

Minutes
Regular Meeting
Hertford County Board of Commissioners
County Commissioners' Meeting Room
Monday, October 17, 2011
7:00 P.M.

Present: Johnnie R. Farmer, Curtis A. Freeman, Sr., Ronald J. Gatling, Howard J. Hunter, III, and William F. Mitchell, Jr.

Absent: None

Also Present with the Board: Loria D. Williams, County Manager; Robert E. Lee, Jr., Interim County Attorney; John P. Rankins, Assistant County Manager; and Shelia W. Matthews, Clerk to the Board

Chairman Johnnie R. Farmer called the meeting to order.

The invocation for the meeting was provided by Assistant County Manager John P. Rankins.

COMMISSIONERS

On a motion by Freeman and a second by Hunter, the Board voted unanimously to amend the agenda to allow Memo #7424 to be presented first due to a family emergency.

EDC

At the last meeting, Bill Early requested the County Commissioners to remove an amendment from the EDC's By-Laws. On December 4, 1989, the By-Laws were amended to limit a board member from being allowed to serve more than two consecutive three-year terms. The EDC Board made this recommendation at their regular meeting held on August 31, 2011, by a unanimous vote. This matter was tabled at the last meeting.

At this time, the County Manager distributed and discussed a handout detailing appointments and terms of County-appointed boards. The majority of the boards do not have term limits. She also presented a resolution to be reviewed and approved at a later date for the establishment of policy and procedures for appointments to County boards, commissions, committees, or authorities.

On a motion by Mitchell and a second by Freeman, the Board voted unanimously to eliminate term limits for the EDC Board.

TAX

On a motion by Freeman and a second by Hunter, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Tax Releases for September, 2011, as follows:

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| TOTAL VALUE APPROVED THIS REPORT (2011 LEVY) | 32,574.00 |
| TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (2011 LEVY) | 365.98 |
| TOTAL VALUE APPROVED THIS REPORT (PRIOR LEVY) | 20,464.00 |
| TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (PRIOR LEVY) | 204.57 |
| TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W01 COLL/RECYCLE 2011) | 690.00 |
| TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W02 LANDFILL OPERATION 2011) | 690.00 |
| TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W01 COLL/RECYCLE 2010) | 57.50 |
| TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W02 LANDFILL OPERATION 2010) | 57.50 |
| TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W01 COLL/RECYCLE 2009) | 00.00 |
| TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W02 LANDFILL OPERATION 2009) | 00.00 |
| TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W01 COLL/RECYCLE 2008) | 00.00 |
| TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W02 LANDFILL OPERATION 2008) | 00.00 |
| TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W01 COLL/RECYCLE 2007) | 00.00 |

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| TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W02 LANDFILL OPERATION 2007) | 00.00 |
| TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W01 COLL/RECYCLE 2006) | 00.00 |
| TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W02 LANDFILL OPERATION 2006) | 00.00 |
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| TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W01 COLL/RECYCLE 2002) | 00.00 |
| TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W02 LANDFILL OPERATION 2002) | 00.00 |

COURTHOUSE

James Cannette, concerned citizen, presented the Board with a petition of approximately 500 signatures to keep the Hertford County Courthouse in Winton. He shared his thoughts as to why he thinks the courthouse should remain in Winton.

Katherine Carroll, concerned citizen, also made comments in regards to not relocating the courthouse.

Chairman Farmer addressed the citizens present about the false rumors circulating. The first rumor about moving the jail is false. Hertford County just recently made the last payment on that building and presently paying \$250,000 for a roof replacement. Hertford County is looking for enough property to expand and rebuild that building at some point in the future. The second rumor is about not being serious about building the Courthouse in Winton. Hertford County was serious about building the new courthouse in Winton UNTIL the Town of Winton denied the variance the second time.

Chairman Farmer further explained that the Town of Winton Board of Commissioners is the Board that the citizens need to be addressing. Chairman Farmer stated, "Hertford County is not building a courthouse right now because we are being held up by the Town of Winton."

Vice-Chairman Freeman reemphasized his comments from an earlier meeting that Hertford County is looking down the road for the future. He added that we have tried to purchase property for parking, and the landowners want three, four, and five times the property value.

Hertford County presented a plan for additional parking, and the Town of Winton still denied it.

FOREST SERVICE/AGREEMENTS

On a motion by Hunter and a second by Gatling, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 2011-2012 County Cooperative Agreement with the N. C. Forest Service as presented by Loria D. Williams, County Manager. This agreement is for the protection, development and improvement of forest land in Hertford County, North Carolina. The total cooperative appropriation of \$178,211 is made up of \$106,926 (State 60%) and \$71,284 (County 40%).

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no citizens to speak during the public comment period.

CONTRACT/P.A.W.S.

On a motion by Freeman and a second by Hunter, the Board voted unanimously to approve an agreement with P.A.W.S. for the spay/neuter program as presented by Loria D. Williams, County Manager.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

- Vice-Chairman Freeman questioned had anything been heard from D.O.T. regarding the mound of dirt at Highways 11 and 11. John Rankins will follow up on this matter and discuss it at the 25th work session.
- Commissioner Gatling – Met with Elks officials about recreation efforts

- Commissioner Mitchell thanked the citizens of Winton and Hertford County for coming out to express their views about relocating the Hertford County Courthouse
- Chairman Farmer shared that the Stoney Creek Bridge will be open back up next Wednesday, October 26

On a motion by Freeman and a second by Hunter, the Board voted unanimously to recess Regular Session to go into a scheduled Closed Session as allowed under G. S. 143-318.11 (a) (3) to consult with the County Attorney and (6) to discuss personnel matters.

CLOSED SESSION

Minutes of Closed Session are on file in the office of the Clerk to the Board.

REGULAR SESSION

On a motion by Hunter and a second by Gatling, the Board voted unanimously to recess this meeting until 9:00 A. M., Tuesday, October 25, 2011.