

The Sampson County Board of Commissioners convened for their regular meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, May 7, 2018 in the County Auditorium, 435 Rowan Road in Clinton, North Carolina. Members present: Chairman Clark Wooten, Vice Chairperson Sue Lee, and Commissioners Thaddeus Godwin, Jerol Kivett and Harry Parker.

Chairman Wooten convened the meeting and recognized Vice Chairperson Lee. She called upon Commissioner Kivett for the invocation. Vice Chairperson Lee then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Parker and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda with the following changes: Request for Addition of Human Resource Director to the Sampson County Safety and Wellness Committee was added to Item 2 (b); and Resolution of Sampson County Board of Commissioners Regarding NCDOT Abandonment of Portion of SR 1228, West Main Street was added as Item 3 (k).

### **Item 1: Planning & Zoning Items**

RZ-4-18-1 The Chairman called the hearing to order and acknowledged Planning Director Mary Rose, who reviewed the findings of fact with regard to a request to rezone approximately 1.22 acres located along Christmas Tree Road from R-Residential to RA-Residential Agriculture. The Chairman opened the floor for public comment, and none were received. The Chairman closed the hearing. Upon a motion made by Vice Chairperson Lee and seconded by Commissioner Kivett, the Board voted unanimously to approve rezoning request RZ-4-18-1, accepting the findings of fact and making the following zoning 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-4-18-1 is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Sampson County Land Use Plan for residential growth due to the fact this area is located within a portion of the County designated as a Residential Growth Area in Section 2 of the Sampson County Land Use Plan (Future Land Use Map). This section further identifies appropriate uses for this area would include primarily residential development.*

Public Hearing: Adoption of Sampson County Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance The Chairman opened the public hearing and immediately made a motion that the hearing be continued to the June 4, 2018 meeting, as requested by the Planning

Board. Upon a motion made by Chairman Wooten and seconded by Commissioner Kivett, the Board voted unanimously to continue the hearing to the June 4, 2018 meeting in order to give all interested parties the opportunity to be heard.

Anita Lane was introduced as the County's new Senior Planner and welcomed by the Board.

**Item 2: Action Items**

Addition of Buckboard Lane (in the Stagecoach Estates Subdivision) to State Secondary Road System Assistant County Manager Susan Holder presented the NCDOT proposed resolution requesting that the NCDOT add Buckboard Lane (located in the Stagecoach Estates Subdivision) to the State secondary road system. Upon a motion by Commissioner Kivett and seconded by Commissioner Parker, the Board voted unanimously to adopt a resolution requesting the addition of Buckboard Lane to the state secondary roads system. (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book \_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_).

Appointment - Sampson County Safety and Wellness Committee (addition to the Agenda) Upon a motion made by Vice Chairperson Lee and seconded by Chairman Wooten, the Board voted unanimously to add the Human Resources Director (Nancy Dillman) to the Sampson County Safety and Wellness Committee.

Appointment - Convention and Visitors Bureau Upon a motion made by Vice Chairperson Lee and seconded by Chairman Wooten, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Shawn Hobbs to the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Appointment - Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Upon a motion made by Vice Chairperson Lee and seconded by Commissioner Kivett, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Melissa Reese to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council.

Upon a motion made by Vice Chairperson Lee and seconded by Commissioner Kivett, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Dr. Wesley Johnson to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council.

Appointment - Library Board of Trustees Upon a motion made by Vice Chairperson Lee and seconded by Commissioner Parker, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Natalie Smith to the Library Board of Trustees.

Appointment - Workforce Development Board Upon a motion made by Vice Chairperson Lee and seconded by Commissioner Parker, the Board voted unanimously to reappoint Eugene Pearsall to the Workforce Development Board.

Upon a motion made by Vice Chairperson Lee and seconded by Commissioner Parker, the Board voted unanimously to reappoint Edward Timmons to the Workforce Development Board.

Upon a motion made by Vice Chairperson Lee and seconded by Commissioner Kivett, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Michael Thornton to the Workforce Development Board.

**Item 3: Consent Agenda**

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Kivett and seconded by Vice Chairperson Lee, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- a. Approved the minutes of the April 2, 2018 meeting
- b. Approved the request from the Finance Department to authorize disposal of certain records pursuant to Records Retention Policy
- c. Approved Revision #1 to the Home and Community Block Grant budget for FY 17-18 (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book \_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_.)
- d. Approved a request from Sampson County Emergency Management to surplus an 1998 Ford ambulance (VIN 1FDWE30F5WHB49933) and transfer to Sampson Community College for use in their EMS training program
- e. Accepted grant funding from the Pesticide Environment Trust Fund for the Pesticide Container Recycling Program and authorized execution of grant documents (grant to be budgeted in FY 18-19 budget) (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book \_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_.)
- f. Accepted Hazardous Material Emergency Preparedness Grant Program Funding in the amount of \$3,500 for a future preparedness exercise by the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) (Copies filed in Inc. Minute Book \_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_.)
- g. Approved the Juvenile Justice Program Certifications and Funding Plan for FY 18-19 (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book \_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_.)
- h. Approved the execution of the Contract to Audit for the fiscal period ending June 30, 2018 between the County and W. Greene PLLC (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book \_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_.)
- i. Approved tax refunds and releases as submitted:

#8547	Cody Langston	\$176.47
#8551	Cynthia Falatovich	\$140.36
#8563	The Woodshed Custom Cabinets Inc.	\$470.30

j. Approved budget amendments as submitted:

<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>		<b><u>Aging</u></b>		
<b><u>Code Number</u></b>		<b><u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u></b>	<b><u>Increase</u></b>	<b><u>Decrease</u></b>
02558670	525100	Home Repairs – Gas, Oil & Tires	\$1,000.00	
02558670	526200	Home Repairs – Dept Supplies	\$1,387.00	
02558670	526201	Home Repairs – Dept Supplies-Equip	\$1,500.00	
02558670	555000	Home Repairs – Capital Outlay - Othe	\$5,500.00	

<b><u>REVENUE</u></b>				
<b><u>Code Number</u></b>		<b><u>Source of Revenue</u></b>	<b><u>Increase</u></b>	<b><u>Decrease</u></b>
02035867	408900	Home Repairs – Misc Revenue	\$9,387.00	

<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>		<b><u>State Disaster Recovery Asst. 17 Prog</u></b>		
<b><u>Code Number</u></b>		<b><u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u></b>	<b><u>Increase</u></b>	<b><u>Decrease</u></b>
29549450	519049	Administration	\$100,000.00	
29549450	562004	Housing Rehabilitation	\$300,000.00	

<b><u>REVENUE</u></b>				
<b><u>Code Number</u></b>		<b><u>Source of Revenue</u></b>	<b><u>Increase</u></b>	<b><u>Decrease</u></b>
29034945	403614	Grant NC Dept of Emergency Mgmt	\$500,000.00	

<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>		<b><u>Single Family Housing Rehabilitation</u></b>		
<b><u>Code Number</u></b>		<b><u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u></b>	<b><u>Increase</u></b>	<b><u>Decrease</u></b>
29549440	519049	Administration	\$160,000.00	
29549440	562004	Housing Rehabilitation	\$539,340.00	

<b><u>REVENUE</u></b>				
<b><u>Code Number</u></b>		<b><u>Source of Revenue</u></b>	<b><u>Increase</u></b>	<b><u>Decrease</u></b>
29034944	403614	Grant NC Housing Finance	\$689,340.00	

<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>		<b><u>City School Capital Outlay</u></b>		
<b><u>Code Number</u></b>		<b><u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u></b>	<b><u>Increase</u></b>	<b><u>Decrease</u></b>
11659110	555030	Category 1 Capital Outlay	\$11,084.00	
11659110	555031	Category 2 Capital Outlay		\$11,084.00

<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>		<b><u>Emergency Management</u></b>		
<b><u>Code Number</u></b>		<b><u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u></b>	<b><u>Increase</u></b>	<b><u>Decrease</u></b>
11243300	526200	Departmental Supplies	\$999.00	

<b><u>REVENUE</u></b>				
<b><u>Code Number</u></b>		<b><u>Source of Revenue</u></b>	<b><u>Increase</u></b>	<b><u>Decrease</u></b>
11034330	403683	EM Supplemental Grant	\$999.00	

<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>		<b><u>Finance</u></b>		
<b><u>Code Number</u></b>		<b><u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u></b>	<b><u>Increase</u></b>	<b><u>Decrease</u></b>
61971000	526200	Dept Supplies	\$164,000.00	

<b><u>REVENUE</u></b>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
61937100	409900	Fund Balance Appropriated	\$164,000.00	

<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11243800	523900	Medical Supplies	\$1,660.00	

<b><u>REVENUE</u></b>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11034380	408401	Donations	\$1,660.00	

<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11243100	555000	C.O. – Other Equipment	\$4,035.00	
11243100	526201	Dept. Supplies – CD	\$1,385.00	
11243100	526200	Dept. Supplies	\$1,518.00	

<b><u>REVENUE</u></b>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11034310	402604	USDOJ Grants	\$6,938.00	

<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
12551250	581000	Transfer to State Agency	\$4,398.00	
12551510	581000	Transfer to State Agency	\$744.00	
12551600	581000	Transfer to State Agency	\$3,403.00	
12551630	581000	Transfer to State Agency	\$62,160.00	
12551640	581000	Transfer to State Agency	\$20,155.00	
12551690	581000	Transfer to State Agency	\$13,841.00	

<b><u>REVENUE</u></b>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
12535125	404097	Fund Balance Approp Title XIX	\$4,398.00	
12535151	404097	Fund Balance Approp Title XIX	\$744.00	
12535160	404097	Fund Balance Approp Title XIX	\$3,403.00	
12535163	404097	Fund Balance Approp Title XIX	\$62,160.00	
12535164	404097	Fund Balance Approp Title XIX	\$20,155.00	
12535169	404097	Fund Balance Approp Title XIX	\$13,841.00	

- Approved Sampson County Schools Budget Amendment (17-18 Capital Budget) as submitted.
- k. Adopted a Resolution Regarding NCDOT Abandonment of Portion of SR 1228, West Main Street (Copy in Inc. Minute Book \_\_\_\_\_, Page \_\_\_\_\_.)

#### **Item 4: Board of Health Items (Considered in capacity as Board of Health)**

Upon a motion made by Vice Chairperson Lee and seconded by Chairman Wooten, unanimously to approve the Board of Health items as follows:

- a. Received and accepted minutes of the March 19, 2018 Board of Health Advisory Committee
- b. Approved fee schedule revisions as recommended by the Board of Health Advisory Committee (Copies filed in Inc. Minute Book \_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_).

#### **County Manager Reports**

County Manager Ed Causey recommended that the Board meet on Monday, May 21, 2018 at 5 p.m. in the County Auditorium for the presentation of the FY 2018-2019 budget, and immediately recess to reconvene at the Cooperative Extension Service Office for the Annual Report to the People dinner at 6 p.m. He then informed the Board of the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Economic Development Commission on Tuesday, May 29, 2018 at 12 p.m. Mr. Causey then informed the Board of the six-session training conducted by Dr. Oglesby's office, which provided professional training for the Animal Shelter staff, which will be attended by him and Ms. Holder. He also informed the Board that veterinarian Dr. Turner had recently made weekly inspections of the Animal Shelter, and that State Veterinarian Dr. Norris and State Inspector Pat Sholar had also made recent visits, all of which had received positive feedback. He then informed the Board that Dr. Norris was scheduled to provide a 2-hour Veterinary Review training for shelter staff on May 30, 2018, which was to be preceded by a meeting with himself and Ms. Holder to begin the requested program review.

Chairman Wooten lauded the staff for the response and efforts made to improve shelter operations.

#### **Public Comments**

The Chairman opened the floor for comments and the following were received:

Michelle McClymonds-Spencer: I am here because I heard Mr. Causey speak, and of the discussion of the need to form some sort of an Advisory Board. I looked at your list on the website of all your Advisory Boards, and I don't see one specifically related to the Animal Shelter. I strongly suggest that there are members of us that have been very active in the animal rescue efforts in the County. We've seen the good; we've seen the bad, and we would really like to make it as transparent as possible for the public, and for the ones of us that are involved in the rescues. I do work with the rescues and am very familiar with Dr. Oglesby's office and Trish. We are very glad to see that there is training going on. I heard you mention that on May 30<sup>th</sup> that the State Veterinarian is

coming and I guess my question would be, how can we as the public hear what you're doing? We're glad to see that you're doing that, and we're glad to see that the Board is involved and paying attention, and I know that the County Commissioners are as well. I run a Facebook page called Animal Allies of Sampson County. It's not a formal 501 (c)3 but it is a way that we share information that we get, both from the media and from the public, that we would like to get back out to people who are very interested in the Animal Shelter. So, if there are ways that that information, when you're ready to release that, that we can get that out to the public and to the animal rescue community that's very active, and very concerned, and very glad to see that these things are not going by the wayside. We think that it will be very interesting to see what the changes are that you're going to be making at the shelter, but I think that an advisory committee would be a way to get that information and share that with people so that the animal rescue community doesn't think it's getting dropped. That's really just what I wanted to say. I know that there is a lot going on with the Shelter, we're glad to see that, but we really, strongly feel that from the community perspective – and I live here in Sampson County by the way, I am not an outsider. I have lived here for eight years now, and I've been involved in animal rescue off and on for about three years now. So, like I said, we want to be responsible. I know that there are a lot of very passionate people out there, but sometimes their passion overrides common sense. My background is military, and my background is corporate. And I moved back to Sampson County. I think it is important to share the information and the steps that you're doing, and there is a way to get that out, either through the media or however you all publish it. If we could share that information, that would keep people, and I think, allow you to take the time you need to make these changes.

Chairman Wooten thanked Ms. McClymonds-Spencer for her input and assured her that the process had included the public in the past and would continue to do so.

Michelle McClymonds-Spencer: You have other counties here that have a lot of the same challenges that you all face, in rural, southeastern North Carolina, from a funding perspective and educational perspective. There are other programs out there in Cumberland and Duplin County that do have these. We know for a fact that Duplin does have an advisory board committee. I may not be the best one to ask all the specifics on that, but I do know that they do have one. There are other examples out there. Thank you.

Commissioner Parker asked for clarification on how a committee would enhance the policies and procedures, and operations of the Shelter.

Michelle McClymonds-Spencer: I would have to be honest in that I do not have the answer for you, I just know that I didn't see one on your website, the one that you have for the Shelter. I didn't see that on the website, so if you already have one then maybe this just a communication challenge to get it out there, but what I think most of us

would like to see is a way for an advisory board to listen to what's being done and maybe provide input on things that we do see that we think might be helpful. I think what we don't have is knowledge of specific County things that are happening. I am very familiar with what's at the state level. I just think it would be helpful if you'd have people involved with animal rescue, if you'd have your shelter vet, Dr. Oglesby, if you'd have people involved at the state level. I don't have all the exact answers to all that, I just know that there is a need to get the public involved in some way. My friend Nancy (Gump) may have more input on that than I do. I just think it's important that we go ahead and start process of creating these advisory boards.

Mr. Causey provided that at the meeting on May 30, 2018, Dr. Norris would provide insight on other county animal shelter advisory boards throughout the state.

Nancy Gump: Hello, my name is Nancy Gump, and I live in Sampson County. Just to reference your particular question regarding the policing. I think policing is sort of a strong word for that. What we envision is that it would be an outlet, or avenue for support for the Shelter. And that's exactly what Duplin County has. Because obviously the situation that the Shelter faced last month and for months before that, and as Commissioners, there is a gap. They don't know exactly what's going on there. And as Duplin has, they have a couple of commissioners that are on the committee. They've got a vet that is on the committee, and then they have public people like me, rescuers. Then they have others that are involved with fostering or that are just animal lovers. And with that combination with that group, it's a collective group, so you have that oversight in the essence of being able to identify the issues and challenges that the employees have in these shelters. Because it's not easy. If you stand in the parking lot of that shelter, and you see what's going in and out of that door, the animals are one thing, but when you see the owners of those animals that's a whole different ball game, and the employees need help. And that's what that committee would be. It's an avenue; it's an arm. And let's take it up an extra tier. It's a fundraising avenue. And that's huge because the Shelter needs money, and we all know that everybody needs money, but the Shelter needs money. So, it's a very positive thing. It's not a policing, authoritative thing, but it is a very positive and supportive thing. And that's where you're going to make the change. And I can provide specific information but there is not enough time for that, but Duplin has got it going on, because they have incorporated in their animal ordinance that they do have a committee. And like Michelle (McClymonds-Spencer) said Cumberland and others, but I work very closely with Duplin. I'll take sheltered dogs that are going to be going to a rescue for Duplin as well. I'm in between. I may live in Sampson County, but I am very close to Duplin's shelter as well. So, I'm like, hey Duplin, you've got it going on. How can you make this work when you've got half the runs that Sampson has? But those animals are going out that door. You've got the community; you have that energy, the synergy that's going on over there. They have a major fundraising to build an entirely new shelter over there coming up two months from now. And that's what I envision that our shelter, our county, can have. I think the



biggest problem is the lack of people knowing exactly what's going on. I'm not finger pointing, and like I said a month ago, I've been involved in this seven years ago when I moved down here. I don't ever shut an eye to this. You're going to get more bees with honey. That's that issue when it comes to the committee. I'm like let's get it going on. We have a class going. We don't have to just hold off there and then start in with the committee. I talked closely with Pat Sholar, and I said this way before, a year ago, I'm like, Pat give me some benchmarking. I want to know what other shelters are facing just like what Sampson is, because we're all in the same bag. It's not just Sampson that's sitting there in a rural county, but you've got many, many, many others in North Carolina. What makes those places rock? What makes those that be at the bottom of the line, and all of a sudden, they are stellar shelters? I want to know how they did it. I don't want to reinvent the wheel. I don't have time for it. None of us do. And we can take that template, and that's what a committee could do. We could say, hey commissioners, this is what we could do, A, B, C, D, and then you decide what you think would be a fit for us. But at least we could cut to the chase on it. So that's my specific answer on it when it comes to the community support. It's not a policing; it's a very positive supportive avenue. And I would really get excited about it when it comes to the fundraising avenue of it because Duplin not only has that committee but then they went and applied, and became a 501 3c, so that gives it a whole different arm on that end. And that's what they're doing in escalating it with the shelter development. But that's just to address his question on that, but I have a couple of other issues to address real quick. So, then I have a question in regard to benchmarking, oversight, and the fundraising. And with the current vet assignment. Mr. Causey gave accolades to the vet, and I'm going to say it right now. Maybe she is making weekly visits now, but I don't know where she's been the last couple of years. I'm just saying. I'm just questioning.

Chairman Wooten intervened and cautioned Ms. Gump that the Board would not allow speakers to disparage anyone in public, and would not allow her, or other speakers, to be disparaged. He stated that as long as he was Chairman, he would not allow anyone to be disparaged from the speaker's podium, not that day, not the next time. That was not how the County operated. He stated that the County was making headway, not as fast as Ms. Gump and others may want, but the County was making headway. Thus, the Board would appreciate the tolerance and the latitude to allow that to happen.

Nancy Gump: I appreciate that and I'm sorry. Now, can I provide as new business? I'm done with the Animal Shelter, but can I provide this as new business? Can I just do new business with the animals.

Chairman Wooten added that there was constructive input and then there was radicalism, and it was important to be cognizant of where that line is.

Nancy Gump: I am aware of where that line is, I just get a little disenchanted, and I apologize. May I just propose potential insight and suggestions. My suggestion – and I would dearly appreciate some consideration regarding the tether law in Sampson County. Right now there is not a distinct length of tethering. Other counties do have that. But, a dog can be tethered off a tree and it constitutes what length they have on their tether. An Animal Control Officer suggested to me that we need to at least put on a specific length for the tether. Because if the animal is tethered from the top of a tree limb to the bottom of the ground, they could take up 6-8 feet. So, this a suggestion, but I don't have all the answers. But I would like to be able to go to animal control and ask what is your suggestion? What do you think? Some counties have in their ordinances that it should go from their nose to the end of their tail. But our Animal Control Officer, Jessica Kitrell, doesn't think it shouldn't be that way because she does not want to have to approach a dog and get an eyeball length of that. But if we go straight across the board then at least we can extend it to 14 feet on a tether.

Tommy Tucker: I just want to thank Ed, and Susan, and everybody else that's doing everything they can now for the dogs and the cats. And Mr. Parker, we are not trying to police anybody. We're just trying to help the dogs and the cats, and we can do that. Thank you.

Commissioner Parker expressed that the purpose of his question was to simply get clarification on the role of the committee and whether it would enhance the services provided by the Shelter. In response, Mr. Tucker stated that the role would not be to enhance any organization or processes, but to simply help the dogs and the cats. Mr. Tucker then asked why there was a sign at the shelter that prohibited cameras and pictures. Commissioner Kivett then commented that this is a journey that we are all working together on, reiterating the sincerity and concern of the Board. He stated that the issues could not be fixed overnight, though everyone – including the Board - wants them to be, and that the County needed time to make the necessary changes.

Michelle McClymonds-Spencer: We are looking forward to that. We just want it to be transparent. We just want to know. It's our tax dollars. And y'all care about animals, and we can see that. We just want to share information. The progress and the moving forward, that's what we'd like to share and find a vehicle, and that's where we're trying to go with this. To figure out a way to take the information and steps that Mr. Causey mentioned, and share the information in an as applicable, and as it makes sense, when we can help from a community perspective. That's really all we're trying to do.

### **Recess to Reconvene**

Upon a motion made by Chairperson Wooten and seconded by Commissioner Kivett, the Board voted unanimously to recess to reconvene on Monday, May 21, 2018

at 5 p.m. in the County Auditorium for presentation of the FY 2018-2019 proposed budget, followed by Cooperative Extension's annual Report to the People at 6:00 p.m.