

SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL - GEORGETOWN, DELAWARE, JANUARY 23, 2001

Call to Order The regular meeting of the Sussex County Council was held Tuesday, January 23, 2001, at 10:00 a.m., in the Council Chambers, Sussex County Administrative Office Building, Georgetown, Delaware, with the following present:

Dale R. Dukes	President
Finley B. Jones, Jr.	Vice President
George B. Cole	Member
Vance Phillips	Member
Lynn J. Rogers	Member
Robert L. Stickels	County Administrator
David Baker	Finance Director
Eugene Bayard	County Attorney

The meeting was opened by repeating the Lord's Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

M 040 01 A Motion was made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Rogers, to amend the Amend and Approve Agenda Agenda by deleting "Introduction of Proposed Zoning Ordinances" and to approve the Agenda, as amended.
Motion Adopted: 5 Yea.

Vote by Roll Call: Mr. Phillips, Yea; Mr. Cole, Yea;
 Mr. Rogers, Yea; Mr. Jones, Yea;
 Mr. Dukes, Yea

M 041 01 A Motion was made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mr. Jones, to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2001 meeting, as distributed.
Approve Minutes Motion Adopted: 5 Yea.

Vote by Roll Call: Mr. Phillips, Yea; Mr. Cole, Yea;
 Mr. Rogers, Yea; Mr. Jones, Yea;
 Mr. Dukes, Yea

Correspondence Mr. Bayard read the following correspondence:

RANDALL CASH, BOARD CHAIRMAN, CHRISTIAN STOREHOUSE BUILDING FUND, GEORGETOWN, DELAWARE.
RE: Letter in appreciation of Human Service Grant

Corre-
spondence
(continued)

CHIP CIRILLO AND LAURY FRANKLIN, MARCH OF DIMES
WALKAMERICA, NEWPORT, DELAWARE.

RE: Letter of invitation to the 2001 kick off rally for the Sussex County
Chapter of The March of Dimes on February 13th.

MEARL LAYTON, INDIAN RIVER BASEBALL BOOSTERS,
OCEAN VIEW, DELAWARE.

RE: Letter in appreciation of Councilmanic Grant.

University
of Delaware
Extension
Service
Grant

Mr. Mark Isaacs, Director of the University of Delaware Research and
Education Center in Georgetown, was in attendance to accept a grant
check from Council in the amount of \$107,502. These funds will be used
by the University of Delaware Extension Service for various Extension
and research programs and the Lasher Laboratory.

Seaford
Post
Office

Mr. Stickels advised that he has been notified by Cynthia Goodwin of the
Asset Management Division of the United States Postal Service that the
property identified as the Main Post Office, 203 High Street, Seaford,
Delaware, has been determined to be surplus government property and is
available for disposal. The property contains approximately 6,431 sq. ft.
and sits on an 18,000 sq. ft. site. It has been determined by the Delaware
State Historic Preservation Office that the Seaford Post Office is eligible
for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Disposal
procedures require that the property first be offered to any interested
federal agencies and then to the city, county, and state. Using the
appraisal as a basis, the United States Postal Service has established an
asking price of \$169,900.

Mr. Stickels reported that he has been advised by the Seaford Historical
Society that they are interested in purchasing the Post Office and have
asked that the County Council encourage the United States Post Office to
sell the property to them.

It was the consensus of Council that this building/property would be of
no use to the County and that the Seaford Historical Society should
proceed with negotiations on their own without comment by Council.

Farmland
Improvement
Tax Credits

Mr. Stickels presented a proposal on Councilman Phillips' behalf to
provide tax relief for farmers. The proposal would allow farmers to file
for property tax exemptions on buildings and structures that are currently
and actively involved in farming operations and taxed accordingly;
eligible properties would have to meet the Farmland Assessment Program
qualifications. It was noted that the exemption would only apply to the
County portion of the property tax; the exemption would not apply to the
the school tax.

The procedure for implementation would require that a one-time
application be filed with the County no later than June 15 preceding the

Farmland Improvement Tax Credits (continued)

annual tax billing; the County’s Assessment Division would review and determine the assessment amount applicable towards credit. The annual tax bills will reflect the appropriate credit amount based on the percentage authorized by the County Council. The County Council will decide annually, as part of the budget process, whether or not to grant a County property tax credit for farm buildings and farm structures.

Mr. Phillips spoke on behalf of the proposal stating that it would be a fair and economical way to preserve agricultural space and a way to let the farm economy hold on to a portion of its tax dollars.

Mr. Cole expressed his thoughts that the proposal is “targeted tax relief” which he opposes – that the credit should be offered on all out-buildings in the County to all taxpayers in the County and not just targeted to the County’s farmers. Mr. Cole referred to the County’s low tax rate and stated that there is no pressing need to give tax relief when no one is asking for it; furthermore, Mr. Cole noted that the amount of the tax credit would be so minimal that it would not save any farmer’s business.

It was the consensus of Council that a Public Workshop will be held on February 6, 2001, beginning at 11:00 a.m. to receive comments on the Proposal for County Property Tax Credit for Farm Buildings.

Administrator’s Report

Mr. Stickels read the following information in his County Administrator’s Report:

1. Smoke Detectors

The County Council is making available 400 smoke detectors on a first come – first served basis starting at 9:00 a.m. today. Residents may receive their smoke detector at the receptionist’s desk in the County Administrative Building located on The Circle in Georgetown. In addition to the smoke detectors, Council will also make available 9-volt batteries to residents who have smoke detectors, but the batteries may not be fresh.

Included with this report are some facts that have been obtained regarding smoke detectors.

Bank Account

Mr. Baker discussed two Resolutions to establish a new bank account for the purpose of setting aside funds for the West Rehoboth Sewer Project.

M 042 01
Adopt
Resolution
No.
R 008 01

A Motion was made by Mr. Cole, seconded by Mr. Jones, to Adopt Resolution No. R 008 01 entitled “AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT FROM FUNDS OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL ON DEPOSIT WITH THE WILMINGTON TRUST COMPANY BEARING THE SIGNATURES OF ANY TWO OF DALE R. DUKES, PRESIDENT;

M 042 01
(continued)

FINLEY B. JONES, JR., VICE PRESIDENT; OR D. B. BAKER, FINANCE DIRECTOR; AND A SIGNATURE MAY BE A FACSIMILE PROVIDED ONE LIVE SIGNATURE IS ON CHECK OR WITHDRAWAL” and Resolution No. R 009 01 entitled “CASH MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT RESOLUTION”.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yea.

Vote by Roll Call: Mr. Phillips, Yea; Mr. Cole, Yea;
Mr. Rogers, Yea; Mr. Jones, Yea;
Mr. Dukes, Yea

Vehicle Bid
Results &
Recommen-
dation/
Sheriff

Sheriff Reed reported on bids received for two vehicles (Chevrolet Impalas) needed by the Sheriff’s Department, as follows: (1) I. G. Burton - \$18,996.00 and (2) Hertrich Fleet Services - \$19,079.00. Following a review of the bids, Sheriff Reed and Frank Shade, Director of Purchasing, recommended that the bid be awarded to I. G. Burton.

M 043 01
Accept
Bid for
Sheriff
Vehicles

A Motion was made by Mr. Cole, seconded by Mr. Jones, that the Sussex County Council accepts the bid of I. G. Burton Chevrolet in the amount of \$18,996.00 per unit for two (2) Chevrolet Impalas, with the equipment specified in the bid package.

Motion Adopted: 4 Yea, 1 Nay.

Vote by Roll Call: Mr. Phillips, Yea; Mr. Cole, Yea;
Mr. Rogers, Nay; Mr. Jones, Yea;
Mr. Dukes, Yea

SCRWF/
George,
Miles &
Buhr
Contract
Amendment

Mr. Archut discussed an amendment to an existing contract with George, Miles and Buhr for construction administration and construction coordination services for the headworks improvements for the South Coastal Regional Wastewater Facilities. The actual contract for the headworks project was supposed to have been completed by October 30, 2000. Mr. Archut advised that the project contractor, George & Lynch, would not be completing the project until February 6, 2001, approximately three months after the scheduled completion date. The delay in the completion of the project is due to the fact that George & Lynch’s supplier for screening equipment was late obtaining the screen. This caused back-ups in other areas of the project causing the County to have to retain George, Miles & Buhr beyond the original contract date for additional inspection work. Costs that will be incurred for the additional inspection work will be \$18,403. Under the terms of the contract, George & Lynch is responsible for reimbursing the County for the overage.

M 044 01
Execute
Amendment
to Agree-
ment/
GM&B

A Motion was made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mr. Cole, that the Sussex County Council President is authorized to execute an amendment to the existing Agreement with George Miles & Buhr to provide additional construction administration and construction coordination services for the headworks improvements for the South Coastal Regional Wastewater Facilities, in an amount not to exceed \$18,403, subject to the review and approval of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yea.

Vote by Roll Call: Mr. Phillips, Yea; Mr. Cole, Yea;
Mr. Rogers, Yea; Mr. Jones, Yea;
Mr. Dukes, Yea

M 045 01
Human
Service
Grant

A Motion was made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mr. Cole, to give \$1,000 from Human Service Grants to the Laurel Community Foundation, Inc. for the construction of two transitional homes (Hope House I and II).

Motion Adopted: 5 Yea.

Vote by Roll Call: Mr. Phillips, Yea; Mr. Cole, Yea;
Mr. Rogers, Yea; Mr. Jones, Yea;
Mr. Dukes, Yea

M 046 01
Youth
Activity
Grant

A Motion was made by Mr. Cole, seconded by Mr. Jones, to give \$500.00, \$100.00 from each Youth Activity Grant Account to the Delaware Diamonds Girl's Softball Team for tournament expenses/uniforms.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yea.

Vote by Roll Call: Mr. Phillips, Yea; Mr. Cole, Yea;
Mr. Rogers, Yea; Mr. Jones, Yea;
Mr. Dukes, Yea

M 047 01
Council-
manic
Grant

A Motion was made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mr. Jones, to give \$500.00, \$100.00 from each Councilmanic Account, to MADD DE (Mothers Against Drunk Driving – Delaware Chapter) for the purchase of an AlcoSensor, a pocket-sized breath alcohol tester, to be used by a law enforcement officer.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yea.

Vote by Roll Call: Mr. Phillips, Yea; Mr. Cole, Yea;
Mr. Rogers, Yea; Mr. Jones, Yea;
Mr. Dukes, Yea

M 048 01
Council-
manic
Grant

A Motion was made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mr. Jones, to give \$100.00 from Mr. Dukes' Councilmanic Account to the Seaford District Library for the Black History Month Celebration.

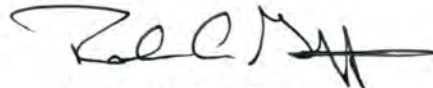
Motion Adopted: 5 Yea.

Vote by Roll Call: Mr. Phillips, Yea; Mr. Cole, Yea;
Mr. Rogers, Yea; Mr. Jones, Yea;
Mr. Dukes, Yea

M 049 01
Adjourn

A Motion was made by Mr. Cole, seconded by Mr. Jones, to adjourn at 11:12 a.m. Motion Adopted by Voice Vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Robin A. Griffith
Clerk of the Council