

PERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEMBERS PRESENT

AUGUST 17, 2020
OTHERS PRESENT

B. Ray Jeffers
Jimmy B. Clayton
Kyle W. Puryear
Gordon Powell
C. Derrick Sims

Heidi York, County Manager
Brenda B. Reaves, Clerk to the Board
C. Ronald Aycock, County Attorney

The Board of Commissioners for the County of Person, North Carolina, met in regular session on Monday, August 17, 2020 at 9:00am in the Person County Office Building Auditorium.

Chairman Jeffers called the meeting to order. Commissioner Sims offered an invocation and Vice Chairman Powell led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENT/APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Puryear and **carried 5-0** to approve the agenda.

INFORMAL COMMENTS:

The following individual appeared before the Board to make informal comments:

Mr. John Seepe of 277 Barefoot Landing Lane, Semora stated his inquiries from the last board meeting had gone unanswered relating to the Economic Development Commission (EDC); he said he wanted to know about any economic inquiries and the response to such inquiries. In addition, he asked about the performance and oversight of the economic efforts of staff and the EDC.

DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENT/APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Puryear and **carried 5-0** to approve the Consent Agenda with the following items:

- A. Approval of Minutes of July 13, 2020,
- B. Approval of Minutes of August 3, 2020,
- C. Budget Amendment #3, and
- D. Tax Adjustments for August 2020
 - a. Tax Releases
 - b. NC Vehicle Tax System pending refunds

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NEW BUSINESS:

ADOPTION OF THE 2020 ENO-HAW REGIONAL MULTI-JURISDICTION HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN:

Per the requirements of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act and the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, counties and cities are required to periodically adopt All Hazards Mitigation plans to remain eligible for federal funding in the event of a natural or man-made disaster. Planning Director, Lori Oakley introduced County Planner, Kayla DiCristina to present the Hazard Mitigation Plan for consideration.

Ms. DiCristina stated the request by the Person County Planning Department and Emergency Management Department before the Board was for adoption of a Resolution Adopting the Eno-Haw Regional Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Ms. DiCristina said the previous Hazard Mitigation Plan was adopted in 2015 and expired in April of 2020. The Person County Departments of Planning and Zoning and Emergency Management began the process of creating an updated Hazard Mitigation Plan in the Fall of 2019 with the planning consulting firm Wood. The county's previous Hazard Mitigation Plan was created in conjunction with the City of Roxboro. The new Hazard Mitigation Plan ("Eno-Haw Regional Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan") was created in conjunction with the City of Roxboro and the Eno-Haw Region including Alamance, Durham, and Orange Counties along with their associated municipalities. Coordination between the noted entities included creating attainable and measurable goals and objectives, updating data provided from the consulting firm, and attending public meetings. The decision to join the Eno-Haw Region in preparing this Plan was due to cost. While Person County's hazard mitigation strategies are housed under the Eno-Haw Region, the Plan contains separate analyses of natural and man-made hazard risks to the jurisdiction and separate mitigation action items that apply solely to the county.

Ms. DiCristina said that in May of 2020, Person County received the Approval Pending Adoption letter from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This letter indicated that FEMA had approved the proposed plan and that the County was cleared to adopt as written.

Ms. DiCristina noted the new Hazard Mitigation Plan addresses all requirements needed for FEMA funding in the event of a disaster impacting Person County and provides a roadmap for goals and objectives that will strengthen the resilience of Person County as well as addresses multiple hazards and the goals and objectives cover a variety of impacts and departments. Examples of hazards include floods, hurricanes, droughts, tornados, earthquakes, etc. Ms. DiCristina stated Planning Staff recommended adoption of the Eno-Haw Regional Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan to ensure Person County is eligible for federal funding in the event of a natural or man-made disaster; she asked the

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Board to vote to approve or deny the adoption of the Eno-Haw Regional Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan via the resolution.

Commissioner Puryear asked if all jurisdictions were required to adopt the regional plan prior to Person County's plan to be effective. Douglas Young, Emergency Management Director said the presented would be the County's Plan upon adoption and yes, all jurisdictions would need to adopt the Plan to be eligible in regional federal funding should there be an event.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Puryear and **carried 5-0** to adopt a Resolution Adopting the Eno-Haw Regional Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan.

PERSON COUNTY

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE ENO-HAW REGIONAL MULTI-JURISDICTION HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

WHEREAS, the residents, visitors and property owners of Person County are subject to death, personal injury, damage to property and disruption of activities and personal pursuits as a result of natural or man-made hazards; and

WHEREAS, Person County desires to seek ways to mitigate the effects and impacts of such hazards; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina state law in General Statutes Chapters 153A and 166A authorizes Counties to prepare plans and implement such plans for mitigation of hazards and to do so in cooperation with other counties and cities; and

WHEREAS, Person County has heretofore prepared a Person County specific hazard mitigation plan, but now finds it desirable to prepare and adopt a plan in concert with the City of Roxboro and the counties of Alamance, Orange, and Durham and the municipalities in those counties, which such plan is to be designated the Eno-Haw Regional Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act and the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 require the adoption by local governments of an All Hazards Mitigation Plan as a condition of receipt of federal funds in connection with a disaster; and

WHEREAS, Person County through its designated agents, officials and employees has pursuant to state and federal guidelines performed a comprehensive review and examination of potential risks, exposures and hazards and actions necessary and/or desirable to mitigate the effects of such risks, exposures and hazards and has done so in concert and cooperation with the other governmental units in the Eno-Haw region.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Person County Board of Commissioners that:

1. The attached Eno-Haw Regional Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan is hereby adopted,
2. Person County agrees to take such further action as is reasonably necessary to carry out and implement the Eno-Haw Regional Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan, and
3. The Person County Emergency Management Director is designated as the responsible official to inform State and Federal officials of Person County's action and to carry out the emergency management duties under the Plan including ensuring that the County is compliant with state and federal rules, informing the County Manager and the Board of Commissioners of any necessary adjustments and amendments to the Plan.

Adopted this 17th day of August 2020.




B. Ray Jeffers, Chairman
Person County Board of Commissioners

Attest:


Brenda B. Reaves, NCMCC, MMC
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

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2019-2020 TAX COLLECTOR SETTLEMENT:

Tax Administrator, Russell Jones shared the following presentation for his 2019 Tax Collector Settlement report to the Board of Commissioners.

2019
Tax Collector
Settlement

Introduction:

Per N.C. General Statute 105-373
the Tax Collector must make a
report of settlement for the fiscal
Year 2019-2020 and prior years.

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2019 County Levy			
<u>Real/Personal Property</u>			
Total Billed	Actual Collections	Uncollected	% Collected
\$24,728,596.35	\$24,365,395.69	\$363,200.65	98.53%
<u>Public Service</u>			
Total Billed	Actual Collections	Uncollected	% Collected
\$6,173,527.88	\$6,173,527.88	\$0.00	100.00%
<u>Motor Vehicles</u>			
Total Billed	Actual Collections	Uncollected	% Collected
\$2,711,134.41	\$2,706,527.08	\$4,607.33	99.83%

Total 2019 County Levy			
Combined Collections			
Total Billed	Actual Collections	Uncollected	% Collected
\$33,613,258.63	\$33,245,450.65	\$367,807.98	98.91%

Total 2019 County Levy-Adjusted			
Combined Collections			
Total Billed	Actual Collections	Uncollected	% Collected
\$33,584,603.34	\$33,245,152.69	\$339,152.69	98.99%

Mr. Jones said his personal goal was to have a collection rate of 99%; he said 98.91% may be the best yet County collection rate to date. He added that the Stormwater collection rate was 97.33%, the City's collection rate was 98.71% and the Fire Tax collection rate was 98.94%.

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5 Year Comparison By Category

Real/Personal Property				
6/30/2020	6/30/2019	6/30/2018	6/30/2017	6/30/2016
98.53%	98.43%	98.37%	98.39%	98.50%
Public Service				
6/30/2020	6/30/2019	6/30/2018	6/30/2017	6/30/2016
100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
Motor Vehicles				
6/30/2020	6/30/2019	6/30/2018	6/30/2017	6/30/2016
99.83%	99.87%	99.90 %	99.85 %	99.83 %

5 Year Comparison Overall Collection Rate

6/30/2020	6/30/2019	6/30/2018	6/30/2017	6/30/2016
98.91%	98.85%	98.81%	98.74%	98.90%

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Collections Tools Used

Delinquent Notices	Mailed out in January and May each year
Advertising	Listed in newspaper early March
Garnishments	Instructs employer to withhold/submit 10% of gross wages
Attachment	Instructs bank to withdraw available funds to pay taxes
Escheats	Also known as NCCash
Debt Setoff	For debts over \$50/submitted against NC Tax Refunds & Lottery Winnings
Payment Arrangements	Many taxpayers, especially those with fixed income, make payments even before bills are mailed
Foreclosure	Results in the sale of property at public action

Other Collections

Pre-Payment	Collection Fees	Stormwater/Interest
\$153,323.14	\$54,862.59	\$282,970.07
Prior Year Taxes	Animal Taxes	Fire Tax/Interest
\$412,361.71	\$586.62	\$979,222.79
County Interest	Gross Receipts	Copy Fees
\$153,917.1	\$14,097.08	\$414.25
Late Listing	Beer License	City
\$67,729.62	\$2,845.00	\$4,415,936.87
Grand total for all taxes & fees		= <u>\$37,077,190.41</u>

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Mr. Jones stated the below slide addresses the write-off for the 7/100% uncollected which totaled \$20,090.85.

11 th Year Insolvents-2009			
2009 County Taxes	Original Levy	Balance	%
Real Estate/Other	\$25,480,230.85	\$13,821.76	99.95%
Vehicle	\$2,002,282.97	\$6,269.09	99.69%
Final Collection Rate Overall	\$27,482,513.82	\$20,090.85	99.93%

Other Tax Office Items	
Deceased Owners	224 bills with a 2019 amount due of \$51,360
2021 Revaluation	Field work continues and qualified sales are being used to develop values.
Gap Billing	Created 1,766 new bills, county taxes due of \$34,623, collected \$25,612, or just under 74%.
CyberEvent	Re-entered data from February 7-June, with all monies collected accounted for. Collections was live again on July

Mr. Jones stated he anticipated mailing out the current tax bills in early September.

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The Board echoed each other's commendations to the Tax Administrator and his staff for their outstanding job. Commissioner Clayton pointed out the vehicle tax legislation by the National Association of Counties assisted in increasing the vehicle tax collection rate to nearly 100%.

A **motion** was made by Vice Chairman Powell and **carried 5-0** to accept the 2019 Tax Collector Settlement, as presented.

ORDER TO COLLECT TAXES:

Tax Administrator, Russell Jones stated as required by General Statute 105-321, the governing board of the taxing unit must issue an order of collection to tax collectors. This gives the tax collector legal authority to collect taxes for 2020 and all delinquent taxes from prior years.

A **motion** was made by Vice Chairman Powell and **carried 5-0** to order the Tax Collector to collect taxes for 2020 and all delinquent taxes from prior years.



PERSON COUNTY

OFFICE OF THE TAX ADMINISTRATOR

Person County Tax Office
P.O. Box 1116
13 Abbitt St
Roxboro, North Carolina 27573-1116
(336) 597-1721 Fax No. (336) 322-8619

ATTACHMENT II

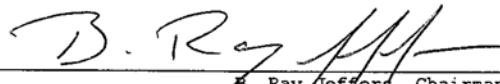
County of Person

To the Tax Collector of the County of Person:

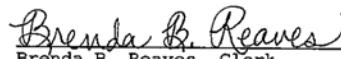
You are hereby authorized, empowered, and commanded to collect the taxes set forth in the tax records filed in the office of Person County Tax Office and in the tax receipts herewith delivered to you, in the amounts and from the taxpayers likewise therein set forth. Such taxes are hereby declared to be a first lien upon all real property of the respective taxpayers in the County of Person, and this order shall be a full and sufficient authority to direct, require, and enable you to levy on and sell any real or personal property of such taxpayers, for and on account thereof, in accordance with law.

Witness my hand and official seal, this 17th day of August 2020.




B. Ray Jeffers, Chairman
Board of Commissioners of Person County

Attest:


Brenda B. Reaves, Clerk
Person County Board of Commissioners

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Chairman Jeffers reported on the following:

- He and the new Fire Marshal attended the Fire Chief's meeting; he said an illegal burning ordinance may be recommended to come before the Board; County Manager, Heidi York said the Fire Marshal may cite individuals for illegal burning and that the Sheriff's Office enforces such citations.
- He noted some farmers are complaining of illegal dumping.
- He asked the County Manager to reach out to the Republic Services about their hours and being closed on Saturdays to be temporary or permanent.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

County Manager, Heidi York responded to some of the inquiries about the Economic Development Commission (EDC) and noted their bylaws state the requirement to meet at least once every three months. She stated the EDC's Chairman, Phillip Allen would consider cancelling its usual monthly meeting should there not be any official business to conduct. Ms. York said the Director of Economic Development (ED) sends out weekly updates and suggested posting such on the ED and County websites to inform the public.

COMMISSIONER REPORT/COMMENTS:

Commissioner Sims stated he was a former member of the Economic Development Commission (EDC) and understood that project updates were confidential at the prospect's request noting a premature release of information could result in losing the prospect altogether.

Commissioner Sims requested information related to responding to an emergency at the airport noting the Timberlake Volunteer Fire Department (TVFD) was needing the airport's fire safety plan. Chairman Jeffers stated he served on the TVFD strategic plan committee and it was he thought the TVFD had keys for entry at the airport in an emergency.

Vice Chairman Powell noted a case when he was a member of the EDC whereby a breach of confidential information took place and the company's headquarters pulled the plug and the project went no further.

Vice Chairman Powell requested that the Economic Development Director to post her weekly economic update on both the County website and the Economic Development's web site.

Commissioners Clayton and Puryear had no reports or comments.

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ADJOURNMENT:

A **motion** was made by Vice Chairman Powell and **carried 5-0** to adjourn the meeting at 9:33am.

Brenda B. Reaves
Clerk to the Board

B. Ray Jeffers
Chairman