

October 17, 2011
Board of Commissioner Meeting

The Duplin County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, October 17, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. in the commissioner's meeting room.

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

Absent: Commissioner Ken Thompson

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

Commissioner Ladson gave the invocation.

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

Animal Control – September 2011
Cabin Lake – September 2011
E911 – September 2011
EMS – September 2011
Finance Activity Report – September 2011
Fund Balance
General Ledger – September 2011
Inspections – September 2011
Register of Deeds – September 2011
Services for the Aged – September 2011
Social Services – September 2011
Water – July – September 2011

Motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Ladson, carried unanimously, to approve the consent agenda which included the following: October 3, 2011 minutes; Tax & Solid Waste Releases #8760 - #8764, Budget Amendments #0081 - #0087, Teachey & Wallace Ordinance. Mr. Mike Aldridge, County Manager, added to the consent agenda: Gas line bids for Project Pipeline; Health Service Write Off; Tank maintenance contract for the Water Department; Animal Control letter of violation and to remove Ms. Wanda Clay from the agenda. The commissioners added to the agenda: Commissioner Smith – Event Center and Commissioner Parks – Cabin Lake and Social Service Reports.

Mr. Mike Aldridge, County Manager, presented Administrative Budget Amendments #B079 - #D100.

Ms. Bridget Huffman appeared before the board to honor five of her 4-H students with certificates for achievements won on the State Level. Mr. Oshe' Pittman, a 4-H student, gave a speech, that he presented as a Duplin County delegate, on the topic of bullying and won a gold medal.

Public Comments

Mr. Chris Anderson appeared before the board to talk about redistricting. He challenged each commissioner to put their hand on the bible that a line running down Hwy 117 is not being moved to place one specific house within that district. There was no response from the commissioners.

End of Public Comments

Commissioner Parks appeared before the board to discuss Cabin Lake. There is a Boy Scout troop from Clinton, Pack 27, which has offered to do a service project for Cabin Lake that consists of creating a walkway from the swimming area bath house to the picnic shelter. The park has graciously accepted this offer from the scouts. This is another compliment to Cabin Lake that will benefit all visitors that utilize the park (see attached in minutes.)

Commissioner Parks also noted that looking at the Department of Social Services Report reflects a big increase in food stamps from last year. Part of this increase is because of hurricane Irene. This increased cost is a negative to the DSS (see attached in minutes.)

Mr. Brian Bullard appeared before the board to give an update on the Cornerstone at the Courthouse. There will be a ceremony to unveil the cornerstone on November 18, 2011 at the Courthouse at 11:00 a.m. Chairman Parks will do a welcome on behalf of the commissioners. Invitation was extended to the commissioners, county manager, and anyone who wishes to attend this historic event.

Ms. Donna Rouse, Soil & Water Conservation, appeared before the board to ask permission to reappoint Mr. Samuel Taylor and Mr. Jerry Hatcher to the Watershed Improvement Commission Board for a six year term (see attached in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to approve the reappointment for Mr. Samuel Taylor and Mr. Jerry Hatcher to the Watershed Improvement Commission Board for a six year term.

Mr. Mike Aldridge, County Manager, asked Ms. Donna Rouse to give the commissioners an update on the streams cleanout.

Ms. Donna Rouse stated at the last meeting, the commissioners voted to extend the time frame on the current maintenance contract simply because there is debris on the laterals and they could not perform the contract at that time because of the debris. A clean-up debris bid has been requested and is due to be opened next week but the money will have to come from Soil & Water's maintenance account. Ms. Wendy Sivori, County Attorney, has approved the bid

package. We are looking at EWP (Emergency Water Protection) as a possible funding source, but, the criteria for funding are much stricter than the past. Mike has also put in for FEMA help. We have to be denied for EWP assistance before FEMA will consider our funding request.

Ms. Elizabeth Watson, Library Director, appeared before the board to explain Maintenance of Effort and the State aide to public library programs (see attached in minutes.)

Mr. Brandon Cox, Cooperative Extension, appeared before the board to request the board accept a grant in the amount of \$200,000.00 from the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund. This money must be used for the Duplin County Livestock Facility project (see attached in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Raynor, seconded by Commissioner Smith, carried unanimously, to accept the \$200,000.00 grant from the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund to be used for the Duplin County Livestock Facility project, thus approving budget amendment #0088.

Mr. Steve Moore, Transportation/Aging Director, appeared before the board for three requests:

- To request approval on the changes to the Transit Drug and Alcohol Policy implemented by the Federal Transit Authority (see attached in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Ladson, carried unanimously, to approve the changes to the Transit Drug and Alcohol Policy implemented by the Federal Transit Authority (see attached in minutes.)

- To request acceptance of the Aging/Nutritional Community Care Block Grant additional funding (see attached in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Ladson, carried unanimously, to accept the additional funding from Aging/Nutritional Community Care Block Grant and authorize the chairman and clerk to sign same.

- To request the approval of the Community Transportation Program Budget Contract FY 2012 (see attached in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Ladson, carried unanimously, to table the discussion to the next meeting.

Mr. Chris Peluso, EMS, appeared before the board to request permission to pursue a lease agreement on property for the EMS station in Rose Hill for one year (see attached in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Williams, to approve the request to pursue a lease agreement on property for the EMS station in Rose Hill for one year. Commissioners Smith, Parks, Raynor and Williams voted for. Commissioner Ladson voted against. Motion carried 4 to 1.

Commissioner Tim Smith appeared before the board and requested that Ms. Lacey Ekberg, Event Center Director, come before the board periodically and give an update on the Events Center. It was the consensus of the board that Lacey meet with the board on a quarterly basis. Also, Commissioner Smith had concern about refinancing the Events Center to reduce the interest being paid on the current 40 year loan with USDA.

Mr. Mike Aldridge, County Manager appeared before the board to recommend abolishment of the employee meal reimbursement policy to be effective December 1, 2011 (see attached in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Williams to approve the recommendation by the County Manager to abolish the employee meal reimbursement policy to be effective December 1, 2011. Commissioners Smith and Raynor voted for. Commissioners Parks, Williams and Ladson voted against. Motion did not carry 2 to 3.

Mr. Aldridge appeared before the board to request that the Animal Control Ordinance be adopted (see attached in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Raynor, to approve the Duplin County Animal Control Ordinance to become effective December 1, 2011, to authorize the chairman and clerk to sign same. Commissioners Smith, Raynor, Williams, and Ladson voted for. Commissioner Parks voted against. Motion carried 4 to 1.

Mr. Aldridge read a letter received from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Veterinary Division. It referenced the assessment of a civil penalty for the Duplin County Animal Shelter in the amount of \$1000.00 for violating N.C. Gen. Stat. 19A-30 and 2 N.C.(see attached in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to go into closed session at the end of the meeting to obtain legal direction on civil penalty at the animal shelter.

Mr. Aldridge appeared before the board to discuss the five contracts needed for the Guilford gas line project. Mr. Aldridge request the board's approval to award the first three on the list Monday, October 24, 2011. The recommendation is to award: Non Destructive Testing Contract to MISTRAS for \$137,935.00; Catholic Protection Contract to MESA for \$77,240.00 and In Line Inspection Contract to T. D. Williamson for \$22,724.00 (see attached in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Raynor, seconded by Commissioner Ladson, carried unanimously, to award the Non Destructive Testing Contract to MISTRAS for \$137,935.00; Catholic Protection Contract to MESA for \$77,240.00 and In Line Inspection Contract to T. D. Williamson for \$22,724.00.

Mr. Aldridge request the board approve the Bad Debt Write Off for the Health Department in the amount of \$3,667.42. This report was not turned in on time to be provided in the packets (see handouts in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Raynor, to approve the Bad Debt Write Off for the Health Department ending 9/30/2008 in the amount of \$3,667.42. Commissioners Smith, Parks, Raynor, and Williams voted for. Commissioner Ladson voted against. Motion Carried 4 to 1.

Mr. Aldridge presented a contract with Southern Corrosion for the board's approval. The Water Department has contracted with "Southern Corrosion" in the past. They wash the outside and inside of the water tanks. They do the work in one year and get paid in a three year installment arrangement. Ms. Donna Brown, Utility Director, is asking to have this contract with Southern Corrosion approved again (see attached in minutes.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Ladson, carried unanimously, to approve the contract with Southern Corrosion.

Mr. Aldridge handed out to the commissioners, per their request, Ms. Sivori and Mr. Aldridge's evaluation form to be completed by the next meeting.

Motion was made by Commissioner Ladson, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried unanimously, to go into closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318-11 (a) (3) Legal.

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Ladson, carried unanimously, to recess the meeting until October 24, 2011 for a strategic planning meeting in the Social Service Building at 1:00 p.m.

Clerk