

Regular Meeting
August 1, 2005

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, August 1, 2005 at 6:00 pm in the 1767 Courthouse Panel Room.

Present: Jimmy Alligood, Louis Belfield, Ralph Cole, Jerry Downum, Bill Gardner, Wayne Goodwin, Harry Lee Winslow.

Chairman Wayne Goodwin called the meeting to order and presented the invocation.

Consent Agenda

By motion of Commissioner Belfield, the Consent Agenda, including the minutes of the June and July meetings, and the following budget amendments, was approved.

Ayes 7

No 0

Budget Amendments

4730 Soil/Water	increase	\$42,988	Clear/Snag Grant from the State for Hurricane Stream Cleanup
6132 Rec Dept	increase	\$26,740	State grant for Bennetts Millpond outdoor pavilion
4311 Sheriff	increase	\$16,850	Gov Highway Safety Grant-highway checkpoint equip
4350 Planning	increase	\$ 5,364	State Hazard Mitigation Grant
5352 DSS	increase	\$ 3,085	State grant for Medicaid transportation
4170 Elections	increase	\$ 513	State grant for installing handicapped accessibility at voting precinct
45-5913 QZAB	increase	\$2,000,000	loan proceeds from QZAB for renovations at Holmes HS

Planning/Inspections Report

Planner Elizabeth Bryant announced that the Planning Board will hear the results of the Wooten Company land use survey at its meeting August 16. Preliminary findings from the zoning feasibility study will also be presented.

Building Inspector Holly Colombo and Staff Attorney Peter Rascoe presented documentation on the process completed to resolve the issue of an abandoned and unsafe house at 364 Juniper Drive. Drug use and underage drinking take place and children play in the house. The owners agreed to demolish the house within 90 days, which expired last month.

The cost of the demolition will be billed to the property owner or placed on a lien against the property if not paid.

Commissioner Gardner made a motion that the County be authorized to proceed with the demolition, to be billed to the owner.

Ayes 7

No 0

Convenience Centers Update

Brad Gardner, Coordinator for the Convenience Centers, presented an update on the progress of the transition from the Waste Industries management of the convenience centers to management by the Albemarle Regional Health Services. A contract with Tidewater Fiber Corporation will provide hauling and recycling. Convenience Center personnel are now employed by ARHS. New equipment is being installed, delivery should be completed by August 19, and installed by mid September. Recyclables will be separated by electronic process at TFC's plant in Virginia for resale. ARHS will coordinate an effort to educate the public on the emphasis to recycle more waste, to cut down on the amount of trash going into the landfill.

Herring Fishing

Local fisherman Terry Pratt stated that the Marine Fisheries Commission staff plans to recommend to the Commission that a moratorium be placed on herring fishing for the 2006 season. He requested that the Board of Commissioners adopt a resolution to oppose the proposed moratorium on herring fishing for the 2006 season.

Commissioner Downum moved that the following resolution be adopted.

Ayes 7

No 0

Resolution

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries has proposed a sixteen year moratorium on herring fishing; and,

WHEREAS, we understand that the Division of Marine Fisheries only surveys certain areas and estimates its numbers from gill net surveys, and some believe the basis for the proposed moratorium is flawed data; and,

WHEREAS, the Division of Marine Fisheries has a management plan for each species of fish, and many believe this type of plan does not take into account how different species of fish affect the population of other species; and,

WHEREAS, many do not believe it will take sixteen years for the herring to recover; and,

WHEREAS, this moratorium will affect not only fishermen, merchants and consumers, but also the culture of Eastern North Carolina.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chowan County Board of Commissioners does hereby oppose the proposed moratorium of herring fishing and requests that the question be reconsidered for other solutions; and,

FURTHER, directs that this Resolution be forwarded to the Governor of the State of North Carolina, the County's legislative delegation, and members of the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission and members of the River Herring FMP Advisory Committee.

Adopted today, August 1, 2005.
Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk

Revaluation Schedule

Tax Administrator Lynda Hendricks presented the proposed 2006 Revaluation Schedule for the Board's consideration, as determined by the 2006 Use Value Manual from the NC Department of Revenue, and reviewed by the committee of Commissioners Gardner, Goodwin and Winslow. Deferred Value (land use value) is now based on a cash rent formula and not crops.

Commissioner Belfield made a motion that the County authorize advertisement of the schedule and also that a public hearing be scheduled for the September 12 meeting at 9:00 am.

Ayes 7

No 0

The schedule is available for inspection in the Tax Office.

Opposition to the Proposed Elimination of the 911 Telephone Surcharge

County Manager Cliff Copeland announced that the proposed bill to eliminate the 911 Telephone Surcharge has been withdrawn by its sponsor and referred to a study commission. The telephone surcharge, now at seventy cents, has been a stable source of revenue for 911 funds, which generates \$60,000 a year for Chowan County. It can only be utilized for contractual services and capital outlay.

Report from Workforce Development Conference

Mr. Copeland reported a good attendance from the community and school system for the Stakeholders' Meeting last week. A copy of the information distributed at the meeting was shared with the Commissioners.

Report from the National Association of County Commissioners Meeting

Chairman Goodwin and Commissioner Belfield shared information from the recent national conference, including sessions on the global economy, prescription cost assistance for elderly and children sponsored by some of the drug companies, transportation initiatives in rural communities, information on a resource recovery facility, rural grant funding and a voting machines demonstration.

Resolution in Recognition of Anne Graham Rowe

Commissioner Gardner made a motion to adopt the following resolution in recognition of Anne Graham Rowe's service to the Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library, to be presented to Ms. Rowe at the 50th anniversary celebration of the Library on August 27.

Ayes 7

No 0

Resolution
in recognition of
ANNE GRAHAM ROWE

WHEREAS, Chowan County and Edenton resident ANNE GRAHAM ROWE has been an appointed member of the Board of Trustees of Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library for twelve continuous years; and,

WHEREAS, Anne Graham Rowe has ably continued her family's tradition of leadership and tangible support for the Shepard-Prudent Memorial Library; and,

WHEREAS, Anne Graham Rowe has willingly and unselfishly served the library's Board of Trustees in leadership capacities of Chairman, Treasurer, and as the Board's delegate to the Pettigrew Regional Library Board; and,

WHEREAS, Anne Graham Rowe has laudably guided and administered the Trust Fund of the Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library to a substantial degree of growth; and,

WHEREAS, Anne Graham Rowe has generously given the use of her historic home, Wessington, for entertaining library dignitaries and hosting fundraisers for library operations; and,

WHEREAS, Anne Graham Rowe has continued to insightfully support technological advancements pertaining to library services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chowan County Board of Commissioners does hereby recognize, laud, and congratulate Anne Graham Rowe for her exemplary service as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library, and for her unselfish and gracious service to her community.

Adopted August 1, 2005 to be presented to Ms. Rowe at the Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library 50th anniversary celebration on August 27, 2005.

Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk

Public Comment

Economic Development Director Richard Bunch reported that the results from the survey taken at the Stakeholders' Meeting would be presented to the Economic Development Corporation meeting this week.

He also mentioned the OLF status in relation to the BRAC/Oceana question now being considered by the Base Reduction team.

Manager's Report

Mr. Copeland stated that he, Mr. Bunch and Mrs. Knighton attended the OLF appeals court hearing in Richmond VA last week. It is understood that the Base Realignment

Commission team is expected to announce the base reduction closing list this month, which if Oceana is, in fact, on the closing list, could eliminate the question of an outlying landing field for Hampton Roads being placed in northeastern North Carolina.

Mr. Copeland stated that, of course, no one has any way to know what to expect from the BRAC team or from the appeals court hearings, so the County will try to stay informed of any information and share with the Commissioners.

He announced that the County has received a Parks and Recreation Trust Fund grant to install heating and air conditioning in the Walker gym.

The new water rates will be on the water bills being mailed this week.

Executive Session

Commissioner Alligood made a motion that the Board recess its regular meeting and conduct an executive session to consider a land acquisition question and to consider a transfer of title of property.

The executive session was adjourned and the regular meeting reconvened by motion of Commissioner Alligood.

Commissioner Cole made a motion that the County authorize the staff to proceed to acquire a 70-foot wide and 300-foot long corridor from Coastal Development (Waff Family) as an entrance to the Red Banks Farm property so that the property can be developed for softball fields, the relocation of Earnhardt Field to the Red Banks Farm property, hiking/biking/walking trails, picnic area and paddling trails on Pembroke Creek; and also to authorize the County to proceed with a master plan for development of the Red Banks Farm property in order to apply for grants for development of the area.

Ayes 7

No 0

The second item concerned the Coastal Carolina Family Practice PA (Dr. Robert E Lane medical offices in Hertford NC) property, which the County owns, on behalf of Chowan Hospital. The County served as fiscal agent and owner for the construction of the medical offices and the Hospital paid all the costs. The County Manager recommended that the County transfer title to the Pitt County Memorial Hospital (Chowan Hospital/University Health Systems) for the Coastal Carolina Family Practice PA property in Hertford NC. Commissioner Belfield made a motion that the County transfer title to the Coastal Carolina Family Practice PA property to Pitt County Memorial Hospital.

Ayes 7

No 0

The meeting was adjourned.

Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk

