

Regular Meeting
August 2, 2004

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, August 2, 2004 at 6:00p.m. 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 Winslow presented the invocation.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Jones made a motion that the Consent Agenda, including the minutes of the July meeting and the following budget amendments and tax releases, be approved.

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Budget Amendments

6130 Recreation	increase \$35,500	resurface tennis courts
5372 DSS	decrease \$18,384	crisis intervention prevention funding
4341 Fire	increase \$30,000	to repay loan-reserve fund

Tax Releases

VS Alexander III	\$158.10	listed in Florida
CM Edmundson	\$130.29	remove town tax
US Cellular	\$168.26	penalty relieved

Report - Planning and Enterprise Committee

Commissioner Goodwin reported that the Planning and Enterprise Committee met last week to receive information from the Water Department and the Planning and Inspections Department, and introduced Elizabeth Bryant and Ray Goodwin for presentations.

Mrs. Bryant reported that the North Carolina General Assembly passed legislation authorizing a pilot program under which a county may designate an area as a new urban waterfront under the Coastal Area Management Act of 1974, not exceeding 500 acres and shall not include more than one mile of natural shoreline, and does not border the Atlantic Ocean. The legislation states that the Coastal Resources Commission will consider and act on requests from counties to approve an amendment to its land use plan to allow such a designation. The Chowan County Planning Board will meet August 9 to consider such a request for 500 acres on the Albemarle Sound (the Sandy Point Subdivision project), and the Board of Commissioners will consider the request at a special meeting on August 23.

Such a designation will provide for improved storm water runoff, improved water quality, public water access, and controlled growth in the County.

Mrs. Bryant also reported that the Pasquotank River Basin flood maps are now complete, which cover some of northern Chowan County. The Chowan River Basin flood maps are not yet complete.

County staff members met with the Optimist Club, the Chowan Beach Property Owners Association and the Arrowhead Beach Property to discuss planning initiatives.

As a result of these meetings, seventeen letters have been mailed to property owners concerning code enforcement issues.

Ray Goodwin presented the policy in place to handle complaints to the Water Department, whereby complaints are documented, as well as the efforts to address the complaint and the timeframe of the action. He also reported that the permanent generators are expected to be shipped in September and installed by October.

Annual Forestry Service Report

Ranger Ferrell Banks stated that 2003-2004 was an unusual year in that forests experienced tremendous change due to Hurricane Isabel. The hurricane damaged or destroyed 40% of the trees in the County. Almost 2300 acres were harvested, and about 2400 acres managed.

Considerable damage remains, but most of the value has deteriorated after the period of time passed. Other information presented included cost share payments to Chowan County projects totaled \$58,344; and six fires were reported for a total acreage of 113.

He also noted the 2387 hours of work to clear trees and debris following the hurricane, by crews from across the State and Tennessee and Georgia. He commented on the appreciation for the hospitality shown to the work crews by the local citizens.

County Manager Cliff Copeland thanked Mr. Banks and the Forest Service for their assistance, and especially following the storm.

Revaluation Progress Report

Tax Administrator Lynda Hendricks reported that work is on schedule for the January 2006 revaluation of the 12000 parcels in the County. Properties are being visited to insure accurate documentation. Door hangers are being left at the properties to inform the owners of the visit and to solicit input from the owners to again, insure accuracy of the tax records. Notice of the new value assigned will be mailed in the fall of 2005.

Appeal of Vehicle Value

John Louis Martin purchased a motor home in March of this year. Without a response from Mr. Martin to determine the value, using the TEC pricing guide, the Tax Office placed the value of the unit at \$81,640.

Mr. Martin contested the value and presented a bill of sale showing the purchase price of \$50,080. Based on this bill of sale, Mrs. Hendricks reduced the value to \$50,000 and issued a relief in the amount of \$351.21 to Mr. Martin. He again contested the value as excessive and asked that the Board of Commissioners reduce the value. Mrs. Hendricks explained the pricing guide and after discussion, Commissioner Jones asked Mr. Martin if, because he paid \$50,080 for the motor home, could he not assume that Mr. Martin believed the motor home to be worth \$50,000. Mr. Martin agreed.

Commissioner Jones moved that the tax value on Mr. Martin's motor home remain at \$50,000.

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Budget Ordinance Amendment

The Local Government Commission reviewed the 2004-05 Budget Ordinance and made some recommendations to improve the way interfund transfers were shown in the Ordinance. Finance Officer Lisa Jones distributed copies of an amended ordinance, as recommended by the Local Government Commission for the Board's consideration. No changes were made in budgeted amounts.

Commissioner Allgood made a motion that the Board approve the amended Budget Ordinance.

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Hurricane Isabel Emergency Stream Cleanup

Rodney Johnson, Albemarle Resource Conservation and Development representative, presented an application for state assistance to remove hurricane debris from the creeks and canals in the County. Since no federal money was made available, working through Rep. Bill Owens, Mr. Johnson was able to secure \$2

million for the 15-county region damaged by Hurricane Isabel, of which \$177,700 is allocated to Chowan County. Since the project estimate is \$3.5 million to complete, the project is divided into two phases, for fall and winter of 2004 and 2005, provided additional money is made available next year.

By motion of Commissioner Goodwin, the Commissioners approved the following resolution to secure the stream cleanup funds.

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RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Chowan County Board of Commissioners desires to sponsor the Hurricane Isabel Emergency Stream Cleanup project to restore drainage, reduce flooding and improve navigation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1) the Board requests the State of North Carolina to provide financial assistance to Chowan County in the amount of \$177,700 (100 percent funding) for project construction costs;
- 2) the Board will obtain all necessary state and federal permits;
- 3) the Board will comply with all applicable laws governing the award of contracts and the expenditure of public funds by local governments;
- 4) the Board and the local Soil and Water District will supervise construction of the project to assure compliance with permit conditions and to assure safe and proper construction according to approved plans and specifications;
- 5) the Board will obtain suitable disposal areas as needed and all other easements or rights-of-way that may be necessary for the construction and operation of the project without cost or obligation to the State;
- 6) the Board will assure that the project is open for use by the public on an equal basis;
- 7) the Board will hold the state harmless from any damages that may result from the construction, operation and maintenance of the project;
- 8) the Board accepts responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the completed project.

Adopted by the Chowan County Board of Commissioners this 2nd day of August, 2004.

Nancy B. Morgan

County Clerk

Albemarle Mental Health Center Quarterly Fiscal Monitoring Report Mental health reform legislation requires presentation of the quarterly fiscal monitoring report to the Boards of Commissioners at least twice a year. The report for the quarter ending June 30, 2004 was presented to the Board.

Carolina ACCESS III

DSS Director Ben Rose presented a proposal that Chowan County participate in an expanded Carolina ACCESS program. The original program works with Medicaid patients to enroll patients in a community based case management program aimed at improving access to care and improving quality and controlling costs. This expanded service will employ case managers, through the Albemarle Regional Health Services, to provide preventive care, targeting high risk clients. pilot counties have enjoyed a \$22 million savings in prescription costs alone. Chowan County would like to see a ten percent reduction in medicaid costs. The Community Care plan of Eastern Carolina is currently an eleven county network with plans to expand to 28 counties by the end of 2004. To provide an efficient client base, it is proposed that Chowan County partner with Bertie County. As the program plan is designed and funding is determined, more information will be forthcoming.

Albemarle All Star Baseball Team

Recreation Director Robbie Laughton reported that nine Chowan County 16-year old boys are playing on the Albemarle All Star Baseball Team, with one player from Pasquotank County and one from Currituck County comprising the rest of the team. The team won the North Carolina State finals, defeated teams from Tennessee and Virginia and is playing the Georgia State champions today in Mannassa Virginia. The host

families have complimented the boys as being well-mannered and showing good sportsmanship.

Public Comment

None

Manager's Report

Mr. Copeland reported that Orville Mason and the Maintenance Staff have completed renovations to Building 3 at the Old Walker School for use by COA, as a part of the renovations being done by the College of the Albemarle to locate a campus at the Old Walker School.

Mr. Copeland also announced that Commissioner Harry Lee Winslow was recently elected Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the College of the Albemarle.

Reschedule September Meeting

Due to the Labor Day holiday, Commissioner Jones made a motion that the September meeting be scheduled for Monday, September 13.

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Chairman Belfield reminded the Board members of the special meeting scheduled for August 23 at 6:00 pm in the Commissioners Room, to consider a land use plan amendment designating 500 acres on the Albemarle Sound from "limited transition" designation to a "new urban waterfront area" designation.

The meeting was adjourned.

Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk

