

The Sampson County Board of Commissioners convened for their regular meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 4, 2024, 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 Vice Chairperson Sue Lee. Commissioner Godwin provided the invocation and then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Upon a motion by Vice Chairperson Sue Lee and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as published.

Item 1: Reports & Presentations

Sampson Area Transportation Rebranding Chairman Kivett called upon Sampson Area Transportation Director Rosemarie Oates-Mobley who shared information regarding the upcoming name change and rebranding of her department. Mrs. Oates-Mobley shared that her department would be renamed Sampson County Public Transportation to improve public awareness about services that are provided and better serve the community. She also extended an invitation to the 1st Annual NC Eastern Region Public Transportation “Roadeo” on May 18, 2024, at the Clinton Expo Center from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Item 2: Planning & Zoning

R23-05 – Murphy Property Solutions, LLC Rezoning Chairman Kivett opened a public hearing and called upon Senior Planner Michelle Lance who reviewed a rezoning request by Dalton Murphy of Murphy Property Solutions, LLC, to rezone 10.60 acres of tax parcel 12044528003 from Residential Agricultural (RA) to Commercial (C). Mrs. Lance shared that this proposed rezoning was reviewed by the Sampson County Planning Board at its February 12, 2024 meeting. The Planning Board voted 5-0 to recommend the approval of the rezoning request and found it to be consistent with the Commercial designation and to positively align with the main purpose and intent of such designation. Chairman Kivett opened the floor for public comments and hearing none closed the public hearing. Upon a motion by Vice Chairperson Sue Lee and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to rezone the property as recommended by the Planning Board and adopt the following Zoning Consistency Statement: *The Sampson County Planning Board finds the proposed rezoning to be consistent with the Rural Residential Land Use designation and to positively align with the main purpose and intent of such designation. The Sampson County Planning Board finds that the rezoning request is reasonable and in best public interest and all other permitted uses included in the Commercial (C) Zoning District are reasonable and in best public interest and*

recommends approval to the Sampson County Board of Commissioners. The Sampson County Planning Board finds the proposed rezoning to be consistent with the land use plan.

Item 3: Action Items

Public Hearing – Close-Out of 2020 CDBG-NR Program Chairman Kivett opened a public hearing and called upon Tammy Daniels from The Adams Company. Ms. Daniels shared information regarding the 2020 CDBG-NR Program. She shared that the program funded three home reconstructions and one home rehabilitation. Chairman Kivett opened the floor for comments and hearing none closed the public hearing.

Presentation and Approval for Audit for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023 Chairman Kivett called upon Wade Greene who presented the Audit for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023. Mr. Greene reported that the County had a clean, single audit. Upon a motion by Commissioner Godwin and seconded by Commissioner Lethia Lee, the Board voted unanimously to accept and approve the audit subject to submission and subsequent approval by the Local Government Commission.

Item 4: Board Appointments

JCPC Upon a motion by Vice Chairperson Sue Lee and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Jim DeMay, Director of Public Safety Training at Sampson Community College to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council.

Trillium South Central Regional Advisory Board Upon a motion by Vice Chairperson Sue Lee and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Lynn Fields and JW Simmons to represent Sampson County on the local Regional Advisory Board for Trillium Health Services.

Item 5: 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 February 5, 2024 meeting (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
- b. Authorized Sampson County Emergency Services to accept a grant from the Homeland Security Grant Program for a Tabletop Exercise and approved the associated budget amendment
- c. Authorized Sampson County Emergency Services to accept a grant from the North Carolina Department of Information Technology/NC911 for portable radios and approved the associated budget amendment
- d. Authorized the withdrawal and disposal of all items that have been weeded from the collections of the Sampson-Clinton Public Library System and wrote off all items that have been donated to the library but not placed in the collection as of February 21, 2024
- e. Declared the service weapon used by Shawn Ford (Sig Sauer 9mm pistol, serial number 47A065637) as surplus and allowed it to be transferred to the retiring employee

- f. Approved budget amendments as submitted
- h. Approved tax refunds and releases as submitted

Item 5: County Manager's Report

Chairman Kivett called upon County Manager Ed Causey who commended Department Heads on their diligent work pertaining to the audit and expressed his appreciation for the leadership of the Board of Commissioners.

Item 6: Public Comment Period

Chairman Kivett opened the floor for public comments. The following were received:

Elaine F. Hunt, 7171 Old Warsaw Road, Turkey, NC – “Good evening. I know you know why I’m up here. Been here coming since 2022. Feel like we’re family now in some ways and in some ways I do not. I heard that it’s never the wrong time to do the right thing. The right thing is to help and assist those who have put you where you are at this moment. We like the others down our road desire to have County water. I have brought you all samples of the water. I have brought you a copy of the petition of people who desire to have County water. I have brought you copies of my washing machine inside after I washed a load of clothes. Now I bring to you a new towel that I just washed. If you can see, you can see stains on it. Brown discolored water after I wiped my washing machine this is what I got. We need County water, people. We need County water. I think it’s the right thing to do. I don’t think you all are hearing me. I think you see me but I think what I’m saying is falling on deaf ears and that is so discouraging because you wouldn’t be where you are if people such as myself wouldn’t have voted for you to help look after us and we need County water. I’ve been told that there are grants that you all know about or you can research and find out about and I’ve had some come to me and tell me not to give up hope but it seems hopeless but I will keep coming. And before I leave I have another problem. Now I have chickens and rabbits and dogs coming back and forth in my yard. I’ve called the Animal Control. I’ve called Sheriff Thornton. I talked to him this afternoon and I don’t hold it against him. He said there’s no place to store chickens and rabbits and there’s no funding. I don’t know what needs to be done but if I wanted chickens and rabbits I think I could go out and buy them for myself. I don’t want other neighbors’ chickens and rabbits coming in my yard and staying in my yard and making messes that I have to clean up. So to the addition of our desire and we desire and all who are in support of what I’m saying if you’ll stand up, if and as well as County water I want something done about that.”

Anthony Monds, 6248 Autry Mill Road, Godwin, NC – “I’m back. I want to piggy back on what the young lady just said. I have other issues that I care not to discuss at this moment but next month’s meeting I will be discussing them. One of the things I would like to submit to the Board is, as I stated last month, how does one get on these boards? I asked the Vice Chair and I filled...there, there isn’t an application, you have to call and I spoke to Ms. Shannon about it and she got my information and you have a citizen who’s willing to get on a board and for whatever reason I cannot get on a board. And so that is a major issue, one that I would like to

address tonight is how does one get on this board or these boards that I continue to see availability but I have not been contacted concerning a board and so that's one of my concerns. Another concern is that I believe that's vitally important is the fact of the matter that I believe by my since I've been attending is that there is a loss of touch with your constituents. Why does one have to come and beg for water when water is a necessity? We heard what the budget was and so on and so forth and water is a vital component for living and sustaining life. Clean water is vitally important for every citizen. It tends, and in this situation I have water, I have clean water and for those that do not it would seem to me if you have the availability to the desire to want to help your fellow constituents you will make a way. I also see that there's a disconnect also with the concerns that citizens brings to your attention from the time that I've been coming and observing and once again you may have forgotten or lost touch with the people who are out here this evening and that's a shame and so the definition of insanity is if you always do what you've always done you'll always get what you always got and it's apparent at this moment in time what we have gotten is not what is desired or nor wanted for the community and for Sampson County advancing onward and upward into prosperity and prosperity does not mean necessarily people's salaries in the sense of whatever they may be. It means that all of us go together. Not just one of us but all of us. Remember that. Y'all have a good evening."

James Faison, 393 Isham Frederick Road, Magnolia, NC - "Good evening. I am a former resident of Sampson County. I lived on Old Warsaw Road until I left for the military and so I can feel what these people are feeling with this water thing. I went through that in Duplin County up to about 15 years ago but now I have County water for the last 15 years. So, I know things can be done to get these people water. You know we have a tendency that, it takes a special person to feel for other people. Now if it's for you or your family, if you need something done you'll get it done. But when it's somebody else, a lot of times, its human nature, a lot of times people aren't going to make the extra effort to get stuff accomplished, but you've seen samples of water that these people are experiencing. How would you like to experience that or have family members have that same kind of water? I know what it's like because I've had it and it's not any fun. Rust in the back of your toilet, in your washing machine, smelling sulfur. It's not fun. So, all that these people's asking that, you know, like they said there's a lot of grants out there and one thing this country is good about helping others. We get clean water to other people in other countries, so you're telling me that we can't get water for people that's paying taxes that live here? I just ask you to put yourself in their place. Put your family members in their place and see how you feel or what you want somebody else to do. Thank you."

Lin Reynolds, 1435 Hollerin Road, Dunn, NC - "I'm here tonight to encourage all the registered voters that have not voted to get out and vote tomorrow. Each year the county and state employees are required to have their work performance evaluated. The voters will have the opportunity to evaluate the work performance of the County Commissioners for two districts tomorrow. The results at the ballot box will also be an indicator of how the Board as a whole is doing in the eyes of the voters in regards to the management of local government. The pandemic was a challenging time but one silver lining was government grants that allowed our County to install additional infrastructure and upgrade some buildings including a new 911 and EMS facility. I have a mailman that strows my mail, but I recently got a card from Mr. Kivett's campaign highlighting what this Board has accomplished even though I live about 8

