

Minutes  
Organizational Meeting  
Hertford County Board of Commissioners  
County Commissioners' Meeting Room  
Monday, December 1, 2014  
9:00 A.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

County Attorney Charles L. Revelle, III, called the meeting to order and provided the invocation.

**COMMISSIONERS**

Shelia W. Matthews, Clerk to the Board, administered the following oath of office to the newly reelected Hertford County Commissioner Curtis A. Freeman, Sr.:

OATH OF OFFICE

HERTFORD COUNTY

WINTON, NORTH CAROLINA

I, CURTIS A. FREEMAN, SR., DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR (OR AFFIRM) THAT I WILL SUPPORT AND MAINTAIN THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES, AND THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF NORTH CAROLINA NOT INCONSISTENT THEREWITH, AND THAT I WILL FAITHFULLY DISCHARGE THE DUTIES OF MY OFFICE AS HERTFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONER, SO HELP ME GOD.

The Honorable John A. Hinton, Mayor of the Town of Murfreesboro, administered the following oath of office to the newly reelected Hertford County Commissioner Johnnie R. Farmer:

OATH OF OFFICE

HERTFORD COUNTY

WINTON, NORTH CAROLINA

I, JOHNNIE R. FARMER, DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR (OR AFFIRM) THAT I WILL SUPPORT AND MAINTAIN THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES, AND THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF NORTH CAROLINA NOT INCONSISTENT THEREWITH, AND THAT I WILL FAITHFULLY DISCHARGE THE DUTIES OF MY OFFICE AS HERTFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONER, SO HELP ME GOD.

On a motion by Freeman and a second by Farmer, the Board voted unanimously to appoint William F. Mitchell, Jr., as Chairman for another year.

On a motion by Freeman and a second by Hunter, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Ronald J. Gatling as Vice-Chairman for another year.

### **TAX**

On a motion by Hunter and a second by Gatling, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Tax Collection Percentage Report.

### **RESOLUTIONS/CHOWAN UNIVERSITY**

Members of the Chowan University Hawks Women's Volleyball Team were in attendance at the meeting and were introduced as the 2014 CIAA Volleyball Champions. Assistant County Manager Ray Wiggins also introduced their Head Coach Dawn Peipher and Ozzie McFarland, Athletic Director. The Board congratulated them and approved the following resolution in their recognition on a motion by Hunter and a second by Gatling:

#### **RESOLUTION HONORING THE CHOWAN UNIVERSITY HAWKS WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2014 CIAA VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP**

**WHEREAS**, the Hertford County Board of Commissioners, as the governing body of Hertford County, recognizes and appreciates the presence and contribution of Chowan University as a unique institution of excellence in higher education, founded with a mission to serve, and grounded in Christian ideology and Spirit to achieve; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chowan University Hawks Women's Volleyball Team on Sunday, November 16, 2014, earned the title of 2014 CIAA Volleyball Champions with a 3-0 victory over Fayetteville State University to earn their third CIAA Volleyball Championship in program history; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hawks players and coaches, led by Head Coach Dawn Peipher, have demonstrated the Chowan Spirit to achieve through its dedication, hard work and accomplishment with an overall 2014 season record of 26 and 7; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hawks players and coaches have embodied a positive image for the Chowan University family and campus and the citizens of Hertford County and the surrounding areas; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2014 CIAA Volleyball Champion Hawks received an automatic bid into the NCAA Division II Atlantic Regional Tournament and competed on November 20, 2014.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Hertford County Board of Commissioners officially acknowledges the talents, skills, teamwork, sportsmanship and success of the 2014 Chowan University Hawks Women's Volleyball Team; the 2014 CIAA Volleyball Champions, and on behalf of our citizens, does hereby extend this expression of our pride in this notable achievement.

Adopted this the 1<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2014.

**PERSONNEL**

Leah Craddock, Human Resources Director, introduced the following new County employees:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Department</u>
Floyd Lynch	Sheriff's Office
Jerry Dixon	Sheriff's Office
Lauren Wells	911
TawandaMcKiver	911
Holly Phelps	911
Tohsa Dailey	911

The County Manager was instructed to set a date for the 911 Building Groundbreaking.

At this time, Chairman Mitchell administered the Oath of Office to Ruth Bek, recently hired Code Enforcement Officer.

**AUDIT**

Mr. Jim Winston, with Winston, Williams, Creech, Evans and Company, presented the Hertford County Audit Report ending June 30, 2014. The Fund Balance is 36.15% of its expenditures; the state average is 26.28%. The tax collection rate increased from 93.89% to 95.03%, with the state average being 95.38%.

**JOINT COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Tameka Riggsbee, Regional LTC Ombudsman with the Mid-East Commission, was present to give an overview of the Joint Community Advisory Committee Members' responsibilities. You must live in the county and not have a family member in a long-term care home to become a committee member. They participate in the training process as well as an internship in one of the facilities. After completion of their

internship, committee members may begin visiting/monitoring the facilities in pairs. These visits are unannounced.

Vice-Chairman Gatling questioned the areas of concern listed repetitively on the annual report. Mrs. Riggsbee explained that the report covers all facilities. When there is a concern such as meals arriving cold may be occurring with a different person or a different facility. Just because a concern is listed on the report every year does not mean it is happening continuously at the same facility.

Mrs. Riggsbee further explained that all deficiencies found are listed publicly in each facility. These long-term care facilities are monitored by the Division of Health Services. They have penalty enforcements listed on their website.

Mrs. Riggsbee shared with the Board that any grievances with these long-term care facilities should be filed with her and not the committee members.

Mrs. Riggsbee offered to update the Board quarterly regarding these grievances and which facilities are open or may be closed due to deficiencies.

### **SCHOOLS**

On a motion by Freeman and a second by Gatling, the Board voted unanimously to approve HVAC Replacement Project at Riverview Elementary School with an estimated total project cost of \$692,250 OUTLAY FUNDS, as discussed at a previous meeting.

### **TAX**

On a motion by Freeman and a second by Gatling, the Board voted unanimously to approve a tax refund in the amount of \$9,034.54 to Corelogic Real Estate Tax Service due to the fact that taxpayers had paid their 2014 taxes prior to their mortgage companies escrowing taxes sent in the payment as presented by Gay Sumner, Tax Collector. The breakdown is as follows:

14A5991365010	\$ 583.55
14A5991567829	\$1,328.70
14A6903011918	\$1,005.37
14A6903566832	\$ 820.12
14A5071251203	\$1,191.00
14A5951524721	\$ 350.00
14A5993922169	\$ 877.96
14A5961144663	\$ 233.47
14A5994107331	\$ 788.97
14A5958646068	\$ 937.82
14A5993518438	<u>\$ 917.58</u>
Total	\$9,034.54

### **EMERGENCY SERVICES**

On a motion by Freeman and a second by Gatling, the Board voted unanimously to table Memo #8128 "Request for Approval of Ambulance Franchise for Gates County EMS" until the December 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

On a motion by Freeman and a second by Hunter, the Board voted unanimously to approve a Contract Agreement between Vidant Roanoke-Chowan Hospital and Hertford County EMS as presented by James Broglin, EMS Director. This agreement states that Hertford County EMS will provide timely and appropriate transportation services, will not discriminate in the treatment of patient because of the individual's race, color, national origin, religion, health status, sex, marital status, age, or the source or amount of payment available.

### **COMMISSIONERS**

On a motion by Freeman and a second by Farmer, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following 2015 Holiday Closings and 2015 Commissioners' Meeting Calendar:

## 2015 HOLIDAY CLOSINGS HERTFORD COUNTY OFFICES

New Year's Day	Thursday, January 1
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Monday, January 19
Good Friday	Friday, April 3
Memorial Day	Monday, May 25
Independence Day	Friday, July 3
Labor Day	Monday, September 7
Veteran's Day	Wednesday, November 11
Thanksgiving	Thursday, November 26 Friday, November 27
Christmas	Thursday, December 24 Friday, December 25 Monday, December 28

Meeting Calendar for 2015

## Hertford County Board of Commissioners

Monday, January 5	9:00 A.M.	Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 20	7:00 P.M.	Rescheduled Meeting (Due to ML King, Jr. Holiday)
Monday, February 2	9:00 A.M.	Regular Meeting
Monday, February 16	7:00 P.M.	Regular Meeting
Monday, March 2	9:00 A.M.	Regular Meeting
Monday, March 16	7:00 P.M.	Regular Meeting
Monday, April 6	9:00 A.M.	Regular Meeting
Monday, April 20	7:00 P.M.	Regular Meeting
Monday, May 4	9:00 A.M.	Regular Meeting
Monday, May 18	7:00 P.M.	Regular Meeting
Monday, June 1	9:00 A.M.	Regular Meeting
Monday, June 15	7:00 P.M.	Regular Meeting
Monday, July 6	9:00 A.M.	Regular Meeting
Monday, July 20	7:00 P.M.	Regular Meeting
Monday, August 3	9:00 A.M.	Regular Meeting
Monday, August 17	7:00 P.M.	Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 8	9:00 A.M.	Rescheduled Meeting (Due to Labor Day Holiday)
Monday, September 21	7:00 P.M.	Regular Meeting
Monday, October 5	9:00 A.M.	Regular Meeting
Monday, October 19	7:00 P.M.	Regular Meeting
Monday, November 2	9:00 A.M.	Regular Meeting
Monday, November 16	7:00 P.M.	Regular Meeting
Monday, December 7	9:00 A.M.	Regular Meeting
Monday, December 21	7:00 P.M.	Regular Meeting

### **COUNTY MANAGER'S UPDATE**

The County Manager presented quotes for a parking lot at the Murfreesboro Nutrition Site ranging from \$8,000 to \$23,000. The Board questioned the large

difference in quotes. The County Manager was directed to further investigate this issue and present it at the December 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

**EDC**

Bill Early, EDC Director, was present requesting the Board to consider adopting a resolution not to move forward with a merger in the North Carolina's Northeast Alliance. On a motion by Gatling and a second by Hunter, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING NORTH CAROLINA'S NORTHEAST ALLIANCE  
TO SUSPEND EFFORTS TO FORCE MEMBERSHIP OF  
HERTFORD COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA IN THE NC EAST ALLIANCE**

WHEREAS, G.S. 158-8.2 established the Northeastern North Carolina Regional Economic Development Commission, subsequently, North Carolina's Northeast Commission, to implement an economic development program, with the assistance of an economic advisory board, on behalf of sixteen northeastern North Carolina counties, including, Hertford County; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Assembly has appropriated state funds annually to North Carolina's Northeast Commission, including the 2012-2013 Legislative Session, to implement an economic development program on behalf of the sixteen counties, including Hertford County; and

WHEREAS, Session Law 2013-360 repealed legislation creating North Carolina's Northeast Commission;

WHEREAS, North Carolina's Northeast Commission transferred state funds to a non-profit organization, North Carolina's Northeast Alliance, which the organization's leadership describes as "assuming the Commission's former duties," and

WHEREAS, local economic development professionals have attended meetings with North Carolina's Northeast Alliance staff and board in an attempt to provide input in future marketing and economic development activities, which are especially critical in North Carolina's changing economic development landscape; and

WHEREAS, the governing board of North Carolina's Northeast Alliance has entered into a letter of intent with the NC East Alliance through which the sixteen Northeastern counties would become "members" of NC East Alliance and the membership fee for each county would be paid for a five-year period with a portion of the State funds now held by North Carolina's Northeast Alliance and any remaining state funds would be controlled by North Carolina's Northeast Alliance; and

WHEREAS, the Hertford County Board of Commissioners feels strongly that county and economic development officials have not been provided an opportunity to provide input in decisions for the use of state funds allocated on its behalf to support regional economic development; and

WHEREAS, the Hertford County Board of Commissioners believe that there are strategic marketing and development opportunities in northeastern North Carolina and North Carolina's Northeast Alliance has not adequately vetted effective economic development strategies that would benefit the entire sixteen county region; and

WHEREAS, the Hertford County Board of Commissioners is uncertain that a forced membership in the NC East Alliance will be beneficial to Hertford County's economic development efforts or advance economic development for the sixteen county region; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that:

1. The Hertford County Board of Commissioners requests the Board of Directors of North Carolina's Northeast Alliance to suspend efforts to force membership in the NC East Alliance on behalf of the sixteen northeastern North Carolina counties;
2. The Hertford County Board of Commissioners requests the Board of Directors of North Carolina's Northeast Alliance to fully vet regional and sub-regional marketing and economic development strategies that can result in job creation and investment for the sixteen county region; and
3. The Hertford County Board of Commissioners seeks the assistance of others in pursuing the return of Hertford County's per capita share of state funds originally allocated to North Carolina's Northeast Commission, and subsequently transferred to North Carolina's Northeast Alliance, to establish sound economic development strategies and pursue potential strategic alliances with other counties in northeast North Carolina.

Adopted this 1<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2014.

#### **COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

- Commissioner Farmer shared that the Peanut Belt RPO is forming a US 158 Association putting pressure on D.O.T. to complete US 158
- Commissioner Freeman shared that he had received super feedback on establishing a Veterans Memorial after it was published in the newspaper

On a motion by Gatling and a second by Freeman, 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**

#### **PERSONNEL**

On a motion by Hunter and a second by Farmer, the Board voted unanimously to give Loria Williams, County Manager, a bonus for job performance in the amount of \$3,000.

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