

Regular Meeting  
June 2, 2003

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, June 2, 2003 at 6:00pm in the Commissioners Room, Courthouse.

Present: Jimmy Alligood, Louis Belfield, Ralph Cole, Jerry Downum, Wayne Goodwin, George Jones and Harry Lee Winslow.

Chairman Belfield called the meeting to order and Commissioner Downum presented the invocation.

#### Consent Agenda

By motion of Commissioner Jones, the Consent Agenda, including the minutes and the following budget amendments and tax reliefs, was approved.

Ayes 7

No 0

#### Budget Amendments

5231 Kindergarten Readiness Grant	inc	\$209	personnel costs
4953 Ag Ext Forestry Grant	inc	732	arborium supplies
61-7120 Water	inc	2784	vehicle ins payment
4330 Civil Prep	inc	319	vehicle ins payment
4240 Maintenance	inc	328	vehicle ins payment
63-4920 ECDC	inc	7188	bldg lease
4380 Animal Control	inc	217	SPCA donation
5352 DSS	inc	10000	Medicaid Transport
5333 DSS	inc	41000	Smart Start
5345 DSS	inc	19000	Child Day Care

#### Tax Reliefs

JA Cox	\$234.04	military
ME Miller	102.57	incorrect billing
MA Nagle	176.44	incorrect billing

#### Presentation - Barbara R. Cale

County Manager Cliff Copeland noted Barbara Cale's tenure at Chowan Hospital beginning in 1964 as a Registered Nurse, Director of Nursing, Assistant Administrator and since 1990, President of the Hospital, until her retirement. He talked about the growth of the hospital during her presidency, including a ten-bed out patient surgical unit, a third operating room, out-patient clinics for specialists to see patients, a cardiopulmonary rehabilitation unit, an endoscopy room and a wellness program, and, specifically, her work in the lease and association of the hospital to University Health Systems/Pitt Hospital and the Brody School of Medicine.

Chairman Belfield presented Mrs. Cale a plaque engraved to note her contributions to the Chowan County community.

Mrs. Cale thanked the Board for its support of the Hospital and herself. She commented on the County's excellent teamwork and progressive philosophy to protect and provide hospital services in Chowan County.

#### Board Appointment - Library Board

By motion of Commissioner Alligood, Dossey Pruden was appointed to the Library Board.

ayes 7  
no 0

#### Chowan Hospital Directors' Council

By motion of Commissioner Jones, Pete Dail and Charlie Creighton were reappointed to second terms to the Hospital Directors' Council.

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no 0

#### ABC Board

With the recent death of long-time Secretary/Treasurer Allen Harless, considerable additional responsibilities have been placed on the ABC Board members to conduct the business of the ABC Board and store. Auditor J.P. Timberlake suggested that the Commissioners consider waiving the two-term limit and reappoint Mr. Fayton, allowing for the experience and expertise of the three Board members to stay in place during this time of transition. By motion of Commissioner Goodwin, the Board voted to waive the two-term policy and reappoint Mr. Fayton to a third term as a member of the ABC Board.

#### Schedule Meeting - Soil and Water Conservation

The Commissioners agreed to accept an invitation from the Soil and Water Conservation Board to attend a breakfast meeting for a report of activities. This meeting will be July 7 at 8:00a.m., prior to the regular Commissioners' meeting, at the Chowan Agriculture Center.

#### Introduction - Horticulture Agent

Extension Service Chairman Mike Williams introduced Katy Gray, the new Horticulture Agent (replacing Tom Dyson). Ms. Gray is a recent graduate of North Carolina State University and will be working in Chowan, Perquimans and Gates Counties.

#### Planner

Mr. Copeland introduced Elizabeth Bryant, the new Planner (replacing Chad Sary). Mrs. Bryant is a graduate of Meredith College and North Carolina State University and was previously employed by the City of Greenville.

#### Report of Annual Monitoring of the Chowan County DSS Medical Assistance Department.

DSS Director Ben Rose reported that the Chowan County Medicaid Assistance staff recently scored 100% in every category when its Medicaid cases were recently reviewed by the Division of Medical Assistance. These categories include approved and denied requests for assistance and withdrawals as well as other administrative issues. The Supervisor is Angela Harris and the staff members are Desiree Blanchard, Pam Jones, Peggy Copeland, Barbara Hayes, Cheryl White, Marion Hassell, Sharon Goodwin and Patricia Holley. Mr. Rose noted the massive regulations to the Medicaid program and congratulated his staff on the marvelous job done.

#### Resolution - Solid Waste Plan

Following a public hearing in April, the Board of Commissioners passed the following resolution to confirm its approval of the Solid Waste Plan for submission to the State, by motion of Commissioner Winslow.

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RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, better planning for solid waste management will help protect public health and the environment, provide for an improved solid waste management system, better use of natural resources, and control the cost of solid waste management; and,

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute 130A-309.09A(b) requires each unit of local government either individually or in cooperation with other units of local government, to develop a 10-year comprehensive solid waste management plan; and,

WHEREAS, Chowan County was actively involved in the planning process.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chowan County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the comprehensive solid waste management plan.

Adopted today, June 2, 2003.  
Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk

Hugh Williamson Memorial Proposal

The Hugh Williamson Memorial Committee has met on several occasions and has authorized Parker Monuments to finalized a proposal to be presented to the Board of Commissioners at its meeting July 7.

Disposal of Fire Equipment

With the recent purchase of a new pumper truck for the Center Hill-Crossroads Volunteer Fire Dept, the 1972 Ford pumper truck is available for disposal. Commissioner Goodwin made a motion that the County donate the vehicle to the Belvidere Volunteer Fire Dept. The Belvidere Fire Dept needs a pumper unit and it also provides fire service in Chowan County.

eyes 7  
no 0

Presentation of 2003-04 Budget

County Manager Cliff Copeland presented the proposed 2003-04 budget. He expressed his appreciation to the departments for their diligent work to submit frugal budgets and thanked the Finance Committee for its work and support during the review process.

Major budget issues include:

- \* Tax Base increase of \$20 million, yielding \$138,000 in tax revenue
- \* Decrease in COPS federal law enforcement funding of \$85,940
- \* Decrease in Town of Edenton Recreation Dept funding of \$30,000
- \* Increase of 5% in School Current Expense funding, of \$147,842
- \* Cost of Living increase to employees of 2 1/2%, totaling \$100,000
- \* Increase of 18% in cost of Health Insurance, totaling \$78,624
- \* Increase in cost of Workers Compensation Insurance of \$88,000
- \* Additional staff for EMS night coverage costing \$69,669.
- \* Contribution to Chowan Regional Healthcare Foundation of \$50,000.
- \* Reduction of interest income due to low interest rates of \$500,000.

The tax rate will remain at \$.69/\$100 value. The \$10 million increase in real estate was offset by the loss of peanut allotments. The fire tax will increase from \$.04 to \$.05/\$100.

The County is working with the Fire Dept to have the fire department rerated to reduce fire insurance rates.

Commissioner Alligood moved that the Board schedule a public hearing to receive comment on the proposed budget for Wednesday, June 18 at 6:00 pm in the Commissioners Room, Courthouse.

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#### Manager's Report

Mr. Copeland reported a meeting with Perquimans County and a State Surveyor to determine county boundary lines between Chowan and Perquimans. This question has come about in the process to draw lines for the GIS system being installed. DOT county lines are available along roads but in order to determine lines in some swamp areas, the State Surveyor has been asked to assist. The Board will be requested to appoint a Boundary Commissioner to work with the Perquimans Boundary Commissioner and the State Surveyor following a meeting with the State Surveyor to explain the procedure.

Commissioner Cole moved that the Commissioners agree to meet with Perquimans and the State Surveyor when the information is available.

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no 0

#### Public Comment

None offered.

#### Chowan College of the Albemarle

Commissioner Winslow reported that the COA Board of Trustees is in the process of selecting an architect for the project. Work is expected to begin in the fall.

The meeting was adjourned.

Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk