

NORTH CAROLINA

WAYNE COUNTY

The Wayne County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 15, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room in the Wayne County Courthouse Annex, Goldsboro, North Carolina.

Members present: Roland M. Gray, Chairman; Atlas Price, Jr., Vice-Chairman; Wilbur E. Anderson; John M. Bell; C. Munroe Best, Jr.; J. D. Evans and Efton M. Sager.

Members absent: None.

Work Session

During the scheduled briefing and prior to the regularly scheduled meeting, the Board of Commissioners held a work session to discuss the items of business on the agenda.

Invocation

Mike Aycock, Chaplain of the Wayne County Firemen's Association and Chief of the Little River Volunteer Fire Department, gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner John M. Bell led the Board of Commissioners in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Wayne County Firemen's Association Support for ¼ Cent Sales Tax

Kirk Barnett, 2008 President of the Wayne County Firemen's Association, thanked the Board of Commissioners for its continued unwavering support of the Wayne County Firemen's Association and the volunteer fire service in Wayne County. The Wayne County Firemen's Association recognizes the need for a new communications system. The Wayne County Firemen's Association Chiefs Council and Wayne County Firemen's Association supports the ¼ cent sales tax increase to be used to build a new Wayne County communications system.

Chairman Roland M. Gray thanked the members of the Wayne County Firemen's Association for providing fire protection to the citizens of Wayne County and preventing the loss of life and property in conjunction with other emergency agencies.

Special Recognition – Wayne County Public Schools Students and Staff

Chairman Roland M. Gray recognized the students and staff of the Wayne County Public Schools, who were in attendance at the meeting. The students will be participating in Youth in Government Day on April 22, 2008.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion of Commissioner John M. Bell, the Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the minutes of the regular session of the Board of Commissioners on April 1, 2008.

Discussion/Adjustment of Agenda

Chairman Roland M. Gray adjusted the agenda by adding Relay for Life T-shirt Proclamation and May is Older Adults Month in Wayne County Proclamation to New Business; and by adding Sheriff (2), Environmental Health, Social Services and Services on Aging budget amendments, Establish a Public Hearing on May 20, 2008 at 9:15 a.m. for Rezoning Request from Kenneth Wiggins DBA Wiggins Lumber, and Approve Method for the Manner in which Zoning Regulations and Restrictions and the Boundaries of Zoning Districts shall be Determined, Established, and Enforced, and from Time to Time Amended,

Supplemented, or Changed in accordance with North Carolina General Statutes 153A-343 to the Consent Agenda.

Special Recognition

The Board of Commissioners recognized the following employees for their service to the County of Wayne and presented service pins to those in attendance:

- Thirty-five years – Charlotte Jenkins and Sue H. Jennette
- Thirty years – Gloria M. Hill
- Twenty years – Robin N. Bjorling, Pamela M. Holt and Carolyn T. King
- Fifteen years – Bernice F. Chavis, Kenneth J. Holloman, James L. Pittman and Mattie H. Underwood
- Ten years – Ronald L. Carrasquillo, Anita E. Featherson, Carol A. Glisson, Albert E. Greene, Rita Holloman-Johnson, Richard Lewis, Phyllis D. Marshburn, Queen Redd, Janice Threewitts and Lawrence G. Williamson
- Five years – Montrina A. Boney, Thurman Herring and Arnold W. Price
- One year – Marsha A. Coley, Casey Degrechie-Roberts, Trenesha D. Evans, Christopher W. Jackson, Alehandro Jones, Prudencia G. Moore, Karen D. Padgett, Delinwood D. Pearson, Catherine M. Stewart, Daniel J. Truhan and Alexander A. Westbrook

Public Hearing – Closeout of the 2005 Community Development Block Grant Scattered Site Housing Project

At 9:15 a.m., the Board of Commissioners held a public hearing to receive public comments on the closeout of the 2005 Community Development Block Grant Scattered Site Housing Project. Wayne County received \$400,000 in 2005 Scattered Site Housing funds representing 100% of the total program costs to provide housing improvements.

David Harris with RSM Harris Associates, Inc. stated the public hearing would notify the public that the housing project under the 2005 Community Development Block Grant Scattered Site Housing Project has been completed. He reviewed a summary of the program expenditures and accomplishments. All families received replacement housing. The replacement houses are scattered throughout the county. He provided public information regarding state and federal fair housing laws in accordance with Community Development Block Grant regulations.

No member of the public spoke.

At 9:20 a.m., Chairman Roland M. Gray adjourned the public hearing.

Public Hearing – Requirements of the 2008 Community Development Block Grant Program

At 9:21 a.m., the Board of Commissioners held a public hearing to receive public comments on the requirements of the 2008 Community Development Block Grant Program.

David Harris with RSM Harris Associates, Inc. explained the regulations, eligible activities and proposed uses of Community Development Block Grant funds that could be undertaken in the following categories: community revitalization, scattered site, infrastructure, economic development and housing development. He provided information on state and federal fair housing requirements, which Wayne County supports. If the County of Wayne decides to apply in any category, a second public hearing would be held prior to submitting the application to the North Carolina Division of Community Assistance. Wayne County is eligible for \$400,000 under the scattered site category.

No member of the public spoke.

At 9:29 a.m., Chairman Roland M. Gray adjourned the public hearing.

Appointment – Wayne County Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee

Upon motion of Commissioner Wilbur E. Anderson, the Board of Commissioners unanimously appointed Ann Stackhouse to the Wayne County Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee. Mrs. Stackhouse's term will expire on April 14, 2009.

Appointment – Commissioners' Council for Older Adults

Upon motion of Commissioner Wilbur E. Anderson, the Board of Commissioners unanimously reappointed Margaret Davis and appointed Barbara Stiles to the Commissioners' Council for Older Adults. Mrs. Davis' term will expire on June 17, 2011. Mrs. Stiles' term will expire on April 14, 2011.

Appointment – Eureka Planning Commission

Upon motion of Commissioner Wilbur E. Anderson, the Board of Commissioners unanimously reappointed Edward E. Spence to the Eureka Planning Commission. Mr. Spence's term will expire on May 2, 2011.

Appointment – Wayne County ABC Board

Upon motion of Commissioner Wilbur E. Anderson, the Board of Commissioners unanimously appointed Joseph Sawyer, Jr. and reappointed David P. Meador to the Wayne County ABC Board. Mr. Sawyer's term will begin on May 15, 2008 and will expire on May 14, 2011. Mr. Meador's term will expire on May 14, 2011.

Appointment – Wayne County Industrial and Business Park Development Corporation

Upon motion of Commissioner Wilbur E. Anderson, the Board of Commissioners unanimously reappointed Wilbur E. Anderson, John M. Bell and C. Munroe Best, Jr. to the Wayne County Industrial and Business Park Development Corporation. Their terms will expire on May 16, 2011.

Appointment – Wayne County Agricultural Advisory Board

Upon motion of Commissioner Wilbur E. Anderson, the Board of Commissioners unanimously reappointed Deborah Worley; William G. Howell, II and Randy Gray to the Wayne County Agricultural Advisory Board. Their terms will expire on May 2, 2011.

Appointment – Goldsboro-Wayne Airport Authority

Upon motion of Commissioner Wilbur E. Anderson, the Board of Commissioners unanimously appointed Paul W. King to fill the unexpired term of Danny W. Roseborough on the Goldsboro-Wayne Airport Authority. Mr. King's term will expire on December 31, 2008.

Board of Commissioners' Committee Reports

Commissioner John M. Bell stated North Carolina's Eastern Region wants Wayne County to host a four-county meeting of elected officials to discuss how the region can be developed.

Commissioner J.D. Evans stated WAGES and the Wayne County Public Library are operating smoothly. He stated we can work together to improve the Wayne County Public Schools. He believes there is a commitment to move the schools forward.

Commissioner C. Munroe Best, Jr. thanked the Board of Education for submitting the tentative 2008-2009 budget. The County of Wayne is trying to stay within a 2% growth expectation in order to retain the same property tax rate. The word "failure" had been used to describe the Wayne County Public Schools due to the large percentage of non-performing high school level students. The failure label suggests the entire school system is failing, but it is not. Progress has been made with the Wayne School of Engineering, 9th grade academy, Wayne Early Middle College and extra tutoring. He wanted the label of failure to be replaced by the

words deficiencies, marked weakness or inability to perform in certain areas. In addition to the four committees to be appointed by the business group, he suggested a fifth committee to address deficiencies in math and reading in the lower schools. Commissioner C. Munroe Best, Jr. suggested the fifth committee to consist of Wayne County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Steven D. Taylor, Wayne Community College President Dr. Kay Albertson and a member of her faculty, two business leaders and an at-large member. The charge of the committee would document all programs, grants and gifts and explore additional grants, foundations and other available money. The committee could put together a program, which would raise the lower and middle school students beyond grade level. A coordinator would run the program and hire part-time teachers and others as tutors. The Board of Commissioners and Board of Education would receive progress reports every 60 days. Results must be measured. The money for the program would teach a child to read and do math, which are basic life skills that we owe our children. He stated the challenge would be to have the program in place by August for the start of the 2008-2009 school year. The tutoring programs need to be merged. Teachers need volunteers for tutoring. Commissioner C. Munroe Best, Jr. stated he was concerned about the location of the schools on the Board of Education's priority list and the effective use of money for the modernization of these schools.

County Manager W. Lee Smith, III stated there are multiple groups in the Wayne County Public Schools providing tutoring programs. WorkKeys has proved the Board of Commissioners, Board of Education, business community and Wayne Community College can work together to provide a certified workforce by needed skill levels. The county is trying to live within a 2% increase or less in the 2008-2009 budget. The staff of the Wayne County Public Schools stated Eastern Wayne Elementary School and Norwayne Middle School locations are needed and the buildings would be used for 25-30 years.

Commissioner John M. Bell questioned if the Board of Commissioners should look at the total school system before programs were funded.

Commissioner C. Munroe Best, Jr. stated the Wayne County Public Schools has had the same number of students for the last 10 years. He cautioned a new engine should not be put in an old truck. Principals are the most important factor in a school system and Wayne County needs the best principals in the state.

Commissioner Wilbur E. Anderson questioned the validity of the report of rain water on the floor at Spring Creek High School.

Chairman Roland M. Gray recognized the students and staff, who will be participating in Youth in Government Day on April 22, 2008.

County Manager W. Lee Smith, III stated audio-visual changes were being made to the Commissioners Meeting Room, which would enable better viewing by the public.

Wayne County ABC Board Presentation

Wayne County ABC Board Business Manager Mike Myrick introduced the members of the Wayne County ABC Board and ABC Law Enforcement Officer Glen Odom.

North Carolina is a "local option" state with 49 county and 106 municipal boards that sell spirituous liquor at retail. In addition, other alcohol beverage sales may be legal at both on and off premise businesses depending on whether the majority of voters approved the alcohol issue. Local ABC Boards in North Carolina are operated with no state funds. However, ABC stores generate over \$233 million in revenue annually for the state general fund and the municipalities and counties where alcohol sales are allowed.

Wayne County has six retail ABC stores and employs 27 people. The Wayne County ABC Board had \$5,455,289 in gross sales for the year ending June 30, 2006 and \$5,742,753 for the year ending June 30, 2007. Distributions for the year ending June 30, 2007 totaled \$1,403,964.

The Board of Commissioners presented a Certificate of Appreciation to outgoing Wayne County ABC Board Chairman Fred Lutz for his dedicated service.

Wayne County ABC Board Chairman Fred Lutz thanked the Board of Commissioners for the opportunity to serve. He stated the board works together well and he was proud of their accomplishments. He requested the Wayne County Board of Commissioners increase the salary for the Wayne County ABC Board members.

WAGES Presentation

Dr. Marlee Ray, Executive Director of WAGES, recognized the staff present at the meeting. She thanked Commissioner J. D. Evans for his representation on the WAGES Board of Directors. WAGES is a Community Action Agency, which works to alleviate poverty and empower families.

Dr. Marlee Ray, Executive Director of WAGES, reviewed the programs provided by WAGES:

Older Adults Division

- Senior Companion Program – Seniors age 60 and older volunteer to provide companionship and respite services to elderly people in the community. There are 75 Senior Companions who serve at volunteer stations and in private homes.
- Foster Grandparent Program – Seniors age 60 and older support the future by serving as mentors, tutors, and caregivers to special needs children and teenage mothers. Over 100 Foster Grandparents serve at volunteer stations throughout the county.
- Nutrition Program for the Elderly/Meals on Wheels – The nutrition program for the elderly addresses nutritional and social needs of seniors in Wayne County through congregate and home delivered meals programs. The congregate nutrition program promotes the health and well-being of older people through a nutritious meal and provides opportunities for health, education, social, recreation and other community activities. The goal of the home delivered meals program is to improve or maintain the health of impaired older persons by providing nutritious meals, a daily check and reporting system and a social contact to enable the homebound to remain in their home as long as possible. Meals on Wheels serves 400 meals daily.
- Medication Management Program – The medication management and prescription assistance program helps to improve and maintain the health of low income uninsured, impaired persons by providing a service to manage their prescription costs by suggesting generics when possible or enrolling them in prescription assistance programs. Medications are received, labeled and dispensed by the pharmacist who then consults participants about safety and properly taking the medications. This program has 240 active patients. Since the program began four years ago, over \$2 million in free medication has been dispensed to over 600 individuals in Wayne County.
- Walnut Street Apartments – Affordable living is provided to seniors with one and two bedroom units.

Support Services

- Weatherization/HARRP Program – The weatherization program is involved in reducing the energy burden from low income households through client education, air sealing and adding insulation where practical. To insure client safety, the program also checks for hazards, lead-based paint, mold and mildew, carbon monoxide and ventilation. The HARRP program focuses on the repair and/or replacement of heating and cooling devices in homes of eligible elderly and disabled families. The programs serve Wayne, Greene and Lenoir counties.
- Food Services – WAGES food service provides food preparation for WAGES programs and for other community programs.

Children and Families Division

- Head Start & Early Head Start – Quality comprehensive child and family development programs, which serve pregnant women, infants and toddlers and their families and preschool children ages three to five. The ultimate goal is to ensure children enter kindergarten prepared to succeed and to give parents the tools they need to guarantee their child's success. The program offers center-based as well as home-based services. All five centers are five star rated and serve 442 children. WAGES also offers extended day services to families requiring additional program support to meet their needs due to work or school obligations. In addition to its focus on early education, WAGES Head

Start also provides an array of health, dental, nutritional and family services. There are 138 children age 0-3 years in the program.

- Wayne County First Steps – There are 100 families in this voluntary support and home visiting program. Healthy families and healthy lifestyles are hallmarks of preventing child abuse and neglect.
- Self-sufficiency Project – The program provides comprehensive case management and programming that will empower the entire family unit and ultimately the community by equipping each family served with skills, training, and support essential for their advancement to raise and remain above the North Carolina poverty guidelines. There are 50 families in the program.

WAGES provides services to approximately 1,800 individuals. WAGES employs 200 people. WAGES supports the community and the community supports WAGES through volunteer time and financial contributions.

Members of the Board of Commissioners thanked WAGES for the services and programs provided to needy Wayne County citizens.

Relay for Life T-shirt Day in Wayne County Proclamation

Upon motion of Commissioner C. Munroe Best, Jr., the Board of Commissioners unanimously proclaimed May 2, 2008 as Relay for Life T-shirt Day in Wayne County, attached hereto as Attachment A.

Older Americans Month Proclamation

Upon motion of Vice-Chairman Atlas Price, Jr., the Board of Commissioners unanimously proclaimed May 2008 as Older Americans Month in Wayne County, attached hereto as Attachment B.

Commissioner John M. Bell announced the following events would be held in observance of Older Americans Month:

- Wayne County Arts Council will display senior art during the month of May
- Health education classes on Wednesdays beginning May 14, 2008
- Day in the Park on May 22, 2008
- Mother's Day Tea on May 14, 2008.

Consent Agenda

Upon motion of Vice-Chairman Atlas Price, Jr., the Board of Commissioners unanimously approved and authorized the following items under the consent agenda:

1. 2008-2009 Continuation of Implementation Funding application for the Day Reporting Center in the amount of \$117,895
2. Appointment of Joann Summerlin to fill the unexpired term of Wallace Thorne as a Fire Commissioner for New Hope Volunteer Fire Department and appointment of Bryan Vanderpool to fill the unexpired term of W. C. Dees as a Fire Commissioner for Pinewood Volunteer Fire Department
3. 2008-2009 Wayne County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council funding application
4. Budget amendments
 - a. Board of Elections
 - b. Capital Projects
 - c. Solid Waste
 - d. Health-Environmental Health
 - e. Sheriff
 - f. Sheriff
 - g. Social Services
 - h. Services on Aging
5. Establish a public hearing on May 20, 2008 at 9:15 a.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room in the Wayne County Courthouse Annex, 224 E. Walnut Street, Goldsboro, North Carolina to receive public comments on a request from Kenneth Wiggins DBA Wiggins Lumber to rezone approximately 12 acres on the east side of US Highway 117 South Alternate from Residential-Agriculture 30 to Heavy Industry.

6. Method for the Manner in which Zoning Regulations and Restrictions and the Boundaries of Zoning Districts shall be Determined, Established, and Enforced, and from Time to Time Amended, Supplemented, or Changed in accordance with North Carolina General Statutes 153A-343

Public Comments

Tom Drew stated he was concerned about heart disease and premature death.

Dennis Lewis stated he was concerned about the proposed communications system for Wayne County.

County Manager W. Lee Smith, III stated he met with the North Carolina Highway Patrol. The Highway Patrol will co-locate on the Wayne County communications towers. The proposed Wayne County communications system will communicate with the Highway Patrol. The VIPER system will not guarantee 95% coverage of the county 95% of the time. The state owns the VIPER system and determines which governmental entity can use the system in catastrophic events.

Board of Commissioners Comments

Commissioner Efton M. Sager thanked the candidates for filing for election. He congratulated them for their willingness to serve. Each candidate is entitled to their individual beliefs. Some issues are extremely complex and each person must make their own decision. There may be a need to agree to disagree. The law is meant to be tempered with good judgment. He was very thankful for democracy.

Commissioner Wilbur E. Anderson requested a work session to discuss the future of services, which the former rescue units could provide. He thanked the Wayne County Public Schools students for their participation in Youth in Government Day.

Vice-Chairman Atlas Price, Jr. recognized Health Education Supervisor Carolyn King for being featured in *The County Connection*. He wished Cynthia Whitfield in the County Manager's Office a belated happy birthday.

Commissioner J. D. Evans stated the Board of Commissioners looks forward to working with the students in preparation of Youth in Government Day.

Closed Session

At 11:00 a.m., upon motion of Vice-Chairman Atlas Price, Jr., the Board of Commissioners unanimously declared itself in closed session to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged and to instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange or lease.

At 11:24 a.m., upon motion of Commissioner C. Munroe Best, Jr., the Board of Commissioners unanimously declared itself in regular session.

Property Option

Upon motion of Commissioner J. D. Evans, the Board of Commissioners unanimously approved an option to purchase 104 acres of property along the east side of US Highway 117 South. The option is for five years - \$9,000 for the first two years, \$9,500 for the second two years and \$10,000 for the fifth year. The total cost of the property is \$1.04 million or \$10,000 per acre with the option price to be applied to the purchase price.

Board of Commissioners' Information

The Board of Commissioners was advised of the following personnel changes:

1. Board of Elections
Name of Employee – Joseph H. Lofton
Date of Employment – January 1, 2008
Classification – Board of Elections Member
Salary – \$40 per meeting
2. Detention
Name of Employee – Charlia Denise Adkins
Date of Employment – April 7, 2008
Classification – Detention Officer I, Full-time
Salary – \$26,492 per year
3. Social Services
Name of Employee – Leslie Ruiz
Date of Employment – April 7, 2008
Classification – Social Worker II, Full-time
Salary – \$32,163 per year
4. Emergency Medical Services
Name of Employee – Holly Underhill
Date of Employment – April 7, 2008
Classification – EMT-Basic, Full-time
Salary – \$24,001 per year
5. Emergency Medical Services
Name of Employee – Diane Hunter
Date of Employment – April 1, 2008
Classification – EMT-Basic, Part-time
Salary – \$11.63 per hour
6. 4-H
Name of Employee – Devoux Olliver
Date of Employment – January 1, 2008
Classification – Teacher, Part-time
Salary – \$23 per hour
7. 4-H
Name of Employee – Eskabonna Henderson
Date of Employment – January 1, 2008
Classification – Teacher, Part-time
Salary – \$23 per hour