

Regular Meeting  
July 7, 2003

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, July 7, 2003, at 9:00 am in the Commissioners Room, Courthouse.

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

Prior to the regular meeting, the Chowan Soil and Water Conservation Service Board and staff hosted a breakfast for the Commissioners at the Agriculture Office conference room.

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

Consent Agenda

By motion of Commissioner Jones, the Consent Agenda, including the June meetings minutes and the following budget amendments, tax refunds and reliefs, were approved.

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Budget Amendments

8150 Tourism Dev Auth	inc	\$308	revenue from Music & Water Festival for related expenses
	inc	802	contr. from Hist.Comm. for event received for training booklets
4370 EMS	inc	\$2790	donation from CMS PTS/Booster Club for scoreboard purchase
6130 Recreation	inc	2800	Medicaid Transportation
5352 DSS	inc	\$10,000	

Tax Refunds

JL Copeland		\$197.15	vehicle wrecked
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Tax Reliefs

FD Felton		\$151.37	incorrect billing
S Foster		\$161.99	mobile home moved
CL Hogge		\$117.68	listed in Kentucky
JL Winslow		\$165.13	comm tag purchased
MD Loewus		\$100.29	vehicle sold
EK Rea		\$107.53	vehicle wrecked
Regulator Marine		\$182.86	vehicle sold
KM Stevenson		\$141.69	comm tag purchased
KM Stevenson		\$412.96	listed in Perquimans
J Tolentino		\$107.09	new tag purchased

#### Hugh Williamson Memorial Proposal

Judge Terrence Boyle, Chairman of the Commissioner appointed Hugh Williamson Memorial committee, presented proposed drawings of a monument to honor the signer of the United States Constitution and United States Congressman from North Carolina, who was a resident of Chowan County and Edenton.

As a note of interest, Judge Boyle stated that Edenton is the only place in North Carolina with residents who signed both the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence (Joseph Hewes).

These Revolutionary period residents of Edenton and Chowan County served their Country at a critical time in the Nation's history and were participants in the determination of the direction of the United States of America.

Noting that the Courthouse Green is "sacred ground", he emphasized that the committee has worked diligently to propose a simple, tasteful and dignified monument, not to detract from the Joseph Hewes monument, but to complement. The committee's objective is to enhance the monument to the Declaration of Independence and Joseph Hewes with the memorial to the Constitution and Hugh Williamson.

The proposed monument is a low elliptical monument to frame the Hewes monument and replaces the brickwork surrounding the Hewes monument with North Carolina granite. The proposed monument will not interfere with the trees bordering the Green or the terraces and steps across the Green. Judge Boyle stated that this proposal comes with great care and the consensus of the committee.

By motion of Commissioner Jones, the Commissioners agreed to accept the proposed plan for the Hugh Williamson memorial and to request that Judge Boyle and the committee continue to assist the Board of Commissioners to seek funding for the memorial.

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Chairman Belfield and County Manager Cliff Copeland both expressed their appreciation to the committee for its work to produce the proposed plan.

#### Board Appointment - Workforce Development Board

By motion of Commissioner Goodwin, Julian Miller was appointed to the regional Workforce Development Board.

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#### Board Appointment - Jury Commission

Commissioner Alligood made a motion that Marion Goodman be reappointed to the Jury Commission.

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#### Schedule Public Hearing - Community Development Block Grant

By motion of Commissioner Alligood, the Board of Commissioners scheduled a public hearing for the August 4 meeting at 6:00pm in the Commissioners Room, to receive comment on the Scattered Site Housing Community Development Block Grant.

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Holladay's Island Purchase through Clean Water Management Trust Fund  
Peter Rascoe presented a proposal that Chowan County purchase the  
Holladay's Island in the Chowan River through an approved grant from the  
Clean Water Management Trust Fund. The purchase price is \$33,600 for the  
216-acre property.

This purchase will tie in with the greenways/natural area preservation  
efforts of the County and will protect and preserve one of the last  
completely undeveloped areas in the County. Rodney Johnson at the  
Albemarle Resource Conservation and Development office plans to apply for  
Natural Trails' grant money to begin the development of camping platforms  
on the island similar to those in the Roanoke River administered by The  
Nature Conservancy.

The grant money is available from the CWMTF grant to Chowan County from  
money saved on other budgets and the Fund Trustees extended the County's  
grant period to allow for other projects to be identified. The Fund  
Trustees approved the Holladay's Island project in keeping with the  
intended use of the Fund's monies.

The Holladay name came from the first known owner of the property of  
European descent, Thomas Holladay and belonged to William Holladay as  
recent as the 1800's.

Suggested uses for the property include passive recreational uses to be  
networked with the canoe trails along the River and Creeks and is also  
near the Cannons Ferry Riverwalk, boat docks and boat ramp. Also in the  
works is the possibility that the Battle of Wingfield site can be added  
to the Civil War Trails network with signage at Cannons Ferry.

A conservation easement to the State from the County, as in previous  
CWMTF acquisitions will be necessary.

Commissioner Goodwin moved that the County accept the CWMTF grant for the  
purchase of the property and to approve a proposed contract with the Alan  
McCullough, Jr. Estate.

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Amendment to Resolution - That Register of Deeds Not Accept Any Deed  
Transferring Real Property Unless All Taxes Are Certified Paid by the Tax  
Administrator

In December 2001, the Board of Commissioners passed a Resolution  
requiring that the Tax Administrator certify that all taxes are current  
prior to the Register of Deeds transferring a deed. Since the money for  
these taxes is usually exchanged at the closing of the sale, it is  
requested that the County amend its resolution to state:

The Register of Deeds shall accept without certification a deed submitted  
for registration under the supervision of a closing attorney and  
containing this statement on the deed: "This instrument prepared  
by: \_\_\_\_\_, a licensed North Carolina attorney. Delinquent taxes, if  
any, to be paid by the closing attorney to the County Tax Collector upon  
disbursement of closing proceeds."

The attorney certifies that the taxes will be paid at the closing,  
guaranteeing to the County that the taxes will be paid.

The Tax Administrator and the Register of Deeds have agreed to this  
change in procedure and requested that the Commissioners consider this  
amendment to the Resolution.

By motion of Commissioner Alligood, the Board approved the change.

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#### Manager's Report

Edenton Fire Chief Chuck Westbrook reported that the fire departments in the County and Town are working to have the Center Hill Crossroads Volunteer Fire Dept rerated and a six-mile district approved by the State. This will be of particular benefit to homeowners as they purchase fire insurance for their properties.

Mr. Copeland reported that the sewer feasibility study for the southern end of the County is progressing and that he hopes to have a report at the August meeting.

Plastering is being completed at the Old Courthouse and the November completion date is on schedule.

#### Tax Settlement Report

Tax Administrator Lynda Hendricks submitted the June 30, 2003 Tax Settlement Report, with a 96% overall collection rate and a decreasing backlog of delinquent taxes as a result of an aggressive collection program. The Report was approved by motion of Commissioner Alligood.

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#### Hunting Laws Meeting

Mr. Copeland and Commissioners Goodwin and Winslow reported a good meeting with representatives of the hunt clubs in the County and some landowners to discuss ways to improve communications between hunters and landowners and ways to improve some of the hunting laws. Mr. Copeland has submitted a letter to Mark Rich of the Wildlife Commission and Sheriff Fred Spruill for their input.

#### Proposed Baptist Children's Home

Mr. Copeland reported that the financing agency for Albemarle Learning Center, USDA Rural Center, has agreed to consider a proposal to split ten acres from the Albemarle Learning Center property for the Baptist Children's Home, and also that the BCH representatives will soon visit the property to locate the building site for the USDA's consideration.

#### Public Comment

None offered.

The meeting was adjourned.

Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk