
Camden County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
October 3, 2011
7:00 P.M. - Regular Meeting
8:00PM- Closed Session
Historic Courtroom, Courthouse Complex
Camden, North Carolina

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Camden County Board of Commissioners was held on Monday October 3, 2011 in the Historic Courtroom, Camden, North Carolina. The following Commissioners were present:

Chairman Sandra Duckwall, and
Commissioners Randy Krainiak, Clayton Riggs, and Michael McLain.

Also attending were Interim County Manager William "Bill" Cowan, Clerk to the Board Ashley R. Honaker, and County Attorney John Morrison. Present for purposes of making a presentation(s) or providing supporting information for agenda items were the following persons: Eric Parker- Soil & Water Technician, Dan Porter- Planning Director, Danelle Barco- Camden Extension Center, Tony Perry- Camden Sheriff, and Mary Gaskins- Tax Administrator.

Chairman Sandra Duckwall called to order the October 3, 2011 meeting of the Camden County Board of Commissioners at 6:59 PM.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Michael McLain gave the invocation and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments –

Mary Lou Jones, of Sandy Hook Road, Shiloh, NC, came before the Board to specify the following concerns:

- Mediacom has been problematic
 - September 6, 2011 Mediacom stopped airing numerous channels
 - Phone calls were met with hostile customer service representatives
 - Mr. Holliday of Mediacom was contacted- very rude.
 - No credit would be admitted to customers for lost channels
 - Asking Camden Commissioners to contact the CEO of Mediacom to see what can be done to resolve the problems
- Problems with viewing the Camden County Access Channel
 - Appears blurry and foggy on the receiver's end
 - Mediacom reports that the County is at fault
 - It is also difficult to hear the Commissioner speaking during the meetings- excluding Commissioner Michael McLain

County Attorney John Morrison suggested that the CEO of Mediacom be contacted and invited to speak at a future Board meeting. He also suggested to the Interim County Manager that it would be wise to contact other local cable companies.

Consideration of Agenda

Commissioner Michael McLain made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. At 7:13PM, the motion passed 4-0 with Chairman Sandra Duckwall, and Commissioners Michael McLain, Randy Krainiak, and Clayton Riggs voting aye; no Commissioner voting no; Vice Chairman Garry Meiggs absent; and no Commissioner not voting.

Presentations

Item 3.A. – East Carolina Behavioral Health Semi-Annual Report

Representatives were not in attendance.

Item 3.B. – Kim Parrish- SPCA

The representative was not in attendance.

New Business

Item 4.A. – Danelle Barco- Request for 4-H Club Member Funding

Extension Center representative Danelle Barco came before the Board to represent the young adult members of the Camden-Pasquotank Horticulture 4-H Club. She reported the following:

- There are three (3) members of the club from Camden County.
- The club won the state horticulture competition in Raleigh, NC.
- Last year, the County assisted in funding the club members to attend the National Competition in Kentucky.
- This year, the club is requesting the Board assist in funding the travel and accommodations to the National Competition in San Diego, CA.
- The club has raised a large sum to fund majority of the trip for both Pasquotank and Camden resident club members.

County Attorney questioned Ms. Barco on how short the three (3) club members were of their goal. Ms. Barco stated that they were approximately \$600 to \$700 short.

Commissioner Michael McLain question Ms. Barco if the request was to fund Camden residents only. Ms. Barco responded. Yes.

Commissioner Clayton Riggs inquired to whether the request was for \$600 or \$700. Ms. Barco stated that the request was for \$650.

Commissioner Michael McLain made a motion to assist in funding three Camden residents Horticulture 4-H Club to attend the National 4-H Competition in San Diego, CA, not to exceed \$700. At 7:18PM, the motion passed 4-0 with Chairman Sandra Duckwall, and Commissioners Michael McLain, Randy Krainiak, and Clayton Riggs voting aye; no Commissioner voting no; Vice Chairman Garry Meiggs absent; and no Commissioner not voting.

Item 4.B. – APNEP Grant Requirements Proposal

Camden County Soil & Water Technician Eric Parker came before the Board to present information on invasive aquatic vegetation, the goals of the Albemarle- Pamlico National Estuary Program, and to request funding from the County to restore the local aquatic environments. A photograph of Run Swamp canal was provided to the Board, depicting the attack on the local vegetation by invasive aquatic weed named Alligator Weed.

Herbicide used to terminate invasive aquatic vegetation costs approximately \$300-\$400 per acre.

Planning Director Dan Porter came before the Board and stated the following:

- In 2010, an expert estimated that it would cost the county approximately \$3900 for one year of aquatic weed control.
- A grant equaling \$3900, with a 100 percent match form the County, would provide the County with ample opportunity to eradicate invasive species currently suffocated local waterways.

It was questioned whether Currituck would consider partnering with the County.

Eric Parker stated that there has been multiple and continuing conversations with Currituck County on a partnership to assist Camden County in the clearing & snagging of Run Swamp Canal.

Commissioner Clayton Riggs made a motion to approve the application for the APNEP Grant, with the County match not to exceed \$5,000. At 7:25PM, the motion passed 4-0 with Chairman Sandra Duckwall, and Commissioners Michael McLain, Randy Krainiak, and Clayton Riggs voting aye; no Commissioner voting no; Vice Chairman Garry Meiggs absent; and no Commissioner not voting.

Item 4.C. – Request to approve the Governor’s Highway Safety Program Grant/Deputy Position/ Budget Amendment/ Resolution.

Sheriff Tony Perry came before the Board to explain the following:

- Camden County has been honored with the North Carolina Governor’s Highway Safety Program Grant
- Sheriff Perry read allowed a typed letter from himself to the Board outlining the details of the Grant, and further information on his request
 - The Grant approves the addition of one personnel position, one new patrol vehicle, and required equipment for both.
 - Year 1: Grant funded by Federal match of 85 percent, County match of 15 percent
 - Year 2: Grant funded by Federal match of 70 percent, County match of 30 percent
 - Year 3: Grant funded by Federal match of 50 percent, County match of 50 percent
 - Following the third year after receiving the GHSP Grant, all responsibility would be left to the County.

Commissioner Michael McLain stated that eventually this grant would lead to the County hiring a new full-time employee. He also stated that the Governor seemed to be transitioning the state budget issues to the local level- i.e. the Raleigh responsibilities have been trickling more and more to the local level over the past several years.

Commissioner McLain also stated that the original Sheriff budget for FY2011-2012 was approved with little changes to the existing personnel financing.

Commissioner Randy Krainiak stated that in his opinion, with a plummeting economy, and the proven idea that deteriorating economy equal increased criminal activity, that it would be a good idea to approve the grant. He also stated that if it was necessary to make cut backs three years in the future than that issue could be addressed then, however, he felt that it would be best to take advantage of federal financial assistance on any level it could be accepted.

Commissioner Clayton Riggs recommended possibly tabling the issue to the next regular meeting of the Camden County Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Randy Krainiak made a motion to approve the acceptance of the Governor’s Highway Safety Program Grant. The motion failed 2-2 with Commissioners Clayton Riggs and Randy Krainiak voting aye; Chairman Sandra Duckwall and Commissioner Michael McLain voting no; Vice-Chairman Garry Meiggs absent; No Commissioners not voting.. A voting tie equates a voting fail.

County Attorney John Morrison made a note on record that the only way that this request can be voted on again is if a Commissioner whom voted NO, voted to readdress the item at the next regular meeting of the Board.

Item 4.D. – Sheriff’s Office Security Improvement Project

Sheriff Tony Perry asked the Board to approve the County to purchase a ¼ inch Clear Laminated Safety Glass, for be installed in the receptionists office. Sheriff Perry also provided a letter to the Commissioners detailing the request with the following information:

- Some threatening situations toward front office employees that could have gotten out of control in the past (but did not)
- Deep personal concern for employee safety
- Most government offices equipped with security glass for the receptionists and locked doors for the remaining personnel
- Plan has been devised to structure the Sheriff's Office for a safe working environment for personnel while saving
- Modifications will be completed primarily by Sheriff's office employees, and County maintenance staff as available
- Requesting the County to fund glass estimate provided by Perry Glass Company, INC.
- Requesting approval to move forward with Sheriff's Office Remodel Project.

Chairman Sandra Duckwall stated that security upgrade was needed. She also noted that the Tax & Water Department share a glass divider to the public.

Commissioner Michael McLain made a motion to approve the County funding the estimate provided by Perry Glass Company, INC, for a security glass, as well as approve the Sheriff to move forward with Office Remodeling. At 7:40PM, the motion passed 4-0 with Chairman Sandra Duckwall, and Commissioners Michael McLain, Randy Krainiak, and Clayton Riggs voting aye; no Commissioner voting no; Vice Chairman Garry Meiggs absent; and no Commissioner not voting.

Item 4.E. – Monthly Tax Report

Tax Administrator Mary Gaskins came before the Board to give the Monthly Tax Report for the Month of August 2011. Mrs. Gaskins also noted that as of October 3, 2011, the oldest tax delinquency was paid in full.

Commissioner Randy Krainiak made a motion to approve the monthly tax report. At 7:43PM, the motion passed 4-0 with Chairman Sandra Duckwall, and Commissioners Michael McLain, Randy Krainiak, and Clayton Riggs voting aye; no Commissioner voting no; Vice Chairman Garry Meiggs absent; and no Commissioner not voting.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Clayton Riggs made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. At 7:45PM the motion passed 4-0 with Chairman Sandra Duckwall, and Commissioners Michael McLain, Randy Krainiak, and Clayton Riggs voting aye; no Commissioner voting no; Vice Chairman Garry Meiggs absent; and no Commissioner not voting.

A. Draft Minutes- September 6, 2011, AND September 19, 2011

B. Tax Refunds, Pickups, and Releases

C. Operation Santa Clause

Commissioner's Report

None

County Managers Report

None

Commissioner Michael McLain made a motion to recess the Board of Commissioners meeting, and enter into Closed Session. At 7:45PM, the motion passed 4-0 with Chairman Sandra Duckwall, and Commissioners Michael McLain, Randy Krainiak, and Clayton Riggs voting aye; no Commissioner voting no; Vice Chairman Garry Meiggs absent; and no Commissioner not voting.

Commissioner Randy Krainiak made a motion to come out of closed session, and reconvene the open session of the Board of Commissioners. At 8:35PM, the motion passed 4-0 with Chairman Sandra Duckwall, and Commissioners Michael McLain, Randy Krainiak, and Clayton Riggs voting aye; no Commissioner voting no; Vice Chairman Garry Meiggs absent; and no Commissioner not voting.

Any other Questions or comments?

Meeting Adjourned

At 8:35 P.M., Chairman Sandra Duckwall asked if there were any other matters to come before the Board of Commissioners, hearing none, she declared the meeting adjourned.

Chairman Sandra Duckwall
Camden County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Ashley Honaker
Clerk to the Board