

January 22, 2008

The Duplin County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, January 22, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Room, County Administration Building (224 Seminary Street), Kenansville, North Carolina.

Present: Chairman Harold Raynor and Commissioners David Fussell, L. S. Guy, Jr., Reginald Wells, and Zettie Williams

Absent: Commissioner Cary Turner

Also Present: Mr. Mike Aldridge, County Manager; Ms. Julia Herring, Administrative Officer; Ms. Teresa Lanier, Finance Officer; and Ms. Wendy Sivori, County Attorney

Rev. Victor Wilson of Kenansville Missionary Baptist Church gave the invocation.

The following reports were received by the board and are on file with the clerk:

Affidavits of Publication  
Airport – December 2007  
Building Inspections – December 2007  
Communications – December 2007  
Computer Services – December 2007  
Emergency Services – December 2007  
Finance – November & December 2007  
Register of Deeds – December 2007  
Services for the Aged – December 2007  
Social Services – December 2007  
Soil & Water – December 2007

Motion was made by Commissioner Guy, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to approve the Consent Agenda which included the following: Minutes – January 7, 2008; Budget Amendments #0131 - #0145; Solid Waste Releases #4720 - #4724; Tax Releases #4692 - #4726; to add a discussion on scheduling a joint meeting with the Board of Education and James Sprunt Community College to discuss the quarter-cent sales tax referendum; and to omit the discussion on the courthouse portrait policy.

Mr. Mike Aldridge presented Administrative Budget Amendments # G001 - # G056.

Public Comments:

None.

The board presented plaques recognizing the accomplishments of the football teams of James Kenan High School [ State Champion – Division 1AA] and North Duplin Jr./Sr. High School [State Runner up – Division 1A] in the state championship playoffs. Coach Ken Avent, Jr. from James Kenan and Coach Hugh Martin from North Duplin accepted the award on behalf of their teams.

The board presented retirement plaques to the following retirees: Woody Brinson, Economic Development Director [July 23, 1984 – January 31, 2008]; Mildred Monk Dixon, In-home Aide with Services for the Aged [January 4, 1999 – December 31, 2007]; and Frank Sanders, School Resource Officer with the Sheriff's Department [September 5, 1994 – January 31, 2008].

A Public Hearing was called to order at 9:39 a.m.

Mr. Padrick Kennedy, Assistant Transportation Director, explained that the purpose of the public hearing was to receive citizen comments on 2008 – 2009 Community Transportation Program grant application.

Commissioner Raynor: Any public comments?

Ms. Patricia Denise: Is this the same grant you get periodically or yearly?

Mr. Padrick Kennedy: Yes, it's the same grant.

Ms. Patricia Denise: The county has to have it for the transportation program and I think it's very important, so I'm certainly for it.

Ms. Sheila Young: The total amount, is this an increase or a decrease from last year's funding?

Mr. Padrick Kennedy: Steve called me this morning at 5:30 and asked me to fill in. I haven't seen the final draft so I'm not able to comment on that at this time.

With no additional public comments made, the public hearing was called to a close at 9:41 a.m.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Guy, carried unanimously, to adopt the Community Transportation Program resolution and authorize the county manager to sign same, and authorize the county manager to sign the Special Section 5333(b) Warranty.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to authorize the chairman to sign the Federal/State Certifications and Assurances Signature Page, the Delegation of Authority, the Section 5311 Title VI Program Report, the DBE Good Faith Efforts Certification, and the Local Share Certification for Funding documents.

Ms. Denita Pierce, Communications Director, appeared before the board to discuss the E911 Addressing Ordinance. She stated that there is no one currently enforcing the ordinance.

It was the consensus of the board to have the county attorney and county manager review the ordinance and come back with recommendations on enforcing the ordinance.

Mr. Dean Horne, CPA with Pittard Perry & Crone, appeared before the board to review the audit report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2007. He stated that the county's fund balance is projected to be at 21.06% [\$10.76 million] by the end of the current fiscal year. (See handout in minutes.)

Mr. Mike Aldridge presented the "State of the County" report. He emphasized that the recurring issues for all departments is employee retention and compensation, employee training, and rising cost for supplies and fuel. (See handout in minutes.)

Mr. Dan Cronin, GIS Mapping Coordinator, gave a demonstration on the new online GIS mapping program. He stated that the mapping website has been available for only three weeks and has had 1,723 visitors.

Mr. Jim Harris gave an update on the Tourism Development Authority and reviewed the Strategic Plan for the TDA. He stated that the 2007 Duplin County Welcome Guide was a success and the 2008 guide is currently being developed with 7,000 more copies to be published than last year. Mr. Harris stated that the TDA is also publishing a map of Duplin's tourist attractions that will be available soon. (See handout in minutes.)

Mr. Randall Tyndall, Planning Director, appeared before the board to give an annual performance report on two Community Development Block Grant projects, 05-C-1425 Concentrated Needs [Tin City] and 06-C-1524 Scattered Sites Project. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Fussell, carried unanimously, to accept the 05-C-1425 report and authorize the chairman to sign same.

Motion was made by Commissioner Guy, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to accept the 06-C-1524 report and authorize the chairman to sign same.

Mr. Mike Aldridge discussed the safety policy developed by the county safety committee. He stated that implementing the policy will reduce worker's compensation rates for the county.

Motion was made by Commissioner Guy, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to adopt the safety policy as written.

Mr. Aldridge stated that the Kenansville Town Board is recommending the appointment of Mr. Whit Jones to the Kenansville Planning Board as the ETJ member for a three year appointment.

Motion was made by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to appoint Mr. Whit Jones to the Kenansville Planning Board for a three-year appointment to expire April 1, 2011.

Mr. Aldridge presented the summary of uncollectible debts as of January 7, 2005 in the amount of \$ 2,683.31 for general services and \$27.00 for dental services at the Health Department. Mr. Aldridge requested that this debt be approved as "bad debt" and written off.

Motion was made by Commissioner Guy, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to approve the Health Department uncollectible debt write-offs in the amount of \$2,683.31 for general services and \$27.00 for dental services and authorize the chairman to sign same.

Mr. Aldridge informed the board that he had contacted Dr. Wiley Doby, Superintendent of Duplin County Schools, about possible dates to hold a workshop between the two boards and James Sprunt Community College officials in order to discuss promoting the quarter-cent sales tax referendum to benefit education. Mr. Aldridge stated that in order for the referendum to be on the May ballot, a decision would need to be made by the next commissioner's meeting.

It was the consensus of the board to hold the workshop on Wednesday, January 30, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.

The board recessed to meet again on Wednesday, January 30, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. in the Community Meeting Room, Duplin County Department of Social Services (423 N. Main Street), Kenansville, North Carolina.

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Clerk