

November 16, 2009

The Duplin County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, November 16, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Room, County Administration Building (224 Seminary Street), Kenansville, North Carolina.

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

Absent: None

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

Mr. Jimmy Dixon of Calypso gave the invocation.

Motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to approve the Consent Agenda which included the following: Minutes – November 2, 2009 and Water Districts D – November 2, 2009; Budget Amendments # 103 - # 108; Tax and Solid Waste Releases # 6932 - #6956; to add BA # 109 & # 110; a Community Development Block Grant Scattered Site Housing Grant Acceptance; a discussion on the general fund balance; a discussion on approving the minutes; a discussion on the ¼ cent sales tax referendum to benefit the volunteer fire departments; a discussion on a workshop to discuss the Evergreen Solutions performance audit on the county.

Mr. Aldridge presented Administrative Budget Amendments # D138 - #E158 and Motor Vehicle Releases for October 2009 - \$7,143.25 to be made part of the minutes.

Public Comments:

Mr. Gary Ange of Wallace discussed the county audit performed by Evergreen Solutions. He stated that the commissioners should respond to the audit findings quickly and adequately and develop a corrective plan and timeline. Mr. Ange volunteered to assist with this process.

Mr. Rick Summerlin of Kenansville urged the commissioners to not demolish the old Chinquapin school. He stated that the county should have put up a fence to protect the property 20 years ago and should not have let the military conduct training exercises in the building.

Dr. Linda Recio of Evergreen Solutions, LLC appeared before the board to give a presentation and to discuss the final report of the county audit. (See handout in minutes.)

Commissioner Wells inquired about the audit not being a comprehensive review of the total operation of all county departments. He stated that several departments were not addressed in the report.

Dr. Recio replied that if a department wasn't addressed in the audit, then there were no inefficiencies found in that area. She stated that no voids were brought to her attention after the draft report was published but she would be glad to address any departments not included in the final audit.

Motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Fussell, carried unanimously, to schedule a workshop to review the findings of the Evergreen Solutions, LLC audit report of the county.

Ms. Delilah Gomes, Chairperson of the Duplin County 2010 Census Complete County Committee gave an update on their efforts to promote public awareness of the 2010 Census process. Ms. Gomes stated that she would like to appear before the board at the January 19, 2010 meeting to present documentation of established timelines and efforts. In addition, the committee will be presenting a resolution requesting that February 27, 2010 be designated as "Duplin County 2010 Census Awareness Day".

Mr. Fred Lanier, General Sales Manager of Friendly Ford of Wallace, appeared before the board to discuss the county's vehicle purchasing policy. He stated that local businesses should be given the opportunity to bid on items that the county purchases.

It was the consensus of the board to direct the county attorney develop a policy for purchasing items and using professional services locally for the board's review to present at the next meeting.

Ms. Jo Ann Hartley, Duplin County Board of Education Finance Officer, appeared before the board to give an update on the BOE fund balance. Mr. Cary Powers, Assistant Superintendent was also present. They requested that the board consider allowing the use of \$727,000 for technology infrastructure upgrades. Ms. Hartley agreed to present more information on this matter at the December 7, 2009 board meeting. (See handout in minutes.)

Mr. Brian Pearce, Emergency Services Director, appeared before the board to discuss several matters.

Mr. Pearce gave a departmental update. He stated that GPS devices have been installed on the ambulances to aid the current CAD Mapping System used to give directions to the ambulance drivers. Mr. Pearce stated the E911 Communications Center would like to implement an automatic vehicle locator system that will show the location of ambulances to better assist in dispatching as this system will show which ambulances are closest to calls that come into the dispatch center. The system will also automatically send maps and directions to the ambulance.

Mr. Pearce requested permission to advertise to "piggyback" with Richmond County, Virginia to purchase an ambulance at a cost of \$105,968. He explained that the ambulance that Richmond County received bids on is exactly like the one he is requesting for the county and no local businesses offer ambulance sales. He stated that N.C.G.S. 143-29(g) requires counties to publish a notice of waiver of the bid procedure. (See handout in minutes.)

Commissioner Fussell inquired if the unused ambulance belonging to the former Magnolia Rescue Department could be used instead of purchasing a new ambulance.

Mr. Pearce replied that the ownership of the Magnolia ambulance is not certain. Also, the condition the ambulance is questionable.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Parks, to authorize the Emergency Services Director to publish a notice of waiver of the bid process according to N.C.G.S. 143-29(g). Commissioners Parks, Raynor, Turner, Wells, and Williams voted for; Commissioner Fussell voted against.

Mr. Pearce gave an update on the ¼ cent sales tax referendum to benefit the local fire departments. He stated that he has been in contact with the fire chiefs for each department and they will be sending a letter detailing the needs of each fire department and their support of the referendum. Mr. Pearce stated that he will bring this matter back to the board in January or February 2010.

Mr. Stephen Williamson, Chairman of the Duplin County Events Center Advisory Committee, along with other advisory committee members, appeared before the board to make a recommendation on a firm to manage the events center. Mr. John Vogt, Director of the Duplin County Events Center; and Mr. Steve Peters, President of

VenuWorks were also present. Mr. Williamson stated that the advisory committee voted unanimously to recommend renewing the management contract with VenuWorks. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Wells, to accept the recommendation of the Duplin County Events Center Advisory Committee to negotiate a contract with VenuWorks to be effective July 1, 2010. Commissioners Parks, Wells, and Williams voted for; Commissioners Fussell, Raynor, and Turner voted against. A tie vote results in no action taken.

Mr. Randall Tyndall, Planning Director, appeared before the board to request the acceptance of a \$400,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for Scattered Site Housing. Mr. Tyndall stated that the funding would be used to replace two homes and refurbish four homes. No county match is required. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Parks, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to adopt the resolution to accept the 2009 CDBG SSH grant in the amount of \$400,000 and authorize the chairman to sign same thereby approving BA# 111.

Commissioner Fussell reviewed the unaudited General Fund Balance report presented by Ms. Teresa Lanier showing an estimated 16.29 percent balance as of June 30, 2010. He stated that the board adopted a policy at the October 6, 2008 meeting to maintain at least a 12 percent General Fund Balance and the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners recommends maintaining at least a 15 percent fund balance. Commissioner Fussell requested an updated report whenever a change is made affecting the General Fund Balance. (See handout in minutes.)

Commissioner Fussell discussed the approval of the minutes of the commissioners meeting. He stated that the minutes should be approved separated from the Consent Agenda items.

It was the consensus of the board to continue the approval of the minutes as part of the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Mike Aldridge stated that Mr. Ray McDonald, Mayor of Mount Olive, is requesting that Mr. Jonathan Edward Scott be appointed to the town's planning board as the ETJ citizen member for Duplin County.

Motion was made by Commissioner Parks, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to appoint Mr. Jonathan Edward Scott to the Mount Olive Planning Board as the ETJ citizen member for a three-year term effective January 1, 2010.

Mr. Aldridge stated that Mr. Rouse Ivey, Chairman of the Duplin County Watershed Improvement Commission, is requesting the reappointment of Mr. Jerry J. Hatcher for a six-year term effective December 1, 2009.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Raynor, carried unanimously, to appoint Mr. Jerry J. Hatcher to the Duplin County Watershed Improvement Commission for a six-year term effective December 1, 2009.

Mr. Aldridge stated that the Chinquapin Volunteer Fire Department would like to burn the old Chinquapin School for fire training before it's demolished. He Stated that Mr. Reid Southerland, Emergency Management and Safety Coordinator, does not recommend the training as the building is not safe in certain areas inside the building.

It was the consensus of the board to not allow the Chinquapin Volunteer Fire Department to conduct training inside of the old school.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Parks, carried unanimously, to recess Regular Session and 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.

It was the consensus of the board to direct Ms. Heather Beard, Economic Development Director, to advertise in the local newspaper the availability of Economic Recovery Zone Bonds for local businesses and for any interested business to submit interest to Ms. Beard by November 30, 2009. Ms. Beard will make a recommendation on which businesses will be eligible to apply for the funding at the December 7, 2009 board meeting.

The board recessed to meet again on Thursday, November 19, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in the Extended Dining Room at Duplin General Hospital (401 North Main Street), Kenansville, North Carolina.

Clerk