

Regular Meeting
Wednesday, October 7, 2015
Chowan County Public Safety Center
305 West Freemason St.
Edenton, NC
6:00pm

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

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

Regular Meeting

Chairman Smith called the regular meeting to order and led all in attendance in the pledge of allegiance. Commissioner Winborne then offered the invocation.

Approval of Agenda

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

Public Comment

Chairman Smith then opened the floor to public comment in accordance with NCGS 154A-52.1.

Alan Lennon, 2349 Center Hill Highway Hertford, NC stated he is a resident of Perquimans County. He urged the Board to do what is best for the citizens of Chowan County. He stated the development would alter the landscape of both counties. He stated the big companies like Apex do not care about these rural counties. He discussed the need to reduce energy consumption rather than chasing renewable energy. He stated that this is a heart issue, not a wind issue. He provided the Board with a copy of his written statement in the meeting file labeled October 7, 2015.

Patti Kersey, 3065 Connors Drive Edenton stated that the recent decision of the Board of Commissioners regarding the wind energy facilities text does not provide strong protections. She stated the Commissioners in Perquimans County listened to the residents and implemented a moratorium of 120 days on wind energy permits. She stated the concerns of the petitioners in Chowan County were dismissed by the Board. She stated she disagreed with the Board comments that the petitioners did not know what they were signing. She stated the petition was clear.

Harriet Dehart 112 Horniblow Pt Road Edenton shared an article from the Greenbay Gazette noting that wind turbines pose a health risk. She read the article noting the complaints about infrasound from residents who lived near the windfarm and up to 4-6 miles away. She read that the article states that studies have proven the wind turbines are directly linked to adverse health effects. She stated this article is based on turbines in Greenbay Wisconsin. She urged the Board

to do their own research and visit a windfarm and not take all of the information that comes only from Apex.

Angela Toppin 3027 Rocky Hock Rd Edenton stated she had prayed for words to share with the Board to plead that they stop the development of windfarms. She shared a devotion that she came across about silence being deadly. She read the devotional and stated it says to not let fear allow you to let things go unchallenged. She stated there is a time to be silent and a time to speak up. She urged the Board to do their own investigation and research and if they could assure the public that there are no health or safety concerns to then speak up.

Ron Cummings 317 Center Hill Road stated the Board should seek federal, state and local reviews on a cost benefit analysis for wind energy. He noted that there is research online (Illinois County) where property values decreased 30-40% because of these windmills. He stated he is speaking from experience in this area.

Carolyn Anthony 325 Cofield Road Edenton stated that she was speaking on behalf of the DF Walker Alumni Association to express their interest in the future of the former DF Walker High School. She stated that she feels the building has potential. She stated that COA led them to believe the two story building was included in the renovation plans for the campus. She stated the association has a strong desire to work with the county in developing a task force to save the building. She provided suggestions of potential uses for the building including expanding the classroom space for John A. Holmes High school.

Hardy Gilliam 211 Lakeside Drive Edenton stated that at the last Board meeting, it was clear the Commissioners did not take their jobs seriously. He stated the Board was not prepared to discuss or review the subject matter. He stated that Dr. Kehayes tried to bring common sense information to the Board. He stated the Board instead discussed building codes, hearing loss, decibel measurements and some stated their support of wind energy. He stated the speakers in favor of wind energy were either employees or Apex or have financial interest in the project. He stated the Board ignored what they were elected to do and he felt the Board ignored the citizen petition. He stated that 3 Commissioners are up for reelection, and noted in the last election the candidate was unopposed and won by 650 votes which was fewer signatures than currently are on the petition.

Erma Phillips signed up to speak but declined when called upon.

Virginia Wood 250 Greenfield Rd Edenton stated that she has spoken at several meetings regarding her feelings on windmills. She stated Apex is like commercials on tv for medications with a disclaimer for the side effects. She stated that Apex has only shared what the windmills would do, and have not shared information on the health problems associated with them. She stated they do not tell the Board that the turbines operated 24 hours, 365 days per year. She stated Scotland is not happy with windmills.

John Collins 201 Dickenson Street Edenton stated that he would urge the Board to consider the gym on the DF Walker Campus. He stated he felt that the Board should consider the history of

the building and it being the largest African American School constructed as a Rosenwald school.

Lynn Partin 209 Montpelier Drive Edenton asked the Board if they think the current wind ordinance protects Chowan County. She stated the NC Model Wind Ordinance was written for western counties and do not account for the problems that coastal counties experience like hurricanes. She stated the model ordinance does state counties should consider hurricanes and other environmental factors. She discussed property setback requirements. She noted the Australian study on the health effects of windmills state you have to be .09 acres away from the turbine. She stated the vote of the Board was a decision to ignore concerns about infrasound. She provided the clerk with a written copy of her comments but later withdrew the submitted copy. There is no copy in the meeting file.

Ms. Stallings noted Bill Dunn requested the opportunity to speak to the Board. She called him but he was not present.

Being no further public comment, Chairman Smith closed the floor to public comment.

Commissioner Nixon stated that for any public that was leaving the meeting, the Board would address the public comments later in the meeting during Timely and Important Matters.

Consent Agenda

Chairman Smith presented the consent agenda.

a. Budget Amendments
BA1516-008

Account Code	Description	Old	+ or (-)	New
11-3835-822-00	Sale of Property	-	(124,750.00)	(124,750.00)
11-9800-980-33	Transfer to County Capital	-	124,750.00	124,750.00
33-3980-890-11	Transfer from General Fund	-	(124,750.00)	(124,750.00)
33-4192-016-02	Hotel Hinton Improvements	-	124,750.00	124,750.00
Balanced:		-	-	-
Justification:				
<i>Budgeting the proceeds from the sale of the Hotel Hinton to cover conditional improvements</i>				

BA1516-009

Account Code	Description	Old	+ or (-)	New
12-3531-230-01	Social Service Adm	(1,626,631.00)	(2,689.00)	(1,629,320.00)
12-5380-539-20	Crisis Intervention	81,172.00	2,689.00	83,861.00
		Balanced:		
		(1,545,459.00)	-	(1,545,459.00)
Justification:				
<i>Budgeting additional CIP monies</i>				

BA1516-009

Also attached is MBA 1516-008 as FYI

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

b. Minutes

Attached are the minutes of September 21, 2015 for the Board's review and consideration.

Commissioner Mitchener moved to approve the minutes as presented. Chairman Smith asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

c. Tax Collections and Release Report

Rocky Mt. Holdings	\$3,647.27	Late list penalty error, customer provided cert recpt proof
Pavese, J.	\$349.86	Late list penalty removed
Jordan, M.	\$555.05	House removed
EH Johnstone	\$1,877.23	Incorrect percentage completed as of 01/01/15
Yardley, G.	\$2,105.56	2 nd floor only 30% completed
Elliott, M.	\$300.68	Dwelling demolished due to fire
Johnson, P.	\$201.92	Paid in escrow

Ms. Stallings noted a correction to the release for Pavese (corrected above). Commissioner Bonner moved to approve as amended. Chairman Smith asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Application for Property Tax Relief

Hosea Wilson, Tax Administrator presented the Board with an application from Roger Bunch

with supporting documentation for property tax relief. He stated that he cannot approve any applications received after July 1st. He stated the law does allow the Board of Commissioners to review and approve requests received late for “good cause”. He stated the amount of tax due is \$4,002.88. He stated that in future years he feels Mr. Bunch may qualify for property tax relief however the bills are sent out by August 1st and he feels that the bill was received and then the request for relief was sent in.

Commissioner Kehayes asked for clarification on Mr. Bunch being eligible for relief in future years.

Mr. Wilson stated that unless Mr. Bunch’s income increases he may qualify for future years.

Commissioner Bonner asked what Mr. Wilson would recommend.

Mr. Wilson stated he would recommend that the Board deny the request because it was received late with no reason for it being late.

Commissioner Mitchener asked if all documentation was provided for the request.

Mr. Wilson stated that the application has the information required. He stated that his office would accept the information as stated and would have granted the request if it were received in a timely manner. He stated that accepting a late request with no significant reason for it being late “or demonstrating good cause” sets a dangerous precedence for future applications.

Commissioner Lawrence asked for clarification on the date of the application.

Mr. Wilson noted it was the most current form.

Commissioner Bonner stated the letter states he has medical issues, a fixed income and is 82 years old. He asked when the application was received.

Mr. Wilson stated he received the application on August 26, 2015 and the deadline for the application is June 1st.

Commissioner Winborne asked if there was any precedence.

Mr. Wilson stated the County does not receive a lot of late exemption applications. He stated he would recommend the Board be consistent with how it handles these for future cases.

Commissioner Nixon noted the previous request that was granted the applicant was hospitalized with no survivor. He stated he did not feel that good cause evidence was demonstrated in this request. He moved to deny the late application. Chairman Smith asked for all in favor, the motion passed (6-1 Bonner).

Request from Health Department

Commissioner Nixon stated that Albemarle Regional Health Services has requested that the County Board of Commissioners be alerted over a recent dispute with NC DMA over the statewide Medicaid Cost Settlement. The Health Department has requested Chowan consider contacting state representatives as well as NCDMA to request the release of these funds. He stated the State is holding monies back to 2011.

Commissioner Lawrence asked if there was a dollar amount on the monies being held.

Mr. Howard stated that there is almost \$1 million being held at the State level. He noted this is similar to how the State holds the Medicaid monies for EMS.

Commissioner Winborne asked if this affects the Health Department Budget.

Commissioner Nixon stated that the Health Department has a healthy fund balance but has begun looking at cutting non-mandated programs for savings.

Commissioner Lawrence moved to approve the letters endorsing the request that legislators look into the holding of funds. Chairman Smith asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Planning Item

Planner Elizabeth Bryant stated that last year the Board of Commissioners approved a text amendment regarding Department General Merchandise and Variety Stores as allowable by a special use permit (SUP) or conditional use permit (CUP) A-1 District Only. She stated that this use for a business 9,999 square feet or less are required to obtain an SUP and any business 10,000 square feet or greater are required to obtain a CUP. She stated that Department, Variety or General Merchandise stores remain a use by right in the B-1 and B-2 districts (only around the airport). She stated that she is seeking direction and clarification from the Board on the intent on all other zoning districts when the text amendment was approved.

Chairman Smith stated that if someone requested that property be rezoned to B-1 or B-2 why ask.

Ms. Bryant stated that if the petitioner feels the property is prime commercial (like on a major highway) but zoned A-1 they could request a rezoning. She stated that her concern is that if an application comes for one of these types of uses in the B-1 or B-2 zoning district, the only review required is by the building inspectors and herself. She stated there is no review by the Planning Board or Commissioners for the Business zoning districts.

Chairman Smith asked what is required for the business zoning district.

Ms. Bryant stated that the review is basic and there is no opportunity to view the site as a whole and no opportunity for neighbors to speak at a public hearing.

Chairman Smith discussed the thoroughfares and asked if all are included in the ETJ for

Edenton.

Ms. Bryant stated yes and the Town has more stringent zoning standards for properties in these thoroughfares (architectural and landscaping standards).

Commissioner Mitchener stated he felt the Commissioners should review these applications.

Commissioner Nixon stated that there were concerns from the public that the Board approved the text to keep businesses out. He stated that he felt the square footage requirements actually helped the smaller businesses get started.

Ms. Bryant discussed that previously her recommendation would have been to conditionally rezone the property for that specific use.

Chairman Smith asked for a legal opinion of how to handle changing the text.

Ms. Arizaga-Womble stated that she could meet with Ms. Bryant and review the current text to form a recommendation of how to amend it.

The Board discussed the time frame for approval of text amendments (quarterly unless the Board votes to waive the requirement).

The Board by consensus agreed to allow the County Attorney and the Planner to meet and review options for amending the text and bring that information back to the full Board at the next meeting.

Chairman Smith called for a brief recess. After the break he called the meeting back to order.

Library Board

Chairman Smith stated that at the August Board meeting, the Board of Commissioners requested that the Librarian review the history of the library Board membership and provide a recommendation regarding the filling of the membership of the Shepard Pruden Memorial Library Board of Trustees. He stated that the Board of Trustees has provided the Commissioners with a resolution and letter recommending no changes to the current membership.

Commissioner Nixon stated his concern was regarding the size of the library board. He stated he has no problem with the size of the board if it feels it is working well. He stated he did have concerns with the term length being 6 years. He stated he felt 4 years should be the maximum term length.

Dennis Robison stated that that was amended previously in the by-laws.

Board Clerk Susanne Stallings stated she has not received a copy of the amended by-laws.

Ms. Arizaga-Womble and Ms. Stallings noted the Commissioners should have a copy of the

current by-laws and vote to approve them.

Mr. Robison stated he sent the by-laws to a previous manager. He stated he would send another copy to the Clerk.

The Board of Commissioners agreed to review the by-laws at their next meeting and make the vacancy appointments.

Resolution - Appointment of Deputy Review Officer

Mr. Howard stated that it was in order for the Board to consider a resolution of appointment of Deputy Review Officer. He stated it is recommended that Elizabeth Bryant be appointed deputy review officer in the absence of Ms. Sharpe. Ms. Stallings noted a correction to the resolution as recommended by the attorney.

Commissioner Mitchener moved to adopt the resolution as amended. Chairman Smith asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statutes 47-30.2 requires that the Board of County Commissioners in each county, by resolution, to appoint a person to serve as Review Officer to review each plat before it is recorded and certify that it meets the statutory requirements for recording; and,

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Chowan County Board of Commissioners to ensure an expeditious review of all maps and plats as required by the General Statutes before they are presented to the Register of Deeds for recording; and,

WHEREAS, on November 6, 2009, Julie Sharpe was appointed by resolution as the Review Officer for Chowan County under the appropriate North Carolina General Statute; and,

WHEREAS, that statute allows the Review Officer to designate Deputy Review Officers as qualified and determined necessary for the performance of these responsibilities; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Sharpe has recommended the appointment of County Planner Elizabeth Bryant as Deputy Review Officer; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chowan County Board of Commissioners accepts the appointment of Elizabeth Bryant as Deputy Review Officer; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Deputy Review Officer will serve when the Review Officer is unavailable; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all duties as Review Officer and Deputy Review Officer will dissolve when employment is terminated; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution designating the Land Records GIS Coordinator Julie Sharpe as Review Officer and Planner Elizabeth Bryant as Deputy Review

Officer be recorded in the Chowan County Register of Deeds Office, and that this resolution shall become effective today, October 7, 2015 as specified in NCGS 47-30.2

Chairman Smith asked Ms. Sharpe if she was ok with the recommendation.

Ms. Sharpe stated she did not have any problems with it.

Register of Deeds Lynn Gilliard stated that all plats must be signed off on before they will be recorded in the Register of Deeds Office.

Planning/Enterprise Committee Report/Action Items

Commissioner Winborne noted that Board has been provided with the minutes of the Planning/Enterprise Committee meeting. He presented the following action items:

BA-1516-007 Nuisance Code Enforcement Monies

Account Code	Description	Old	+ or (-)	New
11-9900-999-00	Contingency	37,725.07	(25,000.00)	12,725.07
11-4910-455-00	Nuisance Enforcement	-	25,000.00	25,000.00
Balanced:		37,725.07	-	37,725.07
Justification:				
<i>Planning & Enterprise Committee recommends the establishment & funding of the Nuisance Enforcement line item within the Planning Department</i>				

Planner Elizabeth Bryant noted that she has several pending complaints. She stated some have been addressed by the property owner, some have been mailed letters with no response. She stated that the ordinance allows the County to forcibly clean up the property, however the only way to recoup the monies spent is to place a lien on the property. She stated that several of the properties are delinquent on their taxes. She stated the mobile home removal grant will help in addressing some of the abandoned mobile homes on the list however there are others that need to also be addressed.

Chairman Smith asked if the County can go after monies through debt setoff.

Mr. Howard stated he would look into that.

The Board discussed the pending abandoned mobile home grant.

Ms. Bryant noted that two mobile homes abated have to be within the Town of Edenton.

Commissioner Winborne stated this comes as a motion for approval of BA1516-007. Chairman Smith asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Future of Agricultural Building

Commissioner Winborne stated that some Board members have mentioned declaring this building as surplus. He stated that the County Manager has looked at moving the offices from the Ag Building into the Public Safety Center (After Edenton PD moves out) and he can move all offices except for Recreation.

Board members discussed the reasons for liquidating the Ag Building.

Commissioner Mitchener expressed his concern with liquidating this building.

Commissioner Nixon stated his concerns were the loss of \$166,000 from rent when the police department moves out of the Public Safety Center. He stated the location of the Ag Building is prime real estate. He stated he feels the Board should consider the property in their future plans.

Commissioner Bonner stated he felt that it was too soon to talk about getting rid of the building.

There was no action taken on this matter.

Commissioner Kehayes asked if the Police Department has indicated when they will move.

Mr. Howard stated there is no date.

Capital Monies and Capital Project Fund

Mr. Howard provided the Board with a list of proposed capital projects and a report on the capital fund.

Planning & Enterprise Committee
COUNTY CAPITAL FUND REPORT
September 22, 2015

Fund Balance as of 6/30/14:		266,429.88
Fiscal Year 2015:		
Revenues:	1,018,070.04	
- less expenditures	(593,141.64)	424,928.40
UNAUDITED NET CHANGE as of 6/30/15:		691,358.28
- less expenditures as of 9/22/15:		
<i>ROD HVAC</i>		(24,020.99)
<i>Hotel Hinton</i>		(272,904.52)
<i>HCCC</i>		(9,987.00)
SUBTOTAL as of 9/22/15:		384,445.77
+ plus Hotel Hinton Proceeds		124,750.00
AVAILABLE FUNDS as of 9/22/15:		509,195.77
<i>- less Transfer to School Capital</i>		<i>200,000.00</i>

Potential FY '16 Projects:

Shepard Building	
Exterior Stablization	31,900.00
Interior Renovations	
Hotel Hinton	
Parking Lot	100,000.00
EMS Building	
Bay Ceiling	20,038.00
Paving	14,717.00
Flooring	5,000.00
Bay Heaters	5,000.00
HVAC	5,000.00
Northern Recreation	
Mold Removal	25,000.00
AG Building	
Wooden Bridge	10,550.00
Courthouse	
Exterior Painting	6,725.00
Public Safety	
Sealing Asphalt	6,708.00
Social Services	
Sealing and Repairing Asphalt	7,600.00

238,238.00

Potential Ending Balance as of 6/30/16: 70,957.77

He stated he would also like to add the consideration of purchasing a used ambulance for EMS. He stated that Colin has provided him with a quote to purchase a 2012 Dodge 3500 Diesel with 45,000 miles on it. The estimated cost is \$50,000-\$57,000. He stated that the ambulance has a power load system that most likely become a requirement in 2016 and a new ambulance with

that feature would run approximately \$200,000.

The Board discussed the ambulance purchase and agreed this was a good deal. It was noted this request was tabled from the FY 2015-16 budget for future consideration.

Commissioner Nixon moved to purchase the ambulance from the EMS fund and to have a budget amendment to transfer monies from the general fund balance later.

Chairman Smith asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

The Board discussed the manager's capital project list and the priority of the projects.

Chairman Smith stated he felt it would be beneficial to have an architect involved in obtaining a quote for renovation of the Shepard Building.

Commissioner Nixon moved to allow the manager to spend up to \$100,000 from the capital fund and prioritize the projects as he sees fit. He added that the manager should report back on the status of the projects to the Board. He noted that the County may realize savings if the asphalt is sealed at the Courthouse at the same time as the others.

Chairman Smith asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Future of former DF Walker School (Oakum St.)

Commissioner Winborne stated that the Board met with COA back in June to discuss their plans for the two story (Former DF Walker High School building). He stated COA has indicated they have no plans for renovation of the building. He stated the committee toured the building after the meeting. He stated that it is consensus of the committee that they have exhausted all ideas or uses to justify any future expenditures for renovating the building. The committee cannot determine any viable uses for the building. Therefore the committee recommends to the full Board that the Board as a whole look into demolition of the building.

Mr. Howard noted that based on the architect review of the building, it would cost roughly \$4 million to renovate the facility. (to preserve the roof, replace windows and install HVAC included).

Commissioner Bonner stated that the building is in dire need of attention. He stated he was contacted by a citizen after the meeting with concerns over demolishing the building. He stated he would suggest a different recommendation where the Board looks at other options for funding. He stated that he would recommend the Board look into other options for use of the building.

Commissioner Mitchener stated he felt apartments would be a good use of the property.

Mr. Howard stated the Board may hold a public meeting to get public input on the buildings future.

Commissioner Winborne suggested that the Commissioners appoint a study committee to look at any potential use of the building.

Commissioner Nixon stated his concern was that the public did not support seeking Golden Leaf monies when they were available for rehabilitation of the building. He stated if the Board spends monies to rehabilitate the building, how much it will cost to operate the building.

Commissioner Winborne stated that he would recommend interested residents notify the clerk if they wish to serve on this task force.

Commissioner Nixon stated he would recommend having representatives from the Commissioners, COA, the Town, and the Alumni Association on the taskforce.

Chairman Smith noted the public should notify the clerk if they wish to serve. He added that he felt the task force would be most effective if the committee was not too large.

This item will be discussed at the next meeting.

Judges Office

Mr. Howard stated that there are four options for the current office space for Judge Meader Harriss. He stated he recommends that for now, the Board allow him to occupy the leased space currently \$125 per month.

Commissioner Kehayes moved to extend the current lease until June 30, 2016.

Commissioner Nixon stated to make sure the lease is set year to year.

Chairman Smith asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Departmental Annual Report

Water Department Annual Report

Water Department Director Mickey Watson provided the Board with an annual report from the Water Department.

Senior Center Annual Report

Senior Center Director Connie Parker provided the Board with an annual report from the Senior Center. A copy of the PowerPoint is in the meeting file labeled October 7, 2015.

External Board/Committee Report

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

Commissioner Lawrence reported on activities of the COA Board and the Airport Board. He noted that he may miss some meetings because he will be traveling abroad to work on some of these committee initiatives.

Manager's Report

County Manager Kevin Howard will update the Board on the following matters:

-Salary Study

Mr. Howard requested an extension of 30 more days.

Commissioner Mitchener moved to extend the period for 30 days. Chairman Smith asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

- Solar Fees

Mr. Howard will provide the Board with a proposed amendment to the building inspections and planning fee schedule for solar and wind energy fees.

- Presidential Primary

Mr. Howard noted the presidential primary has been moved to March 15, 2016.

Timely and Important Matters

Comments from Commissioners

Commissioner Nixon stated that recently a letter was sent to the editor stating that he said something, that he did not recall saying. He stated that he did say the petition was signed by 600+ residents however he represents over 14,000. He stated there have been comments that the Commissioners are not doing their jobs. He stated that since becoming a commissioner he has been sued as a Commissioner and threatened by lawyers. He stated that when he filed to run for Commissioner he did not know the County was broke until just before he took office. He stated he felt he has done his homework, and yes Perquimans did put a moratorium in place however Perquimans and Pasquotank Counties have already approved a large wind project in their counties. He stated he hoped this project will encourage more residents to become involved and run for office. He stated he has learned not to take comments too seriously to avoid getting his feelings hurt. He stated he felt residents are not fully informed of what the Commissioners can and cannot legally do with regards to research before an application is submitted. He stated he wanted to say he feels the Commissioners are doing all they can do to protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents of Chowan County.

Commissioner Bonner stated he did not feel the Commissioners were being insensitive. He stated the Board has bent over backwards and he felt the Commissioners have voted in clear conscience.

Commissioner Lawrence stated he wished to echo the previous comments. He stated he has done his research and he feels that he has the ability to research things better than most people. He stated that this Board works well together.

Commissioner Mitchener stated that he feels it is important to let the public know that the Board does listen to their concerns. He stated he has done research and listened to comments. He stated he wants the public to know he does care and is listening and learning and he felt that the public and the Board could work together civilly.

Commissioner Winborne stated that being a Commissioner is a tough job and Board members have to make decisions to the best of their ability. He stated that with any decisions he asks questions and makes decisions. He stated that when Board members disagree they still can get along. He stated that he appreciates the position of Commissioner Kehayes. He stated that the process will move forward as the ordinance issue is over.

Commissioner Kehayes stated that the board has a duty to listen. He stated he still questions the ability to research for quasi-judicial versus legislative decisions.

Chairman Smith stated he feels that Chowan County has the best staff of any County in the state from the top to the bottom. He stated he feels the public can fuss with the Commissioners when they are not happy with a decision, but he feels it is unfair to take it out on staff that is doing things as they are directed. He stated he felt staff was doing an excellent job.

Closed Session

Commissioner Bonner moved that the Board go into closed session, in accordance with NCGS 143-318 (11) (a) (6) personnel. Chairman Smith asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

The minutes of the closed session are sealed.

Commissioner Nixon moved to come out of closed session Chairman Smith asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Adjourn

Being no further business, Commissioner Mitchener moved that the meeting be adjourned. Chairman Smith asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Jeffery Smith
Chairman

L. Susanne Stallings, Clerk