

Minutes
Regular Meeting
Hertford County Board of Commissioners
Multi-Purpose Room – Judicial Center
Monday, March 6, 2017
9:00 A.M.

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

Absent: None

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 provided the invocation.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- (1) Approval of Tax Refund

The approved tax refund is as follows:

Refund in the amount of \$331.39 on tax bill number 16A5946536721. Taxpayer failed to inform the Tax Assessor's Office that he sold his double wide August 12, 2015. Taxpayer has now provided proof that the current owner Jeffrey Webster is being taxed for the double wide in the city of Chesapeake. The \$331.39 refund is divided between taxes (\$181.39) and solid waste fee (\$150.00). The refund should be sent to Kevin D. Johnson, 823 Pine Tops Road, Murfreesboro, NC, 27855.

PERSONNEL

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Department</u>
Johnatha Jones	Detention Center
Carolyn Wright	Office of Aging
Pamela Weston	Office of Aging

RESOLUTIONS/BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Mr. Bland Baker, Northern Regional Director with Trillium Health Resources, presented their State Funding Report. He explained that over the past two fiscal years, the General Assembly has reduced State funding and required the agencies to use their savings to make up for the reduction. They have been able to absorb these costs so far, but it is drastically reducing their fund balance. Trillium is asking the Board to approve a resolution in support of adequate funding. On a motion by Mitchell and a second by Freeman, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following resolution:

Resolution of Support for Adequate Funding to meet the Mental Health, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Use Disorder service needs for Citizens of Hertford County

WHEREAS, Hertford County knows that citizens dealing with mental illness and substance use disorders can achieve recovery with the appropriate services and supports and that citizens with intellectual and developmental disabilities can live productive lives in our communities with similar services and supports; and

WHEREAS, the funding needed for such services and supports is increasing due to North Carolina's increasing population and the opioid epidemic in our State; and

WHEREAS, Hertford County is a member of Trillium Health Resources, a twenty-four county LME/MCO serving eastern North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the intent of the NC General Assembly and the NC Department of Health and Human Services, the Board of Trillium Health Resources has developed and is implementing a robust reinvestment plan to use savings that is benefiting the citizens of Hertford County with such enhancements as accessible playgrounds, Access Point Kiosks, and new evidenced-based services; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Assembly has made significant budget reductions in State funding for the past two years; and

WHEREAS, the formula used to allocate the reduction statewide in the current fiscal year was based on 2015 information which has resulted in a disproportionate reduction to Trillium Health Resources; and

WHEREAS, these budget reductions can no longer be absorbed by Trillium Health Resources without jeopardizing services to Hertford County citizens, negatively impacting the lives of people in need of service as well as potentially impacting the local economy through job loss;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Hertford County Board of Commissioners, do hereby request that the North Carolina General Assembly:

- Maintain full State funding for mental health, developmental disabilities and substance abuse services without further reductions; and
- Allow Trillium Health Resources to continue to use its savings to reinvest in enhanced services in our communities rather than having to use that funding to replace State budget reductions; and
- Modify the formula by which any future reductions in funding are allocated, if such reductions must be made, to ensure the reduction is fairly distributed statewide.

ADOPTED this 6th day of March, 2017.

RESOLUTIONS/AMERICAN RED CROSS

On a motion by Mitchell and a second by Freeman, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following proclamation as presented by Megan McDonald with the American Red Cross:

AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH 2017

A Proclamation

WHEREAS, in Hertford County, **we have a long history of helping our neighbors in need.** American Red Cross Month is a special time to recognize and thank our heroes – those Red Cross volunteers and donors who give of their time and resources to help community members.

WHEREAS, these heroes help families find shelter after a home fire. They give blood to help trauma victims and cancer patients. They deliver comfort items to military members in the hospital. They use their lifesaving skills to save someone from a heart attack, drowning or choking. They enable children around the globe to be vaccinated against measles and rubella.

WHEREAS, the American Red Cross depends on local heroes to deliver help and hope during a disaster. **We applaud our heroes here in Hertford County who give of themselves** to assist their neighbors when they need a helping hand.

WHEREAS, across the country and around the world, the American Red Cross responds to disasters big and small. In fact, every eight minutes the organization responds to a community disaster, providing shelter, food, emotional support and other necessities to those affected. It collects nearly 40 percent of the nation’s blood supply; provides 24-hour support to military members, veterans and their families; teaches millions lifesaving skills, such as lifeguarding and CPR; and through its Restoring Family Links program, connects family members separated by crisis, conflict or migration.

WHEREAS, we dedicate the month of March to all those who support the American Red Cross mission to prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies. Our community depends on the American Red Cross, which relies on donations of time, money and blood to fulfill its humanitarian mission.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronald J. Gatling, Chairman of the Hertford County Board of Commissioners, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim March 2017 as American Red Cross Month. I encourage all Americans to support this organization and its noble humanitarian mission.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 6th day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen.

N.C.D.O.T.

Mr. Otis Jefferson, spokesperson for residents on Roger Lane, was present submitting a N.C.D.O.T. Petition for Road Addition for Roger Lane. Mr. Jefferson has spoken with D.O.T. officials and made them aware of the request. It is understood that Roger Lane cannot be paved. The residents are asking for assistance with getting rocks for the road. On a motion by Freeman and a second by Farmer, the Board voted unanimously to approve forwarding the petition to the N. C. Department of Transportation.

SCHOOLS

Dr. William T. Wright, Jr., Superintendent of Hertford County Schools, was present requesting approval to use lottery funds to replace the HVAC system at the Hertford County High School Gymnasium. The application for using lottery funds requires the signatures of the Board of Education and the Board of County Commissioners.

Loria D. Williams, County Manager, recommends leaving the lottery funds in place and purchase the HVAC system using local funding. On a motion by Farmer and a second by Freeman, the Board voted unanimously to approve the purchase of an HVAC system for the Hertford County High School Gymnasium in the amount of \$236,000 using local funding, and not lottery funds.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Mr. Curtis Barnes, concerned citizen, was present to discuss the funding cuts by the General Assembly to Managed Care Organizations. With these cuts, services may be cut as well as jobs lost. Smaller organizations, such as Solid Foundation, may even have to close down. He was asking the Board for a voice – not financial support.

Commissioner Mitchell explained to him that Bland Baker with Trillium Health Resources was in attendance earlier in the meeting and that the Commissioners approved a resolution in support of adequate funding for Managed Care Organizations.

TRI-COUNTY AIRPORT

Ms. Kim Castle, President of the African American Caucus for Hertford County, was present to discuss the construction project at Tri-County Airport. Commissioner Farmer, who also serves on the Tri-County Airport Authority, explained the project to her as well as the funding involved for this project.

Ms. Castle questioned the use of local contractors and minorities being hired. It was explained that the Tri-County Airport Authority will pick the contractor after bids are put out, following minority participation guidelines; but there are no requirements for hiring locals by the contractors who receive the bid.

CONTRACTS/TAX

On a motion by Mitchell and a second by Farmer, the Board voted unanimously to award the contract for tax revaluation to Pearson's Appraisal Service in the amount of \$288,000 (\$18.00 per parcel), as presented by Loria D. Williams, County Manager.

Pearson's was the only bid received, and they have been working with Hertford County for several years now.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

On a motion by Mitchell and a second by Horton, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following FY 2016-2017 Hertford County Budget Ordinance Amendment #8 as presented by Sandy Pittman, Finance Director:

AMENDMENT TO HERTFORD COUNTY BUDGET ORDINANCE FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017

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, 2017:

REVENUE:

Department	Account Number	Account Description	Amount Increase	Amount Decrease
Revenues	100112 448500	Fund Balance Appropriations	\$ 540,444	
		Total Changes in Revenue	\$ 540,444	\$ -

Net Change in Revenue	\$540,444
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EXPENDITURE:

Department	Account Number	Account Description	Amount Increase	Amount Decrease
Administration	104120 551001	Capital Outlay - Buildings (purchase)	\$ 152,471	
Administration	104120 551001	Capital Outlay - Buildings (renovations)	\$ 500,000	
Administration	104120 593000	Fund Reserve		\$ 152,471
County Office Building #2 Debt Service	104650 571500	Principle Payment	\$ 36,373	
County Office Building #2 Debt Service	104650 571501	Interest Expense	\$ 4,071	
		Total Change in Expenditures	\$ 692,915	\$ 152,471

Net Change in Expenditures	\$540,444
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Explanation:

Budget for purchase and renovation of County Office Building #2 (Scott Edwards Building).

Amendment # 8

On a motion by Mitchell and a second by Horton, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following FY 2016-2017 Hertford County Budget Ordinance Amendment #9 as presented by Sandy Pittman, Finance Director:

AMENDMENT TO HERTFORD COUNTY BUDGET ORDINANCE FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017

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, 2017:

REVENUE:

Department	Account Number	Account Description	Amount Increase	Amount Decrease
Restricted Intergov. - DSS	100063 418701	Low Income Home Energy Assistance	\$ 45,000	
		Total Changes in Revenue	\$ 45,000	\$ -

Net Change in Revenue	\$45,000
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EXPENDITURE:

Department	Account Number	Account Description	Amount Increase	Amount Decrease
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Public Assistance	104440 563001	Low Income Home Energy Assistance	\$ 45,000	
		Total Changes in Expenditures	\$ 45,000	\$ -

Net Change in Expenditures	\$45,000
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Explanation:

Increase in budget due to increased federal funding.

Amendment # 9

PERSONNEL

On a motion by Freeman and a second by Horton, the Board voted unanimously to approve the job description for the Director of Information Technology position, as presented by the County Manager.

COMMISSIONERS

On a motion by Farmer and a second by Mitchell, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Teresa Cowan as a County Commissioner appointee on the Employee Advisory Council (EAC).

COUNTY MANAGER’S UPDATE

The County Manager updated the Board on the progress of the DSS Building renovation project and the Health Department renovation project.

COMMISSIONERS

On a motion by Farmer and a second by Mitchell, the Board voted unanimously to amend the agenda to include approving bid offers on the following tax foreclosure properties.

COUNTY PROPERTY/TAX FORECLOSURES

On a motion by Mitchell and a second by Horton, the Board voted unanimously to approve the bid made in the amount of \$8,600 by Jeff Benthall on the Jamelia Outlaw tax foreclosure property (PIN #5993-40-8050). No upset bids had been received.

On a motion by Mitchell and a second by Farmer, the Board voted unanimously to approve the bid made in the amount of \$8,000 by Jeff Benthall on the Jamelia Outlaw tax foreclosure property (PIN #5992-58-6786). No upset bids had been received.

On a motion by Mitchell and a second by Farmer, the Board voted unanimously to approve the bid made in the amount of \$2,700 by Viola Vaughan on the Jamelia Outlaw tax foreclosure property (PIN #5993-62-2190). No upset bids had been received.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

- Commissioner Horton expressed it was good to see participation of the public at our meetings

On a motion by Freeman and a second by Mitchell, the Board voted unanimously to recess Regular Session to go into a scheduled 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.