MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
HERTFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM - JUDICIAL CENTER
Monday, April 20, 2020
7:00 PM

Present: Com. Ronald J. Gatling, Chairman, Com. John D. Horton,
Vice-Chair, Com. Leroy Douglas, Com. Andre’ Lassiter,
and Com. William F. Mitchell, Jr.

Also Present with the Board: Mr. David B. Cotton, Interim County Manager, Dr. Renee
Fleetwood, Clerk to the Board, Mr. Charles L Revelle, III,
County Attorney

Chairman Ronald J. Gatling called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Invocation was
provided by Vice-Chair Horton.

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Com. William F. Mitchell, Jr. and second by Com. Andre’ Lassiter, the
Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda as follows:

- Approval of April 6, 2020 Minutes

- Approval of Taxpayer Refunds:

$248.44 to Justina W. Pierce (Vendor #12455) for overpayment on account. Taxpayer &
employer paid on the account.

$155.55 to Crystal V. Johnson – Vendor #15374 - for over payment on account. Pin # 6944-75-
7361 due to debit set off.

$225.43 to Thomas S. Buck Sr-Vendor #13325 for DSO hit for wrong person (Due to DSO
taking funds that should have been for Thomas Buck Jr)

Request Approval of NCVTS Refunds to Steven W. Palmer & Tania Cuadra and Stuart
Pierce Farms, Inc.
PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comment.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO HERTFORD COUNTY BUDGET ORDINANCE FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 AMENDMENT #18

On a motion by Com. Lassiter and second by Com. Mitchell, the Board unanimously approved the Amendment to Hertford County Budget Ordinance Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Amendment #18 in the amount of $120,872.00.
AMENDMENT TO HERTFORD COUNTY BUDGET ORDINANCE
FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020

Per section 8 of the Hertford County Budget Ordinance Fiscal Year 2019-2020, the following budget transfers have been approved by the Budget Officer:

**EXPENDITURE:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Account Number</th>
<th>Account Description</th>
<th>Amount Increase</th>
<th>Amount Decrease</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DSS</td>
<td>104440-569009</td>
<td>Crisis Intervention Program</td>
<td>$29,972</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Solid Waste</td>
<td>624690-569011</td>
<td>Contracted Services/ Tipping Fees</td>
<td>$90,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>DSS</td>
<td>104530-569700</td>
<td>DSS Donations</td>
<td>$900</td>
<td></td>
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$120,872

**REVENUES**

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<tr>
<th>Department</th>
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<th>Account Description</th>
<th>Amount Increase</th>
<th>Amount Decrease</th>
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<td>DSS</td>
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<td>Crisis Intervention Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Solid Waste</td>
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<td>Tipping Fees</td>
<td>$90,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>DSS</td>
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<td>DSS Donations</td>
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<td>DSS</td>
<td>100112-448500</td>
<td>Fund Balance</td>
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<td></td>
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</table>

Total Expenditures $120,872

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget Officer</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Date Posted</th>
<th>Amendment #</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NCDOT – PARKER’S FERRY CONTRACT CANCELLATION NOTICE

Mr. David Cotton, Interim County Manager presented the NCDOT Parker’s Ferry Contract Cancellation Notice with contractor, Mr. David Hunt and a Resolution Requesting Additional Funding Provision for Ferry Operations.

On a motion by Com. Mitchell and second by Com. Douglas, the Board unanimously adopted the Resolution Requesting Additional Funding Provision for Ferry Operations to be directed to State of North Carolina legislative representatives for the continued operation of Parker’s Ferry transportation services.

COUNTY OF HERTFORD
RESOLUTION REQUESTING ADDITIONAL FUNDING
PROVISION FOR FERRY OPERATIONS

WHEREAS, passenger ferries represent one of the most cost-effective options for providing transportation capacity and service between communities and destinations located in Northeastern North Carolina rural communities; and
WHEREAS, passenger ferries represent a multimodal regional transportation capacity option that can be implemented more economically and greater efficiency than other options; and
WHEREAS, Parker’s Ferry connects Maney’s Neck, formed by the confluence of the Meheren and Chowan Rivers, with the southern part of Hertford County; and
WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation will terminate its contract with Mr. David Hunt for Ferry Operations of Parker’s Ferry in Hertford County effective Saturday, June 13th, 2020; and
WHEREAS, in response to the attached Parker’s Ferry Operation cancellation notice Hertford County Board of Commissioners believe that:
1) the loss of funds to the operation of Parker’s Ferry will have a particular adverse effect on the economy beyond that of COVID-19
2) the continued operation of Parker’s Ferry is beneficial to the Hertford County community and the region; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the County of Hertford hereby requests that the State of North Carolina provide additional funding for the continued operation of Parker’s Ferry; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Hertford County Board of Commissioners is in support of additional funding from the State of North Carolina to be awarded and specified to the North Carolina Department of Transportation for the continued operation of Parker’s Ferry transportation services.

This resolution will become effective immediately upon its adoption.
Adopted this 20th day of April 2020.

HERTFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The Honorable Ronald J. Gatling, Chairman

ATTEST:

Dr. Renee Fleetwood
Clerk to the Board

INTERIM COUNTY MANAGER’S COMMENTS

Interim County Manager, Mr. Cotton, made the following comments:

1) major impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic socially and economically for Hertford County
2) FY 2019-2020 prudent internal spending measures for non-emergency items
3) hiring freeze for nonessential positions
4) hiring for key positions left at the discretion of the manager and Chairman Gatling
5) County has 30-days to accept the Federal Government CARES ACT Provider
   Relief funding in the amount of $43,000.00. The CARES ACT funding is to be
   used to support healthcare-related expenses or lost revenue attributable to COVID-
   19 and to ensure uninsured Americans can get testing and treatment for COVID-
   19.

   On a motion by Com. Mitchell and second by Com. Lassiter, the Board unanimously
   approved for critical/select positions to be exempt from the hiring freeze, and for exemptions to
   be determined by the Office/Department/Agency Director in consultation with Interim County
   Manager Cotton, who will confer with Chairman Gatling, and make discretionary hiring
   decisions.

   On a motion by Com. Lassiter and second by Com. Douglas, the Board unanimously
   approved to accept the Federal Government CARES ACT Provider Relief funding in the amount
   of $43,000.00 along with the conditions that the funding is to be used to support healthcare-
   related expenses or lost revenue attributable to COVID-19 and to ensure uninsured citizens can
   get testing and treatment for COVID-19.

**COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS**

The Board made the following comments:

Vice-Chair Horton questioned if COVID 19 had an impact on employee attendance.

Interim Manager Cotton shared that to-date, COVID 19 has not had an impact on
employee attendance, employees are happy to have a job, and reporting to work daily provide a
sense of normalcy.

Com. Mitchell commented on the cancellation of the NCDOT Parker’s Ferry contract. He
stated that Parker’s Ferry is one of three remaining cables, a historical fabric of Hertford County,
citizens in the Como area use the ferry quite a bit, citizens are saddened to hear of its closure and
that he would love to see NCDOT reconsider cancelling the contract.

No comments were given by Com. Douglas.

Com. Lassiter requested personal letters be mailed to Representative Howard Hunter, III
and Senator Bob Steinburg requesting legislative support of additional funding for the continued
operation of Parker’s Ferry, and weekly communication updates to Hertford County citizens be
continued from the Board.

Chairman Gatling thanked employees, department heads and the Hertford County
community for supporting the efforts outlined by the Board, Interim Manager Cotton, Congress
along with local, state and national agencies. He also shared he has not received calls of
employees being unhappy with updated operating procedures for local government, and that the
County is meeting the needs of the community during this difficult time.
CLOSED SESSION

On a motion by Com. Mitchell and a second by Com. Lassiter, the Board unanimously approved to convene to Closed Session as allowed under NCGS § 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with the County Attorney.

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

On a motion by Com. Lassiter and a second by Com. Mitchell, the Board unanimously approved to return to Regular Session.

On a motion by Com. Lassiter and a second by Vice Chair Horton, the Board unanimously approved the advertisement of Carolyn Askew Tax Foreclosure Lot, PIN# 5992-58-3910, as a result of POS Investments, LLC (Mr. Shahe Peele) failure to satisfy his proposed bid of $12,800.00, following confirmation of a desire to pursue another $2,000.00 bid.

On a motion by Com. Lassiter and a second by Com. Mitchell, the Board unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting.

Approved: May 4, 2020

Com. Ronald J. Gatling
Chairman

Dr. Renee Fleetwood
Clerk to the Board