

November 19, 2007

The Duplin County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, November 19, 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, Jr., Harold L. Raynor, 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

Mr. Stanley Miller, Water Department Director, gave the invocation.

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

Airport – October 2007
Animal Control – October 2007
Building Inspections – October 2007
Communications – October 2007
Emergency Services – October 2007
Health Department – October 2007
Library – October 2007
Register of Deeds – October 2007
Services for the Aged – October 2007
Soil & Water – October 2007
Solid Waste – October 2007

Motion was made by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to approve the Consent Agenda which included the following: Minutes – November 5, 2007; Budget Amendments #0093 - #0101; Solid Waste Releases #4587 - #4622; Tax Releases #4547 - #4623; to add a discussion on the proposed off-site navy landing field, a review of Duplin County ordinances; and a discussion on the county's portrait policy.

Mr. Mike Aldridge presented Administrative Budget Amendments # E001 - # E029; and Motor Vehicle Releases – October 2007 - \$13,310.81 to be made a part of the minutes.

Public Comments:

Mr. Chris Alphin of the Potters Hill community discussed the proposed animal control ordinance. He stated that the county does not need an ordinance or another advisory group to develop an ordinance because state laws already address these issues.

Ms. Pat Denise of Calypso urged the board to take time to research the waste-to-energy technology before making a decision on such a project. She stated that public forums should be held on the matter.

Mr. Ike Baker also urged the board to research the waste-to-energy project before making a decision.

Ms. Holly Dunn of Beulaville stated that she has repeatedly asked for budget information from the Duplin County Board of Education but still has not received what she has asked for. She stated that the board of education should not receive additional funding when it is not clear how it is being spent. Additionally, board of education administrators should not be receiving large supplements when basic student needs are not being met.

Mr. Mark Boone, Executive Vice President; and Dr. Neal Hill, Chief Executive Officer and President of Boonehill, LLC of Raleigh, appeared before the board to discuss their company's technology that converts animal waste to electric power. Mr. Boone stated that Boonehill, LLC would like to build a 10 megawatt renewable energy power plant on a 25 acre county-owned tract of land located on Landfill Road – SR1918 – in Rose Hill. He requested that the board consider a no-cost 25-year lease with an option for renewal. Mr. Boone stated that this location was ideal because a major power supply transmits through this area. (See handout in minutes.)

Mr. Kraig Westerbeek, Director of Environmental Compliance with Murphy Brown LLC, appeared before the board to give the hog industry's perspective on the waste-to-energy technology. He stated that Murphy Brown is supportive of this type of project and would gladly assist in technical support and information to any company interested in this technology. Mr. Westerbeek stated that waste-to-energy projects have the potential to be economically beneficial to the county; however, incentives should not be given. If these types of projects don't make economic sense on their own, the county doesn't need them. (See handout in minutes.)

Dr. Frank Bordeaux, Executive Director of NC Agricultural Finance Authority, appeared before the board to discuss possible financing qualifications and options for projects such as that of Boonehill, LLC.

Attorney Reginald Kenan, who resides on Landfill Road, spoke against a waste-to-energy project being located in this community.

Motion was made by Commissioner Raynor, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, for the board not to consider the landfill site for any type of program that would interfere with the residents of that area.

Mr. Earl Brinkley, Sr. appeared before the board to give an update on the economic impact for Duplin County due to the expected population growth at the military bases in eastern North Carolina. (See handout in minutes.)

Mr. Scott Kennedy with the State Bureau of Investigation gave a presentation on crime and gang activity in Duplin County. Sheriff Blake Wallace was present and discussed the need to hire two additional officers to help combat gang activity.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Fussell, carried unanimously, to authorize the sheriff to review his budget to find funds, possibly from the federally-seized assets line item, to assist in providing two officers to help combat gang activity and report back to the board.

Mr. Eric Houston, System Analyst with the Duplin County Information Technology Department, gave a presentation on the county website and statistics on its usage. He stated that the Register of Deeds records and tax records are the most used online services.

Mr. Garry Murphy appeared before the board to request a donation of county-owned land for the purposes of fire and emergency medical training. Mr. Murphy gave a presentation on a similar project that has been very successful in Brunswick County. Mr. Brian Pearce, EMS Director, was present and requested the board's permission to apply for a FEMA grant to construct an emergency education facility associated with this type of training.

Motion was made by Commissioner Guy, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to authorize the EMS Director to apply for FEMA grant funds to construct an emergency education facility.

It was the consensus of the board to instruct the county manager to locate possible sites to house the training facility and report back to the board at the next meeting.

Mr. Van Lewis, Engineer with McDavid Associates, appeared before the board to discuss two NC Rural Center grant programs and various needed projects associated with each water district. (See handout in minutes.)

Mr. Lewis discussed the planning grant program that would give the county the opportunity to apply for Rural Center funds to match a Clean Water Management Trust Fund Grant that the county has already received.

Mr. Lewis discussed the supplemental grant program that would give the county the opportunity to apply for up to \$500,000 in Rural Center funds for each water district for water and sewer extension projects.

Motion was made by Commissioner Guy, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to adopt the resolution acknowledging review of the workshop discussion "Getting to Success With Your Consulting Engineer" and authorize the chairman to sign same.

Motion was made by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to authorize McDavid Associates to submit the planning grant application to the NC Rural Center for the purpose of preparing a land use plan update.

Motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to adopt the resolution authorizing the supplemental grant application to the NC Rural Economic Development Center, Inc. and authorize the chairman to sign same.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Fussell, to complete the Rosemary Community Sewer Project and pursue other projects, if possible, upon completion of the Rosemary Project. Commissioners Raynor, Turner, and Williams voted for; Commissioner Guy voted against.

Motion was made by Commissioner Guy, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to go into session as Water District A.

The board returned to Regular Session.

Motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to go into session as Water District B.

The board returned to Regular Session.

Motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Turner, carried unanimously, to go into session as Water District D.

The board returned to Regular Session

Motion was made by Commissioner Guy, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to go into session as Water District E.

The board returned to Regular Session.

Motion was made by Commissioner Guy, seconded by Commissioner Turner, carried unanimously, to go into session as Water District F.

The board returned to Regular Session.

Motion was made by Commissioner Guy, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to go into session as Water District G.

The board returned to Regular Session.

Commissioner Fussell presented a list of individuals that have volunteered to serve on the animal advisory board to assist in development of an animal control ordinance. (See handout in minutes.)

Commissioner Fussell asked Ms. Wendy Sivori to review the Duplin County Animal Advisory Charter document and report back at the next board meeting with any necessary changes or additions. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Guy, carried unanimously, to authorize the county manager to send a letter of appreciation to Mr. Ken Rau on behalf of the board of commissioners for his efforts in drafting the previous animal control ordinance.

Mr. Mike Aldridge presented the uncollectible debt write-off for the Health Department in the amount of \$2,914.05 for general health services and \$ 208.10 for dental services as of November 6, 2004. (See handout in minutes.)

Mr. Aldridge discussed a letter received from Dr. Kenneth Newbold seeking the board's support in establishing a military history research center at the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources / Office of Archives and History in Raleigh. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to authorize the county manager to write a letter of support to Governor Mike Easley and Secretary Lisbeth Evans on behalf of the Duplin County Board of Commissioners supporting the establishment of the military history research center at the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources / Office of Archives and History.

Mr. Aldridge stated that bids were received on the two county surplus property tracts recently advertised for sale. Parcel 02-6054 consisting of 4.74 acres in Faison received one bid of \$3,000. Parcel 11-6011 consisting of 4.10 acres in Rose Hill received two bids with the highest bid being \$ 50,001.

Motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to excuse Commissioner Fussell from voting on the sale of the Rose Hill property due to a potential conflict of interest.

Motion was made by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to approve the sale of Parcel 11-6011 in Rose Hill to Dr. David Ohashi and authorize the county attorney to prepare the deed and other necessary documents for said property.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Turner, carried unanimously, to approve the sale of Parcel 02-6054 in Faison to Ms. Betty Long and authorize the county attorney to prepare the deed and other necessary documents for said property.

Commissioner Guy inquired if all commissioners had a copy of the current Duplin County ordinances. He stated that the ordinances needed to be reviewed to determine which ones should be kept and enforced.

Commissioner Fussell discussed the proposed off-site navy landing field that may be located at one of six sites in North Carolina, with an area in southern Duplin County possibly being selected. Commissioner Raynor stated that the Pender County Board of Commissioners had been given a presentation on the matter. It was the consensus of the board to direct the county manager to contact Pender County officials to find out more information.

The board discussed allowing the portraits of Judge Kenneth Turner and Judge Stephen Williamson to remain in the superior courtroom or to move them to the district courtroom.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Williams, to authorize the county manager to investigate the cost of adding wood raised paneling in the district courtroom like that in the superior courtroom and report back at the next board meeting. Commissioners Fussell and Guy voted for; Commissioners Turner and Raynor voted against.

Mr. Aldridge gave a presentation on the proposed 2007 Strategic Plan. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Guy, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to accept the strategic plan as presented to be the plan of the Duplin County Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Williams discussed the upcoming sales tax referendum scheduled for the May primary. She stated that several citizens had told her that they would not support the quarter-cent local sales tax for education for the current school facility plan.

Motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Turner, that the Duplin County Board of Commissioners would not support the Duplin County Board of Education School Facility Building Plan as presented and previously approved. Commissioners Fussell and Raynor voted for; Commissioners Guy and Wells voted against.

The board adjourned to meet again on Monday, December 3, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioner's Meeting Room, County Administration Building (224 Seminary Street), Kenansville, North Carolina

Clerk