#### HERTFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

#### COMMISSIONER'S CHAMBERS/MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM – JUDICIAL CENTER

Monday, October 5, 2020 - 9:00 AM

Present:

Com. Ronald J. Gatling, Chairman, Com. Leroy Douglas,

Com. Andre' Lassiter, and Com. William F. Mitchell, Jr.

Absent:

Com. John D. Horton, Vice-Chair

Also Present with the Board:

Mr. David B. Cotton, County Manager, Dr.

Renee Fleetwood, Clerk to the Board,

Attorney Maria R. Jones, Revelle & Lee, LLP, Assistant

County Attorney

Absent:

Attorney Charles L Revelle, III, County Attorney

Chairman Ronald J. Gatling called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM and provided the Invocation.

#### REQUEST APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2020 MINUTES

On a motion by Com. William F. Mitchell and a second by Com. Leroy Douglas, the Board unanimously approved the September 21, 2020 minutes.

## PRESENTATION OF AUGUST 2020 & SEPTEMBER 2020 NEW HERTFORD COUNTY EMPLOYEES

Ms. Kimberly Turner, Human Resources/Risk Management Director introduced the August and September New Hertford County Employees as follows:

Hertford County Personnel Report

August 2020

Employees Hired	PT/FT	Department	
Satoria Madric	FT	Detention Center	
James Watford	PT Detention		
Tasha Sutton	FT	Detention Center	
Renee Draper	FT	Finance	
Stargel Jernigan	FT	Finance	
Kavla Overwise	PT	EMS	

William Ward III	PT	Public Works Inspections/Zoning	
Rebecca Rowland	FT		
Zaria Hunter	PT	E-911	

#### **Hertford County Personnel Report**

#### September 2020

Employees Hired	PT/FT	Department	
Demica Evans	FT	E-911	
Johnny Jernigan	PT	Solid Waste	
Verna Chapman	PT	Housekeeping	
Jessica Dearborn	PT	EMS	
John Timberlake	FT	Sheriff	
James Wilson	PT	Sheriff	
Clifton Sexton	PT	Sheriff	

Chairman Gatling and the Board welcomed the new employees, thanked them for joining the Hertford County Local Government team and hoped their employment would be rewarding, and stated that it was good to meet and greet them in person.

## REQUEST APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO HERTFORD COUNTY BUDGET ORDINANCE FY 2020-2021 REVISED AMENDMENT #7, AMENDMENT #8 & A-6

On a motion by Com. Andre' Lassiter and a second by Com. Mitchell, the Board unanimously approved the Hertford County Budget Ordinance FY 2020-2021 Revised Amendment #7 moving revenue from decrease row to increase row, changing the account number for the Earmark Soil & Conservation Revenue account, as well as correcting the dollar amount for the Restricted Fund Balance from FY 2020.

#### AMENDMENT TO HERTFORD COUNTY BUDGET ORDINANCE FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 BE IT ORDAINED by the Governing Board of the County of Hertford, North Carolina, that the following amendment be made to the annual budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021: \*REVISED\* REVENUE: Account Account Amount Amount Department Number Description Increase Decrease Fund Balance Appropriated FB Appr. Earmark Soil & Conservation 100112-448503 \$ 15,599.00 Fund Balance Appropriated 100112-448500 Restricted Fund Balance from FY20 \$ 27,411.96 Total Changes in Revenue \$43,010.96 Net Change in Revenue \$ 43,010.96 **EXPENDITURE:** Account Account Amount Amount Department Number Description Increase Decrease Soil & Water Conservation 104280-536000 Earmark Misc. Expenses \$ 15,599.00 ROAP EDTAP Aging 104342-568600 ROAP EDTAP Aging \$ 26,244.96 ROAP EMPL DSS 104342-568901 ROAP EMPL DSS \$ 1,167.00 Total Changes in Expenditures \$43,010.96 \$ Net Change in Expenditures \$ 43,010.96 **Explanation:**

Soil & Water designated funds from FY 20, appropriating for FY 21.

Aging & DSS designated funds from FY 20, appropriating for FY 21.

On a motion by Com. Mitchell and a second by Com. Lassiter, the Board unanimously approved the Hertford County Budget Ordinance FY 2020-2021 Revised Amendment #8 totaling \$23,000 for extra office staff, poll workers and equipment for the Board of Elections.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Revision includes moving Revenue from Decrease row to Increase row, changing the account number for the Earmark Soil & Conservation Revenue account, as well as correcting the dollar amount for the Restricted Fund Balance from FY 20\*\*

AMENDMENTI	O HERTFORD (	COUNTY BUDGET ORDINAN 2021	CE FISCAL Y	EAR 2020-
		2021		
BE IT ORDAINED be amendment be made	by the Governing Bo to the annual budge	eard of the County of Hertford, North tordinance for the fiscal year ending	th Carolina, that	t the following:
REVENUE:		and the state of t		
D	Account	Account	Amount	Amount
Department	Number	Description	Increase	Decrease
Board of Elections	100060-413201	Board of Elections Grant	\$ 23,000	
	Tota	l Changes in Revenue	\$ 23,000	\$ -
		Net Change in Revenue	\$23,	000
EXPENDITURE:	THE	146 2000000000000000000000000000000000000	020,	
Demail III	Account	Account	Amount	Amount
Department	Number	Description	Increase	Decrease
Board of Elections	104150-555000	NC Community Foundation Restricted	\$ 23,000	Decrease
	Total C	Changes in Expenditures	\$ 23,000	s -
		Net Change in Expenditures	\$23,	000
Explanation:				
Funds to be used only f	or extra office staff,	poll workers & equipment.		
			Amendment #	8
			Approved:	O
			Posted:	
Finance Director	Date		i ootea.	

Budget Amendment A-6 was removed from the request.

On a motion by Com. Mitchell and a second by Com. Douglas, the Board unanimously approved to recess Regular Session to go into a scheduled Public Hearing.

# PUBLIC HEARING: AMENDMENT TO REZONING ORDINANCE FOR PROPERTIES IN HARRELLSVILLE, NC PIN# 6973-17-7096 & PIN# 6973-26-1960 FROM RESIDENTIAL AGRICULTURAL (RA-30) TO RIVERSIDE RESIDENTIAL AND CAMPING (RR&C)

Mrs. Sara Turner, GIS/Planning Director addressed Chairman Gatling and the Board and provided the following information: On August 11, 2020 the Hertford County Planning Board held a Public Hearing regarding the request from Mrs. Jan DeBoer for PIN# 6973-17-7096 and PIN# 6973-26-1960 to be rezoned from Residential Agricultural (RA-30) to Riverside Residential and Camping (RR&C)

Com. Mitchell inquired if the Hertford County Planning Board received responses from land owners.

Mrs. Turner responded to Com. Mitchell and the Board that one person did not want to see the property turn into a run downed property.

Chairman Gatling called for public comments.

No public comments were made.

On a motion by Com. Douglas and second by Com. Lassiter, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Hertford County Planning Board's recommendation to grant Mrs. Jan DeBoer's request to rezone properties in Harrellsville, PIN #6973-17-7096 and PIN # 6973-26-1960, from Residential Agricultural (RA-30) to Riverside Residential and Camping (RR & C).

On a motion by Com. Mitchell. and a second by Com. Douglas, the Board unanimously approved to close the Rezoning Public Hearing to go into the scheduled Public Hearing for the Adoption of a Temporary Moratorium on Future Solar Farm or Solar Farm Collector Development in Hertford County.

## PUBLIC HEARING: ADOPTION OF A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON FUTURE SOLAR FARM OR SOLAR COLLECTOR DEVELOPMENT IN HERTFORD COUNTY

County Manager Cotton addressed Chairman Gatling and the Board and proceeded to read the Notice of Public Hearing as follows:

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with NCGS 153A-340(h) and 153A-323, that the Hertford County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing on Monday, October 5, 2020 at 9:30 A.M. in the Commissioners Chambers, Multi-Purpose Room, Second Floor of Hertford County Courthouse, 119 Justice Drive, Winton, North Carolina 27986. The purpose of the hearing is to receive public comments on the consideration of the establishment of and possible adoption of a temporary Moratorium on future Solar Farm or Solar Collector development in Hertford County.

This the 19th day of September, 2020.

Ronald J. Gatling, Chairman Hertford County Board of Commissioners

Renee Fleetwood, Clerk to the Board

Manager Cotton proceeded to share that he received a petition signed by 62 individuals wishing to block the installation of proposed industrial use solar power farms by E. R. Evans, the names of the petitioners has not been verified by his office, and requested to the Board that the attached letter and petition be included in the Board records.

Sept 22 2020

We, the citizens of Hertford County, NC, petition the county to block the installation of proposed industrial use solar power farms by E.R. Evans.

As citizens of a rural area with active agriculture use, which is typical of Eastern North Carolina, we take pride in living in a countryside community where one can enjoy the sights of beautiful crops, quiet living, and wildlife surroundings. These proposed solar farms would destroy our countryside living, values of land and homes, and potentially cause health issues.

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Chairman Gatling opened the floor for public comments.

The following public comments were as follows:

Mr. Ronald Storey commented that he felt the growing array of solar farms was a disgrace to the County and proceeded to read the letter as follows:



RE: Proposed Industrial Use Solar Farm

Dear Mr. Commissioner,

I am writing this letter as a concerned citizen and landowner on East Woodrow School Road in Hertford County, NC. It has been brought to my attention that the farmland beside my home is under contract with a solar energy firm to install solar panels per the current owner, E.R. Evans. Mr. Evans has approached me and my brother about rights to run power lines across our land to his in order to proceed with the solar farm. This conservation has brought up numerous issues and concerns that I have with Mr. Evans and the solar firm's plan.

I have lived beside this farm for 60 years and the surrounding 300+ acres has been in my family for over 125 years. This is a rural area with active agriculture use, which is typical of Eastern North Carolina. I take pride in living in a rural community where one can enjoy the sights of beautiful crops, peaceful, quiet living, and nature and wildlife surroundings. So to have an industrial type use feet from my property would destroy everything that I have enjoyed and worked for over the last 60 years. It would be detrimental to my family's legacy being a NC Conservation Farm Family of the Year and my late father's Order of the Long Leaf Pine designation, granted by the Governor. My property surrounding this proposed solar farm will be in my family for generations to come. The thought of my rural property being diminished for the benefit of corporate gain is disturbing.

I can only imagine the impacts it will have on property values of the surrounding land and homes. Not only would these low values affect me, but my neighbors as well. No one is rushing to purchase properties with a view of an 8-foot chain-link fence with barbed wire and rows upon rows of solar panels.

Mr. Evan's himself stated to me in conversation that if he had to look out his house and see these solar farms, he would be "very upset and would move". He has had numerous farmers ask to purchase this land for a very reasonable fair market price, but declines every time.

Solar farm approval sets a dangerous precedence for our county and rural communities, because if there are no checks and balances and better implementation of adequate buffering and screening on these industrial solar farm uses, all of the farmland in the county will eventually be a chain link barbwire metal scrap yard that only benefits the out-of-area and sometimes out-of-state corporate interest. When these solar farm leases are up and/or no longer propped up by state and federal grants, what is the remediation to return the land to its prior farm use. I

would image the cost to remove the panels and all associated improvements will be tremendous, and these solar farms will look like a scene from *The Terminator*.

Besides being a massive eye sore and negative impact on the value of real estate, there are known health and safety risks with living beside a massive solar farm. One should worry about toxic solar panels, radiation, electro-magnetic fields, and what these potential issues would do to the health of the residents around the solar farm. The possibility of our drinking water being contaminated, our lungs breathing in toxic fumes, or a lightning strike to a panel creating a massive fire are frightening and cross my mind frequently.

Over the last 40+ years, I have paid over \$150,000 in county property taxes to live in this county, and why should I have to pay taxes for 30 more years if I am going to have to look at a solar farm for the rest of my days. As elected officials, I would hope that you would do everything in your power to reject this proposed solar farm, in order to benefit the actual residences of Hertford County and your constituents on East Woodrow School Road.

Sincerely, Ronald & Story

Ronald L. Storey 348 E Woodrow School Rd Murfreesboro, NC 27855

PH: 252-209-1140

Additional letters/emails were received from Wesley & Jean Jones, Jerry Storey, Thomas Carr, Beverly and Harry Connor, William R. Sumner, and Cecil Sumner addressed to the Board and included in their Board materials.

Mr. David Simmons addressed the Board and encouraged them to look over the report submitted on behalf of SunEnergy1 when making their decision on the adoption of a temporary moratorium.

There being no additional public comments, Chairman Gatling closed the floor.

Chairman Gatling proceeded to address those in attendance as follows: 1) encouraged attendees to allow the Board, County Manager and other staff to look at the process in which solar farms are erected in Hertford County to see the direction to go with a temporary moratorium and its criteria; 2) any decision made today by the board does not mean the moratorium would be in place indefinitely; 3) solar farms activity sits still for the number of days allowed; 4)the Board received several letters and emails for the moratorium and a few against a moratorium; and 5) the Board is not saying solar farms are being eliminated altogether.

On a motion by Com. Douglas and a second by Com. Lassiter, the Board voted to adopt a Temporary Moratorium on Future Solar Farm or Solar Collector Development in Hertford County.

Chairman Ronald Gatling
Com. Leroy Douglas
Com. Andre Lassiter
Com. William Mitchell, Jr. Aye

The County Attorney's office was directed to draw up a document for presentation at the October 19<sup>th</sup> Commissioner's meeting.

# REQUEST APPROVAL OF HOME & COMMUNITY BLOCK GRANT FOR OLDER ADULTS AGREEMENT FOR THE PROVISION OF COUNTY-BASED AGING SERVICES

On a motion by Com. Lassiter and a second by Com. Mitchell, the Board unanimously approved Home & Community Block Grant for Older Adults Agreement for the Provision of County-Based Aging Services

On a motion by Com. Mitchell and a second by Com. Douglas, the Board unanimously approved to leave Regular Session to convene as the Board of the Hertford County Northern & Southern Rural Water District.

# (CONVENING AS THE BOARD OF THE HERTFORD COUNTY NORTHERN & SOUTHERN RURAL WATER DISTRICT) A. PRESENTATION OF THE 2019 HERTFORD COUNTY LOCAL WATER SUPPLY PLAN (LWSP) REPORT B. REQUEST ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION APPROVING LOCAL WATER SUPPLY PLAN

On a motion by Com. Mitchell and a second by Com. Lassiter the Board unanimously approved the 2019 Hertford County Local Water Supply Plan (LWSP) Report as presented by Mr. Stanley Lassiter, Public Works Manager.

On a motion by Com. Mitchell and a second by Com. Lassiter the Board unanimously approved to adopt the Resolution For approving Local Water Supply Plan as presented by Mr. Lassiter.



#### **COUNTY OF HERTFORD**

#### RESOLUTION FOR APPROVING LOCAL WATER SUPPLY PLAN

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute 143-355 (I) requires that each unit of local government that provides public water service or that plans to provide public water service and each large community water system shall, either individually or together with other units of local government and large community water systems, prepare and submit a Local Water Supply Plan; and

WHEREAS, as required by the statute and in the interests of sound local planning, a Local Water Supply Plan for Hertford County Rural Water has been developed and submitted to the Hertford County Board of Commissioners tor approval; and

WHEREAS, the Hertford County Board of Commissioners finds that the Local Water Supply Plan is in accordance with the provisions of North Carolina General Statute 143-355 (I) and that it will provide appropriate guidance for the future management of water supplies for Hertford County Rural Water as well as useful information to the Department of Environmental Quality for the development of a state water supply plan as required by statute;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Hertford County Board of Commissioners of Hertford County Rural Water that the Local Water Supply Plan entitled, Hertford County Rural Water Supply Plan dated September 14, 2020, is hereby approved and shall be submitted to the Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Resources; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Hertford County Board of Commissioners intends that this plan shall be revised to reflect changes in relevant data and projections at least once every five years or as otherwise requested by the Department, in accordance with the statute and sound planning practice.

Adopted this 5 <sup>th</sup> day of October, 2020.	HERTFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
	Ronald J. Gatling, Chairman
ATTEST:	
Clerk to the Board	

On a motion by Com. Mitchell. and a second by Com. Lassiter, the Board unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting of the Board of the Hertford County Northern & Southern Rural Water District and return to Regular session.

# REQUEST ADOPTION OF ORDER TO COLLECT ALL REAL, PERSONAL, AND PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY TAXES FOR 2020-2021 LEVY YEAR PER NCGS § 105-321(B)

On a motion by Com. Mitchell and a second by Com. Douglas, the Board unanimously adopted the Order to Collect All Real, Personal, And Public Service Company Taxes for 2020-2021 Levy Year Per NCGS § 105-321(B).



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF HERTFORD

To the Tax Collector of the County of Hertford County:

You are hereby authorized, empowered, and commanded to collect the taxes set forth in the tax records filed in the office of the County Tax Assessor and in the tax receipts herewith delivered to you, in the amounts and from the taxpayers likewise therein set forth. Such taxes are hereby declared to be a first lien upon all real property of the respective taxpayers in the County of Hertford, and this order shall be a full and sufficient authority to direct, require, and enable you to levy on and sell any real or personal property of such taxpayers, for and on account thereof, in accordance with law.

Witness my hand and official seal, this 5th day of October, 2020.

Ronald J. Gatling, Chairman
Board of Commissioners of Hertford County

Attest:

Clerk to Board of Commissioners of Hertford County

### REQUEST ADOPTION OF PRIVATE SALE PROCESS

On a motion by Com. Douglas and a second by Com. Lassiter, the Board unanimously approved the adoption of the Private Sale Process presented by Attorney Maria R. Jones, Revelle & Lee, LLP as attached.

#### Hertford County Real Property Private Sale Process Policy

- When Hertford County ("County") receives an offer to purchase real property owned by County, the offer
  must be accompanied by a five (5) percent bid deposit before the Board of Commissioners ("BOC") will
  consider authorizing advertisement of the offer for upset bids, along with any other information deemed
  relevant by the County Manager, Clerk, or BOC.
- 2. If an offer to purchase is preliminarily deemed reasonable by the BOC, the BOC may authorize publication of an Offer for Upset Bids under the procedures of NCGS 160A-269.
- 3. Following the conclusion of the ten-day period for filing upset bids, if no upset bid is filed, then the BOC may accept or reject the bid; if the bid is accepted, then closing of the sale shall take place within thirty (30) days of notification to the Buyer that the sale has been approved, or the bid deposit shall be forfeited, unless the time for closing is extended by the BOC.
- If a bid is upset, then the BOC may authorize that the property shall be re-advertised under the procedure outlined above.
- 5. If an upset bid is upset again, then after the second upset period expires, the BOC shall, in most cases, authorize proceeding with a Sealed Bid process.
- 6. Under a Sealed Bid process, a Notice of Offer to Accept Sealed Bids shall be published, at least thirty (30) days before the date of bid opening. The Notice shall describe the property, and if improved, when and where the property can be examined. The Notice shall state when and where the sealed bids will be publicly opened. The Notice shall state that a forfeitable five (5) percent bid deposit must accompany each bid, and that the BOC reserves the right to reject any and all bids. Bids must be opened in public, and recorded in the minutes of the next BOC meeting. There is no requirement that County receive any minimum number of bids. If the BOC awards the property to the high bidder, bid deposits of lower bidders are to be returned. Following award of a bid, then closing of the sale shall take place within thirty (30) days of the notification to the high bidder that the sale has been approved, or the bid deposit shall be forfeited, unless the time for closing is extended by the BOC.

CS4461.POL

# REQUEST APPROVAL OF UPSET BID OFFERS: A. FRB CUSTOM HOMES OF NE NC - PIN#s 5081-19-9738 Lot 19 & 5081-29-1741 Lot 20; B. FRANCES KAY SCOTT PIN# 5968-45-5728

On a motion by Com. Lassiter and a second by Com. Mitchell, the Board unanimously. FRB Custom Homes of NE NC - PIN#s 5081-19-9738 Lot 19, 5081-29-1741 Lot 20 and b. Frances Kay Scott Pin# 5968-45-5728 to proceed with a Sealed Bid process.

## REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION REQUESTING NCACC ADOPT COUNTYWIDE BROADBAND SERVICES TO ITS LEGISLATIVE GOALS

County Manager David Cotton presented the Hertford County Resolution requesting NCACC Adopt Countywide Broadband Services to Its Legislative Goals as the formal response to the NCACC request to the County.

On a motion by Com. Mitchell and a second by Com. Douglas, the Board unanimously approved the adoption of the Resolution Requesting NCACC Adopt Countywide Broadband Services to its Legislative Goals.

#### **COUNTY MANAGER'S COMMENTS**

Manager Cotton made no comments.

#### **COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

The Board made the following comments:

Commissioners Douglas and Lassiter thanked the public for attending the Board meeting.

Com. Mitchell made no comments.

Chairman Gatling thanked everyone for coming and announced that Vice-Chair Horton was not feeling well and was unable to attend the meeting.

On a motion by Com. Douglas and a second by Com. Mitchell, the Board unanimously approved to go into Closed Session.

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

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

#### **ADJOURN MEETING**

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

Approved: November 2, 2020

Com. Ronald J. Gatling, Chairman

Dr. Renee Fleetwood, Clerk to the Board