

Regular Meeting
November 6, 2006

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, November 6, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. in the Panel Room of the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse.

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

Vice Chairman Ralph Cole called the meeting to order, saying that his prayers are with the Goodwin Family in the recent death of Chairman Wayne Goodwin. He said, "We miss him, especially this morning. We will attempt to carry on."
Commissioner Downum presented the invocation.

Consent Agenda

By motion of Commissioner Alligood, the Consent Agenda was approved, including the following budget amendments, tax releases, Capital Project Ordinances and the October meeting minutes.

Ayes 6
No 0

Tax Releases

CM Bass	\$174.93	listed in Martin County
MJ Caron	\$191.34	listed in Stokes County
DR Harrell	\$193.92	listed in Perquimans County
JD Pogue	\$108.12	military, listed in Missouri
M Reid	\$109.65	listed in Perquimans County
TR Smart	\$117.24	vehicle wrecked
WT Smith	\$1739.00	to correct nuisance fee double billed

Budget Amendments

5321 DSS	\$5712 increase	adult day care funding
4380 Animal Control	\$ 215 increase	vehicle insurance proceeds
4330 Emerg.Mgt.	\$6995 increase	haz.materials emergency grant
6132 Recreation	\$15,000 increase	grant for fitness arcade sponsored by Chowan Hospital Foundation
4268 Sr Center	\$1786 increase	grant for Sr.Nutrition special Activities
4371 Nat.Resources Conservation Service	\$13279 increase	funding from RC&D for Secretarial position
4170 Elections	\$19114 increase	fed. Grant for purchase of Voting machines

Capital Project Ordinance – Airport Industrial Park
Water/Sewer Extension Project

NC Rural Center Grant	\$326,850
Water Fund contribution (water)	46,350
Town of Edenton contribution(sewer)	48,650
Total	\$421,850

Amended Capital Project Ordinance – Public Safety Center

USDA Grant/Loan Proceeds	\$10,956,645
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Amended Capital Project Ordinance – Library Renovation

Loan Proceeds	\$2,598,000
General Fund contribution	313,290
Total	\$2,911,290

Recognition – Chowan County Emergency Medical Dispatcher of the Year Award
Jim Carr presented Chowan County’s Emergency Medical Dispatcher of the Year Award to Darleane Perkins. Ms. Perkins has been an employee for six years. Since the implementation of the Emergency Medical Dispatch Program in 2002, a quality assurance program through the National Academies of Emergency Dispatch was put into place. Ms. Perkins scored 99% for the year. And, in fact, she also completed the highest number of EMD calls during the year.

Resolution – Brice Edward Hollowell

By motion of Commissioner Belfield, the following resolution was passed honoring Brice Edward Hollowell for his military service and the belated receipt of the Bronze Star Medal and the Prisoner of War Medal.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Brice Edward Hollowell, a native of Chowan County, was drafted into the United States Army in 1943; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Hollowell served as a member of E Company, 36th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Armour Division of the United States Army; and,

WHEREAS, on September 17, 1944, Corporal Hollowell was taken prisoner after engaging in heavy combat with the German Army in the Rhineland Region of Germany; and,

WHEREAS, there were approximately 225 men in the Company, with about fifteen surviving the battle to be taken prisoner; and,

WHEREAS, Corporal Hollowell would remain a prisoner until the end of the Second World War, until April of 1945; and,

WHEREAS, specific military records maintained by the United States Government were destroyed by fire, resulting in Corporal Hollowell being separated from the United States Army on an incomplete discharge; and,

WHEREAS, because of the loss of documents, Corporal Hollowell was unaware that he was entitled to receive a Bronze Star Medal and a Prisoner of War Medal.

NOW, THEREFORE, by this Resolution, it is the honored pleasure of the Board of Commissioners of Chowan County, to recognize and congratulate Brice Edward Hollowell on the receipt of his awards, the Bronze Star Medal and the Prisoner of War Medal, to be presented to Mr. Hollowell on November 12, 2006.

This Resolution is adopted today, November 6, 2006, by the Board of Commissioners of Chowan County.

Nancy B. Morgan
County Clerk

Planning/Inspections Report

Planner Elizabeth Bryant reported that the zoning regulations have gone into place with a smooth transition. She noted that since the implementation of the zoning regulations, the number of zoning permits has almost doubled. Building permits issued for the month of October totaled 116. Ten nuisance code violations were abated in the month of October.

Finance Report

Finance Officer Lisa Jones distributed copies of the October financials, showing all funds on target for the budget year. She also shared a report on sales tax revenues, showing increases in the 2006 receipts. The EMS fund has met the monthly budgeted revenues for the 2006 budget year. The 2005 delinquent accounts have been forwarded to the contracted collection agency and total more than \$100,000.

By motion of Commissioner Downum to approve a resolution, Vice Chairman Ralph Cole was authorized to be added to the signature card at RBC Centura.

CAM A Grant Application

An application for 1300-feet of boardwalk along Pembroke Creek in the Red Banks Farm Park was rejected in a recent approval process. CAMA has announced that it has additional funds for distribution. Commissioner Alligood made a motion that the County re-submit the County's application for funds to construct the proposed boardwalk. Total project cost is \$179,300. Monies are allocated in this year's budget.

Ayes 6

No 0

Board Appointment – Workforce Development Board

Due to the resignation of Julian Miller, the Commissioners agreed to seek a nominee to be appointed as a new member of the Workforce Development Board. This appointment will be made at the December meeting.

Proposal for ARHS to Charge a Food and Lodging Inspection Fee

Current State funding for the inspections of restaurants and accommodations by the Health Department falls short by \$135,000 annually. All environmental programs other than restaurant and accommodations inspections, currently allow local option fee assessments of varying degrees, depending on the service. These services include swimming pool inspections, septic tank inspections, the alternative septic system program and inspections of tattoo parlors. Inspections for restaurants and accommodations should not be a responsibility of the taxpayer, but rather paid for by a user fee. The ARHS acknowledges that such legislation will be an uphill battle because the NC Restaurant Association has a very strong lobby. The rate may be set by the number of seats/beds to insure an equitable fee schedule.

ARHS has requested the Board of Commissioners' support in its efforts to seek legislation from the General Assembly authorizing a local option fee for inspections of restaurants and accommodations.

By motion of Commissioner Winslow, the Chowan County Board of Commissioners unanimously supported Albemarle Regional Health Services' efforts to receive authorization to assess a user fee for the inspections of restaurants and accommodations.

Ayes 6

No 0

Update – Gang Prevention Task Force

DSS Director Ben Rose reported that more than fifty people attended the organizational meeting for the Chowan County Gang Prevention Task Force. Vice Chairman Cole noted a conversation with a citizen concerned about the gang-like behavior and the “wannabes” which have caused trouble in and out of the school setting.

Mr. Rose said that initiatives being considered to prevent gang-like activity include the Gang Resistance Education program, whereby the Sheriff's Department would be trained to work in the School System, including working with the families of the young people involved in the gang-like activity; a youth advisory group selected from the student body; and involvement from the private sector and the church community.

One other consideration is the implementation of school uniforms, as there is evidence showing that the use of uniforms in school have reduced gang activity, and also improved learning and test scores.

It was the consensus of the Board that it will support the kinds of activity that needs to be done to stop any growth of gang-like activity in Chowan County.

Domestic Violence Awareness

Mr. Rose also reported that the forum on Domestic Violence Awareness held in October was well attended and many resources are being identified to assist victims and to prevent domestic violence. The fund to assist victims of domestic violence is set up and is being called the Chowan County Peace for Families Fund. Donations are to be sent to the Chowan County Finance Office and are tax deductible.

Report – Albemarle Mental Health Center Question

As requested by the Board at the last meeting, County Manager Cliff Copeland inquired into the status of the Albemarle Mental Health Center's Executive Director Charles Franklin's salary, and other questions raised in the newspaper. Following Mr. Franklin's retirement, he formed Nuggett Management Consultants and contracted with AMHC for a term of five years. The contract with Nuggett is based on the salary that Mr. Franklin earned before retirement, plus the fringe benefits he received. A letter addressed to Pasquotank County from the Chairman of the AMHC Board was presented justifying the salary which is set by the Board of Directors of AMHC. Following the inquiry by the Pasquotank Commissioners, the Retirement System investigated the issue and stopped retirement payments to Mr. Franklin, ruling that he cannot receive retirement pay while receiving compensation from Nuggett for the same position at AMHC. Mr. Franklin is appealing the decision of the Retirement System.

It was the consensus of the Board that Mr. Copeland should continue to work with the other member counties and the AMHC to resolve this conflict.

Resolutions Honoring the Lane and Byrum Families and the Ryland Ruritan Club for the Preservation Efforts at Dillard's Millpond

By motion of Commissioner Belfield, the following resolutions were approved for presentation to the Lane and Byrum Families and the Ryland Ruritan Club. The resolutions were presented at the dedication ceremony following the Board of Commissioners meeting.

A Resolution Honoring Walter O. Lane and H. Fahey Byrum, Sr. and Recognizing "Lane & Byrum's Mill"

WHEREAS, Walter O. Lane and H. Fahey Byrum Sr. have, since 1948, continued to operate the only remaining grist mill both in Chowan County and in the other northern Albemarle counties; and,

WHEREAS, the site surrounding Mr. Lane's and Mr. Byrum's current mill began as both a water-powered grist mill and a sawmill in 1762 under the ownership of nearby plantation owner Richard Brownrigg and his son Thomas Brownrigg, and was later inherited by their descendant Mary Louisa Beverly Cross, wife of Dr. Richard Dillard, Sr.; and,

WHEREAS, a saw mill and a grist mill operated under the name Brownrigg-Dillard's Mill on either end of the dam crossing Indian Creek until 1941 at which time the property was sold to Lewis White and then sold to Mr. Lane and Mr. Byrum in 1948; and,

WHEREAS, the mill pond adjacent to the property serves as an example of an undisturbed natural and ecological haven for fish and wildlife; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Lane and Mr. Byrum have long desired to allow the public to use their property to access the mill pond and enjoy its recreational benefits; and,

WHEREAS, through Mr. Lane's and Mr. Byrum's unselfish desire, each of them have donated to Chowan County a perpetual conservation easement over their property to allow for the public to forever enjoy the solitude and recreation afforded by the mill pond's environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Chowan County Board of Commissioners does hereby honor Mr. Walter O. Lane and Mr. H. Fahey Byrum, Sr. for their gracious and unselfish desire to give to the public a perpetual right to use their property for recreation and for access to the beautiful Brownrigg-Dillard's Mill Pond; and,

FURTHER, recognizes "Lane & Byrum's Mill" as the last grist mill operating in the county as an important part of the heritage of Chowan County.

Adopted today, the 6th day of November, 2006.

Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk

Resolution

WHEREAS, the Ryland Ruritan Club adopted the preservation and development of the Brownrigg-Dillard's Millpond as a community project; and,

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Committee Chairman Doug Hollowell, the Club successfully developed a plan for the project and obtained monies from the North Carolina Division of Water Resources to fund the plan; and,

WHEREAS, the Brownrigg-Dillard's Millpond Park project preserves a valuable historic site in Chowan County and provides a location for recreation for the citizens of Chowan County.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Chowan County Board of Commissioners does hereby express its appreciation to the Ryland Ruritan Club for its work to accomplish this preservation and development of the Brownrigg-Dillard's Millpond Park, in cooperation with the Byrum and Lane Families; and,

FURTHER, directs that this Resolution be presented to Jimmy Hare, President of the Ryland Ruritan Club, at the dedication of the Brownrigg-Dillard's Millpond Park on Monday, November 6, 2006.

Adopted today, November 6, 2006.
Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk

Commissioner Seat Vacancy

Due to the recent death of Chairman Wayne Goodwin, the seat representing District 1, Seat 2 is vacant. County Attorney Peter Rascoe outlined the steps to fill the seat on the Board of Commissioners. At the December meeting, the Board of Commissioners will be requested to declare a vacancy for District 1, Seat 2 and to make a request to the Executive Committee of the Democratic Party to present a nominee within thirty days. After this name is submitted, the Commissioners may appoint this nominee, or any other person selected by the Board of Commissioners.

Public Comment

None offered.

Manager's Report

Mr. Copeland expressed condolences to the Goodwin Family, saying that Chowan County has lost a true friend.

He also announced that this November Commissioners meeting is the last official meeting as Sheriff for Sheriff Fred Spruill, pending his November 30 retirement. Sheriff Spruill thanked the Commissioners for the support he has received while Sheriff, saying that being Sheriff of Chowan County has been a great experience for him and said that he hopes he has contributed to the well-being of the County.

Commissioners expressed their appreciation to Sheriff Spruill, recalling times they have worked with the Sheriff to accomplish mutual goals. Vice-Chairman Cole told Sheriff Spruill that he appreciated the positive influence and the role model that the Sheriff has projected to the young people and the general public.

The Sheriff will be honored by the County at a reception on November 30.

Mr. Copeland noted that the County has just completed two groundbreaking ceremonies, for the Public Safety Center and the Library renovation.

Mr. Rascoe explained that the many regulatory agencies, including the Historic Preservation Office and the US Department of Interior have approved the construction and that demolition of a section of the parking lot behind the Library will begin Thursday at noon. Referring to the controversy posed by one of the members of the Cupola House Association, he noted the precautions taken to insure that no damage will be done to the Cupola House on the adjoining property. Since there is no pile driving to be done and with all the technology in place to protect nearby buildings, all agencies have determined that it is safe to do the work. A letter has been sent to the Cupola House Association offering to video tape the structure's interior and exterior to assure that no damage results from the construction. No response has been received as of this date.

The Veteran's Day Ceremony will be held Saturday at the Veteran's Memorial. Lt. Tim Belch with the North Carolina Highway Patrol and a member of the National Guard will speak at the event. Lt. Belch, a native and resident of Chowan County, recently served fourteen months with the National Guard in Iraq.

The meeting was adjourned.

Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk

Following the meeting of the Board of Commissioners, a dedication ceremony was held at Brownrigg-Dillard's Millpond. The Millpond was restored and easements from the Lane and Byrum Families will allow the area to be used for leisure activities, including canoeing, kayaking and fishing. The Ryland Ruritan Club sponsored the preservation effort and a grant to restore the dams was acquired through the North Carolina Division of Water Resources. The Ryland Ruritan Club hosted a lunch for the guests.