

Minutes
Regular Meeting
Hertford County Board of Commissioners
County Commissioners' Meeting Room
Monday, February 4, 2013
9:00 A.M.

Present: Curtis A. Freeman, Sr., William F. Mitchell, Jr., Johnnie R. Farmer (entered late), 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 Vice-Chairman William F. Mitchell, Jr.

ABC BOARD

Mr. Clarence Jordan, ABC Store Manager, reported on the construction project of the new ABC Store in Ahoskie. They are currently working out of the warehouse. He also wanted to inform the Board of their intent to use ABC funds for shelving and office equipment. They will use between \$75,000 and \$100,000 of their general fund. This is not County dollars, and it will not affect the ABC distribution to the County or Town.

TAX

Gay Sumner, Tax Collector, was present to report the unpaid 2012 tax liens on real property as required by G. S. 105-369(a). The unpaid 2012 tax liens total \$1,526,536.78. This amount is \$156,691.12 more than the unpaid 2011 tax liens.

Commissioner Farmer entered the meeting at this time.

On a motion by Mitchell and a second by Gatling, the Board voted unanimously to order the Tax Collector to advertise these tax liens and to approve the date of after March 1, 2013, and through June 30, 2013, as required by G. S. 105-369(C) as the time for advertisement.

Ms. Sumner added that all the tax collection procedures and processes including advertising delinquent taxes are running two weeks ahead of schedule.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Sheriff Juan Vaughan was present to request approval of purchasing 9-1-1 Digital Radios. He explained that Ahoskie already have digital radios and Murfreesboro is currently in the process of going digital as well. The Hertford County Sheriff's Department can no longer communicate with these agencies.

He presented a quote of \$14,552.00 for 16 radios. Since receiving the quote, he has realized that he will actually need 20 radios. On a motion by Gatling and a second by Mitchell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the purchase of 20 digital radios for the Sheriff's Department personnel. This will come from Contingency.

N.C.D.O.T.

Mr. Larry Cooper, concerned citizen, was present to request assistance with his road, Caroline Street. He presented a petition with signatures from every homeowner on the road totaling 17 signatures. He shared that they have County Water down that road and school buses traveling that road. If it can't be paved, he would like for someone to at least drag it.

On a motion by Farmer and a second by Gatling, the Board voted unanimously to forward the Petition for Road Addition for Caroline Street to N.C.D.O.T. for consideration of being added to the State Maintained System.

MENTAL HEALTH

Commissioner Farmer updated the Board on proposed changes to the East Carolina Health Board of Directors (Mental Health Board). One major change involves County representation on the Board. Out of 19 counties, only 11 will have representation as it stands now with the new statutes set to take effect October 1, 2013.

RESOLUTIONS/NCACC

On a motion by Gatling and a second by Mitchell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following resolution in support of the NCACC Legislative Goals as presented by Commissioner Howard J. Hunter, III:

RESOLUTION

IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATIVE GOALS ADOPTED BY THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners was founded in 1908 as a membership organization to represent the interests of counties before the General Assembly;

WHEREAS, all 100 counties are voluntary members of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, making the NCACC the official voice of North Carolina counties;

WHEREAS, every two years, the membership of the NCACC develops and approves a package of legislative proposals designed to protect and enhance the interests of county governments and the citizens who live in our 100 counties;

WHEREAS, the process to generate this package of legislative goals is deliberate and inclusive and provides extensive opportunities for counties to be involved;

WHEREAS, Hertford County is an active participant within the NCACC and participated in the process to develop these legislative proposals;

WHEREAS, more than 200 county officials representing 88 counties gathered in Durham County on Jan. 24-25, 2013, and debated and ultimately approved 60 proposals submitted by counties to be included in the legislative goals package;

WHEREAS, the attached proposals represent the collective wishes of all 100 counties;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hertford County Board of Commissioners adopts this resolution in support of the legislative proposals adopted by the NCACC membership at its 2013 Legislative Goals Conference;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the members of the General Assembly representing Hertford County to let them know of our support for these issues.

Adopted this the 4th day of February, 2013.

COMMISSIONERS/COURTHOUSE/TUNIS SEWER

The County Manager explained that at the request of the County Attorney, Memo #7728 – Hertford County Judicial Center Financing (If Needed) and Memo #7739 – Tunis Sewer District Financing (If Needed) were placed on the agenda in case we needed them. Since there was no business needing attention, Ms. Williams used this time to update the Board on the two projects.

All documents for the Courthouse Project are ready to go to Public Market. Conference calls on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week will be used in tying down the interest rate. Closing will be held February 14, 2013.

A letter of commitment for the additional \$74,000 has been signed for the Tunis Sewer Project. Everything has been submitted from the County and waiting on the Local Government Commission.

COUNTY MANAGER'S UPDATE

The County Manager had no further updates.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

- Commissioner Gatling shared that the first Recreation Meeting of the year had been held on January 31. He will make an update at the next meeting.
- Vice-Chairman Mitchell gave kudos to Loria Williams, Robbin Stephenson, and Chuck Revelle on all their work on the Courthouse and Tunis Sewer Projects. Then he led a discussion on eliminating old structures (run down, falling down, etc.) throughout the county. He suggested using them for fire training for the fire departments.

The County Manager explained there could possibly be funding available through the Division of Community Assistance for demolition of such eyesores. Ms. Williams will research the procedures for demolishing old structures, as well as financing options.

The County Manager then reported that the 2010 CDBG Scattered Site Project is closing. This is five months early. The Board needs to start thinking about the next CDBG Project – continue the way it is now or look at a different approach (such as concentrated areas, etc.).

On a motion by Gatling and a second by Farmer, the Board voted unanimously to recess Regular Session to go into a scheduled Closed Session as allowed under G. S. 143-319.11 (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

PERSONNEL/ANIMAL CONTROL

On a motion by Mitchell and a second by Gatling, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the County Manager to create another Animal Control Officer position.

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