

January 25, 2010  
Work Session

The Duplin County Board of Commissioners met in Recessed Session on Monday, January 25, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. in the Department of Social Services Community Room, Kenansville, North Carolina.

Present: Chairman Mr. Cary Turner, and Commissioners Mr. David Fussell, Ms. Francis Parks, Mr. Harold Raynor, Mr. Reginald Wells and Ms. Zettie Williams.

Absent: None

Also Present: Mr. Mike Aldridge, County Manager, Ms. Paige Marshburn, Administrative Officer, Ms. Teresa Lanier, Finance Officer and Ms. Wendi Sivori, County Attorney.

Commissioner Raynor gave the invocation.

Mr. Aldridge added the following items to the agenda: vacant position at Solid Waste; meeting with the Board of Education.

Motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Parks, carried unanimously, to approve the agenda.

Mr. Aldridge informed the commissioners of the tragic death of Miss Raven Kennedy, daughter of Mr. Padrick Kennedy. Padrick works for Transportation. Raven was killed in a four wheeler accident January 4, 2010. She was a junior at East Duplin High School. The arrangements have not been made yet.

Mr. Aldridge requested that the board give some alternative dates to meet with the board of education. Mr. Raynor suggested that Wednesday night was not an appropriate night for meetings due to it being church night. It was the consensus of the board to not meet on Wednesday nights. Dates suggested: February 1, February 22, and February 25.

Mr. Aldridge presented the State of the County Presentation. This presentation showed an overview of current economic, financial and demographic conditions of the county. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to set the tax rate at .69 for year 2010-2011.

Mr. Aldridge discussed the hospital request for proposal. A tentative time frame for this project to take place is from February – October 2010.

Commissioner Wells suggested forming sub-committees from the hospital board and the commissioner board.

Mr. Aldridge stated that the upcoming budget would be his top priority and it would be consuming a lot of his time and the department heads time from February through June.

Mr. Tom Stukes, Attorney with Womble, Carlyle, Sandridge and Rice, presented the hospital RFP a timeline for compliance with public bid process. Hospital Board of Directors present: Ms. Thomasine Kennedy, Chair, Mr. Willie Gillespie, Mr. Glenn Jernigan, Ms. Wendy Murphy, Dr. C. Daniel Pate, Jr., Mr. Kenneth L. Smith and Mr. Franklin Williams. Mr. Stukes recommended the board of commissioners adopt a resolution of intent to lease the hospital and not sell it. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Raynor, carried unanimously, to put the hospital notice of intent on the agenda for Monday, Feb 1, 2010 and to schedule a public hearing for the citizens to comment and to ask questions.

Motion was made by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, for the chairman to appoint three county commissioners to a sub committee to work on the hospital RFP and to ask the hospital board to do likewise.

Board of commissioners appointed: Chairman Turner, Commissioner Parks and Commissioner Fussell. Hospital board members appointed: Mr. Kenneth Smith, Mr. Glen Jernigan and Dr. Pate. Ms. Kennedy, Chair on Board of Directors of the hospital was approved to serve as an ex-officio member. This group will identify the initial five bidders on February 15, 2010. Both boards have the right to reject any or all bids. This group will meet Thursday, February 5, 2010 in the board room at Duplin General Hospital.

Mr. Aldridge presented a summary of the Evergreen Performance Audit recommendations. Mr. Hank Frey commented on how the board should address the 156 audit recommendations. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Parks, seconded by Commissioner Fussell, carried unanimously, to adopt the recommendations of the Evergreen Performance Audit and instruct the county manager to implement the recommendations in a professional manner and to organize the implementation of the recommendations and report back to the board of commissioners the recommendations that can be accomplished, as well as those that cannot be accomplished and why they cannot be accomplished.

Mr. Aldridge presented before the board that Mr. Bee Barnett, Solid Waste Director, needs a replacement for a solid waste employee, Kenneth Blackburn, who resigned February 5, 2010. This position would be for an equipment operator.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Parks, carried unanimously, to do internal posting for employee and if there is no response within to advertise outside the county for this position.

Mr. Zoesch addressed the board concerning strategic planning. His recommendations were to have department managers directly involved, have workshops, set values, set a mission statement and develop a vision document and to aim strategies at segments with challenges, tasks, measurements and resources to obtain the vision.

Motion was made by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Wells, to take the 2007 strategic plan and revise accordingly before we adopt our new budget. Commissioner Fussell, Commissioner Wells, Commissioner Raynor and Commissioner Turner voted for and Commissioner Williams and Commissioners Parks voted against.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to allow Mr. Zoesch to proceed with review of the strategic plan for implementation in the budget year 2010-2011.

Motion was made by Commissioner Parks, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, for the board to recess until February 1, 2010, in the Commissioner's Room, County Administrative Building, 224 Seminary Street, Kenansville, North Carolina.

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Clerk