

The Sampson County Board of Commissioners convened for their regular meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, April 8, 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 who provided the invocation and then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Upon a motion by Chairman Kivett and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda with the following amendments:

- Removed Item 3C
- Added a Resolution Allowing the Disinterment, Removal, and Reinterment of Graves from the Joe B. Warren Industrial Park to the Consent Agenda

Item 1: Reports & Presentations

Water System Update Chairman Kivett called upon Public Works Director Mark Turlington who provided an update on the Water System as well as completed and ongoing water projects.

Item 2: Public Hearing - Naming of Private Road

Chairman Kivett opened a public hearing and called upon Clerk to the Board Stephanie Shannon who shared that the Road Naming Committee recommended that PVT 903EML-937 be named Quewhiffle Road. Chairman Kivett opened the floor for comments and hearing none closed the public hearing. Upon a motion by Commissioner Godwin and seconded by Commissioner Lethia Lee, the Board voted unanimously to name the private road as recommended by the Road Naming Committee.

Item 3: Action Items

Public Defender Office Space Chairman Kivett called upon Finance Officer David Clack who informed the Board that the Public Defender is seeking an office space to house a staff of five individuals, potentially eleven individuals, with a move-in date of May 1, 2024. County staff has found one location that meets the needs of the Public Defender with a negotiated price of \$3,900 per month with a five-year term. Upon a motion by Commissioner McLamb and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to authorize county staff to move forward with the Public Defender's Office Space Lease.

Sale of County Owned Property Chairman Kivett called upon County Attorney Joel Starling who informed the Board that the County has received an offer to purchase the property located

at 107 Underwood Street in the amount of \$25,000 from Pharming Company, LLC d/b/a Matthews Drug Store. He went on to explain that in accordance with N.C. General Statute § 160A-269, a notice of the proposed sale must be published describing the property and the amount of the offer, and also stating the terms under which the offer may be upset. Following the upset bid procedures, the Board of Commissioners must approve the final high offer. The property will be sold “as it, where is” and the buyer must pay with cash at the time of closing. If no qualifying upset bid is received after the initial public notice, the offer from Pharming Company, LLC d/b/a Matthews Drug Store will be accepted. Upon a motion by Commissioner Godwin and seconded by Commissioner McLamb, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the sale of the property through the upset bid procedure.

Item 4: Board Appointments

CVB Upon a motion by Vice Chairperson Sue Lee and seconded by Commissioner Lethia Lee the Board voted unanimously to remove the current commissioner position from the CVB Board of Directors. Upon a motion by Vice Chairperson Sue Lee and seconded by Commissioner Lethia Lee the Board voted unanimously to change the permanent position on the board from the Director of the Sampson County Exposition Center to the Director of Sampson County Economic Development.

Economic Development Advisory Board Upon a motion by Vice Chairperson Sue Lee and seconded by Chairman Kivett the Board voted unanimously to reappoint Gary Mac Herring, Jr., Bill Scott, and Bartley Warren to serve an additional three-year term. Upon a motion by Commissioner Sue Lee and seconded by Commissioner Godwin the Board voted unanimously to appoint Gary Mac Herring, Jr. to serve as the Chair for fiscal year 2024-2025.

Southeastern Economic Development Commission Upon a motion by Vice Chairperson Sue Lee and seconded by Chairman Kivett the Board voted unanimously to appoint Ray Jordan to serve on the SEDC Executive Board.

Item 5: Consent Agenda

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

(as Board of Commissioners)

- a. Approved the minutes of the November 20, 2023, November 27, 2023, December 14, 2023, December 28, 2023, and March 4, 2024 meetings (Copies filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
- b. Adopted a Proclamation Recognizing April 2024 as Child Abuse Prevention Month (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
- c. Adopted a Proclamation Recognizing May 2024 as Older Americans Month (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
- d. Approved a late property tax exemption request for Van Buren Solar, LLC
- e. Approved budget amendments as submitted

- f. Approved tax refunds and releases as submitted
- g. Adopted a Resolution Allowing the Disinterment, Removal, and Reinterment of Graves from the Joe B. Warren Industrial Park (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)

(as Board of Health)

- h. Approved Fee/CPT Code Update
- i. Approved Environmental Health Fee Update

Item 6: Board Information

The Board received the following items as information only:

- a. January 2, 2024 SCHD Health Advisory Committee Minutes
- b. 2023 SOTCH Report

Item 7: County Manager's Report

Chairman Kivett called upon County Manager Ed Causey who discussed the revamping of the County's website and suggested a meeting at 4:30 on Monday, May 6 for a presentation by the Web Development Team. Mr. Causey also informed the Board that the Cooperative Extension Office would like to provide lunch and an annual report on Wednesday, May 29 from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Item 6: Public Comment Period

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

Andrea Rouse - "Good evening. My name is Andrea Rouse and I live in Roseboro, North Carolina in the Snow Hill Community. I'm sure you all are familiar with Snow Hill and are probably sure, you know, what I'm going to talk about. I'm going to talk about the largest landfill in the state of North Carolina and the second largest methane-emitting landfill in the United States of America. A typical landfill has a life expectancy of fifty years. We celebrated that anniversary of fifty years in the Snow Hill Community in December of 2023. We've come to find out that this extension on the landfill in Snow Hill has been given twenty more years so the Snow Hill Community must suffer for twenty more years with this landfill. This tells me something. This is how I feel. It's just a feeling for me that we are not cared for in the Snow Hill Community. We have people who are dying, and I don't mean just randomly dying, but they're dying all the time. My family. People with issues with their kidneys. People with cancer. We just had a lady to die in our community and I was talking to some people from the state about what we're going through, and I pointed to her house and said, 'A lady right here, she just died, she was on dialysis. You see the house behind her? That's where her daughter and her son-in-law live. They both just died. Both on dialysis. Right behind them was my cousin. She just died in October. Guess what she was on. She was on dialysis.' That's the majority of people in Snow Hill and we really feel like that we're not getting any care. We don't

get anybody to come and talk to us to find out what's going on but we know we're going through this. We know we're going through this with this landfill. So, what we're asking for is some attention in Snow Hill. It's time to have the personal effect. We understand that you have to do stuff here on the Board and you have to make votes and vote on the budget and rezoning and all that stuff, but what about the people? The people that put you where you are. We have, District Four, we have our Commissioner Mrs. Lee here, but the responsibility of our community is not just on District Four, it's on all of you because we are a dying community. This is real. This is not a joke. I'm not just up here to talk so people can look at me. My people are dying and we need help in Snow Hill and not just the sicknesses but the buzzards. Have you heard about the vultures? They're tearing off our roofs. They're eating up our pets. Our children cannot go in the yard alone because of the buzzards. They're so aggressive. The landfill has purchased eight, eight effigies. What these are, are dead buzzards. They look like dead buzzards and you can put them up in your yard and they're supposed to scare off the buzzards. Eight effigies for a whole community from a billion dollar corporation. We can do better than this. That's all I've got to say. Thank you. Have a good evening."

Anthony Monds - "Good evening. I'm back. Okay, um, first and foremost I'd just like to say that there's been a change that we see that the people have spoke. There's a lot of people here this evening so I'd just like to submit to those of you who are here, some are going, others are staying, but just as Mrs. Rouse I'd like to piggyback on what she said because it ties in very eloquently with what I'm about to say. I said it last month and it bears worth repeating. This board has lost connection with the community. It seems to be you do not care about your constituents. It seems to be that there's a sense of, there's a clique within the community. People cannot get on boards. I seen again this evening that there was appointees that I've been, I put in for it October of last year and I've yet to get a call. Also anytime, and I'm speaking from personal experience, anytime when one comes against the authority of this board that there are retaliations, but when you do not care and you are not scared you stand and you continue to stand. So, I'd just like to say that whoever, well I know who the new board members would be but just remember this, as Mrs. Rouse said and I'd like to re-emphasize it, remember who put you here. The people have spoke last month and I think there's a couple more positions coming up in the future. Remember who put you here. I spoke with two of you prior to the elections a few months ago and you shared with me that it was only two of you so you could not do anything, so now you have some help. There's some cancers that lies within this board. There's some cancers that lies within the governmental systems of this county that needs to be eradicated. Prayerfully going forward, oh I'm standing here, I ain't scared. Trust me, I'm not scared. But going forward that you identify those cancers, that you eradicate those cancers. Get rid of those cancers. Being that I have already faced this board in the community, that was a battle, and as I said a month ago, when the question was asked to me what is spiritual warfare? You may have won the battle, but not the war. So, you will see me again very soon and the war will be won. Trust me when I say this. It will be won. So, going forward I'm not going anywhere. You all will continue to see me. I want a board position. I want a board position. I will say it every month until I get appointed to a board position. So, I'm a constituent, a taxpayer, I live in this county, so I want a board position. And I'm not talking about some pacifier position. Put me on one that has some type of authority where I can make some change. Thank you. Have a blessed evening."

Van Honeycutt – “My name is Wyman Vander Honeycutt. I live in Spivey’s Corner. I campaigned for Allen. He’s a good friend of mine. I voted for him and I’d vote for him again. I just want to get that out of the way. I understand that we’re going to a four-year assessment. I would feel more comfortable if the county could stay on the eight-year. And I know that the problem is that the property values sway so much during an eight-year period that its hard to recapture your revenue, but I also understand that a lot of other counties do a one-year advancement. They stay on the eight-year assessment and they do a one-year advancement and they go in and get the property values up to where they need to be but they stay on the eight-year assessment. When you go to a four-year assessment, I don’t have a lot of experience in County government so I’m speaking off the hip here. I feel like it’s more expensive. Its more burdensome on the tax office and we don’t need that. It’s more work on the County Commissioners and I know for a fact that other counties are paying sometimes over \$500,000 to \$800,000 to do these appraisals with these outside appraisal companies. Now, that’s a lot of money, guys. Next, on these appraisals, the north end versus the south end of the county. Everybody knows in Sampson County on the north end we’ve got Sandy Ridge, we’ve got some Marquis developments up there. People come from all over up north when they get these big retirements. They flee from up north. They come down with a \$4,000-\$5,000 retirement and they live like a rockstar in Sampson County. They love it. I’ve talked to them. Your houses on the north end of the county are 55 minutes from Raleigh. Now who in here thinks that a house that’s 55 minutes from Raleigh is going to be the same as a house around Harrells, the back side of Roseboro near the other county or Garland? There’s a big difference there, guys. And that’s part of the reason that everybody’s upset about these appraisals. We’ve got people that went over 100%. 130% difference. And I know we ain’t been assessed in a long time, I know that. I won’t looking for a 5% appreciation. I knew mine was going to be big, but mine came in way over 100%. And another thing we’ve got to remember in Sampson County is we’ve got older houses. My house was built in 1890. My great-grandfather was a County Commissioner. Ernest Baggett. His name is on that courthouse. My house is old. It’s drafty. I’ve got the old window weights in there. You know, it’s not sealed up. It’s not a country club house. It’s not a \$300,000-\$400,000 house. If I sold my house I’d be lucky to maybe get \$150,000-\$160,000 for it or something like that. Well it come in way higher than that. I’m not going to fuss and complain about it but something needs to be, there needs to be more feedback between the commissioners and the appraisal company. I think you need to have a voluntary position maybe. A liaison between the two so they can feed them back information because I don’t think the appraisal company did it on purpose. I just think they didn’t know. They do a lot of appraisals. They do appraisals all over the place. Ours isn’t the only county they do. Alright, next. Is that my time? Thank you very much.”

Elaine F. Hunt, 7171 Old Warsaw Road, Turkey, NC – “Good evening. I would like to ask those who stand in support of what I’m asking to please stand with me regarding the expansion of the water, county water. Before I get started on that, I want to say that I sympathize with the people who live near the landfill. And you know when you all got these positions you knew what was going to be required of you. Please try to figure out something to help them. I mean, its just terrible to listen to her talk about what was going on around the landfill. And Pastor Commissioner Godwin, I appreciate you asking my question. It was like you read my mind because surely I was going to mention that after he talked about Clement and Roseboro and every other place except Old Warsaw Road. So, I’m thankful that I realize now that you all are listening. Because for two years I was beginning to wonder. He who has ears let them hear. I

was beginning to wonder about you all but I'm thankful at least you all are listening. And I appreciate that I've heard what you've said, now we're going to watch what you do and we want you to do something. Talk, to me, is cheap. Action tells it all. You can get grants. I heard the man say you got grants for the other places. Find grants for Old Warsaw Road. And I will be back. I'm just like a bad cold. So, I will keep coming back because we need water. I'm paying thousands of dollars for filters. Had to get a five-gallon tank of something today. Money out of my pocket when I think you all could do something. And once again I say thank you, now show us something."

Sharon Lane - "Good evening, everyone. I just want to talk about the tax real quick with the Snow Hill community. Basically I'm like him. I have an older house. When I got my assessment mine went up to \$93,610. My problem with that is that I know you can't be everywhere, but in the Snow Hill Community we do have problems with buzzards. When I went to talk to the young man at the tax office I brought pictures. I started to bring them tonight and let you see where the buzzards be on the top of your roof. When you sleep it sounds like somebody is trying to break in your house. They nest in the top of the trees in the back of my yard. I had a little overflow one time and I called the state and they couldn't do nothing. I had to call a man to tear down some trees which fixed the problem, but when they water stood up it was like they were having a party at a pool. I had an animal, a dog. I heard my dog whimpering. When I went out the whole gate was covered by buzzards. I was scared. I ran and I got in my car and blew the horn and they looked at me like 'what are you doing because I'm not moving.' Me and my friend Renita Butts were standing in my yard talking and the buzzards flew down and came right toward us and we had to duck. My little grandsons, I don't let them go in my backyard. And the reason I told the young man this was, tell me how my house is going to sell when whoever comes sees this décor, this buzzard hanging in a tree. It's got to be there. And they come and they go. All I'm asking is for consideration for those of us that live around the landfill. The man told me it will not sell for that but it will sell. That's all I'm saying. I know it won't sell for what they gave me. I appreciate it making it look real good like it's of that value, but I can't sell it for that. So, all I'm asking is a little consideration for the Snow Hill community and the buzzards that we have to deal with. Thank you for your time."

Item 7: Closed Session - G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(3)&(a)(6)

Upon a motion by Vice Chairperson Sue Lee and seconded by Commissioner Godwin the Board voted unanimously to enter into Closed Session. Upon a motion by Commissioner Godwin and seconded by Vice Chairperson Sue Lee the Board voted unanimously to come out of Closed Session.

Recess to Reconvene

Upon a motion made by Vice Chairperson Sue Lee and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to Recess to Reconvene on Monday, May 6, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. in the Administrative Board Room.

/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