

March 16, 2009

The Duplin County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, March 16, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. at the Calypso Fire Department (109 South East Center Street), Calypso, North Carolina.

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

Absent: Ms. Wendy Sivori, County Attorney

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

Reverend Richard Lewis gave the invocation.

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

#### Affidavits of Publication

Airport – February 2009  
Animal Control – February 2009  
Building Inspections – February 2009  
Cabin Lake – February 2009  
Communications – February 2009  
Health – February 2009  
Maintenance – February 2009  
Register of Deeds – February 2009  
Services for the Aged – February 2009  
Social Services – February 2009  
Soil & Water Conservation – February 2009

Motion was made by Commissioner Parks, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to approve the Consent Agenda which included the following: Minutes – March 2, 2009 & March 9, 2009; Budget Amendments #0167 - #0170; Solid Waste Releases # 6044 - # 6059; Tax Releases # 6017 - # 6043; to add Health Department Bad Debt Write Offs - \$2802.35 [general services] and \$ 1000.90 [dental services]; BA #171; a discussion on a contract with Mr. Jimmy Blizzard; and a discussion on the Evergreen Solutions, LLC report.

Mr. Mike Aldridge presented Administrative Budget Amendments # H283 - # I304 and Motor Vehicle Releases – February 2009 -\$9,690.20 to be made part of the minutes.

#### Public Comments:

Mr. Snodie Wilson of Kenansville discussed the possible land acquisition of his property near the airport. He stated that the land should be zoned as commercial property and valued accordingly.

Dr. Hervy Kornegay of Calypso discussed the community education project, “1,000,000 Compressions” developed by Mr. Dave Cuddeback, EMS Training Officer. Dr. Kornegay also discussed the advantages of the RACE Program at Duplin General Hospital.

Mr. Vincent Hobbs of Kenansville stated that his property near the airport should be zoned as commercial property and the airport should be named after his grandfather, Mr. Robert Murphy Hobbs.

The Board presented Certificates of Commendation to Mr. Andrew Nathan Fussell and to Mr. Ian Patrick Kelley for receiving their Eagle Scout Award.

Mr. Steve Moore, Aging and Transportation Director, appeared before the board to conduct a public hearing on the 2009-10 Community Transportation Program grant application. He stated that the application will be for \$423,633 with the local share at \$53,031. (See handout in minutes.)

The public hearing was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Chairman Turner: Any questions or comments?

Commissioner Wells: I read a report from the state about stimulus money coming to the transportation systems. Will Duplin County benefit from that?

Mr. Moore: Yes, we will benefit but that's in addition to the current allocations. I got a call last week from our state consultant and she wanted to know what was I going to do with \$54,000. That will allow me to replace an old vehicle before next year. I can probably get it in this year's budget. It will cut down on our repair costs.

Commissioner Wells: What are the stipulations put on the money? Can you use it for fuel?

Mr. Moore: No, it's strictly for administrative costs not operational costs. Administrative is for office supplies, communication equipment, postage, housekeeping supplies, computer supplies and software, and technology maintenance contracts for our host Route Match software, it's \$5,040 per year to maintain that service. So it's strictly administrative costs, there's no operational costs involved.

Commissioner Parks: Steve, I think what you're saying is that all the monies left once you receive the grant, those monies will come from the people riding the van and programs that reimburse the use of the van.

Mr. Moore: Yes.

Commissioner Fussell: How much more money are you going to ask for when it comes budget time?

Mr. Moore: I have no idea until I start putting together my budget.

Commissioner Fussell: Which will be three months from now. We'll have to approve it. Do we normally approve this so far in advance? The \$53,000?

Mr. Moore: Yes, we have to because the state board meets sometime in April. If we want this money, we have to apply for it now. The application has to be in Raleigh by the 31<sup>st</sup> of March. This is the only way we can have a transit system. And this is just a portion of the funds that we expect to receive from the state. Probably between now and June, we will have an application to get ROAP funds which will probably be another couple of hundred thousand dollars.

Chairman Turner: Any further questions?

With no further comments, the public hearing was called to a close at 7:07 p.m.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Parks, carried unanimously, to approve the 2009 – 10 Community Transportation Program grant application and authorize the chairman and county manager to sign the associated documents.

Mr. Randall Tyndall, Planning Director, presented the 2008 Division of Community Assistance Annual Performance Report for Grant # 06-C-1524. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Parks, carried unanimously, to accept the 2008 DCA Annual Performance Report and authorize the chairman to sign same.

Mr. Tyndall requested a public hearing to be held on April 20<sup>th</sup> regarding revisions to the Minimum Housing Standards Ordinance.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to approve a public hearing to be held April 20<sup>th</sup> regarding the Minimum Housing Standards Ordinance.

Mr. Elmer Flake, Mayor of Faison, appeared before the board to request the board's support of the town's opposition to HB476 bill introduced on behalf on Sampson County that would abolish the town's existing extra-territorial jurisdiction within Sampson County. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Parks, to support the Town of Faison's opposition to the proposed legislation pending the review of the county attorney.

Motion was made by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Williams, to defer this matter until the board has a report from the county attorney and from the Sampson County Board of Commissioners. Commissioners Fussell, Raynor, Turner, Wells, and Williams voted for; Commissioner Parks voted against.

Mr. Flake announced that the Town of Faison has received a grant from the state's parks and recreation department for construction of a community wellness center. He stated that the blueprints are ready and construction should begin soon. (See handout in minutes.)

Commissioner Fussell discussed redistricting. He stated that the appropriate time to do this is after receipt of the 2010 census data.

Commissioner Fussell discussed the Evergreen Solutions, LLC report, "Financial Review of Duplin County Public Schools" and the Duplin County Board of Education's response to the report. He stated that either the information in the report by Evergreen or the school board's response is incorrect.

Motion was made by Commissioner Fussell to direct the county manager to send the board of education's response to the report to Evergreen Solutions for clarification on the discrepancies.

Commissioner Turner stated that Dr. Recio of Evergreen Solutions had contacted him today regarding this matter and she will be giving a reply to the board of education's comments soon.

Commissioner Fussell withdrew his motion.

Sheriff Blake Wallace appeared before the board to discuss a proposal for electronic monitoring services for house arrest from Reliant Monitoring Services. He stated that he would like to monitor 10 inmates on a trial basis until the end of the fiscal year with funds for the monitoring service and equipment to come from the federally seized assets line item. He stated that the necessary equipment would be leased at a cost of approximately \$6,000. Sheriff Wallace also requested permission to hire someone in one of the vacancies in his office to oversee the electronic monitoring and act as a court liaison. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to allow the sheriff to utilize the electronic monitoring service until June 30, 2009 and fill a vacant position to oversee the program, thereby approving BA# 0172.

Ms. Donna Rouse, Soil & Water Conservation Director; and Mr. Eric West, District Conservationist; appeared before the board to discuss terminating the beaver management contract with Mr. Jimmy Blizzard. Ms. Rouse stated that Mr. Blizzard lost his license November 19, 2008 due to hunting and trapping violations and has not regained his license yet. She stated that his contract was for five years with two years remaining. Mr. West stated that the county could “piggy-back” on the current Beaver Management Assistance Program (BMAP) agreement with the state to finish out the year.

Motion was made by Commissioner Parks, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to terminate the current contract with Mr. Jimmy Blizzard.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Parks, carried unanimously, to “piggy-back” onto the current BMAP agreement, thereby approving BA# 0173.

Officer Ben Parrish and Officer Josh Smith with the Duplin County Sheriff’s Department gave a presentation on gang activity in the county.

Mr. Mike Aldridge discussed the potential of the Town of Kenansville taking over the operation of the sewage lift stations and force mains that serve the airport. He stated that before the town takes over the system for operation and maintenance, an inspection and report on the condition of the system would need to be done and McDavid Associates has agreed to perform this services for a fee not to exceed \$1,200. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Parks, carried unanimously, to authorize McDavid Associates to perform the proposed inspection for a fee not to exceed \$1,200; thereby approving BA# 0174.

Mr. Aldridge presented the bad debt write offs for the Duplin County Health Department in the amount of \$2,802.35 [general services] and \$1,000.90 [dental services].

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Raynor, carried unanimously, to approve the Duplin County Health Department bad debt write offs for the Duplin County Health Department in the amount of \$2,802.35 [general services] and \$1,000.90 [dental services].

Mr. Aldridge requested a public hearing to be held April 6, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. in order to receive citizen comments on a proposed loan to 40 East Steel Company from the Revolving Loan Fund.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to approve the public hearing regarding the loan to 40 East Steel Company to be held April 6, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.

Commissioner Williams discussed Senate Bill 550 to be introduced by Senator Charlie Albertson regarding adding a seventh at-large board member to the Duplin County Board of Commissioners and Duplin County Board of Education. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to direct the county manager to send an e-mail to Senator Charlie Albertson, Senator Mark Basnight, and Senator Tony Rand stating the board opposes SB550.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to recess Regular Session and go into Closed Session pursuant to N.C.G.S 143-318.11(a)(6) for personnel matters.

The board returned to Regular Session.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to hire Ms. Heather Sauls for the vacant Economic Development Director at an annual salary of \$63,500.

The board adjourned to meet again on Monday, April 6, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, County Administration Building (224 Seminary Street), Kenansville, North Carolina.

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Clerk