

June 6, 2011
Board of Commissioners Meeting

The Duplin County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, June 6, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the Ed Emory Auditorium in the Lois G. Britt Agriculture Center, 265 Agriculture Drive, Kenansville, NC.

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

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

Absent: Commissioner David Fussell

Commissioner Parks gave the invocation.

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

Duplin County Debt Schedule – June 2011
E911 – May 2011
Finance Activity Report – April 2011
Inspections – May 2011
Manager’s Report – May 2011
Social Service Activity – April 2011

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to approve the consent agenda which included the following: Tax & Solid Waste Releases #8300 - #8317; Budget Amendments #0199 – #0209; Bad Debt Health Write-off - \$3727.93. Mr. Mike Aldridge, County Manager, added to the consent agenda: Etix Contract, Events Center Management Contract, reminder 6/30/11 meeting at 3:00 p.m., budget amendments #210-#214, general fund balance report as of 6/3/11, and the fund balance report.

Mr. Aldridge presented Administrative Budget Amendments K441 – L533.

Mr. Mike Aldridge, County Manager, appeared before the board to conduct a Public Hearing on the 2011-2012 budget. Mr. Aldridge began with an introduction and a review of the budget as of June 3, 2011. Fund balance contribution of \$3,411,462.00 is needed to balance the budget. He also shared a letter received from the Department of State Treasurer stating that there is concern about the overall financial condition of Duplin County and its declining General Fund Balance (See handout in minutes.)

The public hearing was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

The following citizens appeared before the board in response to the EMS reduction from the current 7 ½ transporting units to the original 6 units, thereby, eliminating 12 EMS positions (four are currently vacant), and eliminating \$33,600.00 in contributions to volunteer rescue squads and first responders. All of these speakers were

requesting the board to put EMS back into the budget at the current service level due to many detrimental reasons.

Mr. Jimmy Dixon
Mr. Roger Davis
Mr. Thurman Herring
Ms. Ashley Weaver
Mr. Glen Jernigan
Mr. Floyd Rearden
Ms. Robin Whaley
Ms. Rhonda Adams
Ms. Mary Katherine Bass
Mr. Clayton Bryant
Mr. James Sauls
Ms. Renee Savitz
Mr. Herbert Kornegay
Mr. Brent Davis
Ms. Sandra Jones
Mr. Haun Edwards
Ms. Paige Sheffield
Mr. Jack Zoesch

Ms. Renee Savitz appeared before the board to thank them for putting the libraries back into the budget.

With no further comments, the public hearing was called to a close at 8:10 p.m.

Public Comments

Ms. Natausha Hicks appeared before the board on behalf of the Duplin County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and discussed how their sorority serves Duplin County.

Mr. Roger Davis appeared before the board saying that a 2% tax increase would help keep the eight EMS sites in operation.

Mr. Jimmy Dixon appeared before the board to say that in the near future he will be asking for a resolution from the Board of Commissioners on House Bill 668. This Bill will give every volunteer fireman and EMS person a North Carolina State Income tax credit of \$250.00. Mr. Dixon would like to see this credit increased to \$400.00.

Ms. Tonya Pittman appeared before the board protesting the EMS reduction.

Public Comments Ended

Ms. Jerri Parker, NCDOT, appeared before the board for comments on any road issues in the County.

Commissioner Ladson commented about the condition of Pickett Road in Chinquapin.

Mr. Rob McDuffie, EMS Director, appeared before the board to advise them that Emergency Management, Communications, and Law Enforcement “management staff” is recommending the purchase of a new computer aided dispatch system for the Communications Department. The system is an eligible purchase from State 911 funds and has been anticipated to be part of the 911 dispatch center upgrade. The “management staff” is recommending purchase of this system from Southern Software. The “management staff” is recommending the award of this purchase as a “sole source” purchase due to compatibility issues with software already purchased and already in use by the Sheriff’s Department.

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to award a sole source purchase to Southern Software for a computer aided dispatch system based upon capability requirements with software already purchased and already in use by the Sheriff’s Department with available 911 funds in the amount of \$350,459.00, thereby, approving the budget amendment #215 (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Raynor that the board appropriates the money from fund balance to reinstate the two EMS units that were cut in the budget. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Commissioner Ladson did not think we should approve this motion at this time. Commissioner Williams commented that we need eight full time response sites and to use the fund balance for the source of money. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion to reinstate 7½ sites but to not go into fund balance. Commissioner Raynor and Parks voted for. Commissioner Williams, Ladson and Smith voted against. Motion failed 2 to 3.

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith to add back 7½ EMS sites into the budget without going into fund balance.

Motion was made by Commissioner Williams to amend Commissioner Smith’s motion and to add back eight EMS sites into the budget. Motion dies due to lack of second.

Discussion went back to original motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Raynor to add back 7½ sites to the budget without going into fund balance. Commissioner Smith, Raynor and Parks voted for. Commissioner Ladson and Williams voted against. Motion carried 3 to 2.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Mike Aldridge appeared before the board to present an interview schedule for the new Economic Director and would like for two commissioners to participate on the interview panel (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, for Commissioner Ladson and Commissioner Parks to participate on the interview panel for the new Economic Development Director.

Mr. Mike Aldridge appeared before the board to present a request from Mr. Ken Jones, Eastpointe, to reappoint Mr. David Sanderson to the Eastpointe Board of Directors to a term that expires June 30, 2012.

Motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Raynor, carried unanimously, to reappoint Mr. David Sanderson to the Eastpointe Board of Directors to a term that expires June 30, 2012.

Mr. Mike Aldridge appeared before the board to present a request from Mr. Ken Jones, Eastpointe, to reappoint Ms. Rebecca Judge to the Eastpointe Board of Directors to a term that expires June 30, 2013.

Motion was made by Commissioner Raynor, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to reappoint Ms. Rebecca Judge to the Eastpointe Board of Directors to a term that expires June 30, 2013.

Mr. Mike Aldridge appeared before the board to present a request from Mr. Eric Bush, Social Services Director, to reappoint Mr. Anthony Turner to the Social Services Board of Directors to a term that expires June 30, 2014.

Motion was made by Commissioner Raynor, seconded by Commissioner Ladson, carried unanimously, to reappoint Mr. Anthony Turner to the Social Services Board of Directors to a term expiring June 30, 2014.

Mr. Mike Aldridge appeared before the board to present a request from Mr. Chris Peluso, EMS, to adopt a revised EMS fee schedule that will add a fee of \$250.00 to a patient that refuses transport to be effective July 1, 2011 (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Raynor, seconded by Commissioner Smith, carried unanimously, to adopt a revised EMS fee schedule that will add a fee of \$250.00 to a patient that refuses transport to become effective July 1, 2011.

Mr. Mike Aldridge appeared before the board to present a request from the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board to reappoint Dr. Lawrence Rouse to another term beginning July 1, 2011 thru June 30, 2013.

Motion was made by Commissioner Raynor, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to reappoint Dr. Lawrence Rouse to the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board to a term beginning July 1, 2011 thru June 30, 2013.

Mr. Mike Aldridge appeared before the board to inform them that Mr. Rob McDuffie, EMS Director, has provided information concerning the feasibility and profitability of initiating a non-emergency transport service with EMS (See handout in minutes.)

Mr. Mike Aldridge appeared before the board to get approval to hire Ms. Lacey Ekberg as the new Events Center Director beginning July 5, 2011 with a two year contract providing an annual contract of \$65,000 with two incentives included (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Ladson, carried unanimously, to hire Ms. Lacey Ekberg as the new Events Center Director beginning July 5, 2011 with a two year contract at an annual salary cost of \$65,000 including the two incentives and to authorize the chairman and finance officer to sign (See handout in minutes.)

Mr. Mike Aldridge appeared before the board to get permission for the board to approve the contract with Etix, as the "ticket" contractor for the Events Center, once Ms. Wendy Sivori, County Attorney, has approved it (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Raynor, carried unanimously, to authorize the chairman to sign the Etix's contract for the Event Center, once Ms. Sivori has approved it.

Mr. Mike Aldridge appeared before the board to get approval for Building Inspections to increase their permit fees effective September 1, 2011 instead of July 1, 2011 (See handout in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to allow Building Inspections to increase their permit fees effective September 1, 2011.

Mr. Aldridge reminded the board that there will be a meeting for final close-out on the budget on June 30, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. in the commissioner's room.

Motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Ladson to fulfill 100% 8 sites at EMS and find the money to pay for it. Commissioners Williams and Ladson voted for. Commissioner Parks, Raynor and Smith voted against. Motion failed 2 to 3.

It was the consensus of the board to have the next budget work session on June 13, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. in the commissioner's room.

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to recess until June 7, 2011 at 12:00 p.m. at the Legislative Building in Raleigh.

Clerk