

NOVEMBER 20, 2006

The Duplin County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, November 20, 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., and Reginald Wells.

Absent: Commissioner Larry Howard

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
Airport – October 2006
Animal Control – October 2006
Finance – October 2006
Manager's Office – October 2006
Services to the Aged – October 2006
Social Services – October 2006
Solid Waste – October 2006

Motion was made by Commissioner Albertson, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to approve the Consent Agenda which included the following: Minutes – November 6, 2006; Minutes – November 13, 2006; Budget Amendments #105 - #109, Solid Waste Releases #3363 - #3378, and Tax Releases #3345 - #3362; and to add the Outstanding Tax Report for 1997 – 2006 and the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund Report; Personnel Report to be made part of the Minutes.

Mr. Mike Aldridge presented Administrative Budget Amendments #EO63 - #EO82 and Motor Vehicle Releases – October 2006 - \$8,845.19 to be made a part of the Minutes.

Public Comments:

Dr. Hervy Kornegay, Sr., of Calypso, expressed his gratitude to Commissioners Albertson and Howard for their service to the Board of Commissioners as well as their support of Duplin County EMS. Dr. Kornegay also expressed his appreciation to the entire board for their commitment and service to the community and for being allowed to serve as the Duplin County Medical Director.

Commissioner Reginald Wells gave a rebuttal to remarks made in an article written by Jimmy Dixon that appeared in the November 15, 2006 edition of the *Duplin Times*. Commissioner Wells stated that Mr. Dixon wrote in his column that he [Commissioner Wells] “flip-flopped” on his vote to give the school system, the Sheriff's Department, and James Sprunt Community College additional funding. Commissioner Wells clarified that he did not “flip flop” but rather offered an amendment to the main motion to only give funding to the school system at the October 16th meeting. Commissioner Wells stated that he amended the main motion because he felt that the Sheriff's Department and James Sprunt Community College should appear before the Board to request their own funding at a future board meeting.

Mr. Mike Barnette, Engineer with McDavid Associates, appeared before the Board to discuss several matters.

Mr. Barnette discussed the 2006 CDBG Scattered Site Housing allocation. He stated that as a part of that program, Board approval would be needed for the "Program Plans and Policies". (See handout in Minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Guy, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to approve the "Program Plans and Policies" for the 2006 CDBG Scattered Site Housing Program and to authorize the Chairman to sign same.

Mr. Barnette presented the 2005 "Fair Housing Plan Update". He stated that the "Program Plans and Policies" adopted for the 2005 Concentrated Needs Program and 2005 Hook Up Program also contain Fair Housing activities. In order to make the Fair Housing activities consistent for all three programs, approval of the "Fair Housing Plan Updated" would be necessary. (See handout in Minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Guy, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to approve the "Fair Housing Plan Update" for the 2005 Concentrated Needs Program and the 2005 CDBG Hookup Program and to authorize the Chairman to sign same.

Mr. Randall Tyndall, Planning Director, appeared before the Board to discuss the recommendation for the Sewer Infrastructure Master Plan for Duplin County as requested by the Board at the October 2, 2006 meeting. At that meeting, it was requested that the Planning Department and Economic Development solicit proposals to engineering firms regarding the development of a potential county-wide sewer system.

Mr. Tyndall stated that three engineering firms submitted proposals and after review, it was recommended that McDavid Associates be approved as the engineering firm to oversee the potential development of a county-wide sewer system. Mr. Tyndall also stated that \$10,000 would need to be budgeted for the county portion of a grant match contingent upon grant approval. (See handout in Minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Guy, seconded by Commissioner Wells, to approve McDavid Associates as the engineering firm for potential sewer service development and to designate \$10,000 for the county match portion of the grant. Commissioners Fussell and Williams voted for and Commissioner Albertson voted against. Motion carried, thus approving Budget Amendment # 0110

Ms. Diane McNamara, Parks and Recreation Director, appeared before the Board to request \$15,000 in additional funding for the Parks and Recreation Department's Community Matching Grant Program. In the 2006-2007 budget, \$15,000 was allotted for that line item. In the three years prior, \$30,000 was allotted. (See handout in Minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Albertson, seconded by Commissioner Wells, to approve an additional \$15,000 funding for the Parks and Recreation Department. Commissioners Guy and Williams voted for and Commissioner Fussell voted against. Motion carried, thus approving Budget Amendment # 0111

Ms. Liz Davis with Services to the Aged appeared before the Board to seek approval on a contract with Eastern Carolina Council of Government for the Senior Center General Purpose Funding. This contract is for staffing for the Center Aide position. (See handout in Minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Albertson, carried unanimously, to approve the contract for Senior Center General Purpose Funding and to authorize the Chairman to sign same, thus approving Budget Amendment #112.

Ms. Davis also asked the Board to recognize Outstanding Senior Citizens at each Services to the Aged site. The following received that honor: Mr. Joseph Faison [Faison Site]; Ms. Jannie Lowe [Warsaw Site]; Ms. Jessie Williams [Wallace Site]; Ms. Peggy Campbell [Beulaville Site]; and Mr. Ollen Whitehead [Kenansville Site]. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Albertson, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously to recognize the Outstanding Senior Citizens with a certificate in their honor.

Mr. Bee Barnett, Solid Waste Director, appeared before the Board to seek approval on a change order for the new transfer station in the amount of \$72,323.68, with funding to come from the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund.

Motion was made by Commissioner Albertson, seconded by Commissioner Guy, to approve the change order in the amount of \$72,323.68. Commissioners Wells and Williams voted for and Commissioner Fussell voted against. Motion carried thus approving Budget Amendment # 0113.

Mr. Neil Browder, consultant with Mark III Employee Benefits, Inc., appeared before the Board to discuss the scope of their employee benefits brokerage service. In order for Mark III to start evaluating and negotiate health coverage for Duplin County, the "Agent of Record Notice" and "Broker of Letter Record" would need Board approval. (See handout in Minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Albertson, carried unanimously, to table this matter until November 27, 2006 when the Board will meet for the Fiscal Advisory Committee meeting and also to designate the county manager as the point of contact.

Mr. Davis Brinson, Registrar of Deeds, appeared before the Board to seek approval to reclassify the employees in his department. Mr. Brinson stated that no additional funding would be needed and would come from his existing budget due to the fact that he would not fill the vacant position of part-time Deputy ROD. (See handout in Minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Guy, carried unanimously, to approve the reclassification of Register of Deeds employees.

Ms. Linda Hadden, Library Director, appeared before the Board to give an update on Library usage. (See handout in Minutes.)

Mr. Brian Pearce, EMS Director, appeared before the Board to discuss the shortfall in the EMS budget for salaries. Mr. Pearce explained that this problem was due to the fact that EMS employees do not work a standard 40-hour week, but rather a 48-hour week. This oversight caused a budget deficit in holiday, vacation, sick, flex time and Social Security in the amount of \$238,508.54. Mr. Pearce stated that currently there are sufficient funds to cover salaries, but additional funding would be needed by May 2007. (See handout in Minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Albertson, seconded by Commissioner Guy, carried unanimously, to table this matter until February 2007.

Mr. Pearce also gave an update on EMS call volume and discussed the revenue loss if the county went from paramedic to intermediate level or paramedic to basic level. (See handout in Minutes.)

Mr. George Futrelle, Airport Director, appeared before the Board to conduct a presentation on the economic impact of the Duplin County Airport and other regional airports in eastern North Carolina. (See handout in Minutes.)

Commissioner Arliss Albertson addressed the Board and the Public. Commissioner Albertson commended Commissioner Larry Howard for his diligent service to the citizens of Duplin County. Commissioner Albertson stated that it was an honor for him to serve the citizens of Duplin County for the last eight years. He expressed his gratitude to his constituents in District 3 for their support and trust.

Commissioner Albertson stated that he would be resigning from the North Carolina Eastern Region Board and that a replacement would be needed. He recommended Mr. Earl Brinkley to fill his vacancy.

Motion was made by Commissioner Albertson, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to appoint Mr. Earl Brinkley as the Board appointee on the North Carolina Eastern Region Board.

Mr. Mike Aldridge presented an agreement with Maximus, Inc. to prepare the county's Indirect Cost Allocation Plan for FY 2006, 2007, and 2008 for the Department of Social Services at a cost of \$4,650 for each year.

Motion was made by Commissioner Albertson, seconded by Commissioner Guy, carried unanimously, to approve the three-year contract with Maximus, Inc. and to authorize the Chairman to sign same.

Mr. Mike Aldridge informed the Board that Ms. Melissa Albertson's three-year term as the Registered Nurse Representative on the Board of Health expired June 30, 2005. Mr. Aldridge recommended that Ms. Teresa McLean of 305 Perry Miller Road, Kenansville be appointed to fill the vacancy.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Albertson, carried unanimously, to appoint Ms. Teresa McLean as the RN Representative to the Board of Health to a three-year term beginning December 1, 2006.

Mr. Mike Aldridge presented the summary of uncollectible debts in the amount of \$12,878.59 for the Health Department. Mr. Aldridge requested that this debt be approved as "bad debts" and written off.

Motion was made by Commissioner Guy, seconded by Commissioner Albertson, carried unanimously, to approve the Bad Debt Write-Offs as reported by the Health Department for the period ending October 2, 2003 in the amount of \$12,878.59.

Mr. Mike Aldridge updated the Board on the bid process for the repair of the Health Department roof. Mr. Aldridge stated that bid advertisements and specifications were sent to four roofing contractors recommended by Bilger Engineering. JEDCO Construction was the only bidder. Mr. Aldridge recommended approval of JEDCO Construction's bid proposal.

Motion was made by Commissioner Guy, seconded by Commissioner Albertson, carried unanimously, to approve JEDCO Construction's bid proposal and authorize the county manager to issue a purchase order to proceed with the work and thus approving Budget Amendment #0114.

Commissioner Williams stated that Mr. Joe Tillman's term on the Board of Mental Health Board has expired. Commissioner Williams recommended that Mr. David Sanderson of Magnolia be appointed to fill the vacancy on the Mental Health Board.

Motion was made by Commissioner Guy, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to appoint Mr. David Sanderson to serve on the Board of Mental Health.

Motion was made by Commissioner Guy, seconded by Commissioner Albertson, carried unanimously, to go into Closed Session pursuant to N. C. G. S. 143-318.11(a)(3) and N. C. G. S. 143-318.11(a)(4).

The Board returned to Regular Session.

Motion was made by Commissioner Albertson, seconded by Commissioner Guy, carried unanimously, to rescind the motion made September 18, 2006, requesting that Duplin County Commissioners and their attorneys meet with Johnston Ambulance Service and their attorneys in a closed session.

Motion was made by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to authorize the county attorney and the insurance attorney to meet with the attorneys for Johnston Ambulance Service to enter into negotiations in regards to the pending litigation.

The Board adjourned to meet again on Monday, December 4, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioner's Room, County Administration Building (224 Seminary Street), Kenansville, North Carolina.

Clerk