

The Sampson County Board of Commissioners convened for their regular meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, May 5, 2025, in the County Auditorium, 435 Rowan Road in Clinton, North Carolina. Members present: Chairman Allen McLamb, Vice Chairman Eric Pope and Commissioners Houston Crumpler III, Thaddeus Godwin, and Lethia Lee.

Chairman McLamb called the meeting to order and acknowledged Vice Chairman Pope who called upon Lt. Col. John Pendell of the Clinton High School JROTC. The Clinton High School JROTC presented the colors and Lt. Col. Pendell led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Darryl Price of the Sampson County Veterans Council provided the invocation.

Approval of Agenda

Upon a motion by Vice Chairman Pope and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to remove Item 3 from the agenda and to revisit this appointment at the June meeting. Upon a motion by Commissioner Crumpler and seconded by Commissioner Godwin the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as amended.

Item 1: Consent Agenda

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

(as Board of Commissioners)

- a. Approved the minutes of the April 7, 2025 meeting (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
- b. Authorized the execution of the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency Urgent Repair Program (URP26) Post-Approval Documentation
- c. Approved tax refunds and releases as submitted
- d. Approved budget amendments as submitted

(as Board of Health)

- e. Approved the SCHD Fees/CPT Code Update

Item 2: Action Items

Discussion and Review of Fire Contract Amendments and Fire Tax Rates Chairman McLamb called upon Interim County Manager Jeffrey Hudson who reviewed information presented at the Fire Commission meeting held on April 29, 2025. Mr. Hudson presented the Amended Fire Contracts and Fire Tax Rates for the following fire departments: Autryville, Clement, Clinton, Faison, Garland, Halls, Harrells, Herring, Jordan Chapel, Newton Grove, Plain View, Roseboro, Salemburg, and Spivey's

Corner. Upon a motion by Commissioner Crumpler and seconded by Commissioner Godwin the Board voted unanimously to approve the Amended Fire Contracts as presented.

Consideration of Public School Funding Formula Chairman McLamb called upon Interim County Manager Jeffrey Hudson who presented information on a proposed Public School Funding Formula. Mr. Hudson explained that both the Clinton City Schools and Sampson County Schools Boards of Education had voted to adopt the funding formula as proposed. He went on to add that creating a jointly-adopted school funding formula creates budgetary certainty for the years to come. Upon a motion by Commissioner Godwin and seconded by Commissioner Lee the Board voted unanimously to adopt the Public School Funding Formula and authorize the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners to execute the policy. Following the adoption of the funding formula, the Superintendents and Boards of Education from Sampson County Schools and Clinton City Schools were invited to join the Chairman for the official signing and photographs.

Requested Move of the Board of Elections and Creation of a Development Center Chairman McLamb called upon Interim County Manager Jeffrey Hudson who proposed moving the Sampson County Board of Elections Office to the space vacated by the Veteran's Services Office and the County's IT Department. This would allow Environmental Health, Building Inspections, and Planning to be co-located more efficiently in a building with a larger, consolidated citizen service area. Upon a motion by Commissioner Godwin and seconded by Commissioner Crumpler the Board voted unanimously to assign the office space currently occupied by Veteran's Services and IT to the Board of Elections, authorized the Board of Elections to continue using the space at the Sampson County Expo Center for early voting, and authorized the vacated Board of Elections space to be used for Planning, Inspections, and Environmental Health as the Development Center.

Lease of County Property – Tarheel Challenge Academy Chairman McLamb called upon Clerk to the Board Stephanie Fulton who reviewed a proposed lease renewal between Sampson County and the North Carolina Department of Administration on behalf of the Department of Public Safety, Division of National Guard, Tarheel Challenge Academy. Mrs. Fulton stated that the lease would be renewed for an additional ten years and that all terms and conditions of the lease would remain the same during the renewal period. Upon a motion by Vice Chairman Pope and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the lease renewal as requested by the North Carolina Department of Administration.

Purchase of Property from Town of Roseboro for Future EMS Building Chairman McLamb called upon Public Works Director Mark Turlington who shared that the Roseboro Town Council voted to sell a parcel of land to the County for a future EMS building. This project has been underway for over a year and the funds to purchase the property are in the County's current budget. The purchase of this property would allow the County to stop leasing property and eventually operate its own EMS station. Upon a motion by Commissioner Crumpler and seconded by Commissioner Godwin the Board voted unanimously to approve the purchase of property from the Town of Roseboro at a price of \$20,000.

Update on Ivanhoe Water Project Public Works Director Mark Turlington provided an update on the ongoing Ivanhoe Water Project.

Sampson County Contracts Policy Chairman McLamb called upon Finance Officer Melissa Burton who reviewed the proposed Contracts Policy. Upon a motion by Commissioner Crumpler and seconded by Commissioner Godwin the Board voted unanimously to approve the Contracts Policy as presented.

Revised and Updated Sampson County Purchasing Manual Finance Officer Melissa Burton reviewed proposed revisions and updates to the Sampson County Purchasing Manual. Upon a motion by Commissioner Godwin and seconded by Vice Chairman Pope the Board voted unanimously to approve the Revised and Updated Purchasing Manual as presented.

Board Appointment Policy Chairman McLamb called upon County Attorney Paul Allen who reviewed the proposed Board Appointment Policy. Upon a motion by Commissioner Crumpler and seconded by Vice Chairman Pope the Board voted unanimously to approve the Board Appointment Policy as presented.

Adopt a Proclamation Recognizing May as Older Americans Month Chairman McLamb called upon Aging Director Dana Hall who presented a Proclamation Recognizing May as Older Americans Month. Upon a motion by Vice Chairman Pope and seconded by Commissioner Crumpler the Board voted unanimously to adopt the proclamation as presented.

Item 3: Public Comment Period

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

Nathaniel Carter, 82 Crumpler Mill Road, Roseboro, NC – “Mr. Chairman, Mr. Co-Chair, Fellow Commissioners, and Mr. Hudson, I first wish to extend my gratitude for your service and the open-style communication that your leadership affords Sampson County and her residents. I remain confident that I speak for the majority of District 3 when I say that we certainly appreciate Mr. Crumpler and his outreach approach to local government and county business. So again, we thank you. Mr. Chairman I come here this evening to bring awareness for a global pandemic that now affects Sampson County and our local communities. Roadway litter. That is, trash in general. Roadway litter characterizes a controllable condition that harms everyone equally, presents imminent harm to people, wildlife, and the marine ecosystem, detracts businesses, incentivizes crime, poses a grave danger to rivers, lakes, waterways, and oceans, costs millions and millions of dollars for cleanup, diminishes self-pride and confidence, and presents direct and indirect complications for physical and mental health as well as economic longevity and general survivability. In fact, according to Deep Blue Sea, in 2016 the amount of plastic pollution entering marine environments annually was an estimated 9 to 23 million tons and without intervention that number is expected to rise to about 53 million tons per year by 2030. Likewise, some studies elicit positive correlations that link litter to physical health, which yields to probabilities suggesting the lack of litter intervention may catalyze long-term consequences such as infertility, cardiovascular issues, and cancer. For your review I’ve provided electronic documentation in the form of a literature review styled informative that addresses the implications of roadway litter should we continue upon our current trajectory. Along with a summary of findings, you will find a PowerPoint presentation that offers mitigation solutions whereby neighboring counties have adopted measures that successfully address such trashy behaviors. I encourage you to review the material at your earliest convenience and I look forward to all proposals by this commission in using every necessary power invested to take out the trash in Sampson County once and for all. Thank you for your time and I appreciate you allowing me the opportunity to share this with you this evening. Thank you.”

Elaine F. Hunt, 7171 Old Warsaw Road, Turkey, NC – “Good evening. I was here mainly to get an update and to get acknowledgement of the grant application being submitted so I thank Mr. Turlington

for giving that information before I stood and we thank him for all that he is doing along with the commissioners. You feel good about the application, we're going to feel good too but while we wait, we're also going to pray. And again, I thank you for letting us know that the grant application was submitted Wednesday, which was April 30, the deadline. Thank you."

Anthony Monds – "Good evening. I'm not speaking to you all this evening, I'm speaking to that camera. So, with that being said, this is where I thrive. You know I was on television for five years. So, this is an issue that I've discussed with individuals, each one of you individually. I'm not going anywhere. It's still the same issue. Your DSS Department is extremely corrupt so those of you who are looking live or are looking at this at a later date, I'm going to ask you to get in touch with me 910-286-6604. There's a major issue there being other individuals been going through the same thing that my family and I have endured for four years. This is a major issue in Sampson County and just as I stated back in November when the current director was stepping down I said there would be no change. It's gotten worse, and this is intel from inside. There's no point in going to the Human Resources office because I have dealt with that particular individual and there's, as I said before and I've said many times, if you have cancer you want it all out. Now, the honeymoon is over. I understand that the budget has been done and you all have gotten your feet wet so let's deal with some other issues that are prevalent concerning the citizens of Sampson County. Once again, I'm speaking to the camera. If you have had any dealings with the DSS department of Sampson County please get in touch with me because we're placing and putting together a radical movement and there have been individuals who have reached out to me personally who is just like our story but they have taken out our names and placed their names in it. I'm trying to stay as cordial as possible because unless you've been where I've been and dealt with what I've dealt with you really don't understand. If you haven't lost a loved one to cancer or some time of ailment you don't know what the person is going through until your child, grandchild, or whatnot has been taken through unscrupulous activities and corruption and the list goes on and on and on and on. Now, the gloves are off. Now, I've been as patient as possible with this county. And so, once again, if you have had an issue with DSS in Sampson County get in touch with me. 910-286-6604. This is a movement that is about to burst. Thank you. Y'all have a blessed evening."

Larry Sutton – "Good evening, Mr. Chairman and commissioners and other support staff members. I want to first of all extend my support to the gentleman who mentioned the idea about the clean-up campaign for Sampson County and I would also like to extend my continued support for the water infrastructure projects that are being planned hopefully for Sampson County and anything that's positive and uplifting for Sampson County, include me in that as well. And tonight, I'm going to be a little different. I'm going to illustrate this facsimile of the American Flag. I know it's turned upside down...for a purpose. It's upside down because I want to express my distress over what's happening, primarily on a national level with our politics in this country and my fear is what's happening on the national level is going to trickle down to the state and the county as well. I have no doubt that the policies and programs that are being cut, that are being gutted on the national level are going to eventually impact us here locally as well. It's coming. Brace yourself. And I am concerned and I hope you all are as well because I don't have very many pleasant words to describe what's happening on the national scene. Words like 'lawless' come to mind. Words like 'reckless' come to mind. So tonight, I want to express my distress on the plight of America during these last 100 days in this country and I hope it doesn't affect us here locally too much, but when it does, be forewarned. We are living in perilous times, and I hope you are aware of that and will take actions to address it in the future. Thank you."

Delbridge Peterson – “Y’all know everybody in the county that their property has doubled in value and a lot of people, the older people ain’t able to work now and during the 70s they were fighting 21.5% interest. They lost farms, they lost homes, and then in the 80s the financial nation like to have collapsed and few on them had retirements and the companies filed bankruptcy and some of them has had to drop their homeowner’s insurance, some of them has had to drop their supplement insurance. Their homeowners, everything’s gone up and everybody’s has it ain’t just senior citizens and their income was raised 2.5 and the county’s wanting more tax money they say, way back there, I don’t know where they are or they ain’t but they can’t afford no more taxes and it says ‘if you don’t pay it, we’re going to sell your stuff’ and so I would suggest if that happens you need to be seeing if you can get some grant money and build a senior citizens home to move them in. And you should not, ever who passed those laws whether it’s y’all or the state, they should be the one to have to go out there to drag them out of the house when it’s sold and not send the sheriff’s deputy out there and endanger their life. So, senior citizens in the county and the state need to wake up and quit watching tv and come over here and try to explain it and you only got three minutes to say something and it should be able to get four minutes if you need it. I thought we’re supposed to have freedom of speech in this nation, but they only let you speak just three minutes and everybody taxpayers. And anybody that wants their taxes raised next fall raise your hand. So that looks like it was anonymous don’t it?”

Item 7: County Manager’s Report

Chairman McLamb called upon Interim County Manager Jeffrey Hudson who discussed the ongoing problem of animal waste spills. He also discussed reorganized county departments, the hiring freeze, and reiterated that no county employees lost jobs due to the reorganization. This reorganization allowed county employees to retain their jobs and benefits while cutting costs through attrition. The Board addressed questions from members of the audience regarding the animal waste spills and possible courses of action. Commissioner Crumpler raised concerns about lifting the hiring freeze too quickly. Mr. Hudson stated that the attrition has allowed him to balance the budget equitably and that he believes it’s important for the county to continue to provide services and have the personnel necessary to do so.

Item 8: Commissioners’ Comments and Reports

The Board continued to discuss the hiring freeze and commended the work done by department heads and county staff to make the upcoming budget as efficient as possible. Mr. Hudson suggested that department heads not issue offers of employment before he personally reviewed them to insure that unnecessary tax dollars were not being expended.

Item 9: Closed Session – N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(6) - Personnel

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Crumpler and seconded by Commissioner Godwin the Board voted unanimously to enter into Closed Session. Upon a motion by Vice Chairman Pope and seconded by Commissioner Crumpler the Board voted unanimously to come out of Closed Session. Upon a motion by Commissioner Godwin and seconded by Commissioner Crumpler the Board voted unanimously to amend the County Attorney’s contract, adjusting the residency requirements.

Adjournment

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

/signed copy on file in Clerk's Office

C. Allen McLamb, Chairman

/signed copy on file in Clerk's Office

Stephanie P. Fulton, Clerk to the Board