

Regular Meeting
Monday, March 7, 2011
4:30pm
Chowan County Public Safety Center
305 West Freemason Street

MINUTES

Prior to the 6:00pm meeting, the Board convened at 4:30pm for an Executive Session. Present Chairman Eddy Goodwin, Vice Chairman Keith Nixon, Commissioners Emmett Winborne, Ellis Lawrence, Ralph Cole, Jeff Smith and John Mitchener. Staff Present County Manager Paul Parker, County Attorney John Morrison and Board Clerk Susanne Stallings

Executive Session

Commissioner Mitchener moved that the Board go into Executive Session in accordance with NCGS 143-318.11(a) (3) & (5). Chairman Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

The minutes of the executive session are sealed.

Commissioner Nixon moved that the Board adjourn the Executive session. Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Regular Meeting
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6:00pm
Chowan County Public Safety Center
305 West Freemason Street

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Monday, March 7, 2011 at 6:00pm in the Chowan County Public Safety Center, 305 West Freemason Street Edenton NC. Present Chairman Eddy Goodwin, Vice Chairman Keith Nixon, Commissioners Emmett Winborne, Ellis Lawrence, Ralph Cole, Jeff Smith and John Mitchener. Staff Present Finance Officer Lisa Jones; County Manager Paul Parker, County Attorney John Morrison and Board Clerk Susanne Stallings

Chairman Eddy Goodwin called the meeting to order and then led the group in the pledge he then provided the invocation.

Public Comment

Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked for public comment in accordance with NCGS 153A-52.1.

Janie White presented the anti-poverty plan for Chowan County. There were no questions or comments on the plan.

There was no further public comment; Chairman Eddy Goodwin then closed the floor for public comment.

Consent Agenda

Chairman Eddy Goodwin then presented the Consent Agenda.

a. Tax Release and Collector’s Report (attached)

Dixon, G.	\$147.15	Vehicle Traded
Tynch, J.	157.53	Wrong description for trailer
Elmore, A.	104.33	Vehicle Sold

b. Approval of Minutes

Approval of the minutes of the February 7, 2011 and February 21, 2011 meetings.

Commissioner Mitchener noted a correction to the February 7, 2011 minutes to note the “Friends of the Shelter”.

c. Recommended Budget Amendments

BA-1011-054

3990	Fund Balance Appropriated	\$ 5,500	Increase revenue from fund balance appropriated for funds set aside for Register of Deeds automation/preservation fund pursuant to G.S. 161-11.3
4180	Reg of Deeds	\$ 5,500	Increase expense for automation equipment for Register of Deeds office to include Laserfische computer, scanner and software and plat scanner and supplies

BA-1011-055

3616	Senior Center	\$ 7,350	Increase revenue from donations received for Senior Center home delivered meals program
4268	Senior Center	\$ 7,350	Increase expense for Senior Center home delivered meals program

BA-1011-056

3471	Solid Waste	\$ 2,500	Increase revenue from NCDENR for electronic management program reimbursement
4710	Solid Waste	\$ 2,500	Increase expense to disburse electronic management program revenue to PCG Landfill Commission to offset the costs for electronic equipment recycling

BA-1011-057

3990	EMS	\$ 85,000	Increase revenue from EMS fund balance appropriated
4370	EMS	\$ 85,000	Increase expense to replace cardiac monitors

BA-1011-058

3839	Shelter	\$ 2,500	Increase revenue from animal shelter adoptions
4381	Shelter	\$ 2,500	Increase expense for preventative medications to make animals more "adoptive"

BA-1011-059

3471	Solid Waste tire grants	\$ 15,000	Increase revenue from NCDENR for scrap grants
4710	Solid Waste grants	\$ 15,000	Increase expense to disburse scrap tire to PCG Landfill Commission for scrap tire disposal expense

d. Recommended Budget Transfers**BT-1011-010**

8200	Central Svcs	\$ 2,000	Decrease rental building utilities
4160	Courts	\$ 2,000	Increase expense utility expense for Probation offices

BT-1011-011

9900	Contingency	\$ 21,321	Decrease contingency
4140	Tax	\$ 21,321	Increase expense for County Tax Services, Inc. for tax audits performed

e. Transfer of Property

Attached is an MOU between the Edenton-Chowan Recreation Department and Edenton-Chowan School to transfer ownership of Fitness Arcade equipment and supplies. The equipment and supplies were purchased with grant funds from the Chowan Hospital Foundation in 2007 and 2010.

Commissioner Nixon noted a concern with BT 1011-011. He asked that staff look in the budget for a different funding source. He requested that item BT 1011-011 be pulled from the consent agenda.

Commissioner Cole moved that the Board approve items a, b, c and e of the Consent Agenda. Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Commissioner Nixon moved that the Board approve BT-1011-010 and review BT-1011-011 at the next meeting. Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Items for discussion from the February 21, 2011 Mtg

- COA Campus Consolidation – Walker Campus

Chairman Eddy Goodwin opened the floor to public comment on the item.

Douglas Stallings, President of the DF Walker High School Alumni Association, resident of 207 Boswell Street, provided a petition to the Chowan County Board of Commissioners requesting that the Board “Preserve the Building that Houses our Heritage” and request that the Board of Commissioners deny COA (College of the Albemarle) request to revise section 13f of the COA lease to allow continued use of the space currently occupied by the association. (A copy of the petition is in the meeting file labeled March 7, 2011). Mr. Stallings stated his concern over the loss of space at the COA campus. He noted his concern over the March 2002 meeting where the Board of Commissioners voted to allow the Association space. He stated he felt that COA and the Board would be ignoring the concerns of citizens if the Association is not allowed space at the campus.

Goldie Wells of Greensboro and property owner of 122 West Peterson Street Edenton expressed her love of her hometown Edenton. She stated the historical significance of the building and site to the Association and the residents of Edenton and Chowan County. She stated her concern of the memorabilia and artifacts that are currently on display. She stated she did not feel COA should be allowed exclusive use of the building and stated that she felt that historical significance of the site should not be ignored.

Adrian Bacchus of New Jersey and owner of property 108, 110 and 112 East Gale Street Edenton expressed his love of his hometown community. He expressed his concern of a breach of trust between the former Board’s agreement with the Association where space was promised in 2002 to assure the rights of the association. He stated that the mission of COA was to enrich cultural rituals and not allowing the Association’s use of the space on the campus would steal the spirit of the people of Edenton. He stated the activities of the Association have included providing scholarships, food, and housing among other things to the residents of Chowan County. He stated

the Board of Commissioners has an opportunity to work with the community to rebuild trust and he felt this would start with allowing the use of the space on the campus.

Louis Belfield, former Commissioner and resident of 101 Chowan Court stated that in 2002 he made the motion when he was on the Board of Commissioners to allow the Association use of the space currently occupied. He stated that the former County Manager renegotiated the lease without the consent of the Board in 2003. He stated he was of the opinion that the 2002 lease was valid because no additional votes were taken on this topic by the Board of Commissioners when the second draft was signed in 2003.

Alicia Roberts former Edenton resident and current resident of Elizabeth City stated her concern over the contract between the County and the Association being binding. She stated the Association has occupied the space for 17 years and expressed her concern over the future for the Association.

Norman Brinkley 704 Dr. Martin Luther King Ave discussed the Board's ability to rescind a motion or previous action. He requested that the Board allow the Association to keep the space they currently occupy.

Percy Halsey 503 Coke Avenue stated his love for his community and his support of the Association.

Tom Abbott, 106 Hickory Lane stated his understanding of the position of the Association and that he supported the mission of the college. He urged the Board to seek a means to preserve the history of the Association and challenged both the college and the Association to work together to partner for the better of all.

Being no further public comment, Chairman Eddy Goodwin closed the floor.

Commissioner Cole made a motion that the Board allow the Alumni Association to retain exclusive use of the building they currently occupy and provide the Board of Commissioners with a list of future plans for their organization.

Commissioner Nixon discussed current space occupied by the Association and the College and if there was a loss of space for the Community College moving to the campus from the shopping center.

Being no further discussion, Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion failed (2-5 Nixon, Goodwin, Smith, Mitchener and Winborne).

Commissioner Nixon moved that the Board enter into Executive Session at the end of the agenda to discuss additional lease negotiations with the attorney. Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Commissioner Mitchener encouraged those in attendance to not look at the vote as a matter of voting along the boundaries of skin color. He stated he hoped to have additional discussions with the Board to reach a resolution of all parties.

Chairman Goodwin stated the Board has discussed the topic for two years and he felt the Board of Commissioners wanted to do the right thing. He requested that the audience in attendance bear with the Board patiently as negotiations will continue for the Board to reach a decision. (this topic was discussed again below)

- Recreation Advisory Board – Background Checks
Policy for Background checks of Recreation staff/volunteers

Mary Sawyer presented a policy to allow for background checks for all unpaid volunteers in the Recreation Department.

Ms. Stallings clarified that these checks are being performed for all paid staff now.

Commissioner Winborne moved that the Board adopt the policy. Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

- Classification/Compensation Study
Ms. Jones noted that the Board was provided are updated quotes from Springstead and Maps Group f a Classification/Compensation Study as requested at the February 21st meeting. With Springstead quoting \$21,800 and MAPS quoting \$17,800.

Mr. Parker noted that the NCACC recommends Springstead because of their experience.

Commissioner Mitchener moved that the Board hire Springstead and budget the costs for the study to be included in the FY 2011-12 budgets.

Commissioner Nixon asked if all departments are included in the study.

Ms. Jones stated that DSS is excluded and clarified that she will request the bill be sent for FY 2011-12.

Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

- Sheriff Capital Request
Sheriff Goodwin presented a request for a vehicle to be purchased with savings found within the current budget. He provided the Board with information on current vehicle mileage. He stated the savings are within his budget for the purchase. He stated that with state contracts he can purchase the vehicle for around \$21,000.

Commissioner Nixon moved that the Board approve the request from the Sheriff.

Sheriff Goodwin noted that vehicles will be rotated out and declared surplus. He added that he hopes to return 10% of the current budget at the end of the fiscal year.

Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

External Board/Committee Reports

Chairman Goodwin stated that the Board members are asked to report on the activities of the external boards to which they have been appointed.

Commissioner Cole stated he attended the Health Department, Albemarle Commission and his last meeting at the Hospital Directors Council.

Commissioner Smith noted the Voluntary Ag District Board would be meeting by March 1st.

Commissioner Winborne stated he received his oath for the DSS Board, he attended the Recreation Advisory Board and East Carolina Behavioral Health Board meetings. He and Mr. Parker discussed in more detail the request that the County increase its contribution to \$2 per capita in the upcoming budget.

Register of Deeds Annual Report

Register of Deeds, Sue Rountree provided the Board with an update on the annual activities of the Register of Deeds Office. A copy of the PowerPoint is in the meeting file labeled March 7, 2011.

Finance Officer Report

Finance Officer Lisa Jones provided the Cash Balance Summary and Cash and Investment Balance information for the month of January with a total Petty Cash and Investments being \$9,524,951.

The Board discussed Article 40 @ 42 and she stated she would report more on this at the March 21, 2011 meeting.

Manager Items

County Manager Paul Parker provided an update the Board on the following items:
Planning Services contracted out – Holland Consulting Planners, Mr. Holland is here 2 days per week as needed.

NCDOT has provided a letter on NC 32 Queen Anne Creek Replacement.

Pesticide disposal collection on Wednesday March 9, 2011.

Shelter Advisory Board Meeting – March 9, 2011 at 3:00pm

Timely and Important Matters

Chairman Goodwin requested that the Board discuss at the next meeting more detail on Nuisance abatement and Code Enforcement.

Executive Session

Commissioner Nixon moved that the Board go into Executive Session in accordance with NCGS 143-318.11(a) (3), (5) and (6). Chairman Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

The minutes of the executive session are sealed.

Commissioner Cole moved that the Board adjourn the Executive session. Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

COA Lease Negotiations

Commissioner Mitchener moved that the Board not accept the terms as presented regarding the School's use of the IT Building at the COA campus. Chairman Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Chairman Goodwin stated that in Executive Session the Board met with Mr. Stallings and Dr. Deitemeyer and at the next meeting on March 21, 2011 if there is no resolution on behalf of the two groups, the County will make the decision on the use of the space.

Being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned

Chairman
Edward C. Goodwin

Clerk