

**GATES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 18, 2012**

The Gates County Board of Commissioners held a workshop at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 18, 2012 in the main courtroom, 202 Court Street, Gatesville. Commissioners Twine, Jordan, Hora, Owens and Jernigan were present. Also present was County Manager, Toby Chappell. The workshop was held with Steve Schuster and John Zellweger, Clearscapes, Architects, the preferred firm for the proposed courthouse stabilization/renovation project. The direction the Board takes depends on cost, funding and tax credits.

Chairman Twine recessed the workshop.

The meeting reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

A prayer was led by Commissioner Jordan. Commissioner Twine led the pledge of allegiance.

Chairman Twine called the meeting to order.

**Approval of Agenda**

Chairman Twine stated the Agenda needed to be amended; item V.A.1. has been removed and the County Manager has been added under New Business.

Commissioner Jordan made a motion to approve the Agenda as amended. Commissioner Hora seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

**Citizen's Comments**

Anthony Felton, Eure, stated he does not feel closed sessions should be recorded; he requests comments not be aired on u-tube; he suggest comments be made at the podium and not uttered in the audience.

Wade Askew, Eure, stated he serves on the Ag Foundation at NC State. He suggests the local FFA Chapter assist with landscaping at Merchants Commerce Park. He disputes the statement the County had a 5.26 % tax increase; he urges the Board to keep more than the minimum amount in fund balance and not let fund balance be jeopardized as in the past.

Milton Carter, Hobbsville, questioned the drainage pipe to be put in front of his house. Chairman Twine stated funds have not been appropriated by the legislature yet. Mr. Carter also questioned the junk vehicle policy in force, he asked the County to be a little more lenient.

Earl Rountree, Sunbury, commented on refinancing County debt. He asked the Board to review its debt. Mr. Chappell stated the Finance Officer is putting together a report for the next meeting.

Ricky Lee, Eure, stated he had been to Mr. Chappell's office and Mr. Chappell refused to speak with him. Mr. Chappell corrected Mr. Lee. He would speak with Mr. Lee but not to have the conversation recorded. Mr. Lee stated there was a safety issue in the Administration Building. Chairman Twine informed Mr. Lee to see a doctor and then meet with the County's attorney. Mr. Lee stated due to the lack of customer service and unable to meet with the County Manager and Planner it was time to get rid of the County Manager.

**Department Reports**

Morgan Jethro, County Planner, discussed the selection of a consultant for the 2012 Scattered Site CDBG Grant. She presented proposals from two companies, The Wooten Company and Coastal Innovative AdVentures, LLC. Ms. Morgan will clarify the fees on the proposals and return at the next meeting.

Commissioner Jordan discussed the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing.

Commissioner Jordan made a motion to accept the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing. Commissioner Owens seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Patrice Lassiter, GITS Director, requested approval to submit two grants to the Targeted Transit Assistance Program.

Commissioner Owens made a motion to open the Public Hearing regarding the Targeted Transit Assistance Program Grants. Commissioner Hora seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Anthony Felton, Eure, stated he had been a GITS participant and GITS did a great job.

Commissioner Owens made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Commissioner Jordan made a motion to accept the grants as presented. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Mrs. Lassiter presented an update to the GITS Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy.

Commissioner Owens made a motion to approve the amended Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

#### **New Business**

Mr. Chappell discussed waiving the Demolition Permit Fee for situations where the County is requesting the site be demolished.

Commissioner Jordan made a motion to waive the permit fee for sites the County is requesting be demolished. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Chairman Twine discussed the per page cost to charge the public for copies made in County offices. He request an analysis be made and return to the Board at the next meeting.

Mr. Chappell presented a Budget Amendment to use Fund Balance to cover the foreclosure attorney fees.

Commissioner Hora made a motion to approve the Budget Amendment to use Fund Balance to cover the foreclosure attorney fees. Commissioner Jordan seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Mr. Chappell discussed securing the services of another attorney for foreclosures.

#### **Commissioners' Comments**

Commissioner Owens commented on citizens benefiting from GITS and it was a great service.

Commissioner Hora stated he would like to do something positive with fund balance; he is looking at saving one-half to one million dollars.

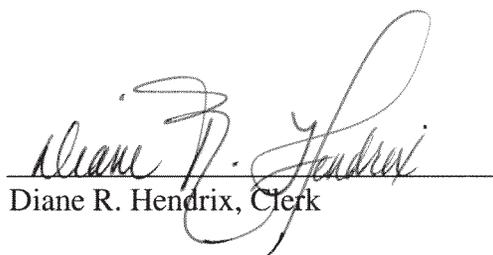
Commissioner Jordan stated the Kim Old project was going well and was proud of the sale of Sunbury School.

Chairman Twine stated the Economic Improvement Council Community Services Block Grant has been received.

Commissioner Jordan made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.



Graham L. Twine, Chairman



Diane R. Hendrix, Clerk

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