

**GATES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 17, 2012**

The Gates County Board of Commissioners reconvened in Regular Session at 7:00 p.m., Monday, September 17, 2012 from September 5, 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.

Commissioner Jordan led a prayer and pledge of allegiance.

Chairman Twine called the meeting to order.

Approval of Agenda

Chairman Twine stated the Agenda needed to be amended by the following: Joe Greene and the Chairman will be presenting for Ms. Jethro, a presentation will be provided by Commissioner Hora and a Closed Session authorized by NCGS §143-318.11(a)(1).

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

Citizens' Comments

Anthony Felton, Eure, stated he was tired of the continued discussions on stopping the new library.

Thomas Hill, Sunbury, stated after praying about the County's debt it would be advisable to refinance the USDA loan for 10 years and get out of debt.

Earl Rountree, Sunbury, discussed recognizing F. J. Outland as a WWII veteran having served on the USS Indianapolis.

Sidney Pierce, Hobbsville, discussed possible improvements and reform to the Commissioners' haphazard meetings; working on a solution for non-county residents using the recycling facilities, County employees need to be more accommodating to the citizens and the County water has a foul taste.

Dan Bazemore, Eure, requested an update on the following: (1) What is the status of a voter referendum on the old courthouse renovation? (2) What is the status of progress in getting someone into the courthouse to generate revenue to assist in getting grants? (3) Suggested to bring 150 students from the middle/high school to the Commissioners' Meetings to get feedback. (4) Who will be paying for the loan on the courthouse renovation? The youth of Gates County but they do not have a voice in obligating their money. (5) What is the status of the sewer system? (6) Review the use of natural gas in the County. (7) What is the progress of Zoning Ordinance concerns? (8) Have letters been sent to successful citizens regarding making a donation to the new library?

Response to Mr. Bazemore's concerns: (1) Mr. Chappell responded Clearscapes, Architects, needs to finish their assessment before costs can be determined. (5) Mr. Chappell responded Phase I of the sewer system is near completion and has to be certified by DENR. (6) Commissioner Hora stated natural gas usage would save approximately \$35,000 per year. It would cost \$197,000 - \$237,000 to install natural gas lines to the schools from Gatesville; unless the County contributes to the installation it may not take place. (7) Commissioner Jordan stated there is currently a moratorium on zoning; citizens have until November 30 to file for rezoning. The Commissioners and Planning Board are working to correct concerns with the Zoning Ordinance. (8) Commissioner Jordan stated at the next meeting the Board will be appointing a Courthouse Committee.

Earl Rountree, Sunbury, stated the Planning Board can not regulate agriculture regarding smells and cautions citizens regarding rezoning from A-1 to R-1.

Chairman Twine presented a plaque to Robert Williams in appreciation of five (5) years of service on the Gates County Planning Board.

Department Reports

Joe Greene, Planning Board Chairman, presented a rezoning request for Tommy Ward to rezone a parcel from A-1 to C-1.

Commissioner Jernigan made a motion to open the Public Hearing for the Tommy Ward rezoning request. Commissioner Hora seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Terry Greene, Eure, stated he supported the rezoning request.

Commissioner Owens made a motion to close the Public Hearing for the rezoning request. Commissioner Hora seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Commissioner Jordan made a motion to approve the rezoning request as presented. Commissioner Owens seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

New Business

Mr. Chappell presented a supplement to the Memorandum of Understanding between the US Dept. of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service and the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services – Division of Soil and Water Conservation and The Gates Soil and Water Conservation District and Gates County.

Commissioner Jordan made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding as presented. Commissioner Owens seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Mr. Chappell presented the Proposed 2013 Holiday Schedule for County employees.

Commissioner Jordan made a motion to approve the 2013 Holiday Schedule as presented. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

The 2013 Holiday Schedule reads as follows:

New Year's Day	January 1
Martin Luther King's Birthday	January 21
Good Friday	March 29
Memorial Day	May 27
Independence Day	July 4
Labor Day	September 2
Veteran's Day	November 11
Thanksgiving Holiday	November 28 and 29
Christmas Holiday	December 24, 25 and 26
Floating Holiday	Employee's discretion

Commissioner Hora gave a presentation on Water Department billing and refinancing the County's debt.

Citizens' Comments

Thomas Hill, Sunbury, stated he charges the Board with saving the citizens' money.

Anne Howell, Eure, discussed a water leak under the highway in Sunbury. The Chairman stated he has already discussed this issue with the Water Department Supervisor.

Commissioners' Comments

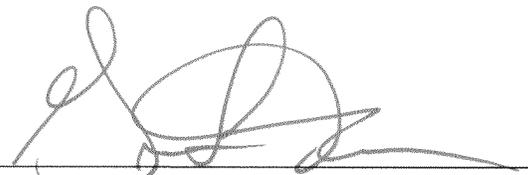
Commissioner Hora made a motion to take \$50,000 from fund balance to pay towards the DSS debt. Commissioner Owens seconded the motion. Commissioners Hora and Owens voted for the motion. Chairman Twine and Commissioners Jordan and Jernigan voted against the motion; the motion did not pass.

Commissioner Hora made a motion to enter Closed Session as authorized by NCGS §143-318.11(a)(1). Commissioner Owens seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

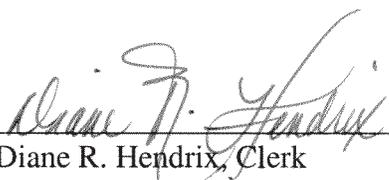
Commissioner Jernigan made a motion to exit Closed Session. Commissioner Jordan seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Chairman Twine made a motion to send a letter of interest as discussed in Closed Session. Commissioner Hora seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Commissioner Owens made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hora seconded the motion; motion carried without opposition.



Graham L. Twine, Chairman



Diane R. Hendrix, Clerk

GATES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
