

**GATES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 21, 2012**

The Gates County Board of Commissioners reconvened in Regular Session at 7:00 p.m., Monday, May 21, 2012 from Monday May 14, 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.

A prayer and pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Jordan.

Chairman Twine called the meeting to order.

Approval of Agenda

Chairman Twine stated the Agenda needed to be amended by the following: Reba Green-Holley, Extension Director, will be presenting a Memorandum of Agreement; the County Manager will be discussing a resolution regarding Senate Bill 433, a Workforce Development Board appointment and an agreement between North Carolina Department of Transportation and the Sunbury Volunteer Fire Department.

Commissioner Hora made a motion to add a Closed Session authorized by NCGS §143-318.11(a)(5) to the amended Agenda. Commissioner Jordan seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Citizens' Comments

The first Citizens' Comments item on the Agenda is dedicated to the stabilization and renovation of the old courthouse.

Pat Familiar, Gatesville, Head Librarian, Gatesville Library, stated visitors from all over the United States visit the courthouse for historical reasons. The jail has dates etched from 1849 and 1865; the courtroom has original furnishings; it contains the only elevator in the County. It could be used for a visitor's center, chamber of commerce office, historical society site, community theatre, classic movie theatre, have guest speakers and used as a living museum.

Adam Williams, Hobbsville, stated he was in support of preserving the old courthouse; a renovated site could be used by the chamber of commerce, the historical society and as a visitor center.

Walt Rodan, Gatesville, stated the old courthouse is now being used for something other than what it was built for, it could have many uses in the future.

Department Reports

Morgan Jethro, Planning Director, stated there are three (3) Planning Board member vacancies, Dan Lang and Chuck Brothers can serve another term. Thomas Langston cannot serve another term. Applications to fill the vacancies have been received from Brenda Felton, Wesley Mozell and Wade Askew as well as Dan Lang and Chuck Brothers.

Commissioner Jordan made a motion to open the floor for nominations to fill the Thomas Langston vacancy. Commissioner Hora seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Commissioner Hora nominated Brenda Felton. Commissioner Jordan nominated Wesley Mozell.

Commissioner Hora made a motion to close the nominations for the Thomas Langston Planning Board vacancy. Commissioner Jordan seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Chairman Twine and Commissioners Hora, Owens and Jernigan voted for Brenda Felton. Brenda Felton will fill the Thomas Langston Planning Board vacancy by a majority vote and will serve a three (3) year term.

Commissioner Jordan made a motion to open the floor for the Dan Lang position. Commissioner Hora seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Commissioner Hora nominated Dan Lang to be re-appointed. Commissioner Owens nominated Wade Askew.

Commissioner Owens made a motion to close the nominations for the Dan Lang Planning Board position. Commissioner Hora seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Chairman Twine and Commissioners Jordan, Owens and Jernigan voted for Wade Askew. Commissioner Hora opposed. Wade Askew will fill the Dan Lang position on the Planning Board by a majority vote and will serve a three (3) year term.

Commissioner Hora made a motion to open the floor for nominations for the Chuck Brothers position on the Planning Board. Commissioner Jordan seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Commissioner Hora nominated Chuck Brothers to be re-appointed.

Commissioner Owens made a motion to close the nominations for the Chuck Brothers Planning Board position. Commissioner Hora seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Chuck Brothers was unopposed and was re-appointed for another three (3) year term on the Planning Board.

Ms. Jethro presented the Final Plat Review for the Hollowell Major Subdivision.

Commissioner Jordan made a motion to accept the site plan as presented for the Hollowell Major Subdivision. Commissioner Hora seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Reba Green-Holley, Cooperative Extension Director, presented a Memorandum of Agreement between North Carolina Cooperative Extension Program and North Carolina A & T State University.

Commissioner Owens made a motion to accept the Memorandum of Agreement as presented. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Old Business

Toby Chappell, County Manager, stated there has been no progress on the Proposed Courthouse Stabilization/Renovation Project since choosing Clearscapes Architects. Sidney Pierce stated he has found 28 potential grants that could be used for the project. A meeting will be scheduled to discuss these grants with Mr. Chappell and Commissioner Jordan.

New Business

Mr. Chappell discussed a concern brought to the Personnel Board by Patrice Lassiter, GITS Director. A full-time employee will be leaving and she would like to use their salary for two part-time positions and increase the current drivers' salaries and move them up on the pay scale. She would like to move non-CDL starting salaries from \$7.85/hr. to \$8.25/hr. and CDL starting salaries from \$8.01/hr. to \$9.25/hr. The Personnel Board approved Mrs. Lassiter's recommendation.

Commissioner Jordan made a motion to accept the Personnel Board's recommendation to increase the salaries for GITS employees as presented. Commissioner Hora seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Mr. Chappell discussed a recommendation by the Personnel Board to pay Matt Lowe for 146 hours of comp time with funds from his budget. Mr. Lowe had been working a federal employee schedule and not a local government employee schedule. His work schedule has been corrected.

Commissioner Owens made a motion to approve the recommendation by the Personnel Board to pay Matt Lowe for 146 hours of comp time using funds from his budget. Commissioner Hora seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Mr. Chappell stated he has been contacted by College of the Albemarle President, Kandy Deitemeyer, regarding a COA Board of Trustees vacancy; Mr. Saunders will no longer be serving on this board.

Commissioner Owens made a motion to appoint Chairman Twine to fill the vacancy on the COA Board of Trustees. Commissioner Jordan seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Mr. Chappell stated he has been asked by the NCACC to support Senate Bill 433 and presented a Resolution in Support of Senate Bill 433 allowing county flexibility to organize local human services.

Commissioner Hora made a motion not to support Senate Bill 433. Commissioner Jordan seconded the motion. Commissioners Jordan, Hora, Owens and Jernigan voted for the motion. Chairman Twine voted against the motion; motion carried by a majority vote.

Mr. Chappell stated there are two vacancies on the Workforce Development Board.

Commissioner Owens requested the Board solicit citizens to fill the vacancies and place the matter on the next meeting's agenda.

Mr. Chappell stated the Sunbury Volunteer Fire Department has pursued payment from North Carolina Department of Transportation for the paving of their driveway and parking lot. DOT has appropriated \$25,000; the remaining balance will be paid by the fire department.

Commissioner Owens made a motion to sign the agreement so the Sunbury Volunteer Fire Department can proceed to collect funds from NC DOT to pay for driveway and parking lot paving. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Mr. Chappell discussed roof replacement for the courthouse with a rubber roof versus a membrane roof.

Commissioner Hora made a motion to proceed with roof replacement using a rubber roof product. Commissioner Jordan seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Citizens' Comments

Dan Bazemore, Eure, would like to have a paper survey sent to citizens to get their opinion on the Proposed Courthouse Renovation/Stabilization Project. He would like for the County to continue to support the public school system.

Anthony Felton, Eure, stated he would like to save the old courthouse and to make sure it is tested for lead and asbestos prior to renovation.

Michelle Cooke, Eure, wanted to know protocol of the Sheriff's Dept. for responding to 911 calls.

Carolyn Riddick, Eure, stated deputies needed to have a salary increase or hire more deputies; she requested additional patrolling of the Ray's Beach area due to speeding and underage drinking.

Susan Brown, Gatesville, high school English teacher, stated the new curriculum is asking students to make connections locally. She feels it is important to keep the old courthouse; she requests the Board to consider education for the future.

Barbara Toti, Hobbsville, high school theatre teacher, discussed options for the old courthouse: a Thad Eure Museum is waiting to be installed, arts events, a Millpond Room to promote Merchants Millpond, each school could adopt an area and promote it. She suggests a committee be formed to put together a vision for the old courthouse.

Dan Bazemore, Eure, requests the Board not cut the school's budget request.

Walt Rodan, Gatesville, questioned the proposed amount to stabilize and renovate the old courthouse. The Chairman responded \$2.5 – \$3.5 million.

Commissioner Hora made a motion to enter Closed Session authorized by NCGS §143-318.11(a)(5). Commissioner Jordan seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Commissioner Jordan made a motion to exit Closed Session and enter Regular Session. Commissioner Hora seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Commissioner Owens made a motion to recess until 2:00 p.m., Thursday, May 24. Commission Jernigan seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

MINUTES OF BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW

MAY 21, 2012

The Gates County Board of Commissioners reconvened as the Board of Equalization and Review at 6:00 P.M. in the Commissioner's Room, May 21, 2012.

Those present were Chairperson Graham Twine, Kenneth Jernigan, John Hora, Henry Jordan and Tax Administrator Renée McGinnis.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Twine and opened with prayer by Mr. Jordan.

The minutes of the April 30th meeting were presented to the Board. Commissioner Hora moved to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jernigan and unanimously carried.

With no appellants to appear before the Board, Mrs. McGinnis presented the Board with a spreadsheet (see page 2) outlining the previously heard appellants and the results of any adjustments suggested.

Following some discussion, Commissioner Hora moved to make the adjustments as outlined on the spreadsheet. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jernigan and unanimously approved by the Board.

With no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Jernigan moved to adjourn as the Board of Equalization and Review. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jordan and unanimously approved.

Renée H McGinnis