

Minutes
Regular Meeting
Hertford County Board of Commissioners
Multi-Purpose Room – Judicial Center
Tuesday, January 3, 2017
9:00 A.M.

Present: Ronald J. Gatling, Curtis A. Freeman, Sr., Johnnie R. Farmer, and John D. Horton

Absent: William F. Mitchell, Jr.

Also Present with the Board: Loria D. Williams, County Manager; Charles L. Revelle, III, County Attorney; and Shelia W. Matthews, Clerk to the Board

Chairman Ronald J. Gatling called the meeting to order, and Commissioner John Horton provided the invocation.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- (1) Acceptance of Reports
 - a. Tax Releases – November, 2016
 - b. Tax Collection Percentage Report
 - c. Soil & Water Conservation District Annual Report
- (2) Approval of Tax Refund

The approved tax releases are as follows:

TOTAL VALUE APPROVED THIS REPORT (2016 LEVY)	500.00
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (2016 LEVY)	71.58
TOTAL VALUE APPROVED THIS REPORT (PRIOR LEVY)	00.00
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (PRIOR LEVY)	00.00
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W01 COLL/RECYCLE 2016)	406.03
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W02 LANDFILL OPERATION 2016)	406.03
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W01 COLL/RECYCLE 2015)	00.00
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W02 LANDFILL OPERATION 2015)	00.00
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W01 COLL/RECYCLE 2014)	00.00
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W02 LANDFILL OPERATION 2014)	00.00
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W01 COLL/RECYCLE 2013)	00.00
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W02 LANDFILL OPERATION 2013)	00.00
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W01 COLL/RECYCLE 2012)	00.00
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W02 LANDFILL OPERATION 2012)	00.00

TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W01 COLL/RECYCLE 2011)	00.00
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W02 LANDFILL OPERATION 2011)	00.00
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W01 COLL/RECYCLE 2010)	00.00
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W02 LANDFILL OPERATION 2010)	00.00
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W01 COLL/RECYCLE 2009)	00.00
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W02 LANDFILL OPERATION 2009)	00.00
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W01 COLL/RECYCLE 2008)	00.00
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W02 LANDFILL OPERATION 2008)	00.00
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W01 COLL/RECYCLE 2007)	00.00
TOTAL TAX RELEASED THIS REPORT (W02 LANDFILL OPERATION 2007)	00.00

The approved tax refund is as follows:

Refund in the amount of \$1,240.94 for overpayment of ad valorem 2016 real property taxes. Taxpayers with escrow accounts paid prior to mortgage company sending payment. The refund is to be sent to State Employees' Credit Union Loan Servicing, P. O. Box 25279, Raleigh, NC, 27611.

PERSONNEL

Leah Craddock, Human Resources/Risk Manager, introduced the following new County employees:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Department</u>
Tina Ricks	Public Buildings
Sherry Mitchell	Public Buildings
Tomeka Williams	Inspections
Sandra Pittman	Finance

SCHOOLS

Dr. William T. Wright, Jr., Superintendent of Hertford County Schools, was present to give the Board an update on the new Ahoskie Elementary School and to discuss Hertford County High School Road. Dr. Wright was accompanied by Board of Education Chairman J. Wendell Hall and Vice-Chairperson Shelia Porter.

A recent study had identified many needs including the replacement of Ahoskie Elementary School, which was constructed in 1959. A committee needs to be formed to evaluate and review this process. The Superintendent and the Board of Commissioners' Chairman would meet to form this committee. Vice-Chairman Freeman expressed his interest in serving on this committee.

Dr. Wright also shared that Board of Education Members and Staff along with Town of Ahoskie Officials had met with N. C. D. O. T. Officials to discuss the need to pave Hertford County High School Road. During the holidays, soft asphalt had been used in the pot holes. On a motion by Freeman and a second by Farmer, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following resolution:

Hertford County Board of Commissioners

Resolution

Let it be known that the Hertford County Board of Commissioners understands and offers this resolution in support of the repairs to and general maintenance of Hertford County High School Road.

WHEREAS, Hertford County High School Road is currently a major thoroughfare for Hertford County Public Schools, the Town of Ahoskie and the Citizens of Hertford County; and,

WHEREAS, Hertford County High School Road has significant repairs that need to be addressed; and,

WHEREAS, the Hertford County Board of Education is soliciting assistance for the repairs from the North Carolina Department of Transportation; and,

WHEREAS, NC General Statute 136-18(17) states that the North Carolina Department of Transportation is authorized and required to maintain and keep in repair roads leading from state maintained public roads to all public schools and public school buildings to which children are transported on public school busses to and from their home; and,

WHEREAS, Hertford County Public Schools will work with the Hertford County Board of Commissioners, the Town of Ahoskie, and the North Carolina Department of Transportation to solicit help to repair and maintain Hertford County High School Road, including but not limited to funding and future takeover by the North Carolina Department of Transportation in conjunction with the Town of Ahoskie; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Hertford County Board of Commissioners supports the repair and maintenance of Hertford County High School Road as well as funding and future takeover by the North Carolina Department of Transportation in conjunction with the Town of Ahoskie.

ADOPTED this 3rd day of January, 2017.

TAX

On a motion by Freeman and a second by Horton, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Specifications for the 2019 Revaluation that was presented for review at the December 5, 2016, Meeting.

At this time, Vice-Chairman Freeman questioned if contract workers had been working during the holidays. He informed staff to advise the Tax Assessor that when contract workers are working during off-hours to please inform this Board.

RESOLUTIONS/REGISTER OF DEEDS

On a motion by Freeman and a second by Horton, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following resolution as presented by Melanie H. Storey, Register of Deeds:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REMOVAL OF CERTAIN PUBLIC RECORD BOOKS
KEPT BY THE REGISTER OF DEEDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF
REPAIR, RESTORATION AND REBINDING**

WHEREAS, N.C. Gen. Stat. 132-7 provides that books of public records should be copied or repaired, renovated or rebound if worn, mutilated, damaged or difficult to read; and

WHEREAS, there is identified certain books of public records maintained by the Register of Deeds in need of repair, restoration and rebinding; and

WHEREAS, Kofile Inc. RecordSave is under contract to provide repair, restoration and rebinding of those certain books of public records.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR HERTFORD COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, that:

Section 1. The Register of Deeds is authorized to remove or cause to be removed to the care and custody of Kofile Inc. RecordSave, Document Preservation Specialists for repair, restoration and rebinding the following books of public records:

Real Estate Deed Book 14

Section 2. The books of public records listed in Section 1. of this resolution may remain in the care of custody of Kofile Inc. RecordSave, Document Preservation Specialists for the length of time required to repair, restore or rebind it.

Section 3. This resolution is effective upon its adoption.

Adopted the 3rd day of January, 2017.

EDC

Bill Early, EDC Director, gave an update on economic development. Some highlights include:

- Recruiting for a hotel facility in Murfreesboro
- Secured \$602,000 in funding for a new well for the Town of Murfreesboro
- County became designated as a Certified Work Ready Community

Discussion was then held on meeting building needs. Hertford County has three buildings available – 11,000 sf; 12,000 sf; and 20,000 sf. 85% of all inquiries are searching for existing buildings, but Hertford County cannot respond because our

available buildings do not meet the minimum requirements for projects. Discussion was held on the possibility of remodeling/expanding our current available buildings.

Chairman Gatling expressed his desire for Hertford County to establish a Tourism Board – either organize our own or by partnering with someone.

TRI-COUNTY AIRPORT

Bill Early, EDC Director and Vice-Chairman of the Tri-County Airport Authority, distributed plans for the new airport terminal. The Authority is attempting to secure funding for this project. Mr. Early presented a letter of support for the Board's approval. On a motion by Freeman and a second by Farmer, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the Chairman to sign the letter of support addressed to the Division of Aviation Director with the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission

Vice-Chairman Freeman had been contacted by Mr. Al Wright wishing to be appointed to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission, but his Board Application had not yet been received. Chairman Gatling advised waiting to make the appointment at the next meeting after the application has officially been received. Freeman made a motion to appoint Mr. Al Wright to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission, but the motion died due to lack of a second.

COUNTY PROPERTY/TAX FORECLOSURES

On a motion by Freeman and a second by Horton, the Board voted unanimously to accept a bid offer in the amount of \$8,600 from Jeff Benthall on the Jamelia Outlaw tax foreclosure property (PIN #5993-40-8050) and authorize the County Attorney to advertise for upset bids.

On a motion by Horton and a second by Farmer, the Board voted unanimously to accept a bid offer in the amount of \$8,000 from Jeff Benthall on the Jamelia Outlaw tax foreclosure property (PIN #5992-58-6786) and authorize the County Attorney to advertise for upset bids.

Commissioner Farmer questioned if the bid application included a section certifying that the bid applicant did not owe the County any delinquent taxes. Staff will have this added to our current bid application.

COUNTY MANAGER'S UPDATE

- There are many deficiencies at the Law Enforcement Center that need attention and will bring back a budget amendment at next meeting to cover these items
- The audit is very late, and a contract extension request may be forthcoming
- DSS Renovation Project – Second half of the building is being worked on now; furniture has been delivered

At this time, Chairman Gatling asked the Sheriff for an update from his department. Sheriff Dexter Hayes shared that his department is working on updating some old policies and procedures for the Jail and staff.

Chairman Gatling needs to meet with Vice-Chairman Freeman, E-911 staff and the Sheriff's staff as soon as possible.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

- Commissioner Farmer shared that he is extremely excited with the County's accomplishments in 2015 and 2016 and no tax increase for eight years
- Commissioner Horton shared with the Board that the residents on Carolina Avenue need some assistance with their road. Other Commissioners shared with him the process, as well as the rules of N. C. D. O. T. Horton explained the residents are only asking for assistance in dragging the road
- Vice-Chairman Freeman voiced his concern for the third meeting in a row about Ahoskie and Murfreesboro Police Departments being closed after hours. There is no one manning these buildings. Someone in need can pick up a phone in the lobby that goes to 911 to send someone. Freeman shared once again that he is going to keep discussing it until something else is done. (NOTE: The Master Control Operator at the Law Enforcement Center is responsible for walk-ins after hours – for non-emergencies, they call 911; and for emergencies, a door can be unlocked for them to stand between doors for protection until a deputy arrives.)

On a motion by Freeman and a second by Horton, the Board voted unanimously to go into a Closed Session as allowed under G. S. 143-318.11 (a) (3) to consult with the County Attorney and (6) to discuss personnel matters.

CLOSED SESSION

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

REGULAR SESSION

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