

**GATES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 20, 2013**

The Gates County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session at 6:00 p.m. Monday, May 20, 2013 in the Commissioners' Room, 202 Court Street, Gatesville. Commissioners Jordan, Owens, Hora, Jernigan and Hofler were present. Also present was County Manager, Jon Mendenhall.

The purpose of the meeting was to conduct a workshop with Jon Zellweger, Clearscapes, P.A. Mr. Zellweger discussed the subsurface investigation conducted at the old courthouse by GeoTechnologies, Inc. The soil conditions have been identified that contributed to the structural instability. Once the use of the building is determined funding sources could be identified. Funds are remaining that would cover the cost of schematics.

The Board questioned the cost of stabilizing the footing. Mr. Mendenhall suggested discussing the matter with the county's attorney before proceeding.

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

The meeting reconvened at 7:00 p.m. in the main courtroom.

Chairman Jordan led in prayer and the pledge of allegiance.

Chairman Jordan called the meeting to order.

**Approval of Agenda**

Chairman Jordan stated the Agenda needed to be amended by adding two (2) Requests for Tax Refunds and to discuss an alternate meeting date for the July 3 Regular Meeting.

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

**Delegations – Unannounced**

Earl Rountree, Sunbury, stated he would like to have a county-wide extravaganza, possibly on Veteran's Day. He discussed SB127, to dismantle the Economic Development Commission, which he supported.

**Administrative Reports**

Chairman Jordan stated based on discussions during the Board of Equalization and Review Meeting, there are two Requests for Refunds: Rhoda Smith, \$209.16 and Bessie Copeland, \$128.40.

Commissioner Hofler made a motion the refunds be permitted. Commissioner Hora seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

**Public Hearing**

Commissioner Jernigan made a motion to open the Public Hearing for the Proposed FY 2013-2014 Budget. Commissioner Owens seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Graham Twine, Hobbsville, stated previously merit increases had been implemented due to the low salaries of county employees. He understands merit increases will no longer be in effect and no salary increases are recommended for employees. He also is concerned with the reduction of funding to EMS. He asked the Board to reconsider employee salaries and EMS funding.

Barbara Yates, Edenton, speaking on behalf of the Tri-County Animal Shelter and Friends of the Tri-County Animal Shelter, discussed achievements, future plans and needs of the animal shelter and asked the Board to continue funding.

Pat Familiar, Head Librarian, Gates County Public Library, stated the proposed library budget reduction had reduced the funding to \$10,000 less than requested and \$7,000 less than last year's funding. She respectfully requested the Board revisit the library's appropriation.

Chuck Brothers, Gates, questioned governing body funding, requested funding be reviewed for the new library, salaries and part-time salaries for emergency services. Priority should be placed on public education and public safety.

Earl Rountree, Sunbury, complimented the Board on hiring Mr. Mendenhall and congratulated him on putting together a budget without raising taxes.

Thomas Langston, Gates, questioned paying back grant money (clawbacks) for 50 jobs at Merchants Commerce. Chairman Jordan responded that was a closed session item that could not be discussed at this time. Currently the floor was open for citizens' comments on the budget public hearing.

Commissioner Hora made a motion to close the Public Hearing for the Proposed FY 2013-2014 Budget. Commissioner Owens seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

After Board discussion Mr. Mendenhall provided the first reading of the Proposed Budget. Chairman Jordan stated the second reading will be at the June 5, 2013 Commissioner's Meeting.

Commissioner Jordan made a motion to direct the County Manager to use up to \$50,000 from debt payment appropriation and re-address funding for senior nutrition, Gates County Public Library, EMS, Tri-County Animal Shelter and Gates Partners for Health. Commissioner Hora seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

#### **New Business**

Chairman Jordan discussed alternative dates for the regular scheduled July 3 Commissioners' Meeting.

Commissioner Hora made a motion the July 3 Commissioners' Meeting be moved to 5:00 p.m., Monday, July 1. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Commissioner Hora made a motion to enter Closed Session as authorized by NCGS §143-318.11(a)(3) Consultation with County Attorney, (a)(4) Economic Development, (a)(5) Acquisition of Property and (a)(6) Personnel. Commissioner Hofler seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

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

Commissioner Hofler made a motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the document discussed in Closed Session. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Commissioner Hora made a motion to authorize the County Manager to implement the personnel adjustments as discussed in Closed Session. Commissioner Owens seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Commissioner Owens made a motion to authorize the Sheriff's Department to implement the actions discussed in Closed Session. Commissioner Hora seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

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

MINUTES OF BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW

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May 20, 2013

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 20, 2013.

Those present were Chairperson Henry Jordan, John Hora, Lynda Hofler, Ken Jernigan and Tax Administrator Renée McGinnis.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jordan.

Commissioner Hora moved to approve the minutes of the May 15<sup>th</sup> minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hofler and approved.

Commissioner Jernigan moved to adjourn as the Board of Equalization and Review. It was seconded by Commissioner Hora and carried.

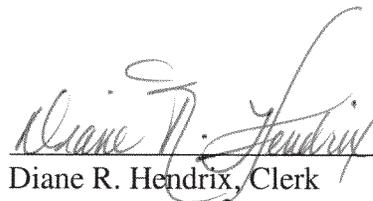


Renée H. McGinnis  
Clerk



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Henry L. Jordan, Chairman



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Diane R. Hendrix, Clerk

GATES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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