

NOVEMBER 06, 2006

The Duplin County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, November 6, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Room, County Administration Building (224 Seminary Street), Kenansville, North Carolina.

Present: Chairman Zettie B. Williams and Commissioners Arliss Albertson, David Fussell, L. S. Guy, Jr., Larry Howard, and Reginald Wells.

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 Reginald Wells gave the invocation.

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

Affidavits of Publication  
Building Inspections – October 2006  
Communications – October 2006  
Register of Deeds – October 2006  
Personnel – October 2006

Motion was made by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to approve the Consent Agenda which included the following: Minutes – October 16, 2006; Minutes – October 23, 2006; Budget Amendments #92 - #100, Solid Waste Releases #3335 - #3344, and Tax Releases #3313 - #3334; and to add a resolution to honor Ms. Jettie Hill for the occasion of her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday; a resolution to honor Reverend Keith Raynor of First Baptist Church of Rose Hill; personnel report; and the fund balance report to be made part of the Minutes.

Mr. Mike Aldridge presented Administrative Budget Amendments #DO39 - #DO62 and Motor Vehicle Releases – September 2006 - \$9,905.69 to be made a part of the Minutes.

Public Comments:

Mr. Win Batten, Mayor of Warsaw, extended an invitation to everyone to attend the 86<sup>th</sup> consecutive Veteran's Day Celebration & Parade to be held in Warsaw on November 11, 2006.

Mr. Doug Yarbrough, CEO of Duplin General Hospital, appeared before the Board to give a financial update on the hospital. (See handout in Minutes.)

Ms. Sue Wells, with Carolina East Home Care & Hospice, presented a resolution to the Board to recognize November 2006 as "Home Care & Hospice Month" in Duplin County.

Motion was made by Commissioner Guy, seconded by Commissioner Albertson, carried unanimously, to declare November 2006 as "Home Care & Hospice Month" in Duplin County and to authorize the Chairman to sign same.

The public hearing was called to order at 9:54 a.m.

Mr. Steve Moore, Transportation Coordinator, appeared before the Board to conduct a public hearing. Mr. Moore explained that the purpose of the public hearing was to receive citizen comments on the grant application with the North Carolina Department of Transportation to provide federal administrative, operating, and capital assistance for Fiscal Year 2007-2008. The following public comments were received:

Evelyn Warren, a resident of Faison, inquired about the rate to use the transportation system.

Richard Kaiser, a resident of Faison, urged the Board to consolidate radio systems among all county departments such as the Sheriff's Department, the school system, the Transportation Department, and EMS.

The public hearing was called to a close at 10:02 a.m. with no further comments from those present.

Mr. Steve Moore, presented a resolution to seek permission to apply for Community Transportation Program funding and enter into an agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation and to provide the necessary assurances. (See handout in Minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Albertson, carried unanimously, to authorize the Chairman to adopt the resolution and sign the contract, the Local Share Certification for Funding, the Community Transportation Resolution, the Section 5311 Title VI Program Report, the DBE Good Faith Efforts Certification, the Delegation of Authority, and the Section II Memorandum of Understanding.

Mr. Steve Moore also presented an amendment to the contract with Mentor Wireless Solution, Inc. to include a revised pricing schedule for products and services to be purchased by Duplin County.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Guy, carried unanimously, to approve the amendment to the contract and authorize the Chairman to sign same.

Mr. Moore also advised the Board that the per trip rate needed to be adjusted to \$8 for all riders due to Medicaid regulations.

Motion was made by Commissioner Albertson, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to approve the new flat rate transportation fee in the amount of \$8 per trip to all riders

Mr. Tyndall Lewis, Engineer with McDavid Associates, appeared before the Board to present the Preliminary Report on the water & sewer improvements to serve the Kenansville Bypass and future industrial park. Mr. Lewis stated that in order to provide sewer service to the area, the initial cost would be approximately \$5 million with long term cost at \$10.5 million. To provide water services to the area would cost \$325,000 if the county ran the lines, and \$545,000 if the Town of Kenansville ran the water lines. (See handout in Minutes.)

Mr. Woody Brinson, Economic Development Director, informed the Board that he recently received notification of several grants that can be used to establish county water service to the Kenansville bypass. Mr. Brinson stated that there are two grants that are available from the North Carolina Department of Commerce Utility Fund for Industrial Development. Also, a grant is available from the Rural Center's Economic Development Reserve for the same purpose. Mr. Brinson stated the funds were applied for under the Town of Kenansville name due to annexing requirements of the grants. He stated that the application deadline for the Department of Commerce grant is November 6, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. and therefore he would be hand delivering the applications today. (See handouts in Minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Albertson, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to authorize Duplin County to submit application to the Economic Development Reserve Fund with the North Carolina Department of Commerce in the amount of \$325,000.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Guy, carried unanimously, to authorize the Economic Development Commission to submit an application to the Rural Center Utility Fund in the amount of \$325,000 on behalf of Duplin County.

Dr. Joe Babb, cardiologist with Pitt Memorial Hospital, appeared before the Board to conduct a presentation on the statewide RACE program (Reperfusion of Acute Myocardial Infarction). The purpose of this program is to improve outcomes for heart attack patients by improving response & treatment using this reperfusion method in local emergency rooms and ambulance services. (See handout in Minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Guy, seconded by Commissioner Albertson, carried unanimously, to partner with the University Health System to bring that service to our EMS system.

Mr. Deleon Smith with the North Carolina Department of Transportation gave an update on conditions of various roads in Duplin County.

Roads discussed: SR1004 between Oak Wolfe Fire Department and Alphin Road – low shoulder needs attention; Graham Road at the Wayne & Duplin County line – road has been closed awhile but no work is in progress; Tram Road – entire road needs widening and resurfacing; Corn Mill Road at Scott's Florist – low shoulders and road needs resurfacing; Firetower Road to Yellow Cut Road – culvert needs repairing, no place for water to drain except into yard; Hwy 11 at New Christian Chapel – ditch is caving in at church driveway.

Bee Barnette: Roads at the entrances of the solid waste collection sites need to have an apron paved.

Anne Hunter: Hwy 50 South at Old Field Road – there's a big dip in the road near the residence of the late Robert Pearce.

Mr. Randall Tyndall, Planning Director, appeared before the Board to present a letter from the Town of Wallace requesting that the Board waive the \$20.00 per year lease fee on two FEMA buyout properties. The town is using these two parcels (90-8017 & 90-8028) as staging areas for their ditch/stream clearance project to improve storm drainage.

Motion was made by Commissioner Guy, seconded by Commissioner Wells, to waive the \$20 lease fee to the Town of Wallace. Commissioners Albertson, Fussell, Williams voted for and Commissioner Howard voted against.

Mr. Bee Barnett, Solid Waste Director, appeared before the Board to seek approval to purchase two industrial compactor receiver boxes from Cavalier Equipment Company.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Albertson, carried unanimously, to award the equipment purchase to Cavalier Equipment Company in the amount of \$11,640, thus approving Budget Amendment #102

Ms. Lula Rouse, a resident of Pasture Branch Road in Rose Hill, appeared before the Board to discuss the fees charged for Beaver Management Services. Mr. Dale Dixon, Wildlife Specialist, was present and stated that he had been to Ms. Rouse's property and discussed his findings with the Board.

A retirement plaque was presented to Mr. George Brown, retiree from the Sheriff's Department (September 17, 1990 to October 31, 2006).

Sheriff Blake Wallace appeared before the Board to discuss several matters.

Sheriff Wallace advised the Board that Duplin County has been selected to receive a grant in the amount of \$100,000 to help combat Hispanic gang activity. This grant will require a 25 percent county match.

Sheriff Wallace requested \$ 250,000 in additional funding to cover the cost of jail repairs and overtime costs. He stated that if approved, \$25,000 would be used for the county match portion of the Hispanic Gang Grant.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Fussell, carried unanimously, to approve \$250,000 from the general fund balance for a one-time allocation to the Sheriff's Department.

Sheriff Wallace discussed the need for increased salary adjustments for three lieutenants in his department. (See handout in Minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Fussell, carried unanimously, to approve salary adjustments for three lieutenants at the Sheriff's Department.

Dr. Lawrence Rouse, President of James Sprunt Community College; and Mr. John Hardison, Dean of Administrative & Fiscal Services, appeared before the Board to request \$239,124 in additional funding due to increases in fuel, electricity, health insurance coverage, and campus security costs. Dr. Rouse stated that improvements were needed to make campus buildings compliant with ADA requirements, and repairs are needed to several HVAC systems. (See handout in Minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Wells, to approve a one-time allocation of \$ 250,000 from the fund Capital Reserve Fund.

Ms. Teresa Lanier, Finance Officer, advised that funds approved from the Capital Reserve Fund could only be used on building repairs and maintenance.

Commissioner Fussell offered an amendment to the main motion to approve a one-time allocation of \$ 159,746 from the General Fund and \$69,378 from the Capital Reserve Fund to James Sprunt Community College. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Wells. Motion carried unanimously, thus approving Budget Amendment #0101.

Dr. Wiley Doby, Duplin County School Superintendent, appeared before the Board to request \$1.5 million in additional funding from the Capital Reserve Fund. Dr. Doby stated that this funding was needed for upgrades to the phone & intercom systems and for hand-held radios and security cameras for school safety.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Albertson, carried unanimously, to approve a one-time allocation of \$1.5 million from the Capital Reserve Fund to Duplin County Schools, thus approving Budget Amendment #0103.

Ms. Linda Hadden, Library Director, appeared before the Board to seek approval to appoint Ms. Debra Self Scott to serve as the Warsaw-area library trustee to the Board of Commissioners. Her appointment will be from July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2012.

Ms. Hadden also recommended that Mr. Joe Tillman be re-appointed to serve as the Wallace-area to the Board of Commissioners. His re-appointment will be from July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2012.

Motion was made by Commissioner Guy, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously to approve the appointment of Ms. Debra Self Scott, and the reappointment of Mr. Joe Tillman, to the Library Board of Trustees.

Mr. Mike Aldridge informed the Board that Sarah's Refuge, Inc. would be collecting toys, clothing, and other items for their annual "Christmas Angel Tree" program. Also, Sarah's Refuge will be conducting training for new board members on November 8, 2006 at 6 p.m. at the Warsaw Town Hall. (See handouts in Minutes.)

Mr. Mike Aldridge presented letters from the North Carolina Department of Transportation denying the county's request to add the following streets into the state system for maintenance: (a) Streets in the Highlands Acres Subdivision; and (b) Streets in the Cedar Hill Subdivision. (See handouts in Minutes.)

Mr. Mike Aldridge presented the Memorandum of Lease between Duplin County and MFP Air, LLC for the new corporate hangar.

Motion was made by Commissioner Albertson, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to approve the Memorandum of Lease between Duplin County and MFP Air, LLC and to authorize the Chairman to sign same.

Mr. Mike Aldridge informed the Board that the following members of the Duplin County Airport Commission have terms that expired on June 30, 2006: Mr. Larry Howard, Mr. Bob Johnson, and Mr. Ricky Kennedy. Mr. Aldridge recommended that all three be re-appointed.

Motion was made by Commissioner Albertson, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to reappoint Mr. Larry Howard, Mr. Bob Johnson, and Mr. Ricky Kennedy to the Duplin County Airport Commission.

Mr. Mike Aldridge informed the Board that Mr. Steve Moore and Mr. Jimmy Sauls have two-year terms on the Vision 21 Committee that will expire on November 16, 2006. Mr. Aldridge recommended that both be re-appointed.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Howard, carried unanimously, to reappoint Mr. Steve Moore and Mr. Jimmy Sauls to the Vision 21 Committee.

Mr. Mike Aldridge recommended to the Board that Mr. Jim Merritt and Mr. Gerald Bell be appointed to the Duplin County Planning Board to fill the vacancies left by the resignations of Mrs. Violette Phillips and Mr. Cecil Langley, respectively.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Albertson, carried unanimously, to appoint Mr. Jim Merritt and Mr. Gerald Bell to the Duplin County Planning Board.

Mr. Mike Aldridge asked the Board if they would be interested in touring the new transfer station at the landfill and a few of the solid waste collection sites. The Board agreed to take the tour after the next commissioners' meeting on November 20<sup>th</sup>.

Motion was made by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Commissioner Albertson, carried unanimously, to go into Closed Session pursuant to N. C. G. S. 143-318.11(a)(3).

The Board returned to Regular Session.

Motion was made by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Commissioner Albertson, carried unanimously, to allow the county attorney to proceed with litigation in a matter regarding the Duplin County Airport.

The Board adjourned to meet again on Monday, November 20, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioner's Room, County Administration Building (224 Seminary Street), Kenansville, North Carolina.

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Clerk