

June 21, 2010  
Board of Commissioners Meeting  
6:30 p.m.  
Ed Emory Auditorium in the Lois G. Britt Agriculture Center

The Duplin County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, June 21, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in the Ed Emory Auditorium in the Lois G. Britt Agriculture Center, 165 Agriculture Drive, Kenansville, North Carolina.

Present: Chairman Cary Turner, Commissioners Frances Parks, David Fussell, Harold Raynor, and Reginald Wells. Commissioner Zettie Williams present by telephone.

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

Commissioner Raynor gave the invocation.

Report: Fund Balance

Motion was made by Commissioner Raynor, seconded by Commissioner Parks, carried unanimously, to approve the Consent Agenda which included the following: June 7, 2010 minutes, Tax & Solid Waste Releases #7486 - #7509; Budget Amendments #0235 - #0244; Health Department Bad Debt Write Off Period ending April 30, 2007 - \$2817.26 [general services] and \$89.00 [dental]; Closed Session 143-318.11 (a)(4); Mr. Mike Aldridge request to add on: Mr. Brian Pearce to discuss a sole source purchase of 911 equipment and AVL's, contract with Diane Johnson, Rural Center Quarterly Report, Personnel Report, three budget amendments and fund balance Report. Commissioner Fussell to discuss an article that was published in the Duplin Times.

Mr. Aldridge presented Administrative Budget Amendments L542 – L612 to be made part of the minutes.

Public Comments:

Ms. Rubelene Lambert appeared before the board to express her concern in closing the Calypso Substation. The County needs to consider many valuable items before closing this station.

Mr. Taylor Jefferson, River Landing, appeared before the board to discuss the 2010-2011 budget. Mr. Jefferson had several questions about the budget. He wanted to know the percentage of properties of unpaid real estate and property taxes in Duplin County. He also asked about the lawsuit and what will happen if the county does not pay the \$4.8 million.

Mr. Hank Frye, Wallace, appeared before the board to request a hold on all county employee salary increases. He believes Duplin County department heads are in line with the performance that is being received.

Mr. Jack Zoesch turned his three minute public speaking time to Mr. Henry Frye. Mr. Frye expressed that because of the board of education lawsuit and our dwindling fund balance, we cannot afford to keep doing business as usual.

Mr. Brent Davis, Calypso, appeared before the board to speak on the budget. The county has not made any serious cuts in the budget. Our fund balance continues to decrease and the budget continues to grow. He feels the only way to give a raise is by a merit to incentivize the employees to do more and be more productive (See handout in minutes.)

Ms. Jerri Parker, NCDOT Engineer, appeared before the board to discuss any road issues in Duplin County.

Commissioner Parks commented on how nice connector 117 is to travel on.

Commissioner Turner commented that Tom Hill Road is washing out.

Mr. Steven Williams commented about the street drainage on NC 50.

Mr. Bee Barnette commented that Commissioner Fussell's driveway is washing out on Landfill Road.

Mr. Mike Aldridge, County Manager, appeared before the board requesting adoption of a resolution for the ¼ cent sales and use tax in Duplin County (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Raynor, carried unanimously, to adopt the resolution authorizing the levy of an additional ¼ cent local sales and use tax, for collection to begin January 2011, and to authorize the chairman and clerk to sign same.

Mr. Brian Pearce, EMS Director, appeared before the board to discuss two resolutions. The first resolution is to purchase 911 equipment to replace the outdated 911 phone system in dispatch center. This purchase is sole source with Positron to provide Viper System and maintain Century Link service and support. The second resolution is to purchase automated vehicle Locaters (AVLs) in all department vehicles. This sole source purchase is from Cypress Solutions for the AVLs is to be compatible with our current wireless vendor. Both purchases are covered by excess revenue in EMS and budget amendments were on the consent agenda.

Motion was made by Commissioner Raynor, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to approve Brian's recommendation on the two new purchases.

Ms. Linda Haden, Library, appeared before the board to discuss employment in the libraries. Hours at six locations have been reduced, and staffing has been reduced to one employee per branch. The library budget has reduced expenditures by approximately \$9,000,

which will not allow the required maintenance of effort to receive full State funding. The State has also cut their funding, which has caused a cut in library materials. Ms. Haden requests the opportunity to advertise for three part time positions (See handout in minutes.)

It was the consensus of the board to discuss this request during the budget discussion.

Mr. Randall Tyndall, Planning, appeared before the board to recommend three individuals for a two year reappointment to the Duplin County Planning Board: Mr. Gerald Bell, District 1, Mr. Charles Edwards, District 3 and Mr. James (JB) Merritt (District 5) (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Raynor, carried unanimously, to accept the recommendation to reappoint Mr. Gerald Bell in District 1, Mr. Charles Edwards in District 3, and Mr. James Merritt in District 5 to serve a two year term on the Duplin County Planning Board.

Mr. Randall Tyndall appeared before the board on behalf of the Town of Magnolia's application to participate in the Countywide Flood Damage Prevention Program. Mr. Tyndall requested authorization for the Chairman to sign acceptance of the Town of Magnolia agreement for the County to administer the Town's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Parks, seconded by Commissioner Raynor, carried unanimously, to accept the Town of Magnolia's Flood Damage Prevention agreement and to authorize the chairman and clerk to sign same.

Mr. George Futrelle, Airport, appeared before the board to present the Non-Directional Beacon (NDB) lease agreement. Mr. Futrelle requests permission to lease the property, where the radio station is, from Mr. Larry T. and Ms. Sandra Jones Miller in the amount of \$1000 per year beginning July 1, 2010. Ms. Wendy Sivori, County Attorney has drafted the new lease agreement on an annual renewal basis instead of a 10 year renewal. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Parks, carried unanimously, to approve the request to lease the property from Mr. Larry T. and Ms. Sandra Jones Miller in the amount of \$1000 per year beginning July 1, 2010 and authorize the chairman and clerk to sign same.

Mr. Ken Rau, Animal Advisory Board, appeared before the board to discuss funding options that has been investigated for a new animal shelter in Duplin County. The Department of Agriculture has stimulus money for 35% of the cost of a new shelter. They could also provide a 4% interest loan to complete the shelter. The cost of the shelter would be about \$600,000. The stimulus money will not be available after September 2010 and the county needs to apply for the stimulus funding by the end of July. Mr. Rau will attend another meeting in a couple of weeks with further information and feedback (See handout in minutes.)

Mr. Bee Barnett, Solid Waste, appeared before the board to request that “Free Day” for households at the Solid Waste Department, Saturday, August 21, 2010 be declared. On Free Day waste from private haulers, contractors, or out of county waste will not be accepted “Free” but will be accepted and charged as the current rates.(See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Raynor, carried unanimously, to designate Saturday, August 21, 2010, as a “Free Day” at the Solid Waste Department on Saturday, August 21, 2010.

Mr. Mike Aldridge, County Manager, appeared before the board to discuss a tire disposal contract with Central Carolina Tire. Mike recommended renewing a one year contract with Central Carolina Tire; thereby, providing time to investigate purchasing equipment to grind tires in lieu of shipping tires out for disposal. Mr. Bee Barnette was in agreement with this recommendation.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Parks, carried unanimously, to renew a one year contract for tire disposal and to conduct a cost benefit analysis on the feasibility of purchasing a grinder.

Ms. Jaqualyn Fennell, Rose Hill, appeared before the board to request that a portion of SR# 1146, Wellstown Road, be blocked for a community reunion. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Parks, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to do a resolution for Ms. Fennell’s request to block off SR 1146, Wellstown road for a community reunion.

Mr. Steve Moore, Transportation/Aging, appeared before the board to request approval of the Home and Community Care Block Grant, Family Caregiver Contract, Health Promotions Contract, and Legal Services Contract. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Parks, carried unanimously, to approve the Home and Community Care Block grant, Family Caregiver Contract, Health Promotions Contract, Legal Services Contract; and to authorize the Chairman and Finance Officer to sign same.

Mr. Mike Aldridge appeared before the board to request adoption of the 2010-2011 budget (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Parks, seconded by Commissioner Wells, to fund the Carousel Center \$2000.00. Commissioner Parks, Raynor and Williams voted for. Commissioner Fussell, Raynor, and Turner voted against. Motion 3 to 3. No action taken.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Williams to fully fund the vocational rehabilitation. Commissioner Williams, Parks, and Wells voted for. Commissioner Turner, Raynor, Fussell voted against. Motion 3 to 3. No action taken.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells to adopt the 2010-2011 budget as presented. Motion failed to lack of second.

Motion was made by Commissioner Parks, seconded by Commissioner Fussell to not fund the 2% salary increase for employees in the 2010-2011 budget. Commissioner Parks, Turner, Fussell and Raynor voted for. Commissioner Wells and Williams voted against. Motion carries 4 to 2.

Commissioner Parks proposed that the county manager and commissioners create a merit plan for the employees.

Motion was made by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Parks to put \$250,000 in reserve in next year's budget for merit pay increases, pending boards approval of a merit pay. Commissioner Parks, Fussell and Turner voted for. Commissioner Williams, Wells and Raynor voted against. Motion 3 to 3. No action taken.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Fussell, carried unanimously, to implement a merit pay policy with no monies established at this time.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Parks, to adopt the 2010-2011 budget with the exception of the 2% across the board wage increase. Commissioner Parks, Raynor, Williams and Wells voted for. Commissioner Fussell and Turner voted against. Motion carries 4 to 2.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Williams for fill the library positions. Commissioner Parks, Williams, and Wells voted for. Commissioner Fussell, Turner and Raynor voted against. Motion 3 to 3. No action taken.

Mr. Aldridge presented an amendment to the dental contract with Dr. Fell from the Board of Health. The amendment clarifies that the performance bonus is calculated so it is not to penalize Dr. Fell when school is out. The contract has been signed by the Board of Health Chair and Dr. Fell.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Parks, carried unanimously, to accept the amendment to the dental contract with Dr. Fell revising his calculated bonus to correlate with the time when school is out.

Motion was made by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Parks, carried unanimously, to allow Ms. Linda Haden to advertise for one position to be filled at the library.

Mr. Aldridge appeared before the board to present a new revenue in the 2010-2011 budget for mental health to transport patients. A contract with Eastpointe for this revenue has been prepared and the board's approval of the contract is requested.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to accept the contract from Eastpointe and authorize the chairman and finance office to sign same.

The Commissioner's appointee to the Social Service Board term will expire on June 30, 2010. Commissioner Park's is eligible and willing to serve a three year term which would expire June 30, 2013 (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to appoint Ms. Parks to serve on the Social Service Board for a three year term to expire on June 30, 2013.

Motion was made by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to increase the Social Service Board membership from three to five people to allow more input from citizens of Duplin County. Ms. Wendy Sivori will report on the June 30, 2010 exactly what the statute states about how many can serve on the Social Services Board.

The Office of State Fire Marshall (SFM) reported the inspection results for all fire departments in the county. Warsaw Fire Department did not meet their requirements due to survey retrogression (See handout in minutes.)

Mr. Carl Pate sent a press release from The North Carolina Senior Tar Heel Legislature providing information from the June meeting (See handout in minutes.)

Commissioner Wells resigned as a member on the Duplin General Hospital Board. The Duplin General Hospital Board of Directors recommended Ms. Parks to serve. However, due to meeting conflicts she declined to serve. Ms. Thomasine Kennedy will be meeting in October and will be asking for another commissioner to serve. Commissioner Turner volunteered to serve until October (See handout in minutes.)

The NCACC conference will be held August 26 – 29, 2010 at the Greenville Convention Center. Commissioner Fussell will attend. Mike will need to know who else will be attending as soon as possible. (See handout in minutes.)

Mr. Stephen Williamson, Events Advisory Board, appeared before the board to discuss the contract with Ms. Dianne Johnson, Canon Consulting, to manage the Event Center. She has not signed the contract and the advisory board feels our negotiations with Ms. Johnson have failed. The advisory board has met and recommends that we will work within the current budget of the event center and advertise for a director to manage it. The advisory board is working with someone local in the county that is familiar with this business, to help get through this time. (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Parks, carried unanimously, to resend the vote for Canon Consulting.

North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center sent in the quarterly and final report form for the Rosemary Sanitary Sewer stating we are on budget and costs are unaffected (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Parks, seconded by Commissioner Wells, carried unanimously, to approve the report and authorize the chairman to sign.

Mr. Aldridge received an invitation by the Duplin County Public Officials Conference for July 7, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. at the Ed Emory Auditorium. This is one of the requirements to get county grant money from the State for emergency management. The conference will educate the commissioners, mayors, town and the public officials on responding to emergencies and disasters.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Raynor, carried unanimously, to go into closed session 143-318.11 (a) (4) Economic Development.

The board returned from closed session.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Raynor, carried unanimously, to recess until June 30, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. in the commissioner room.

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Clerk



