letters. The first letter is a memorandum stating that ARHS will accept the \$44,700 provided by Chowan County for moving costs for the Health Department relocation. He stated the memo states the renovation costs would not exceed \$150,000 and the ARHS Board would commit funds in the amount of \$50,000. Chowan County is requested to commit up to an additional \$50,000 towards the project. The initial County appropriation and the \$50,000 from ARHS would be spent first and additional monies up to \$50,000 would be spent last with Chowan County funds so that any savings could be reverted back to the County first. The additional appropriation from Chowan County if spent would be reimbursed to ARHS in a lump sum or over a time period to be determined by a mutual agreement of both boards.

Commissioner Smith asked if the County would be liable for anything over the additional \$50,000.

Commissioner Nixon stated the County funds any overages up to \$50,000 beginning FY 2012-13.

Chairman Goodwin stated that this agreement will push the project forward as it has been dragging along.

Commissioner Nixon stated he felt the Board should establish a timeline for the move as the County is losing \$8,000 per month in federal reimbursement as long as DSS is not in the building. He added the ARHS Board members indicated that the project could stay below \$100,000 total. He added that the second letter establishes a transition committee with Chowan County having representation to facilitate the move. He stated he was not in support of a committee as this project has been in the committee stages for 2 ½ years.

Commissioner Smith recommended October 1st be set as a deadline. He then moved that the County accept the funding memo agreement and insert a deadline of October 1st for completion of renovation and moving. Chairman Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Commissioner Cole recommended Chairman Goodwin to serve on the transition committee as the County representative. After discussion he withdrew his motion.

Commissioner Nixon then moved that the Board appoint Paul Parker as the transition committee chairman and the County's representative. Chairman Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

DSS Board

Commissioner Winborne reported that the DSS Board met and discussed a need for a figure from the Board of Commissioners for expected costs regarding the move to the new building. He stated the Board was happy with the County's funding for FY 2011-12.

Recreation Advisory Board

Commissioner Winborne reported that the Recreation Advisory Board met and discussed the completion of Bennett's Millpond and the need to look into repairs to Dillard's Millpond which is not County Owned. He added that baseball participation was up for this past season.

PCG Solid Waste Board

Commissioner Nixon reported that he met with this Board and the Regional Authority Board. He stated that the budget included a COLA for Health Department employees and he voted against the proposed budget for the same reason. He stated that he voted against the proposed PCG budget because of the 3 year calculations for tonnage was not changed. He stated that according to the actual tonnage Chowan's budget would have decreased and Gates and Perquimans would increase. He stated this has been the policy in the past, but due to no written agreement Chowan was outvoted by Gates and Perquimans Counties. He stated the % fee would stay the same for Chowan as the current year and not show a decrease. He stated a proposed agreement is being reviewed by attorneys so that future budgets could be prepared based on a written agreement.

Budget Closeout

Mr. Parker provided the Board with rough estimates on the close out of FY 2010-11 stating that the auditor will be here on July 25th and a final report would be prepared.

Albemarle District Jail potential partnership

Chairman Goodwin stated that he and Commissioners Smith and Nixon attended a fact finding meeting at the Albemarle District Jail (ADJ). He stated that the county is reviewing the costs involved and considering the impact as Gates County currently houses male inmates in Chowan County. He stated the original proposed costs are based on population. The net operation costs for ADJ are \$2.538 million. He stated the proposal has Pasquotank paying 52%, Chowan 19%, Perquimans 17% and Gates at 13%. He stated the facility houses 300 inmates but is built to hold 600. The contribution includes debt service on the new facility and medical costs and joining would require special legislation. He stated that the county could be granted a trial for a year. He stated that ADJ has offered to employ the Chowan Jail employees. He stated the Sheriff of Gates and Chowan Counties are involved in the discussion.

Mr. Parker noted that Chowan County has discussed offering its jail as a negotiating tool.

Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin stated there are advantages for all counties and he thinks this is a good opportunity for Chowan County. He stated that initially there is a savings of \$100,000 for Chowan County with more in the future.

Commissioner Nixon stated that he felt the decision is far off and all the actual numbers have not been reviewed. He stated he would want to discuss this with the County auditor as well.

Timely and Important Matters

There were none

Adjourn

Being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Chairman
Edward C. Goodwin

Clerk