

December 3, 2007

The Duplin County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, December 3, 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. George Futelle, Airport Director, gave the invocation.

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

Manager – November 2007  
Social Services – 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 19, 2007; Budget Amendments #0102 - #0107; Solid Waste Releases #4632 - #4668; Tax Releases #4624 - #4631; to add Amendment #5 on the Circle S Water & Sewer Project; and a discussion on the county's portrait policy.

Mr. Mike Aldridge presented Administrative Budget Amendments # E030 - # E040 to be made a part of the minutes.

Motion was made by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to select Commissioner Harold Raynor as the new chairman.

Chairman Raynor expressed his appreciation for being selected as chairman. He advised the board and staff that would have the county manager lead the meetings.

Motion was made by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to re-elect Commissioner L.S. Guy as vice chairman.

Members of the board expressed their appreciation to Commissioner Fussell for serving as chairman and for the fine job he had done.

Public Comments:

Mr. Stephen Williamson, retired Chief District Court Judge, urged the commissioners to consider hanging his portrait and that of other district court judges on the side walls of the superior courtroom with the front wall being reserved for superior court judges. (See handout in minutes.)

Mr. Win Batten, Chairman of the Duplin County Transportation Committee, requested that the commissioners consider approving an alternate member as a voting delegate of the Duplin County Transportation Committee in the event that the regular voting member is not present.

It was the consensus of the board to place both of these public comment matters on the agenda for the December 17, 2007 board meeting.

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

Roads discussed: Tram Road in Mt. Olive – contractor will paint the white lines and shoulder work should begin this week to complete the repaving project if weather permits; Quinn Store Road in Beulaville – a bridge pipe needs replacing so the road will be closed a couple of days; Fountaintown Road in Beulaville – curve warning signs are missing; Beautancus Community sign is missing; Hwy 24 Bypass Crossing in Kenansville – need informational signs for left & right turning lanes and directional signs for Jacksonville; Cornwallis Road in Wallace – speed limit needs to be decreased.

The board presented a retirement plaque to Mr. Stanley Miller, Water Department Director, [October 30, 2002 – November 30, 2007].

Mr. George Futrelle, Airport Director, appeared before the board to present the Duplin County Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) project listing for 2009 – 2013. He stated that the project listing serves as a planning document for the North Carolina Division of Aviation to prioritize the needs of the state's airports. Mr. Futrelle stated that it does not commit the county to funding the plan but approval committing to the plan is needed from the board. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to approve the 2009 – 2013 TIP Project Listing Plan and authorize the chairman to sign same.

Mr. Futrelle discussed Change Order 3 with ES & J Enterprises, Inc. for the South Parallel Taxiway Project. He stated that approval of the change order will add back the taxiway lighting portion of the project that was deleted from the original bid due to lack of funding. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to approve Change Order 3 with ES & J Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of \$60,941.07 and authorize the chairman to sign same.

Mr. Mark Browder with Mark III Employee Benefit Services, appeared before the board to discuss the importance of implementing a county employee wellness plan.

Mr. Ernie Pearson, attorney with Sanford Holshouser Law Firm, appeared before the board to give an update on transitioning the economic development department into the 501(c)3 and 501(c)6 non-profit corporations. (See handout in minutes.)

Mr. Ed Emory, Cooperative Extension Director, appeared before the board to discuss funding available from Eastpointe Human Services to expand the 4-H and Youth Development Program in Duplin County by implementing the All Stars After-school Program and Project Alert curriculum at EE Smith, Charity, and Warsaw Middle Schools. He stated that he would like to hire one full-time coordinator to implement these programs and the position would end when the grant ends. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Guy, carried unanimously, to accept the agreement between Eastpointe Human Services and Duplin County Cooperative Extension 4-H Program and authorize the cooperative extension director and county manager to sign same, thereby approving BA #108.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Guy, carried unanimously, to authorize the cooperative extension director to advertise for the full time coordinator position to implement the All Stars After-school Program and the Project Alert curriculum.

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

Sheriff Wallace requested approval to move funds from the federally seized assets line item to salaries in order to hire two officers to help combat gang activity. Sheriff Wallace also discussed giving his employees a one-time employee bonus of four percent approved at the May 25, 2007 board meeting. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to establish two gang enforcement officer positions to be funded from the federally seized assets line item for one year, thereby approving BA#109.

Motion was made by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to approve an appropriation of \$107,597.27 with funding to come from the sale of county surplus property and interest earned line items in order to provide a one-time bonus of four percent for Sheriff Department personnel, thereby approving BA #110.

Sheriff Wallace requested acceptance of the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) in the amount of \$14,217 with no county match required. He stated that the money will be used to purchase two ATV's to assist officers with eradication of drugs and also to purchase surveillance equipment.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Turner, carried unanimously, to accept the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant in the amount of \$14,217 thereby approving BA #111.

Sheriff Wallace discussed the overcrowding situation in the Duplin County Jail. He stated that currently there are 137 inmates being housed in the 92-bed facility and last month over \$20,000 was paid to Sampson County to house some of Duplin County's inmates at \$50 per day for each inmate. He advised that if something wasn't done to alleviate the overcrowding, the state could come in and shut the jail down and house the inmates in a state facility at a cost of \$65 per inmate per day. Sheriff Wallace discussed several construction options with a temporary modular jail being the most economical. (See handout in minutes.)

It was the consensus of the board to have the sheriff and county manager to review construction costs and time frames for each option and report back to the board.

Mr. Chris Jones, owner of Moulding Solutions, Inc. appeared before the board to request that the county take a second position on the revolving loan approved at the December 4, 2006 board meeting. Mr. Jones explained that he would like to refinance the loan at a lower interest rate with a conventional bank but in order to do so, the county would have to agree to accept second lien.

Motion was made by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Turner, carried unanimously, to accept second lien on the loan with Moulding Solutions, Inc. and authorize the chairman to sign any necessary loan documents upon the review of the county attorney.

Ms. Melisa Brown, Assistant Aging Director, appeared before the board to invite the commissioners to the Services for the Aged annual Christmas luncheon on Wednesday, December 5, 2007. Ms. Brown reminded them that each would present the "Outstanding Senior Citizen Award" to the recipient in their respective district. Those to receive certificates are: Mr. Joseph George [Faison site]; Ms. Jannie Lowe [Warsaw site]; Ms. Ellen Collins [Wallace site]; Mr. Bill Sealey [Beulaville site]; and Ms. Adeline Hall [Kenansville site].

Mr. Randall Tyndall appeared before the board to discuss the age and conditions of mobile homes being allowed to be set up in the county. He reviewed the Duplin County Minimum Housing Standards Ordinance that was adopted July 1, 1989. Mr. Tyndall stated that the housing standards apply to all homes, not just mobile homes and do not cover aesthetics of a home.

It was the consensus of the board to have the planning board and the building inspector come back with a recommendation for any needed revisions to the Duplin County Minimum Housing Standards Ordinance.

Mr. Tyndall discussed a countywide land use plan. He explained that zoning plans are different from land use plans in that a land use plan does not place zoning restrictions on property or require the owner to use their property any differently than they are already using it; whereas, zoning plans place basic restrictions on how development may occur on the property. Mr. Tyndall stated that the planning board is supportive of developing a comprehensive land use plan and would give frequent reports to the board throughout the process.

Ms. Audrey Murray of Beulaville appeared before the board to express her dissatisfaction with the way the Duplin County Department of Social Services handled a child protective case that involved her family last year.

Ms. Wendy Sivori gave an update on tax collection and foreclosure efforts. She stated that if she had someone to conduct title searches exclusively for the county, collection efforts would be even more efficient. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Guy, seconded by Commissioner Turner, carried unanimously, to authorize the county attorney to hire someone to complete title searches at the rate of \$100 per search.

Motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to authorize the county attorney to charge legal fees of \$250 for each parcel collected on.

Commissioner Williams left at this time.

Commissioner Fussell discussed the new animal advisory board appointees whose charge is to develop a new animal control ordinance for the board's consideration. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Guy, to approve the list of animal advisory board appointees and have members come back with their recommendations for a charter. Commissioners Fussell, Raynor, Turner, and Wells voted for; Commissioner Guy voted against.

Commissioner Fussell discussed waste-to-energy technology and the North Carolina Senate bill that requires Duke Energy and Progress Energy to provide customers with electricity from renewable sources by at least 12.5 percent by 2021. He stated that several major corporations that produce renewable energy are seeking to locate in Duplin County and therefore incentives should not be given.

Mr. Mike Aldridge informed the board that Duplin County had been awarded a grant from the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources – White Goods Management Account for \$14,134.50. He stated that these funds were requested by Mr. Bee Barnette, Solid Waste Director, to reimburse the county for losses incurred during January 2007 to June 2007 in managing white goods.

Mr. Aldridge presented Amendment No. 5 for the Circle S Foods Water and Sewer Project. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Fussell, carried unanimously, to authorize the chairman to sign Amendment No. 5 for the Circle S Foods Water and Sewer Project.

Mr. Aldridge presented the Home and Community Care Block Grant for the Services for the Aged Homebound Meal Program. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Guy, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to approve the Home and Community Care Block Grant funding and authorize the chairman to sign same.

Mr. Aldridge presented a 30-year lease agreement between the Duplin County Board of Education, the Duplin County Board of Commissioners, and the Town of Kenansville for the Kenan Park. He explained that the lease agreement was needed in order for the town to be eligible to apply for grants to expand and develop the Kenan Park. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Guy, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to approve the lease agreement between the Duplin County Board of Education, the Duplin County Board of Commissioners, and the Town of Kenansville for the Kenan Park and authorize the chairman to sign same.

Mr. Aldridge discussed the contract with Mr. Stanley Miller DBA Miller Utilities, Inc. He stated that the contract was approved at the November 5, 2007 board meeting but authorization was not given for the chairman to sign the contract. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Guy, seconded by Commissioner Turner, carried unanimously, to authorize the chairman to sign the contract with Mr. Stanley Miller DBA Miller Utilities, Inc. thereby approving BA# 112.

Mr. Aldridge presented the application for the State Aid to Public Libraries and the Maintenance of Effort report due December 5, 2007. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Turner, carried unanimously, to authorize the chairman to sign the State Aid to Public Libraries application and the county manager to sign the Maintenance of Effort Report.

The board adjourned to meet again on Monday, December 17, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. at the Faison Fire Department (111 SW Center Street), Faison, North Carolina

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Clerk