

NORTH CAROLINA

WAYNE COUNTY

The Wayne County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, September 16, 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

Commissioner C. Munroe Best, Jr. gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner C. Munroe Best, Jr. led the Board of Commissioners in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Public Hearing – Proposed Installment Financing Agreement for New Countywide Radio Communications System

At 9:04 a.m., the Board of Commissioners held a public hearing to receive public comments to determine whether the County of Wayne should enter into an installment financing agreement pursuant to Section 160A-20 of the General Statutes of North Carolina obligating the County to make installment payments there under in a principal amount not to exceed \$9,700,000, plus interest thereon. The agreement is for the purpose of financing the acquisition of a new countywide radio communications system for emergency and other public safety purposes. To secure its obligations under the agreement, the County will grant a security interest in the various components of the project. If the Wayne County Board of Commissioners so determines, an application will be submitted to the Local Government Commission of North Carolina for approval of the agreement.

The bids from financial institutions interested in providing the County of Wayne with the necessary funding required to finance the County of Wayne's 911 emergency communications equipment in an amount of approximately \$9,700,000 is attached hereto as Attachment A.

Jim Barnwell stated he opposed the new radio system and the taxpayers need tax relief.

Norman Pendergraft stated he is in favor of the new communications equipment. It is needed for fire and rescue services. He favors the installment financing contract.

Larry Pierce stated there is a dire need for new communications equipment for the fire service and law enforcement. He supports the installment financing contract.

Wayne Aycock stated he supports the new communications system. He supports the installment financing contract.

Kirk Barnett stated the new communications system will benefit all people in the county, not just the volunteers. He supports the installment financing contract.

At 9:14 a.m., Chairman Roland M. Gray adjourned the public hearing.

Application to the Local Government Commission of North Carolina for Entering into An Installment Financing Agreement for New County-wide Radio Communications System

Upon motion of Vice-Chairman Atlas Price, Jr., the Board of Commissioners unanimously approved and authorized a Resolution Accepting the Proposal of RBC Bank in Connection with an Installment Financing for the Acquisition of a New County-wide Radio Communications System by the County of Wayne, North Carolina; approving the county entering into an installment financing agreement and requesting approval of such agreement and requesting approval of such agreement by the Local Government Commission, attached hereto as Attachment B.

County Manager W. Lee Smith, III stated fire departments, rescue, law enforcement, municipalities and the Wayne County Public Schools will benefit from the county-wide radio communications system.

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 September 2, 2008.

Discussion/Adjustment of Agenda

Chairman Roland M. Gray adjusted the agenda by adding Services on Aging budget amendment to the Consent Agenda.

Special Recognition

The Board of Commissioners welcomed Sue Farmer as the Wayne County Facilities Director.

The Board of Commissioners presented an engraved plaque to George Raecher in the Sheriff's Office in recognition of his dedicated service as a County of Wayne employee. Major George Raecher began working with the county on July 21, 1988 and will retire on September 30, 2008.

Board of Commissioners Committee Reports

Commissioner J.D. Evans expressed his appreciation for the kindnesses, thoughts and prayers during his recent illness. He was happy to be back at the Board of Commissioners meeting.

Commissioner John M. Bell stated North Carolina's Eastern Region would be meeting with school superintendents in the region to discuss education. North Carolina's Eastern Region will also meet with officials to discuss further development in the region.

Commissioner Wilbur E. Anderson thanked Commissioner John M. Bell for attending the 4th Fighter Wing Change of Command ceremony.

Chairman Roland M. Gray welcomed back Commissioner J. D. Evans.

County Manager W. Lee Smith, III stated the Solid Waste Committee made the following recommendations to the Board of Commissioners concerning an abandoned and dilapidated mobile home policy:

- Wayne County will begin a voluntary abandoned and dilapidated mobile home program for individual mobile home owners for 24 months.
- The 2008-2009 Solid Waste budget will be amended to include \$50,000 for the voluntary abandoned and dilapidated mobile home program.
- Wayne County will partner mobile home park owners with private vendors to demolish abandoned and dilapidated mobile homes within the park.
- Wayne County will evaluate each abandoned and/or dilapidated mobile home on a case by case basis.

- Wayne County will waive the tipping fee in the construction and demolition landfill for the disposal of abandoned and/or dilapidated mobile homes in the voluntary program.
- The Solid Waste staff will develop a process for the voluntary disposal of abandoned and/or dilapidated mobile homes.

Commissioner C. Munroe Best, Jr. encouraged abandoned and dilapidated mobile home owners to participate in the voluntary demolition program.

County Manager W. Lee Smith, III stated the next step to clean up the county will be abandoned and/or dilapidated stick built houses.

Services on Aging Director Eryn McAuliffe invited everyone to attend the open house on September 18, 2008 from 1:00-6:00 p.m. at the Senior Center. Activities include medical screenings, information for seniors, arts and crafts, painting, singing, dancing and demonstrations. Refreshments will be served.

Cherry Hospital Update

Dr. Jack St. Clair, Cherry Hospital Director, gave an update on Cherry Hospital. He explained the events at Cherry Hospital, which led to the loss of Medicare and Medicaid certification. In an effort to improve the ratio of nurses and health care technicians to patients, 23 beds were closed on the admissions ward and 10 beds were closed on the psychiatric management ward. Employees were transferred to improve patient safety. The actions of a few employees should not represent all employees. Every effort is being made to sustain Cherry Hospital.

It is anticipated ground will be broken in June 2009 for a new building to house Cherry Hospital with completion scheduled in 2011. The facility is being designed with the safety of patients at the forefront.

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Dempsey Benton has contracted with the Compass Group, Inc. to assess Cherry Hospital and to develop a plan to implement whatever changes are necessary to bring the hospital into compliance with the highest standards of care. The assessment report is due before the end of September. Dr. Jack St. Clair, Cherry Hospital Director, anticipated recommendations concerning additional staff training, therapeutic intervention and additional resources for the facility.

Litter Sweep in Wayne County Proclamation

Upon motion of Commissioner J. D. Evans, the Board of Commissioners unanimously proclaimed September 20 through October 4, 2008 as 2008 Fall Litter Sweep in Wayne County, attached hereto as Attachment C.

Declaration of October 11, 2008 as Amnesty Day at the Wayne County Landfill

Upon motion of Commissioner Wilbur E. Anderson, the Board of Commissioners unanimously declared October 11, 2008 as Amnesty Day at the Wayne County landfill. Amnesty Day is a project to encourage citizens to clean up roadways and yards making the County of Wayne a cleaner place to live, work and play. This project only applies to residents and not to commercial businesses or haulers. Wayne County residents are asked to call the Solid Waste Department for more information.

American Red Cross Presentation

Wayne County American Red Cross Blood Services Director Tammy Forrester invited everyone to participate in the political blood drive, which will be held on November 26, 2008 at the George Street office from 12 noon-4:00 p.m. One unit of blood helps in many different ways and can save three lives. She stated 93% of population needs blood in a lifetime, while 5% of population gives blood.

Wayne County American Red Cross Executive Director Chuck Waller stated Red Cross volunteers from across the country helped in Wayne County during Hurricane Fran and Hurricane Floyd. The National Disaster Relief Fund is being depleted with the recent assistance given in wildfires, flooding and hurricanes. He asked Wayne County to support the Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund.

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. Established a meeting of the Wayne County Board of Adjustment on October 21, 2008 in the Commissioners Meeting Room in the Wayne County Courthouse Annex, 224 E. Walnut Street, Goldsboro, North Carolina immediately following the regularly scheduled meeting of the Wayne County Board of Commissioners for the purpose of conducting a public hearing to receive public comments on a special use permit application from Darrell Tarrant to allow construction of five mini-storage buildings. The property is located at 715 Sandhill Drive in Dudley. The property is within the Residential Agriculture-20 zone, which allows mini-storage units upon the issuance of a special use permit.
2. Budget amendments
 - a. Sheriff
 - b. Soil and Water
 - c. Solid Waste
 - d. Cooperative Extension
 - e. Economic Development
 - f. County Capital Projects
 - g. Capital Project Fund – Jeffreys Building
 - h. Law Enforcement Separation Allowance
 - i. Social Services
 - j. Hospitalization – Self Insured
 - k. Services on Aging

Board of Commissioners Comments

Commissioner Efton M. Sager stated the American Red Cross needs money to help feed people on the Gulf Coast affected by Hurricane Ike.

In response to Commissioner John M. Bell's question concerning laws against businesses getting stolen copper piping, County Attorney E. B. Borden Parker stated scrap dealers are not within the Board of Commissioners' jurisdiction. He will check on the criminal law.

Vice-Chairman Atlas Price, Jr. stated at the last meeting he requested churches get involved with rearing children and the schools need to examine redistricting. The Lenoir County Board of Education approved a school redistricting study. Other counties are considering redistricting as a way of saving money.

Commissioner J.D. Evans stated he appreciated the Board of Commissioners carrying on the business of Wayne County while he was ill. He lauded the care he received in Wayne Memorial Hospital.

Commissioner C. Munroe Best, Jr. said "During our last Wayne County Commissioners meeting, I made a statement that has come to be highly misunderstood by the Wayne County Board of Education. When I said, 'Wayne County isn't fixing problems with our schools, they are just planting flowers around the outhouse,' I was referring to the recent flood of boastful press releases that have appeared in the *Goldsboro News-Argus*. These press releases highlighted many of the school system's recent successes, but failed to mention some of the biggest problems now facing our community. It was certainly not my intention to hurt anyone or put down the efforts made by the Wayne County Board of Education and their staff. I have nothing but respect for them and the job they do; however, I believe that as a representative of our community it is my job to hold the board to the highest standards possible. Yes, I am asking them to be better than average. I want the best school system in the state and in order to

achieve this, we cannot simply focus on our successes; we must also work on our problems. These problems cannot be solved by planting flowers or making cosmetic improvements. I am confident in saying that everyone involved in this situation has a similar goal and that is to benefit the children of Wayne County through a better education. In order to do this, we must work together in the battle against the high school dropout rate and other problem issues. We do not want to see any of our community's children fall through the cracks. Many of our county's children do not have healthy educational support at home. The school system is our last line of defense in helping these children become successful adults. They must receive at school what they do not get at home. We must reach them now before they become part of the percentage we are arguing over today. As for the members of the school board who question my integrity, all I can say is that I took this job not for the power or money, but for a genuine love of Wayne County. I love the people of this county and would love nothing more than to see them succeed and prosper. I urge the Wayne County Board of Education to stop wasting precious time with hurt feelings and bruised egos – we have a job to do and it is one that cannot wait.”

Closed Session

At 10:24 a.m., upon motion of Vice-Chairman Atlas Price, Jr., the Board of Commissioners unanimously declared itself in closed session 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; 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 discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body.

At 11:50 a.m., upon motion of Commissioner Wilbur E. Anderson, the Board of Commissioners unanimously declared itself in regular session.

Board of Commissioners' Information

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

1. Animal Control
Name of Employee – Jennifer Lorri Mooring
Date of Employment – August 21, 2008
Classification – Animal Control Officer II, Full-time
Salary – \$24,553 per year
2. Animal Control
Name of Employee – Freda Rouse Friede
Date of Employment – August 25, 2008
Classification – Shelter Attendant, Full-time
Salary – \$21,210 per year
3. Tax Administration
Name of Employee – Jacqueline Renee Oates
Date of Employment – September 8, 2008
Classification – Delinquent Collections Clerk, Full-time
Salary – \$30,626.76 per year
4. Health
Name of Employee – Nancy Marie Harvin
Date of Employment – September 16, 2008
Classification – Nutritionist II, Full-time
Salary – \$36,341 per year
5. Health
Name of Employee – Nicole A. Johnston
Date of Employment – September 2, 2008
Classification – Processing Assistant III, Full-time
Salary – \$20,199 per year

6. Sheriff

Name of Employee – Randy Q. King

Date of Employment – September 2, 2008

Classification – Special Deputy, Part-time

Salary – \$12.77 per hour

7. Facilities Services

Name of Employee – Eddie Lee Jones

Date of Employment – September 2, 2008

Classification – Groundskeeper II, Full-time

Salary – \$22,323 per year