

**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.



North Carolina Vehicle Tax System

NCVTS Pending Refund report

Report Date 4/13/2020

Payee Name	Primary Owner	Secondary Owner	Address 1	Address 3	Refund Type	Bill #	Plate Number	Status	Transaction #	Refund Description	Refund Reason	Create Date	Authorization Date	Tax Jurisdiction	Levy Type	Change	Interest Change	Total Change
PALMER STEVEN WILLIAM	PALMER STEVEN WILLIAM	CUADRA, TANA BERTHA	125 KENNY LN	SMITHFIELD, VA 23430	Proration	0049326977	HCM4366	PENDING	163067749	Refund Generated due to proration on Bill # 0049326977-20 9-20 9-0000-00	Tag Surrender	03-09-2020		G01 Tax	(\$75.33)	\$0.00	(\$75.33)	
														CD1 Tax	(\$72.64)	\$0.00	(\$72.64)	
														CD1 Vehicle	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
																		Refund \$147.97
STUART RENCE FARMS INC	STUART RENCE FARMS INC		115 D TRD	AHOSKIE NC 27910	Proration	0023618400	TS89478	PENDING	122758678	Refund Generated due to proration on Bill # 0023618400-20 9-20 9-0000-00	Tag Surrender	03-23-2020		G01 Tax	(\$207.48)	\$0.00	(\$207.48)	
														F01 Tax	(\$9.88)	\$0.00	(\$9.88)	
																		Refund \$217.36

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:

Department	Account Number	Account Description	Amount Increase	Amount Decrease
DSS	104440-569009	Crisis Intervention Program	\$ 29,972	
Solid Waste	624690-569011	Contracted Services/ Tipping Fees	\$ 90,000	
DSS	104530-569700	DSS Donations	\$ 900	
				\$ 120,872
REVENUES				
DSS	100063-419101	Crisis Intervention Program	\$ 29,972	
Solid Waste	620117-444000	Tipping Fees	\$ 90,000	
DSS	100107-4719400	DSS Donations	\$ 515	
DSS	100112-448500	Fund Balance	\$ 385	
		Total Expenditures	\$ 120,872	\$ 120,872


Budget Officer

04.15.2020
Date

Date Posted _____
Amendment # 18

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

WHEARAS, 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 Meherrin 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