

Minutes
Reconvened Meeting
Hertford County Board of Commissioners
County Commissioners' Meeting Room
Thursday, February 9, 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; and Shelia W. Matthews, Clerk to the Board

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

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

EDC/RESOLUTIONS

On a motion by Hunter and a second by Gatling, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following resolution supporting installation of a rail spur to Structural Coatings Hertford, LLC:

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
INSTALLATION OF A RAIL SPUR
STRUCTURAL COATINGS HERTFORD, LLC**

WHEREAS, Structural Coatings Hertford, LLC is constructing a new industrial facility in Hertford County located at 930 River Road, Cofield, NC and will be bringing new jobs and investment to this area; and

WHEREAS, Structural Coatings Hertford, LLC desires to utilize rail as a means of transportation both inbound and outbound; and

WHEREAS, the installation of a rail spur to access the Structural Coatings Hertford, LLC facility will reduce heavy truck traffic and improve public safety for the people of the Roanoke Chowan area;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Hertford County Board of Commissioners at their reconvened meeting on February 9, 2012 at 9:00 A.M. in the Commissioners' Room in Winton, respectfully request the North Carolina Department of

Transportation to support and participate in the cost of constructing a rail spur into the Structural Coatings Hertford, LLC site.

Adopted this 9th day of February, 2012.

On a motion by Hunter and a second by Mitchell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the submission of an application to the Rural Center for the rail spur installation at Structural Coatings Hertford, LLC. This will require a 10% match (\$10,000) to come from Contingency. The Chairman/County Manager was authorized to sign off on any necessary documents.

COURTHOUSE

Discussion was held on the County Campus property. The cost associated with moving water lines, sewer lines, old fragile phone lines, etc. needs to be considered. Also, if you put everything on current campus, there will be a considerable amount of demolition and relocation of offices during construction.

Vice-Chairman Mitchell shared his thoughts on growth and the need for space to grow. Commissioner Hunter agrees and feels building on County Campus as costly and has no growth potential.

Discussion was held on demolishing the old courthouse vs. selling it. Commissioner Farmer shared that the original plan was to tear it down for a parking lot. He opposes not tearing it down. It is an accident waiting to happen.

Vice-Chairman Mitchell made a motion to acquire additional properties to meet short and long-term goals and to accept the 25 acres from the Riversedge group. Commissioner Hunter seconded the motion and then more discussion was held.

A portion of this 25 acre site is outside of the Town of Winton's extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ), but the portion that falls inside the ETJ may be exercised later by the Town of Winton.

The Town of Winton's sewer capacity was questioned. Emy Winstead, Winton Town Councilwoman, shared that Winton's sewer could handle the courthouse and any other commercial property, as well as the Tunis Sewer Project.

Comments from citizens present were as follows:

- Emy Winstead – Prefers for the courthouse to remain in Winton but will accept moving it to the Riversedge property
- McCoy Pierce – Agrees with Ms. Winstead and hopes the two Board can work together with no more arguing

- Karen Rowe – Feels the courthouse can be renovated for a lesser price. She would love to see it stay in Winton. She shared how other courthouses had been restored in historical areas such as Edenton and Suffolk, Va. She thanked Commissioner Farmer for his efforts.
- Marshall Askew – Remarked in reference to putting the courthouse on Taylor Street. There is a lot running under the streets (phone, gas, sewer, water).

Vice-Chairman Mitchell withdrew his previous motion and made the following motion:

That Hertford County accept a Deed of Gift from Riversedge, LLP of a 25 acre ± tract of land on the North side of US Highway 158, and the East side of Parker's Fishery Road, to be surveyed to the mutual satisfaction of both parties, with the Deed of Gift to contain a reversionary clause that title to the land will revert to the Grantor if the County has not begun construction of a courthouse on the site within one year;

Provided further, acceptance of the Deed of Gift is contingent upon the Town of Winton's agreement that Winton will provide sewage treatment of waste generated on the site, that Hertford County Rural Water District water shall be provided to the site, that the site shall be excluded from Town of Winton extraterritorial zoning jurisdiction;

Provided further, should the County determine that the site is unsuitable for courthouse construction, for environmental, soil test, title issues, or any other reason, the County may reconvey the land to the Grantor, for no additional consideration, prior to the expiration of the reversionary period.

Commissioner Hunter seconded the motion, and it passed by unanimous vote.

The County Manager will have the environmental firm on the site as quickly as possible.

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