

**GATES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 19, 2013**

The Gates County Board of Commissioners met in an Special Meeting at 1:00 p.m. Thursday, December 19, 2013 in the Commissioners Board Room, 202 Court Street, Gatesville. Commissioners Jordan, Felton, and Hofler were present. Also present was County Manager, Jon Mendenhall, and Representative Mobley.

Chairman Jordan led in prayer and the pledge of allegiance.

Chairman Jordan called the meeting to order.

Chairman Jordan commended Representative Mobley for helping with getting Family Foods on the list for housing finance.

Chairman Jordan presented a concern regarding the Rural Center and how to continue with the project stating that we need support and contacts.

County Manager, Jon Mendenhall, will send a note to Representative Mobley regarding Rural Center Concerns about funding and contacts.

Representative Mobley stated that she will be happy to address the concerns regarding the Rural Center and those that are using the Rural Center should still be able to receive the funding.

Chairman Jordan feels that we need to be able to expend funds from grant funds such as Rural Center funds.

Chairman Jordan asked where we are on the Northeast Commission and stated that the Northeast Commission is very helpful for economic development. He also stated that we have a 153ac development called Merchants Millpond Commerce Center and we need new businesses etc. We have been conditionally promised an assisted living facility which will have \$5m investment.

Commissioner Hofler asked a NCDOT funding question regarding funding priorities for US 158 corridor

Representative Mobley explained the status of highway projects such as US 158 in Gates County and how they will stand in the new funding formula.

Commissioner Hofler stated that US 13 and port access is important for a multi-lane facility.

Commissioner Billy Felton expressed that US 158 needs to go further

Chairman Jordan stated that US 158 across the Dismal Swamp is supposed to be the next widening project and needs to be a priority.

Chairman Jordan asked what is the atmosphere on unfunded mandates?

Representative Mobley stated that unfunded mandates are always discussed and she supports no unfunded mandates since rural counties do not have the manpower or the resources such as secondary roads. The General Assembly leadership has totally changed.

Commissioner Hofler stated that teaching should be an attractive employment opportunity and pay is a factor in teacher recruitment and retention.

Representative Mobley stated that a commitment to education is important.

Commissioner Hofler stated that tenure is a big issue, the students' impact the performance of education not just the teacher.

Representative Mobley agreed that education is a big issue and will continue to be.

Chairman Jordan explained that lottery funds and ADM cuts are hurting the budget, we need funds reinstated.

Representative Mobley stated that the leadership is not cooperative in sitting down and doing things.

Commissioner Hofler stated that we need ADM and lottery funds for the school system budget.

Representative Mobley feels that the lottery needs to be relooked at to see how money is being used and funneled through.

Chairman Jordan reiterated that education is important as well as mental health issues. Since mental health reform we have lost mental health services locally and rely on the regional mental health providers. Mental health is a big issue for localities.

Representative Mobley stated that mental health needs to be addressed for the individuals involved as well as for the public's safety, there is an oversight committee doing some meetings and trying to address the hard mental health questions.

Chairman Jordan stated that the private agencies that were contractors are needed back; we've lost the alternative school and need help.

Chairman Jordan discussed the requirements of construction on buildings for counties. We need to be able to do a design build option for public agencies, this will reduce the cost to construction building. We would like the General Assembly to look into public buildings using design build as a new construction method, "design build" legislation.

Commissioner Felton stated that there are concerns such as at the Eure Volunteer Fire Department where there are big issues adding to cost for a small project. There are a lot of unnecessary regulations.

Representative Mobley heard the concern of lessening regulations on buildings.

Chairman Jordan provided a recap of the problems at the library building.

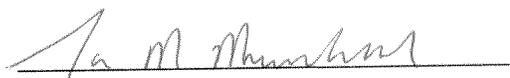
Representative Mobley stated that she is appreciative of the information and the discussion.

Chairman Jordan stated that DENR is making life tough for counties such as sewage, rules and regulations are too tough.

#### **Adjournment**

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

  
Henry L. Jordan, Chairman

  
Jon M. Mendenhall, Clerk