

April 4, 2011
Board of Commissioners Meeting

The Duplin County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, April 4, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Room, County Administration Building (224 Seminary Street), Kenansville, North Carolina.

Present: Chairman Francis Parks, Commissioners Tim Smith, Harold Raynor, Zettie Williams and Jessie Ladson

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

Absent: Commissioner David Fussell, Ms. Wendy Sivori, County Attorney

Commissioner Parks gave the invocation.

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

Outstanding County Tax – February 2011
Vehicle Tax Billings – 2010 -2011

Motion was made by Commissioner Raynor, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to approve the Consent Agenda which included the following: March 21, 2011 minutes, Budget Amendments #0151 - 0159; Tax & Solid Waste Releases #8218 - #8228.

Mr. Aldridge, County Manager, presented Administrative Budget Amendments #I283 – #I305 to be made part of the minutes. Commissioner Smith would like to add to Mr. Jimmy Dixon to speak on the house bill that is being introduced.

Ms. Heather Beard, Economic Development Director, appeared before the board to conduct a public hearing on Project Wilbur. “Project Wilbur” is an existing company in Warsaw called the Pork Company. The company will be expanding for a smoke house operation creating 55 new jobs over the next three years and investing four million dollars. The incentives for this business are 50% of the taxes back over a three year period, which would be \$37,150.00. We are competing for this business with New Jersey and a facility in Micro, North Carolina.

Public Hearing was opened at 9:07 a.m.

Commissioner Ladson: What is New Jersey’s tax rate compared to ours?

Heather: I do not know what incentives they have; therefore, I cannot give an exact answer except that it is significantly higher and Micro is 10 cents lower.

Commissioner Smith: What is Micro?

Ms. Beard: It is a community in Johnston County.

Commissioner Smith: Do you know what the average pay for the 55 jobs will be?

Ms. Beard: About \$24,000 annual.

Commissioner Smith: What happens if they do not create jobs?

Ms. Beard: In the contract it is stipulated if 55 jobs are not created; the incentive amount would be prorated and the Pork Company is penalized.

Commissioner Ladson: How many positions will be created?

Ms. Beard: 55 jobs that make up labor positions.

Commissioner Smith: Has Warsaw consented to this project?

Mayor Win Batson: The town is very favorable of the incentives that are being offered. While the best income might not be there; their will be jobs provided.

Mr. Jimmy Dixon: Do you know what the makeup of the current employees is versus The Pork Company employees in the other locations.

Ms. Beard: I believe the majority of the employees are from Duplin County.

Mr. Jimmy Dixon: I am much opposed to the incentives. The \$37,150 that would be collected from taxes would represent a benefit to the manager in balancing the budget.

Commissioner Williams: Has Ms. Sivori, County Attorney, approved the performance agreement?

Ms. Beard: Yes, she has.

With no further comments, the public hearing was closed at 9:18 a.m.

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Raynor, carried unanimously, to table action on the request until later in the meeting and until he can read the performance agreement.

Ms. Heather Beard also appeared before the board to request a public hearing regarding the revolving loan fund for Project Wilbur to be held on Monday, May 2, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. in the commissioner's room.

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to approve a public hearing regarding Project Wilbur to be held May 2, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. in the commissioner's room.

Public Comments

Mr. Win Batten, Mayor Town of Warsaw, appeared before the board to share information after obtained from a meeting at the Global Transpark about a program that is being advocated by the three economic regions that comprise 40 counties in Eastern North Carolina. The purpose of the program is to address national heritage tourism for Eastern North Carolina.

Mr. Jimmy Dixon, N.C. House of Representatives, appeared before the board to speak about House Bill 528 that he filed last week which if enacted would add a seventh at large member to the Board of Commissions and the Board of Education. Last week he contacted the chairs of each board and informed them of his actions for filing this bill (See handout in minutes.)

Mr. Phipps appeared before the board to complain about equipment that was removed from his property. Mr. Phipps would like to come back in two weeks to be put on the agenda and explain the maps (See handout in minutes.)

Public Comments Ended

Mr. Harvey Case, President University Health Systems, appeared before the board to review the transition of Duplin General Hospital to University Health Systems. Wallace Family Medical is being built which will offer 3 to 4 physicians, physical therapy, as well as diagnostics. There will be a ground breaking at the site near Wallace on May 5, 2011 at 10:30 a.m. They are working on expanding the emergency room at Duplin General.

Mr. Randall Tyndall, Planning Director, appeared before the board to request an amendment to the 2008 CDBG Program and to set a public hearing for April 18, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at the Charity Community Building in Greenevers to receive comments concerning the amendment (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Ladson to approve the request for a public hearing on the 2008 CDBG CR Program amendment to be held on April 18, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at the Charity Community Building in Greenevers.

Mr. Jimmy Dixon appeared before the board to answer any questions concerning the House Bill 528 that has been filed in the general assembly. Commissioner Smith's concern with the bill is from a legal stand point; specifically the Federal Court Order Duplin County is currently under. Commissioner Smith requests that Mr. Dixon withdraws the bill and allows the board to discuss it first. Mr. Dixon responded that "I am not going to withdraw the bill and I am not going to consider withdrawing the bill. I have it in place to handle the discussion process. The federal court consent decision can be reopened." There was no motion or consensus by the board to this discussion (See handout in minutes.)

Mr. Tom Reaves, IT Director, appeared before the board to present a report on Duplin County's website activity showing statistics from 2011 (See handout in minutes.) Commissioner Parks would like to see all board members trained on laptops to receive meeting packets, etc.

Mr. Rob McDuffie, EMS Director, appeared before the board and presented a report on emergency medical services (See handout in minutes.) Dr. Hervey Kornegay, Medical Director, was present. Commissioner Williams would like for Rob to revisit and get back with the board why Kenansville's operating hours are only from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and not a 24 hour service. Mr. Aldridge, County Manager, said that came into affect several years back due to budgetary decision.

Rob also discussed that they have AVL systems ready to be operational on emergency vehicles but is waiting for that capability to be available and operational from the cad system.

Commissioner Williams asked about how the EMS collections could be improved. The department is using garnishment as a means of collecting before writing off services. She asked Mr. McDuffie to determine what the collection rate is.

Commissioner Smith said that the EMS board needs a truth and lending statement. The county tax rate last year according to what was spent averaged .74 cents. We spent \$1.75 million more than we collected. The board cannot say the tax rate is “.69 cent”. The county is looking at 2 million dollars that we have to come up with to keep going like we are. Commissioner Smith requested that Mr. Rob McDuffie put his report that was presented today on the website.

Mr. Mike Aldridge, County Manager, said with all the costs that are going up; plan B for EMS would be to have six sites and two QRV's. Mr. Rob McDuffie is working on a number of what this savings would be compared to eight present sites.

Mr. Aldridge appeared before the board to present several miscellaneous items:

- Mr. Aldridge presented a resolution serving our veterans, armed forces and their families to proclaim April as National County Government Month (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Raynor, carried unanimously, to recognize April as National County Government Month in honor of our veterans, armed forces and their families. Commissioner Smith was out of the room.

- Mr. Aldridge presented a letter on behalf of the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board, Inc. to make two appointments representing the Private Sector, to the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board for a two-year appointment, beginning July 1, 2011, and expiring June 30, 2013 (See handout in minutes.)

It was the consensus the board of commissioners to ask Economic Development for nominations to be appointed to the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board.

- The Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee requested nominees to replace Mr. Bill Taylor. Commissioner Ladson has offered the names of the following for consideration: Michael Maddox, Pat Kelly Royal and Patsy McCoy. No other nominations have been received from any other board members (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to nominate Mr. Michael Maddox to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Bill Taylor on the Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee.

Motion was made by Commissioner Raynor, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to go into closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. (a) (4) economic development.

Motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Ladson to approve the incentives for Project Wilbur and authorize the clerk and chairman to sign the performance agreement. Commissioners Parks, Williams and Ladson voted for. Commissioners Smith and Raynor voted against. Motion carried 3 to 2.

Motion was made by Commissioner Raynor, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to recess to Board of Equalization & Review at 2:00 p.m. this afternoon in the commissioner's room.

Clerk