

The Sampson County Board of Commissioners convened for their regular meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, September 11, 2023, in the County Auditorium, 435 Rowan Road in Clinton, North Carolina. Members present: Chairman Jerol Kivett, Vice Chairperson Sue Lee, and Commissioners Thaddeus Godwin, Lethia Lee, and Allen McLamb.

Chairman Jerol Kivett called the meeting to order and turned the meeting over to Commissioner Thaddeus Godwin. Commissioner Godwin offered remarks on the anniversary of September 11, 2001, and provided the invocation. He then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Upon a motion by Commissioner Godwin and seconded by Vice Chairperson Sue Lee, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda with the following changes:

- Added Item 2B – Proclamation Honoring Eunice Newkirk DeVane on her 100th Birthday
- Added one item to the Consent Agenda – Memorandum of Understanding between Sampson County Health Department and Sampson County Child Advocacy Center

Item 1: Reports and Presentations

Chairman Kivett called upon Human Resources Director Nancy Dillman who provided an update on the status of the ongoing Market Study. Ms. Dillman informed the Board that the Market Study is closer to completion than it has been, and that final data is anticipated to be available for analysis within a few weeks. She also reiterated that work on the Market Study has been going on in conjunction with Human Resources staff's day-to-day operations, the ongoing lawsuit, and numerous reclassifications within various departments. Chairman Kivett and the Board members all commended Ms. Dillman and her staff on their hard work and dedication to everyday operations as well as the additional work that the Market Study and lawsuit has necessitated.

Item 2: Action Items

Review of Options for Disposition of Real Property Located at 107 Underwood Street
Chairman Kivett called upon County Manager Ed Causey and County Attorney Joel Starling who presented several options regarding the disposition of real property located at 107 Underwood Street. Mr. Causey stressed the fact that there was no desire to relocate or remove the Veterans Memorial located on this property. Following a short discussion, the Board agreed to look further into its options regarding the property and discuss them at a later date.

Proclamation Honoring Eunice Newkirk DeVane on her 100th Birthday
Chairman Kivett called upon Commissioner Lethia Lee who presented a proclamation honoring Ms. Eunice

Newkirk DeVane in celebration of her 100th birthday. Upon a motion by Commissioner Godwin and seconded by Vice Chairperson Sue Lee, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the proclamation honoring Eunice Newkirk DeVane on her 100th Birthday. (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)

Item3: Board Appointments

CVB Board - Chairman Upon a motion by Vice Chairperson Sue Lee and seconded by Chairman Kivett, the Board voted unanimously to re-appoint Joel Rose to serve as the Chair of the CVB Board of Directors

Mid-Carolina Aging Advisory Council Upon a motion by Vice Chairperson Sue Lee and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Mayor Alice Butler to the Mid-Carolina Aging Advisory Council

Voluntary Ag Districts Board Upon a motion by Vice Chairperson Sue Lee and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Wendy Dorman to represent District 5 of the Voluntary Ag Districts Board

Item 4: Consent Agenda

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

- a. Approved the minutes of the August 7, 2023 meeting (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
- b. Authorized the County Manager to execute a lease between Sampson County and Norwood and Judy Blanchard for the Harrells Solid Waste Container Site (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
- c. Authorized the County Manager to execute a lease between Sampson County and Myron B. and Connie W. Bass for the Mt. Gilead Solid Waste Container Site (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
- d. Authorized execution of the contract for the facilitation of Child and Family Team Meetings (CFTM) for FY 23-24 between Sampson County (DSS) and ADR Consultants, Inc. (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
- e. Authorized execution of a contract for Child Support Civil Officer Services for FY 23-24 between Sampson County (DSS) and Sampson County Sheriff Jimmy Thornton (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
- f. Authorized execution of a contract for Juvenile Court Officer/Investigator Services for FY 23-24 between Sampson County (DSS) and Sampson County Sheriff Jimmy Thornton (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)

- g. Authorized execution of a contract for School Health Nursing Services for FY 23-24 between Sampson County (Health Department) and Sampson County Schools (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
- h. Approved the proposed updated Voluntary Agricultural District enrollment, amendment, and withdrawal form and enrollment fee (Cooperative Extension)
- i. Authorized execution of the updated Mid-Carolina Local Workforce Development Area Chief Elected Official Board (CEOB) Agreement
- j. Adopted a Proclamation Honoring the Sampson County Arts Council on its 50th Anniversary (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
- k. Adopted a resolution declaring vehicles and other items as surplus, directing staff to dispose of them at auction, and designating Friday, October 27, 2023, as the date of the surplus property auction. (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
- l. Approved a late present use value application for Leonel Perez
- m. Approved late disabled veterans tax exclusion requests for Larry E. Bailey, Mark W. Bergstresser, Kenneth R. Best, and Jeremy Ray Hook
- n. Approved tax refunds and releases as submitted

#10258	Cheri Fawn Vann	\$129.90
#10251	Eric Ray Gainey	\$106.68
#10252	Peter Hodgson Bryant	\$208.62
#10250	Melvin Gibson Jr.	\$258.64
#10249	Victoria June Tomlinson	\$174.04
#10221	Paul Michael Lombardi, Jr.	\$100.04
#10229	Harry Bernard Spates	\$265.31
#10237	Tyler Nicholas McPherson	\$442.35
#10238	Manuel Cornejo Anselmo	\$118.29
#10241	Leslie Ann Byrd	\$111.72
#10242	Martina McNeil Copeland	\$234.71
#10243	Jane Wilson Spell	\$149.94
#10245	Brittney Nicole McAbee	\$316.31
#10253	Mark Todd Parks	\$299.93
Tax Release	Lynn Brown, Jr.	\$253.19
Tax Release	Sharon Hughes	\$414.88
Tax Release	Benjamin Copeland, Jr.	\$299.94
Tax Release	Eddie Williamson	\$423.72
Tax Release	Willie Jones	\$392.87
Tax Release	Carroll Spencer	\$205.53
Tax Release	Lowell Schiebe	\$1,371.26

- o. Approved budget amendments as submitted

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		Sheriff		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11243100	555001	Capital Outlay Other Grant	\$9,250.	
11243100	526230	Equipment Grant	\$178.	
11243100	526202	Department Supplies Grant	\$25,281.	
<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11039999	409900	Fund Balance Appropriated	\$34,709.	
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		Social Services		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
13554810	568416	Water Assistance Program	\$18,932.	
<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
13535480	403316	Grant Water Assistance	\$18,932.	
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		Sampson County Schools Capital Outlay		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11659110	555030	Capital Outlay Category 1	\$64,505.	
11659110	555031	Capital Outlay Category 2	\$30,422.	
11659110	550000	Unallocated Capital Outlay		\$94,927.
11659140	555030	Capital Outlay Category 1	\$285,764.	
11659140	555031	Capital Outlay Category 2	\$1,503,805.	
11659140	555032	Capital Outlay Category 3	\$355,368.	
11659140	550000	Unallocated Capital Outlay		\$1,121,454.
19959140	582096	Transfer to General Fund for Capital	\$1,023,483.	
<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
19932320	409900	Fund Balance Appropriated	\$1,023,483.	
11035914	409612	Transfer to School Capital Reserve	\$1,023,483.	
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		Aging		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
2558790	526200	Info/Case Asst Department Supplies	\$1,333.	
2558790	544000	Info/Case Asst Contracted Services	\$2,000.	
<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
2035879	403602	Info/Case Asst Health Promotion	\$3,333.	

Item 4: County Manager's Report

Chairman Kivett called upon County Manager Ed Causey who reminded the Board that Thursday, September 14th will be Economic Developer Stephen Barrington's last day with the County and that Ray Jordan will step in as Interim Director.

Item 5: Public Comment Period

Following a brief overview of Public Comment Policies and Procedures by Clerk to the Board Stephanie Shannon, Chairman Kivett reviewed standards of conduct and decorum and then opened the floor for public comments. The following were received:

Robert Graczyk, 2556 Greens Bridge Road, Garland, NC – “Good evening and peace be with you on 9/11. Twenty-two years ago, I led a team of customs inspectors at this time, looking for those terrorists that drew blood of Americans on our soil. We looked and we sought these individuals out. Several months later I was assigned to go overseas to go and inspect cargo coming into the United States so it wouldn’t explode on American soil. I was assigned to, I was asked to go to France, and I said, ‘Send me.’ I was assigned to the port of LeHavre, France in Normandy. On D-Day plus 59 years at 4 a.m. in the morning, I saw the sunrise at the first division memorial in the American cemetery. It seemed the blood had risen from the beaches to the sky for all the soldiers that we lost and at that American cemetery you can see monuments of all our soldiers that we lost as far as you can see, white granite monuments. Everywhere you went in France there would be a little city and in that city would be a monument to those Americans, those British, and those Canadian soldiers that lost their lives in that city. Even though they’re not buried there, it’s a monument to them. Now here we are in Clinton, North Carolina and we have an armory that is no longer viable as a building that floods, and we have a small little portion that is a memorial, a veterans park, a County park. Well, let’s get that building torn down and put that entire place to our veterans. Make it a County park, a County memorial park. In a few years our kids won’t know what a helicopter from Vietnam looks like, or an armored personnel carrier, or a tank. They’ll be thinking that all it is is a little drone that takes explosives and blows up our enemy. Let’s give something to our veterans. Give a place for them to go to and mourn and celebrate Veteran’s Day. And keep that shelter there for them that’s behind the EMS building so that they can have a place to celebrate and to get together as a brotherhood should. They’re brothers in war, they’re brothers, they left Clinton, North Carolina to go to war and defend us and freedom is not free. Freedom costs blood, tears, and sweat. Thank you for your time.”

Elaine Hunt, 7171 Old Warsaw Road, Turkey, NC – “Honorable Board, I would like those who have come with me this evening to please stand in support of what I’m about to say. I have been coming before you since May 2022. My request remains the same. The song is still the same. We residents further down from the Timberlake Subdivision but located on the same road, Old Warsaw Road, we’re requesting County water. Our water is not getting better, and this brown rusted water is detrimental to our physical health. I know what you said about the number of people who will be required on the petition. I know what you said about the cost. But please here what I am saying: We too deserve to have good clean water. It’s the right thing to do. It was stated that this section of Old Warsaw Road would not qualify for a water extension using your current scoring system. My response to that is: Change and amend your scoring system. Your system, in my mind, is not feasible for all the areas in Sampson County and I see the County, you all are doing a marvelous job at what you do, and I do believe that you can do anything that you set your mind to do. I have been told that there are grants available by reliable sources. I’m told that you all are more accessible to these grants and the grant information than I. I know that no County tax revenue is used to expand the water supply, but please take time to research these grants. Please take time to help us down Old

Warsaw Road. Please consider and do something about this concern. I read a person can survive a month without food, but a person will not survive three days without water. Water is essential to life and once again I say to you, we are not looking a handout, but we are looking a helping hand. And in conclusion, I have brought copies for you all to see the rusty water in my washer because I can't wash white clothes, but I got here too late to pass it out. And also, you can see this bottle. The water that was in here came from my faucet. You see the rust? Brown water. Please help the people down on Old Warsaw Road. And I thank you for your time, your consideration, and your approval of this request. Thank you."

David Brown, 3030 Fleet Cooper Road, Roseboro, NC - "Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I'm here to talk to you tonight about what I believe is a problem with the construction debris compactor of the Snow Hill Convenience Site. This compactor has been broken for at least three months, I'm 100% sure of that, but I believe it's more like a five or six month period that it's been broken. I've asked repeatedly of the site employees over this time span what's wrong and they don't know what's wrong with it or when it is going to be fixed. The last time I was on the site was 5 September 2023 and the employee there working told me to ask the site manager, that he should know. Called the site manager on Wednesday, 6 September 2023 at 10:21 and got no answer. There's no voicemail on the number that I called, so I couldn't leave a message to be able to be called back. Called again on Friday, 8 September 2023 at 14:46 and a woman, who I'm assuming was the office manager or the secretary answered and said I would have to contact GFL in Hope Mills as they have control over the Snow Hill Convenience Site. So, I called that office on Friday, 8 September 2023 at 15:05 and spoke to a woman named Donna. After explaining why I was calling, she said I would have to speak to Samantha as she was a supervisor for that site. I left a message at 15:10 and she did return my phone call at 15:18. She said they had another six to eight weeks to wait on parts before the compactor could be repaired. We discussed why it would take so long to get parts and she said that it was due in part to the age of the compactor and because of that age it made it hard to get parts, but it would be fixed as soon as they came in because they wanted the compactor repaired too. I said that they should tell the employees working on that site so that they could tell us, the Sampson County residents, and consumers of that spot, so that we wouldn't be so upset. You load a truck up full of debris to take up there and then you can't get it out and then you do that three or four times, you have a tendency to be upset. Most people are relatively calm, but we do have people that I feel might jeopardize that employee's safe being. Eight weeks would make a delivery date of 3 November 2023 for the parts. I would assume that because of the length of this time frame that compactor would be repaired during the week of 6-10 November, and my goal right now is on 13 November to call them and find out if it has been fixed. Problems here is that we should be able to tell employees or the customers what the problem is and what's going on so that we understand your concern about our complaint and also because it's my understanding that Sampson County pays for the tipping fee on that dumpster that our tax dollars are being well spent. Thank you."

William Deaver, 4868 Bonnettsville Road, Clinton, NC - "I am currently the president of the Sampson County Veterans Council, elected president for this year and I just want to change things up a little bit. We've been talking about Veterans Park and I'm going to start off by saying that the veterans of Sampson County thank you guys for your consideration of what you're planning to do for the veterans of Veterans Park. You know, we know as veterans that you all are going to do your very best for the veterans of the County and I just wanted to

reiterate that and tell you that we thank you so much for what you guys are doing. Another thing is that park has, and I don't think anyone has stated since we've been here, we have a Medal of Honor recipient in Sampson County. One, and that Veterans Park has that Medal of Honor recipient sitting there with those big blue stars and things of that nature. The Medal of Honor is the highest honor. It is the highest ultimate sacrifice that you can give in a time of war. So, thank you guys so much, and to end up here, you are all cordially invited to our Veterans Day program on November 11. We would love to see you all there. Thank you so much."

Frederick Hayes, 166 New Pine Lane, Clinton, NC - "First I want to thank the Board for giving me this opportunity. I want to thank my fellow veterans for their service. As some of you know my name is Frederick Hayes. I'm the jail administrator for Sampson County. I feel like we're in code red when it comes to detention staffing. You know some of the things that I wanted to point out is that within these next four weeks, I heard Ms. Dillman talk about staff coming and staff going. I wanted to address that. I've got four employees that I'm losing. In fact, I've already lost one to Johnston County. I'm losing one to Duplin County, already got the resignation letter. Losing one to the Red Springs Police Department. Losing one to the North Carolina Department of Corrections. That's putting me at sixteen vacancies. Not only is it putting me at sixteen vacancies, I have one out on maternity leave, I have one out on family medical leave, the doctor took one out on Friday, and then I have another one that had to go to the ER today because of high blood pressure. So, I'm having to juggle 46 staff members and I'm having to juggle with 23 being out. That's 50% of my staff. And then when I asked some of my staff why they are leaving, it is got to do with salary. It doesn't have to do with poor management or jail management. The reason I say that is because I am your reigning North Carolina Detention Jail Administrator of the Year. If I was that bad of an administrator, I wouldn't have been appointed that so I can't say that it's my management. So, I'm coming to you as the Board of Commissioners, I understand that we're waiting on this pay study, the Sheriff did not ask me to do this, I do this because it's my heart. My heart is for the people of Sampson County. My heart is for my employees. I had three staff members that got assaulted today. Now, had them three staff members had to go out, that would put me at 26 staff members. So, I'm just saying, I've come to the Board to plead, yeah, we've got this pay study in progress, but something needs to be done. We're in code red. It's urgent. I'm looking at, you know, I just had my semi-inspection back on July 19 of this year. That's my semi-inspection. I do two a year. The only thing I got gigged on was being overstaffed with females. Last jail inspection I didn't get gigged on anything. So that's why I said if I was such a bad jail administrator, we wouldn't have such a good jail inspection. I can't help when we're overcrowded. So, I'm pleading to the Board once again. Please do something as it comes to employees' salaries. Thank you for your time."

Recess to Reconvene

Upon a motion made by Chairman Kivett and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to Recess to Reconvene on Monday, September 25, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at Sampson Regional Medical Center for the Hospital Board of Trustees Annual Meeting.

/signed copy on file in Clerk's Office

R. Jerol Kivett, Chairman

/signed copy on file in Clerk's Office

Stephanie P. Shannon, Clerk to the Board