

May 21, 2007

The Duplin County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, May 21, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. in the Auditorium, Duplin Commons Office Complex (165 Agriculture Drive), Kenansville, North Carolina.

Present: Chairman David Fussell and Commissioners L. S. Guy, Harold L. Raynor, Cary Turner, and Reginald Wells.

Absent: Commissioner 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

Commissioner Reginald Wells gave the invocation.

The following reports were received and are on file with the Clerk:

Communications – April 2007  
Register of Deeds – April 2007  
Social Services – April 2007  
Solid Waste – April 2007

Motion was made by Commissioner Guy, seconded by Commissioner Turner, carried unanimously, to approve the Consent Agenda which included the following: Minutes – May 7, 2007 and May 14, 2007; Budget Amendments #0219 - #0226; Solid Waste Releases #3940 - #3959; and Tax Releases #3907 - #3939; to add the final contract for the Duplin County Transfer Station; the audit contract, a discussion on economic development; and a personnel report to be made part of the minutes.

Mr. Mike Aldridge presented Administrative Budget Amendments # K013 - # K071 and Motor Vehicle Releases – April 2007 – \$6,821.33 to be made a part of the minutes.

Public Comments:

Ms. Frances Parks of Calypso, expressed opposition against the Duplin County Parks & Recreation Department being eliminated from the budget.

Mr. Franklin Fussell of Kenansville, thanked Commissioner L.S. Guy for providing a scholarship for seniors at each of the county's high schools. He congratulated the 632 Duplin County students recognized at the county academic banquet for maintaining a 93 or above average for all four years of high school. Mr. Fussell also urged the commissioners to support the Board of Education's efforts to start an engineering school at James Kenan High School.

Ms. Lynn Hardy, Executive Director of Carolina East Home Care & Hospice, appeared before the board to discuss the possibility of Carolina East taking ownership of the Wallace Adult Day Care Center. She stated that approximately \$15,000 per year would be needed from the county to help assist in funding the center.

Mr. Craig Forlines, Emergency Management Director, appeared before the board to present bids for storm debris removal. He stated that five bids were received with the lowest bid from Omni Pinnacle for \$3,012.80 per unit. He explained that there would be no cost to the county unless the storm debris removal services were used. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Turner, carried unanimously, to award the storm debris removal contract to Omni Pinnacle, Inc. and authorize the chairman to sign same.

Mr. Mike Aldridge presented a contract with Highland Mapping, Inc. to provide consulting services for the conversion and implementation of the GIS Mapping System to be available online. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Guy, seconded by Commissioner Turner, carried unanimously, to approve the contract with Highland Mapping, Inc. and to authorize the chairman to sign same.

Mr. Aldridge presented a 20-year lease agreement with the North Carolina Department of Crime Control and Public Safety for the county-owned property at Chinquapin for the 800 MHz radio tower for the VIPER System. He stated that the tower site is located at 339 Jimmy Tate Williams Road in Beulaville and consists of approximately 1.31 acres. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Guy, seconded by Commissioner Turner, carried unanimously, to approve the lease agreement with the North Carolina Department of Crime Control and Public Safety with a term of 20 years for a sum of \$1.00 with the term beginning on May 1, 2007 and terminating on April 30, 2027 and authorize the chairman to sign same.

Mr. Aldridge presented an agreement with the North Carolina Forestry Service to provide protection, development, and improvement of forest land in Duplin County. He stated that the annual county appropriation to the forestry service is \$127,718.00 to assist the forestry service in providing these services. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Turner, carried unanimously, to approve the annual agreement with the North Carolina Forestry Service in the amount of \$127,718.00 and to authorize the chairman and county finance officer to sign same.

Mr. Aldridge discussed the vehicle policy recently developed by the Duplin County Safety Committee in regards to all county-owned vehicles. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Guy, carried unanimously, to adopt the county vehicle policy.

Mr. Aldridge presented a resolution from the Kenansville Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. to proclaim the month of June 2007 as "Duplin County Alpha Kappa Alpha Month" in celebration of their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Guy, carried unanimously, to adopt the resolution proclaiming June 2007 as "Duplin County Alpha Kappa Alpha Month" and authorize the chairman to sign same.

Mr. Aldridge stated that Mr. Harvey Case, President of Duplin General Hospital, is recommending Commissioner Reginald Wells be reappointed to serve a one-year term as the County Commissioner Ex Officio member of the Duplin General Hospital Board of Directors.

Motion was made by Commissioner Guy, seconded by Commissioner Turner, carried unanimously, to reappoint Commissioner Wells to the Duplin General Hospital Board of Directors for a one-year term to begin July 1, 2007.

Mr. Aldridge stated that Mr. Steve Moore, Transportation and Aging Director, has requested that Ms. Rosanna Hirshkind be reappointed for a three-year term on the Duplin County Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Turner, carried unanimously, to reappoint Ms. Rosanna Hirshkind to the Duplin County Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee for a three-year term.

Mr. Aldridge stated that Dr. Lawrence Rouse, President of James Sprunt Community College, is recommending that Ms. Geraldine Tucker be reappointed to the JSCC Board of Trustees for a four-year term to become effective July 1, 2007.

Motion was made by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Guy, carried unanimously, to reappoint Ms. Geraldine Tucker to the James Sprunt Community College Board of Trustees for a four-year term to begin July 1, 2007.

Mr. Aldridge presented a contract with Pittard, Perry, and Crone for audit services. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Guy, seconded by Commissioner Wells, to approve the contract with Pittard, Perry, and Crone for audit services and authorize the chairman to sign same. Commissioners Guy, Raynor, Turner, and Wells voted for. Commissioner Fussell voted against.

Mr. Aldridge presented the final change order with D.S. Simmons for the Transfer Station at the Landfill. He stated that the total amount due is \$ 48,701.32 instead of the original amount of \$72,323.68 due to liquated damages. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Guy, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to approve the final change order with D.S. Simmons and authorize the chairman to sign same, thus approving BA #0227.

Mr. Aldridge presented an updated fee schedule received from Mr. Bryan Wuester, Landfill Manager at Sampson County Disposal, Inc. (See handout in Minutes.)

Mr. Aldridge stated that the EMS Department would like to surplus and give a 1996 ambulance [VIN FDJ534F4SHB17885] with mileage of 122,422 to the Oak Wolfe Fire Department.

Motion was made by Commissioner Guy, seconded by Commissioner Turner, carried unanimously, to approve the surplus of the 1996 ambulance to be given to the Oak Wolfe Fire Department and to authorize the county manager to sign any necessary paperwork.

Mr. Aldridge presented a summary of surplus property that was sold on GovDeals.com to be made part of the minutes.

The following citizens from the Albertson, Oak Wolfe, and Pleasant Grove communities appeared before the board to express opposition to the EMS restructuring plan approved at the May 7, 2007 board meeting: Mr. Thurman Herring, volunteer with Pleasant Grove EMS; Mr. Scott Rouse, citizen that needed EMS transport for a life-threatening illness; Mr. Curtis Tripp, State Trooper; Mr. Winslow Tew, President of the Duplin County Fireman's Association; Mr. Charles Phillips, Safety Manager at Butterball; Ms. Paula Ivey, ER Nurse and EMS volunteer; Mr. Emmett Stroud, EMS volunteer; and Mr. Fred Rouse, Chief of the Pleasant Grove VFD.

The board heard budget appeals from several county departments and outside agencies.

Mr. Winslow Tew, President of the Duplin County Firemen's Association, stated that on average, \$25,000 per year is needed to fund basic operating costs at each of the volunteer fire departments, not including equipment. He stated that a 14 percent increase in county funding is needed for the fire departments.

Ms. Ila Davis, Health Department Director, stated that reclassifying the nursing salaries at the Health Department is a major concern for the health department because she can not fill the current four nursing vacancies due to the low starting salary. Also, to retain her current nursing staff, those salaries would need to be adjusted as well.

Sheriff Blake Wallace stated that his main budget priority is with salary adjustments for his department. He requested an additional 5 percent raise above the 2 percent recommended by the board for all county employees.

Ms. Dianne McNamara, Parks and Recreation Director, and Mr. Cliff Phillips, Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, spoke in support of retaining the Parks and Recreation Department. (See handout in minutes.)

Mr. Gary Rose, Tax Administrator, stated that salary adjustments were needed for the Tax Office. He stated that his collection staff is classified four salary grades below other county department's collection staff that handle less money. Also, his GIS staff has taken on additional responsibilities with the mapping system that was once contracted with an outside provider.

Dr. Lawrence Rouse, President of James Sprunt Community College; and Mr. John Hardison, Dean of Fiscal Services, requested that the board allot the same funding as last year to the college.

Ms. Daphney Hill, Director of the Eastern Carolina Human Services Agency, stated that in the past, the county provided funding for the agency and requested that the board reinstate that funding.

Dr. Wiley Doby, Duplin County Schools Superintendent, requested additional funding. He stated that by not increasing funding above what was allotted last fiscal year, would actually be a decrease due to rising costs of fuel, electricity, health insurance, retirement and other inflationary costs.

Mr. Woody Brinson, Economic Development Director, appeared before the board to discuss several matters.

Mr. Brinson stated that Governor Mike Easley would be making an announcement within the next few days regarding a potential business that will relocate to Duplin County.

Mr. Brinson discussed Lot 12 at West Park in Warsaw. He stated that a prospective business would like to purchase the lot but before the lot can be sold, an access road must be constructed to NC DOT specifications at the county's expense.

Motion was made by Commissioner Guy, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to approve up to \$60,000 in order to construct an access road to Lots 11 and 12 with funds to come from the sale of previous lots at West Park, thereby approving Budget Amendment # 0228.

Mr. Pat Renfro, Chairman of the Economic Development Commission, appeared before the board to discuss the charge by the Duplin County Board of Commissioners to the EDC board to make recommendations for the merger of the economic development commission into non-profits corporations. He stated that the EDC board met on April 30, 2007 prior to the decision of board on May 7, 2007 to eliminate Mr. Woody Brinson's position. Mr. Renfro stated that the EDC board unanimously voted to recommend that the Duplin County Economic Development Commission Board of Directors be merged into the Duplin County Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors and that a county commissioner be added as a ninth member. Also, the Economic Development Corporation would be a 501 (c) (6) non-profit membership organization. The Duplin County Economic Development Foundation, Inc. would be a 501 (c) (3) charitable foundation. (See handout in minutes.)

Mr. Renfro appealed the budget for the Economic Development Commission. He stated that an assistant economic development director position needs to be funded for 10 months to help in the transition during Mr. Brinson's retirement. This position would begin September 1, 2007. Also, the \$1,000 allotted for professional services is too low and should be increased to \$4,000. (See handout in minutes.)

Economic Development Board Members, Mr. Pat Renfro, Mr. Jim Harris, and Mr. Gray Morgan; expressed opposition to the decision to eliminate Mr. Brinson's position made at the May 7<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

The board recessed to meet again on Wednesday, May 23, 2007 at 9:00 a.m.  
in Commissioner's Room, County Administration Building (224 Seminary Street),  
Kenansville, North Carolina

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Clerk