

April 21, 2008

The Duplin County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, April 21, 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., and Cary Turner

Absent: Commissioners Reginald Wells and Zettie Williams

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

Rev. J.B. Helms gave the invocation.

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

Affidavits of Publication
County Manager – April 2008
Emergency Management – March 2008
Health Department – March 2008
Register of Deeds – March 2008
Services for the Aged – March 2008
Soil & Water Conservation – March 2008
Water Department – March 2008

Motion was made by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Guy, carried unanimously, to approve the Consent Agenda which included the following: Minutes – April 7, 2008; Budget Amendments #0192 - #0199; Solid Waste Releases #5040 - #5046; Tax Releases #5037 - #5039; Health Department Bad Debt Write-Offs for the period ending 4/8/2005 - \$3,934.85 [general services] and \$511.38 [dental]; to add a discussion on the contract with Venue Works; a discussion on honoring Emmanuel Pickett; and to add a discussion on a fire tax for the Wallace Fire District.

Mr. Mike Aldridge presented the following items to be made part of the minutes: Administrative Budget Amendments # J013 - # J063.

Public Comments:

Ms. Frances Parks of Calypso stated that not all Duplin County residents have access to high-speed internet in their home. She urged commissioners to check into the possibility of the county assisting in providing this service by installing the necessary equipment on water tanks and radio towers.

Commissioner Fussell read a revised version of Aesop's fable "The Goose That Laid the Golden Eggs". (See handout in minutes.)

Mr. Jimmy Dixon of Calypso stated that there are "dead spots" in the county where the emergency communications system will not work. He asked the board to look into this matter and correct the problems.

Motion was made by Commissioner Guy, seconded by Commissioner Fussell, carried unanimously, to recess Regular Session and to go into session as the Board of Equalization and Review.

The Board returned to Regular Session.

Mr. Brian Pearce, Emergency Services Director, appeared before the board to discuss storm debris contracts. He stated that there are two contracts, one for storm debris removal and one for management and oversight. Mr. Pearce stated he has not been able to consult with the county attorney on the storm debris contract; therefore, it will need to be postponed but requested that the contract for the management/oversight be awarded to the only bidder, Beck Disaster Recovery.

Motion was made by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Guy, carried unanimously, to award the monitoring contract to Beck Disaster Recovery and authorize the chair to sign upon review of the county attorney.

Ms. Donna Rouse, Soil & Water Conservation Director; and Mr. Eric West, District Conservationist, appeared before the board to discuss two matters.

Ms. Rouse presented a contract with Douglas M. Thomas of Thomas Farms for regular maintenance and repairs on laterals and drainage ways within the Limestone Creek & Muddy Creek Watershed Projects. She stated that Thomas Farms was the low bidder at \$54,173.40. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Guy, carried unanimously, to approve the contract with Douglas M. Thomas of Thomas Farms for maintenance and repairs on the Limestone Creek & Muddy Creek Watershed Projects and authorize the chairman and finance officer to sign same.

Mr. West stated that he had received a memo from the NRCS recommending review of the current Operating & Maintenance Agreement between the United States Department of Agriculture NRCS, the Duplin County Soil Conservation Service, and the Duplin County Board of Commissioners. He stated that the NRCS had provided a draft copy of an Operation & Maintenance Agreement for counties to use as a guide if they chose to revise the current agreement. Mr. West stated that the Soil & Water Board had voted to continue with the current agreement that will expire in 2043. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Guy, carried unanimously, to continue with the current Operation & Maintenance Agreement.

Mr. Bee Barnett, Solid Waste Director, appeared before the board to discuss the need to increase the solid waste tipping fees for FY 2008-09 due to the state's passage of a bill requiring counties to pay an additional \$2 per ton of trash. He suggested tipping fees be increased \$2 on garbage & furnishings, construction & demolition debris, and manifested industrial by-products. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Fussell, carried unanimously, to defer action on this matter until the May 5, 2008 board meeting so that commissioners can review the proposed charges.

Mr. Randall Tyndall, County Planner, appeared before the board to present the following high bids for the sale of surplus real property:

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| <u>Parcel 01-6140</u> | 525 Prospect Street, Warsaw to Devoine Sutton in the amount of \$2,000.00 |
| <u>Parcel 01-6168</u> | 311 Prospect Street, Warsaw to Cecil R. Lennon in the amount of \$1,900.00 |
| <u>Parcel 01-6169</u> | 1347 E. Hill Street Ext, Warsaw to Yvonnceria Sutton in the amount of \$500.00 |
| <u>Parcel 02-6098</u> | 2250 W. NC Hwy 403, Faison to Devoine Sutton in the amount of \$2001.00 |
| <u>Parcel 08-6056</u> | 4286 NC 50 S, Chinquapin to Charles Aycock in the amount of \$750.00 |

Motion was made by Commissioner Guy, seconded by Commissioner Fussell, carried unanimously, to accept the bid awards as outlined and authorize the county attorney to prepare the necessary paperwork for the sale of each parcel.

Ms. Wendy Sivori gave an update on the status of several tax foreclosures and tax litigation cases. She stated that just over \$100,000 had been collected within the last two years. (See handout in minutes.)

Ms. Sivori gave an update on the contact with Venue Works for the management of the Duplin County Events Center. She stated that the contract is a five-year agreement with two rights to renewal signed July 1, 2005 with an automatic termination clause at the end of three years, or July 1, 2008, upon 90 days written notice.

Commissioner Fussell requested that the family of Staff Sgt. Emanuel Pickett of Wallace, who lost his life recently in the war in Iraq, be presented with a resolution of respect.

Motion was made by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Turner, carried unanimously, to present a resolution of respect to the family of Staff Sgt. Emanuel Pickett.

Commissioner Fussell discussed the list of budget needs provided to the board by the county manager at the March 17, 2008 board meeting. (Jail expansion, county employees' salary increases, demolition of the old Chinquapin school, backup E911 center, animal shelter improvements, rising fuel costs, and increased health insurance costs.) He stated that he would not support raising taxes in order to pay for those needs.

Mr. Chuck Farrior, Lieutenant with the Wallace Fire Department, appeared before the board to request approval to proceed with the necessary steps to hold an election to vote on placing a fire tax outside of the Wallace city limits. Mr. Farrior stated that approximately 60 percent of fire calls were outside the town limits but only 8 percent of their budget comes from that area.

Motion was made by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Turner, carried unanimously, to hold a referendum in the Wallace District for the purpose of levying a fire tax for this area.

Mr. Mike Aldridge stated that the grid rigging project for the Duplin County Events Center was awarded at the last meeting in the amount of \$225,300 and the county attorney has since reviewed the contract.

Motion was made by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Guy, to approve the contract with Myrick Construction and authorize the chairman to sign same. Commissioners Guy, Raynor, and Turner voted for; Commissioner Fussell voted against.

Mr. Aldridge presented a Memorandum of Understanding from Dr. Deborah Bailey, Project Manager with the UNC National Children's Study. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Guy, seconded by Commissioner Turner, carried unanimously, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between UNC-National Children's Study Research Team and Duplin County Community Advisory Group and authorize the chairman to sign same.

Mr. Aldridge gave an update on the Short Range Management Plan for FY 2008 – 2009. (See handout in minutes.)

Mr. Aldridge stated that an appointee from the board of commissioners is needed for the Duplin County Economic Development Revolving Loan Committee.

Motion was made by Commissioner Guy, seconded by Commissioner Turner, carried unanimously, to appoint Commissioner Zettie Williams to the Duplin County Economic Development Revolving Loan Committee.

Mr. Aldridge gave an update on the Duplin County Economic Development transition. He stated that the initial incorporators for the two non-profits will be Mike Aldridge, Charlie Farrior, and John Williams.

Mr. Aldridge stated that interviews for the director position should be sometime in May and members of the interview panel will be: Mike Aldridge, Mike Davis, Charley Farrior, Jim Harris, John Williams, and David Fussell (non-voting member).

The board adjourned to meet again on Monday, May 5, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioner's Meeting Room, County Administration Building (224 Seminary Street), Kenansville, North Carolina.

Clerk