

Minutes
Regular Meeting
Hertford County Board of Commissioners
County Commissioners' Meeting Room
Monday, February 6, 2012
9:00 A.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; John P. Rankins, Assistant County Manager; 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 Vice-Chairman William F. Mitchell, Jr.

SCHOOLS

At this time, Chairman Freeman recognized Commissioner Gatling. Commissioner Gatling announced that Dr. John Fahey had resigned from Hertford County Schools and introduced Mr. Julius Walker as the new Interim Superintendent. Mr. Walker addressed the Board and asked that they visit anytime because he has an open door policy.

MINUTES

On a motion by Hunter and a second by Gatling, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2011, Regular Meeting as presented.

On a motion by Hunter and a second by Gatling, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 3, 2012, Regular Meeting as presented.

On a motion by Hunter and a second by Gatling, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2012, Regular Meeting as presented.

NEWS-HERALD

Judy Farmer, Media Specialist with the Roanoke-Chowan News-Herald, was present requesting participation in the upcoming edition of Crossroads. The Board approved participation in the edition last year. "Citizens of the Year" is the theme for this year's Crossroads.

On a motion by Gatling and a second by Mitchell, the Board voted unanimously to purchase a full-page ad with color in the Crossroads edition at a cost of \$1,592.

SMART START

Ms. Alice Sharpe, Chairperson of the Hertford-Northampton Smart Start Partnership for Children, was present requesting financial assistance. As the result of a recent fire at the facility, repair of lights and rewiring is needed. Bids have been received. Financial assistance in the amount of \$6,500 is being requested.

Chairman Freeman would like to table this matter until meeting with the County Manager. Commissioner Gatling shared that he is an advocate for children and Smart Start and made a motion to approve the \$6,500 financial assistance being requested for repairing lights and rewiring. Commissioner Hunter seconded the motion, and the motion passed with no opposition. This will be taken from Contingency.

COURTHOUSE

Commissioner Johnnie Farmer presented a memo to the Board asking them to consider keeping the courthouse in Winton. He wishes the Board would evaluate the site behind the current courthouse. Commissioner Farmer made a motion to direct the County Manager to have the architect and the engineer investigate constructing the courthouse between the jail and the existing courthouse.

Commissioner Gatling would like to discuss it along with all alternatives being offered at a work session.

Commissioner Farmer continued by reminding fellow Board members that all he is asking is to investigate the feasibility.

The motion died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Gatling asked for a work session to be scheduled for February 9, 2012, at 9:00 A.M.

Chairman Freeman added the recent development of an E911 Center. Space will be needed for this building and will play a role in this decision.

Mr. Joe Murray, Owner of Joe Murray Realty, was present along with the owners of ASP Riversedge (Al Vaughan, Scott Camp, and Preston Wood) to address the Board. They offered 25 acres on the corner of US 158 and Parker's Ferry Road at a price of \$0 dollars. In return, they requested to make the sewer line capable to accommodate the remaining commercial property at Riversedge. The property will revert back to the current owners if the County does not build on it.

Commissioner Farmer thanked the group for the offer. Commissioner Hunter feels Highway 158 is the best place for the courthouse.

On a motion by Hunter and a second by Gatling, the Board voted unanimously to put this property back on the table for discussion during the work session.

Vice-Chairman Mitchell made a motion to have the property looked at by our engineers.

Commissioner Gatling suggested looking at ASP Riversedge's engineering report first and then get our Public Works Director to look at it from their professional standpoint.

Vice-Chairman Mitchell withdrew his motion.

Mr. Al Vaughan spoke as well in reference to having space for the E-911 Center.

Commissioner Hunter appreciates all the concerns from the citizens about this subject.

EMS

Jason Crowell, Manager of EMS/MC Contract Billing, presented a proposal to take over EMS billing for the county. They will be paid on percentage – 8.25% net collections.

On a motion by Gatling and a second by Mitchell, the Board voted unanimously to enter into a contract with EMS/MC Contract Billing.

CADA

On a motion by Gatling and a second by Mitchell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 2012-2013 CDBG Anti-Poverty Work Plan for CADA.

TAX

Gay Sumner, Tax Collector, was present to report the unpaid 2011 tax liens on real property as required by G. S. 105-369(a). The unpaid 2011 tax liens total \$1,369,845.66. This amount is \$147,981.62 less than the unpaid 2010 tax liens.

On a motion by Hunter and a second by Mitchell, the Board voted unanimously to order the Tax Collector to advertise these tax liens and to approve the date of after March 1, 2012, and through June 30, 2012, as required by G. S. 105-369(C) as the time for advertisement.

Tax collection procedures and option were reviewed and discussed.

On a motion by Hunter and a second by Gatling, the Board voted unanimously to approve a tax refund in the amount of \$62.56 for interest paid on account #14691 for the 2011 tax year for the following:

Mr. John P. Revelle
104 Holly Hill Road
Murfreesboro, NC 27855

This refund was approved pursuant to G. S. 105-360(d) – proof of postmark.

On a motion by Hunter and a second by Gatling, the Board voted unanimously to approve a tax refund in the amount of \$133.98 for interest paid on account #14710 for the 2011 tax year for the following:

Revland Farms, Inc. (Mr. John P. Revelle, Owner)
104 Holly Hill Road
Murfreesboro, NC 27855

This refund was approved pursuant to G. S. 105-360(d) – proof of postmark.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Hertford County ABC Board

At a recent Board Meeting, the membership of the Hertford County ABC Board was increased by two members. Shelia Matthews, Clerk to the Board, presented six applications to be considered. The Commissioners nominated potential members as follows:

Commissioner
Mitchell
Freeman
Farmer
Gatling

Nomination
Karen Rowe
Lonnie Simmons
Trey Byrum
Tony Hammond/Jeri Pierce

Candidates were voted on in the order nominated. Karen Rowe was elected on a 5-0 vote. Lonnie Simmons was elected on a 4-1 vote with Commissioner Farmer opposing.

On a motion by Farmer and a second by Hunter, the Board voted to reduce the stipend of Hertford County ABC Board Meetings to \$150 for all members. Commissioners Gatling and Mitchell opposed the motion.

Chairman Freeman discussed the chairmanship of the Hertford County ABC Board. The Commissioners appoint the ABC Board Chairman. Chairman Freeman would like for the Commissioners to consider rotating the chairmanship for annual terms.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

On a motion by Mitchell and a second by Gatling, the Board voted unanimously to approve Amendment No. 8 to the FY 2011-2012 Hertford County Budget Ordinance as presented by Robbin Stephenson, Finance Director, as follows:

AMENDMENT TO THE HERTFORD COUNTY BUDGET ORDINANCE 2011/2012 (Amendment No. 8)

Section 1 of the Hertford County Budget Ordinance, pertaining to the General Fund operations of the County, shall be amended as follows:

Increase (Decrease) Appropriations:

Human Services

Department of Social Services – Upgrade Computers	\$ 75,916
Department of Social Services – Medical Transportation	\$ 26,731
Department of Social Services – Medical Transportation	\$(26,731)
Department of Social Services – LIEAP	\$ 20,829

Total **\$ 96,745**

Section 2 of the Hertford County Budget Ordinance, pertaining to the General Fund operations of the County, shall be amended as follows:

Increase (Decrease) Revenues:

Fund Balance Appropriated	\$ 75,916
Restricted Intergovernmental – DSS	\$ 20,829

Total **\$ 96,745**

This amendment:

- Funds needed to upgrade DSS computers to meet State requirement
Source of Funding: Fund Balance
- This completes the move of medical transportation funds from Administration to Public Assistance.
Source of Funding: None
- Appropriate funds to DSS

Source of Funding: Federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Funds Block Grant

CONTRACTS/AUDIT

On a motion by Farmer and a second by Hunter, the Board voted unanimously to enter into a Contract to Audit Accounts with Winston, Williams, Creech, Evans & Company, LLP, at the same rate as the current year with a small increase the second and third years.

BANKING SERVICES

Loria D. Williams, County Manager, explained to the Board that RBC is being bought out by PNC and discussed how much work is involved when this happens. She also shared that this is the year that we would normally put out RFPs for banking services. This would mean the County changing over now and then again later in the same year. The County Manager and the Finance Director are asking permission to extend our current contract with PNC for one year and put out RFPs next year. It was the Board's consensus to allow this extension.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

- Chairman Freeman turned the floor over to Michelle Felton, who shared her opinion of the future of the Hertford County Courthouse.
- Vice-Chairman Mitchell thanked citizens who came to the meeting today and also shared thoughts about the courthouse. He informed everyone that although we are a Tier One county, our ranking within that Tier One has improved.
- Commissioner Gatling asked the County Manager to check on having rocks spread at the collection sites and asked the Assistant County Manager to schedule a Recreation Committee Meeting.
- Commissioner Hunter thanked citizens present. He announced that staff from the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) will be here visiting the county on February 15.
- Chairman Freeman added that he would like to examine our uniform contract (leasing vs. purchasing). He also commented that the courthouse saga has not come lightly to this Board.

Representative Annie W. Mobley was recognized as being present in the audience.

On a motion by Hunter and a second by Gatling, the Board voted unanimously to recess Regular Session to go into a scheduled Closed Session as allowed under G. S.

143-318.11 (a) to consult with the County Attorney and (6) to discuss personnel matters.

CLOSED SESSION

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

REGULAR SESSION

On a motion by Gatling and a second by Mitchell, the Board voted unanimously to recess the meeting until 9:00 A.M. on Thursday, February 9, 2012.