

**GATES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 20, 2010**

The Gates County Board of Commissioners reconvened in Regular Session on Wednesday, September 20, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Room, 202 Court Street, Gatesville, from the Special Meeting held at 3:00 p.m. on the same date. Commissioners Twine, Jernigan, Askew, Nickens and Jordan were present. Also present was County Manager, Toby Chappell.

A prayer was led by Reverend Littlejohn. Chairman Twine led the pledge of allegiance.

Chairman Twine called the meeting to order.

Approval of Agenda

Chairman Twine stated the following changes need to be made to the agenda: II.A. Claudia Deviney, II.B. Mike Scott, II.C. Billy Winn, III.A. John Hora, III.B. Citizens' Comments on proposed new main library, IV.A. Morgan Jethro, IV.B. Patrice Lassiter, V. Old Business, VI.A. Linda Hofler, VI.B. Linda Miller, VI.C. Chairman Twine, VI.D. Toby Chappell, VII. Citizens' Comments, VIII. Commissioners' Comments, IX. Adjourn. Commissioner Jordan made a motion to accept the Agenda with changes. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Claudia Deviney, Director, Northeast Regional Office, Preservation North Carolina, made an appeal to the County to market Sunbury School. She would like to have one (1) year to market the property.

Chairman Twine requested to table Ms. Deviney's request until further discussion at the October 6 Board Meeting.

Mike Scott, Pro Inc., the County's grant writer, discussed the County's intent to submit applications for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds made available for programs to benefit low to moderate income citizens.

Commissioner Nickens made a motion to open the Public Hearing for the Community Development Block Grant Application. Commissioner Askew seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Colleen Turner, DSS Director, requested the Commissioners to continue to concentrate on housing placement using CDBG funds.

Jerome Morgan questioned what time frame was allowed to use the funds.

Mr. Scott replied 24-30 months.

Commissioner Jernigan made the motion to close the Public Hearing. Commissioner Askew seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Billy Winn, Emergency Management Director, introduced Doug Hoell, Director, NC Emergency Management. Mr. Hoell gave an update of services provided at the local level by Emergency Management.

Chairman Twine requested comments from citizens regarding Sunbury School.

Milton Carter questioned if Sunbury School would make a good library.

Linda Hofler stated the County should give Preservation North Carolina a chance.

Citizen Comments

John Hora, Eure, stated a new library is needed but had concerns regarding a feasibility study, community feedback, funding and budgeting.

James Miller, Eure, stated a library is as functional as a school and is an important part of education.

Renee Kittrell stated the citizens need a library that is structurally sound, has necessary space and is centrally located; an area that is as economically deprived as ours cannot afford electronic readers; would like to have her tax dollars spent wisely on a green library.

Cecelia Anderson stated a library improves the lives of those who enter the doors; provides information to keep the citizens informed.

Milton Carter stated information technology needed to be updated at the library.

Janice Askew, Media Specialist, T.S. Cooper School, stated the Gates County Library has formed a partnership with Gates County Schools benefiting students. T.S. Cooper School serves as a satellite library during the summer. A centrally located library with space for all age groups is necessary.

Tonya Sinclair stated if the current library was destroyed the County would not have a library; funds are being made available and the County needs to take advantage of it.

Penny Heishman stated the County needs a library but cannot afford one; there are many repairs that need to be made to existing County buildings.

Pat Familiar, a 27 year library employee, stated the library began in Gates County in the late 1930's. Each time the library has moved it was because it had outgrown its space. The current library has outgrown its space also. She presented letters written by library supporters.

Jack Owens, Gatesville, stated in had been conducting his own private polling in the County; approximately 80% of those polled were in favor of a new library. He was very proud of the Merchants Mill Pond Visitor Center and would be proud of a new library. The citizens need to work together and listen to each other. He wants the citizens to be proud of the County.

Alana Wright, student, stated the library provides a safe environment to study; a community without a library would not be an educated community.

Matt Wright stated he has worked professionally on computers for years, the library provides citizens the opportunity to have access to computers.

Robert Winslow stated reading a book on the internet is not as inspiring as reading a book and turning the pages; would gladly pay extra taxes earmarked for a new library.

Earl Rountree stated currently grant money is not involved only a USDA loan. The County should build an adequate library by paying for it rather than taking out a loan.

J. E. Harrell stated citizens he talked to said it was not a wise choice to build a library with today's economic situation; he is opposed to a tax increase to fund a library.

Thomas Langston stated it was not a good time to build a new library; need to concentrate on repairing County property.

Vernon Pope questioned if the County was having difficulty finding money in the budget for meeting County needs; the County needs to maintain its infrastructure and stop going into debt.

John Hora stated the citizens deserve the right to vote.

Department Reports

Morgan Jethro, Planning Director, presented two (2) proposed text amendments, Section 8.02 and Section 11.04 of the Zoning Ordinance.

Commissioner Nickens made a motion to table the proposed text amendment to Section 8.02 until the October 6 Commissioners' Meeting. Commissioner Jordan seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Commissioner Jordan made a motion to table the proposed text amendment to Section 11.04 until the October 6 Commissioners' Meeting. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Patrice Lassiter, GITS Director, presented additions and updates to the GITS Program Operating Policies and Procedures.

Commissioner Nickens made a motion to approve the additions and updates to the GITS Program Operating Policies and Procedures. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Old Business

Commissioner Jordan made a motion to table the Proposed Noise Ordinance until the October 6 Commissioners' Meeting. Commissioner Askew seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Commissioner Jordan discussed the Sunbury Ruritan Streetlight Project as it related to NCGS 153A-206, Street Light Assessments. He would like to go to the Sunbury Ruritan Club and request they canvass citizens to support/agree to the assessment.

Commissioner Nickens made a motion to authorize Commissioner Jordan to meet with the Sunbury Ruritan Club and request they canvass citizens to support/agree to a streetlight assessment. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Commissioner Askew presented a Waiving of Permit Fees Policy. When a repair or construction is required to be issued a permit according to NCGS 153A-357 as a result of a state or federally declared disaster, the fees are to be waived. The County will also waive the permit fees for permits for handicap ramps for recipients that reside in the residence at which the handicap ramp is being built.

Commissioner Askew made a motion to accept the Waiving of Permit Fees Policy. Commissioner Nickens seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

The policy reads as:

Waiving of Permit Fees Policy

When a repair or construction is required to be issued a permit according to NCGS 153A-357 as a result of a state or federal declared disaster, the fees are to be waived. Natural disaster is defined as an event or occurrence by Mother Nature (ex. flood, tornado, hurricane and snow loading). If a situation warrants a permit to be issued, all inspections will be done for regular construction according to NCGS 153A-360. This will not affect the field inspection process in any stage for the applicant. Once the disaster has been determined an allowance of 60 days will be set for the waiving of fees. The purpose of this policy is to help the citizens of the county economically and still meet the NC Residential Code.

Additionally, Gates County will waive the permit fees, for permits required by NCGS 153A-357, for handicap ramps for recipients that reside in the residence at which the handicap ramp is being built.

New Business

Linda Hofler, Gates County Historical Society, discussed the Civil War Trails in North Carolina. Gates County is the only county in North Carolina that does not have Civil War markers. The initial cost will be \$1,100 for signage and \$200 annually. Mr. Chappell stated the Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Gatesville could possibly contribute funds.

Commissioner Jernigan made a motion to authorize Mr. Chappell to discuss with the Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Gatesville the possibility of contributing funds to the cost of Civil War markers and report back to the Commissioners at the November meeting. Commissioner Askew seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Linda Miller, requested to come before the Board to appeal her handicap tax exemption. Mrs. Miller left the meeting and Renee McGinnis, Tax Assessor, discussed her concern. Mrs. Miller presented Mrs. McGinnis with documentation to support her exemption application.

Commissioner Jordan made a motion to accept Linda Miller's handicap tax exemption application. Commissioner Nickens seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Chairman Twine presented a request by Mr. Abrom Saunders, Gates County Human Relations Commission, to re-appoint Jewell Harrell, J. B. Freeman and John Jones to the Human Relations Commission.

Commissioner Nickens made a motion to re-appoint Jewell Harrell, J. B. Freeman and John Jones to the Gates County Human Relations Commission for a three year term each, November 1, 2010 to October 31, 2013. Commissioner Askew seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Mr. Chappell presented the lease between the County and Northeast Counseling Services.

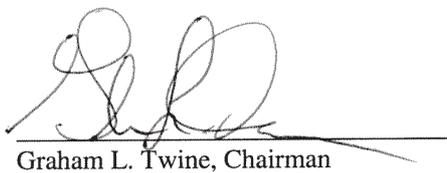
Commissioner Nickens made a motion to approve the lease between the County and Northeast Counseling Services. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, motion carried without opposition.

Citizen Comments

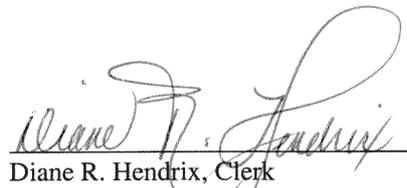
Commissioner Comments

Chairman Twine stated he is on the Northeast Work Force Consortium; the Consortium is dissolving the Work Force Board and will begin a new charter. He will keep the Board informed of all changes.

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



Graham L. Twine, Chairman



Diane R. Hendrix, Clerk

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