

Regular Meeting
Monday, August 18, 2014
Chowan County Public Safety Center
305 West Freemason Street
5:30pm

Minutes

Present Chairman Keith Nixon, Commissioners Jeff Smith, Alex Kehayes, Ellis Lawrence (came in late), Emmett Winborne and Greg Bonner.

Commissioner John Mitchener was absent.

Staff present County Manager Kevin Howard and Board Clerk Susanne Stallings.

Regular Meeting

Chairman Nixon called the regular meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance, he then offered the invocation.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Smith moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Chairman Nixon asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Public Comment

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

Rhonda Jordan, 222 Country Club Drive, Edenton, stated her appreciation of the Board's work on the FY 2014-15 budget and stated she was happy with the tax bill she received with the new valuation and rate.

Consent Agenda

Chairman Nixon then presented the consent agenda.

a. **Tax Refund and Release Report**

Rawls, J.	\$142.47	Vehicle Turned In
Bembry, C.	\$162.03	Debt Set-off, payment already collected
Fuller, J.	\$120.36	Debt Set-off, payment already collected
Perry, J.	\$133.62	Debt Set-off, payment already collected
Skinner, D.	\$270.46	Debt Set-off, payment already collected
Madigan, T.	\$409.44	Debt Set-off, payment already collected
Dunlow, M.	\$1,270.51	Debt Set-off, payment already collected
Gilliam, S.	\$204.80	Debt Set-off, payment already collected

Commissioner Smith moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Chairman Nixon asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Chowan County Comprehensive Transportation Plan

Verina Wilson and Wayne Davis with NCDOT and Angela Welsh with the Albemarle Commission presented the Board with socio-economic data from the Chowan County Comprehensive Transportation Plan.

The Board discussed the 2040 population estimates.

Ms. Wilson noted these numbers are based on trends and while they seem low they are not as conservative as the trends would have placed them. She stated the Planning Board recommended the numbers be higher than the 19,000 number that was based on the trend.

Commissioner Winborne asked if the data in the plan could be amended in the future if there was growth.

Mr. Davis stated yes that could be requested by the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Winborne asked how to have intersections like the Sandy Ridge Road and Hwy 32 placed as a priority for traffic lights.

Ms. Wilson stated this would need to go toward the Engineering Division and through public hearings.

Commissioner Kehayes stated his concern with the population estimates and stated he would not vote in favor of the plan because he felt the numbers were too low. He stated that he felt larger numbers would be more optimistic about the future and growth and would also put Chowan County higher up in the priority.

Commissioner Lawrence joined the meeting.

Ms. Welsh stated that much of the funding to the Northeast has been lost to the Central part of the State because of the larger population numbers. She noted the Northeast has partnered with the Western part of the State to try to bring more funding to these areas.

Commissioner Smith moved to endorse the data and the plan presented.

Ms. Welsh noted that the public will be given the opportunity to participate in the plans and added that the plan for bringing Highway 17 up to Interstate standards is moving forward also.

Chairman Nixon asked for all in favor, the motion passed (5-1 Kehayes)

COA Capital

Mr. Howard stated that at the August 4, 2014 meeting, the Board requested additional information regarding a capital project request from COA to utilize Capital Improvement Funds for security cameras at the Edenton-Chowan Campus.

Commissioner Winborne stated that lighting on the campus was mentioned at the previous Board meeting and stated he hoped that this could be addressed.

Sheriff Goodwin stated that he felt more lighting would reduce the mischief that occurs at night on the campus.

Chairman Nixon stated this request was brought to the Board after a security review was done on the entire COA campuses. He stated his concern was that very little has been done to the buildings (infrastructure) on the campus since they relocated from the shopping center. He stated his concern over using the monies budgeted for capital on the campus for security cameras.

Commissioner Lawrence stated he would like to see more capital work done at the Edenton campus also.

Chairman Nixon noted that there has been work done to the heating/air units which was a capital expense. He stated he felt security cameras was a current expense item and not capital.

Commissioner Lawrence stated he felt the cameras are important for security but also wants to see some capital improvements on the campus.

Chairman Nixon noted the County previously paid for security in the current expense budget.

Commissioner Bonner stated his support of the cameras. He stated that security was a priority for him.

Commissioner Winborne stated that the County provides \$200,000 annually for infrastructure. He asked whom was responsible for security on the campus at COA.

Commissioner Bonner stated he felt the County has some responsibility for security.

Chairman Nixon stated he would rather see security paid out of the current expense budget.

Commissioner Kehayes stated he felt that security is a priority and can influence the reputation of a college. He stated he spoke with the director of security at the campus prior to the meeting and noted that the cost for remote camera viewing was taken out of the original quote. He stated that he felt this security would protect the infrastructure from damage and could be considered capital.

Commissioner Lawrence moved to approve the capital request for the security camera.

Commissioner Winborne stated he planned to vote against the request not because he was in opposition to the need for cameras, but because he would prefer that the monies come from current expense.

Chairman Nixon asked for all in favor, the motion failed (3-3 Nixon, Smith and Winborne).

Ms. Stallings noted this would need to be brought up at a future meeting for a tie-breaking vote.

Mr. Howard stated he would request a copy of the security study and talk with the President about utilizing current expense monies for the request.

External Board/Committee Report

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

Commissioner Smith reported on the activities of the RPO Board.

Chairman Nixon noted he has received calls from several Boards and Committees about attendance. He stated that if a Board member would like to be removed from a Board or Committee to let him or the Clerk know.

Manager's Report

County Manager Kevin Howard updated the Board on the following matters:

- Cooperative Extension will be hosting a Strategic Plan Webinar on August 25, 2014
- The Northern Chowan Community Center is nearing completion for reopening. He stated that he hopes it will be open in the next two weeks.
Chairman Nixon stated that he would like for staff to begin a list of contractors who perform work on buildings for future reference.
- Pembroke Creek pre-bid is September 5, 2014 and the bid opening is September 19th

Timely and Important Matters

Alumni Building

Commissioner Lawrence stated that the Alumni Association has expressed some concern over the two story building on the DF Walker campus, he stated they are concerned the Board may want to demolish the building. He asked the Board what the plans were for that building.

The Board by consensus agreed that no plan for that building has been endorsed however the goal of the Board is to save the building and renovate it.

COA Program

Commissioner Lawrence stated he was working to create some sort of aviation program through COA at the Edenton Airport.

Amended Audit Contract

Mr. Howard requested that the Board consider an amended contract to audit accounts for Chowan County and Chowan County TDA for the year ending June 30, 2014. The cost of the amendment to the contract is \$3,000 and that will be paid by the TDA Board.

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

Adjourn

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

D. Keith Nixon, Chairman

Susanne Stallings, Clerk