

Hyde County Board of Commissioners' Meeting
August 23, 2005
Minutes

The Hyde County Board of Commissioners held a meeting on Tuesday, August 23, 2005 at 7:00 PM in the Swan Quarter Volunteer Fire Department..

Board members present were:

Bea Emmert, Chair Charles Spencer, Vice-chair Nathan Sears

Staff members present were:

Kevin Howard, County Manager
Sid Hassell, County Attorney
Connie Burlison, Clerk to the Board

Media present were:

Nikie Mayo, The Coastland Times
Doug Gibbs, The Washington Daily News

Chair Emmert called the meeting to order, Charles Spencer led with prayer.

Kevin Howard, County Manger USDA Funds

Mr. Howard discussed conditions for availability of funds from USDA for the new courthouse facility. The scope of work presented to USDA included renovation of the Historical Courthouse. If the Board changed the scope of work, Hyde County would need to reapply for the loan from USDA.

Public Hearing Historical Courthouse Building

Upon motion made by Charles Spencer, seconded by Bea Emmert with all Board members voting in favor, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board opened the public hearing to receive comments on the Historical Courthouse Building.

Public Comments were received as follows:

- Reid Thomas, State Historical Preservation discussed the rehabilitation of the historical courthouse and stated his office would be willing to work with the County on the project.
- R.S. Spencer presented the history of the Hyde County Historical Courthouse
- Roy Clark, Hyde County Historical and Genealogical Society read a letter on behalf of its membership requesting the Board not to demolish the old courthouse at this time.
- Steve Bryan, Swan Quarter Service Group stated the group would like to partner with the County to care for the Historical Courthouse.
- M.J. Carbo made comments on the historical courthouse.

Charles Spencer made a motion to close the public hearing. Nathan Sears seconded the motion.

- Judge William Griffin requested to speak and stated that he felt it was a honorable goal to save the historical courthouse but the Board should know where they were going with the situation before going too far. Other counties have saved their historical courthouses and have been unable to find a purpose for the structures.
- One citizen stated that he felt the Board should have investigated more carefully in the beginning before applying for loans and this should be used as a learning situation.
- Tom Davis stated he felt the Board should consider what Judge Griffin had stated and go slow putting money into something that may become a money hole. The Swan Quarter Dike project needed funding more than the historical courthouse.

Vote was taken on the motion by Charles Spencer to close the public hearing and past unanimously. The public hearing closed at 7:45 PM.

Historical Courthouse Committee

Charles Spencer made a motion to appoint a committee consisting of two commissioners, two Historical Society members and two members representing the Swan Quarter Service Group to make suggestions to the Board of Commissioners on where to go with the historical courthouse. Nathan Sears seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

David O'Neal stated that he felt Clorox and water would clean the old courthouse structure.

Adjournment

Upon motion made by Charles Spencer, seconded by Nathan Sears with all Board members voting in favor, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Clerk _____ Chairman _____
Hyde County Board of Commissioners