

Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
Hertford County Board of Commissioners  
County Commissioners' Meeting Room  
Monday, July 21, 2014  
7:00 P.M.

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

Absent: None

Also Present with the Board: M. Ray Wiggins, Assistant County Manager; Charles L. Revelle, III, County Attorney; and Shelia W. Matthews, Clerk to the Board

Chairman William F. Mitchell, Jr., called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Johnnie R. Farmer provided the invocation for the meeting.

**MINUTES**

On a motion by Gatling and a second by Freeman, the following minutes were approved as presented:

- (1) May 05, 2014 – Regular Meeting
- (2) May 15, 2014 – Joint Meeting with Board of Education
- (3) May 19, 2014 – Regular Meeting

**TAX**

On a motion by Freeman and a second by Gatling, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following Tax Releases for the month of June, 2014, as well as the Vehicle Tax Releases for the months of May and June, 2014:

TOTAL VALUE APPROVED THIS REPORT (2013 LEVY)	14,000.00
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (2013 LEVY)	117.60
TOTAL VALUE APPROVED THIS REPORT (PRIOR LEVY)	7,160.00
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (PRIOR LEVY)	65.16
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W01 COLL/RECYCLE 2013)	00.00
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W02 LANDFILL OPERATION 2013)	00.00
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W01 COLL/RECYCLE 2012)	00.00
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W02 LANDFILL OPERATION 2012)	00.00
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W01 COLL/RECYCLE 2011)	00.00
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W02 LANDFILL OPERATION 2011)	00.00
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W01 COLL/RECYCLE 2010)	57.50
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W02 LANDFILL OPERATION 2010)	57.50

TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W01 COLL/RECYCLE 2009)	57.50
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W02 LANDFILL OPERATION 2009)	57.50
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W01 COLL/RECYCLE 2008)	57.50
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W02 LANDFILL OPERATION 2008)	57.50
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
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W01 COLL/RECYCLE 2004)	00.00
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W02 LANDFILL OPERATION 2004)	00.00
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W01 COLL/RECYCLE 2003)	00.00
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W02 LANDFILL OPERATION 2003)	00.00

### **FINANCE**

On a motion by Hunter and a second by Freeman, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Finance Office to write-off outstanding checks equal to or greater than \$50 from the old bank accounts at PNC (General Fund and Inmate Trust Accounts). These funds will be escheated in November.

### **TAX**

On a motion by Gatling and a second by Freeman, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following vehicle tax refunds totaling \$773.03. These refunds were due because the bills were paid before debt setoff sent in payments.

DerwinLomont Reynolds 525 E. Saluda Hall Road Ahoskie, NC 27910 Bill #0703-299228	\$355.37
Norma Olivencia 124 Fretwell Road Ahoskie, NC 27910 Bill #1304-439504	\$124.66
Kenneth Oscar Jones, III 226 Hollowell Road Aulander, NC 27805 Bill #1305-441426	\$119.45
Margaret Balance Lewter 203 Lewter Farm Road Ahoskie, NC 27910 Bill #1305-441426	\$173.55

On a motion by Hunter and a second by Freeman, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Tax Collection Percentage Reports as presented by Gay Sumner, Tax Collector.

On a motion by Hunter and a second by Freeman, the Board voted unanimously to approve the order for the Tax Collector to collect 2014 taxes per G. S. 105-321(b) as follows:

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF HERTFORD

To the Tax Collector of the County of Hertford

You are hereby authorized, empowered, and commanded to collect the 2014 taxes set forth in the tax records filed in the office of the Tax Assessor and in the tax receipts delivered to you, in the amounts and from the taxpayers likewise therein set forth. Such taxes are hereby declared to be a first lien upon all real property of the respective taxpayers in the County of Hertford, and this order shall be a full and sufficient authority to direct, require, and enable you to levy on and sell any real or personal property of such taxpayers, for and on account thereof, in accordance with law.

Witness my hand and official seal, this 21<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2014.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

- Dr. Michael Elam, R-CCC President, thanked the Board for their continued support, and invited them to a Business After Hours (co-sponsored with Ahoskie, Bertie, Murfreesboro, and Northampton Chambers of Commerce) to be held on Monday, August 18, from 5:00 to 6:30 P.M. at the R-CCC Student Services Building which will also include a mural unveiling.
- Amy Braswell, Ahoskie Chamber of Commerce Director, commented that the Hertford County Arts Council had found a new home at the old Bank of Ahoskie (corner of Railroad and Main Streets)
- Mike Blowe, resident of Tunis, shared with the Board some complaints regarding the Tunis Sewer Project as follows:
  - Water standing at church that has not been addressed – They are having to put down boards to maneuver over the standing water
  - Mailbox torn down eight months ago and still not replaced
  - Contacted County Manager four months ago and have not heard back from her

Mr. Mike Bradley, Rural Public Works Director who was present in the audience, was directed to meet with Mr. Blowe and compile a list of work needed. The Administration staff was directed to report back to the Board regarding this matter.

#### **PUBLIC WORKS/TOWN OF COFIELD**

Mr. Hermea Pugh, Sr., Mayor of Cofield, was present to request an adjustment to the Town of Cofield's recent water bill. On a motion by Gatling and a second by Hunter, the Board voted unanimously to approve an adjustment to the Town of Cofield's water bill in the amount of \$5,900. At this time, the Board asked Mr. Mike Bradley to address this issue, and he reviewed the adjustments that had been previously made for the Town of Cofield as follows:

- Commissioners approved \$5,600 adjustment on May 21, 2013 (1,400,000 gallons lost)
- Public Works Director approved \$3,611 adjustment on February 14, 2014 (902,000 gallons lost)

The motion remained the same after this review of adjustments.

On a motion by Hunter and a second by Farmer, the Board voted unanimously to recess Regular Session to go into a scheduled Public Hearing per the following advertised Notice:

### **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Pursuant to G.S. 158-7.1, the Hertford County Board of Commissioners hereby gives notice that:

(a) Hertford County proposes to convey to RD Hall Transport, Inc., a tract of land, to be surveyed, containing four (4) acres, more or less, in the Hertford County Industrial Park, located on the east side of State Road #1218, (Industrial Park Road), and fronting on SR#1218 approximately 387 feet, being further described as the 5.716 acre tract at Plat Cabinet 1, Slide 94-G conveyed to Hertford County at Book 662, page 747, less the 1.39 acre lands and 0.24 acre easement leased to Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless at Book 672, page 116, and Book 672, page 124, and being a portion of PIN # 6906-48-3647.

(b) The value of the property to be conveyed, subject to the protective covenants and provisions governing lots in the Hertford County Industrial Park, is \$4,000.00 per acre.

(c) The consideration to be received for the conveyance is \$4,000.00 per acre, as determined by survey, to be paid in cash at the closing of the transaction.

(d) The Board currently intends to approve the conveyance following a public hearing to be held on Monday, July 21, 2014 at 7:30 o'clock P.M., in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, County Office Building No. One, King Street, Winton, North Carolina.

(e) The conveyance will be subject to protective covenants recorded in Book 691, page 774, Hertford County Registry.

This the 8th day of July, 2014.

HERTFORD COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

By: William F. Mitchell, Jr., Chairman

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Mr. Bill Early, EDC Director, was present to review the request – RD Hall Transport, Inc. is proposing to purchase 4.02 acres in the Hertford County Industrial Park at a price of \$4,000 per acre.

On a motion by Hunter and a second by Freeman, the Board voted unanimously to leave the Public Hearing and return to Regular Session.

**REGULAR SESSION**

**EDC/INDUSTRIAL PARK**

On a motion by Gatling and a second by Hunter, the Board voted unanimously to approve the conveyance of four (4) acres, more or less, in the Hertford County Industrial Park to RD Hall Transport, Inc., at \$4,000 per acre. The tract of land is located on the east side of State Road #1218 (Industrial Park Road), and fronting on SR #1218 approximately 387 feet, being further described as the 5.716 acre tract at Plat Cabinet 1, Slide 94-G conveyed to Hertford County at Book 662, page 747, less the 1.39 acre lands and 0.24 acre easement leased to Celco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless at Book 672, page 116, and Book 672, page 124, and being a portion of PIN #6906-48-3647. This conveyance is subject to protective covenants recorded in Book 691, page 774, Hertford County Registry.

**SCHOOLS**

Ms. Cindy Martin, Executive Director of Financial Services with Hertford County Schools, was present to request approval of a roof replacement at Riverview School. This project had been discussed during a recent Joint Meeting between Hertford County Board of Education and Hertford County Board of Commissioners. The roof replacement totals \$110,000 (\$82,500/State and \$27,500/Local). The local match is pulled from the Schools Capital Outlay Fund.

On a motion by Freeman and a second by Hunter, the Board voted unanimously to approve the roof replacement at Riverview School.

**AMBULANCE FRANCHISES**

On a motion by Freeman and a second by Hunter, the Board voted unanimously to approve granting of ambulance franchises to the following for FY 2014-2015 as presented by James Broglin, EMS Director:

- Bertie Ambulance Service, Inc.

- Hertford County Emergency Services
- Med-Ex Medical Transport Service, Inc.
- White Oak Medical Transport Service, Inc.

On a motion by Farmer and a second by Hunter, the Board voted unanimously to deny an ambulance franchise to Priority Care Medical Services, Inc., due to the fact they failed to submit application fee as well as additional requested financial information.

### **RESOLUTIONS/N.C.D.O.T.**

On a motion by Farmer and a second by Freeman, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following resolution requesting N.C.D.O.T. to recognize US Highway 158 as a Strategic Transportation Corridor as presented and requested by Commissioner Farmer:

### **RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (NCDOT) TO RECOGNIZE US HIGHWAY 158 AS A STRATEGIC TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR**

**WHEREAS**, in May of 2014, the North Carolina Department of Transportation held meetings across the state presenting Strategic Transportation Corridors for North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, NCDOT has identified these Corridors as a critical network of multimodal transportation corridors that form the backbone of the state's transportation system and the focus for NCDOT's 25 year implementing vision and future investments; and

**WHEREAS**, US Highway 158, is a 350 mile east-west corridor that is part of the National Highway System and established to provide easy access through a series of standardized routes for the movement of people and goods in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, US Highway 158 is an important transportation corridor for major industry such as Nucor Steel, Lowe's Regional Distributions Center, Kapstone Paper & Packaging, Perdue Farms, and others that provide important economic opportunities for the communities in northeastern North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, US Highway 158 provides an east-west link that links metropolitan areas in North Carolina (Winston-Salem/Greensboro/Highpoint) to eastern North Carolina and to the Hampton Roads Area of Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, US Highway 158 provides a critical logistical link between Interstate 95 and Interstate 85 for the movement of people and freight; and

**WHEREAS**, US Highway 158 is as a critical transportation corridor for the defense industry and serves a designated Hurricane Evacuation Route for Coastal North Carolina.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the County Commissioners of Hertford County, North Carolina, do hereby request the North Carolina Department of Transportation to recognize US Highway 158 as a high-priority corridor to serve the state's high-level economic development and mobility needs and identify US Highway 158 as one of the North Carolina's Strategic Transportation Corridors; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the County Commissioners of Hertford County do hereby adopt this resolution and that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to NCDOT Division 1 Board Member, Malcolm Fearing and NCDOT Division 4 Board Member, Gus Tulloss, to seek their assistance.

**Adopted this 21<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2014.**

At this time, Commissioner Hunter displayed maps and explained the proposed Alternate 1 for the NC 11/US 13 Project. Alternate 1 does not give access to Hwy. 461. The Board directed staff to prepare a resolution in support of Alternate 1 asking for access to Hwy. 461 for emergency purposes to be sent to Scott Emory with N.C.D.O.T.

#### **COUNTY PROPERTY/TAX FORECLOSURES**

The Board reviewed an offer made on the Kay Frances Scott tax foreclosure property (PIN #5968-45-5728) in the amount of \$1,500. The Board questioned how much was owed on this property and how long the County had been carrying it on the books. The Clerk was directed to bring this information back at the next meeting.

#### **PERSONNEL**

On a motion by Hunter and a second by Farmer, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Hertford County 2014-2015 Budget Job Classification List – Grade Order as presented by M. Ray Wiggins, Assistant County Manager. This included all reclassifications made during the budget process.

#### **PERSONNEL/COMMUNICATIONS**

The Assistant County Manager explained to the Board that the Dispatchers would need to be transferred from the Sheriff's Department to the Central Communications Department. This would involve four full-time and two part-time Dispatchers. They will be under the supervision of David Brown, E-911 Director.

On a motion by Freeman and a second by Gatling, the Board voted unanimously to approve the transfer of Dispatchers from the Sheriff's Department to the Central Communications Department, effective August 1, 2014.

## **RECREATION**

The Assistant County Manager informed the Board that the new playground equipment will be installed this week at the DuPont L. Davis Memorial Park. On a motion by Gatling and a second by Freeman, the Board voted unanimously to transfer funds from Contingency to purchase the playground equipment. Robbin Stephenson, Finance Director, will bring back a budget amendment at the next meeting for this transaction.

## **COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

- Commissioner Farmer asked Stephanie Parker-Helmkamp, Cooperative Extension Director, to introduce Noah Parker. Noah is a 4-Her who will be attending the NCACC Conference in August.
- Commissioner Hunter discussed how counties that have already adopted a ¼ cent general purpose sales tax could levy an additional ¼ cent sales tax for either transit or education only, if HB 1224 passes. He noted that NACo had a great conference in New Orleans and brought back information regarding the installation of kiosks to pay bills (tickets, child support, etc.) that would help the Clerk of Court's Office in the Courthouse.
- Vice-Chairman Gatling informed the Board that the fence had been removed at R. L. Vann and the playground equipment would be installed on Wednesday.
- Commissioner Freeman would like to start having meetings around in the county – Maybe once every other month. The other Board Members were in agreement.
- Chairman Mitchell shared with the Board an invitation to Zion Grove Baptist Church on July 27<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 P.M. for recognition of Ms. Orlando Reed.

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**

### **TUNIS SEWER PROJECT**

On a motion by Freeman and a second by Hunter, the Board voted unanimously to approve a loan of \$31,200 to the Tunis Sewer District for the purpose of entering a contract to connect individual homeowners to the system.

On a motion by Hunter and a second by Freeman, the Board voted unanimously to recess Regular Session to meet as the Governing Board of the Tunis Sewer District.

### **TUNIS SEWER DISTRICT**

On a motion by Freeman and a second by Hunter, the Board voted unanimously to accept the loan of \$31,200 in order to connect homeowners to the sewer system.



On a motion by Freeman and a second by Gatling, the Board voted unanimously to approve the execution of a contract with Peele Plumbing for connecting individual homeowners to the Tunis Sewer District System at a cost of \$31,200.

On a motion by Freeman and a second by Hunter, 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 adjourn the meeting.