

February 4, 2008

The Duplin County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, February 4, 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., Cary Turner, Reginald Wells, and Zettie Williams

Absent: None

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

Commissioner Raynor gave the invocation.

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

Affidavits of Publication
Health – December 2007

Motion was made by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Guy, carried unanimously, to approve the Consent Agenda which included the following: Minutes – January 22, 2008; Budget Amendments # 0146 - # 0157; Solid Waste Releases # 4788 - # 4867; Tax Releases # 4727- # 4787; to add an update on the Events Center Acoustical Project; a discussion on an economic development board appointment; a guaranty and subordination agreement with Moulding Solutions, Inc.; and an update on Commissioner Turner's recent trip to Cambodia to recover the remains of LCPL Joseph Hargrove.

Mr. Mike Aldridge presented Administrative Budget Amendments # G057 - # G090; a lease buyout agreement with Bennie L. Grady; a deed for the sale of Lot 13 at WestPark to Mr. Nicholas Lee Swinson; and an addendum to a sales use tax contract with TRS to be made part of the minutes.

Public Comments:

Mr. Bob Hickey, retired FBI agent, spoke about the high employee turnover rate at the Sheriff's Department. He stated that salaries should be increased and more affordable health insurance coverage offered to these employees even if cuts have to be made in other county departments.

Mr. Franklin Fussell of Kenansville announced that Paul Barnette, a 5th grader at Kenansville Elementary School, won the confederate sword at a recent fundraiser drawing and stated that the new historical highway marker for the sword factory site has been erected. He encouraged everyone to attend "A Living History with Ulysses S. Grant & Robert E. Lee" to be held at the Duplin Winery on March 7th and 8th.

Mr. V.R. Phipps of Faison, requested that the board investigate what his family feels is corruption with the Duplin County Sheriff's Department and the legal system in the county. Mr. Phipps stated that land was taken away from his family twenty years ago and dispute over this land resulted in the murder of his brother. He stated that this murder was improperly investigated by the Sheriff's department and requested a new investigation. (See handout in minutes.)

Chairman Raynor stated that this is a superior court matter and is not under the jurisdiction of the board of commissioners.

Ms. Jerri Parker, DOT Maintenance Engineer, gave an update on various roads in the county.

Roads discussed: Butterball Road in Wallace – resurfacing work needs repair; Bay Road in Rose Hill near Duplin Nursery – the road closed signs are blocking the view at this intersection.

Mr. Win Batten, Mayor of Warsaw, stated that the railroad crossing guard on College Street in Warsaw has been damaged from an automobile accident that occurred a few weeks ago.

Ms. Parker stated that the crossing was on the CSX list to be repaired soon.

Mr. Gary Rose, Tax Administrator, gave a report on the amount of unpaid taxes that are a lien on real property for 2007 - \$2,731,835.51. Mr. Rose requested permission to advertise those liens in the local newspapers.

Motion was made by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to authorize the tax administrator to advertise unpaid taxes on real property liens.

Ms. Teresa Quinn, Recycling Coordinator, appeared before the board to request that Saturday, April 26, 2008 be designated as “free day” at the landfill for Spring Clean-up. She stated that last year’s “free day” brought in 198 people disposing of 103.25 tons of trash.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to waive tipping fees on Saturday, April 26, 2008.

Ms. Ila Davis, Health Department Director, appeared before the board to give an update on the dental unit. She reported from July 2007 thru January 31, 2008, 353 children were seen at the dental unit for a total of 716 visits. Ms. Davis reminded the board that the dental unit was funded by a grant and does not receive any county money. She stated that the health department is currently contracting with a dentist and hygienist to staff the dental unit.

Sheriff Blake Wallace appeared before the board to give an update on the jail overcrowding situation. He stated that he has been in contact with a vendor of modular jail facilities, Vanguard, regarding costs and installation time. Sheriff Wallace stated that the modular unit will cost between \$125 - \$200 per square foot and could be set up and ready to use in approximately 130 days after delivery to the site. He stated that it would take 12 new jailer positions to staff the modular unit. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Guy, carried unanimously, to authorize the sheriff to arrange for a Vanguard sales representative to give a presentation to the board regarding modular jail facilities with cost options for leasing and purchasing made available to the board in advance of the presentation.

Motion was made by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Guy, carried unanimously, to authorize the county attorney to write a resolution to speed up the trial process to be presented to the district attorney’s office.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Guy, carried unanimously, to authorize the county manager, the county planner, and the sheriff to identify county property suitable to house the modular jail facility.

Mr. Brian Pearce, EMS Director, appeared before the board to discuss revising the county EMS plan to allow for transport of patients to hospitals outside of the county when it is indicated by the patient's condition and approved by the Duplin County EMS Medical Director.

Motion was made by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Fussell, carried unanimously, to amend the Duplin County EMS plan to include transport to out-of-county hospitals when indicated by the patient's condition and approved by the county medical director.

Mr. Mike Aldridge reviewed the draft copy of the 2008 – 2009 budget planning calendar. (See handout in minutes.)

Mr. Aldridge presented the proposed amendments to the Duplin County Transportation Committee plan to allow for a substitute voting member in the event that the regular voting member is unable to attend. He stated that this change to the by-laws was approved at the January 17th meeting of the Duplin Municipal Association. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Guy, seconded by Commissioner Turner, carried unanimously, to approve the Duplin County Transportation Committee Plan as amended.

Mr. Aldridge presented a loan guaranty agreement and a subordination agreement with Moulding Solutions Inc. that would designate Duplin County as a third lien holder on the revolving loan in the amount of \$200,000 that was approved at the December 4, 2006 board meeting. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Guy, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to authorize the chairman to sign the subordination agreement with Moulding Solutions, Inc. with a personal guarantee from Mr. Chris Jones, president of Moulding Solutions.

Mr. Aldridge gave an update on the acoustics project at the Events Center. He stated that the paneling installation is almost complete. He stated that the product used in the ceiling panels could also be used to cover the windows to further improve the acoustics at the center at a much cheaper cost than the original estimate to install blinds. Mr. Aldridge stated that this option would cost \$18,000 whereas the blind installation estimate was approximately \$71,000.

Motion was made by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Wells, to authorize the installation of acoustical panels at a cost not to exceed \$18,000 and approve the associated budget amendment. Commissioners Turner, Wells, and Raynor voted for; Commissioners Fussell, Guy, and Williams voted against. A tie vote results in no action being taken.

Motion was made by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Williams, to defer this matter until the next meeting. Commissioners Fussell, Guy and Williams voted for; Commissioners Turner, Raynor, and Wells voted against. A tie vote results in no action being taken.

Mr. Aldridge stated that the acoustical panels have been installed on a few windows. He requested the board members visit the Events Center to view the acoustical work that has been completed before making a final decision.

Mr. Aldridge presented the deed for the sale of Lot 13 at WestPark to Mr. Lee Swinson. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Turner, carried unanimously, to authorize the chairman to sign the deed of trust conveying Lot 13 at WestPark to Mr. Lee Swinson.

Commissioner Fussell announced his plans to seek re-election for another term on the board.

Commissioner Wells stated that he would like to appoint Mr. John Williams of Warsaw to the Duplin County Economic Development Board of Directors to replace the vacancy left by the death of Mr. Jarvis Miller.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Guy, carried unanimously, to appoint Mr. John Williams to the Duplin County Economic Development Board.

The board recessed to meet again on Thursday, February 7, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. in the Community Meeting Room, Duplin County Department of Social Services (423 N. Main Street), Kenansville, North Carolina.

Clerk