

Regular Meeting
May 3, 2004

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, May 3, 2004 at 9:00a.m. in the Commissioners Room, Courthouse.

Prior to the regular meeting, the Commissioners met with the Chowan Extension and Community Association and the Cooperative Extension Service staff at the Edenton Methodist Church fellowship hall. The CECA hosted breakfast and the staff presented an update of activities.

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

Commissioner Jones moved that the Consent Agenda, including the minutes and the following tax releases and budget amendments, be approved.

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Tax Releases

CD Baker	\$123.40	vehicle sold
ED Lowther Heirs	\$122.16	sold in foreclosure
HB Mitchener	\$128.40	listed in Watauga Co
N Perry	\$218.42	purchased commercial tag

Budget Amendments

DSS 5351	increase	\$844	TANF Domestic Violence funding
Fire Dept 4340	increase	\$4000	building insurance payment
Sheriff 4311	decrease	\$11000	decrease in grant revenue for mobile computer project
Civil Prep 4330	increase	\$6245	EMS grant
DSS 5372	increase	\$6195	Crisis Intervention Prevention
Rec Dept 6130	increase	\$5000	Coca-Cola sponsorship

COA Resolution

By motion of Commissioner Winslow, the following Resolution was approved, supporting additional legislative funding to North Carolina community colleges.

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RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Community College System has suffered substantial funding reductions in both instructional and student support and categorical programs related specifically to the classroom; and,

WHEREAS, while the NCCS enrollment has grown by an increase of 29,700 students, it has done so with a total net budget reduction of \$33.5 million, and no new funding for economic development activities. Salary increases were kept to a minimum despite the fact that the North Carolina Community College System faculty salaries rank last in the South; and,

WHEREAS, the College of the Albemarle is instrumental to the efforts of the Chowan County community and the Northeast Region to provide job training and preparedness, an integral part of economic development; and,

WHEREAS, the College of the Albemarle experienced an increase of 337 students and a net decrease in funding of \$122,000.

THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED by the Chowan County Board of Commissioners that: the General Assembly be advised that the Board of Commissioners fully endorses and supports the NCCCS 2004 Consensus Budget Request as follows:

Enrollment growth, salary adjustments, formula restoration \$58.7 million
Equipment funding \$223.5 million
Services to Business and Industry \$17.1 million
Multi-Campus Colleges and Off-Campus Centers \$10.9 million.

Adopted unanimously, and signed today, May 3, 2004.
Nancy B. Morgan, Clerk

C. Louis Belfield, Chairman

Child Support Court Day

DSS Director Ben Rose and Judge J.C. Cole invited the Commissioners to attend the Chowan County Child Support Court Day Wednesday, May 19 at 11:00a.m.

Child Protective Service Review

Mr Rose reported that the Chowan DSS unit was reviewed by the State and for the second consecutive year of annual inspection, scored 100%. State staff was most complimentary of the work of the local staff in its job performance and recordkeeping.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Application

Commissioner Jones made a motion that the resolution presented by Planner Elizabeth Bryant to designate Mrs. Bryant as Primary Agent for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and Staff Attorney Peter Rascoe as Secondary Agent, and that they be authorized to execute and file applications for federal and/or state assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, or as otherwise available to the County, be approved.

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2004 Scattered Site Housing Grant Application

By motion of Commissioner Allgood, the Board accepted the Department of Commerce Division of Community Assistance Community Development Block Grant for Scattered Site Housing Improvements for 2004. The County's allocation is \$400,000. Commissioner Allgood's motion included authorization and execution of documents including acceptance of the grant award, a grant agreement, a contract to employ Albemarle Commission as the consultant to provide

administration of the grant, and a performance based contract: implementaton schedule.

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Commissioner Cole accepted an appointment to serve as the
Commissioner Representative to the Advisory Committee.

Planning and Inspections Report

Mrs. Bryant reported April a busy month in Inspections, with 15 mobile homes being demolished to date and a number of junk cars being moved. The numbers for building inspections for April was not tallied yet. The Planning Board is scheduling meetings with various civic groups to talk about revisions in County ordinances.

Morris Lane Subdivision

A proposal by owner Robert Evans to subdivide a parcel of land off Morristown Road, Morris Lane Subdivision, meets the criteria of the subdivision ordinance, health department and water system requirements.

Commissioner Jones made a motion that the Planning Board's recommendation to approve the subdivision be accepted.

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Macedonia Road Subdivision

A proposal by owner Gilbert Harrell Family to subdivide 11 lots on Macedonia Road meets the criteria of the subdivision ordinance, health department and water system requirements. Concerns were expressed about the remaining 60+ acres at the back of the property, which have been sold to Max Busby by the Harrell Family. It is the understanding that Mr. Busby intends to divide the property into farmettes, which is permitted and exempted from subdivision ordinances by State Statute. The plat shows a 50 foot right-of-way for a private road to Mr. Busby's property between two of the lots in the Harrell Family subdivision which faces the highway. State Statutes allow a private road, paved or unpaved. The County's review committee requested that the driveways to the eleven lots be designed to minimize safety hazards.

Commissioner Alligood made a motion that the Board approve the Harrell Family subdivision on Macedonia Road.

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Resolution - Merge Gates County Health Dept with Albemarle Regional Health Services

The Albemarle Regional Health Services Board of Directors recommends that the member counties approve a resolution allowing Gates County Health Dept to merge with ARHS. Each member county must approve the merger in order for Gates to join. Gates will buy-in by paying a pro-rata share of the ARHS fund balance and the merger will allow ARHS to continue to spread administrative costs, thereby reducing the costs of services to all member counties. County Manager Cliff Copeland described the merger as a win-win proposal.

Commissioner Winslow moved that the County approve the merger by the following resolution.

ayes 7

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RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Pasquotank County Health Department was established in 1942; and,

WHEREAS, Pasquotank, Perquimans and Camden County Health Departments joined together in 1942 to form a District Health Department; and,

WHEREAS, in 1949 Chowan County Health Department joined the Pasquotank, Perquimans, Camden Health Department to form the Pasquotank, Perquimans, Camden, Chowan District Health Department (PPCC); and,

WHEREAS, in 1999, Currituck County Health Department joined PPCC to form the Albemarle Regional Health Services; and,

WHEREAS, in 2002, Bertie County Health Department joined Albemarle Regional Health Services; and,

WHEREAS, after due and diligent consideration, the Gates County Board of Commissioners desires to take action to join Albemarle Regional Health Services, which will create the Albemarle Regional Health Services, consisting of Pasquotank, Perquimans, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Bertie and Gates Counties.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chowan County Board of Commissioners in session duly convened, by adoption of this resolution, does hereby create Albemarle Regional Health Services consisting of Pasquotank, Perquimans, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Bertie and Gates Counties.

ARTICLE I

The name shall be Albemarle Regional Health Services, which will include Pasquotank, Perquimans, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Bertie and Gates Counties.

ARTICLE II MISSION

The respective counties recognize that a unified purpose and direction of the public health system is necessary to ensure that all citizens in their jurisdictional areas have equal access to essential public health services. The Pasquotank, Perquimans, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Bertie and Gates Boards of Commissioners declare that the mission of Albemarle Regional Health Services is to promote and contribute to the highest level of health possible *for* the people they serve.

ARTICLE III DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH

The policy-making body of Albemarle Regional Health Services shall be a District Board of Health composed of 18 members in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 130A-37.

ARTICLE IV
ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES

The Albemarle Regional Health Services Board of Health agrees to adopt and assumes responsibility for the enforcement of any and all existing local health ordinances or rules, previously adopted as the Albemarle Regional Health Services and any ordinances or rules previously adopted by the Hertford-Gates District Board of Health that are not inconsistent therewith.

Adopted today, May 3, 2004, by the Chowan County Board of Commissioners.
Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk

Highway 32 Improvements

NCDOT District Engineer Sterling Baker discussed the results of a survey by DOT to examine road conditions and traffic patterns on NC 32 in Chowan County.

Average daily traffic counts in the northern portion (north of Edenton) range from 8700 vehicles per day near Edenton to 2600 near the Gates County line.

The southern section (south of Edenton) range from 5100 near Edenton to 1800 near the NC 37 intersection. Accident rates compared to statewide averages for similar type roadways, so press releases naming NC32 in Chowan County a most dangerous road, are not validated.

DOT plans to make improvements at the Small's Crossroads intersection and to construct left turn lanes at Evans Church Road and Mavaton Road, Rocky Hock Landing Road, Dillard's Mill Road and Cannons Ferry Road and Ryland Road. Pavement markings and raised reflective markers will also be replaced.

Mr. Copeland discussed the thought that since the heavy traffic is located near Edenton that maybe the County should request DOT to consider beginning the improvements project at the Edenton end of Highway 32N and going as far north as funds will allow. Partial funding is available and in conversations with the County's legislative delegation, additional funds may be available through Moving Ahead Program funds and others. This proposal would include the schools located on Highway 32N, as Superintendent Smith has requested.

Commissioner Goodwin made a motion that the County request the Board of Transportation to adjust funding to allow the work to begin at the Edenton end of Highway 32 N to go northward.

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Hurricane Recovery

Peter Rascoe reported that he and Finance Officer Lisa Jones continue to negotiate with FEMA on reimbursements to the County for storm response and recovery expenses. FEMA has reimbursed approximately 25% to date, about \$1 million. It is now believed that almost all expenses will be eventually approved.

No-charge disposal of storm debris at the landfill has been extended through May.

Mr. Rascoe reported on his attendance at the National Hurricane Conference, along with Emergency Management Coordinator Patty Madry. Hurricane "gurus" Dr. Gray, Dr. Frank and Dr. Lyons gave lectures with 30 states and 15 Caribbean nations attending.

Mr. Rascoe, representing Chowan County, along with six other localities, was invited to make a presentation about the County's experience with Hurricane Isabel.

Mosquitoe issues, particularly stump holes and ruts, were discussed. County staff, working on the advice of Walker Rayburn from ARHS, is already doing larviciding and other precautions.

Public Safety Committee Report

EMS Coordinator Doug Belch reported that the new fire district will be operational in 30-45 days.

Consultant Jim Martin, Jim Martin Associates, presented his findings in a survey of County communications as presently established, and presented recommendations for improvement, including relocating Chowan Central Communications to a spacious, storm-proof modern dispatch center, relocation of radio systems, and location of a communications tower to address the coverage problem.

A central, tall tower located in the Valhalla area appears to offer the most uniform coverage to the entire County.

Mr. Copeland stated that he sees no greater priority than reliable communications for the safety of the public as well as for the public safety employees.

He noted the County's investments of approximately \$1 million in CAD and GIS systems, the extensive training provided to public safety staff, and the increased staffing allocated in the County budget.

The Finance Committee will address Mr. Martin's recommendations in the preparation of the upcoming 2004-05 budget for the Board's consideration.

Public Comment

Referring to the items of business concerning new subdivisions, Jim Leggett noted the need for driveways to be located inside subdivisions, rather than many driveways going directly into the roadways, in order to make for safer traffic patterns.

Frank Palm, representing the Country Club, expressed his appreciation to the County for its assistance in acquiring grants for the drainage project in the Country Club area on Soundside Road.

Manager's Report

Mr. Copeland reported that legislation is being drafted for this year's short Legislative session to revise the hunting laws for Chowan County, for the fall hunting season.

The meeting was adjourned.

Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk

Board of Equalization and Review

The Chairman declared a meeting of the Board of Equalization and Review. The County Clerk received the oaths of office from the Commissioners as members of the Board of Equalization and Review. Tax Administrator Lynda Hendricks presented one appeal for review.

JJ Peanuts - No Change

Lynda Hendricks, Clerk, Board of Equalization and Review

Nancy B. Morgan

County Clerk