

Special Meeting  
June 18, 2003

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Wednesday, June 18, 2003 at 6:00pm in the Commissioners Room, Courthouse.

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

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

Chairman Belfield recessed the special meeting and declared a public hearing open to receive comment on the proposed 2003-2004 budget as presented at the June 2 meeting.

#### Public Hearing - Budget

County Manager Cliff Copeland presented the recommended budget with the following highlights:

- \*loss of \$85,000 revenue in COPS funding for Sheriff Dept
- \*increase of \$88,000 in cost of Workers' Compensation insurance
- \*increase in cost of employee health insurance of 18%, equaling \$78,624 increase for the General Fund
- \*allocation of \$50,000 to the Chowan Regional Healthcare Foundation
- \*increase in Schools-Current Expense of 5%, totaling \$147,842 increase
- \*employee cost of living of 2 1/2%
- \*increase of \$20 million in the tax base to \$810,776,000
- \*tax rate will remain at \$.69
- \*2 additional positions for the EMS Dept for night coverage
- \*\$81,000 budgeted in Fire Fund for annual payment on the 2 new fire trucks
- \* tax rate will increase from \$.04 to \$.05
- \*Interest earned from investments has been reduced by \$500,000 due to low interest rates
- \*an allocation of \$200,000 for completion of the GIS system
- \*renovation to the old Walker gym is budgeted to install a new floor and goals

Chairman Belfield opened the floor to public comment. None was offered. Mr. Copeland presented a letter from John Sams commending the County "for holding the line on taxes for the coming year" and "for balancing those competing interests".

With no other comment offered, the public hearing was closed and the special meeting reconvened.

Commissioner Winslow made a motion that the 2003-04 budget and the budget ordinance be approved as presented.

ayes 7  
no 0

#### EMS Plan

Mr. Copeland presented information as prepared by the Public Safety Committee recommending that the proposed EMS Plan be approved for submission to the State.

Commissioner Alligood presented Doug Belch, EMS Coordinator, to discuss the base line plan. The plan covers how citizens access the

emergency services system, medical oversight through the Medical Director and the Quality Review Committee, vehicles and maintenance of supplies, staffing, data collection and education of staff. Upgrades to the plan will include further work on disaster procedures.

Commissioner Alligood moved that the plan be approved as presented.

ayes 7  
no 0

Commissioner Alligood also made a motion that Dr. Stephen Kikel be appointed Medical Director for the EMS Program.

ayes 7  
no 0

Chairman Belfield thanked the Finance Committee and the staff for their diligent work on the budget and the staff and Public Safety Committee for the excellent job on the preparation of the EMS Plan.

The meeting was adjourned.

Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk