

**NORTHAMPTON COUNTY  
REGULAR SESSION  
November 16, 2009**

**Be It Remembered that the Board of Commissioners of Northampton County met on November 16, 2009 with the following present: Robert Carter, Fannie Greene, Virginia Spruill, and James Hester.**

**Absent: Chester Deloatch**

A 10-minute work session was held to discuss today's agenda items. The following changes were made to the agenda:

- Tab 13 removed
- Under Tab 9, add item #4-Write Off 1999 Taxes and add item #5-2010 Listing Period Extension

The Board also discussed the lawsuit in Forsyth County regarding the use of a sectarian invocation to open county commissioners' meetings. There was a Board consensus to continue as they have been delivering invocation until they are challenged.

Mr. Wayne Jenkins, County Manager, also briefed the Board on the following information:

- Rural Health Group has asked for a letter of support from the Board of Commissioners for the expansion of primary care services. There was a Board consensus to authorize Mr. Jenkins to provide the letter on behalf of the Board.
- A request for a Commissioner to serve on a recreation committee for developing rules for the naming of the athletic facilities. Commissioner Spruill volunteered to serve on the committee.
- A request for an appropriation not to exceed \$1000 made payable to Dominion Power to aid the citizens on Moore-Rook Lane in relocating the utility pole on that road. The citizens of Moore-Rook Lane have raised all but \$993 for the cost of relocating the utility pole. Chairman Carter asked Mr. Jenkins to revisit this issue under Tab 12-Management Matters.

Chairman Carter called the meeting to order. Commissioner Hester delivered the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Chairman Carter welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the citizen comment process.

A motion was made by Fannie Greene and seconded by Virginia Spruill to approve the minutes of November 2, 2009. **All present voted yes.**

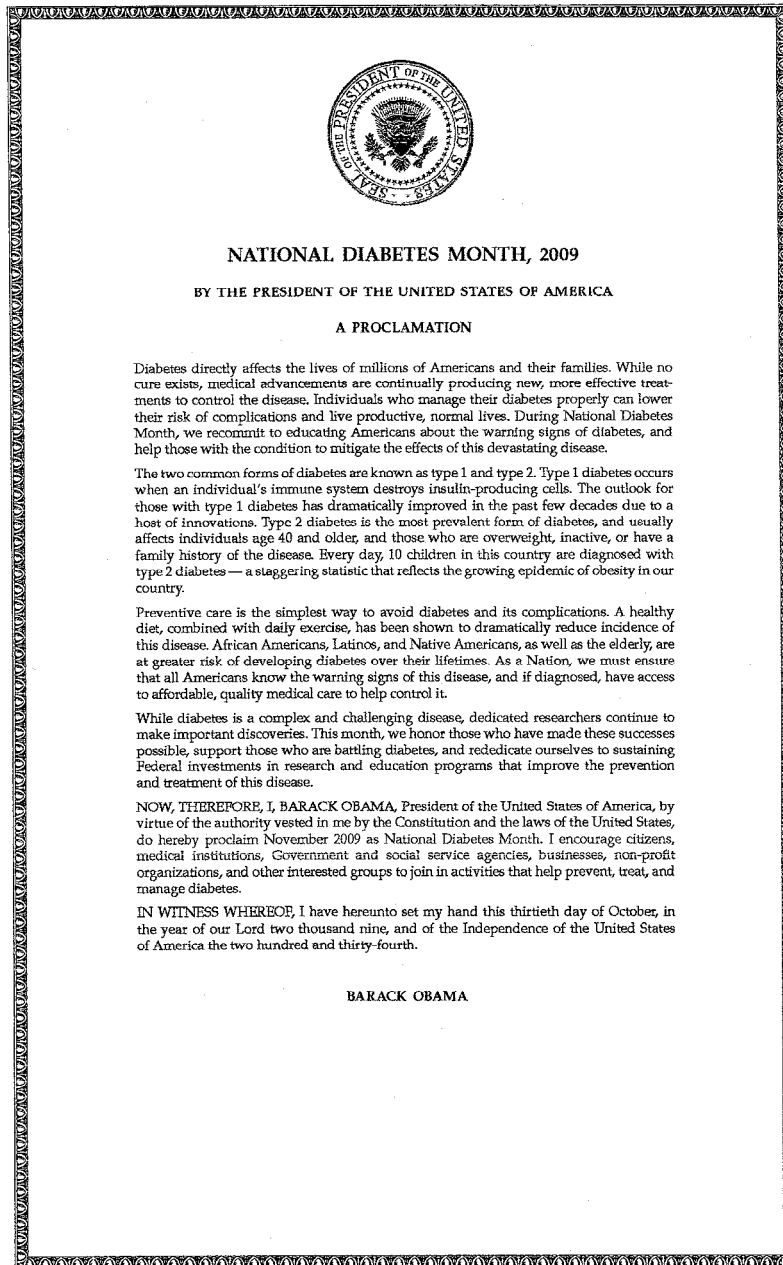
A motion was made by Virginia Spruill and seconded by James Hester to approve the closed session minutes for November 2, 2009. **All present voted yes.**

A motion was made by James Hester and seconded by Fannie Greene to approve the agenda, with changes, for November 16, 2009. **All present voted yes.**

Ms. Sue Liverman, RN, with Rural Health Group appeared before the Board to request approval of a Proclamation declaring November as Diabetes Awareness Month.

A motion was made by James Hester and seconded by Virginia Spruill to adopt the Proclamation declaring November as Diabetes Awareness Month. All present voted yes.

**PLEASE SEE SCANNED PROCLAMATION BELOW:**



Mr. Mike Scott, Progressive Resources & Opportunities, Inc., appeared before the Board to request approval of Mr. Charles Vaughan as attorney for the 2008 CDBG-SS Project.

A motion was made by Fannie Greene and seconded by James Hester to approve Attorney Charles Vaughan as the 2008 CDBG-SS attorney. **All present voted yes.**

Ms. Sue Gay, Health Director, appeared before the Board to obtain approval of the recommended reappointments of Board of Health members, William Futrell, Delois Purnell, and Dr. Thomas Vinson, whose terms will expire effective December 31, 2009.

A motion was made by James Hester and seconded by Virginia Spruill to approve the reappointments of Mr. William R. Futrell, Jr., Ms. Delois Purnell, and Dr. Thomas Vinson to serve on the Northampton County Board of Health effective January 1, 2010. **All present voted yes.**

Mr. Billy Martin, Public Works Director, appeared before the Board to obtain approval of the final plans and specifications for the Phase V Water Improvement Project.

A motion was made by Virginia Spruill and seconded by James Hester to approve the final plans and specifications for the Phase V Water Improvements. This project will serve needy residents thereby improving their standard of living; additionally, this project will improve the system hydraulics by eliminating certain dead-end lines and increase the available supply of water to the west end of the county. **All present voted yes.**

***Chairman Carter recessed regular session and convened a public hearing.***

Mr. William Flynn, Planning and Zoning Administrator, conducted a public hearing regarding the following proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance:

- Amendment 62009-12-text amendment in an effort to prevent confusion as to what is, and what is not, allowed to be placed in the space defined as “Yard”. The change would be: ‘Yard- means any open space on the same lot with a building and unoccupied from the ground upward’.

***Chairman Carter called for public comments: none were heard.***

- Amendment 62009-22-an amendment that would place a new section in Article I of the Northampton County Zoning Ordinance labeled I-21 Signs.

***Chairman Carter called for public comments:***

Commissioner Spruill asked if adopting this regulation would it cost citizens any additional money. Mr. Flynn stated no, they would have to come to them for a zoning permit and the application would cover signs. Mr. Flynn further stated the only way that it may cost someone an additional \$20 if someone would open an in-home occupation and they fail to incorporate a sign with their permit, they would have to pay an additional \$20 at another time when they decided to put a sign up. Commissioner Spruill asked if it would depend on the person in terms of what kind of advertising. Mr. Flynn stated it depends on the situation.

Vice Chairwoman Greene asked if they were going to advertise, they would need to get the proper permit to put it in their yard. Mr. Flynn answered yes; they need to make sure they place it properly.

***Chairman Carter closed the public hearing and reconvened regular session.***

A motion was made by Virginia Spruill and seconded by James Hester to approve and adopt these two amendments to the Northampton County Zoning Ordinance and become effective December 7, 2009. **All present voted yes.**

Mr. Billy Martin, Public Works Director, appeared before the Board to obtain approval of a contract with Central Carolina Holdings to dispose of scrap tires.

A motion was made by James Hester and seconded by Fannie Greene to approve the contract with Central Carolina Holdings, LLC. **All present voted yes.**

Mrs. Cathy Allen, Tax Administrator, appeared before the Board to obtain approval to release or refund ad valorem taxes assessed in the amount of \$14,470.55 on 12 appeals.

A motion was made by Fannie Greene and seconded by James Hester to approve the request for release or refund of the ad valorem tax appeals submitted herewith in the amounts and for the reasons stated on the listings. **All present voted yes.**

Mrs. Cathy Allen, Tax Administrator, appeared before the Board to obtain approval to release or refund ad valorem taxes assessed in the amount of \$9,115.46 on 1407 tax bills.

A motion was made by James Hester and seconded by Virginia Spruill to approve the request for release or refund of the ad valorem tax appeals submitted herewith in the amounts and for the reason being taxes imposed through clerical error. **All present voted yes.**

Mrs. Cathy Allen, Tax Administrator, appeared before the Board to obtain approval of denial of a late application for the disabled veterans exclusion of Mr. James Alston.

A motion was made by Fannie Greene and seconded by James Hester to approve the late application and direct the Tax Collector to release or refund \$397.54 from tax bill 09A0102974 which consists of \$351 General County Tax and \$23.27 Gaston Fire Service District Tax. **All present voted yes.**

Mrs. Cathy Allen, Tax Administrator, appeared before the Board to obtain approval or denial of a late application for the elderly/disability exemption of Ms. Pearl S. Fisher.

A motion was made by Fannie Greene to excuse Ms. Fisher from the deadline. **All present voted yes.**

Commissioner Spruill asked for an amendment to the motion contingent upon receiving a doctor's statement. **Question Called For: 2 yes (Carter and Spruill) 2 no (Greene and Hester). Motion failed.**

Mrs. Cathy Allen, Tax Administrator, informed the Board that 413 1999 ad valorem tax bills totaling \$20,595.33 have been written off in accordance with G.S. 105-378 (a).

Mrs. Cathy Allen, Tax Administrator, appeared before the Board to obtain approval to extend the 2010 property listing from January 2 through February 13, 2010.

A motion was made by James Hester and seconded by Virginia Spruill to adopt an order directing the Tax Administrator to conduct the 2010 listing period from January 2 through February 13, 2010. **All present voted yes.**

***Chairman Carter recessed regular session and reconvened Board of Equalization and Review.***

A motion was made by Virginia Spruill and seconded by James Hester to approve the minutes of October 19, 2009. **All present voted yes.**

The Board discussed the issue of not receiving Board of Equalization and Review information prior to the meeting. Suggestions were made to have Board of Equalization and Review on separate meeting days and to give the applicant the information prior to the meeting as well. Chairman Carter asked Mr. Vaughan to research the suggestion of providing the applicant with the information prior to the meeting as well.

A motion was made by James Hester and seconded by Fannie Greene to adjourn Board of Equalization and Review. **All present voted yes.**

***Chairman Carter reconvened regular session.***

Mr. Tim Byers, Emergency Management Coordinator, appeared before the Board to request permission to accept the bid from White's Chevrolet-Cadillac for the purchase of a 2010 Chevrolet Suburban 1500 LS CK 10906 for the purchase price of \$34,800 plus sales tax.

A motion was made by James Hester and seconded by Fannie Greene to approve the bid from White's Chevrolet-Cadillac for the purchase price of \$34,800 plus sales tax. **All present voted yes.**

Mr. Wayne Jenkins, County Manager, appeared before the Board to obtain approval to become a member of the Roanoke River Basin Coalition with a \$50 annual membership fee.

There was a Board consensus for Mr. Jenkins to provide additional information on this Coalition and bring it back to the Board. Mr. Jenkins stated that he would invite the President of the Coalition to come to the meeting.

Sheriff Vincent briefed the Board on the Mobile Home Park matter in the Woodland/Potecasi area regarding deputies patrolling the area. Sheriff Vincent stated that the funds would carry them up to January, but after that additional funding would be needed. The Board expressed that they would like for the Sheriff to continue his efforts in that area.

Mr. Jenkins revisited the Moore-Rook Lane issue explained during work session.

A motion was made by Fannie Greene and seconded by Virginia Spruill to approve an appropriation not to exceed \$1000 payable to Dominion Power to deliver public safety service on Moore-Rook Lane with funding coming from contingency. **All present voted yes.**

***Chairman Carter called for citizen comments:***

Mr. John Owens, Gaston resident, made comments to the Board to inform them of two hazardous spots in that area. Mr. Owens stated that embankments needed to be cut down due to the numerous accidents in those areas.

Mr. Jenkins stated that he would call the Department of Transportation and ask them to revisit/reevaluate those areas.

Mr. Doug Hughes gave an update on the five-county meeting regarding Commissioners coming together to discuss the protection of Lake Gaston. Mr. Hughes stated that the meeting has been scheduled for January 19, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and Chairman Carter and Vice Chairwoman Greene have been invited to attend.

***Chairman Carter called for Board comments:***

Commissioner Spruill stated that she is looking forward to the Board Retreat on Friday.

Vice Chairwoman Greene stated that she is attending the first meeting for Justice and Public Safety in Raleigh tomorrow and she attended an energy and conservation workshop on Friday regarding grant money available and asked the Board to look into it.

Commissioner Hester expressed his appreciation to everyone for the flower, concerns, and prayers.

Chairman Carter asked if the Commissioners could be provided with an updated copy of the Code of Ethics in the front of their books. Ms. Kimberly Turner, Clerk to the Board, stated that a copy would be placed in their books for the next meeting.

Commissioner Spruill asked Mr. Jenkins about travel restrictions. Mr. Jenkins stated that they cut back on non-essential travel. Commissioner Spruill expressed her concern with the travel within DSS. Mr. Jenkins stated that he would research it.

Mr. Antonio Squire, Intern of the Month, thanked the Board for having him and stated that they have influenced his political future.

A motion was made by James Hester and seconded by Fannie Greene to adjourn. **All present voted yes.**

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Kimberly L. Turner, Clerk to the Board

“r.m. 11-16-09”