

Regular Meeting
Monday, March 5, 2012
6:00 pm
Chowan County Public Safety Center
305 West Freemason Street

MINUTES

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Monday, March 5, 2012 at 6:00 pm in the Chowan County Public Safety Center, 305 West Freemason Street Edenton NC. Present: Chairman Eddy Goodwin, Vice Chairman Keith Nixon, Commissioners, Jeff Smith, Emmett Winborne, Ralph Cole, Ellis Lawrence and John Mitchener. Staff Present County Manager Zee Lamb and Board Clerk Susanne Stallings.

Chairman Eddy Goodwin called the meeting to order and led the pledge. Commissioner Mitchener provided the invocation.

Public Comment

Chairman Goodwin opened the floor for public comment in accordance with NCGS 153A-52.

Holli Stallings Quinn with SIA of Jacksonville, NC presented information on her company and stated her company's interest in being considered for any bidding for employee health insurance.

Commissioner Nixon requested that Ms. Quinn provide the County with a list of any counties or municipalities served by SIA.

Chairman Goodwin noted the Board would need to reschedule the retirement recognition for Angela Harris until the March 19th meeting.

Finance Officer Oath

Chairman Goodwin introduced the new county Finance Officer, Kim Woodley. She then received the oath of office from Board Clerk, Susanne Stallings.

Consent Agenda

Chairman Goodwin then presented the consent agenda:

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

Granby, E.	\$119.79	Vehicle Sold
Hathaway, G.	393.54	Foreclosure - County purchased
Hathaway, G.	419.89	Foreclosure – County purchased
Hathaway, G.	416.89	Foreclosure – County purchased
Hayes, B.	142.96	SITUS – Perquimans Co.
Hughes, W.	327.13	Foreclosure – County purchased
Little, K.	217.87	Vehicle Sold

Rosenblatt, H.	327.63	SITUS – Florida
Sykes & Co.	204.43	Vehicle sold
Ward, L.	168.46	Vehicle turned back in

b. Recommended Budget Amendment

BA-1112-063

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

Attached is a list of non operational computers that are requested to be declared surplus by the Board of Commissioners for disposition.

Ms. Stallings noted that the computers would be recycled according to law.

Commissioner Mitchener moved that the Board approve the consent agenda as presented. Chairman Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

American Red Cross Month 2012

Stanley Orlikowski, a volunteer with the American Red Cross presented a proclamation for the Board’s consideration that supports the mission of the American Red Cross and declares March 2012 as American Red Cross Month.

Commissioner Winborne moved that the Board approve the proclamation as presented. Chairman Goodwin asked for all in favor. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH 2012

The American Red Cross has touched many lives in Chowan County, as well as across the country and around the world.

During American Red Cross Month, we thank those who contribute to the mission of the Red Cross, whether through time, money or blood, and we invite others to support the Red Cross in helping people in need down the street, across the country and around the world.

The American Red Cross is synonymous with helping people, and has been doing so for more than 130 years. Throughout the past year, the American Red Cross launched hundreds of disaster relief operations in the United States to help people affected by fires, floods, hurricanes and tornadoes. The American Red Cross also supported major international disasters, including the Japan earthquake and tsunami response, while continuing its work on the 2010 Haiti earthquake response and recovery.

In Chowan County, the Red Cross works tirelessly through its 1 employee and 65 volunteers to support us when disaster strikes, when someone needs life-saving blood or the comfort of a helping hand. It provides 24-hour support to members of the military, veterans and their families and provides training in CPR, aquatics safety and first aid.

For nearly 100 years, United States presidents have called on the American people to support the Red Cross and its humanitarian mission. Our community depends on the American Red Cross and because it is not a government agency, the Red Cross depends on support from the public to continue its humanitarian work. This is especially important in these challenging economic times – which impact the Red Cross and many people in our community and across the nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, The Chowan County Board of Commissioners, by virtue of the authority vested in our Board by the Constitution and laws of Chowan County North Carolina do hereby proclaim March 2012 as American Red Cross Month. We encourage all Americans to support this organization and its noble humanitarian mission.

Adopted this 5th Day of March 2012.

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.

Mr. Cole stated that the ARHS Board was updated on the move. He stated that heating and air expense from the former building are on the agenda to be discussed later.

Commissioner Mitchener provided information from the Hospital Directors Council meeting as well as the Destination Downtown Board meeting.

Commissioner Winborne stated the Recreation Advisory Board did not meet, but noted that he served on a panel charged with interviewing candidates for the Recreation Department Director position. He stated he was impressed with all of the candidates and hoped to have a director in place by April. He stated the DSS Board has been discussing the renovations.

Commissioner Nixon stated that the TDA Board met and held a 3 hour planning session and hopes to begin working soon to develop a TDA budget for the upcoming year.

Board Appointments

The Albemarle Commission

Chairman Goodwin noted that in November 2011 the Albemarle Commission requested that the Board of Commissioners appoint an at large delegate to their Board. The At-Large delegate must not be an elected official and will serve a two year term at this time; one application has been received and requested Board consideration.

Commissioner Cole moved that the Board appoint Jack Perry to the Albemarle Commission.

Commissioner Winborne questioned that this was Mr. Perry's third choice.

Ms. Stallings stated that Mr. Perry called to request consideration for this Board. His application has remained on file from previous Board inquiries.

Commissioner Smith noted that Mr. Perry currently serves on the DSS Board.

Mr. Lamb stated that this is allowable under laws governing how many policy making Boards one individual may serve, provided he serves on no more than two such boards.

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

Vidant Chowan Hospital Directors Council

Chairman Goodwin stated the Board of Commissioners has been asked to consider the recommendation of the Vidant Chowan Hospital Directors Council of Mrs. Rhonda Gregory to fill the vacancy from the resignation of Pat Harrell. He stated the Board of Commissioners has been asked to nominate Ms. Gregory to fill the vacancy which requires approval of the Vidant Community Hospitals Board.

Commissioner Nixon moved to recommend the appointment of Rhonda Gregory. Chairman Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Grant Pre-application Request

Mr. Lamb stated that as requested at the February 20, 2012 Board of Commissioners meeting, representatives Shannon Ray and Gwen Brown from the Edenton-Chowan Recreation department are available to provide additional information on a Grant Pre-application request for the Edenton-Chowan Recreation Department for an After School Plus Grant in the amount of \$33,289 which requires an in-kind-non cash match of \$7,970.

Chairman Goodwin asked what the grant would cost the county.

Mr. Lamb stated the match would be in-kind.

Nancy Hodges local JCPC Director was also present to answer Board questions.

Shannon Ray stated that the in-kind contribution from the Recreation Department includes office supplies, transportation and snacks.

Nancy Hodges stated that the program is a cost share. She stated the program is housed in the school cafeteria and has been so for the past 10 years. She stated the tutoring is provided by the school staff and the county receives benefits from the restitution based on the work the children are required to do on the county property.

Commissioner Winborne asked if the restitution included victim's compensation.

Ms. Hodges stated that it is community service. She stated some of the juveniles are required to pay some monies and the state requires that the County who is managing the grant provide community service work to the juveniles.

Commissioner Winborne asked if the children work off their debt.

Ms. Hodges stated the juveniles work time is kept by a time sheet.

Commissioner Nixon asked why the program is run through the Recreation Department and not the School System or the County Maintenance Department. He stated his concern was whether the program was a core recreation activity.

Chairman Goodwin stated his concern was what the mission is for the Recreation Department. He asked where the program fits in that mission. He stated that while the program may have been in place for 10 years with recreation paying for snacks and transportation, he has some concerns.

Ms. Hodges stated the staff for the grant works on a part time basis. She stated there was a need for the program for the past 10 years and that in her opinion there was always a plenty of work to be done by the children. She stated that the program is very similar to the adult community service program.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that he felt the homework and tutoring aspect of the grant were the most important.

Ms. Hodges stated that the afterschool program provides recreational activities for the juveniles. The School provides the space and the recreation department provides the supervision.

Ms. Ray stated that recreation time is defined by any time not spent in school or when adults are not working. She stated that recreational activities vary from playing ball to cross stitching. She stated the activities provided by recreation are not always traditional. She stated the needs met in these programs are not always met in traditional recreational activities.

Chairman Goodwin asked if this program is better suited for the Boys and Girls Club as the schools provide transportation for them.

Commissioner Winborne asked the Sheriff to explain their role in this program.

Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin stated that the Sheriff's Office is not equipped to deal with juvenile offenders. He stated that the Recreation Department does a good job with these children. He noted that some of the children are in the court system and some are not.

Commissioner Winborne stated that he agrees the children 7-12 years old should be helped out but he did not feel that restitution is a concern of the county. He stated he did not feel this was an area of responsibility for the Recreation Department.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that if county monies are not being spent, how the county would lose.

Commissioner Nixon stated that Recreation is a non-mandated service. He stated the most vocalized concern from the public during the FY 2009 and 2010 years during budget cuts was the public's concern for recreation and senior center cuts. He stated that both of these programs are non-mandated and with the already short staff, he is concerned that the program would detract from the core function of recreation.

Commissioner Cole stated that he felt the program supports students.

Ms. Hodges clarified that the location (the facility) matches 10% of the funding and that exceeds the match required.

Chairman Goodwin stated that his question is should recreation be involved with juvenile justice. He stated he was concerned with the staff's qualifications for counseling.

Gwen Brown stated that in her opinion the program speaks for itself. She stated she was involved with the program.

Chairman Goodwin stated he wanted to clarify that his issue was not with the program but with its impact on a tight recreation budget.

Ms. Hodges stated that there is a lack of private non-profits in rural Northeast North Carolina. She stated that the monies would be a lot less if the program was not at the Recreation Department. She stated that JCPC would have to locate another agency and she feels there is a great need for this program in Chowan County.

Commissioner Smith stated that he feels the restitution is the most beneficial aspect of the program for Chowan County. He stated his concern was with the tutoring and asked if the staff was qualified for tutoring.

Ms. Brown stated that the persons that provide tutoring are teachers that are paid by a different program.

Ms. Hodges stated that she evaluates the program and the program in Chowan County passes with flying colors. She stated that on a scale of 1-100, Chowan's program scored an 89. She stated the program is monitored by the state and the contacts these individuals make with the children do impact the outcome of the program.

Chairman Goodwin said that he would have liked to have all of this information in the application. He stated that with grant monies being tax monies, he feels obligated to evaluate the program and its necessity in Chowan County.

Commissioner Nixon asked if the county could capture the indirect cost this program provides with regards to education.

Ms. Ray noted the tutoring is for 1 hour.

Mr. Lamb stated that some indirect costs are already captured in the budget. He stated that unless the appropriation is given directly to the school, there is no way to capture the expense for per capital ADM statistical purposes.

Commissioner Nixon stated he felt this expense should be captured for the amount of money spent per child.

Commissioner Mitchener stated that he is the County's liaison to the JCPC council and has been very impressed with the work of this program. He stated he felt the County was getting a bargain and the benefit of the program is significant. He then moved that the Board approve the Grant pre-application. Chairman Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed (4-3 Goodwin, Nixon Winborne).

Commissioner Nixon asked to clarify that his concerns were not with the people operating the program but more on budget policy.

Planning Items and public hearings

Planner Landin Holland presented the following:

Public Hearing for TA-12-01- Replacement of Manufactured Homes

Mr. Holland stated that this was presented to the Board at their February 6, 2012 meeting. He stated that the issue is not with mobile homes that are replaced within the 180 days of removal but mobile homes that are damaged. He added that this policy now clarifies when the clock starts and the percentage of damage to be considered when replacing a damaged mobile home. He stated the County Attorney has reviewed the text amendment and has addressed a few changes.

Commissioner Smith moved that the Board open the floor for a public hearing. Chairman Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed (7-0).

There was no public comment.

Chairman Goodwin stated that the policy now clarifies the question about fires and the percentage of damage to be considered.

Commissioner Nixon moved that the Board close the floor for public comment. Chairman Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Commissioner Mitchener moved that the Board adopt TA-12-01. Chairman Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Public Hearing for TA-12-02- Road Naming Policy

Mr. Holland stated that the policy was presented at the February 6, 2012 meeting. He stated that the requested revisions were implemented including approval now being done by the Board of

Commissioners. He stated a fee of \$250 was added to cover advertising and other costs associated with the road naming.

Commissioner Nixon moved that the Board open the floor for a public hearing. Chairman Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed (7-0).

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Smith asked if the \$250 would cover the costs of road signs.

Mr. Lamb noted the costs for the application would pay for this or the form could be amended for the petitioner to cover the costs of the signs.

Commissioner Nixon moved that the Board close the floor for public comment. Chairman Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Commissioner Smith moved that the Board adopt TA-12-02. Chairman Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Update from previous discussion of an outstanding zoning violation

Mr. Holland stated this is an update from the February 6, 2012 meeting on a zoning violation for an existing business. He stated that Mr. Joey Nixon was present to answer any questions from the Board. He stated that after working with Mr. Nixon a plan was developed to screen the property. He provided the Board with a sketch of the property. He stated that part of the plan recommends that Mr. Nixon irrigate the plants to ensure their life for one (1) year.

Commissioner Smith asked why Mr. Nixon is required to plant around the rear of the property.

Mr. Holland stated this was decided because the lot is visible all the way around and to protect the properties on the rear of the lot.

Joey Nixon stated that the property on the rear of his lot has a fence with bushes already. He stated that he will have the plants maintained and has already talked to a local landscaper about irrigation of the shrubs.

Chairman Goodwin asked Mr. Nixon if he could live with the solution.

Mr. Nixon stated yes.

Mr. Holland noted that if in two years the shrubs are dead, there would be a violation based on the ordinance.

Commissioner Mitchener moved that the Board approve the landscaping/buffering plan as submitted and additionally require that the boarding plants be maintained in accordance with the county ordinance.

Commissioner Smith stated he felt the back yard planting was unnecessary.

Chairman Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed (6-1 Smith).

The Board took a 10 minute recess, after the break the Chairman called the meeting to order.

PNC Signature Cards

Chairman Goodwin stated that attached to the Board packets are two resolutions. He stated that one resolution is for County Checking account to have Kim Woodley, Kimberly Smith, Zee Lamb and Edward Goodwin as authorized representatives on this account. He added that another resolution is attached for the inmate checking account with PNC. This resolution lists Kim Woodley, Kimberly Smith, Dwayne Goodwin, William “Andy” Bunch, Jacqueline Riddick and Shelia Russell as authorized representatives on the inmate checking account.

Commissioner Smith moved that the Board approve the first resolution. Chairman Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed (7-0).

Commissioner Smith moved that the Board approve the second resolution. Chairman Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed (7-0).

Soil and Water Annual Report

Scott Alons provided the annual report from the Soil and Water Conservation Office a copy of the PowerPoint is in the meeting file labeled March 5, 2012.

Status of 911 recording equipment purchase

Mr. Lamb stated that the purchase of 911 recording equipment and prepaid maintenance contract does not require a budget amendment; the monies were located and moved within the 911 and Central Communications budgets.

ARHS Project Request

Mr. Lamb presented a request from ARHS for reimbursement of payment for expenditures for the re-location/renovation of the Chowan County Health Department he noted that the Board of Commissioners agreed to and entered into an MOA with ARHS for the cost sharing of the renovation where Chowan County is obligated for \$100,000 and ARHS is responsible for \$50,000 and any overages above the \$150,000 project. To date Chowan County has paid \$44,750 ARHS is requesting Chowan County’s preferred method of payment for the remaining obligation.

Commissioner Nixon recommended that the Board look for the payment in the budget at the end of the year. He moved to recommend that the manager work out the payment with Mr. Parks. Chairman Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Mr. Lamb noted that additionally ARHS is requesting that Chowan County reimburse them in the amount of \$6,697 for repairs to the HVAC at the previous Health Department location.

Ms. Stallings noted that the amount was assigned a PO in FY 2010-11. The invoice was submitted too late, that it was after that budget was closed out and was never paid. She clarified that she worked closely with Kim Smith in finance to make sure this has never been paid because there were invoices with similar charges. She stated that after their research, she and Ms. Smith are certain this has not been paid by the County.

Commissioner Mitchener moved that the Board pay the invoice to ARHS in the amount of \$6,697. Chairman Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Commissioner Nixon stated he would like to know what the county's responsibilities are for building maintenance for the Health Department. He stated he would like to get his information in the near future.

Schedule Joint Meeting with Board of Education

Mr. Lamb stated that the Board of Commissioners recommended quarterly joint meetings be scheduled with the Board of Education. He stated the recommended meeting date be Monday, March 26, 2012.

Commissioner Nixon asked if this could be scheduled for the March 19, 2012 meeting.

Mr. Lamb stated he would contact the Superintendent to check on this date.

Timely and Important Matters

Ms. Stallings noted the meeting with Extension on Monday, March 19th at 7:30am.

Mr. Mitchener noted he has some concerns with flooding at the new Health Department location and suggested that Scott Alons look into this.

Chairman Goodwin provided the Board with information from a packet from the Association of County Commissioners.

Adjourn

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

Chairman
Edward C. Goodwin

Clerk