

May 16, 2011  
Board of Commissioners Meeting

The Duplin County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, May 16, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Room, County Administrative Building (224 Seminary Street), Kenansville, North Carolina.

Present: Commissioners Tim Smith, Frances Parks, Harold Raynor, Zettie Williams, Jessie Ladson

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

Absent: Commissioner David Fussell

Commissioner Raynor gave the invocation.

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

- Animal Control – April 2011
- Cabin Lake – April 2011
- Duplin County Finance Activity Report – March 2011
- E911 – April 2011
- Inspections – April 2011
- Register of Deeds – April 2011
- Services for the Aged – April 2011
- Soil & Water Conservation – April 2011
- Solid Waste – April 2011
- Vehicle Tax Billing – July 2010 – May 2011
- Water – Sept. 2010 – April 2011

Motion was made by Commissioner Raynor, seconded by Commissioner Ladson, carried unanimously, to approve the consent agenda which included the following: Tax & Solid Waste Releases #8281 - #8299; Budget Amendments #0193 – #0195, authorize Mr. Rob McDuffie to be Medicare/Medicaid Representative for EMS, Health Service Bad Debt Write off - \$2256.82, and Dental Service Bad Debt Write off - \$100.50. Commissioner Smith removed for correction Mr. Cary Turner's public comments in minutes dated 5/2/11. The 5/2/11 minutes will be on the next consent agenda. Mr. Mike Aldridge, County Manager, to add Event Center Director, request to fill vacant Water Department position, and Commissioner Raynor to discuss search & rescue trailer.

Mr. Aldridge presented Administrative Budget Amendments J398 – K440.

**Public Comments:**

Ms. Kip Tompkin, Magnolia, appeared before the board to speak about “The Sanctuary Project – Veterans Outreach Center” (See handout in minutes.)

Mr. Thurman Herring appeared before the board to express his disagreement in shutting down two EMS trucks and adding two QRV's and not letting firemen drive the EMS trucks.

Mr. Roger Davis, Calypso, appeared before the board to express the two best things in Duplin County is the Rural Water System and the EMS system. Mr. Davis challenges the Board to prioritize and equalize. Cutting EMS by two units is a 25% reduction in service to the County. All county departments should share equally in the cost reduction.

### **End of Public Comments**

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Raynor to go out of Regular Session and into Water District Albertson.

The Board returned to Regular Session.

Mr. Joe McKemey appeared before the board to recommend award of the 2008 CDBG street improvements contract to the low bidder Trader Construction Company in the amount of \$265,409.60, subject to the execution of Change Order, No. 1 which deducts \$24,475.50 and adjusts the contract to \$240,934.10. The project involves the construction of streets and drainage improvements along Pool Road, Lenoir Avenue, and Blount Street in the Rosemary Area. The project also involves the construction of six inch water lines as part of the CDBG improvement (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to award the contract to low bidder, Trader Construction Company, for a revised contract amount of \$240,943.10 and authorize the chairman to sign the contract and the notice of award.

Mr. George Futrelle, Airport Director, appeared before the board to request the board accept the Vision 100 Grant in the amount \$150,000.00 for the new terminal building, to request the board to approve Task Order #7 with W.K. Dickson in the amount of \$3,870.00 for design surveying for the proposed terminal building project, and to request approval of Task Order #8 with W.K. Dickson, in the amount of \$140,555.00 for the purpose of designing and bidding the project (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Ladson, carried unanimously, to accept Vision 100 Grant Agreement No. 36237.13.9.1 for \$150,000.00, approve Task Order #7 for \$3,870.00, and Task Order #8 for \$140,550.00, both with W.K. Dickson, and authorize the chairman to sign same, thus approving budget amendment #196 (See handout in minutes.)

Ms. Sheila Lewis, Regional Ombudsman II, appeared before the board to present a report for the Duplin Adult Care Community Advisory Committee (See handout in minutes.)

Ms. Elizabeth Watson, Library Director, (See handout in minutes.) Mr. Stephen Wilson, Cabin Lake Director and Dr. Lawrence Rouse, James Sprunt Community College President, appeared before the board to appeal the 2011-2012 proposed budgets for their departments.

Ms. Teresa Lanier, Finance Officer, appeared before the board and distributed a copy of the ¼ cent sales tax distribution received May 2011 (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Raynor, carried unanimously, to budget the ¼ cent sales tax distribution, thus approving budget amendment #193.

Mr. Mike Aldridge, County Manager, advised the board that the Warsaw Veteran's Celebration Foundation is requesting the board provide a membership fee in their annual budget (See handout in minutes.)

Mr. Mike Aldridge reminded the board of the Relay for Life Event to be held on May 20 and 21<sup>st</sup> at the Duplin County Events Center.

Mr. Mike Aldridge reminded the board of the Municipal Association meeting to be held on May 19, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in Rose Hill. Mr. Ben Parish, Detective Sheriff Department, will be speaking on gangs.

Mr. Mike Aldridge advised the board that the shooter exercise on campus at Charity Middle School for June 14, 2011 has been canceled.

Mr. Mike Aldridge advised the board that Mr. Steve Williamson, Interim Events Center Director, contract is ending June 30, 2011. A new candidate has been chosen to replace Mr. Williamson. She would like to be a county employee versus a contract employee. The starting salary talked about was \$75,000 plus 30% in benefits. Mr. Aldridge requested input from the board referencing the candidate recommended to become the Events Center Director.

It was the consensus of the board to hire her on a contract basis with a two year term and a 90 day out clause. Her salary will be incentive based, tied to performance and the revenue she brings to the County. The County will not pay for her relocation costs.

The board recessed to convene session as the Board of E & R (See handout in minutes.)

The Board returned to Regular Session.

Mr. Aldridge appeared before the board to ask permission to fill a vacant Water Assistant I position.

Motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Ladson, carried unanimously, to fill the vacant Water Assistant I position at the Water Department.

Commissioner Raynor appeared before the board to discuss the search & rescue trailer. It was his understanding that at the 4/18/11 commissioner's meeting when the search & rescue team spoke, we agreed to let them use the trailer, which belonged to the County, with the understanding that everything be left on it and nothing removed from the trailer. There has been controversy over the trailer. Mr. Aldridge advised he had talked to Reid Southerland who said the trailer belonged to EMS and you do whatever you want to do with it and advise the landfill to do whatever you say.

Motion was made by Commissioner Ladson, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to let the search & rescue team use the trailer like it is and do not remove anything from the trailer.

Motion was made by Commissioner Ladson to table until all parties involved can get together. Motion died due to lack of second.

The Board returned to the original motion. Commissioner Parks, Williams, Ladson, Raynor, and Ladson voted for. Commissioner Smith voted against. Motion carried 4 to 1.

During the time to request appeals to the budget, Mr. Aldridge heard from several departments that he will mention now.

In the Tax Department, Mr. Aldridge eliminated Barbara Miller's position because she is retiring. This position is not in the 2011-2012 budget and Mr. Gary Rose, Tax Administrator, is concerned about not replacing this position.

The Forestry Service asked for an increase in their contribution proposed for 2011-2012 from \$104,000 to \$130,805 to keep them in operation in the coming year. Mr. Aldridge indicated this during the work session but no action was taken.

No capital outlay for vehicles was included in the sheriff's budget and Mr. Aldridge advises that he thinks this is a big mistake.

Making school resource officers part-time employees was a discussion in one of the budget work sessions. Ms. Sivori, County Attorney, has investigated and determined that the county can change these officers to part-time employees. Commissioner Smith wants to put the \$115,000.00 back into the budget for Resource Officers to remain employed.

Ms. Teresa Lanier, Finance Officer, handed out reports to the commissioners showing the audited financial statements, the balance sheet and statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in Fund Balance (See handout in minutes.)

Mr. Mike Aldridge advised that a public hearing will be held on June 6, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the Ed Emory Auditorium to receive comments on the proposed 2011-2012 budget.

Motion was made by Commissioner Raynor, seconded by Commissioner Ladson, carried unanimously, to approve the notice of presentation of budget and public hearing on June 6, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the Ed Emory Auditorium.

The board recessed to May 23, 2011 for a commissioner's budget session meeting beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the commissioner's room.

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Clerk