

Chowan County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Monday, August 7, 2023
Chowan County Public Safety Center
305 West Freemason Street
6:00pm

This meeting was recorded. A copy of the recording is in the meeting file labeled August 7, 2023.

Present: Chair Bob Kirby, Commissioners, Ron Cummings, Alex Kehayes, Ellis Lawrence, Tray Taylor, Larry McLaughlin and Chris Evans.

Staff present County Manager Kevin Howard, County Attorney Lauren Arizaga-Womble. Finance Officer Cathy Smith and Board Clerk Susanne Stallings

Regular Meeting

Chair Kirby called the regular meeting to order and led all in the pledge of allegiance.

Commissioner Cummings then offered the invocation.

Approval of Agenda

Ms. Stallings noted an amendment to the agenda:

- Removal of item #5 High School Project

Commissioner Cummings moved to approve the agenda as amended.

Chair Kirby asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Public Comment

Chair Kirby opened the floor for public comment.

Lorrie Dablow, 110 E King Street Edenton, NC spoke regarding the state of the Hotel Hinton on King Street. She stated that the building had been neglected and is in decay. She noted that the building is being damaged by vandals and people are breaking into it and doing drugs. She noted the County donated the parking lot behind the building to the Town of Edenton and at that time it was estimated the building remodel project by SAGA Construction would be completed by 2016. She stated that SAGA has received part of their Tax Credits and allowed others to expire. She asked that the Commissioners revisit the resolution donating the parking lot to the Town in order to put pressure on SAGA to complete the rehabilitation of the building. She noted that SAGA has invested in over \$1.5 billion in assets and has done nothing with the Hotel.

Amber Hardy 102 Olde Colony Drive Edenton, NC stated that as a realtor in Chowan County they have closed on 153 vacant lots, 151 single family and 4 commercial properties. Three of those properties are adjacent to the hotel property and directly affected by the condition of the hotel. She stated she would appreciate it if the Commissioners would review that agreement.

Patrick Dablow 110 E King Street Edenton, NC stated his concern is with safety at the Hotel Hinton property. He stated he has notified the police of people entering the building by breaking in the side door. He stated there is gang activity inside the building. He stated he has called law enforcement to make them aware of the problem and they have been out there several times. He stated he grew up in a small town in the mid-west and there was a fire in 1977 in a similar type building and the building burned down and 17 people were killed. He stated most of the windows on the Hotel Hinton are damaged and there is no fire suppression installed for safety. He stated this is the largest building in downtown Edenton and the embers from that building would come down on adjacent properties including the historic 1767 Courthouse.

Consent Agenda

All items on the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine and may be enacted by one motion. If a County Commissioner requests discussion on an item, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately.

Ms. Stallings noted a typo in the minutes of June 12, 2023.

a. **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the July 10, 2023 Special and Regular Meetings and July 11, 2023 CIP Committee meeting.

Commissioner McLaughlin moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Chair Kirby asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

NCACC Annual Conference

Youth Delegate Introduction

Boys and Girls Club Executive Director Elizabeth Mitchell introduced Ly'Te'Eire Drew to the Commissioners. Mr. Shred shared his personal experiences participating in Boys and Girls Club activities. Mr. Drew will represent Chowan County as its Youth Delegate at the 2023 North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) Annual Conference. The NCACC and its partners 4-H Youth Development and Boys and Girls Club of NC sponsor the annual Youth Summit event which runs concurrent with the Commissioners Annual Conference. The youth are provided opportunities to talk with local county officials and learn about the role of County Commissioners, the budgeting process and develop strategies to further youth leadership and communication skills. On Saturday morning of the conference there will be a Youth Involvement Breakfast where the youth will discuss issues that are important to them with all of the County Commissioners in attendance. Two Chowan County Commissioners, Chair Kirby and Commissioner Lawrence will participate in this year's conference. The Annual Conference is scheduled to be held in Wake County August 24-26. Chair Kirby informed Mr. Drew that he and Commissioner Lawrence looked forward to seeing him there.

Public Hearing – Text Amendment 23-01 Warehouse

Chair Kirby noted that the Board will hold a public hearing to hear TA 23-01. The Planning Board unanimously recommended to NOT approve the text amendment request for the addition of “Warehouse” (general storage/enclosed) to the A-1 zoning district.

Commissioner Kehayes moved to open the floor for the public hearing. Chair Kirby asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Planner, Brandon Shoaf provided the Board with the staff report:

STAFF REPORT

To: Chowan County Commissioners and Manager
Date: June 3, 2023
Case: CC-TA-23-01

GENERAL INFORMATION

Requested Action: Review recommendation for a text amendment request to add Warehouse (general storage/ enclosed) to the A-1 zoning district, from the Planning Board.

ANALYSIS

This amendment is prompted by a request from Mr. Javier Bustos Palacios. Mr. Palacios has asked for this because he owns Restaurant Equipment Liquidation, a local company that sells restaurant equipment outside of this market, but stores it inventory locally. He purchased a parcel near Crossroads with the intention of building a metal building and using it for the storage of inventory. He based his assumption that this was a permitted use on the surrounding land uses, an automotive repair shop and salvage yard, a commodity warehousing operation and a Dollar General store.

Mr. Palacios came into apply for the permit to start the project and we discussed the need for a text amendment if wanted to continue. His letter is attached here.

Proposed Language:

Attached, is a working copy of the section of Article 8 with the proposed language in yellow highlight and the proposed Use Table with the addition highlighted. Also attached is Article 16.02 and 16.04, which is screening requirements referenced in the proposed language.

RECOMMENDATION

This amendment request was originally tabled in May, at the regular Planning Board meeting because the board asked staff to do further research on the repercussions of the amendment. There really was not much else to provide other than to present that none of our neighboring

counties permit this type of use outside of their commercial/ industrial districts. And that's the same way we permit them now, warehousing like what is proposed in this amendment, is permitted in the B1 and I1 and I2 districts.

The Planning Board unanimously voted for the Commissioners not to approve this amendment. The reasons were that warehousing that is in the area described earlier, agricultural warehouses could already be permitted, so that's already taken care of. The board did not think that it was appropriate to allow just any warehousing to be located in and around, what is mostly residential in nature- the A1 district. Staff supports the boards decision on their recommendation.

Any vote that you make in tonight, in a recommendation, should also be preceded by, and voted on, a statement of consistency with the current Land Use Plan. For example:

This amendment will be consistent with the 2018 Land Use Plan or any other plan officially adopted by the Board of Commissioners because it further brings the County Zoning Codes into compliance the NC General Statutes.

Mr. Shoaf suggested that the Board consider tabling the amendment and request that it be included in the future rewrite of the Zoning Ordinance.

Chair Kirby opened the floor for any public comment.

There was none.

Commissioner Cummings moved to close the public hearing. Chair Kirby asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Chair Kirby stated his concern that the application was denied. He stated there are buildings all over Chowan County used for storage and nobody knows if they are residential storage or commercial. He noted that near the proposed project CA Perry agricultural warehouses and the area is zoned A-1. He stated his concern with delaying decision on the text amendment because the applicant has an immediate need for storage.

County Attorney Lauren Arizaga-Womble noted that agricultural uses are accessory structures to the primary use.

Commissioner McLaughlin stated that he agrees with the decision of the Planning Board. He stated that A-1 is a broad category and you can do just about anything. He stated his concern over having a commercial use adjacent to residential properties.

Mr. Shoaf discussed potential changes that may come with the update to the zoning ordinance.

Chair Kirby stated that residential uses are allowed in the A-1 zoning district and people build homes in the A-1 district. He stated he understood concerns over the use in a residential district but this is an agricultural district the Board is considering. He stated once the warehouse is built adjacent property owners do not know what is stored in the buildings.

Commissioner Evans noted the potential property is adjacent to a Dollar General and he asked what the use of the property was prior to the request.

Mr. Shoaf stated that the property was zoned A-1 and Dollar General got a Special Use Permit from the Planning Board.

Commissioner Evans asked if the individual could build a store front on the property and the storage be allowed, noting this is similar to what the Dollar General is currently.

Chair Kirby noted that there is a large junk yard use across the road as well and is open and visible from the road.

Mr. Howard stated the update to the zoning ordinance may include commercial areas in the areas currently zoned A-1.

Chair Kirby stated this area of the County is currently a commercial area.

Commissioner Cummings moved to table the decision until a zoning review is completed.

The Board discussed if there is a need to decide now or table the matter.

Chair Kirby stated he felt that a decision should be made as the applicant is currently renting storage space.

Commissioner Kehayes stated his concern with kicking the can. He questioned why storage is not an allowed use in A-1 but wind turbines are allowed. He stated that he felt the Board should listen to the Planning Board.

Being no further discussion Chair Kirby asked for all in favor of tabling the decision. The motion failed (3-4 Kirby, Evans, Lawrence and Kehayes).

Commissioner Kehayes moved to accept the recommendation from the Planning Board and reject the text amendment.

Commissioner Taylor asked for clarification on the requested use.

Mr. Shoaf restated the use is for storage.

Chair Kirby asked for all in favor, the motion passed (5-2 Kirby and Cummings).

Commissioner McLaughlin moved that the action to deny the text amendment request is consistent with the 2018 Land Use Plan or any other plan officially adopted by the Board of Commissioners because it further brings the County Zoning Codes into compliance with the NC General Statutes.

Chair Kirby asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

911 Contract with MCNC

Mr. Howard presented the Board with a request to approve a contract between Chowan County and MCNC for the installation of fiber for the radio system. The County will receive grant funds for the installation of this fiber. Currently Perquimans County has fiber in place that Chowan County uses as a backup center and this fiber is paid for by Perquimans County. The new fiber will allow for Chowan County to serve as the backup for Perquimans County.

Commissioner Lawrence asked for clarification on the fiber creating redundancy.

Commissioner Cummings moved to approve the contract subject to the final review and approval from the County Attorney. Chair Kirby asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Water Department Task Agreement with County Engineer

Mr. Howard presented the Board with an agreement with Rivers and Associates to perform a Water Rate Study in the amount of \$50,000. There are monies in the current fiscal year budget to fund this study. He noted there are additional task orders budgeted for the future.

Commissioner McLaughlin stated his concern with a rate study and asked if this could be done in house. He asked if the rates have been recently reviewed.

Mr. Howard explained that this study is a forecast to assist the County with moving forward with the R/O Project and planning for the expense of the project. He stated the rates have not been studied in several years. He added that the current rate is adjusted each year to meet the budget however this study is planning for sustaining an R/O project.

Commissioner McLaughlin asked if this could result in incremental rate increases.

Mr. Howard stated this study will allow the County to keep its rates in line with the needs and the project.

Commissioner Lawrence noted the study would answer the question if there need to be incremental rate increases.

Mr. Howard noted the monies for the study were budgeted this year. He also noted there were no grant funds available to fund the study.

Commissioner Cummings moved to approve the task order as presented. He asked if it needed attorney review.

Ms. Arizaga-Womble stated the agreement is standard form and she approves it.

Chair Kirby asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Mr. Howard asked the Board if they would like to set an amount for him to approve task orders that are currently budgeted. It was decided by a consensus of the Board to put this on the next agenda for the Board to decide.

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Committee Projects

Mr. Howard noted that the Board will review and consider approval of the following recommended projects from the CIP Committee.

a. **CIP 2024 Recommended Funding Schedule**

Mr. Howard presented the Board with the proposed 5 year funding schedule is attached for the Board's review and consideration. He noted that each project on the list comes to the Board for final approval and this schedule is a plan or outline for capital projects.

Commissioner McLaughlin who serves as the Chair of the CIP Committee reviewed several of the items on the proposed funding schedule.

Board members discussed various projects in the list it was noted some of the projects will be discussed more specifically in the agenda items below. A copy of the CIP Recommended funding schedule is in the meeting file labeled August 7, 2023.

Commissioner Cummings moved to approve the recommended funding schedule as presented. Chair Kirby asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

b. **Sheriff Radio Purchase**

Mr. Howard reviewed the proposal to upgrade agency radios for the Sheriff. A project cost and description were provided. The Board will consider financing options or direct purchase of the radios.

Chair Kirby stated his concern with paying for finance charges if the equipment can be purchased directly.

Commissioner Cummings stated he agreed with the Chairman and moved to approve the purchase of the radios at \$303,266.60.

Commissioner McLaughlin agreed with this idea and asked where the funds would come from for the purchase.

Ms. Smith stated that the funds would come from the Capital Reserve Fund.

Commissioner McLaughlin noted this would be a large portion of the funds expended for this year.

Chair Kirby asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

c. **Ag Building Pedestrian Bridge Repair**

Mr. Howard presented the Board with a proposal from JKF Architecture to develop design and construction documents for the repair of the pedestrian bridge, facilitate bids and oversee the construction administration. The cost for the service is \$29,978.

Commissioner McLaughlin moved to approve the expense as presented. Chair Kirby asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

d. Swain Window Project

Mr. Howard stated the CIP committee recommends covering of the windows at Swain with acrylic sheets to reduce further damage. The Board will review proposals to cover the windows, scrape and paint the windows, purchase paint and materials to repair rotten wood and rent a lift for the repairs. The total project cost is estimated to be \$37,442.38. Mr. Howard asked that the Board approve the recommended project with a cost not to exceed \$40,000.

Commissioner McLaughlin moved to approve the project to not exceed \$40,000. Chair Kirby asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

e. Courthouse Parking Lot

Mr. Howard stated that Maintenance staff has received three bids to repair and repave the parking lot at the Courthouse (Broad Street). Staff recommends award of the bid to the low bidder RC Paving in the amount of \$66,000.

Commissioner Evans moved to approve the low bid as submitted. Chair Kirby asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

f. Courthouse HVAC & Roof Design

Mr. Howard noted that the Board has a proposal from JKF Architecture for HVAC and Roof Design at the Courthouse as recommended by the CIP Committee. Since that meeting, there have had issues with the current system and have had discussions about moving forward with Courtroom renovations and replacement of the HVAC unit for the Courtroom only. He stated that the humidity levels are of greater concern and the need to replace the HVAC unit for the Courtroom is needed. He stated the dome has some damage and needs to be removed from the Courtroom. He stated that the Architect will provide another cost estimate for design of the Courtroom. He stated the design would allow bidders to bid on the same specs. He estimates the design costs to be around \$102,715. He stated that this project may have to be done over two years and scheduling the construction would have to be coordinated with the Courts. Mr. Howard stated he will be bringing a new design proposal to the next meeting.

Colleton Software Agreement

Ms. Smith provided the Board with a sample agreement letter between Chowan County and Colleton Software, the County's EMS Billing Service to allow Colleton to negotiate billing claims on behalf of the County. She stated this process is much similar to how insurance companies negotiate payments to providers. The County gave Colleton the authority to negotiate the amounts due with the customers to not accept less than 85% of the total amount due.

Chair Kirby asked if the Board will need to look at the rates that are billed.

Ms. Smith stated that this is a loss of about \$15,000 in revenue annually.

Commissioner Taylor moved to give the County Manager authority to sign the agreement letter. Chair Kirby asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Davenport Financial Advisory Agreement

Mr. Howard stated the Board has discussed placing a bond referendum on the ballot in 2024 for recreational uses. He stated the Board has received various requests from the public and the school system to build a recreation complex (ball fields), additionally there have been requests for a natatorium (Swimming pool) and other recreational facilities. He stated that a bond referendum for the 2024 ballot to allow voters to decide if the County will assume the debt for construction of these facilities. He stated that in order to get the referendum on the ballot it first has to be approved by the Local Government Commission (LGC). He stated that a contract with Davenport will provide the County with pre referendum advisory and consulting services in anticipation of a 2024 General Obligation and Recreation Bond referendum. He stated it ensures the County does what it needs to do in order to inform voters of the referendum impact before the matter is on the ballot.

Commissioner McLaughlin asked if the Board ever voted to do the referendum or to not do it. He stated that a pool, a Senior Center, parks and ballfields have been suggested to go on a referendum. He stated not all items on the list will appeal to everyone. He stated the public will have reasons to vote in the affirmative or not for each item.

Mr. Howard stated a bond is the cheapest way to borrow money. He stated Davenport will provide the County with information to decide if a bond is the best route for the County or not.

Commissioner Kehayes stated knowing the project cost and the expense to the tax payer is information that needs to be gathered and shared with the public. He stated the cost and the project needs to be clear to the taxpayer.

Commissioner Evans stated he can see where some senior citizens may not see the value in a pool or ballfields that would cause their taxes to go up.

Commissioner Lawrence stated the senior citizens do support a pool.

Commissioner Evans stated the point he is trying to make is the retirement community and the working community have different needs or desires.

Commissioner McLaughlin stated he was in favor of building a new Senior Center because the current location is poor.

Chair Kirby noted that the general statutes do not require counties to provide a Senior Center or Recreational facilities. He noted the statutes require the County to fund schools. He stated he wanted to note all of the items for the referendum are wants and not needs. He stated that he would suggest holding public hearings during the process to get public input.

Commissioner Evans asked how the County determines what projects are included in the referendum.

Mr. Howard stated that this review by Davenport will help the Board determine the next steps. He stated this helps the County determine what it is able to do.

Ms. Arizaga-Womble stated that this company will help narrow the field and that expertise is needed in this process regarding funding vehicles. She stated the Board may decide to not issue a bond referendum. She stated by approving this contract this is not committing the county to having a bond referendum.

Chair Kirby stated he would not recommend having a “shopping list” for voters to pick their favorite projects. He stated it should be all or none.

Mr. Howard noted the impact on the tax rate has to be included on the ballot.

The Board discussed various benchmark requirements in the process for approving a referendum.

Commissioner Evans moved to approve the contract with Davenport.

Chair Kirby asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Financial Items

Ms. Smith will present the following:

- a. 2023 Fiscal Year Budget Amendments (Clean Up)
2023-085

Account Number	Account Description	Revenue (Inc+/Dec-)	Expense (Inc+/Dec-)
Sheriff's Office			
11-3431-891-00	Concealed Weapon Permits - Rev	3,060.00	
11-4310-498-00	Concealed Weapon Permits - Exp		3,060.00
Gov Body			
11-4110-311-00	Travel		184.32
Admin/Finance			
11-4120-126-00	Salaries - PT		(184.32)
Tax Admin			
11-4140-121-00	Salaries - Regular		(5,394.50)
Legal			
11-4150-192-00	Legal Services		5,394.50
Senior Center			
11-4268-126-00	Salaries - PT		2,223.48
11-4268-181-00	Fica		161.45
11-4268-182-00	Retirement		(14.88)
11-4268-183-00	Hospitalization		44.76
11-4268-251-00	Automotive Supplies		(1,000.00)
11-4268-311-00	Travel		(1,414.81)
11-4268-433-00	Rental/Lease - Vehicle		2,260.31
11-4268-550-00	Capital Outlay - Vehicles		(2,260.31)
Central Comm			
11-4270-121-00	Salaries - Regular		(7,000.00)
Sheriff's Office			
11-4310-182-00	Retirement		(2,234.38)
11-4310-183-00	Hospitalization		(28,855.28)
11-4310-352-00	Maint & Repairs - Equipment		2,580.34
11-4310-353-00	Maint & Repairs - Vehicle		11,772.47
11-4310-433-00	Rental/Lease - Vehicle		16,736.85
Coroner			
11-4360-193-00	Professional Services		7,000.00
Emergency Mgmt			
11-4330-126-00	Salaries - PT		(1,822.23)
11-4330-510-00	C/O - Equipment		1,822.23
Recreation			
11-6130-121-00	Salaries - Reg		(185.21)
11-6130-171-00	Committee Exp - Advisory		(780.00)
11-6130-181-00	Fica		(491.50)
11-6130-182-00	Retirement		(965.66)
11-6130-183-00	Hospitalization		(2,907.31)
11-6130-270-00	Concessions		400.00
11-6130-321-00	Telephone		600.00
11-6130-331-00	Utilities		8,000.00
11-6130-441-00	Contract Services		458.68
11-6130-550-00	C/O - Equipment		(4,129.00)
Central Services			
11-8200-183-00	Retiree Hospitalization		(9,956.39)
11-8200-185-00	Unemployment		658.63
11-8200-186-00	Worker's Comp		8,488.18
11-8200-321-00	Telephone		809.58
Transfers In			
11-3980-980-62	Transfer from Solid Waste	25,000.00	
11-3990-990-00	Fund Balance Appropriation	(25,000.00)	
Fire Fund			
23-4341-690-00	Contract Services		(14,307.30)
23-4341-510-00	C/O - Equipment		14,307.30
DF Walker Project			
47-9930-995-00	Design. Future Approp		(3,567.00)
47-5914-199-00	Legal Fees		2,467.00
47-5914-440-00	Contract Services		1,100.00
Solid Waste Fund			
62-4710-510-00	Capital Outlay		(40,778.40)
62-4710-599-00	Capital Outlay - Other Improve		26,126.20
62-4710-690-00	Cont. Regional Authority		43,003.26
62-4710-690-01	Cont. PCG Landfill		99,652.20
62-3471-510-00	Tipping Fee	150,000.00	
62-3471-532-00	Scrap Tire Grant	3,003.26	
62-9800-980-11	Transfer to General Fund		25,000.00
	Balanced	156,063.26	156,063.26
Justification:			
<i>Budget Clean-up FY 2023</i>			

2023-086

Account Number	Account Description	Revenue (Inc+/Dec-)	Expense (Inc+/Dec-)
Tax Admin			
11-4140-121-00	Salaries - Regular		(1,100.00)
Legal Services			
11-4150-192-00	Legal Fees		1,100.00
IT			
11-4210-199-00	Prof Serv - Relicensing		(13,730.40)
11-4210-510-00	Capital Outlay		18,140.49
11-4210-520-00	Capital Outlay - DP Equipment		(4,410.09)
Central Services			
11-8200-183-00	Retiree Health Insurance		(89.90)
Health			
11-5210-183-01	Alb/Tideland Health Ins		89.90
11-3838-310-00	ABC Bottle Tax	1,031.00	
11-5210-440-00	ABC Bottle Tax		1,031.00
Capital Projects			
32-3810-033-00	Contribution from Capital Reserve	20,545.84	
32-8100-612-00	DSS Chiller		20,545.84
Capital Reserve			
33-3990-990-00	Fund Balance Appropriation	20,545.84	
33-9800-980-32	Transfer to Capital Projects		20,545.84
	Balanced	42,122.68	42,122.68
Justification:			
	<i>Budget Clean-up FY 2023</i>		

2023-087

Account Number	Account Description	Revenue (Inc+/Dec-)	Expense (Inc+/Dec-)
TDA			
51-8150-993-00	Design. Future Appropriations		(2.12)
51-8150-181-00	Fica Expense		2.12
	Balanced	-	-
Justification:			
	<i>Budget Clean-up FY 2023</i>		

Commissioner Cummings moved to approve the budget amendments as presented. Chair Kirby asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

b. 2024 Budget Amendments
2024-002

Account Number	Account Description	Revenue (Inc+/Dec-)	Expense (Inc+/Dec-)
Public Schools			
11-5911-632-00	Current Expense		231,555.00
Future Approp			
11-9930-995-00	Designated for Future Appropriations		(231,555.00)
	Balanced	-	-
Justification:			
	<i>To amend the 2024 budget to include additional 1% Supplement for teachers as requested in Edenton Chowan Public Schools local budget request.</i>		

2024-003

Account Number	Account Description	Revenue (Inc+/Dec-)	Expense (Inc+/Dec-)
Solid Waste Fund			
62-3990-990-00	Fund Balance	25,000.00	
62-9800-980-11	Transfer to General Fund		25,000.00
General Fund			
11-3980-980-62	Transfer from Solid Waste Fund	25,000.00	
11-3990-990-00	Fund Balance	(25,000.00)	
	Balanced	25,000.00	25,000.00
Justification:			
<p><i>To amend the 2024 budget to include reimbursement from Solid Waste Fund to General Fund for loan at fiscal year end 2022. This is payment 2 of 4 as approved by the BOCC on 08/15/22.</i></p>			

Commissioner Cummings moved to approve the budget amendments as presented. Chair Kirby asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

c. Update on JA Holmes Highschool Project Expenses

Ms. Smith provided a report on the high school project expenses to date. A copy of the report is in the meeting file labeled August 7, 2023.

External Board/Committee Report

Chair Kirby asked Board members to report on the activities of the external boards to which they have been appointed.

Commissioner Lawrence noted an upcoming meeting of the Senior Center Advisory Board.

Commissioner Cummings reported on the Landfill Board.

Commissioner Kehayes noted that DSS has hired a new director, Tyesha Phelps.

Manager’s Report

County Manager Kevin Howard updated the Board on the following:

- Chris Hill the new Tax Administrator started work on Monday, July 31st.

Timely and Important Matters

Town

Commissioner McLaughlin stated he feels it is important to maintain conversation and working relationships with the Town of Edenton. He stated he has asked the County Manager to reinstate the County/Town relations committee and schedule a meeting.

Jail

Commissioner Kehayes stated he recently met with a Commissioner from Martin County and was informed they are interested in a regional jail. He has encouraged the County Manager to reach out to this Commissioner from Martin County.

Health Insurance

Commissioner Kehayes stated the Hospital Board of Directors met recently and the issues with the high deductible of the County Employee Health insurance plan was discussed. He stated that Vidant is willing to offer some incentives or programs to the County to help with reduction of medical costs to employees and has encouraged the Manager to discuss this with Brian Harvill.

Next Meeting – Change of Location

Ms. Stallings noted that the August 21, 2023 meeting of the Chowan County Board of Commissioners will be held at the Northern Chowan Community Center. 2869 Virginia Road Tyner, NC 27980. The meeting will be at 6pm.

Steamers

Chair Kirby congratulated the Edenton Steamers on their championship win.

Adjourn

Being no further business Commissioner Cummings moved that the meeting be adjourned. Chair Kirby asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Bob Kirby, Chairman

Susanne Stallings
Clerk