

SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL - GEORGETOWN, DELAWARE, MAY 21, 2002

**Call to
Order**

The regular meeting of the Sussex County Council was held Tuesday, May 21, 2002, at 10:00 a.m., in the Council Chambers, Sussex County Administrative Office Building, Georgetown, Delaware, with the following present:

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

**M 350 02
Approve
Agenda**

A Motion was made by Mr. Dukes, seconded by Mr. Phillips, to approve the Agenda, as presented.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yea.

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

**M 351 02
Approve
Minutes**

A Motion was made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mr. Phillips, to approve the minutes of May 14, 2002, as distributed.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yea.

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

**Corre-
spondence**

Mr. Bayard read the following correspondence:

WOODBRIIDGE LITTLE LEAGUE, BRIDGEVILLE, DELAWARE.
RE: Letter in appreciation of grant.

**AMERICAN RED CROSS OF THE DELMARVA PENINSULA,
MILFORD, DELAWARE.**
RE: Letter in appreciation of grant.

**M 352 02
Adopt
Procla-
mation**

A Motion was made by Mr. Cole, seconded by Mr. Phillips, to Adopt the Proclamation entitled "PROCLAIMING SATURDAY, MAY 25, 2002 AS A DAY TO HONOR THE TOWN OF SELBYVILLE, DELAWARE".

**M 352 02
(continued)**

Motion Adopted: 5 Yea.

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

**M 353 02
Adopt
Procla-
mation**

A Motion was made by Mr. Dukes, seconded by Mr. Phillips, to Adopt the Proclamation entitled "PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF MAY 19 THROUGH MAY 25, 2002 AS 'HURRICANE AWARENESS WEEK' ".

Motion Adopted: 5 Yea.

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

**M 354 02
Adopt
Procla-
mation**

A Motion was made by Mr. Cole, seconded by Mr. Dukes, to Adopt the Proclamation entitled "PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF MAY AS 'COMMUNITY ACTION MONTH' ".

Motion Adopted: 5 Yea.

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

**M 355 02
Council-
manic
Grant**

A Motion was made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mr. Phillips, to give \$300.00 from Mr. Rogers' Councilmanic Account to the City of Lewes for the Mayor's attendance at the Small Cities Council Steering Committee Meeting in Buffalo, Minnesota.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yea.

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

**Adminis-
trator's
Report**

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

1. Holiday Schedule

Sussex County offices will be closed Monday, May 27, 2002, to allow employees to observe the Memorial Day holiday. Offices will reopen on Tuesday, May 28, 2002, at 8:30 a.m.

There will not be a Council meeting the week of May 27, 2002. The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be at 10:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers on Tuesday, June 4, 2002.

**Proposed
Fiscal
Year
2003
Budget**

Mr. Stickels submitted to Council the proposed annual operating budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2003 and the accompanying budget letter. A comprehensive review of the proposed Fiscal 2003 Budget was provided by Mr. Stickels.

The theme of the FY 2003 budget is “Changing Times”. Mr. Stickels noted that after the tragedy of 9-11, it is essential that both public and private businesses adapt to a changing world. If Sussex County is going to remain a desirable place for people to visit and live, the County government is going to have to be willing to accept change and expansion in some service areas.

Mr. Stickels noted that during FY '03, cost-saving initiatives will be implemented for each department.

The proposed budget calls for General Fund operating expenditures, appropriated surpluses, and appropriated project reserves totaling \$32,478,754. This is an increase of 3.99 percent over FY '02 for the same expenditures. The proposed budget includes \$8.06 million for the Capital Improvement Fund; \$2.28 million for the Community Development Fund, \$22.9 million for sewer and water districts, and \$18.1 million for new capital projects. The proposed budget also includes an operating reserve of 22.3 percent.

Mr. Stickels pointed out that a \$1 million Reserve for Contingencies is included in the Budget, an increase of \$250,000 over FY '02. Mr. Stickels recommended that should the County Council choose to increase charitable donations, that the funding be taken from this Reserve.

Highlights of the proposed Fiscal 2003 Budget are as follows:

- No tax increase
- Budget increase 3.99%
- Rainy day fund 22.3%
- Elimination of failing septic systems & holding tanks
- Property tax, sewer service & septic system assistance for low-income residents
- Revenue Sharing for local governments
- Planning & Zoning Pre-Application Program
- Airport expansion
- Records Storage Program
- Aggressive Capital Improvement Program
- Staffing of seventh paramedic unit
- Commencement of Open Space Program
- Expanded State Police Program

**Budget
(continued)**

Mr. Stickels encouraged Council to review the proposed annual operating budget carefully prior to the Public Hearing scheduled for June 18, 2002.

**Proposed
Ordinance**

Mr. Cole introduced the Proposed Ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003". The Proposed Ordinance will be advertised for Public Hearing; the Public Hearing will be scheduled for June 18, 2002.

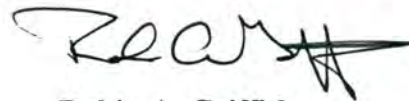
**Proposed
Ordinance**

Mr. Dukes introduced the Proposed Ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING ANNUAL SERVICE CHARGES, ANNUAL ASSESSMENT RATES FOR COLLECTION AND TRANSMISSION AND/OR TREATMENT, AND CONNECTION CHARGES FOR ALL SUSSEX COUNTY WATER AND SANITARY SEWER DISTRICTS". The Proposed Ordinance will be advertised for Public Hearing; the Public Hearing will be scheduled for June 18, 2002.

**M 356 02
Adjourn**

A Motion was made by Mr. Dukes, seconded by Mr. Phillips, to adjourn at 11:14 a.m. Motion Adopted by Voice Vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Robin A. Griffith
Clerk of the Council