

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF VANCE

The Vance County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, April 3, 2006 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 J. Timothy Pegram, Commissioners Thomas S. Hester, Jr., Wilbur M. Boyd, Deborah F. Brown, Terry E. Garrison, and Danny W. Wright.

Absent: Commissioner Eddie L. Wright.

Also present were County Attorney Robert S. Hight, County Manager Jerry L. Ayscue, and Finance Officer Jerry L. Tucker.

County Manager Jerry L. Ayscue gave the invocation.

Chairman J. Timothy Pegram recognized the members of Leadership Vance 2006 who were present. Each participant introduced themselves and gave a brief description of their occupation. Chairman Pegram thanked the group for being present at the meeting and for taking an interest in Vance County.

Sandra Grissom, Veterans Service Officer, was first on the agenda and gave an overview of her department's monthly report. Ms. Grissom explained that the main function of the Veterans Service Office is to help assist veterans and their families in filing various types of claims, from pension for limited income veterans, to compensation for injured veterans. The department also assists veterans with home loan applications, education benefits, insurance, death and burial benefits, scholarships, etc. Ms. Grissom then explained the different categories of the monthly report and answered questions by the Board.

Commissioner Deborah F. Brown questioned if a visit by a veteran could fall into more than one category. Ms. Grissom replied that one person could fall into several categories within one visit.

Commissioner Wilbur M. Boyd asked how many WWII veterans are living in Vance County. Ms. Grissom replied that the State provides a report with the number of veterans living in Vance County, but the report is not broken down by the actual war. Ms. Grissom stated that she would research the request.

Beatrice Walker, DSS Interim Director, was next on the agenda and requested additional transportation funding for the Senior Center. She stated the Senior Center is the major provider of services to Vance County senior citizens and of the services provided by the Center, the most utilized

are congregate meals and transportation. Ms. Walker explained that the Center's ability to continue to provide needed transportation services is at risk. Rising gas prices have resulted in an increase in the Center's contract with its area transportation provider, KARTS, thus depleting budgeted transportation funds. It is projected that \$25,000 will be required to meet transportation needs for the remainder of FY 2005-2006.

Commissioner Danny W. Wright expressed his passion for senior citizens and stated he would support the request. He then added that this is an unfunded mandate.

Commissioner Wilbur M. Boyd directed the County Manager, to write a letter to our legislators, on behalf of the Board, and express the seriousness of the current situation and request their assistance. He stated that this is a State funded program that the County is funding.

Commissioner Thomas S. Hester, Jr. expressed his concerns with next year's budget. He asked that the letter include a request that next year's State budget be increased in order to handle rising gas prices.

After further discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Deborah F. Brown to appropriate \$25,000 from the Contingency to cover additional transportation costs for the balance of this fiscal year. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Danny W. Wright.

Commissioner Wilbur M. Boyd asked Commissioner Brown if the motion could be amended to state that this be paid on a monthly basis, unless other funds are found. She replied, yes.

The original motion was amended to pay the amount on a monthly basis to cover the additional transportation costs. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Danny W. Wright.

Commissioner J. Timothy Pegram stated that it is not the County's responsibility to supplement the State's portion of the budget.

The amended motion was then unanimously approved.

Public comments were heard next. Gregg Griggs spoke in support of zoning. Lewis Edwards urged the Board not to use any County funds for the new library. Letha Anderson expressed her concerns with the ongoing problem with trash and illegal dumping along Vance County's roadways.

Commissioner Deborah F. Brown expressed her agreement with Ms. Anderson's concerns.

Finance Officer Jerry L. Tucker then presented budget amendments, refunds, and ambulance charge-offs.

Motion was made by Commissioner Danny W. Wright, seconded by Commissioner Wilbur M. Boyd, vote unanimous, that the Board approve Budget Amendments #32 and #33 as follows for the purposes noted therein:

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**Budget Amendment #32
General Fund**

<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
Building & Grounds	10-520-500015		\$ 21,000.00
Contingency	10-999-500099	\$ <u>21,000.00</u>	_____
Total Debits & Credits		\$ 21,000.00	\$ 21,000.00

Purpose: To appropriate funds to remove trees at Jail.

Authorization: Vance County Board of Commissioners
April 3, 2006

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**Budget Amendment #33
General Fund**

<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
Maint/Repair Equipment	10-505-500016		\$ 9,015.50
Contingency	10-999-500099	\$ <u>7,165.50</u>	_____
Total Debits & Credits		\$ 7,165.50	\$ 9,015.50
Total Increase in Expenditures			\$ 1,850.00

Revenues

AOC Grant	10-380-438039	\$ <u>1,850.00</u>	
Total Increase in Revenues		\$ 1,850.00	

Purpose: To appropriate funds to purchase security equipment for Courthouse.

Authorization: Vance County Board of Commissioners
April 3, 2006

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Motion was made by Commissioner Deborah F. Brown and seconded by Commissioner Thomas S. Hester, Jr. that the Board approve the following Refunds as requested by the Tax Office:

Commissioner Danny W. Wright questioned the refund to Henderson Motel, Inc. for \$1,800 being valued too high. Mr. Wright asked how this value was determined. County Manager Jerry L. Ayscue offered to research the request and report back to the Board.

Motion was then unanimously approved.

REFUNDS
March 2006

NAME	YEAR	AMOUNT	REASON
Lou B. Edwards	2005	11.75	Vehicle Tax
Clarence L. Watson	2004	50.58	Vehicle Tax
Steven K. Owen	2005	39.84	Vehicle Tax
Robert Archie, Sr.	2005	20.00	Overage Tax
Sasha Rice	2005	3.22	Vehicle Tax
Sheila Harrington	2004	21.03	Vehicle Tax
Charlie Sneed, Jr.	2005	43.70	Vehicle Tax
Mary Johnson	2005	85.80	Vehicle Tax
Anthony S. Hughes	2005	22.88	Vehicle Tax
Larry Webb	2005	11.30	Vehicle Tax
Lewis W. Brodie	2005	4.62	Vehicle Tax
Henderson Motel, Inc.	2005	1,800.00	Motel Valued Too High
Bobby L. Hight	2000	124.50	Vehicle Tax
Angela Williams	2005	134.24	Military Tax
Sergio Zeron	2005	7.50	Vehicle Tax
Tina E. Murray	2005	45.65	Vehicle Tax
Andrew D. Thomas	2005	20.00	Overage Tax
Ronnie D. Grissom	2005	4.95	Vehicle Tax
Kathryn R. Wright	2005	11.06	Vehicle Tax
Sarah Mann	2005	11.56	Vehicle Tax
Linda Johnson	2004	28.92	Vehicle Tax
Richard A. Johnson	2005	83.04	Vehicle Tax
Richard A. Johnson	2004	97.02	Vehicle Tax
Juan I. Rodriguez	2005	92.82	Vehicle Tax
Billy J. Moss	2001	235.20	Refund on Bulk Barns
Billy J. Moss	2002	246.40	Refund on Bulk Barns
Billy J. Moss	2003	252.00	Refund on Bulk Barns
Billy J. Moss	2004	252.00	Refund on Bulk Barns
Billy J. Moss	2005	257.60	Refund on Bulk Barns
Richard Bullock	2005	7.42	Vehicle Tax
Virginia D. Hanks	2005	2.41	Vehicle Tax
Maggie Durham	2005	20.30	Vehicle Tax
Jerry W. Phelps	2005	6.12	Vehicle Tax
Wendell M. Cifers	2005	97.66	Lot Double Listed
Wendell M. Cifers	2004	95.54	Lot Double Listed
Wendell M. Cifers	2003	95.54	Lot Double Listed
John H. Falkner III	2005	178.48	Refund on Duplex
Matthew D. Antel	2005	13.14	Vehicle Tax
Matthew D. Antel	2005	3.07	Vehicle Tax
Bowman Enterprises	2005	19.88	Vehicle Tax
Wendell M. Cifers	2002	93.41	Lot Double Listed
Wendell M. Cifers	2001	89.17	Lot Double Listed
Lorell P. Lewis	2005	64.92	Vehicle Tax
William Edmonds, Jr.	2004	3.26	Vehicle Tax
James R. Davis	2005	35.46	Vehicle Tax
Josephine Alston	2005	6.95	Vehicle Tax
Theldred Beckham, Jr.	2005	83.35	Vehicle Tax
Carlene C. Hester	2005	8.04	Vehicle Tax
Laura E. Perkinson	2005	2.80	Vehicle Tax
John H. Falkner III	2005	90.00	Solid Waste Household Fee
Clarence L. Watson	2004	1.71	Fire Tax
Steven K. Owen	2005	1.32	Fire Tax
Sasha Rice	2005	.12	Fire Tax
Sheila Harrington	2004	.72	Fire Tax

NAME	YEAR	AMOUNT	REASON
Larry Webb	2005	.40	Fire Tax
Lewis W. Brodie	2005	.14	Fire Tax
Tina E. Murray	2005	1.50	Fire Tax
Ronnie D. Grissom	2005	.18	Fire Tax
Sarah Mann	2005	.40	Fire Tax
Linda Johnson	2004	.96	Fire Tax
Richard A. Johnson	2005	2.72	Fire Tax
Richard A. Johnson	2004	3.22	Fire Tax
Juan I. Rodriguez	2005	3.08	Fire Tax
Billy J. Moss	2002	7.00	Fire Tax
Billy J. Moss	2003	8.40	Fire Tax
Billy J. Moss	2004	8.40	Fire Tax
Billy J. Moss	2005	8.40	Fire Tax
Virginia D. Hanks	2005	.08	Fire Tax
Maggie Durham	2005	.65	Fire Tax
Jerry W. Phelps	2005	.21	Fire Tax
Wendell M. Cifers	2005	3.18	Fire Tax
Wendell M. Cifers	2004	3.18	Fire Tax
Wendell M. Cifers	2003	3.18	Fire Tax
Matthew D. Antel	2005	.48	Fire Tax
Matthew D. Antel	2005	.11	Fire Tax
Wendell M. Cifers	2002	2.65	Fire Tax
Lorell P. Lewis	2005	2.16	Fire Tax
Theldred Beckham, Jr.	2005	2.75	Fire Tax
Carleen C. Hester	2005	.28	Fire Tax
Laura E. Perkinson	2005	.09	Fire Tax
Total		\$ 5,103.77	

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Motion was made by Commissioner Deborah F. Brown that the Board approve Ambulance Charge-offs in the amount of \$7,845.24 for those persons deceased with no estate listing. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilbur M. Boyd and unanimously approved.

County Manager Jerry L. Ayscue was next on the agenda and requested the Board to allow filling the following position vacancies which have been endorsed by the Human Resources Committee:

Department of Social Services
Social Worker I

Jail
Correctional Officer (four positions)

Fire and Ambulance Department
Firefighter/EMT

Motion was made by Commissioner Wilbur M. Boyd to approve the position requests as presented. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Deborah F. Brown and unanimously approved.

Mr. Ayscue informed the Board that Vance County Cooperative Extension Director Harold

Thompson has requested permission to relocate some of his office staff from the first floor to the second floor of the County Office Building, thus having all Cooperative Extension offices on a single floor. His department will continue to have the conference room, one of the kitchen labs, and some storage rooms on the first floor, but no staff on the first floor. The proposed move will allow improved departmental supervision, greater energy savings, and open up a larger area for future use by other agencies. Minor costs associated with the office relocation can be absorbed within the building budget and by using maintenance staff for much of the work. The Properties Committee endorses the move.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wilbur M. Boyd to permit all the Cooperative Extension offices to be located on the second floor of the County Office Building. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Thomas S. Hester, Jr. and unanimously approved.

Mr. Ayscue reminded the Board that tomorrow, April 4, is the annual day for Leadership-Vance participants to spend a day learning about county government. Commissioners are encouraged to attend any or all of the events set for County Day.

Mr. Ayscue also noted that Wednesday, May 17 is the date for the annual legislative briefing in Raleigh. The North Carolina Association of County Commissioners briefing will begin at 1:00 p.m. and finish in the evening with a dinner with legislators.

The next item presented by Mr. Ayscue was a proclamation for the Spring Litter Sweep. April 17-30 is set for the semi-annual roadside cleanup throughout North Carolina. All across the state efforts will be made to improve the appearance, safety, and health of communities by collecting and properly disposing of litter.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wilbur M. Boyd and seconded by Commissioner Deborah F. Brown to approve the proclamation as follows:

Commissioner Deborah F. Brown stated that the County needs to do more than just approve a proclamation. The County should increase efforts to educate our students and adults on the landfill and where trash should be taken for proper disposal.

The motion was then unanimously approved.

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PROCLAMATION
by the

Vance County Board of Commissioners
in
Recognition of the 2006 Spring Litter Sweep

WHEREAS, Vance County, in conjunction with the North Carolina Department of Transportation, supports the participation in the spring roadside cleanup effort to ensure clean and beautiful roads throughout the county; and

WHEREAS, the Spring 2006 Litter Sweep roadside cleanup will take place April 17 - 30, 2006. The County encourages communities, civic and professional groups, businesses, churches, schools, families, and individual citizens to participate in the cleanup effort by sponsoring and organizing roadside cleanup teams; and

WHEREAS, Adopt-A-Highway volunteers, community service workers, community leaders, civic and community organizations, businesses, churches, schools, and environmentally concerned citizens conduct local cleanups during Litter Sweep and may receive Certificates of Appreciation for their participation; and

WHEREAS, the great natural beauty of our State and County in addition to a clean environment are a source of great pride for all Vance County residents, attracting tourists and aiding in the recruiting of new industries; and

WHEREAS, the cleanup effort will increase the awareness of the need for cleaner roadsides, emphasize the importance of anti-litter campaigns, and encourage the recycling of solid wastes; and

WHEREAS, the Litter Sweep cleanup will be a part of educating the children of the County regarding the importance of a clean environment to the quality of life in Vance County.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Vance County Board of Commissioners does hereby recognize April 17 - 30, 2006 as "Spring Litter Sweep" in Vance County and encourages citizens to take an active role in making this community a cleaner place.

THIS, the third day of April, 2006.

J. Timothy Pegram (Signed)
J. Timothy Pegram, Chairman

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Library funding was the next item discussed. At last week's meetings with officials from the City, Embassy Square Foundation, Library Board of Trustees, and the County, there were discussions of the library funding relationship between the City and County. Due to the dilemma of not knowing how to proceed with relocation and program planning for the library caused by the uncertainty of funding levels, the County was requested to get a consensus in its April Commissioners' meeting of its general intent to fund the library in the amount of \$411,329 for FY 2006-07. The recommendation is to indicate intention to fund the Library in the amount of \$411,329 for FY 2006-07, contingent upon the Board's satisfactory consideration of the overall Proposed County Budget

Commissioner Terry E. Garrison made several remarks regarding library services and funding of the library and expressed his support of the recommendation.

Motion was made by Commissioner Terry E. Garrison to approve the recommendation to indicate intention to fund the Library in the amount of \$411,329 for FY 2006-07, contingent upon the Board's satisfactory consideration of the overall Proposed County Budget. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Danny W. Wright.

Chairman J. Timothy Pegram asked what the County would do if the City of Henderson did not fund any part of the library. Commissioner Thomas S. Hester, Jr. replied that the City Council has voted to fund the library in the amount of \$277,000. Chairman Pegram expressed his opposition to unequal City/County library funding as has been done in the past on a 50-50 basis. He noted that he could only support funding \$411,329 if the City matched that amount.

Commissioner Deborah F. Brown stated that before she can agree with the recommendation, she would like to know what the County's intention is with other funding such as education, employee salary adjustments, and filling frozen job vacancies. She questioned if taxes would need to be raised if the County cannot fund the recommended amount.

After further discussion, roll call vote on this motion was as follows:

Ayes	Noes	Absent
Terry E. Garrison Danny W. Wright Thomas S. Hester, Jr. Wilbur M. Boyd	J. Timothy Pegram Deborah F. Brown	Eddie L. Wright

Commissioner Deborah F. Brown then instructed Mr. Ayscue, when working on next year's budget, to take into consideration the vacant positions throughout County government.

Commissioner Terry E. Garrison suggested that the Board hold a preliminary budget session in order to give Mr. Ayscue direction from the full Board. Mr. Ayscue welcomed a preliminary work session and stated he and the Clerk to the Board would coordinate scheduling the session.

Mr. Ayscue then presented an Intergovernmental Committee Report. He stated that this committee met on Thursday afternoon and discussed several items including library funding, future use of the Armory, the old Snorkel fire truck, and status reports on the County Water Project, property tax collections, and the gift deed to the city fire station. The item needing Board response involves options for the current library and Armory facilities.

During the Committee meeting, Commissioner Hester offered a suggestion that since the City and County jointly own the current Library facility and the Armory, that the County relinquish its half ownership of the Armory to the City and the City in return give its half ownership of the Library

to the County. Due to the difference in appraisal values, there could be some further discussion of how to handle the difference as a credit or some other means. City Councilman Gupton asked if Mr. Hester would be willing to take the reverse offer back to the County as well. Although he said that the County has an interest only in the Library, Commissioner Hester said he would support discussing that offer with the Board of Commissioners. Then he suggested that a third option would be to simply sell the Armory and give the proceeds to the new library.

After a brief discussion, Commissioner Wilbur M. Boyd made a motion to have the three options reviewed by the County members of the Intergovernmental Committee for a recommendation back to the Commissioners in the May regular meeting. This motion seconded by Commissioner Deborah F. Brown.

Commissioner Danny W. Wright stated he would not be interested in selling the Armory to use the proceeds to fund the operations of the library.

The motion was then unanimously approved.

The Intergovernmental Committee also discussed the snorkel fire truck. Mr. Ayscue explained that when the City purchased a new bucket fire truck last year, it put the snorkel truck in storage where it has been maintained in operating condition. The snorkel was purchased equally by the City and County many years ago and had been maintained on a 50-50 cost basis during its entire working life. After being in storage for almost a year, the truck has not been utilized at all. The Committee agreed that the possibility of selling the truck should be researched and that the two managers, along with the Fire Chief, are to formulate a recommendation back to the Intergovernmental Committee.

Mr. Ayscue then informed the Board of a proposal that President Bush has incorporated into his proposed budget for next year that involves the sale of federal land, of which, 9,000+ acres are located in North Carolina. Revenues from the sale would be used to fund local operations.

Commissioner Danny W. Wright explained that he received a request from Burke County, as a NACo director, to oppose the sale of the land. He stated this will negatively effect tourism and the economy in North Carolina and it is wrong to dispose of capital assets to fund operational expenses.

Commissioner Wright made a motion to refer the matter to the General Government Committee to research and make a recommendation back to the full Board. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilbur M. Boyd and unanimously approved.

Commissioner Thomas S. Hester, Jr. brought up an issue that was discussed during the March 2006 Commissioners' meeting. He noted that the Citizens Advisory Committee had requested an extension of time to review the zoning ordinance, but an exact date was not set.

Commissioner Hester made a motion to set the date of May 25, 2006 as the deadline for the Citizens Advisory Committee's final report on the proposed zoning ordinance and map and directed the Committee to report to the full Board during its June meeting. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilbur M. Boyd and unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas S. Hester, Jr. that the Board approve the minutes of the regular meeting held March 13, 2006 as presented by the Clerk to the Board. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Deborah F. Brown and unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner Deborah F. Brown, seconded by Commissioner Wilbur M. Boyd, vote unanimous, that the following reports be received and filed:

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- See on file monthly report, Vance County ABC Board
- See on file monthly report, Fire and Ambulance Service
- See on file monthly report, Human Resources Department
- See on file monthly report, Planning and Development Department
- See on file monthly report, Sheriff's Department
- See on file monthly report, Veterans Service Office

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Motion was made by Commissioner Deborah F. Brown to hold the Board of Equalization and Review on May 1st from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilbur M. Boyd and unanimously approved.

As there was no further business, at 7:50 p.m. motion was made by Commissioner Terry E. Garrison, seconded by Commissioner Thomas S. Hester, Jr., vote unanimous, that the meeting be adjourned.

Approved and signed May 1, 2006.

Chairman