

Minutes
Regular Meeting
Hertford County Board of Commissioners
County Commissioners' Meeting Room
Tuesday, January 17, 2012
7:00 P.M.

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

Absent: None

Also Present with the Board: Loria D. Williams, County Manager; Charles L. Revelle, III, County Attorney; and Shelia W. Matthews, Clerk to the Board

Chairman Curtis A. Freeman, Sr., called the meeting to order.

The invocation for the meeting was provided by Commissioner Johnnie R. Farmer.

COMMISSIONERS

On a motion by Hunter and a second by Gatling, the Board voted unanimously to add the consideration of the Option Agreement for the Percy Bunch property in Murfreesboro for the relocation of the new courthouse later in the meeting.

On a motion by Gatling and a second by Hunter, the Board voted unanimously to add the consideration of a resolution in honor of Rev. C. David Stackhouse celebrating his 3rd Anniversary with New Ahoskie Baptist Church later in the meeting.

TAX

On a motion by Gatling and a second by Mitchell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Tax Releases for December, 2011, as follows:

TOTAL VALUE APPROVED THIS REPORT (2011 LEVY)	113,035.00
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (2011 LEVY)	1,131.41
TOTAL VALUE APPROVED THIS REPORT (PRIOR LEVY)	00.00
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (PRIOR LEVY)	00.00
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W01 COLL/RECYCLE 2011)	816.50
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W02 LANDFILL OPERATION 2011)	816.50
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W01 COLL/RECYCLE 2010)	00.00
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W02 LANDFILL OPERATION 2010)	00.00
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
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
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W01 COLL/RECYCLE 2005)	00.00
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W02 LANDFILL OPERATION 2005)	00.00
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TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W02 LANDFILL OPERATION 2003)	00.00
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W01 COLL/RECYCLE 2002)	00.00
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W02 LANDFILL OPERATION 2002)	00.00

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

- Ernie Evans, concerned citizen from Ahoskie, shared his views in reference to relocating the courthouse. He feels the Board is being shortsighted if they are just looking at the price. They should consider looking at a more centrally located area (not Murfreesboro) and let the citizens have input. He questioned giving four weeks public notice on this decision. He asked that the Commissioners suspend negotiations on the Bunch property.
- Hal Daniels, concerned citizen from Ahoskie, expressed his opinion that the courthouse should remain in Winton. If it has to be moved, Murfreesboro is not the best property. He asked the Board to rescind their last vote and hold a public referendum.
- Brien Lassiter, Mayor of Ahoskie, was not advocating for Ahoskie but speaking as a Hertford County citizen. He asked the Board to slow down on the process and put a vote to the citizens. He also stressed the importance of what this will look like in the history books 100 years from now. He would like for the Commissioners to rescind their last vote and reconsider the location.
- Ronald Deloatch, concerned citizen from Murfreesboro, was not speaking in regards to the courthouse. He discussed a dispute he has with an EMS bill. He was instructed to get with the County Manager to resolve the issue.

Charles L. Revelle, Hertford County Attorney, shared some comments at this time. The action taken at the last meeting was preliminary selection of a site. You authorized negotiations with the landowner for that site. We have negotiated an option agreement, which will be discussed later tonight, and which is not a contract to purchase the property. This holds the seller at the price quoted and gives the County 120 days for due diligence. There can be no final action until the public notice is done. He also explained that under North Carolina law, no advisory referendums can be held. The County Commissioners have no authority to spend funds to have a special election, unless local legislation is passed to give that authority.

N.C.D.O.T.

Mr. Jerry Jennings, N. C. D. O. T. Division One Engineer, was present to discuss the NC 11/11 Intersection, along with Haywood Daughtry. He also introduced Matt Wood, new N. C. D. O. T. Board Member. Mr. Jennings explained that all the accidents at this intersection were a result of pulling across the intersection – not left or right turns. Before converting to a three-way intersection, there was an average of 7.4 accidents per year, as compared to zero accidents since the conversion. He also explained that accidents at other intersections where traffic had been diverted to had not been affected.

Mr. Jennings expressed that it was D. O. T.'s desire to leave NC 11/11 as a three-way intersection. They are planning to remove the mound of dirt, repave the intersection, put in landscaping, and make it aesthetically pleasing to the eye. They are planning to begin this project in the near future, possibly within the next month, and complete it by mid-April, weather permitting.

Mr. Jennings also shared with the Board that putting in an interchange at NC 11/11 is in the current Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) for 2019, but he stressed it was a very strong possibility of moving this project forward.

At this time, Mr. Win Bridgers, N. C. D. O. T. District Engineer, informed the Board and the public present that a major rehabilitation project was getting ready to begin on Academy Street in Ahoskie stretching from Bojangles to Roanoke-Chowan Hospital. This project will include closing down the street in stages and detouring traffic. It should be completed by August.

TAX

On a motion by Hunter and a second by Gatling, the Board voted unanimously to approve a tax refund to Queen Blowe, 103 Rose Road, Como, NC, 27818, in the amount of \$122.35. This refund is on account #1536 due to the fact that old-age exemption was not applied.

On a motion by Mitchell and a second by Hunter, the Board voted unanimously to approve a tax refund to Elizabeth F. Gillam, P. O. Box 85, Harrellsville, NC, 27942, in the amount of \$180.39. This refund is on bill #11A6934558804 due to a mobile home being double listed.

ABC BOARD

Chairman Freeman presented a request to expand the membership of the Hertford County ABC Board. He explained that other counties our size have five members.

On a motion by Freeman and a second by Gatling, the Board voted unanimously to increase the membership of the Hertford County ABC Board from three to five members. These vacancies will be advertised on our website for interested parties to apply and then appoint two new members at our next meeting, February 6, 2012.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Firefighters Relief Fund Board

Shelia W. Matthews, Clerk to the Board, was instructed at the last meeting to bring back attendance records before making reappointments to the Firefighters Relief Fund Board. Mrs. Matthews explained that after consulting with Chris Smith, Emergency Management Coordinator, these Relief Fund Board Members are trustees of any funding they may receive. They are not an actual Board that meets together as a group. If a catastrophic event occurred and funding was designated, the Relief Fund Board Members from the affected fire department would then meet. As a result, there are no Board Meetings or attendance records.

On a motion by Farmer and a second by Mitchell, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Calvin R. Bryant and Scott Blowe and to reappoint Charlie B. Sumner, William A. Jones, Phil Terry, Sarah Wallace, Jamie King, and Wesley Liverman to the Firefighters Relief Fund Board for two-year terms to expire on January 31, 2014.

COUNTY MANAGER'S UPDATE/N.C.D.O.T.

Loria D. Williams, County Manager, presented a letter from N.C.D.O.T. reviewing design changes to the proposed US 13/158 widening project (TIP Project R-2507A).

RESOLUTIONS

On a motion by Gatling and a second by Hunter, the Board voted unanimously to approve a resolution for the 3rd Anniversary of Rev. C. David Stackhouse at New Ahoskie Baptist Church. This resolution will be presented on Sunday, January 22.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

- Commissioner Hunter informed the Board that staff members from the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) will be here in our county on February 15. He also shared that the jail population is down to about half capacity and thanked our Judges and District Attorney's Office.

On a motion by Gatling and a second by Mitchell, the Board voted unanimously to recess Regular Session to go into a scheduled Closed Session as allowed under G. S. 143-318.11 (3) to consult with the County Attorney and (6) to discuss personnel matters. The motion was amended to include (5) to discuss terms of a contract related to purchase of real estate.

CLOSED SESSION

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

REGULAR SESSION

COURTHOUSE

Commissioner Hunter made a motion to enter an Option Agreement, as present by counsel, for the Bunch property as a site for relocation of the Hertford County Courthouse. The motion died due to the lack of a second.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gatling to table the Option Agreement. Commissioner Farmer seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted for the agreement to be tabled, except Commissioner Hunter.

On a motion by Farmer and a second by Mitchell, the Board voted unanimously to reconsider tabling the Option Agreement.

On a motion by Gatling and a second by Hunter, the Board voted unanimously to reconsider the Option Agreement for the Bunch property.

On a motion by Hunter and a second by Farmer, the Board voted unanimously to enter the Option Agreement for the Bunch property and authorize the execution of the Option Agreement by county officials and payment of the \$100 Option Money.

The County Manager was directed to continue with the previously scheduled site investigation on the Bunch Property.

At this point, Chairman Freeman asked was there any Commissioner that wished to rescind the motion from the last meeting (to purchase the Bunch property for the relocation of the courthouse), and there was no one.

ABC BOARD

Chairman Freeman informed the Board that he would like to be considered for the Hertford County ABC Board.

The two new members for the Hertford County ABC Board will be appointed at the next Board meeting, as well as appointing a Chairman.

On a motion by Hunter and a second by Gatling, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Shelia W. Matthews
Clerk to the Board

Curtis A. Freeman, Sr., Chairman
Hertford County Commissioners