

Minutes
Regular Meeting
Hertford County Board of Commissioners
County Commissioners' Meeting Room
Monday, September 15, 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: Loria D. Williams, County Manager; 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.

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 August, 2014:

TOTAL VALUE APPROVED THIS REPORT (2014 LEVY)	675,794.00
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (2014 LEVY)	7,898.35
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 2014)	780.00
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W02 LANDFILL OPERATION 2014)	780.00
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)	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

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments made during Public Comment Period.

COURTHOUSE

On a motion by Gatling and a second by Hunter, the Board voted unanimously to approve Authorization for Change in Services #001 in the amount of \$6,065 for Construction Administration Services.

On a motion by Freeman and a second by Gatling, the Board voted unanimously to approve Authorization for Change in Services #002 in the amount of \$30,195 due to the 23-day delay because of weather. This will come out of liquidated damages.

The Board proceeded with County Manager's Update since Judges Branch and Lewis had not yet arrived to make their presentation.

COUNTY MANAGER'S UPDATE

The County Manager led a discussion regarding signage at the new Courthouse/Government Center Buildings. There had been \$50,000 budgeted for signs and this amount will cover departmental/directional signs located near the buildings. Ms. Williams also presented sketches for potential signage to be placed on the roads to identify the property (larger one on Highway 158 and smaller one on Parker's Ferry Road). The consensus of the Board was to bring back estimates before making final decision.

The County Manager informed the Board that some residents of the Tunis Sewer District are using the system. The District will start billing for sewer service on September 20. There are 10 to 12 hook-ups left.

On a motion by Freeman and a second by Hunter, the Board voted unanimously to go into a meeting of the Tunis Sewer District Governing Board.

TUNIS SEWER DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD

On a motion by Freeman and a second by Farmer, the Board voted unanimously to approve an additional \$1,800 be paid to Peele Plumbing for the hook-ups of two commercial properties that had inadvertently omitted.

On a motion by Hunter and a second by Freeman, the Board voted unanimously to leave a meeting of the Tunis Sewer District Governing Board and return to Regular Session.

REGULAR SESSION

PERSONNEL

The Board was informed that Ruth Bek, Chief Code Enforcement Officer, started her employment today, and Leah Craddock will begin September 10 as the Human Resources Director.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

- Commissioner Farmer toured the Courthouse after the last meeting and remarked how well it was coming along. Ms. Williams added that October 25th is substantial completion date for the Courthouse and earlier than that for the Government Center. Furniture will be delivered December 15th.

On a motion by Freeman 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) (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

COURT SYSTEM

Chief District Court Judge W. Rob Lewis (District 6B) was present to begin discussion on the merger of the Judicial Districts in January, 2015, while awaiting arrival of Chief District Court Judge Brenda G. Branch (District 6A). Judge Lewis explained to the Board that in January, 2015, Judicial Districts 6A and 6B will be merged into one district. As a result of this merger, District 6B will lose Judge Lewis, along with Judge Thomas L. Jones, Jr. There will be four Judges covering four counties. Judge Lewis asked the Board to be patient with the Court System and made them aware that some courts will not be able to run as before. The Board thanked Judge Lewis for his time on the bench.

When Judge Branch arrived, she reemphasized the statements made by Judge Lewis and explained that she and Judge Lewis would be setting new schedules together and cautioned that some Courts may be merged; some Courts may be cut. She shared that the four Judges would be traveling among the four counties, and how bad weather may play a part in the cancellation of Courts (three Judges live in Halifax County; one Judge lives in Northampton County).

Judge Branch added the Magistrates will be having more of a role because of this merger. She hopes the Commissioners will help explain this merger to the citizens. In closing, Judge Branch was very complimentary of Judge Lewis and their working relationship.

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