

Minutes
Regular Meeting
Hertford County Board of Commissioners
County Commissioners' Meeting Room
Monday, December 15, 2014
7:00 P.M.

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

Absent: Curtis A. Freeman, Sr.

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 Hunter and a second by Gatling, the Board voted unanimously to accept the following Tax Releases for November, 2014:

TOTAL VALUE APPROVED THIS REPORT (2014 LEVY)	144,441.00
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (2014 LEVY)	1,519.83
TOTAL VALUE APPROVED THIS REPORT (PRIOR LEVY)	89,640.00
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (PRIOR LEVY)	517.52
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W01 COLL/RECYCLE 2014)	390.00
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W02 LANDFILL OPERATION 2014)	390.00
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W01 COLL/RECYCLE 2013)	65.00
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W02 LANDFILL OPERATION 2013)	65.00
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W01 COLL/RECYCLE 2012)	53.96
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W02 LANDFILL OPERATION 2012)	53.96
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

On a motion by Hunter and a second by Gatling, the Board voted unanimously to approve a landfill fee refund in the amount of \$130 to the following:

Norfleet Vinson
 1156 17th Street
 Newport News, VA 23607

This refund was due because the taxpayer paid the 2014 taxes prior to the Solid Waste exemption being approved on bill #14A6943550458, account #34445.

On a motion by Hunter and a second by Gatling, the Board voted unanimously to approve a tax refund in the amount of \$670.19 to the following:

Richard M. Stearns
 Standing Trustee, Chapter 13
 1015 Conference Drive
 Greenville, NC 27858

This refund was due because the mortgage company paid 2014 taxes on tax bill #14A5993922169, account #28665 prior to the bankruptcy trustee sending payment on case #14-03561-5-RDD.

On a motion by Hunter and a second by Gatling, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following vehicle tax refunds totaling \$303.28:

A refund in the amount of \$187.98 was due to the overpayment of vehicle tax wage garnishment on vehicle tax bill #1307-445363 and 1307-445365, Thornton Colerain Askew. These bills were paid on 11-18-2014 and the release was sent to the Board of Education prior to receiving payment 11-26-14. The refund is due to:

Hertford County Board of Education
 Attn: Payroll Department
 Post Office Box 158
 Winton, NC 27986

A refund in the amount of \$115.30 was due to the overpayment of vehicle taxes. Wage garnishment was paid in full on 11-26-14 on regular tag, and taxpayer paid temporary tags on same vehicle 12-1-14. The refund is due to:

Tony W. Leary
204 Old US Hwy. 13
Winton, NC 27986

Gay Sumner, Tax Collector, was present requesting approval of Foreclosure Lists to be forwarded to Irvine Law Firm, who handles the County's tax foreclosures.

On a motion by Hunter and a second by Gatling, the Board voted unanimously to approve the first list as being ready for foreclosure, totaling 28 accounts after the removal of Paul Langston, Jr., who is deceased.

On a motion by Hunter and a second by Farmer, the Board voted unanimously to approve the second list to send 30-day letter notices before foreclosure, totaling 32 accounts after the exclusion of account #8306 that was mistakenly on the list.

On a motion by Hunter and a second by Gatling, the Board voted unanimously to recess Regular Session to go into a Public Hearing for the following purpose:

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with NCGS 153A-239.1, that the Hertford County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing on Monday, December 15, 2014 at 7:15 P.M. in the Commissioners Meeting Room, Office Building Number One, 704 North King Street, Winton, North Carolina. The purpose of the hearing is to receive public comments on the adoption of an ordinance to name the road or street leading from U.S. Highway 158, just east of Parkers Fishery Road, into the new Hertford County Judicial and Government Center. The initial proposal is to name the street "Justice Drive"; the Board of Commissioners may adopt this or any other name following the public hearing.

This the 2nd day of December, 2014.

PUBLIC HEARING

There were no citizens wishing to make comments during the Public Hearing.

On a motion by Gatling and a second by Hunter, the Board voted unanimously to return to Regular Session.

REGULAR SESSION

ROAD NAMES/COURTHOUSE

On a motion by Hunter and a second by Gatling, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following ordinance:

BE IT ORDAINED, that the road or street leading from U.S. Highway 158, just east of Parkers Fishery Road, into the new Hertford County Judicial and Government Center, be and is hereby named "JUSTICE DRIVE".

This the 15th day of December, 2014.

COMMISSIONERS

On a motion by Gatling and a second by Hunter, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Commissioner Johnnie R. Farmer as the Voting Delegate at the NCACC Legislative Goals Conference being in Moore County on January 15-16, 2015.

PERSONNEL

On a motion by Gatling and a second by Farmer, the Board voted unanimously to approve a salary of \$33,287 (5% above the hiring rate of \$31,702) commensurate with the candidate's experience for the Senior Administrative Assistant II - Assistant to Manager.

AMBULANCE FRANCHISE

James Broglin, EMS Director, was requesting the approval of an Ambulance Franchise to Gates County EMS due to a demonstrated need by Vidant Roanoke-Chowan Hospital.

On a motion by Gatling and a second by Hunter, the Board voted unanimously to recess Regular Session to enter Closed Session as allowed under G. S. 143-318.11 (a) (3) to consult with the County Attorney.

CLOSED SESSION

Minutes of Closed Session are on file in the office of the Clerk to the Board.

REGULAR SESSION

AMBULANCE FRANCHISE

A letter from Roanoke-Chowan Hospital indicated a need for a third paramedic level provider to be able to provide timely transport services, and after extensive discussion, it was agreed that there had been a demonstrated need and that existing franchisees would not be adversely affected. On a motion by Hunter and a second by Gatling, the Board voted unanimously to grant Gates County EMS a limited franchise for ALS non-emergency paramedic level only.

All franchises expire June 30, 2015, and all will be reviewed at that time.

CONTRACTS/SOCIAL SERVICES

Brenda Brown, DSS Director, presented and reviewed the First Amended Contract for Child Support Enforcement Services. On a motion by Gatling and a second by Hunter, the Board voted unanimously to approve the First Amended Contract as presented.

COURTHOUSE PROJECT

On a motion by Hunter and a second by Gatling, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Authorization for Change in Services for the Hertford County Courthouse and Government Center Project in the amount of \$50,869.31 due to the delay of substantial completion by the contractor, leading to the need for additional architectural oversight.

E-911 PROJECT

Loria D. Williams, County Manager, presented the bids for construction of the E-911 Building. She asked the Board to table awarding the bid until the January 5th Meeting. On a motion by Gatling and a second by Hunter, the Board voted unanimously to table awarding the E-911 Building Construction Bid until January 5, 2015.

COUNTY MANAGER'S UPDATE

Loria D. Williams, County Manager, presented two proposals for the parking lot at the Murfreesboro Nutrition Site. The proposal from Commercial Ready Mix totaled \$23,000 to remove the root system, put in a liner and gravel. The proposal from Tri-Co Landscape totaled \$8,670 for leveling and slag. The County Manager is recommending the proposal from Commercial Ready Mix.

On a motion by Gatling and a second by Farmer, the Board voted unanimously to approve the proposal from Commercial Ready Mix for the Murfreesboro Nutrition Site parking lot and get the \$23,000 from Contingency.

Assistant County Manager Ray Wiggins reviewed a handout regarding the Proposed New Courthouse and Government Center Moving Parameters as well as his recommendations. It was the consensus of the Board to approve the following recommendations:

- Each department/agency will be required to pack its own materials, documents/records to be moved in only the issued moving boxes/containers
- Should non-County agencies require moving services that are not within the scope of services provided by the County, such additional moving services must be requested prior to the County Manager's Office securing quotes for moving and paid for with non-County agency funds.
- Off-site storage expense for non-County agencies to be paid by the agency.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

- Vice-Chairman Gatling shared that Commissioner Freeman had an emergency and could not attend the meeting. He then congratulated Commissioner Hunter who is to be sworn in to the House of Representatives on January 14, 2015

- Commissioner Hunter announced that effective December 31, he will be resigning from the Board. He expressed, “I love each and every one of you, including you, Bill Early. Hertford County employees work very hard for us.” He emotionally hugged Commissioner Farmer and shared his appreciation for always being by his side.
- County Manager Williams made remarks about her position and the Board’s support of her position.
- Commissioner Farmer spoke about how they had been great friends over the years. They had shared miles, shared meals, and shared families. He ended by saying, “I wish him well and love him like a brother.”
- Chairman Mitchell shared how they go way back – they grew up together. As a Commissioner, “he works just as hard at conferences as he does back at home.” He wished him the best.

At this time, Chairman Mitchell presented Commissioner Hunter with a plaque and a framed resolution. On a motion by Farmer and a second by Gatling, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following Resolution of Appreciation:

***RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION
FOR HERTFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONER
HOWARD J. HUNTER, III***

WHEREAS, Howard J. Hunter, III, has served this county well for many years in numerous capacities, including serving as Hertford County Commissioner for ten years, from December 6, 2004 until December 15, 2014, while also holding the seats of Vice-Chairman (2005-2007) and Chairman (2007-2009); and

WHEREAS, Howard J. Hunter, III, has served faithfully as a member of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) and has played a vital role in the important work of this organization with a long list of accomplishments but not limited to:

- ❖ *Serving on Legislative Goals Committee (2006-2012)*
- ❖ *First Vice-President (2010-2011)*
- ❖ *President Elect (2011-2012)*
- ❖ *President (2012-2013)*
- ❖ *Past President (2013-2014)*
- ❖ *National Association of Counties (NACo) Public Health Steering Committee (2013-2014)*

WHEREAS, while serving as the NCACC President, Howard J. Hunter, III, appointed a Mentoring Initiative work group consisting of current and former commissioners and county managers tasked with developing strategies for engaging commissioners to serve as mentors at the local and state levels. This

was a proud accomplishment for Mr. Hunter as mentors played a very important role in his life; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, on behalf of the entire Hertford County Board of Commissioners, we do hereby present this certificate of public recognition, extending to him our deep appreciation for his distinguished service, and our best wishes in his future endeavors as a member of the House of Representatives.

This the 15th day of December, 2014.

On a motion by Gatling and a second by Farmer, the Board voted unanimously to recess Regular Session to enter Closed Session as allowed under G. S. 143-318.11 (a) (3) to consult with the County Attorney.

CLOSED SESSION

Minutes of Closed Session are on file in the office of the Clerk to the Board.

REGULAR SESSION

PLANNING & ZONING

Bill Early, Planning & Zoning Administrator, was present to address the Board regarding solar energy farms in the County. There has been a lot of activity over the past couple of years of companies looking at properties for the potential development of solar farms. It has come to the attention of the Planning & Zoning Board that some locations may not be the best locations for these farms.

The Planning Board is recommending the Commissioners to consider scheduling a Public Hearing regarding a moratorium allowing further investigation on the criteria for solar farms. Solar farms are not addressed in the Hertford County Zoning Ordinance.

On a motion by Farmer and a second by Gatling, the Board voted unanimously to call for a Public Hearing, on January 20, 2015, at 7:15 P.M., on the possible adoption of a Moratorium Ordinance on the issuance of zoning permits for Solar Energy Farms in all zoning districts regulated by Hertford County, and whether there should be limitations or restrictions on the sites available for use as solar energy farms.

On a motion by Hunter and a second by Farmer, the Board voted unanimously to recess Regular Session to enter Closed Session as allowed under G. S. 143-318.11 (a) (3) to consult with the County Attorney.

CLOSED SESSION

Minutes of the Closed Session are on file in the office of the Clerk to the Board.

REGULAR SESSION

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

Shelia W. Matthews
Clerk to the Board

William F. Mitchell, Jr., Chairman
Hertford County Commissioners