

Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
Hertford County Board of Commissioners  
Multi-Purpose Room – Judicial Center  
Monday, November 21, 2016  
7:00 P.M.

Present: Ronald J. Gatling, F. Garry Lewter, Curtis A. Freeman, Sr., and William F. Mitchell, Jr.

Absent: Johnnie R. Farmer

Also Present with the Board: Loria D. Williams, County Manager; Maria Jones, Assistant County Attorney; M. Ray Wiggins, Assistant County Manager; and Shelia W. Matthews, Clerk to the Board

Chairman Ronald J. Gatling called the meeting to order, and Commissioner Curtis A. Freeman, Sr., provided the invocation including a special prayer for Commissioner Johnnie R. Farmer, who was absent due to health reasons.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

On a motion by Mitchell and a second by Lewter, the Board voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- (1) Approval of Minutes
  - a. June 29, 2016 – Reconvened Meeting
  - b. July 18, 2016 – Regular Meeting
  - c. August 01, 2016 – Regular Meeting
  - d. August 08, 2016 – Special Call Meeting
  - e. August 15, 2016 – Regular Meeting
  - f. September 06, 2016 – Regular Meeting
  - g. September 19, 2016 – Regular Meeting

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Loria D. Williams, County Manager, provided the Board with bids for renovations at the Ahoskie Health Clinic as a result of flooding damage during Hurricane Matthew. This will be the County's responsibility due to the fact that it is below our insurance deductible and the County may not be eligible to for FEMA.

On a motion by Mitchell and a second by Lewter, the Board voted to award the bid to American Builders. Chairman Gatling opposed the motion. The bid was not awarded to A. R. Chesson due to the County's prior history of unsatisfactory performance for meeting deadlines.

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

On a motion by Freeman and a second by Mitchell, the Board voted unanimously to approve an Abandonment Petition and forward it to the N. C. Department of Transportation. The request is for abandonment of approximately 150 yards at the end of Cullen Road (SR 1439), and the petitioner was Harry Leo Smith, Jr., who owns all the land around this section of Cullen Road.

On a motion by Freeman and a second by Mitchell, the Board voted unanimously to recess Regular Session to go into a scheduled Public Hearing as advertised:

## **NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with NCGS 160A-20(g), that the Hertford County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing on Monday, November 21, 2016, at 7:15 P.M. in the Commissioners Meeting Room, Hertford County Courthouse, Multi-Purpose Room, Second Floor, 119 Justice Drive, Winton, North Carolina. The purpose of the hearing is to receive public comments on a proposed Offer to Purchase and Contract real estate located at 418 Everett Street, Ahoskie, NC, from M. Scott Edwards, which involves installment financing of the purchase. Copies of the proposed contract may be examined at the Office of the Hertford County Manager, 115 Justice Drive, Suite 1, Winton, North Carolina.

This the 10<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2016.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

There was no one wishing to speak during the Public Hearing.

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

## **REGULAR SESSION**

### **COUNTY PROPERTY**

On a motion by Mitchell and a second by Freeman, the Board voted unanimously to approve the "Offer to Purchase and Contract" for the Edwards property located at 418 Everett Street, Ahoskie, NC, for the purchase price of \$425,000.

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

On a motion by Mitchell and a second by Lewter, the Board voted unanimously to approve a bid offer in the amount of \$6,774.44 from John H. Jarrett, Jr., on tax foreclosure property (PIN #6906-66-8459). The upset bid process has been fulfilled, and there were no upset bids received.

### **RESOLUTIONS**

On a motion by Freeman and a second by Mitchell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following resolution. The resolution was read by the Clerk as the Board presented it to Commissioner Lewter.

**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION  
FOR  
F. GARRY LEWTER**

**WHEREAS,** *Garry Lewter has served this community well for many years in numerous capacities, including serving as a member of the Hertford County Board Commissioners from February 2, 2015, until December 1, 2016; while also holding the seat of Vice-Chairman since December 7, 2015; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Garry Lewter has devoted his time, energy, and talents unselfishly to Hertford County and has provided experience, professionalism, and sound judgment for the community; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Garry Lewter has represented the citizens of Hertford County on numerous boards and committees and has carried out his duties both diligently and effectively; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Garry Lewter, throughout his career, has earned the respect of other civic leaders and the affection of a host of area residents who are proud to call him “friend”;*

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** *on behalf of the entire Hertford County Board of Commissioners and all our citizens, we do hereby tender to F. Garry Lewter this certificate of public recognition, extending to him our deep appreciation for his distinguished service, and our best wishes for a long and successful future.*

*This the 21<sup>st</sup> day of November, 2016.*

**PUBLIC HEARING/FOUNDATION FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

On a motion by Freeman and a second by Mitchell, the Board voted unanimously to schedule a Public Hearing for December 5, 2016, at 9:15 A.M. at the request of The Foundation for Affordable Housing, Inc., regarding tax-exempt bonds to be issued by the Public Finance Authority.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

There was no one wishing to comment during Public Comment Period. R-CCC President Dr. Jimmy Tate had asked to speak but was not present.

**COUNTY MANAGER’S UPDATE**

At a previous meeting, the Board approved for permanent part-time employees to receive a bonus. The County Manager explained that the threshold set by staff for this bonus would be for employees who work 500 hours a year/10 hours a week and above.

Longevity/bonus checks will be distributed on December 8<sup>th</sup> on the heels of the Employee Recognition event.

### **R-CCC**

R-CCC President Dr. Jimmy Tate had now arrived at the meeting and addressed the Board. He gave a brief update on the college including – there was increased enrollment; more EMT, CNA, and dietary management classes being offered; and more night and weekend classes being offered.

### **COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

- Commissioner Lewter thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve and thanked all of the staff that he worked with
- All other Commissioners acknowledged Commissioner Lewter's hard work and thanked him for serving
- Chairman Gatling scheduled the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony for Sunday, December 4, at 5:00 P.M. Commissioner Lewter will be the official honoree to light the tree.

### **PERSONNEL**

On a motion by Freeman and a second by Lewter, the Board voted unanimously to approve an early release on Wednesday, November 23, 2016, at 3:00 P.M. for staff with upper management staying until 5:00 P.M.

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