

September 21, 2009

The Duplin County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, September 21, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at the Magnolia Fire Station (114 Taylor Street), Magnolia, North Carolina.

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

Absent: Commissioner Reginald Wells and Ms. Teresa Lanier, County Finance Officer

Also Present: Mr. Mike Aldridge, County Manager; Ms. Julia Herring, Administrative Officer; and Ms. Wendy Sivori, County Attorney

Mayor Gwendolyn Vann welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Mrs. Luanne Johnson and Mrs. Kayla Carter gave the invocation.

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

Affidavits of Publication

Cabin Lake – August 2009  
Health Department – August 2009  
Manager's Report – September 2009  
Register of Deeds – August 2009  
Services for the Aged – August 2009  
Social Services – August 2009  
Soil & Water Conservation – August 2009  
Water Department – August 2009

Motion was made by Commissioner Parks, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to approve the Consent Agenda which included the following: Minutes – September 8, 2009; Budget Amendments #062 - #066; Solid Waste Releases #6715 - #6769; Tax Releases #6770 - #6804; Health Department Bad Debt Write Offs for Period ending 09-01-06; to add a report for Water District A and the Rosemary Community Sewer Project for the chairman's signature; a discussion on the use of the solid waste collection centers by farmers.

Mr. Aldridge presented Administrative Budget Amendments #C062 - #C084 to be made part of the minutes.

Public Comments:

Mr. Jose Del Angel & Agustin Gonzalez invited everyone to attend the 2009 Festival Lantino de Duplin to be held October 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Duplin County Events Center.

Mr. Michael Chestnutt of Magnolia discussed the county's decision to purchase a new ambulance. He stated that there are three ambulances parked in a town commissioner's yard that could be used rather than buying a new ambulance. Mr. Chestnutt also informed the board that equipment is being taken from the former Magnolia EMS station without authorization. He stated that the fire department requested the defibrillators for use by the first responders and were refused. Mr. Chestnutt urged the board to check into this matter.

Mr. Steve Moore, Aging and Transportation Director, appeared before the board to conduct a second public hearing on the Rural Operating Assistance Program (ROAP) Application for FY 2009 – 10. The first public hearing was held on July 20, 2009. He explained the purpose of the second public hearing is to ensure that the

Latino population is included. Mr. Moore stated that the public hearing was advertised in both English and Spanish in *The Duplin Times*.

The public hearing was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

Chairman Turner: Any comments or questions from the public?

Mr. Win Batten: I don't have a question but a comment. There's a new Latino publication that just started in Sampson County and will be distributed in Duplin County also.

Mr. Steve Moore: I have a list of all the Latino businesses in the county and I plan to take advantage of that list during the next funding project from the state or from the Federal Transit Authority. This will be circulated among the general public to include the Latino population.

Mr. Agustin Gonzalez: I'd like to invite you to the Festival Latino de Duplin on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and bring whatever materials you have about the program to distribute.

Mr. Steve Moore: Thank you. Yes, I have already received some calls today about it. I've been to two of the festivals, one at Beulaville and one in Faison and I plan to be at this one on October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Commissioner Parks: I have a question that a citizen raised to me and that is: are we in the transportation system downsizing any of our vehicles? You get that same old complaint from the public, "I saw that big bus go by and there was only one person riding so why don't they get smaller vans?"

Mr. Steve Moore: We have to purchase what's on state contract. The reason we have more buses is - we have three different body styles - we're trying to increase our seating capacity because the lift vans could only get two wheel chairs and four passengers; whereas, the bus has 19 seats and two wheelchairs. The smaller bus has 10 seats and 2 wheelchairs. We are trying to get away from the lift vans because there's not enough seating capacity. We have two buses that are diesel so they don't burn any more fuel than the vans. In fact, the two diesels burn a lot less than the vans. We're trying to increase our seating capacity.

Commissioner Parks: So you're growing?

Mr. Steve Moore: Yes, we're growing.

Commissioner Fussell: I have two questions. First, what is the cost to ride? Second, with the cost and fluctuations of gas prices are you going to have enough to operate this year?

Mr. Steve Moore: We should have enough money to operate this year unless the gas prices just sky-rocket. The cost to ride is, well, we have senior citizens that ride with the Services to the Aged Department to the five nutrition sites throughout the county, those people are riding off of the EDTAP funds. So those that attend the senior sites are riding at no cost. Well, someone is putting up the cost but the seniors don't have to pay anything. It's being subsidized by state funding. Anyone from the general public, we have three fares - either a \$3, \$4, or \$5 fare depending on where you live in the county and where you're going. The county is broken up into fare zones - \$3, \$4, or \$5 zones. That's not the complete cost of the trip, the remaining cost of the trip is being subsidized by state funding.

Mr. Johnny Fariior: If a person wanted to ride because their car was broken down or something, how much notice is needed to ride?

Mr. Steve Moore: Right now we need 48 hours. We're trying to get that down to 24 hours notice. But we don't have enough staff right now to do that. We have done 24 hours but it depends on how many people are riding that day and how much staff I have on hand to take care of those transit requests.

Mr. Jose Del Angel: Is there a translator?

Mr. Steve Moore: No but we can get a translator from either the Health Department or Social Services and we'll call that individual back and take the request. It hasn't been a problem so far because most of our requests come from human service agencies that have a translator on staff. We don't turn down any ridership.

Chairman Turner: Any more questions?

With no further public comments, the public hearing was called to a close at 7:16 p.m.

Ms. Heather Beard, Economic Development Director, appeared before the board to discuss two option agreements on Lots One and Four at WestPark for RSJ Properties, LLC dba The Pork Company. She stated that each property consists of two five-acre tracts next to the Business Technology Center and would be used to construct a cold storage warehouse. The option to purchase will begin September 21, 2009 and will end September 21, 2011. The purchase price will be \$10,000 per acre with the \$2,500 option going towards purchase price. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Raynor, carried unanimously, to approve the Option to Purchase offer for Lots One and Four at WestPark for the sum of \$2,500 each to RSJ Properties, LLC and authorize the chairman to sign same pending approval of the Duplin County Economic Development Board.

Ms. Alice Lenihan, Branch Director of Nutrition Services with the North Carolina Division of Public Health, appeared before the board to discuss the possibility of the county administering the Women, Infant's, and Children's (WIC) Nutrition Program. She stated that the WIC program is managed by county and district health departments in 87 counties, managed by rural health centers in four counties, and one county is managed by a community action agency, Eastern Carolina Human Services Agency, Inc. of Jacksonville which is the Duplin County WIC program. Ms. Lenihan explained that ECHSA receives a grant in the amount of \$434,214 to administer the program in Duplin County to cover salaries, fringe benefits, utilities, and other operating costs. She stated that the state would like to have the WIC program under medical guidance and under local government supervision and if Duplin County is not interested in administering the program, the NC Department of Public Health will seek neighboring county public health departments to see if they are interested in administering the program. If there is no interest, then a competitive bid process will begin this winter in order for a contract to be in place July 1, 2010. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Williams, to defer this matter for one year. Motion died due to lack of a second.

Ms. Marcia Wright, Chairperson of the Eastern Carolina Human Services Agency, Inc. Board of Directors; and Ms. Daphany Hill, ECHSA Executive Director, and Ms. Rebecca Judge, ECHSA board member, were present and spoke about the benefits of having the WIC program administered by their organization.

Ms. Ila Davis, Health Department Director, stated that the decision to have the WIC program administered by the county has nothing to do with the quality of service from ECHSA. She explained that the county is simply responding to the request of the state to have the program managed by a medical facility.

Motion was made by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Parks, for the WIC Program to be administered by the Duplin County Health Department effective July 1, 2010. Commissioners Fussell, Parks, and Turner voted for; Commissioners Raynor and Williams voted against. Motion carried.

Mr. Bee Barnett, Solid Waste Director, appeared before the board to discuss bids received for the purchase of two roll-off trucks. He requested permission to purchase the 2009 Volvo trucks from Transource, Inc., the lowest responsive bidder. Mr. Barnett stated that the two new trucks would be replacing 10 year-old trucks with approximately 750,000 miles on each. The cost of the 2009 Volvo trucks is \$114,910 each. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Raynor, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to authorize the Solid Waste Director to purchase two 2009 Volvo trucks from Transource, Inc. thereby approving BA# 0067.

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

Commissioner Raynor left during Closed Session.

The board returned to Regular Session.

Mr. Aldridge presented the approved 2010 holiday schedule for state agencies. He stated that it has been the policy of Duplin County to adhere to the same schedule as the state. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Parks, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to approve the 2010 holiday schedule as presented.

Mr. Aldridge stated that the Town of Rose Hill is requesting the appointment of Ms. Maryanne Stanley to the town's planning board as the extraterritorial jurisdiction representative for a three-year appointment effective October 2, 2009.

Motion was made by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Parks, carried unanimously, to appoint Ms. Maryanne Stanley to Rose Hill Planning Board as the extraterritorial jurisdiction representative for a three-year appointment effective October 2, 2009.

Mr. Aldridge presented a revision to the current Alcohol and Drug-free Workplace Policy originally adopted November 5, 2007. He stated that the county safety committee and management developed the revised policy to clarify instances when drug testing would be required following an accident and to specify that 25 percent of employees will be randomly tested each year. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to repeal the existing Alcohol and Drug-free Workplace Policy and replace with the revised policy as presented to become effective immediately.

Mr. Aldridge reminded the board that two firms, SMG from Pennsylvania and Venu Works from Iowa, will be making presentations regarding the management of the Duplin County Events Center on October 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at the Duplin County Events center. Mr. Aldridge stated that he will make his recommendation to the board on October 19, 2009.

Mr. Aldridge presented quarterly reports from McDavid Associates, Inc. on behalf of the NC Rural Center for the Albertson Water & Sewer District and the Rosemary Sanitary Sewer Project for the chairman's signature. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Parks, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to authorize the chairman to sign the quarterly reports from McDavid Associates, Inc. for the Albertson Water & Sewer District and the Rosemary Sanitary Sewer Project.

Commissioner Williams discussed the solid waste user fees for farmers. She asked the county manager and county attorney to find out how many other North Carolina counties are charging farmers for use of the sites.

Ms. Wendy Sivori replied that she has already asked this question and received responses from other counties with solid waste enterprise funds that they require farm waste to be taken directly to the landfill.

The board adjourned to meet again on Monday, October 5, 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