

August 3, 2009

The Duplin County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, August 3, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in Commissioners' Room, County Administration Building (224 Seminary Street), Kenansville, North Carolina.

Present: Commissioners David Fussell, Frances Parks, Harold Raynor (by conference call); Cary Turner, Reginald Wells (left early and noted in minutes); and Zettie Williams

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

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

Commissioner Wells gave the invocation.

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

Affidavits of Publication

Services for the Aged – June 2009

Motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to approve the Consent Agenda which included the following: Minutes – July 20, 2009; Budget Amendments #032 - #035; Solid Waste Releases #6385 - #6387; Tax Releases #6388 - #6394; to add BA #036 (for Services for the Aged contracts) and BA #37 (for Solid Waste equipment transfer); a lease agreement for Cell DYN machine for the Health Department; a sole source resolution regarding Ground Hog Video System and Quad Camera Video System; East Carolina Council Title III-D Health Promotion Services and Legal Services contracts for Services for the Aged; and a discussion about General Dan McNeil.

Mr. Aldridge presented Administrative Budget Amendments #A006 - #A022 to be made part of the minutes.

Ms. Jerri Parker, NCDOT Maintenance Engineer, appeared before the board to discuss various roads in the county. Ms. Parker gave an update on the turning lane on Highway 24 as requested by Commissioner Williams, who at a previous meeting inquired about changing the timing on the light. Ms. Parker stated that the Traffic Services Board would be changing the timing on the light so that it would be a longer permissive left turn. Ms. Parker also stated that it would be approximately six to eight weeks for a decision to be made regarding caution lights for Highway 24. (See handout in minutes.)

Dr. Linda Recio, Director of Evergreen Solutions, LLC., appeared before the board to give an update on the performance audit of the county.

There were no public comments on the audit.

It was the consensus of the board to hold an informal meeting on August 25, 2009 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Ed Emory Auditorium in order for the auditors to receive more input from the public.

Public Comments:

Mr. Jimmy Dixon appeared before the board to discuss the illegal use of Solid Waste Enterprise Funds. He stated that he would like for the commissioners to discuss this issue at the next meeting in order for this matter to be resolved and that he would like to be included in this discussion. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to let the county attorney lead the discussion on Solid Waste Enterprise Funds at the August 17, 2009 commissioners meeting.

Mr. Aldridge stated that he would like the opportunity to meet with Mr. Jimmy Dixon and the county attorney to discuss this matter more before the meeting.

Mr. Harvey Case, president of Duplin General Hospital, appeared before the board to give an update on the hospital and their involvement with University Healthcare Systems. He stated that while the hospital has made many advances in treatment and technology, the hospital faces a challenge financially due to patients that are unable to pay their bills and patients with no insurance. From 2006 to 2008, the hospital has averaged a loss of \$1.2 million per year. So far in 2009, the hospital has lost \$1.8 million. Mr. Case stated that he would like to propose that the board consider a long term lease on the hospital.

Dr. Danny Pate, Chief of Staff at Duplin General Hospital; and Ms. Thomasine Kennedy also spoke on the matter of the potential long-term lease of Duplin General Hospital.

Motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to accept the request for proposals for a long-term lease of Duplin General Hospital and to approve at the next the meeting.

Mr. George Futrelle, Duplin County Airport Director, appeared before the board to present the Duplin County Airport Minimum Standards Policy for approval. This policy is required by the North Carolina Department of Transportation – Division of Aviation (NCDOT-DOA) in order to implement minimum operational standards for commercial aeronautical service providers as a means to minimize the potential for violations of federal obligations at federally obligated airports. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Parks, carried unanimously, to approve the Duplin County Minimum Airport Standards.

Mr. Futrelle also requested permission to advertise to conduct a public hearing on August 17, 2009 for the purpose of receiving public comments on the proposed Duplin County Airport Rules and Regulations Ordinance.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to authorize the airport director to advertise a public hearing to be held August 17, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in regard to the Duplin County Airport Rules and Regulations Ordinance.

Ms. Heather Beard, Economic Development Director, appeared before the board to discuss the buy back of Tract 4 at South Park. She stated that funds are available to do so.

Motion was made by Commissioner Parks, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to approve the purchase of Tract 4 South Park in the amount of \$30,000 and authorize the county attorney to prepare the necessary documents for the chairman's signature; thereby approving BA #038. (See handout in minutes.)

Ms. Beard stated that in order to avoid this situation in the future, she would recommend optioning the land as opposed to selling the land.

Commissioner Fussell discussed the policy for naming county buildings. He stated that the county needed to implement a policy before naming any other county buildings.

Motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Fussell, carried unanimously, for each commissioner to come up with items they would like to see in a policy for the naming of county buildings within one month.

Mr. Randall Tyndall, Planning Director, and Mr. Mike Alford, Chairman of the Military Growth Task Force, appeared before the board to discuss the draft Military Growth Management Plan.

Commissioner Wells left at this time.

Mr. Jose' Luis Del Angel appeared before the board to give a report on Hispanic leaders in Duplin County. (See handout in minutes.)

Mr. Aldridge informed the board that a Minority Business Participation Plan is in need of adoption for each water district as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009.

Motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Parks, carried unanimously, to recess Regular Session and go into session as Water District D.

The board returned to Regular Session.

Ms. Millie Brown, Social Services Director, appeared before the board to discuss compensation of the Department of Social Services Board.

Motion was made by Commissioner Parks, seconded by Commissioner Fussell, carried unanimously, to discontinue compensation for members of the Department of Social Services Board.

Mr. Ferrell Thigpen, Chief Building Inspector, appeared before the board to give a departmental update. Mr. Thigpen also discussed the recent survey of Duplin County's building codes conducted by the Insurance Services Office, Inc. (See handout in minutes.)

Mr. Thigpen also sought the board's approval to adopt the new state mandated building code and to approve each year's updated building code automatically as it is released.

Motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Parks, to adopt the 2009 state mandated building code and to hereby approve each new building code automatically upon its release. Commissioners Raynor and Turner voted for; Commissioner Fussell voted against. Motion carried.

Mr. Aldridge informed the board the Duplin General Board of Directors recommended the reappointment of the following members: Mr. Earl Brinkley, Ms. Wendy Murphy, Ms. Thomasine Kennedy, Mr. Kenneth Smith, and Mr. Glenn Jernigan. Each term will be for three years beginning October 1, 2009.

Motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Parks, carried unanimously, to reappoint Mr. Earl Brinkley, Ms. Wendy Murphy, Ms. Thomasine Kennedy, Mr. Kenneth Smith, and Mr. Glenn Jernigan to the Duplin General Hospital Board of Directors for a three year term beginning October 1, 2009.

Mr. Aldridge stated that the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources – Division of Historical Records, Government Records Branch, has issued a "Records Retention and Disposition Schedule" for county records management. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Parks, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to approve the "Records Retention and Disposition Schedule" and authorize the chairman and county manager to sign same.

Mr. Aldridge informed the board of a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow certain local tax debts to be collected through the reduction of federal tax returns.

Motion was made by Commissioner Parks, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to authorize the county manager to send a letter to Congressman Mike McIntyre in support of H.R. 3060 to allow debt set off to federal tax returns.

Mr. Aldridge presented a sole source resolution for Ground Hog Video System and Quad Camera Video System. This company is the only company that provides this particular type of equipment needed by the Sheriff's Department. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Parks, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to approve the sole source resolution for Ground Hog Video System and Quad Camera Video System and authorize chairman to sign same.

Mr. Aldridge presented a request for proposals schedule to the board for seeking management services for the Duplin County Events Center. (See handout in minutes.)

Mr. Aldridge stated that the Duplin County Sheriff's Department did not receive any funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 under the Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS). However, two municipalities (Town of Wallace and Town of Warsaw) did receive funding. The Sheriff's Department may be considered at a later time to receive funding. (See handout in minutes.)

Commissioner Parks stated that the county should seek some way to honor General Dan McNeil for his dedication to this country and time served in the military.

Ms. Sarah Freeman of the Warsaw Veteran's Museum informed the board that the museum is planning to honor General McNeil.

Commissioner Turner requested that each board member consider an amount of fund to donate to the Warsaw Veteran's Museum.

The board adjourned to meet again on Monday, August 17, 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