

**GATES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 16, 2016**

The Gates County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session at 7:00 p.m. Monday, May 16, 2016 in the Gates County Court House, 202 Court Street, Gatesville. Commissioners Hofler, Owens, Jordan, Felton and Freeman were present. Also present was County Manager, Natalie Rountree.

Commissioner Freeman led in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Hofler called the meeting to order.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes are approved during the first meeting of the month.

**Approval of Agenda**

Chair Hofler stated a Board of Elections discussion needs to be added to old business and remove EMS funding discussion.

Commissioner Felton made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion; motion passed without opposition.

**Delegations – Unannounced**

None

**Delegations – Announced**

None

**Administrative Reports**

Administrative reports are given during the first meeting of the month.

**Public Hearings**

Commissioner Owens made a motion to enter into public hearing for the FY16-17 Budget Public Hearing. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Natalie Rountree, County Manager, distributed a draft ordinance for the FY 16-17 Budget Ordinance. New items or wording changes have been highlighted in the proposed draft budget ordinance.

Chair Hofler stated the proposed budget is on the County website and a hard copy can be reviewed in the Clerk's office.

There were no public comments.

Commissioner Owens made a motion to exit the public hearing for the FY16-17 Budget Public Hearing. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion; motion passed without opposition.

**Old Business**

Jon Zelweger, Clearscapes, provided a quick recap of the last 5 years of work and research that has taken place on the Historic Courthouse. Specific information was given on the results of the WJE Consultation, brick testing and locating of reclaimed brick and the number of brick that may be needed. There is not a clear estimation of the timeframe that it may take to test and find bricks.

Commissioner Jordan made a motion to authorize Clearscapes to begin the search for reclaimed brick that is suitable for use in the Historic Courthouse Restoration project. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion; motion passed without opposition.

Commissioner Jordan led a discussion on the possibility of the senior center for the County. There was a recap of possible locations that are currently in the County. Commissioner Jordan asked the Board to discuss their intentions of the project.

Commissioner Owens & Hofler expressed budgetary concerns specifically with the current school needs, EMS needs, revaluation and other needs. Commissioner Jordan proposed working with the Historic Sunbury School site and asked to direct the Aging and Adult Task Force to evaluate the feasibility.

Commissioner Owens made a motion to respond to the Aging and Adult Task Force that the discussion will be tabled for 90 days. Commissioner Felton seconded the motion; the Board opened for discussion.

Chair Hofler asked what was expected to change in 90 days. Commissioner Owens thinks the Task Force may review funding opportunities and have new information to report in 90 days and if not, then no action will be taken until budgetary concerns have changed. Commissioner Jordan expressed concerns with the ambiguity of the motion.

Commissioner Owens withdrew his motion. Commissioner Felton seconded the motion.

Commissioner Owens made a motion to table the discussion on the Senior Center. Commissioner Felton seconded the motion; the Board continued discussion.

Commissioner Owens amended his motion table the Senior Center Discussion until the second meeting in November of 2016. Commissioner Jordan seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed the current condition of Soney Lane and the potential need to contact the property owner to express concerns with the road and the need to maintain it to

Commissioner Jordan made a motion to direct the County Manager to contact Al Carey, land owner, to let him know the Board would like him to consider the necessary paperwork to have the State take over Soney Lane. Commissioner Owens seconded the motion; motion passed without opposition.

### **New Business**

Michael Carver, Code Enforcement, expressed concerns with enforcements of codes due to how the ordinance is written. A judge has recently stated chapter 80, Civil Penalty, has one sentence that states to enforce the ordinance we will take up matters by billing.

We either have to come up with funding to clean property and attach the costs to the tax bills or reword the ordinance to make penalties criminal and not civil. If we bring civil charges the County must pay for the filling of paperwork and all other necessary costs. The paperwork only brings a judgement and if ruled in favor it could take years to collect the money. Mr. Carver suggested codification of ordinances and making a provision to have enforcements be a criminal offense instead of a civil offense.

The Board discussed the benefits and drawbacks of civil and criminal charges and agreed consultation with the County Attorney is needed.

Chair Hofler stated there are vacancies on the Planning Board and the Board of Adjustment.

Commissioner Jordan made a motion to reappoint Phyllis Hobbs to the Planning Board. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion; motion passed without opposition.

Commissioner Freeman made a motion to appoint Joseph Allen to the Planning Board. Commissioner Felton seconded the motion; motion passed without opposition.

Commissioner Jordan made a motion to appoint Marsha Parker to the Board of Adjustment as an alternate. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion; motion passed four to one.

Commissioner Felton feels more investigation needs to be given before we appoint someone to a quasi-judicial board. Commissioner Felton is concerned about the Suffolk mailing address and her reasoning for wanting to be on the Board.

Mrs. Rountree provided the Personnel Board recommendation and explanation.

Commissioner Owens made a motion to approve the Personnel Board Recommendation to approve a Salary Increase for Warren Curry, IT Technician, to a grade 18 step 6 to be effective July 1, 2016 due to earning of certification. Commissioner Jordan seconded the motion; motion passed without opposition.

Chair Hofler asked if the Board of Elections has responded to any recent correspondence requesting information or their attendance. Mrs. Rountree stated there is no one in attendance and a recent response has not been received. The Board discussed different methods in working with the Board of Elections.

Commissioner Felton made a motion to publish the old Gatesville well property for sale using the sealed bid process. Commissioner Jordan seconded the motion; motion passed without opposition.

#### **Citizen Comments**

None

#### **Commissioner Comments**

Chair Hofler thanked citizens for attending and learning about the processes and business of the County. Government moves at its own pace and isn't as always as fast as we would like it to move but there is a purpose in the process.

Commissioner Owens thanked everyone for being in attendance. It is always good to see citizens in attendance.

Commissioner Jordan thanked everyone for attending.

Commissioner Felton thanked everyone for attending and reminded citizens that their comments are valuable and listened to.

Commissioner Freeman thanked everyone for their calls and recommendations and the decisions made are hopefully in alignment with the visions that are expressed.

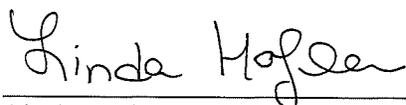
#### **Closed Session**

Commissioner Owens made a motion to enter into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 a (3) Legal, (4) Economic Development, (6) Personnel. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion; motion passed without opposition.

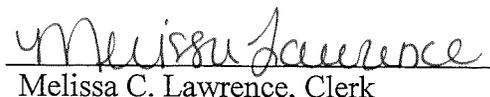
Commissioner Owens made a motion to exit closed session. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion; motion carried without opposition.

#### **Adjournment**

Commissioner Freeman made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Jordan seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.



Linda Hofler, Chairman



Melissa C. Lawrence, Clerk

