

May 18, 2009

The Duplin County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, May 18, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in Commissioners' Room, County Administration Building (224 Seminary Street), Kenansville, North Carolina.

Present: Commissioners David Fussell, Harold Raynor, Frances Parks, 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

Commissioner Fussell gave the invocation.

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

Affidavits of Publication

Airport – April 2009  
Animal Control – April 2009  
Building Inspections – April 2009  
Cabin Lake – April 2009  
Communications – April 2009  
Health Department – April 2009  
Register of Deeds – April 2009  
Social Services – April 2009  
Soil & Water Conservation – April 2009  
Water – April 2009

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Raynor, carried unanimously, to approve the Consent Agenda which included the following: Minutes – May 4, 2009 & Water District E – May 4, 2009; Budget Amendments #0214 - #0218; Solid Waste Releases # 6285 - # 6302; Tax Releases # 6243 - # 6284; 2008 Forestry Services Agreement; to add BA #219 & 220; to add Health Department Bad Debt Write Offs for the Period Ending 5/14/2006 - \$4,126.14 [general] & \$328.80 [dental]; to add a discussion on school funding using federal stimulus money; and to add a discussion on Solid Waste Budget Amendments.

Mr. Mike Aldridge presented Administrative Budget Amendments # J409- # K459 and Motor Vehicle Releases for April 2009 - \$11,942.10 to be made part of the minutes.

Public Comments:

Ms. Ila Davis, Health Department Director, introduced Dr. Elizabeth Griffin, the new pediatrician recently hired for the Health Department.

Mr. Mike O'Connell, Chairman of the Juvenile Crime Prevention Committee, appeared before the board to seek approval of the 2009 – 2010 grant applications. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Parks, carried unanimously, to approve the 2009 – 2010 JCPC grant applications and authorize the chairman to sign same.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to recess Regular Session and go into session as the Board of Equalization & Review.

The board returned to Regular Session.

Ms. Donna Rouse, Soil & Water Conservation Director, appeared before the board to seek approval of the annual Limestone Creek and Muddy Creek Watershed Maintenance Contract. She stated that the lowest bidder was Mr. Douglas Sholar of D&D Construction, LLC with a bid of \$59,275. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Raynor, carried unanimously, to approve the Limestone Creek and Muddy Creek Watershed Maintenance Contract in the amount of \$59,275 between Duplin County and Mr. Douglas Sholar of D&D Construction, LLC and authorize the chairman to sign same.

Dr. Wiley Doby, Duplin County School Superintendent; Ms. JoAnn Hartley, BOE Finance Officer; Mr. Cary Powers, Assistant Superintendent; and Mr. Bobby Norwood, School Maintenance Director; appeared before the board to discuss the joint proposal with James Sprunt Community College to establish the Duplin County Early College High School on the JSCC campus. The early school would serve grades 9-12 and would give students the opportunity to earn an associates degree while earning a high school diploma. Ms. Hartley presented BOE Budget Amendments 2 & 5 associated with the early college concept for the board's approval and BOE Budget Amendment 1 for repair and replacement of bleachers at various schools with funds from NC Lottery proceeds. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to approve the Duplin County Early College High School to be established on the JSCC campus and to approve BOE Budget Amendments 1, 2, and 5.

Mr. Mike Aldridge stated that Mr. Lee McClure with McGuire Woods Investment Advisors has offered to meet with the board at the June 1, 2009 board meeting to discuss funding options for school construction using federal stimulus money.

Motion was made by Commissioner Parks, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to direct the county manager to invite Mr. Lee McClure to the June 1, 2009 board meeting to discuss school construction funding.

Motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Raynor, carried unanimously, to go into Closed Session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4) for economic development matters.

The board returned to Regular Session.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Parks, carried unanimously, to allow county leadership to begin the application process to secure funds from Golden LEAF for two time sensitive projects pending approval of the county attorney.

Mr. Mike Aldridge presented the draft budget for FY 2009-10. He stated that the budget was balanced at a revenue-neutral tax rate as the board had directed. Mr. Aldridge stated the new tax rate is .7040 cents with the total budget at \$ 47.1 million. The growth rate since the last revaluation is at 2.97 percent and valuation of real property increased from \$ 2.66 billion to \$3.20 billion.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Parks, carried unanimously, to schedule a public hearing for the 2009-10 budget to be held on June 1, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium of Duplin Commons.

Mr. Aldridge stated that clarification was needed on the board's action from the May 4, 2009 board meeting regarding reimbursing the Solid Waste Department for mowing at the events center [\$252]; dirt moving at the events center [\$4,728] and land clearing at James Kenan High School [\$720]. He stated that the motion was to purchase the tractor from the Solid Waste Enterprise fund from the county's general fund but did not specifically address the reimbursement for the work done by the Solid Waste Department.

Motion was made by Commissioner Parks, seconded by Commissioner Wells, to reimburse the Solid Waste Department for land clearing at James Kenan High School in the amount of \$720, moving dirt at the events center for \$4,728, and mowing for the carnival at the events center for \$252 for a total of \$5,700 thereby approving BA #0221. Commissioners Fussell, Parks, Raynor, Wells, and Williams voted for; Commissioner Turner voted against. Motion carried.

Mr. Jimmy Dixon stated that although the fee charged for the land clearing at James Kenan is a token amount toward what the actual cost would be, he would accept the board's action as satisfactory.

Commissioner Fussell requested that the finance officer review the figures presented by Mr. Jimmy Dixon at the last board meeting regarding the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund and report back at the next board meeting.

Mr. Aldridge stated that Ms. Wendy Sivori, County Attorney, had reviewed the paperwork for the Revolving Loan approved at April 6, 2009 board meeting to 40 East Steel and discovered that the county would be taking a third position as a lien holder rather than a secondary position as stated.

Motion was made by Commissioner Raynor, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to defer approval of the loan until the county attorney can provide copies of the contracts 40 East Steel has secured with companies for future work.

Mr. Aldridge discussed Senate Bill 521 and House Bill 59 that are pending that would provide expanded use of 911 fees to be used to pay for towers and other related equipment. He stated that several counties have requested to be added to those bills and would like to request our legislators add Duplin County to those bills.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Raynor, carried unanimously, to authorize the county manager to draft a letter for the chairman's signature requesting that Duplin County's legislators add the county to SB521 and HB59.

Mr. Aldridge stated that Senate Bill 468 is a local bill that would give the county the authority to offer health insurance benefits to former county commissioners.

Motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Parks, carried unanimously, to authorize the county manager to draft a letter of support of SB468 for the chairman's signature.

Mr. Aldridge presented the final copy of the contract between Duplin County and Evergreen Solutions, LLC to conduct an audit on all county departments for the board's approval. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Raynor, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to approve the chairman to sign the contract between Duplin County and Evergreen Solutions, LLC.

Mr. Aldridge stated that at the last board meeting, Mr. Joe McKemey with McDavid Associates discussed pursuing water and sewer projects using federal stimulus funds. He stated that Mr. McKemey was under the impression that the board wanted to proceed with applying for funding for the projects. Mr. Aldridge cautioned the board that the funding sources would consist of not only grants but zero-percent loans that would have to be paid back.

Motion was made by Commissioner Raynor, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to table this matter until January 1, 2010. Commissioners Fussell, Parks, Raynor, and Turner voted for; Commissioner Wells and Williams voted against.

Mr. Aldridge presented a resolution in support of World War II Merchant Marines attaining veteran status. He stated that the resolution was provided by Mr. Don Horton of Camden County. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Raynor, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to adopt the resolution supporting veteran status for United States Merchant Marine Seamen of World War II and authorize the chairman to sign same.

Mr. Aldridge stated that the Town of Mount Olive is requesting the appointment of Mr. Jonathan Edward Scott as a citizen appointment to the town's Board of Adjustments for the ETJ of Duplin County.

Motion was made by Commissioner Parks, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to appoint Mr. Jonathan Edward Scott to the Mount Olive Board of Adjustments for the ETJ of Duplin County.

Motion was made by Commissioner Raynor, 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)(3) for legal matters and N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) for personnel matters.

The board returned to Regular Session.

The board recessed to meet again on Wednesday, May 20, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, County Administration Building (224 Seminary Street), Kenansville, North Carolina.

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Clerk