

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF VANCE

The Vance County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, February 8, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Conference Room, Vance County Administration Building, 122 Young Street, Henderson, NC. Those Commissioners present were as follows: Chairman Danny W. Wright, Commissioners Eddie L. Wright, R. Dan Brummitt, Deborah F. Brown, Terry E. Garrison, A. Scott Hughes, and J. Timothy Pegram.

Absent: None.

Also present were County Manager Jerry L. Ayscue, Finance Director Steven C. Stanton, County Attorney Jonathan S. Care, and Clerk to the Board Kelly H. Grissom.

Before giving the invocation, Chairman Danny W. Wright stated that tonight's meeting was postponed from February 1st due to inclement weather.

Mr. Bryan Hargrove was first on the agenda and addressed community concerns involving youth. He stated that the Library and Recreation Complex are only open on a part-time basis and asked the Board to consider opening these sites on a full-time basis in order to provide our youth with more opportunities to visit and become involved in community activities.

He asked the Commissioners to become more involved in community events and invited them to attend a March Against Violence on February 20. He also encouraged the Board to "get out in the public" to show they are working for youth.

Chairman Wright thanked Mr. Hargrove for his passion for our youth, and stated that there may be some funds that can be leveraged with some other activities in order to make community improvements.

Commissioner Eddie L. Wright echoed these remarks and thanked Mr. Hargrove for his work with our youth.

At this time, Mr. Ayscue introduced Ms. Porcha Brooks as Vance County's new Tax Administrator. Ms. Brooks thanked the Board for the opportunity to work in Vance County and stated that she looks forward to working with the Board in the future.

Mr. Worth Taylor was next on the agenda and expressed his concerns with the poor condition of the Vance County Animal Shelter. He distributed pictures that showed the current condition of the shelter and stated that something needs to be done to renovate or reconstruct the

shelter. He stated that new state laws will become effective in 2012 that may force the County to make these changes in order to avoid costly penalties.

Chairman Wright stated that the Board will take these concerns under advisement and refer the matter to the Animal Control Advisory Committee for further review.

Frank Sossamon appeared before the Board with an update on the Community Watch Program. First, he thanked the Board for its recent adoption of a resolution which declared 2010 as the Year of Community Watch. He stated that on January 28, the Henderson-Vance Community Watch Association was formed, and since then, he has already seen an increase in interest from the public to get involved.

Mr. Sossamon highlighted the purpose and objectives for the Year of Community Watch and stated that the emphasis is to make the organization of community watch groups a reality. He asked the Board for its support in promoting community watch and asked them to encourage employees to get involved as well. Currently, there are eight active community watch groups within Vance County and three or four on the verge of becoming active. His goal is to have at least 20 active groups within the county.

Commissioner Deborah F. Brown thanked Mr. Sossamon for his interest in community watch and made a motion that County Administration work together with the Public Safety Committee to discuss what can be done to get government employees more involved. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Dan Brummitt and unanimously approved.

Mr. Jordan McMillen, Planning and Development, was next on the agenda and presented program procedures for the Abandoned Mobile Home Program as requested by the Board during January's meeting. Along with the procedures, Mr. McMillen presented a program flyer which explained the program in detail and also a sign-up sheet for those persons interested in having their abandoned mobile homes removed.

Mr. McMillen stated that a program fee of \$210 is proposed that would be paid by the property owner to cover tipping fees up to seven tons. Low income property owners may be eligible for a waiver of this fee. With the grant money that has been obtained, it should cover the removal of 30 to 35 units.

Commissioner Dan Brummitt questioned item #15 of the proposed program procedures regarding a level of insurance that must be maintained. He asked if this should be more specific to include both general liability and workers compensation.

County Attorney Jonathan S. Care stated that he would review the document and make the necessary changes.

Motion was made by Commissioner Deborah F. Brown to approve the Abandoned Mobile Home Program Procedures contingent upon the County Attorney’s final approval. Also, the \$210 program fee is only to be used toward tipping fees, and not as a revenue. This motion was seconded by Commissioner A. Scott Hughes and unanimously approved.

Consent agenda items were addressed next. Motion was made by Commissioner Eddie L. Wright, seconded by Commissioner Deborah F. Brown, vote unanimous, that the following consent agenda items be approved as presented: Budget Amendments #14 and #15, Budget Transfer #5, January 2010 Refunds, December 2009 Rebates, January 2010 Ambulance Charge-Offs in the amount of \$7,851.65, January 2010 Monthly Reports received and filed, and the minutes of the January 4, 2010 regular meeting.

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**Budget Amendment #14
General Fund**

**Fund 10 -
Social Services**

Expenditures	Code	Decrease	Increase
General Assistance	10-610-500020		7,500.00
Contingency		Decrease	Increase
Contingency	10-999-500099	7,500.00	
Totals		\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00

Purpose: To appropriate \$7,500 from Contingency for General Assistance at DSS.

Authorization: Vance County Board of Commissioners
February 8, 2010

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**Budget Amendment #15
General Fund**

**Fund 10 -
Environmental Services**

Revenues	Code	Increase	Increase
Abandoned Mobile Home Grant	10-380-438047	40,000.00	

Expenditures		Increase	Increase
Planning Grant - Assistance	10-525-500175		2,500.00
Mobile Home Removal	10-525-500176		37,500.00
Totals		\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00

Purpose: To set up Abandoned Mobile Home Removal Grant.

Authorization: Vance County Board of Commissioners
February 8, 2010

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**Budget Transfer #5
General Fund**

**Fund 10 -
Social Services**

Expenditures	Code	Decrease	Increase
Travel/Training	10-506-500014	800.00	
Expenditures		Decrease	Increase
Non-Capitalized Assets	10-506-500085		800.00
Totals		\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00

Purpose: To purchase a water fountain.

Authorization: Vance County Board of Commissioners
February 8, 2010

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**REFUNDS
January 2010**

Name	Year	Amount	Reason
Robert C. Vick, Jr.	2009	15.60	Vehicle Tax
Mary J. Parrish	2009	24.40	Vehicle Tax
Nancy T. O'Geary	2009	17.79	Vehicle Tax
Ritchie L. White III	2009	57.42	Vehicle Tax
Gilbert W. Francis	2009	17.76	Vehicle Tax
Spirit of Life	2009	3.84	Vehicle Tax
Janice Reavis	2008	180.11	Error in Billing
Edward Blackley	2009	4.00	Vehicle Tax
Patrick Stewart	2009	3.24	Vehicle Tax
Ahmad Alashmli	2009	207.23	Vehicle Tax
Elnor Green	2009	35.66	Survey Change in Acreage
Corey Perry	2009	2.35	Vehicle Tax
Abigail W. Coursey	2009	8.72	Vehicle Tax
Jose R. Valverde	2008	2.60	Vehicle Tax
Helen Owen	2009	4.15	Vehicle Tax

Name	Year	Amount	Reason
Dorothy Terry	2009	9.48	Vehicle Tax
Robert E. Dunn	2009	50.32	Error in Value
Leslie K. Dorr	2009	22.75	Vehicle Tax
Honda Lease Trust	2009	23.30	Vehicle Tax
Julio Flores	2009	1.42	
Janice Reavis	2008	102.50	Solid Waste Household Fee
Marvin Matthews	2009	102.50	Solid Waste Household Fee
Robert C. Vick, Jr.	2009	.51	Fire Tax
Mary J. Parrish	2009	.80	Fire Tax
Nancy T. O'Geary	2009	.57	Fire Tax
Ritchie L. White III	2009	1.92	Fire Tax
Janice Reavis	2008	5.86	Fire Tax
Edward Blackley	2009	.12	Fire Tax
Elnor Green	2009	1.19	Fire Tax
Helen Owen	2009	.15	Fire Tax
Dorothy Terry	2009	.32	Fire Tax
Robert E. Dunn	2009	1.67	Fire Tax
Julio Flores	2008	.05	Fire Tax
Total		\$ 910.30	Fiscal y-t-d - \$ 5,759.75

**REBATES
December 2009**

NAME	YEAR	AMOUNT	REASON
Cawthorne & Thompson LLC	2009	441.83	Value Correction
EZ Solutions	2009	162.73	Listing Correction
Joel & Linda Harris	2009	7.82	Listing Correction
Andrew & Judy Hawley	2009	351.90	Billing Correction
Minnie Massenburg	2009	21.97	Value Correction
Newcap, Inc.	2009	64.83	Value Correction
Joseph & Hazel Parrish	2009	11.73	Billing Correction
Elliott & Robin Pinnell	2009	312.80	Billing Correction
Janice R. Romes	2009	176.50	Listing Correction
Jerry Rouse	2009	89.93	Value Correction
Cheryl A. Taylor	2009	203.32	Value Correction
June W. Thomas	2009	363.60	Billing Correction
Benjamin D. West, Jr.	2009	218.18	Listing Correction
Total		\$ 2,427.14	Fiscal y-t-d - \$ 55,896.36

See on file monthly report, 911 Emergency Operations
See on file monthly report, Administrative Ambulance Charge-offs
See on file monthly report, Department of Social Services
See on file monthly report, Fire and Ambulance Service
See on file monthly report, Human Resources
See on file monthly report, Public Health Department
See on file monthly report, Tax Office
See on file monthly report, Veterans Service Office

Finance Director's Report

Surplus Property. Finance Director Steven C. Stanton presented a request from Sheriff White to declare nine vehicles as surplus in order to be sold on the website, Gov Deals. Mr. Stanton stated that no other County departments are in need of these vehicles.

Motion was made by Commissioner Dan Brummitt, seconded by Commissioner Terry E. Garrison, vote unanimous, to declare the nine vehicles as surplus and allow the Finance Director to sell said vehicles on www.govdeals.com.

Mr. Sam Long, Boy Scouts of America, was next on the agenda and requested approval of a resolution in recognition of the Boy Scouts of America's 100th Anniversary. Mr. Long stated that earlier today, he was among 100 other scouts from across the state that toured the Legislative Building, The Capitol, and The Supreme Court. The scouts presented Governor Perdue with a Report to the State on Boy Scouts. The Scouts pledged 100,000+ services hours throughout the State during the coming year.

The Board thanked Mr. Long for his service with the Boy Scouts and motion was made by Commissioner A. Scott Hughes, seconded by Commissioner Eddie L. Wright, vote unanimous, to adopt the following resolution in recognition of the Boy Scouts of America's 100th Anniversary and to declare February 8, 2010 as Boy Scouts of America Day in Vance County:

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RESOLUTION
by the
Vance County Board of Commissioners

In Recognition of the Boy Scouts of America 100th Anniversary

WHEREAS, the Boy Scouts of America celebrates the 100th Anniversary of its formation on February 8, 2010; and

WHEREAS, throughout its history, the Boy Scouts of America has provided training to youth in leadership development, service to others, and civic responsibility; and

WHEREAS, numerous youth in Vance County have participated in the Scouting program through the years, becoming accomplished leaders both past and present; and

WHEREAS, Boy Scouts have performed a variety of valuable service projects throughout our County and its communities; and

WHEREAS, a National study has shown that youth who participate in Boy Scouts for five or more years have:

- improved performance in reading, science, math and physical fitness
- higher percentage of attendance to colleges and universities
- obtained higher paying jobs
- better ethical decision making
- higher attendance at religious services with their family

WHEREAS, the National study has also shown that adults who were in Boy Scouts as a youth have:

- stated that Scouting had a positive influence on their lives as a youth and adult
- learned positive character traits such as being a good team player, always being honest, taking better care of the environment, respecting life and property of others, having pride in their country, respecting the elderly, and having confidence in their abilities.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Vance County Board of Commissioners does duly declare February 8, 2010 as Boy Scouts of America Day in Vance County.

This, the eight day of February, 2010.

Danny W. Wright (signed)
Danny W. Wright, Chairman

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Committee Reports and Recommendations

Human Resources Committee - Position Vacancies. Argretta Johen, HR Director, requested the Board to allow filling the following position vacancies which have been endorsed by the Human Resources Committee:

Jail
Detention Officer - 3 positions

Maintenance and Security
Building and Security Specialist

911
Telecommunicator - 2 positions

Department of Social Services
Income Maintenance Caseworker II
Income Maintenance Caseworker III

Finance Department
Accounts Payable Technician

Sheriff's Office
Deputy Specialist

Chairman Wright asked what the status was on filling the Economic Development Director position. Mr. Ayscue replied that advertising is ongoing and applications have been received. Ms. Johen stated that she would meet with the County Manager very soon to review those applications.

General Government Committee - Property Tax Appeal. Mr. Ayscue reported that the Committee met on January 22 to discuss an ongoing property tax appeal by Pacific Coast Feathers. The company had filed an appeal with the County previously and was waiting for an appraisal to be completed by a private firm. The appraisal has been received by the County and reviewed.

The County Attorney wanted the opportunity to bring the committee up to date on the pending appeal and to further have discussion about possible resolution and settlement. The committee encouraged the County Attorney to proceed accordingly.

General Government Committee - Technology Study. The Committee met on February 8 to discuss the Request for Proposals (RFP) for a technology study. Mr. Ayscue distributed a copy of the RFP and asked for the Board's input. The technology study is anticipated to assess the current state of technology within county departments, form an implementation plan, and complete priority sequencing and cost projections. The study should assess the manner in which technology currently supports how services are provided and how technology can be practically applied to enhance service delivery.

Chairman Danny W. Wright stated that the General Government Committee discussed the Request for Proposals and endorses the document.

Commissioner Dan Brummitt questioned if Public Health and Mental Health would be incorporated into the study. Mr. Ayscue responded that they are separate entities from County departments, but they do inter-mingle with some County departments. He stated that he would have that included in the RFP.

Motion was made by Commissioner Dan Brummitt to approve the Request for Proposals for the technology study as presented, contingent upon Public Health and Mental Health being included. This motion was seconded by Commissioner A. Scott Hughes and unanimously approved.

Intergovernmental Committee. Mr. Ayscue reported that this committee is scheduled to meet jointly with the City's Intergovernmental Committee on Thursday, February 11 at 3:30 p.m. at City Hall to discuss jointly funded programs.

Pending Business

County Water Project. Mr. Ayscue reported that the Cokesbury Volunteer Fire Department has agreed to assist with the water sign-up drive. Staff from Hobbs & Upchurch is involved as well in the sign-ups. Door-to-door sign-up visits began on January 18. A sign-up report will be presented monthly to the Board. Discussions continue with the City of Henderson for purchase of water and for operation and maintenance. USDA Rural Development is currently working on funding for Phases 2A and 2B, with anticipation of a funding decision to be made in mid February. A grant application has also been submitted to the NC Rural Center for additional

funding for Phases 2A and 2B. After an extensive planning and review process, an application was submitted to the Golden LEAF Foundation for funding for additional fire hydrants as part of the \$2 million designated for Vance County. The application was submitted in late December and, unfortunately, funding was not approved. The County has been working with the Kittrell Water Association and USDA to allow KWA to apply for funding for Phase 1B, consistent with action taken in December by the Commissioners.

Warrenton Road Sewer Project. Mr. Ayscue stated that on-site work began on November 16. Some pipe has been installed and construction is well under way. Wet weather and an extended cold period have somewhat slowed construction work. The work is anticipated to be completed within 60 days, depending on weather conditions.

Building Reuse Project. Mr. Ayscue noted that the County was awarded a \$25,000 pre-development grant from the NC Rural Economic Development Center with a local match of \$4,000. The grant is designed to study the former Vance Manor building and develop a building use plan. The environmental site assessment is now completed and other work is in progress. One community meeting to identify potential building uses was held on December 17. The consultant and County staff have met with one interested user and expect to meet with others. It is anticipated that a final report will be available to the Commissioners no later than the April meeting.

Technology Study. A Request for Proposals was approved earlier during the meeting.

US #1 South Sewer Project. Mr. Ayscue reported that the County received official notice on December 30 that its application for the Capacity Building Grant (planning grant) had been approved by the NC Rural Economic Development Center. The \$44,000 project consists of the \$40,000 grant and \$4,000 of local match. The NC Rural Economic Development Center is expected to issue the contract for the project grant in February, after which the County can begin work on the study. The Planning & Environmental Committee will assist in guiding staff in carrying out the planning process. It will be necessary to solicit proposals from engineering/planning firms to provide the services as outlined in the application. Input from citizens and businesses along US #1 Highway South will be actively sought.

County Manager's Report

Jail Inspection Report. Mr. Ayscue reported that the Vance County Jail received its semi-annual inspection by the State on December 18, 2009. The written report was received on

January 4th and a corrective action letter has been submitted by the Jail Administrator. Mr. Ayscue recommended that the Board formally act to receive the report.

Motion was made by Commissioner Eddie L. Wright to receive the December 18, 2009 Jail Inspection Report as presented. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Dan Brummitt.

Commissioner Deborah F. Brown stated that this is the first time since she has been a commissioner that the report has shown only two matters that needed addressing. She applauded the Sheriff and his staff for staying on top of things that needed to be done.

Vote on the motion to receive the Jail Inspection Report was unanimous.

Planning Retreat. Mr. Ayscue reminded the Board that the date for the Winter Planning Retreat is Thursday, February 18, at 10:00 a.m. It will be held at the Satterwhite Point Glass House at Kerr Lake. Commissioners were requested to let the Manager know of specific items they would like to have on the retreat agenda.

Nature Trail Project. Mr. Ayscue reported that a letter of support from the County was provided for a grant application by the City to improve nature trails at Fox Pond Park and connect the Park trail with the Aycock Recreation Complex. The application was due by January 29 and was duly submitted. The County is asked to share equally with the City in the local match requirement of \$25,000 of which some will be in-kind. Funds are not anticipated to be needed in the current fiscal year. Mr. Ayscue recommended that the Board approve the participation of the County in the Nature Trail Project at Fox Pond Park and the Aycock Recreation Complex in an amount not to exceed \$12,500 with the expectation that some portion of the local match will be in-kind.

Commissioner Dan Brummitt stated that he is the Chairman of the RC&D Council. In order to avoid any possible conflict of interest regarding this matter, he would abstain from voting on this issue.

Motion was made by Commissioner Terry E. Garrison to approve the participation of the County in the Nature Trail Project at Fox Pond Park and the Aycock Recreation Complex in an amount not to exceed \$12,500 with the expectation that some portion of the local match will be in-kind. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Deborah F. Brown and unanimously approved. Commissioner Dan Brummitt abstained.

Conflict of Interest Statement. Mr. Ayscue stated that for grant applications, particularly those at the NC Rural Center, a conflict of interest statement is required. This was addressed in

August 2001 and should be renewed. The statement is an affirmation of the requirements in the General Statutes.

Commissioner Deborah F. Brown asked that all employees be made aware of this statement accordingly.

Motion was made by Commissioner Dan Brummitt to approve the conflict of interest statement as presented and authorize the County Manager to sign the statement for use as needed. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Eddie L. Wright and unanimously approved.

Update on Bank Deposit Bag Investigation. Mr. Ayscue reported that the investigation by the SBI and Sheriff's Office is on-going. There are a few more polygraph tests to administer. Any taxpayer that has incurred costs such as a stop-payment fee will be reimbursed that fee. 53 of the 58 checks that were in the bag have been re-submitted to the Tax Office.

Commissioner Danny W. Wright stated that he is very disappointed in the lack of progress that has been made during the investigation.

Commissioner Dan Brummitt stated that some media reports have been incorrect regarding the Board's knowledge of this matter. The Board was made aware of the matter immediately after the bank bag was discovered missing. It was the Board's decision in dealing with the Sheriff's Office and the SBI that this information be kept confidential until such a time that the investigation allowed.

The Board recommended that the Audit Committee continue to meet and work towards establishing appropriate procedures for making bank deposits and to strengthen internal controls throughout all County departments.

Commissioner Deborah F. Brown asked for an update on this matter each month until this matter is resolved.

Appointment of Review Officer. Mr. Ayscue stated that review officers are required in the Tax Office to review plats and certify that they meet statutory requirements before being recorded with the Register of Deeds. Mr. Ayscue recommended that the Board approve a resolution to appoint Porcha C. Brooks, Tax Administrator, as a review officer as required by NC General Statute 47-30.

Motion was made by Commissioner Dan Brummitt, seconded by Commissioner Eddie L. Wright, vote unanimous, to approve the following resolution appointing Porcha C. Brooks as a Review Officer:

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RESOLUTION
by the
Vance County Board of Commissioners
Appointment of Review Officers

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Assembly in its 1997 Session passed Senate Bill 875, which is now incorporated into General Statute 47-30, requiring counties, by resolution to appoint one or more persons as review officers to review each plat before it is recorded and certify that it meets the statutory requirements for recording; and

WHEREAS, the appointed person or persons should be experienced in mapping or land records management, and preferably should be certified as contained in G.S. 147-54.4; and

WHEREAS, the review officer is to expeditiously review all maps and plats before they are presented to the Register of Deeds, with the exception of a map or plat which is a survey within the meaning of G.S. 47-30(f)(11)b or c; and

WHEREAS, Cynthia W. Lloyd was duly appointed as a review officer as of April 1, 2009 and Cathy E. Renn was duly appointed as of December 7, 2009; and

WHEREAS, this resolution must be recorded in the Vance County Register of Deeds.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Vance County Board of Commissioners duly appoints Porcha C. Brooks, Tax Administrator, as a review officer for the purpose of review and certification of plats and maps as required by the North Carolina General Assembly, with such appointment to be effective as of February 8, 2010.

This, the 8th day of February, 2010.

Danny W. Wright (signed)
Danny W. Wright, Chairman

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As there was no further business, at 7:40 p.m., motion was made by Commissioner A. Scott Hughes, seconded by Commissioner Deborah F. Brown, vote unanimous, that the meeting be adjourned.

Approved and signed March 1, 2010.

Danny W. Wright (signed)
Danny W. Wright, Chairman