

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF VANCE

The Vance County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, May 7, 2007 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: Chairperson Deborah F. Brown, Commissioners Danny W. Wright, Dan Brummitt, Terry E. Garrison, A. Scott Hughes, J. Timothy Pegram, and Eddie L. Wright.

Absent: None.

Also present were Assistant County Attorney Jonathan S. Care, County Manager Jerry L. Ayscue, and Finance Officer Jerry L. Tucker.

Rev. Johnnie L. Alston gave the invocation.

Chairperson Deborah F. Brown announced that as advertised, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., the Board would be sitting as a Board of Equalization and Review to hear appeals from any Vance County taxpayers who believe their property is valued in excess of market value.

Samuel D. Jones, Tax Administrator, was also present.

There was no one present who wished to speak.

Sam Jones, Tax Administrator, presented the April 2007 monthly report for tax collections. He stated that collections were up by 0.57% as compared to April 2006.

Mr. Jones also reported on the current foreclosure process. On March 22, 2007, 19 new accounts were submitted to the foreclosure attorney. Of those 19, three paid in full and six set up payment plans. \$17,986 has been collected from these nine accounts. A total of 47 accounts are in foreclosure. Chairperson Brown requested that future monthly reports include information on foreclosure accounts.

At this time, Chairperson Brown called upon Mr. Bill Edwards of the Henderson-Vance Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Edwards introduced Mr. Kennis Harris as the new director of the Kittrell Job Corp Center. Mr. Harris noted that he works with the management company, Del-Jen, Inc., which will assume the operations contract for the Kittrell Job Corp Center as of June 1, 2007. Mr. Harris stated that he looks forward to working and living in the community. Chairperson Brown thanked Mr. Harris and welcomed him to Vance County.

Judy Johnson was next on the agenda and presented information on the Boys & Girls Club

of North Central North Carolina. Ms. Johnson stated that the mission of the Boys & Girls Club is to inspire and enable young people to realize their potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens. She noted that the Boys & Girls Club opened its doors in Vance County on January 8, 2007 and currently serves over 200 children ages 6 - 12. She stated that space availability is the main reason for the age limit. It is hoped that space will become available soon in order to accommodate children up to 18 years of age.

Some statistical information reported by Ms. Johnson included: one out of nine teenaged girls in Vance County became pregnant during 2001; the dropout rate in Vance County is 25 percent; and the child poverty rate is 28 percent.

Commissioner Terry E. Garrison thanked Ms. Johnson for her presentation and suggested that the Club look into the demographics of Vance County and possibly locate the Club in the eastern part of the county. Commissioner Garrison also urged the Club to put historically black colleges and universities on the list of field trips for the children so they can be exposed to positive educational role models.

Commissioner Danny W. Wright noted that Ms. Johnson's written material contained a funding request of \$25,000. Commissioner Wright stated that the request will be reviewed during upcoming budget deliberations and he intends to support the request. Commissioner Garrison echoed these remarks.

Kim Butler of the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council was next on the agenda with a budget request for next fiscal year. Ms. Butler explained the request for local funds is \$77,800. Ms. Butler reported that United Way has already allocated its funding portion which totals \$9,500.

Chairperson Brown stated that the Board will receive the request and review during budget deliberations.

Vincent Jefferson appeared before the Board to express his concerns regarding the county's social and economic condition and disposition. Specifically, he stated the county's current status as a Tier One county, which means economically distressed, is linked to the lack of follow-through by County leaders when making good, but sometimes unpopular decisions. He questioned what was being done to change this status. He also questioned what was the purpose of the County's land use plan which was developed in 1996. Where does the County stand on implementing this document? He noted that the first goal of the land use plan was to adopt a zoning ordinance and a subdivision

regulations ordinance. According to the Land Use Plan, the land use plan task force recommended the implementation of a zoning ordinance as the number one tool needed for land development. He questioned the status of the current zoning ordinance. He also questioned the County's plan of the availability and protection of water. According to the Land Use Plan, the protection of water source must be a top priority and County leaders must take an active role in the negotiation of water rights. He questioned if the county has a strategic plan. If so, by whom and how is it measured? If not, why doesn't the county have one? Mr. Jefferson further stated that once good decisions are made, they must be followed through. Although County leaders may disagree on some issues, they are expected to stand on common ground when it comes to the best interest of the county.

Commissioner Danny W. Wright requested that a response be developed regarding Mr. Jefferson's concerns. Chairperson Brown asked for a consensus of the Board to direct the County Manager to respond to Mr. Jefferson's questions. Commissioner Dan Brummitt stated that directing the County Manager to respond to these issues would not be appropriate inasmuch as some of the issues mentioned are viewed differently among some Board members. Commissioner Danny W. Wright replied that most of his questions can be answered by simple statements of facts. Commissioner A. Scott Hughes questioned if the response could be placed on the county's website. County Manager Jerry L. Ayscue stated that he would respond to those factual questions, and seek the Board's input on those items that need more clarification.

Eddie Ferguson, Chairman of the Henderson-Vance Economic Partnership, was next on the agenda and requested the Board's support of House Bill 975. The bill is entitled An Act to Appropriate Funds for an Advanced Community-Based Information and Technology Communication System for Vance, Warren, and Greene Counties. Mr. Ferguson stated that the bill would appropriate funds for an advanced community-based information and technology communication system. The system would target specific citizen requirements such as students, those changing careers, those on social services, retirees, and entrepreneurs. The system would also provide online mentoring and guidance, and provide access to learning content including online courses, video, audio, and created content.

Mr. Ferguson also requested the Board to consider, as a part of this initiative, speaking with the School Administration regarding a program entitled One-to-One Computing and discuss ways to obtain grant funds on behalf of Vance County students. This program would provide laptop

notebook computers to middle and high school students. Mr. Ferguson recognized members of the Weed and Seed Board and indicated that they are also in support of this initiative.

After a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Danny W. Wright to support HB 975 and to notify the appropriate legislative representatives accordingly. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Dan Brummitt and unanimously approved.

The Board also directed the Education Committee to work with the Schools on the One-to-One project and bring a recommendation back to the full Board.

Public comments were heard next. Jamie Harris spoke regarding the county budget and expressed her concerns of proper use of county funds.

Julian Oliver spoke and informed the Board that he will be relocating to Texas at the end of this month. He also expressed his concerns with the amount of disturbances that have occurred recently at the Aycock Recreation Center.

Chairperson Brown wished Mr. Oliver a safe journey to Texas and thanked him for being a good and caring Vance County citizen.

Motion was made by Commissioner Danny W. Wright, seconded by Commissioner A. Scott Hughes, vote unanimous, that the Board approve Budget Amendments #27 and #28 as follows for the purposes noted therein:

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**Budget Amendment #27
General Fund**

<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
Maint/Repair Vehicles	10-599-500017		\$ <u>2,494.00</u>
Total Increase in Expenditures			\$ 2,494.00
 <u>Revenues</u>			
Donations - Animal Shelter	10-332-433203	\$ <u>2,494.00</u>	
Total Increase in Revenues		\$ 2,494.00	

Purpose: To appropriate Animal Control donations to repair 2002 Chevrolet Silverado truck. No County funds required.

Authorization: Vance County Board of Commissioners
May 7, 2007

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**Budget Amendment #28
General Fund**

<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
Medicaid Transportation	10-610-500243		\$ 213,073.00
State Foster Home Fund	10-610-500018	\$ <u>23,354.00</u>	_____
Total Debits & Credits		\$ 23,354.00	\$ 213,073.00
Total Increase in Expenditures			\$ 189,719.00

Revenues

DMA Transportation Reimb.	10-348-434830	\$ <u>189,719.00</u>	
Total Increase in Revenues		\$ 189,719.00	

Purpose: To appropriate additional funds to cover expenditures in Medicaid Transportation account.

Authorization: Vance County Board of Commissioners
May 7, 2007

Motion was made by Commissioner Eddie L. Wright, seconded by Commissioner Dan

Brummitt, vote unanimous, that the Board approve the following Refunds as requested by the Tax

Office:

**REFUNDS
April 2007**

NAME	YEAR	AMOUNT	REASON
Tosha Hargrove	2006	6.60	Vehicle Tax
James Satterwhite	2006	11.72	Vehicle Tax
Patricia Mosley	2006	5.25	Vehicle Tax
Ruth W. Mitchell	2006	20.00	Overage Tax
Rebecca McBride	2006	21.76	Vehicle Tax
John Smithwick	2006	9.51	Vehicle Tax
George H. Mangum	2006	2.52	Vehicle Tax
Timothy D. Gilleland	2006	39.72	Vehicle Tax
Victor M. Gill	2006	59.22	Vehicle Tax
Diane R. Massenburg	2006	4.38	Vehicle Tax
Charles Loughlin IV	2006	7.68	Vehicle Tax
Alonso V. Samano	2006	19.80	Vehicle Tax
Michael Ball	2006	5.22	Vehicle Tax
William L. Marrow	2006	3.48	Vehicle Tax
Jean A. Veeder	2006	15.75	Vehicle Tax
Shirley Karpf	2006	27.69	County Tax
Shirley Karpf	2005	27.69	County Tax
Shirley Karpf	2004	27.09	County Tax
Shirley Karpf	2003	27.09	County Tax
Shirley Karpf	2002	26.49	County Tax
Barbara H. Heavner	2005	19.50	Vehicle Tax

NAME	YEAR	AMOUNT	REASON
John P. Ayscue, Jr.	2006	19.23	Vehicle Tax
James Satterwhite	2006	.38	Fire Tax
Patricia Mosley	2006	.15	Fire Tax
Rebecca McBride	2006	.72	Fire Tax
John Smithwick	2006	.30	Fire Tax
George H. Mangum	2006	.06	Fire Tax
Timothy D. Gilleland	2006	1.32	Fire Tax
Victor M. Gill	2006	1.89	Fire Tax
Charles Loughlin IV	2006	.24	Fire Tax
Michael Ball	2006	.18	Fire Tax
Jean A. Veeder	2006	.49	Fire Tax
Shirley Karpf	2006	.90	Fire Tax
Shirley Karpf	2005	.90	Fire Tax
Shirley Karpf	2004	.90	Fire Tax
Shirley Karpf	2003	.90	Fire Tax
Shirley Karpf	2002	.75	Fire Tax
John P. Ayscue, Jr.	2006	.63	Fire Tax
Total		\$ 418.10	Fiscal y-t-d - \$ 11,524.50

Motion was made by Commissioner Terry E. Garrison that the Board approve Ambulance Charge-offs in the amount of \$862.47 for those persons deceased with no estate listing. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Danny W. Wright and unanimously approved.

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

Fire and Ambulance
Firefighter/EMT

Jail
Office Assistant II
Correctional Officer II

Department of Social Services
Social Worker I
Social Worker II

Mr. Ayscue then discussed a resolution supporting HB 262 and SB 238. Mr. Ayscue explained that there have been companion bills introduced in the Legislature designed to help increase grants to fire departments. The Office of State Fire Marshal has asked that local fire chiefs request that their local governing bodies adopt resolutions in support of these bills.

Motion was made by Commissioner Terry E. Garrison, seconded by Commissioner Dan Brummitt, vote unanimous, to adopt the resolution in support of HB 262 and SB 238.

Mr. Ayscue informed the Board that Vance County Tourism Director Nancy Wilson is requesting a permit for the annual Independence Day fireworks display at Kerr Lake for Saturday, July 7 with a rain date of Sunday, July 8. As usual, the pyrotechnics firm used for the occasion is highly experienced and properly insured.

Motion was made by Commissioner A. Scott Hughes to approve the request from Tourism for a fireworks permit for a professional pyrotechnics firm to discharge fireworks on Saturday, July 7 or Sunday, July 8. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Eddie L. Wright and unanimously approved.

The next item addressed a report from the Intergovernmental Committee regarding pieces of property that are jointly owned with the City of Henderson. The Historical Society has requested to sell the Museum on Garnett Street due to significant costs to repair the heating and air conditioning systems and the deteriorating plaster ceiling. They want the City and County to transfer title of the building to the Historical Society so that it may be sold, with proceeds to be used to redo and relocate the museum exhibits to the gallery in McGregor Hall. The building sale would be made through the NC Trust for Historic Preservation with specific related covenants. Since the committee met, the question of the need for an appraisal has been posed.

The recommendation of the Committee is to approve the sale of the Vance County Historical Museum, without transfer of title to the Historical Society, in concert with the City of Henderson and in accordance with applicable laws. A plan for relocating and renovating museum exhibits, displays, artifacts, other items, etc. must be submitted for review and approval to the City and County. The proceeds from the sale will be used to cover the costs and any remaining funds will be divided equally between the City and County.

Mr. Ayscue noted that the Properties Committee had also met on this matter and agreed to the same recommendation.

Commissioner Dan Brummitt stated that the County has not received any type of response from the library indicating its desire for the museum exhibits to be located in the gallery. It would be appropriate to hear from them before proceeding with the relocation. Commissioner Danny W. Wright echoed these remarks.

Mr. Tem Blackburn, Historical Society, was present and advised that the Library Board of Trustees has no control over the gallery; the Embassy Square Foundation Board has responsibility for use of the gallery. Mr. Blackburn stated that he does not anticipate any problem in receiving the

Embassy Square Foundation Board's endorsement.

According to Mr. Blackburn, the estimated cost of renovating and relocating the exhibits from the museum to the library gallery would be \$76,000 which includes the fabrication of the exhibits and the purchase of the display units. He noted that the Historical Society does have some funds that may be used for this project and there is also a federal grant that may be pursued which is specifically for design services for historical museums in conjunction with libraries.

After further discussion, motion was made by Commissioner A. Scott Hughes to approve the sale of the Vance County Historical Museum, after appraisal, with the proceeds to be used for relocation and purchase of display units, contingent upon similar action by the City of Henderson, and upon review of the relocation plan. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Dan Brummitt and unanimously approved.

The next item from the Intergovernmental Committee related to the Armory. The City of Henderson has requested that the Armory be placed on the open market to be sold, with proceeds to be shared equally between the two governing bodies. Both the Intergovernmental Committee and the Properties Committee support this request.

Motion was made by Commissioner Eddie L. Wright to place the Armory on the open market to be sold, with the proceeds to be shared equally between the two governing bodies. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Terry E. Garrison.

Commissioner Dan Brummitt question how a real estate firm is obtained. Commissioner Terry E. Garrison replied that this should be discussed and agreed upon with the City of Henderson.

Commissioner Dan Brummitt amended the original motion to add that the Board direct the County Manager to seek a competitive bid procedure for listing and selling of the property.

This motion was seconded by Commissioner Terry E. Garrison and unanimously approved.

Both Committees also discussed the former library building. The Intergovernmental Committee had a slightly different position than that of the Properties Committee. The Intergovernmental Committee proposed another appraisal to be performed on the library building by a MAI appraiser from outside this general area. Upon completion of the appraisal, the County will have the opportunity to make an offer to the City of Henderson for purchase of its share of ownership of the property.

The Properties Committee suggested that the Intergovernmental Committee consider the County making an offer to purchase the City's share of the library by the end of the current fiscal

year. The amount of the proposed offer was not disclosed.

After discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Danny W. Wright to obtain an appraisal for the former library building, and based on the appraisal, the County will either make an offer on the building or place the building on the open market for sale with the proceeds to be divided equally between the City and the County after all related expenses. This motion was seconded by Commissioner A. Scott Hughes and unanimously approved.

The Properties Committee also discussed the Social Services Building. Funds were budgeted in the current year for the first phase of replacing the roof with a raised roof and renovating offices that had been damaged by leaks. It was projected that the raised roof could be undertaken in two sections, with the second to be done in the upcoming year. After extensive study and work by the architect and engineer, they now state that it is necessary to vacate the building in order to install the raised roof, and some of the hvac system would have to be relocated and/or replaced. It has been several years since any appreciable improvements have been made to the building and it is in dire need of painting, carpet replacement, etc.

The recommendation of the Properties Committee is to replace the roof in the conventional manner as a flat roof and bids should be taken immediately. The offices should be renovated immediately and informal quotes should be solicited. In order for the work to be completed in the current fiscal year, authorize the County Manager to select the appropriate low bidders. Instead of budgeting funds for the second phase of a raised roof in the coming budget, use a similar amount to improve the building interior.

Motion was made by Commissioner Danny W. Wright to approve the recommendation of the Properties Committee as presented. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Dan Brummitt and unanimously approved.

The next item discussed by the Properties Committee was the Child Protective Services Unit of the Department of Social Services. This unit is housed in a leased facility, with the lease set to expire in late 2008. An exploratory committee should be appointed to review office space needs of this unit.

The recommendation of the Properties Committee is to authorize the County Manager and Social Services Director to appoint an exploratory committee to review office space needs for the Child Protective Services Unit and eventually report back to the Properties Committee and/or the full Board of Commissioners.

Motion was made by Commissioner Eddie L. Wright to approve the recommendation of the Properties Committee as presented. This motion was seconded by Commissioner A. Scott Hughes and unanimously approved.

The Former Mental Health Clinic building was also discussed by the Properties Committee. The Public Health Department and Smart Start are now housed in this building on Charles Rollins Road. The parking lot is in need of resurfacing and striping, and on one end there is some tree root removal that has damaged the asphalt. Funding for parking lot enhancements will be proposed in the upcoming budget. Also, the building needs to be renamed.

The Committee would like for suggestions for naming the building to be offered. When suggestions are made, they will be brought before the full Board for final approval.

The Properties Committee also discussed the former Vance Manor building. This building is currently unoccupied. ARC, the non-profit organization that currently operates the day treatment and substance abuse treatment programs for Area Mental Health, continues to be interested in obtaining grant funding for this building. Mr. Ayscue noted that an appraisal has been performed on this property.

The Properties Committee recommended that the building be marketed for sale as soon as possible.

Motion was made by Commissioner Danny W. Wright to place the former Vance Manor building on the market for sale with competitive bids for listing and selling the properties. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Terry E. Garrison and unanimously approved.

The former School Central Office building was also discussed by the Properties Committee. This property is of interest to the County and the adjacent church for future parking. The Committee has directed the County Manager to discuss a possible joint project with church representatives.

After meeting with church representatives, the matter will go back to the Properties Committee for further discussion.

The next item discussed under the County Manager's Report was the status of the Kerr Lake Volunteer Fire Department contract. Mr. Ayscue explained that the proposed contract is currently being prepared but is not ready for action by the Board of Commissioners. County staff is having discussions with the State regarding requirements for the contract with the new volunteer organization. It is expected that the proposed contract will be ready to present to the Public Safety Committee later this month.

Mr. Ayscue also discussed the contract for Property and Liability Insurance. The NCACC Risk Management Pools require annual approval of participation by the Board of Commissioners prior to June 1. This year's quote from the pool for property and liability insurance is 4% lower than last year.

Motion was made by Commissioner Danny W. Wright to authorize the County Manager to execute the appropriate documents to renew coverage by the NCACC Risk Management Pools for Property and Liability coverage. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Dan Brummitt and unanimously approved.

One final item under the County Manager's Report is for the Board to take action to formally receive the MAPS Group Study that was received earlier this month during a work session.

Motion was made Commissioner Dan Brummitt, seconded by Commissioner Danny W. Wright, vote unanimous, to formally receive the MAPS Group Study as presented.

Motion was made by Commissioner Danny W. Wright that the Board approve the minutes of the regular meeting held April 2, 2007 as presented by the Clerk to the Board. This motion was seconded by Commissioner A. Scott Hughes and unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner A. Scott Hughes, seconded by Commissioner Dan Brummitt, vote unanimous, that the Board approve the following Rebates for March 2007 and April 2007 as requested by the Tax Office:

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REBATES			
March 2007			
NAME	YEAR	AMOUNT	REASON
William S. Ellington, Jr.	2006	75.31	Listing Correction
Vernell R. Ellis	1998-2006	260.97	Listing Correction
William & Carolyn Faulkner	2006	126.22	Billing Correction
Letisha S. Hargrove	2006	141.85	Listing Correction
Branch Home & Land	2006	341.87	Listing Correction
Norstand Apparel Shop, Inc.	2006	36.11	Listing Correction
Richard Riggan	2002	161.59	Listing Correction
Sherman Tabon	2004-2006	1,341.88	Listing Correction - Mobile Home Repossessed
Total		\$ 2,485.80	

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REBATES
April 2007

NAME	YEAR	AMOUNT	REASON
Vito Adragna	2006	121.44	Listing Correction
Bonnie's Crafts	2003-04	7.65	Listing Correction
Embassy Cultural Center	2006	128.43	Listing Correction
IBC Sales Corporation	2004	7.24	Chapter 11 Bankruptcy
David J. LeFancheck	2000-06	584.26	Property deeded to City
Louella G. Moss	2006	76.94	Listing Correction
Herman Nickerson	2006	507.84	Value Correction
Lurae & Randy Paynter	2006	456.78	Listing Correction
James P. Pendergrass	2006	96.60	Listing Correction
St. John's Episcopal Church	2006	27.60	Listing Correction
Pauline E. Steed	2004-05	29.21	Listing Correction
Kenneth G. Stevenson	1999	95.89	Property deeded to City
Elnora R. Williams heirs	1997-06	1,003.56	Property deeded to City
Total		\$ 3,143.44	

Motion was made by Commissioner Danny W. Wright to reappoint J. Timothy Pegram to the 911 Advisory Board for a three-year term. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Dan Brummitt and unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner J. Timothy Pegram, seconded by Commissioner Dan Brummitt, vote unanimous, that the following monthly reports be received and filed:

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- See on file monthly report, Vance County ABC Board
 - See on file monthly report, Administrative Ambulance Charge-offs
 - 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, Veterans Service Office
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Commissioner Dan Brummitt asked if it would be possible to receive the agenda packet two days earlier than usual in order to be able to contact county staff during regular working hours if needed. Chairperson Brown replied to Commissioner Brummitt's request and encouraged him to contact Mr. Ayscue by cell phone after regular business hours. Commissioner Eddie L. Wright responded that he would rather receive the agenda packet on Friday afternoon as usual.

Chairperson Brown and Commissioner Danny Wright asked the staff to provide feedback on this matter. Mr. Ayscue replied that the staff works at the pleasure of the Board. If it is the Board's desire to receive the agenda packet earlier, a deadline will need to be set by the Board for

items to be placed on the agenda. Chairperson Brown replied that as long as it is advertised, the public will follow suit. She asked the staff to review this matter and report back to the Board at its next meeting.

As there was no further business, at 8:45 p.m. motion was made by Commissioner A. Scott Hughes, seconded by Commissioner Dan Brummitt, vote unanimous, to adjourn both the Board of Equalization and Review and regular session.

Approved and signed June 4, 2007.

Chairperson