

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
HERTFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM – JUDICIAL CENTER
MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2019
7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT:

Mr. Ronald J. Gatling, Chairman
Mr. John D. Horton, Vice-Chair
Mr. Leroy Douglas
Mr. Andre` Lassiter
Mr. William F. Mitchell, Jr.

ALSO PRESENT WITH THE BOARD:

Ms. Loria Williams, County Manager
Mr. Juan Vaughan, Asst. County Manager
Dr. Renee Fleetwood, Clerk to the Board
Mr. Charles L Revelle, III, County Attorney
Ms. Maria R. Jones, Asst. County Attorney

Chairman, Ronald J. Gatling, called the Meeting to order and Interim Pastor Cheryl Holloman of New Ahsokie Baptist Church in Ahsokie provided the Invocation.

Chairman Gatling called for a motion to move Memo #9108, Second Reading: Resolution to Amend Personnel Policy Section 11.9 to follow Closed Session. On a motion by Com. Lassiter, second by Com. Mitchell the Board voted unanimously to discuss Memo #9108 in Closed Session.

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Com. Mitchell and a second by Com. Lassiter, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of NC Vehicle Tax System Refund Home Life Care, Inc.
2. Approval of Refund for Raymond Lassiter
3. Approval of Refund for Cynthia Rodgers
4. Approval of Tax Levy Releases for Month Ending February 2019

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Representative Howard J. Hunter, III shared the following Legislative Update:

- Medicaid Expansion to close the health care coverage gap and create health care jobs
- House passes School Bond HB 241 (bond referendum for \$1.5 billion in school facility financing; \$200 million for community college needs; and \$200 million for

the UNC System. HB 241 provides \$10 million for Hertford County Schools. HB 241 now goes to the State Senate where its fate is uncertain.

- Appointment by Governor Cooper of Justice Cheri Beasley the First African-American Female Chief Justice in NC History
- HB 95 School Calendar Flexibility
- HB 284 Expulsion Law
- State Budget process beginning for teacher pay raise
- Governor Cooper's budget: \$145 million for Rural Economic Development, expanded internet access, affordable housing for rural communities statewide, investment in job training and education, teacher and principal pay, restore longevity pay for teachers
- Rise Program
- HB 293- Fair Enforcement of Mortgage Licensing Act

Also, discussion was held between Representative Hunter and the Board regarding Circle Drive, Veteran's Memorial Park, rural hospital cuts, water and trash along highways. Representative Hunter advised the Board to let him know where the properties and/or concerns are and he will handle whatever is required.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REMOVAL OF DEED BOOK FOR REPAIR

Mrs. Melanie Storey presented the Resolution Authorizing Removal of Deed Book for Repair. On a motion by Com. Lassiter and second by Com. Mitchell the Board voted unanimously to approve the Resolution Authorizing Removal of Deed Book for Repair.

EMS – PROPOSAL OF NEW ALS2 LEVEL OF SERVICE CHARGES AND INCREASE CHARGES

Mr. James Broglin presented the EMS – Proposal of New ALS2 Level of Service Charges and Increase Charges. On a motion by Com. Mitchell and second by Com. Douglas four Commissioners voted to approve the EMS – Proposal of New ALS2 Level of Service Charges and Increase Charges. The motion was opposed by Com. Horton. Additionally, on an amended motion by Com. Mitchell and second by Com. Douglas, four Commissioners voted for the EMS Proposal of New ALS2 Level of Service Charges and Increase Charges to go into effect immediately upon passage.

PETITION REQUEST FOR ROAD ADDITION: PINE LANE

County Manager Williams presented the Petition Request for Road Addition: Pine Lane to be forwarded to DOT. On a motion by Com. Lassiter and second by Com. Mitchell the Board voted unanimously to forward the Petition Request for Road Addition: Pine Lane to DOT.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Phyllis Edwards, citizen, presented the following public comment to the Board:

- Managers need to ensure employees working in positive work environments
- Professional leadership of managers/directors specifically the Department of Aging is limited
- Officer of Aging Manager is stressed out and needs to improve her attitude

County Manager Williams assured the Board and Ms. Edwards she would look into the concern.

COUNTY MANAGER COMMENTS

County Manager Williams discussed the following items: Census Bureau Package: desire to partner with county government; 75% participation in previous year census was completed; appointment of a county liaison, a department head, a faith-based community leader; community count committee; third week in April 2019 US Census representative visit to the county.

After discussion on the US Census, Board Chair Gatling appointed Com. Douglas on the committee to work with County Manager Williams.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Com. Douglas thanked everyone for coming and stated the following: no one should ever feel scared to come to Board meetings; citizens should be comfortable; the Board is elected to work for citizens; if citizens not receiving the help needed, the Board should be contacted.

Com. Mitchell stated it was good to see everyone and thanked everyone for their prayers and well wishes during his recent absence.

Com. Lassiter thanked citizens and Mrs. Storey for coming out tonight and acknowledged Chairman Gatling's family who were present.

Vice-Chair Horton provided the follow comments: thanked the County for acknowledging the recent death in his family; his disappointment with Mid-East and; lack of funding provided to Hertford County compared to other counties.

Chairman Gatling commented as follows:

- thanked the Commissioners for attending the forums, open house and every event the Board had scheduled.
- thanked the citizens for their attendance and the positive comments they have given
- Economic Development Meeting: importance of laying the foundation for the county; impressed with Stanford Houser Company and their participation in future Economic Development projects with Hertford County; reducing costs
- Annual Easter Egg Hunt – importance of county employee and citizen involvement
- Governor's Budget

- Interviews for Tax Collector Applicants

CLOSED SESSION

On a motion by Com. Lassiter and second by Com. Mitchell, the Board voted unanimously to move to Closed Session.

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

On a motion by Com. Lassiter and second by Com. Mitchell the Board voted unanimously to return to Regular Session.

On a motion by Vice-Chair Horton and second by Com. Mitchell the Board voted unanimously to refund a \$338.72 Tax Foreclosure Bid Deposit to Mr. John Jarrett, due to the inability to provide clear title.

SECOND READING: RESOLUTION AMEND PERSONNEL POLICY SECTION 11.9

Chair Gatling called for a motion on the Second Reading: Resolution to Amend Personnel Policy Section II.9. On a motion by Com. Lassiter and second by Vice-Chair Horton to adopt Second Reading: Resolution to Amend Personnel Policy Section 11.9 votes were as follows:

Chairman Gatling: Yea
Vice-Chair Horton: Yea
Com. Douglas: Yea
Com. Lassiter: Yea
Com. Mitchell: Nay

Chairman Gatling announced the motion carried.

RESOLUTION

Amend Section 11.9 of the Hertford County Personnel Policy by adding a third paragraph as follows:

"An immediate family member of a sitting County Commissioner shall not serve in any position as an employee of Hertford County in any capacity, during the term of a sitting County Commissioner; provided however, this policy does not apply to any employee of Hertford County at the time of enactment of this policy, unless such employee leaves employment and then reapplies. This policy does apply to an individual who is employed by Hertford County, and whose immediate family member is then elected in the future as a County Commissioner; an employee whose immediate family member is elected would red to resign prior to the newly elected Commissioner taking office."

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