

Regular Meeting
December 1, 2003

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, December 1, 2003 at 6:00pm in the Commissioners Room, Courthouse.

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

Absent: Jimmy Alligood.

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

Consent Agenda

By motion of Commissioner Jones, the Consent Agenda, including the minutes of the November meeting and the following budget amendments, was approved.

ayes 6

no 0

Budget Amendments

4370 EMS Grants	increase	\$63,220	Hurricane Relief Fund for Unmet Needs
4268 Sr Center	increase	1,687	nutrition site
5352 DSS	increase	7,269	transportation funding
5321 DSS	increase	338	adult day care funding
5372 DSS	increase	10,922	crisis intervention prevention funding

County Manager Cliff Copeland moderated the organizational meeting for the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Winslow nominated Commissioner Belfield to serve as Chairman. Commissioner Goodwin made a motion that the nominations be closed and that Commissioner Belfield be elected by acclamation.

ayes 6

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Commissioner Jones nominated Commissioner Goodwin to serve as Vice Chairman. Commissioner Downum moved that the nominations be closed and Commissioner Goodwin be elected by acclamation.

ayes 6

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By motion of Commissioner Jones, the meeting schedule will remain the same, with alternating months at 9:00am and 6:00pm in the Commissioners Room.

ayes 6

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Hurricane Recovery Update

Finance Report/County Property Insurance

County Manager Cliff Copeland reported that the County has expended \$1,127,761 in hurricane recovery costs, including debris cleanup expenses to date, storm related wages, food, and some of the building repairs. FEMA receipts total about \$600,000 to date and building/property insurance payments total about \$400,000 to date. Repairs to the Arts Council and the Senior Center are in progress, as well as

repairs to other County property. Architect Lou Jurkowski, and BJAC, have donated their architectural expertise to design the roof repairs for Swain Auditorium and the Old Walker School/Recreation Dept/COA property roofs.

Debris Cleanup

Staff Attorney Peter Rascoe said that a survey confirmed that, as of last week, 12-15 roads in Chowan County had not received a first round pickup, and that those roads are now given top priority. There are no FEMA reimbursements for any pickup after this second round. NCDOT is working with the County to identify any trees that might be dangerous to the public safety.

The staff will work with the Landfill to determine a policy to waiver landfill charges for roof repairs through the end of the year.

Inspections/Planning

Planner Elizabeth Bryant stated that 60% of the building inspections being done are hurricane related repairs and that the Planning Office continues to work with FEMA in Chowan County's National Flood Insurance Program.

The County and Town are preparing a joint application for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (Federal 75%, State 25%). Surveys are being collected from interested property owners. Holland Consulting, who assisted Pitt County following Hurricane Floyd, has submitted a proposal to administer the program if funded.

By motion of Commissioner Downum, the County was authorized to enter into a contract with Holland Consulting for professional services.

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Mitigation

Mr. Copeland reported that the County and Town have submitted requests to Senator's Elizabeth Dole's Office for generators to be installed at the water plants, for a relocation of the Central Communications Center and for funds for the community college.

Unmet Needs Fund

DSS Director Ben Rose stated that the private corporate donations from the Governor's Office to Chowan County totaled \$63,000 and that \$20,000 has been distributed to citizens for roof repairs, refrigerators, medical supplies and various home repairs. Two businesses were given assistance. The remaining \$43,000 will be distributed to qualifying citizens for utility payment assistance with a cap of \$150 per household. Applications will be received beginning Wednesday, December 3 and continuing until the funds are distributed.

Albemarle Commission has received a grant of \$800,000 for Region R for private and public projects, with a concentration of assistance to senior citizens.

Annual Forestry Report

Forest Ranger Ferrell Banks was not able to attend the meeting and provided copies of his report for distribution to the Commissioners. The Chowan County report included fire control services, smoke management, forest management of 598 acres, and particularly noted was the Forest Service's assistance in the hurricane recovery, providing

23 employees who worked 2415 hours to clear roads and remove trees. Mr. Copeland expressed his appreciation to the Forest Service for this contribution of time and work.

Canal Clearing

Commissioner Jones moved that the County approve a resolution seeking State assistance in the cleanup of canals at Arrowhead Beach, Cape Colony and Country Club Drive. A budget of \$30,500 is proposed, with 2/3 payment from the State and 1/3 provided by other grant sources and in-kind match from the County.

eyes 6

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The County is also working on some grant assistance for watershed cleanup.

Resolution

WHEREAS, the Chowan County Board of Commissioners desires to sponsor the clearing and snagging of canals in Arrowhead Beach, Cape Colony and Country Club Drive subdivisions to remove debris from Hurricane Isabel and to reduce flooding and improve drainage and navigation.

NOW, THEREFORE, Be it resolved that:

1. The Board of Commissioners authorizes the Chowan County agencies and the Edenton-Chowan Special Projects Office to work cooperatively with the Albemarle Resource Conservation and Development Council in applying to agencies of the State of North Carolina for public monies to carry out these projects;
2. Specifically, the aforementioned Chowan County agencies are authorized and directed to request grant funding in the amount of 66 2/3 percent of project costs or \$20,335 from the North Carolina Division of Water Resources of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for clearing and snagging of the above described canal systems;
3. Chowan County will assume responsibility for other project costs through other grant funding and in-kind match funding;
4. The County will obtain all necessary State and Federal permits;
5. The County will comply with all applicable laws governing the award of contracts and the expenditure of public funds by local governments;
6. The County 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;
7. The County 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 a granting agency;
8. The County will assure that the project is open for use by the public on an equal basis;
9. The County will hold any granting agency harmless from any damages that may result from the construction, operation and maintenance of the project; and
10. The County accepts responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the completed project.

Adopted by the Chowan County Board of Commissioners, this the first day of December 2003.

Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk

Legislative Districts

The most recent legislative district plan passed the Senate and House of the General Assembly last week and has been forwarded to the Governor. The State Court ruled that the two previous plans were unconstitutional. Of local concern is that the new plan will take Chowan County out of Senator Basnight's district.

Commissioner Jones moved that the Chairman be authorized to submit a letter to the Governor expressing the County's concern and displeasure with the County's realignment.

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Banking Agreement

By motion of Commissioner Goodwin, the County was authorized to execute a resolution and agreement for banking services with RBC Centura.

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Manager's Report

Mr. Copeland announced that Tax Administrator Lynda Hendricks suffered a stroke and is presently in the Wake Medical Center Rehabilitation Center for therapy. It is hoped that she will be discharged by the end of the week to recover at home.

Old Courthouse

Funding for the additional plaster work in the Old Courthouse has been secured and the work should be completed by February.

Sheriff's Report

Sheriff Fred Spruill notified the Board of two new laws effective December 1:

*a requirement that DNA samples be taken from convicted felons. He plans to contract with Albemarle Regional Health Services for professional services to take the DNA samples.

*a requirement in domestic violence laws that firearms in the household be confiscated. The law states that the Sheriff will "charge a reasonable fee for storage of the firearms". He intends to work with surrounding counties to determine the fees to be charged and possible locations for storage.

Fire Insurance Rates

In reply to Commissioner Winslow's question, Mr. Copeland reported that the State required class for the Center Hill Crossroads volunteer Firemen is being rescheduled (postponed due to hurricane) so that the County can apply for the fire insurance rate reclassification. Mr. Copeland and EMS Coordinator Doug Belch met with representatives in Raleigh in an effort to expedite the process.

Public Comment

None offered.

The meeting was adjourned.

Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk