

Regular Meeting
Monday, May 16, 2011
6:00pm
Chowan County Public Safety Center
305 West Freemason Street

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Monday, May 16, 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 Emmett Winborne, Ellis Lawrence, Ralph Cole, Jeff Smith and John Mitchener. Staff Present Finance Officer Lisa Jones; County Manager Paul Parker and Board Clerk Susanne Stallings

Chairman Eddy Goodwin called the meeting to order and then led the group in the pledge.

Commissioner Mitchener then provided the invocation.

Public Comment

Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked for public comment in accordance with NCGS 153A-52.1.

There was none.

Chairman Eddy Goodwin then closed the floor for public comment.

Consent Agenda

Chairman Goodwin presented the consent agenda.

a. Approval of Minutes

Approval of the minutes of the April 18, 2011, April 28, 2011 and May 2, 2011 meetings.

Ms. Stallings noted a correction to page 5 of the April 28, 2011 minutes.

b. Resolution

Chairman Goodwin noted that at the regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners on March 21, 2011 the Board of Commissioners unanimously approved amendments to the lease with COA for use of the former DF Walker Campus. He stated the County Attorney has recommended and drafted a resolution which much also be approved that finds the property unnecessary or undesirable for use by public schools and notes the lease exceeds 10 years.

**RESOLUTION APPROVING LEASE FOR
TEN (10) YEARS OR LONGER WITH A GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY –
COLLEGE OF THE ALBEMARLE**

After discussion and deliberation, the Board finds the property, subject to this lease, the former D.F. Walker School campus which is currently under lease to College of the Albemarle, is unnecessary or

undesirable for use by the public schools, (K through 12), in Chowan County. Further, the Board notes the proposed lease could, under renewal options, exceed ten (10) years, but the lease will provide for payment of \$1.00 per year to the County. Finally, the Board notes the College of the Albemarle, Lessee, is a constituent member of the North Carolina Community College System and as such is a governmental unit.

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the terms set forth in the proposed lease, a copy of which is attached to this Resolution as Exhibit "A", and in accord with N.C.G.S. 160A-272 and 160A-274, it is resolved the lease, Exhibit "A", be executed with the College of the Albemarle upon the terms and conditions set forth therein and the Chairman of this Board is authorized to sign the same.

Commissioner Mitchener expressed concern over the resolution because he felt that the building currently housing the School's IT department is needed by the schools and the lease binds the school to move out by 2013.

Mr. Parker noted the county attorney recommended the resolution due to statutes governing a lease that is longer than 10 years. He noted the schools have exclusive rights to the building until 2013 then after that time; the school will have to enter into an MOA with COA for continued use of the space. He stated the Board's intention of the lease and negotiations with COA were to use the campus as a community college campus.

Commissioner Cole asked for clarification on who requests an MOA or extension.

Mr. Parker stated the school will request this from COA. He added that he felt the resolution does not harm the schools. He stated he felt the lease protects the school use of the space.

Dr. Alan Smith stated his concern over the lease and referred to a letter dated February 16th from COA's president Dr. Deitemeyer. He stated he was uncomfortable with the language in the lease that states that COA "may" enter into an MOA with the schools for the building. He stated he takes objection with the resolution stating the building is desirable for the school system IT department. He stated he felt COA's intention is to make the IT department vacate the space.

Lynn Hurdle-Winslow, Dean of Chowan COA Campus stated that she felt COA would enter into an MOA with the school in 2013 if the IT Department was unable to locate another location if funds were not available to the school for the move.

Commissioner Smith noted that the February 16th letter goes on to state that COA remains committed to the school system and he felt the COA was willing to work with the school.

Commissioner Nixon stated that the monies for COA campus are local funds and he felt that COA would work with the school. He added that at this time there are no plans from COA for the use of the space.

c. Recommended Budget Amendments

BA-1011-070

3591	Schools	\$ 15,000	Increase revenue from Clerk of Superior Court from fines paid for court costs
5910	Schools	\$ 15,000	Increase expense to remit fines & forfeitures paid to Edenton-Chowan Schools per Article IX, Section 7 of the State Constitution

BA-1011-071

3839	EMS	\$ 15,000	Increase miscellaneous revenue from liquidating of checking accounts for county-wide Rescue Units and Unit 1 Edenton-Chowan Rescue Squad and deposited in Chowan County's central depository
4370	EMS	\$ 15,000	Increase expense to pay for approved expenses from donations received for unit-wide rescue and Unit 1 Edenton-Chowan Rescue Squads

BA-1011-072

3839	Water	\$ 13,000	Increase miscellaneous revenue for revenue received for NCDOT for broken water line on Sign Pine Rd. due to State negligence
7120	Water	\$ 13,000	Increase expense for contracted services for repair of broken water line

BA-1011-073

3616	Sr. Cntr.	\$ 5,000	Increase revenue for senior center registration fees
4268	Sr. Cntr.	\$ 5,000	Increase expenditures for senior center participant activities and trips (expenses underestimated)

Being no further discussion, Commissioner Smith moved that the Board approve the consent agenda and the resolution as presented.

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

DSS Design for move

DSS Director Clifton Hardison and architect with BJAC, Terrance McCabe presented the design for the move of DSS into the "Chowan Life Center" building. Mr. McCabe noted the majority of the work is in the existing kitchen area of the building. He noted an estimated \$742,831 for construction and \$111,925 for demolition with a total project budget estimated to be \$854,756.

Commissioner Lawrence asked where the figure was derived.

Mr. McCabe stated that these are from detailed cost estimates.

Mr. Parker stated the estimates are far more than what he estimated the project to cost. He stated he hoped the project would be \$100,000- \$150,000. He noted the building costs as it is \$2 million.

Commissioner Nixon stated that the County could build a new DSS building for the estimates provided. He stated that in his opinion the County is better off keeping DSS in the County Office Building.

Chairman Goodwin asked that this be placed on the next agenda for more discussion.

Commissioner Winborne stated the estimates provided are three times more than he expected. He stated he did not understand why the costs were so high.

Chairman Goodwin noted that at the May 2, 2011 meeting the Board of Commissioners decided to set a deadline at this meeting for the move of the Health Department offices from the Chowan Life Center building into the former Mental Health Building.

Mr. Parker stated that he met with Mr. Parks and was provided a schedule. He stated that construction is being bid and that Mr. Parks hopes to be in the new building by September.

Commissioner Cole stated that he anticipates a report at his next Health Department Board meeting.

FY 2011-12 Budget Review

Mr. Parker presented the Board with the revisions requested at previous meetings of the FY 2011-12 proposed budget. He noted the proposed budget includes no tax increase and is balanced.

Commissioner Nixon stated he would like to have another budget work session scheduled for review of the budget.

School Budget Request

Dr. Alan Smith read a statement into the record regarding the School budget request for FY 2011-12 (a copy of the statement is in the meeting file labeled May 2, 2011). He noted a loss in State and Federal monies and stated his concern over a proposed reduction in the local appropriation. He stated his concern over no monies being appropriated for the central office relocation. He stated that the school is waiting on the final state budget and stated his concern over the 40.25 employee positions to be eliminated. He provided a PowerPoint (a copy of the PowerPoint is in the meeting file labeled May 2, 2011). He discussed the school fund balance and stated that more than half the fund balance (reserve) has been appropriated since 2008-09.

Public Hearing FY 2011-12 Proposed Budget

Chairman Eddy Goodwin opened the floor for the public hearing to receive comment on the proposed FY 2011-12 Chowan County Budget.

A motion was made by Commissioner Keith Nixon to open the public hearing. Chairman Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

There was no public comment.

A motion was made by Commissioner Keith Nixon to close the public hearing. Chairman Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Timely and Important Matters

Ms. Jones presented a request to allow Chowan County to piggyback the purchase of an ambulance in the amount of \$114,000 from Northwestern Emergency Medical Vehicles.

Colin Ryan, EMS Director stated that if approved he hope to have the ambulance by July 1st.

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

School Budget

Commissioner Nixon presented a PowerPoint (included in the meeting file labeled May 2, 2011) that the County Budget and excess of revenues from 2003-2009. He shared information on loss of revenue for the County totaling \$1,787,815. He then shared information on the Current Expense appropriations and ADM (Average Daily Membership) for the schools showing a decrease from 2003 to 2009.

Mr. Parker shared slides showing in increase in the school audits of the fund balance. He stated the school was requesting an additional \$730,000 over the previous year appropriation. He stated the only way to fund this request is to eliminate services, cut positions, raise taxes or a combination of the three.

Dr. Smith stated his concern of some of the figures in the PowerPoint for paid positions with local funds and enrollment numbers.

Commissioner Nixon stated the information was obtained from audit reports and the NC Department of Instruction website.

Chairman Goodwin asked what the average figure per student is spent.

Dr. Smith states that \$1,476 is the average for Chowan County and that he was aware it was more than what is contributed in Perquimans and Gates Counties.

Commissioner Winborne stated his concern from the audit information showing a constant fund balance. He asked where the monies came from if the fund balance was spent.

Dr. Smith stated the Board of Education was fiscally responsible and remained budget neutral.

Commissioner Winborne stated the audit shows the school did not actually spend their fund balance and asked if the school was required to maintain a fund balance.

Dr. Smith stated no, but he felt it was foolish to not maintain one.

Commissioner Winborne stated the school fund balance is one of the higher in the state and he stated his concern in the information provided by the school superintendent.

Dr. Smith stated some schools have larger and some have smaller fund balances than Chowan. He stated he would provide the Board with more information on the spending of the fund balance

Commissioner Nixon stated he was glad that the school was able to have a fund balance however he stated that the Board appropriates the fund balance to balance their budget then makes a decision as to spend it or not.

Dr. Smith stated his concern for no allocation for capital outlay.

Redistricting Request

Chairman Goodwin presented the Board with a letter from Perquimans County requesting support in redistricting Chowan, Perquimans, Gates and Pasquotank. He stated that if there was no objection from the Board he would send a letter from Chowan County in support of the same. (there was no objection from the Board)

Adjourn

Being no further business, the regular meeting was adjourned.

Chowan County Board of Equalization and Review
Meeting
Monday May 16, 2011
Chowan County Public Safety Center
305 West Freemason Street

Present Chairman Eddy Goodwin, Vice Chairman Keith Nixon, Commissioners Emmett Winborne, Ellis Lawrence, Ralph Cole, Jeff Smith and John Mitchener. Staff Present County Manager Paul Parker, Tax Administrator Gene Rountree and Board Clerk Susanne Stallings

Chairman Goodwin reconvened the meeting as it was recessed on May 2, 2011. He asked if there were any scheduled appeals, there were none according to Mr. Gene Rountree.

Commissioner Smith moved that the Board adjourn. Chairman Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Chairman
Edward C. Goodwin

Clerk