

June 4, 2007

The Duplin County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, June 4, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Room, County Administration Building (224 Seminary Street), Kenansville, North Carolina.

Present: Chairman David Fussell and Commissioners L. S. Guy, Harold L. Raynor, Reginald Wells and Zettie Williams (by conference call)

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

Commissioner Harold Raynor gave the invocation.

Motion was made by Commissioner Guy, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to approve the Consent Agenda which included the following: Minutes – May 21, 2007; Budget Amendments #0235 - #0243; Solid Waste Releases #3964 - #3967; and Tax Releases #3960 - #3963; and to add a personnel report to be made part of the minutes.

Mr. Mike Aldridge presented Administrative Budget Amendments # K072 - # K112 to be made a part of the minutes.

Public Comments:

Mrs. Millie Brown, Director of Social Services, appeared before the board to request salary increases and reclassifications for the following members of her staff: an Office Assistant III [Grade 57, Step 2A] to an Income Maintenance Caseworker I [Grade 61, Step 1A]; an Income Maintenance Caseworker I [Grade 61, Step 2B] to an Income Maintenance Caseworker II [Grade 63, Step 1B]; an Adult Medicaid Income Maintenance Supervisor I [Grade 65, Step 2A] to an Adult Medicaid Income Supervisor II [Grade 67, Step 1A]; an Adult Medicaid Income Maintenance Supervisor I [Grade 65, Step 2B] to an Adult Medicaid Income Maintenance Supervisor II [Grade 67, Step 1B]; a Building Maintenance Assistant II [Grade 60, Step 4A] to a Building Maintenance Assistant III [Grade 64, Step 3B]; a Computer Systems Administrator I [Grade 68, Step 3A] to [Grade 68, Step 4A]; an Office Work Unit Supervisor V [Grade 61, Step 3A] to [Grade 61, Step 5A]; an Income Maintenance Investigation Supervisor [Grade 65, Step 2B] to [Grade 65, Step 5A].

Motion was made by Commissioner Guy, seconded by Commissioner Wells, to approve the Social Services reclassifications recommended by Mrs. Millie Brown. Commissioners Guy, Wells, and Williams voted for; Commissioners Raynor and Fussell voted against.

Commissioner David Fussell spoke about the need to have Cabin Lake open 7 days per week and holidays in order for it to be a successful campground. Commissioner Fussell also suggested that the Parks and Recreation Office should be located at Cabin Lake.

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

Roads discussed: Mable Raines Lane in Magnolia – a petition to have road made part of the state system; Solid Waste Recycling Sites – entranceways need paving; Pickett Bay Road on Hwy 24 near Beulaville – bridge needs repair; Carter Best Road in Warsaw (SR1902) – when will it be paved?

Ms. Parker stated that the Carter Best Road is in the 06-07 DOT budget and work will begin once the environmental permits are approved.

Mr. Eric West, District Conservationist, appeared before the board to present a contract for maintenance repairs on laterals and drainage ways within the Limestone Creek and Muddy Creek Watershed Projects to Mr. Eddie Smith of S & C Construction, LLC of Garland. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Guy, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to approve the contract with Mr. Eddie Smith of S & C Construction, LLC of Garland in the amount of \$68,016 and to authorize the chairman and finance officer to sign same.

Ms. Gwendolyn Vann, Mayor of Magnolia, appeared before the board to discuss the town's request to use the former Magnolia EMS building for other purposes. Ms. Vann stated that the town would like to re-establish an EMS unit in the building or use the building as a nutrition site.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Guy, carried unanimously, to defer this matter until Mr. Brian Pearce, EMS Director, can meet with town officials to evaluate the feasibility of using the building as an EMS site and report back by the July 16<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

Mr. George Futrelle, Airport Director, appeared before the board to present a professional services contract with GeoTechnologies, Inc. for soil density testing services for the South Parallel Taxiway Project during fill placement and pipe installation. The total contract is not to exceed \$22,790. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Guy, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to approve the contract for soil testing services with GeoTechnologies, Inc. and to authorize the chairman to sign same.

Ms. Melisa Brown, Aging Department Assistant Director, appeared before the board to request that funds be transferred between line items for the Community Care Block Grant in order to spend all state and federal funds. Ms. Brown stated that no additional funds are required. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Guy, carried unanimously, to approve the transfer of funds for the Community Care Block Grant and authorize the chairman and finance officer to sign same.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to prepare a resolution of respect for Mr. Walter Brown to honor his years of service to the county.

Mr. Bee Barnette, Solid Waste Director, appeared before the board to request an additional 4 percent raise for employees in his department with funds to come from the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund. Mr. Barnette stated that this would be in addition to the 2 percent approved for all county employees in the 07-08 budget. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Guy, to approve the salary increases for the Solid Waste employees with funds to come from the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund. Commissioners Guy, Raynor, Wells and Williams voted for; Commissioner Fussell voted against.

Mr. Barnette also discussed the need to set aside funds for environmental or hazardous waste clean-up or other unforeseen emergency expenses related to the landfill. He suggested that at least \$1 million be taken from the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund and placed in a restricted line item for this purpose.

Motion was made by Commissioner Guy, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to restrict \$1 million for landfill emergency cleanup with funds to come from the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund.

Ms. Kristy Brinson, Sheriff's Department Office Administrator, appeared before the board to request several reclassifications in the Sheriff Office. She stated that in order to classify her administrative staff more accurately, she would like to implement four levels for the Administrative Secretary position. Currently, all administrative staff members are classified as an Administrative Secretary. Ms. Brinson stated that she has revised the standard Administrative Secretary job description to implement the different levels according to the certifications that each is required to have from the state. (See handout in minutes.)

Ms. Brinson requested that Ms. Elsie Houston be reclassified from Administrative Secretary [Grade 61, 2A] to Administrative Secretary IV [Grade 64, 3B] due to her certifications and increased job responsibilities.

Ms. Brinson also requested that two clerical staff members, Ms. Nancy Batts and Ms. Judy Casteen be reclassified from Administrative Secretary to Administrative Secretary I; and that Mr. Michael Tyndall be reclassified from a Detective I to a Narcotics Agent I. Ms. Brinson stated that there would be no change in salary for these three positions, just a change in title in order to better reflect their job responsibilities.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Guy, carried unanimously, to reclassify Ms. Elsie Houston from an Administrative Secretary to an Administrative Secretary IV effective July 1, 2007.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Raynor, carried unanimously, to reclassify Ms. Nancy Batts and Ms. Judy Casteen from an Administrative Secretary to and Administrative Secretary I.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Fussell, carried unanimously, to reclassify Mr. Michael Tyndall from a Detective I to a Narcotics Agent I.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Guy, carried unanimously, to recess Regular Session and to go into session as County Water District D.

The Board returned to Regular Session.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Raynor, carried unanimously, to recess Regular Session and to go into session as County Water District E.

The Board returned to Regular Session.

Mr. Mike Aldridge stated that Mr. Steve Moore, Transportation and Aging Director, is recommending Ms. Pat Denise be reappointed to serve a three-year term on the Duplin County Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Guy, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to reappoint Ms. Pat Denise to the Duplin County Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee for a three-year term.

Mr. Aldridge stated that Ms. Tonya Cedars, Eastern Carolina Council Director, is recommending that Mr. J.B. Helms and Mr. Alexander Leach be reappointed to the Regional Aging Advisory Committee for a three-year term. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Guy, carried unanimously, to reappoint Mr. J.B. Helms and Mr. Alexander Leach to the Regional Aging Advisory Committee for a three-year term.

Mr. Aldridge discussed a letter received from Mr. Mike Johanns with the USDA office regarding the designation of 47 North Carolina Counties due to the freezing conditions that occurred April 6, 2007 through April 9, 2007. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Raynor, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to fund the Adult Day Care Program in Wallace for the 2007 – 2008 budget.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Guy, carried unanimously, to authorize the chairman to sign the Parity Agreement between Neuse River Development Authority, Inc., Neuse River Council of Governments dba Eastern Carolina Council, the County of Duplin, and Moulding Solutions, Inc. once the final documents are completed.

The board recessed to meet again for the purpose of a public hearing on the 2007 – 2008 proposed budget on Monday, June 4, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in the Auditorium at the Duplin Commons Office Complex (165 Agriculture Drive), Kenansville, North Carolina

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Clerk

June 4, 2007

The Duplin County Board of Commissioners met in Adjourned Session on Monday, June 4, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in the Auditorium at the Duplin Commons Office Complex, (165 Agriculture Drive), Kenansville, North Carolina.

Present: Chairman David Fussell and Commissioners L. S. Guy, Harold L. Raynor, Reginald Wells and Zettie Williams (by conference call)

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

Mr. M.D. Guthrie, Principal at Wallace Rose Hill High School, gave the invocation.

Mr. Mike Aldridge gave a presentation of the proposed 2007 – 2008 budget. Following the presentation, Chairman Fussell opened the public hearing on the proposed budget. The following public comments were received:

Dr. Wiley Doby: I am Wiley Doby, and I am the school superintendent. I'd like to thank our Board of Education members for being here tonight. And I'd like to thank our central office staff for being here tonight as well. And for everybody for being here tonight as well, because as Mr. Guthrie said just a few minutes ago, this certainly is democracy in action and democracy is, I think, best. I appreciate the opportunity to speak tonight, to give us the opportunity to say a couple of things on behalf of the school system. Also, I'd like to thank the commissioners for the additional \$750,000 which you have allocated to us. And certainly we want to work cooperatively to spend these funds in the best way we can for the best interest of the children.

You have a difficult task before you to decide how to spend the various monies that Mike and his staff have done such a great job presenting to you tonight. You have to consider all the needs of the County. I am here, of course, to speak for the children in school system of Duplin County. We propose that quality education, as a top priority, serves as a springboard for everything else in this county and all counties. There is an urgent and critical need for improvement in our school system due to the very, very rigorous requirements of the state's "ABCs Program", of the national federal "No Child Left Behind Program", and in general to help our children meet the needs of the global economy of society that we live in this day and time.

Over the next six years our student performance must increase thirty-seven percentage points. That's a huge amount. Thirty-seven percentage points in order to meet the requirements of "No Child Left Behind" by the school year 2013 - 2014. Our budget request, which, of course you have, and which I went over with you in some detail a couple weeks ago and I'm not going to bore you through all the numbers and details again tonight again because we've already gone over those. But our budget request is, of course, based on the ideal of giving our children a high quality educational opportunity. We are going to take the funding that you provided to us and use it for the best opportunity that we can for the children of Duplin County.

The schools, we feel, I think, most people feel, are the most important issue in determining the quality of life in a community and in its economic development. The caliber of education that we deliver will play a major role in the direction that our county takes. And again, I appreciate your consideration, your listening to me tonight to talk about education. And we appreciate the additional funds once again, that you have allocated to us and thank you for the opportunity to speak with you here tonight. Thank you.

Ms. Violette Phillips: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just came to say "thank you" for the things you put back into the budget that were left out. All I know is what I read in the newspapers, but it looks like you to put back right many things that were left out. And I appreciate it. We have a lot of good people in Duplin County. We have a good county. And

I appreciate all that you do for us and I especially appreciate this nice facility that we are meeting in tonight.

Emily Manning: Good Evening. I'd like to say thank you for allowing us the opportunity to come speak to you tonight. I too would like to say "thank you" for what you've done for the school board in Duplin County in the past. I thank you for the efforts you make on their behalf.

As I was sitting back there, I couldn't help but notice the pin I'm wearing tonight which was given to all the school board members. Mr. Guy is smiling because he knows what it is. On this pin that was given to us, looks like a key. And around that it says "Achievement Equals Success". And the way I look at this pin, and I wear it quite a lot. People will ask me, "what is that pin? It's so pretty." And I say, "this key represents education is the key to success, excellence in education represents and is the key to success." And without excellence in education, we wouldn't do very much. Our children wouldn't do very much. And our children, our school system, our county depends on what you do. Again, I'd like to say "thank you" for what you've done in the past. I'd like to thank you for the additional dollars you've allocated this year.

When you go through your budget again, if you look at it again, and I'm sure that you will before you complete it, think about the children. Think about their futures and what we have to offer. I know that in Duplin County, we all tend to look at Duplin County at times and say that we don't have much to offer. But we do. We have a tremendous amount to offer our children in Duplin County. And I'd like to see our children from Duplin County be able to go onto a higher education, get their education, and then come back to live and work in Duplin County. That's what I would like to see for Duplin County. And without the "Excellence in Education", which takes dollars to bring about in hiring the very best people possible, we can't do that for those children; our children, your children, my children, and our grandchildren. Thank you again.

Mr. Jimmy Sauls: Due to the fine job that Mike and his staff have done, I will relinquish my time. I believe it can be handled better one-on-one.

Mr. Emmett Stroud: Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, I come before you tonight in thanks for not just for the EMS in our county, but for everything. You have re-evaluated everything in every area that I feel that our county needed. And it's because of leadership like yours and people like these, that we see fit to have what I can call one of the greatest counties in the state. And I'd like to thank you for that.

With no further public comments, Chairman Fussell called the public hearing to a close at 6:47 p.m.

The board adjourned to meet again on Monday, June 18, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. in the Auditorium at the Duplin Commons Office Complex (165 Agriculture Drive), Kenansville, North Carolina.

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Clerk