

**GATES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
November 18, 2013**

The Gates County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session at 7:00 p.m. Monday, November 18, 2013 in the main courtroom, 202 Court Street, Gatesville. Commissioners Jordan, Owens, Jernigan Hofler, and Felton were present. Also present was County Manager, Jon Mendenhall.

Chairman Jordan led in prayer and the pledge of allegiance.

Chairman Jordan called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes are approved during the 1st monthly meeting; none are available at this time.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Owens made a motion to adjust the agenda by adding a closed session according to NCGS 143-318.11 a (6) Personnel. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Delegations – Unannounced

Chuck Brothers, Gates, asked to revisit an issue that was brought before the board about 12-18 months ago. Mr. Brothers asked to look at the traffic on Willeyton Road to review the amount of times the speed limits change. Mr. Brothers stated that there is a huge issue with residential, agriculture, school, and large truck traffic. There is little regard to farm equipment traveling on the road due to the speed limit being too high. He feels that the problem is really the people traveling the road and the artery that feeds the road not necessarily the speed limit. Mr. Brothers would like to see the County have a conversation with the City of Suffolk to regulate through truck traffic. He feels that the speed limit needs to be addressed again and carried a step forward by partnering with the City of Suffolk.

Chairman Jordan asked for clarification on the speed limit on the Road. Mr. Brothers stated that from the state line to the north side of the intersection is 45 then it changes to 35 and back to 55 on the south side of Abundant Hope Church.

Commissioner Jernigan stated that he knows the issues that Mr. Brothers is speaking of and acknowledged that he has also seen highway patrol sitting on that stretch of road trying to monitor traffic.

Commissioner Hofler asked if there was a weight limit posted on the road. Mr. Brothers stated that he is not aware of a posted weight limit.

Chairman Jordan asked the County Manager to contact the Department of Transportation for a traffic study.

Sidney Pierce, Gatesville, announced that the primaries are coming up and provided the names of those candidates in which the Republican Party has chosen to endorse.

Thomas Hill, Corapeake, congratulated Mr. Felton on his Commissioner position and extended an invitation for a cup of coffee. He fully supports the endorsements of the Gates County Republican Party.

Delegations – Announced

Ms. Gretchen Byrum, Department of Transportation, presented the Albemarle Regional Bicycle Plan. She explained the process that was taken to put together the regional plan. Public input was received by facebook, website, and representatives were at public events. Ms. Byrum provided the map of the 10 county area that was divided into 3 sections, North of the Sound, South of the Sound, and the Outer Banks. The goals of the programs are to increase the quality of bicycling throughout the region, improve health

outcomes in the region, improve safety for all cyclist, increase bicycling trips by residents and visitors, and to promote and encourage growth of tourism. Ms. Byrum explained the types of cyclist that utilize the roads and the existing conditions and the different types of lands and environments throughout the 10 counties. The development of the plan included an equity analysis, crash density review, and a needs assessment. and put together a recommended course of action to benefit all residents. Ms. Byrum explained the recommended improvements in Gates County including Gatesville. Also presented were the policies and programs that are presented for biker education. Suggestions for how the plan can succeed and be moved forward were presented in a flow chart.

Chairman Jordan asked about the funding. Ms. Byrum explained that DOT is going through a funding restructure and provided an abbreviated funding breakdown. Ms. Byrum stated that she would be happy to meet with the Commissioners at a later date for more details on funding.

Commissioner Owens asked if the bike plan could really get priority with all of the other projects that DOT has going on. Ms. Byrum stated that a percentage of projects have to be funded for bike and pedestrian and that they go through a different funding process.

Commissioner Hofler made a motion to direct the County Manager to provide a resolution to approve the Albemarle Regional Bicycle Plan. Commissioner Owens seconded the motion, motion passed without opposition.

Ms. June Britt, Economic Improvement Council, Community services block grant package was sent to the Board prior to the meetings with a submission form to be sent back to EIC. Ms. Britt presented a summary of the CSBG Poverty Work plan for the upcoming 2014/2015 year. The Gates Public Hearing was held on November 11, 2013 at 10am in the EIC office. The project is family opportunities to self-sufficiency. The purpose and goals are to provide assistance and resources for the reduction of poverty, the empowerment of low income individuals or families to become self-sufficient, the revitalization of low income communities. Families and individuals must meet the guidelines set forth by the NC Department of Health and Human Services division of Social Services. The project will provide the opportunity for 95 low income families/individuals to become self-sufficient through the provisions set forward.

Chairman Jordan asked what agencies they work with and how is the program is publicized. Ms. Britt stated that they work with DSS for referrals and the program is advertised by brochure, word of mouth, community events, and referrals.

Commissioner Owens asked if the EIC is out looking for clients. Ms. Britt stated that recruiting is a lot of what they have to do.

Administrative Reports

Administrative reports are provided during the 1st monthly meeting; none are available at this time.

Public Hearings

County Manager, Jon Mendenhall, stated that before CDBG funds can be applied for the County must post notice of intent to apply and conduct a public hearing to hear any citizen concerns. There will be a separate public hearing and action taken place at the time grant funds may become available. The public hearing to be conducted tonight is a time for the public to provide input on projects that they feel are of importance.

Chairman Jordan and Commissioner Jernigan asked if a time frame and amount of funds had been set. Mr. Mendenhall stated that the information has not been released at this time.

Commissioner Jernigan made a motion to enter a Public Hearing on the Intent to apply for CDBG Grant Funds. Commissioner Owens seconded the motion, motion passed without opposition.

There were no public comments.

Commissioner Owens made a motion to exit the Public Hearing on the Intent to apply for CDBG Grant Funds. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, motion passed without opposition.

Commissioner Owens asked if the housing authority would be involved in the process. Chairman Jordan stated that the housing authority would provide names to be listed to the list of candidates.

Old Business

None

New Business

Commissioner Hofler made a motion to appoint Commissioner Felton to the PCG Landfill Commission, The Gates County Department of Social Services Board and the Albemarle Regional Solid Waste Management Authority. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, motion passed without opposition.

Commissioner Owens made a motion to appoint Commissioner Hofler to the Albemarle Commission. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Commissioner Hofler made a motion to appoint Mr. Wesley Boone to the Albemarle Commission as an at-large member. Commissioner Felton seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Commissioner Owens made a motion to appoint Ms. Virgilia Vivian Hathaway to the Gates County Nursing Home Advisory Committee. Commissioner Hofler seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Citizen Comments

None

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Felton commented that this is a very interesting journey and is looking forward to working with his fellow commissioners and citizens.

Commissioner Hofler stated that she appreciates all the citizens for coming and for providing comments. Please let the commissioners know of any concerns.

Commissioner Jernigan wanted to take a moment to thank everyone for attending and staying until the end of the meeting.

Commissioner Owens thanked citizens for attending as well as Ms. Byrum and wished everyone a great Thanksgiving.

Chairman Jordan thanked everyone for attending and wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

Closed Session

Commissioner Owens made a motion to enter into closed session according to NCGS 143-318.11 a (6) Personnel. Commissioner Hofler seconded the motion, motion passed without opposition.

Commissioner Jernigan made a motion to exit closed session. Commissioner Felton seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Adjournment

Commissioner Felton expressed citizen concerns for children's playing sign on Eure Baptist Church Road. Tar Heel restaurant had a recent tax audit that they are concerned about.

Commissioner Felton made a motion adjourn. Commissioner Hofler seconded the motion, motion passed without opposition.


Henry L. Jordan, Chairman


Jon M. Mendenhall, Clerk

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