

January 5, 2009

The Duplin County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, January 5, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in Commissioners' Room, County Administration Building (224 Seminary Street), Kenansville, North Carolina.

Present: Chairman Cary Turner and Commissioners David Fussell, Frances Parks, Harold Raynor, Reginald Wells, and Zettie Williams

Absent: Ms. Julia Herring, Administrative Officer and Ms. Wendy Sivori, County Attorney

Also Present: Mr. Mike Aldridge, County Manager and Ms. Teresa Lanier, Finance Officer.

Commissioner Turner gave the invocation.

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

Affidavits of Publication:

Health Department – November 2008
Services for the Aged – November 2008
Social Services – November 2008

Motion was made by Commissioner Raynor, seconded by Commissioner Fussell, carried unanimously, to approve the Consent Agenda which included the following: Minutes – December 15, 2008; Budget Amendments #0126 - #0127; Solid Waste Releases # 5771 - # 5782; Tax Releases # 5755 - # 5770; and a discussion regarding housing inmates at another location.

Mr. Mike Aldridge presented Administrative Budget Amendments # F176 - # F 196 to be made part of the minutes.

Public Comments:

Mr. Franklin Fussell appeared before the board to discuss several things. Mr. Fussell stated that Duplin County lost a great citizen this past month when Mr. William Fennell died. Mr. Fussell also stated that there is a Board of Education meeting on January 6, 2009 and his concerns about the future of the James Kenan School of Engineering. Mr. Fussell also discussed a new book about Louis Froelich, arms maker to the Confederacy.

Ms. Kollette Sutton appeared before the board to discuss concerns about plans for economic development in Duplin County. She stated that she also had concerns about rising unemployment rates and rising high school dropout rates. Also, Ms. Sutton addressed concerns with the Social Services Work First program. She stated that she had heard of a young pregnant mother being turned away for help and that this was cause for concern. Ms. Sutton also stated that the board should issue a proclamation for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Ms. Jerri Parker, NCDOT Maintenance Engineer, appeared before the board to give an update on various roads throughout Duplin County.

Mr. George Futrelle, Airport Director, appeared before the board to give a presentation on airport operations. (See handout in minutes.)

Mr. Glenn Faison, Dispute Settlement Center, Inc., appeared before the board to request support for the Governor's Crime Prevention Grant. These monies

would be used to benefit programs such as teen court and gang prevention. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Parks, carried unanimously, to approve the grant application for the Governor's Crime Commission.

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

The board returned to Regular Session.

Ms. Donna Brown, Utilities Director, appeared before the board to discuss several items.

Ms. Brown requested that a vacancy for a Water Technician I be filled. This position was advertised in county and there were no qualified applicants. Ms. Brown stated she has reorganized the department in order to fulfill the duties of the vacant position and, as a result, the quality of the water is being somewhat compromised. Commissioner Fussell asked about moving a current employee to the position. Ms. Brown replied that the position requires certain training, which takes two years to acquire. She stated that she was having more complaints concerning brown water. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Parks to authorize open advertising and to fill the vacant Water Technician I position. Commissioners Raynor, Turner, and Wells voted for; Commissioner Fussell voted against.

Ms. Brown also requested the board to schedule a public hearing for adopting a Duplin County Backflow Prevention Ordinance. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to schedule a public hearing for adoption of the Duplin County Backflow Prevention Ordinance for 9:30 am February 2, 2009.

Ms. Brown also discussed current water rates. On May 19, 2008, Mr. Vann Lewis suggested that water rates be looked at each year. The current water rates have not been raised in five years. Ms. Brown has prepared 3 options for the board's consideration. Any rate changes need to be made in advance of adoption of the budget for FY 09-10 so programming changes and public notification can be completed. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to defer raising the current water rates.

Commissioner Fussell discussed the need for commissioners to tour county facilities. It was the consensus of the board to tour county facilities on January 21, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Mike Aldridge discussed a request from Ms. Angie Carter, Chinquapin Parks and Recreation, to purchase trophies for the youth basketball teams. Mr. Aldridge stated that a precedent had already been set because of the county recently purchasing trophies for the Wallace Parks and Recreation Department.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Williams, to purchase trophies for the youth basketball teams. Commissioners Parks, Raynor, and Turner voted for; Commissioner Fussell voted against.

Mr. Aldridge presented an invoice for the housing of inmates in neighboring county jails. Mr. Aldridge stated that roughly \$240,000.00 would be needed through the end of the year to house inmates. Sheriff Blake Wallace was also presented.

He stated that as of the last jail inspection, the inspector stated that no more than ninety five male inmates and twenty female inmates should be housed at a time. As of the morning of the meeting, there were 115 male inmates and 12 female inmates.

Motion was made by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Williams, to instruct the County Manager to cut \$240,000.00 from the present county budget however he sees best and to move that money to pay for the housing of inmates.

Commissioner Williams stated that she wished to discuss this matter more before the motion was finalized. Commissioner Turner asked Mr. Aldridge where he would cut the funds from. Mr. Aldridge stated that he had submitted a list of cost cutting ideas to the commissioners earlier and that this would be the ideal place to begin. Mr. Aldridge also stated about cutting costs related to services, in particular Emergency Medical Services. Mr. Aldridge discussed the possibility of cutting the Kenansville EMS site. He stated that since trucks are constantly coming to Kenansville en route to the hospital, this should not create too much of an issue.

Commissioner Raynor made an amendment to the existing motion to give Mr. Aldridge the authority to cut funds from where he saw fit and that there would be no repercussions from the commissioners. Commissioners Turner and Williams voted for; Commissioners Fussell, Parks, and Wells voted against, resulting in a tie vote. A tie vote results in no action being taken.

Since the amended motion failed, the vote on the original motion was: Commissioner Fussell for; Commissioners Parks, Raynor, Turner, Wells, and Williams against.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Parks, to defer this matter until the January 12, 2009 meeting with the department heads. Commissioners Raynor and Turner voted for; Commissioners Fussell and Williams voted against.

Motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Raynor, carried unanimously, to pay the bill before the end of the week out of the fund balance and to reimburse those monies on Monday, January 12, 2009, thereby approving budget amendment #129.

Commissioner Wells stated that he would like to explore the possibility of converting to a four day work week. Mr. Aldridge stated that he would research the idea more.

The Neuse River Development Authority, Inc. sent a letter regarding the reappointment of Mr. Albert Brown to their Corporate Board.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to reappoint Mr. Albert Brown to the Neuse River Development Authority, Inc. Corporate Board. (See handout in minutes.)

Mr. Aldridge stated that Mr. Chris Jones, of Moulding Solutions, Inc., had been in contact with the county on the matter of a subordination agreement. Mr. Aldridge stated that he thought it was best to initially say no and to see what other options Mr. Jones could explore. It was the consensus of the board to agree with Mr. Aldridge on this matter. (See handout in minutes.)

Mr. Aldridge stated that Ms. Donna Rouse, Soil and Water Conservation Director, informed him that the county received denial letters for the 2008 fall cut of grant monies on Goshen Creek, Stewart Creek, and Island Creek at the end of November. They sent out letters to be reconsidered during the January 2009 cycle. It was the consensus of the board to follow up on this issue.

Mr. Aldridge stated that on April 7, 2009 there will be a "Duplin Community Containment Exercise" held. Dr. Jan Rhyne, the physician epidemiologist

for PHRST Region 2 will be presenting a “Community Containment Tabletop Exercise”, an event on the use of isolation and quarantine in our community. This event will need participants from all government agencies, county commissioners, law enforcement, schools, transportation, emergency management, public health, cooperative extension, social services, county manager, and other agencies.

Mr. Aldridge stated that he had prepared the advertisement for bid and project schedule for the grading project on the Norwood Blanchard farm. He stated that the advertisements had gone out to the local newspapers and will be sent to individuals if they so wish. Bids will be received until 4:00 p.m. on January 22, 2009 and will be presented to the board for consideration on February 2, 2009. (See handout in minutes.)

Mr. Aldridge stated that the Duplin County Expo would be held on March 6th and 7th, 2009. The expo will be hosted by the Duplin First Council.

Mr. Aldridge stated that he had included a list of NCACC Legislative Goals for 2009-10 as recommended by the board of directors. The goals are divided into the following categories: Justice and Public Safety, Taxation and Finance, Environment, Human Services, Intergovernmental Relations, Agriculture and Public Education. Mr. Aldridge stated that he had indicated on the list which he felt were especially relevant or important to Duplin County. Commissioner Turner stated that he would like to add gang prevention to the list.

Mr. Aldridge presented the Secondary Roads Annual Statement for Duplin County for the calendar year of 2008 from the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

Motion to recess until 2:00 p.m. in the Commissioners’ Room was made by Commissioner Parks, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously.

The board recessed to meet again on Monday, January 12, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. in Commissioners’ Room, County Administration Building (224 Seminary Street), Kenansville, North Carolina.

Clerk