

Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
Hertford County Board of Commissioners  
County Commissioners' Meeting Room  
Monday, November 7, 2011  
9:00 A.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; Charles L. Revelle, III, 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 Vice-Chairman Curtis A. Freeman, Sr.

**TAX**

On a motion by Freeman and a second by Mitchell, the Board voted unanimously to approve a tax refund request in the amount of \$46.30 to Linda Murphy, 1644 US Highway 258 N, Como, NC, 27818. This refund was due to a vehicle being taxed twice (vehicle and personal property) as presented by Gay Sumner, Tax Collector.

Ms. Sumner also presented and reviewed the 2011 Tax Foreclosure List. This list includes properties that are delinquent for two years up to ten years, at which time they are written off due to the statute of limitation running out.

Ms. Sumner requested more money (\$15,000) in the Professional Services line item in order to pursue more of these accounts by the foreclosure attorney. That will be discussed later in the meeting under Memo #7440 along with another request to use Contingency funds.

**RESOLUTIONS**

On a motion by Gatling and a second by Mitchell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month Proclamation:

*Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, November is National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month;

**WHEREAS**, Alzheimer's disease and related disorders are progressively disabling neurological diseases that destroy lives of victims as well as their loved ones;

**WHEREAS**, there are more than 5 million Americans living with Alzheimer's and as many as 10 million family caregivers. Another American is diagnosed with the disease every 70 seconds. Unless something is done, by 2050, up to 16 million Americans will have Alzheimer's, and a new case will be diagnosed every 33 seconds;

**WHEREAS**, in North Carolina an estimated 200,000 people suffer from Alzheimer's disease, causing emotional, physical, medical and financial stress on patients and families, requiring 24-hour personal care;

**WHEREAS**, in Hertford County, a projected increase of 20 to 24% in the growth of the older adult population by 2030 puts the county at a risk for increased diagnoses of this disease;

**WHEREAS**, although advancements have been made recently, continued involvement of health care professionals and government officials will result in further medical progress and patient care improvement; and

**WHEREAS**, there will be an Alzheimer's Walk held on November 12, 2011, at 9:00 A.M. at the amphitheater in Greenville being sponsored by several organizations in the surrounding counties.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Johnnie R. Farmer, Chairman of the Hertford County Board of Commissioners, hereby proclaims

**NOVEMBER AS NATIONAL ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH**

and also hereby proclaims the week of November 12, 2011, as

**ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AWARENESS WEEK IN HERTFORD COUNTY.**

Adopted this the 7<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2011.

**COUNTY PROPERTY/TAX FORECLOSURES**

On a motion by Hunter and a second by Freeman, the Board voted unanimously to accept the bid offer of \$1,000 from Mr. Marcus Johnson to purchase the Shirley Blythe and Gloria Hall tax foreclosure property (PIN #5968-36-6490). The Notice of Offer to Purchase Real Estate and Opportunity for Upset Bid has been properly advertised. No upset bids have been received.

On a motion by Freeman and a second by Gatling, the Board voted unanimously to accept the bid offer of \$1,000 from Ms. Sandra Stephenson to purchase the Dorothy Smith tax foreclosure property (PIN #5968-29-9619). The Notice of Offer to Purchase Real Estate and Opportunity for Upset Bid has been properly advertised. No upset bids have been received.

**BUDGET/REGISTER OF DEEDS/TAX**

On a motion by Gatling and a second by Hunter, the Board voted unanimously to approve using \$20,482.94 of contingency funds as follows:

- \$5,482.94 – Replacing conduit feeding into the Register of Deeds Office
- \$15,000 – Increase Tax Collector's Professional Services (Legal Fees)

On a motion by Freeman and a second by Gatling, the Board voted unanimously to go into a meeting of the Governing Board of the Tunis Sewer District.

**TUNIS SEWER DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD**

On a motion by Freeman and a second by Hunter, the Board voted unanimously to authorize Loria D. Williams, County Manager, to sign off on the following five (5) required permit applications:

- (1) NCDOT Encroachment Application
- (2) NCDOT Driveway Permit Application
- (3) Coastal Area Management Act Application
- (4) NCDENR-DWQ Pressure Sewer, Gravity Sewer, Pump Station & Force Mains Application
- (5) Sedimentation and Erosion Control

On a motion by Freeman and a second by Gatling, the Board voted unanimously to return to Regular Session.

**REGULAR SESSION**

On a motion by Hunter and a second by Gatling, the Board voted unanimously to amend the agenda to allow for public comment.

Ms. Sue Woodard, native/taxpayer of Winton, addressed the Board in reference to the relocation of the Hertford County Courthouse. She remarked that Winton has no industry except the Courthouse and County Office Buildings. She wishes to see the

County Office Buildings near the Courthouse. She asked the Board to rise above the conflict with the Town of Winton and be the bigger men. She requested the Board to keep the Courthouse in or near Winton.

#### **COUNTY MANAGER'S UPDATE**

- Update on EMS renovation at Ahoskie Rescue Building. Will have Open House later. Voting equipment may be moved there since it is climate controlled but will have to be stored under lock and key.
- Discussed Audit Findings Letter – Responses were Acceptable

#### **COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

- Vice-Chairman Freeman discussed the mound of dirt at the 11 and 11 intersection. Administration was directed to have someone from N.C.D.O.T. at a meeting in the near future.
- Commissioner Hunter shared that the NCACC Executive Board had a great meeting with the Governor.
- Commissioner Gatling thanked the staff of Cooperative Extension and Social Services for participating in the Halloween Festival. He expressed his concern with the potholes at the Collection Sites. He thanked John Rankins, Assistant County Manager, for a job well done on the Recreation Proposal presented at the last meeting.
- Commissioner Mitchell thanked the citizens in the audience for their attendance and assured them that their comments regarding the Courthouse were not falling on deaf ears.

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**

##### **COURTHOUSE**

On a motion by Hunter and a second by Mitchell, the Board approved to put the Riversedge property back on the list of potential sites for relocating the Courthouse. Vice-Chairman Freeman voted against this motion.

Commissioner Hunter made a motion to eliminate the Freeman property from the list of potential sites for relocating the Courthouse due to lack of funding for sewer. Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion. The motion failed due to Commissioners Gatling, Farmer, and Freeman voting against the motion.

At the next meeting, the Board discussed narrowing the list of potential sites from four sites down to two sites.

On a motion by Freeman and a second by Mitchell, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.