

The Sampson County Board of Commissioners convened for their regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 7, 2016 in the County Auditorium, 435 Rowan Road in Clinton, North Carolina. Members present: Chairman Billy C. Lockamy, Vice Chairperson Sue Lee, and Commissioners Harry Parker and Clark H. Wooten. Absent: Commissioner Albert D. Kirby Jr.

The Chairman convened the meeting and called upon Vice Chairperson Lee for the invocation. Chairman Lockamy then led the Pledge Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Parker and seconded by Commissioner Wooten, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

Roads

Keith Eason, NCDOT Highway Maintenance Engineer, was present to address questions and concerns from the Board and citizens in attendance. He informed the Board and citizens in attendance that NCDOT is in paving season and that the County would begin seeing paving projects in the near future. Chairman Lockamy informed Mr. Eason of a citizen complaint of water overflowing the ditch bank at 3717 Keener Road and asked Mr. Eason to look into the matter.

Item 1: Reports and Presentations

Recognition of Retiree The Chairman and Commissioner Parker presented Donald K. Smith of the Sheriff's Department with a recognizing his years of service. Sheriff Jimmy Thornton presented Mr. Smith his firearm for recognizing his years of service.

Item 2: Planning and Zoning

County Attorney Joel Starling noted that in the absence of one commissioner, the text amendments items under Tab b, c and d – which would have the same effect as amending an ordinance – would require a second vote if approved by the majority of the Board.

RZ-2-16-1 Chairman Lockamy called the hearing to order and recognized Planning Director Mary Rose who reviewed a request to rezone approximately 68 acres located along Tomahawk Highway from RA-Residential Agriculture to

I-Industrial. Ms. Rose reviewed the findings of fact and determined that the request was consistent with the goals and objectives of the Sampson County Land Use Plan and other long range planning documents due to the fact this property is located along NC 41, a major means of transportation between Duplin, Sampson, and Bladen Counties. She noted that all adjacent property owners had been notified. There were no comments presented from the floor, so the hearing was closed. Upon a motion made by Vice Chairperson Lee and seconded by Commissioner Parker, the Board voted unanimously to approve rezoning request RZ-2-16-1, accepting the presented findings of fact and making the following consistency statement: *Whereas, in accordance with the provisions of North Carolina General Statute 153A-341, the Sampson County Board of Commissioners does hereby find and determine that the recommendation of the ordinance amendment RZ-2-16-1 is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Sampson County Land Use Plan and other long range planning documents due to the fact this property is located along NC 41, a major means of transportation between Duplin, Sampson, and Bladen Counties.*

TA-2-16-1 Chairman Lockamy called the hearing to order and recognized Planning Director Mary Rose who reviewed a request to amend Section 3.3.1.E of the Sampson County Zoning Ordinance regarding the dimensional requirements for RA-Residential Agriculture Districts. Ms. Rose informed the Board that the amendments were brought about due to a number of recent occurrences which citizens were not able to meet the 50' front setback and 15' side setback requirements. After researching Harnett and Wayne County's requirements, and meeting with Harnett County Planning Director, the Planning Board determined that similar setbacks would be appropriate for Sampson County. There were no comments presented from the floor, so the hearing was closed. Upon a motion made by Chairman Lockamy and seconded by Commissioner Parker, the Board voted unanimously to approve TA-2-16-1 as recommended.

TA-2-16-2 Chairman Lockamy called the hearing to order and recognized Planning Director Mary Rose who reviewed a request to amend Section 3.3.2.E of the Sampson County Zoning Ordinance regarding the dimensional requirements for R-Residential Districts. Based on the research obtained from Harnett and Wayne Counties, the Planning Board determined that similar setbacks would be appropriate for Sampson County's Residential Districts, making the county development friendly, while causing no other developmental challenges. She informed the Board that the R-Residential Districts provide for stick-built and modular housing, found mainly in subdivisions. There were no comments presented from the floor, so the hearing was closed. Upon a motion made by Vice Chairperson Lee and seconded by Commissioner Parker, the Board voted unanimously to approve TA-2-16-2 as recommended.

TA-2-16-3 Chairman Lockamy called the hearing to order and recognized Planning Director Mary Rose who reviewed a request to amend Section 3.3.3.E of the Sampson County Zoning Ordinance regarding the dimensional requirements for MRD

- Mixed Residential Districts. Based on the research obtained from Harnett and Wayne Counties, the Planning Board determined that similar setbacks would be appropriate for Sampson County's MRD - Mixed Residential Districts. There were no comments presented from the floor, so the hearing was closed. Upon a motion made by Vice Chairperson Lee and seconded by Commissioner Parker, the Board voted unanimously to approve TA-2-16-3 as recommended.

Item 3: Action Items

Finance: Presentation of Audit for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015 and Approval of Auditing Contracts Mr. Byron Scott of Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams & Co., PA presented the Board with the audit for fiscal year ending June 30, 2015. Mr. Scott provided Sampson County with an unmodified opinion, which is the highest opinion that can be rendered in an audit engagement. Mr. Scott highlighted that in evaluating the current policies and procedures there were none found to be inappropriate, and that there were no mistakes to communicate to the Board. Mr. Scott reported that the county had a fund balance percentage rate of 6%, which is below the Local Government Commission rate requirement of 8% and below other the averages of comparable North Carolina counties (however, a correction provided the County the next day reported the fund balance at the correct percentage of 22.46%, not below the required rate). He stated that the tax collection rate for Sampson County is 97%, and commended the Tax Office for the achievement. Chairman Lockamy, Vice Chairperson Lee, and Commissioner Wooten expressed their extreme discontent with the late submission of the audit. Mr. Scott informed the Board that processes have been implemented to ensure the audit is submitted in time. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Parker and seconded by Vice Chairperson Lee, the Board voted unanimously to approve the audit for fiscal year ending June 30, 2015. (Copy on file in the Finance Office and with the Clerk to the Board.)

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Wooten and seconded by Commissioner Parker, the Board voted unanimously to approve the execution of the amended contract for audit of fiscal year ending June 2015 and new contract for audit for fiscal year ending June 2016. (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book ____ Page ____.)

Convention and Visitors Bureau: Request for Increase in Room Occupancy Tax CVB Executive Director Sheila Barefoot presented a proposal to increase the room occupancy tax (ROT) to generate additional revenues for the promotion of tourism in the County. At their February 23, 2016 meeting, the CVB Board voted unanimously to recommend the increase the ROT from three percent (3%) to six percent (6%) - an action supported by the county's lodging providers. Ms. Barefoot stated that the increase would result in an additional \$65,000.00 per year; approximately \$42,900.00 for marketing and \$22,100.00 for capital projects. Ms. Barefoot reiterated that the ROT must receive legislative approval (as the original enabling legislation authorized a levy of

only up to 3%). To complete the approval process, the Board would request that a member of its legislative delegation introduce a local bill authorizing the levy of the additional 3% room occupancy tax, for a total tax up to 6%. The deadline for submission of such local bill is on or before 4:00 p.m. on May 3, 2016. Commissioner Wooten and Vice Chairperson Lee voiced concerns about any increase in taxes, but it was noted that the ROT did not impact county citizens and was supported by area lodging providers. County Attorney Joel Starling also noted that this requested action was simply to seek legislative authority for an increase in the ROT; the Board would be required to take additional action to actually levy the increase in ROT after public notice and a hearing. Upon a motion made by Chairman Lockamy and seconded by Commissioner Parker, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the enclosed resolution requesting that the legislative delegation submit a local bill authorizing the Board of Commissioners to levy an additional room occupancy tax of up to three percent (3%), for a total room occupancy tax rate of up to six percent (6%), with no change to the current distribution and use of such funds. (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)

Budget Reduction Proposal – Exposition Center Exposition Center Director Ray Jordan presented the Board with a budget reduction proposal. Mr. Jordan presented that minor modifications to the Expo Center’s existing HVAC mechanical and control systems would result in a significant reduction in electricity costs by fiscal year 2018-2019. These modifications would also reduce the level of “air handler” noise, providing a more sound-friendly environment for guests. The changes would require a one-time equipment and installation capital cost of \$24,849; \$29,950 (projected cost) minus \$5,101 that will be obtained from a rebate incentive from Duke Energy. Mr. Jordan noted that he anticipates that the county would see saving of \$0 in FY 2016-17; \$151 in FY 2017-18; \$12,500 in FY 2018-19; and \$12,500 in FY 2019-20. Upon a motion made by Vice Commissioner Wooten and seconded by Vice Chairperson Lee, the voted unanimously to approve the budget reduction proposal as presented.

Appointments – Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Upon a motion by Vice Chairperson Lee and a second by Commissioner Parker, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Tamara Jones as the Health Director’s designee on the JCPC.

Appointments – Board of Health Upon a motion by Commissioner Wooten and a second by Vice Chairperson Lee, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Commissioner Parker to replace Commissioner Wooten on the Board of Health.

Item 4: Consent Agenda

Upon a motion made by Chairman Lockamy and seconded by Commissioner Wooten, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:

- a. Approved the minutes of the February 1, 2016 meeting and the February 16 & 18, 2016 planning session
- b. Approved a revision to the Home and Community Care Block Grant funding plan as submitted by the Department of Aging (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book ____ Page ____.)
- c. Approved the contract for legal services (IV-D) between Sampson County DSS and Tiffany Naylor (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book ____ Page ____.)
- d. Approved tax refunds as submitted

#7298	George Norwood Howell	\$583.94
#7304	Sergio Sanchez Rosales	\$235.24
#7296	Prestage Farms Inc.	\$145.92
#7320	Holloman's Heating & Air	113.95
#7321	Annie Owens	\$147.95
#7324	Milton Fann	\$116.37
#7293	RSS Farms Inc.	\$200.34

- e. Approve budget amendments as submitted

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		<u>Solid Waste Dept.</u>	
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	
11347200	544001	Contract Services electronic waste	15,000.00

<u>REVENUE</u>			
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	
11999000	509700	Contingency	15,000.00

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		<u>Exposition Center</u>	
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	
62998610	544002	Contract Services-Security	4,000.00

<u>REVENUE</u>			
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	
62939861	405302	Security Personnel	4,000.00

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		<u>Emergency Management</u>	
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	
11243700	529900	Miscellaneous Expenses	100.00

<u>REVENUE</u>			
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	
11034370	408401	Ambulance Donations	100.00

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		<u>County Schools Capital Outlay Dept.</u>		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11659140	555030	Capital outlay category I	152,976.00	
11659140	555031	Capital outlay category II	112,824.00	
19959140	582096	Transfer to general fund	265,800.00	

<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11035914	409612	Transfer from capital reserve	265,800.00	
19932320	409900	Fund balance approp	265,800.00	

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		<u>Aging Dept.</u>		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
02558660	544000	PC II – Contracted Services		13,834.00
02558680	526200	Senior Center – Dept Supplies	3,825.00	
02558680	535100	Senior Center – M/R – Bldgs/Grounds	175.00	
02558710	526200	ADHC – Dept Supplies	3,000.00	
02558710	533000	ADHC – Utilities	1,369.00	
02558800	596000	Nutrition – Transportation	9,735.00	
02558800	522100	Nutrition – Food and Provisions	5,663.00	
02558800	256200	Nutrition – Dept Supplies	1,114.00	

<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
02035866	403601	PC II – State Grant – Mid-Carolina		13,834.00
02035868	403601	Senior Center – State – Mid-Carolina	4,000.00	
02035871	403601	ADHC – State Grant – Mid Carolina	4,369.00	
02035880	403665	Nutrition Transp- State Grant – Mid-Carolina	9,735.00	
02035880	403601	Nutrition State Grant – Mid-Carolina	6,163.00	
02035880	402300	Nutrition – USDA Fed/State School Lunch	614.00	

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		<u>Aging Dept</u>		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
02558680	526200	Senior Center – Dept Supplies		376.00

<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
02035868	403642	Senior Center – General Purpose Grant		376.00

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		<u>General Administration/QI101</u>		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
12551100	529901	MISC Expense QI	2,700.00	

<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
12535110	404000	GEN QI101 State Assistance	2,700.00	

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		<u>Halls Fire Dept</u>		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
23243410	581013	Halls fire department	18,000.00	
<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
23043410	499900	Hall fund balance appropriated	18,000.00	

- Approved Clinton City Schools Amendment No. 2 (State); No. 2 (Local); No. 2 (Federal); No. 2 (Special Revenue Fund) as submitted.
- Approved Sampson County Schools Budget Amendment No. 8 (Capital Outlay, Special Projects) as submitted.

Item 5: Board Information

The Board was provided with the following items for information only:

- Board of Health Annual Meeting Notice
- Letter of Appreciation, North Carolina Sweet Potato Commission
- Annual Ag Rally, Mark Your Calendars
- Hazard Mitigation Plan Approval by FEMA, Public Hearing to be Scheduled for April Meeting

Assistant County Manager Susan Holder informed the Board that the Hazard Mitigation Plan had been approved by FEMA and that the public hearing had been added to the April 4, 2016 Board of Commissioner meeting agenda.

County Manager Reports

County Manager Ed Causey reiterated the Board of Health meeting scheduled on March 21, 2016, the Annual Ag Rally event scheduled March 24, 2016, and he acknowledged the Board's comments on the timeliness of audits.

Public Comments

The floor was opened for comments, and the following were received:

Currie Carter: Mr. Chairman Lockamy, Board members and other staff members, my name is Currie Carter, and I am the President of the Student Body Association at Lakewood High School. I'd like to introduce to you my fellow officers: this is my Vice President Caitlyn Ivey and my Secretary Sarah Wallace Strickland. Thank you for the

opportunity to address the Board of Commissioners tonight. Lakewood High School was built in 1976. Since its inception, students and parents have expressed concern with the lack of a properly designed student parking lot. For the past 40 years we continue to remain the only school in Sampson County that does not have a completely paved parking lot. Approximately 130 students use the parking lot on a daily basis when school is in session, and it is also used for sporting events, and clubs, and assemblies, and meetings held at LHS. The parking lot currently poses a safety hazard to both people and vehicles. The gravel does not provide stability when one walks on the rocks, which allows a greater chance that a person can be injured when crossing, which we have had happen a couple of times. The rocks have caused tires to pop, windshields have been cracked, and issues with brakes as well as with front-end alignment. In addition to the gravel concerns, there are drainage issues which cause water to stand in the parking lot and the surrounding area. Please refer to the pictures my Secretary Caitlyn Ivey handed you at the beginning, which depict various concerns with the parking lot. You will see numerous pot holes in the entrance of our parking lot, which is about 15 pot holes, as well as a busted windshield that happened about a month ago from flying rocks. Since this has become a major issue, the SGA has taken the initiative of gathering a team of 9 and start a campaign we have named Pave It Forward. The campaign is designated to raise funds that will be used solely for the purpose of paving the student parking lot and correcting the drainage issues. We have already started fundraising by selling bracelets with our school name, Leopard stickers, joining the My Coke Rewards; if you don't know what the My Coke Rewards is - any of the Coke products, PowerAde bottles, even the boxes you can buy, and the Dasani water bottles, they have codes on the bottom of the caps. And those codes are used when you enter them online at mycokeawards.com. You can donate them to our high school and those points are turned into money, which will be sent to our high school. We have also held fundraisers at games, and of course generous donations have been given. We have recently had a donor call and ask if they could paint a barn quilt, which they will donate to our project to be raffled off; you also have a picture of what that will look like on the second page. Arnold Sandy, owner of Sandy Backhoe and Hauling has provided his professional assessment of the parking lot issues and has provided an estimate for the paving/work needed. The estimate includes expanding the parking lot by 5 feet on each side to make it safer for students to back out from their designated parking space, as well as fixing the drainage system. The approximate cost for this project is \$70,000.00. On February 22nd my team and I visited the Board of Education to ask for \$40,000.00 to help assist us with this process. We are here tonight just to inform you that we did go meet with the Board of Education, and we are hoping that you will agree with them. We are very hopeful that this request will be granted, and look forward to, as well as appreciate, the Board of Commissioners' support. As the student body President I feel that sound educational decisions should be based on the needs of the students and to me this is a major need. On behalf of our Principal, Mr. Hunter, the SGA, and the entire student body, I again would like to thank you for your time, consideration, and acknowledgement to our SGA. We hope to hear from you soon. Sarah Wallace will now

be giving you an estimate from Mr. Sandy, just for the record, and I will be willing to answer any questions you may have.

Commissioner Parker noted that he agreed that the parking lot is in bad shape and employed the Board to consider the proposal.

Adjournment

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Wooten and seconded by Commissioner Parker, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn.