

**HERTFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
COMMISSIONER'S CHAMBERS/MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM – JUDICIAL CENTER**

Minutes January 2, 2024 – 9:00 AM

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

Also Present with the Board: Mr. Kevin Patterson, Interim County Manager, Dr. Renee Tyler, Clerk to the Board, Attorney Charles L. Revelle, III, County Attorney
Attorney Maria Jones, Revelle & Lee

The following employees attended the meeting: Director Kimberly Turner, Director Leslie Edwards, Director Felicia Gaskins, Demarcus Thompson, PIO KaWania Parker, Ms. Deidre Evans, Director Sara Turner, Director Robert Mizelle, Mrs. Melissa Castelow, and Sheriff Dexter Hayes.

Chairman Andre' M. Lassiter called the meeting to order and Bishop Taunya Queen-Melendez, Senior Pastor of Well of Life Kingdom Ministry International, Ahoskie, provided the Invocation.

Pledge of allegiance was provided by Bishop Queen-Melendez's childcare, Rehoboth Educational Services Childcare Program in Ahoskie.

On a motion by Com. William F. Mitchell, Jr. seconded by Com. Ronald J. Gatling, the Board amended the Agenda to update Memo # 10288 – Request Consideration of Board Appointments: Hertford County Economic Development, Hertford County Library Advisory Board, Hertford County Planning Board and Hertford County Zoning Board of Adjustment, Tri-County Airport Authority, Northern Regional Advisory Board (Trillium Health Resources) and Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission.

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Com. Gatling seconded by Vice-Chair John D. Horton, the Board approved the Consent Agenda as follows:

- Approval of December 4, 2023 Minutes

- Approval of November 2023 Taxpayer Releases

RELEASES FOR MONTH ENDING

November 2023

		LEVY	VALUE	TAX
AHOSKIE TOWNSHIP	NAME	YEAR	RELEASED	RELEASED
MURFREESBORO TOWNSHIP				
WINTON TOWNSHIP				
Bill# 0000019567-2023-2023 Property is not habitable or is unoccupied with no electrical service during the period of July 1, through June 30 th of the taxable year.	Jernigan, C. S.	2023		W01-\$130.00 W02-\$130.00
MANEY'S NECK TOWNSHIP				
ST. JOHN TOWNSHIP				
HARRELLSVILLE TOWNSHIP				

TOTAL VALUE APPROVED THIS REPORT (2023LEVY) \$
 TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (2023LEVY) \$
 TOTAL VALUE APPROVED THIS REPORT (PRIOR LEVY) \$0
 TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (PRIOR LEVY) \$0
 TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W01 COLL/RECYCLE SITE 2023) \$130.00
 TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W02 LANDFILL OPERATON 2023) \$130.00
 TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W01 COLL/RECYCLE SITE 2022) \$0
 TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W02 LANDFILL OPERATION 2022) \$0

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy H. Eason

Tammy H. Eason, Tax Collector

Resolution Honoring First Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, NC (Dr. Robert F. Richardson, III, Pastor)



RESOLUTION HONORING

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - MURFREESBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS,

First Baptist Church Murfreesboro was established in 1866 by an itinerant preacher, Reverend Washington Lemuel Boone; and

WHEREAS, in 1869 a deed was given to Reverend William Reed and representatives for the church, Andrew Reynolds and Phillip Weaver; recorded May 3, 1870, and

WHEREAS, First Baptist Church Murfreesboro has made beneficial contributions to citizens of Hertford County and surrounding communities for 157 years providing ministry opportunities and security for families and citizens of Hertford County; and

WHEREAS, several organizations have been established under the leadership of its twelfth Pastor, Reverend Dr. Robert D. Richardson, III; they include the Pastor Support Ministry, The Praise Dancers, Youth 2000, The R.D. Richardson Choir, Youth Bible Study; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Richardson and First Baptist Church membership remains committed to the citizens of Hertford County bridging cultural gaps; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hertford County Board of County Commissioners hereby congratulate and honor First Baptist Church Murfreesboro for its tireless contributions to community service in Hertford County.

Adopted this the 2nd day of January 2024.

Hertford County Board of Commissioners

ATTES T

The Honorable Andre` M. Lassiter, Sr.
Chairman

(SEAL)

Dr. Renee Tyler, Clerk to the Board

- Approval of NCVTS Refunds: Robert Brady, Johnny Cullipher, Alyce Gaitten, Keith Wayne & Pamela Hope Hill, Jala Moore, Roanoke Electric Cooperative, Bettie Swain



North Carolina Vehicle Tax System

NCVTS Pending Refund report

Report Date

Payee Name	Primary Owner	Secondary Owner	Refund Type	Status	Refund Reason	Create Date	Tax Jurisdiction	Levy Type	Change	Interest Change	Total Change
BRADY, ROBERT STUART	BRADY, ROBERT STUART		Proration	AUTHORIZED	Vehicle Sold	11/15/2023	G01	Tax	(\$27.23)	\$0.00	(\$27.23)
							C06	Tax	(\$21.07)	\$0.00	(\$21.07)
							C06	Vehicle Fee	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
CULLIPHER, JOHNNY RAY	CULLIPHER, JOHNNY RAY		Adjustment >= \$100	PENDING	Situs error	11/17/2023				Refund	\$48.30
							G01	Tax	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
							C01	Tax	(\$124.46)	\$0.00	(\$124.46)
							C01	Vehicle Fee	(\$10.00)	\$0.00	(\$10.00)
CULLIPHER, JOHNNY RAY	CULLIPHER, JOHNNY RAY		Adjustment < \$100	AUTHORIZED	Situs error	11/17/2023				Refund	\$134.46
							G01	Tax	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
							C01	Tax	(\$4.13)	\$0.00	(\$4.13)
							C01	Vehicle Fee	(\$10.00)	\$0.00	(\$10.00)
GAITTEN, ALYCE WELLMAN	GAITTEN, ALYCE WELLMAN		Proration	AUTHORIZED	Tag Surrender	11/20/2023				Refund	\$14.13
							G01	Tax	(\$29.05)	\$0.00	(\$29.05)
							C01	Tax	(\$28.02)	\$0.00	(\$28.02)
							C01	Vehicle Fee	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
HILL, WAYNE KEITH	HILL, WAYNE KEITH	HILL, PAMELA HOPE	Proration	AUTHORIZED	Vehicle Sold	11/14/2023				Refund	\$57.07
							G01	Tax	(\$71.96)	(\$3.60)	(\$75.56)
										Refund	\$75.56
										Refund	\$75.56
MOORE, JALA DAJANEE	MOORE, JALA DAJANEE		Proration	PENDING	Vehicle Totalled	11/14/2023	G01	Tax	(\$110.04)	\$0.00	(\$110.04)
							C01	Tax	(\$106.11)	\$0.00	(\$106.11)
							C01	Vehicle Fee	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
										Refund	\$216.15
ROANOKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE	ROANOKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE		Adjustment >= \$100	PENDING	Exempt Property	11/02/2023	G01	Tax	(\$1,321.45)	\$0.00	(\$1321.45)
							C01	Tax	(\$1,274.25)	\$0.00	(\$1274.25)
							C01	Vehicle Fee	(\$10.00)	\$0.00	(\$10.00)
										Refund	\$2605.70
ROANOKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE	ROANOKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE		Adjustment >= \$100	PENDING	Exempt Property	11/02/2023	G01	Tax	(\$1,321.45)	\$0.00	(\$1321.45)
							C01	Tax	(\$1,274.25)	\$0.00	(\$1274.25)
							C01	Vehicle Fee	(\$10.00)	\$0.00	(\$10.00)
										Refund	\$2605.70
SWAIN, BETTIE VINSON	SWAIN, BETTIE VINSON		Proration	AUTHORIZED	Tag Surrender	11/07/2023	G01	Tax	(\$6.79)	(\$0.34)	(\$7.13)
							C01	Tax	(\$6.55)	(\$0.33)	(\$6.88)
							C01	Vehicle Fee	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
										Refund	\$14.01
										Refund Total	\$5771.08

NEW HIRE REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2023 VACANCY REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2023

Ms. Kimberly Turner, HR//Risk Management Director, provided the New Hire Report for December 2023 as follows:

December 2023

<u>Employees Hired</u>	<u>PT/FT</u>	<u>Department</u>
Nicholas Hudson	PT	Rural Water
Tyesha Edwards	FT	DSS
Trinean Vaughan	FT	E911
Travis Claycomb	FT	E911
Joseph Powell	PT	Solid Waste
David Hunt	FT	Solid Waste
Terliyah Cherry	FT	DSS

After a brief discussion, the Board welcomed the new employees to Hertford County and Ms. Turner presented the November 2023 vacancy report as follows:

HERTFORD COUNTY VACANCIES REPORT November 2023

Department	Position	Status	Total Vacancies	Total Positions
Detention Center	Detention Officer	FT	5	27
Administration	Assistant Co. Mgr.	FT	1	4
Finance	AP-AR/Acct Spec	FT	2	5
Tax Assessor	Clerk	FT	1	4
Sheriff	Deputy/ACO	FT	5	30
EMS	EMT	FT	9	22
Aging	Transp & Vol Coord.	FT	1	5
DSS	SWIII	FT	4	53
E-911	Dispatcher/CTO	FT	7	14
Solid Waste	Solid Waste Sup.	FT	1	2
Solid Waste (PT)	Recycling Attend.	PT	2	28
E-911 (PT)	Dispatcher	PT	4	10
Sheriff (PT)	Bailiff/Animal Cont.	PT	4	13
Detention Center(PT)	Detention Officer	PT	3	10
Tax Assessor (PT)	List Taker	PT	1	2

REQUEST CONSIDERATION OF BOARD APPOINTMENTS: HERTFORD COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, HERTFORD COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD, HERTFORD COUNTY PLANNING BOARD AND HERTFORD COUNTY ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT, TRI-COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY, NORTHERN REGIONAL ADVISORY BOARD (TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES) AND PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

The following action was taken by the Board for Board appointments:

On a motion by Com. Gatling seconded by Com. Douglas, the Board approved the reappointment of Attorney Taliya Lewis Blalock to the **Hertford County Economic Development Advisory Board** for a three-year term effective December 30, 2023 expiring December 30, 2026.

On a motion by Com. Gatling seconded by Com. Mitchell, the Board approved the appointment of Viretta Vann to the **Hertford County Library Advisory Board** for a six-year term effective December 30, 2023 expiring December 30, 2030.

On a motion by Vice-Chair Horton seconded by Com. Mitchell, the Board approved the reappointment of Dr. Terry C. Hall to the **Hertford County Planning Board** for a three-year term effective December 30, 2023 expiring December 30, 2026.

On a motion by Vice-Chair Horton seconded by Com. Gatling, the Board did not approve the reappointment request for Donald K. Kirkland to the **Hertford County Planning Board**.

On a motion by Com. Gatling seconded by Com. Mitchell, the Board approved the reappointment of Dr. Terry C. Hall to the **Hertford County Zoning Board of Adjustment** for a three-year term effective December 30, 2023 expiring December 30, 2026.

On a motion by Vice-Chair Horton seconded by Com. Gatling, the Board did not approve the reappointment request for Donald K. Kirkland to the **Hertford County Zoning Board of Adjustment**.

On a motion by Com. Gatling seconded by Com. Mitchell, the Board approved the reappointment of Com. Leroy Douglas to the **Tri-County Airport Authority** for a four-year term effective December 30, 2023 and expiring December 30, 2027.

On a motion by Com. Gatling seconded by Vice-Chair Horton, the Board approved the reappointment of Com. William F. Mitchell, Jr. to the **Northern Regional Advisory Board (Trillium Health Resources)** for a three-year term effective December 1, 2023 and expiring December 1, 2026.

On a motion by Com. Gatling seconded by Com. Mitchell, the Board approved the appointment of Dacia Jenkins to the **Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission** for a three-year term effective January 2, 2024 and expiring June 30, 2027.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE APPLICATION OF FY24 SENIOR CENTER GENERAL PURPOSE FUNDING WITH LOCAL MATCH

On a motion by Com. Douglas seconded by Com. Gatling, the Board approved the Application of FY 2024 Senior Center General Purpose Funding with local match.

INTERIM COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT: DOMINION ENERGY EASEMENT REQUEST, IT DIRECTOR, BOARD PROCEDURES, MUSEUM PROJECT, OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS, BID FOR PURCHASE

Interim County Manager Patterson shared the following with the Board:

- 1) recommended the Board's approval of the Dominion Energy Easement Request across County property to install underground power lines along Manley Avenue in Ahoskie

On a motion by Com. Gatling seconded by Com. Mitchell, the Board approved the Dominion Energy Easement request to install underground power lines along Manley Avenue in Ahoskie.

- 2) updates on IT Director vacancy and a proposal from SoundSide; after discussion, on a Motion by Com. Douglas seconded by Vice-Chair Horon, the Board approved for Interim Manager Patterson to proceed with hiring an IT Director and two additional technicians.

The Board asked Attorney Revelle to review the Contract between the County and SoundSide.

On a motion by Com. Gatling the Board agreed to table the recommendation for two IT Technicians as it pleases the Board for further discussion.

- 3) Board Rules and procedures summary of December meeting as follows: Interim Manager recommended to the Board that they consider the proposed board procedures as presented at the December meeting to include: recorded meetings for posting online with the goal to publish the meetings on the Hertford County YouTube channel; remote participation during state of emergency, remote voting, consent agenda to include budget amendments that do not involve spending unbudgeted County dollars, allowing the Board to discuss items not on the Agenda but not vote on the item until it is added to the Agenda.

On a motion by Com. Gatling seconded by Com. Douglas, the Board approved the Rules and Procedures.

- 4) Museum Project: Extension given through JUNE 2024; developing strategies for use of the funds to include purchasing artifacts; displays; and the Access Chowan Property.

- 5) Bid Offer for Purchase of the building directly behind the Health Department will be discussed during Closed Session

On a motion by Com. Gatling seconded by Com. Mitchell, the Board approved to enter into the Zoning Public Hearing.

9:30 AM Public Hearing to Rezone a Portion of William Conner, Dump and Cash, Inc. from Commercial Highway District (CH) and Residential Agricultura District (RA-30) to Heavy Industrial District (IH)

Ms. Sara Turner, GIS & Planning Director, provided the Board with the description and summary of the Planning Board meeting for the rezoning request made by Dump and Cash for the purpose of hearing and considering public comments on a request by William Conner, Dump and Cash Inc., to rezone a portion of his property from Commercial Highway District (CH) and Residential Agricultural District (RA-30) to Heavy Industrial District (IH).

Ms. Tammy Morris of Ahoskie shared she was not for or against the rezoning, she is not sure if it's a good or bad decision and questioned if the Board of Commissioners had looked at the information thoroughly to decide in the best interests of the community.

Mr. Balaji PpaSad with Dump & Cash, Inc., commented that Dump & Cash, Inc.'s proposal is to install an aluminum furnace in a new metal building (80 Ft x 60 Ft) on the property of the business starting by spring 2024, job opportunities, environmental effects, and the process brief of aluminum scrap, that there is no reason for the public to worry and that the state believe he does not need a permit but he needs approval from the EPA.

After a brief discussion with Ms. Turner and Attorney Charles Revelle, III, regarding the Planning Board's meeting regarding the request and processes for industrial rezoning requests, on a motion by Com. Gatling seconded by Com. Douglas, the Board closed the Public Hearing.

On a motion by Vice-Chair Horton seconded by Com. Douglas, the Board approved the rezoning request based on the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Board.

Ms. Tammy Morris was acknowledged by the Board for expressing her rezoning concern and suggested that she contact County Staff to secure the information she was requesting.

BOARD CHAIR'S/CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Tyler shared the Board Chair's/Clerk report and shared the County Mission Statement.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

The Board commented collectively expressed gratitude to the Rehoboth students, Dr. Queen-Melendez, her administrator, thanked everyone for attending the meeting, and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

In addition, Com. Gatling commented to Interim Manager Patterson that for the last two years no payment has been made to Amanda S Cherry for the use of their property and that payment needed to be taken care of quickly.

CLOSED SESSION

On a motion by Com. Gatling seconded by Com. Douglas, 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. Gatling, seconded by Com. Mitchell, the Board returned to Regular Session.

On a motion by Com. Galting seconded by Com. Mitchell, the Board approved retro pay for Amanda S. Cherry for FY 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 and for a lease agreement to be drawn up between the County and Amanda S. Cherry and presented for consideration for the January 16th Regular meeting.

Clerk Tyler was directed to contact Mr. John Thompson with Amanda S. Cherry.

On a motion by Com. Gatling seconded by Com. Mitchell the Board agreed to provide a \$5,000.00 payment to Cultivator, Inc. towards its efforts to rehab a reading institute for kids and an afterschool tutoring program in Ahoskie as requested by Mrs. Caroline Stephenson.

ADJOURN MEETING

On a motion by Com. Gatling seconded by Com. Douglas, the Board approved to adjourn the meeting.

Approved: January 16, 2024
The Honorable Andre` M. Lassiter, Sr., Chairman

Dr. Renee Tyler, Clerk to Board