

The Sampson County Board of Commissioners convened for their regular meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, July 13, 2026, in the County Auditorium, 435 Rowan Road, Clinton, North Carolina. Members present: Chairman Allen McLamb, Vice Chairman Eric Pope, and Commissioners Houston Crumpler, III, and Lethia Lee. Members absent: Thaddeus Godwin.

Chairman McLamb called the meeting to order and acknowledged Vice Chairman Pope who called upon members of the Sampson County Veterans Council to lead the Pledge of Allegiance and provide the invocation.

Approval of Agenda

Upon a motion by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Vice Chairman Pope the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda with the following amendments:

- Removed Item 4E

Item 1: Public Information

Chairman McLamb called upon Debbie Roberts with the Clinton Main Street Program who provided an update on the Dinner on Main Event and proposed renovations to the existing water fountain at the Sampson County Courthouse to make it functional again.

Chairman McLamb called upon Interim Public Works Director Ashley Holland who provided an update on current and ongoing water projects and also reviewed voluntary water conservation methods.

Item 2: Consent Agenda

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

- a) Approved the minutes of the June 16, 2025, June 18, 2025, June 20, 2025, June 27, 2025, August 19, 2025, June 1, 2026, June 15, 2026, and June 22, 2026 meetings
- b) Approved the updated Sampson County Public Transportation Drug and Alcohol Policy
- c) Authorized the execution of Cooperative Service Agreements between Sampson County and the USDA APHIS WS for Beaver Management
- d) Authorized the execution of an Interlocal Agreement for the Transfer, Detention, and Care of Duplin County Inmates
- e) Authorized the surplus of the service weapon used by Dewayne Barber and the transfer of the weapon to Mr. Barber upon his retirement

- f) Awarded the contract for animal spills and response to Soles Automotive Towing, Inc.
- g) Awarded the cost-per-copy contract to CopyPro
- h) Authorized the Sheriff's Office to pursue funds from the 2025 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant in the amount of \$10,781 with a county match of \$533 from seized asset funds to replace audio/video recording equipment in the interview rooms at the Sheriff's Office
- i) Authorized the execution of a contract between Sampson County DSS and Vanguard Professional Staffing for temporary staffing services
- j) Authorized the execution of a contract between the Sampson County Health Department and K&A Morrissey Cleaning Services for janitorial services
- k) Approved late disabled veteran tax exclusion requests for Phachita Moore and Oren Keith Cockman, Jr.
- l) Approved tax refunds and releases as submitted
- m) Approved budget amendments as submitted

Item 3: Public Hearing

Chairman McLamb opened a public hearing and called upon Sampson Area Public Transportation director Rosemarie Oates-Mobley who explained that a public hearing is required for FY28 grants. Chairman McLamb opened the floor for public comments and hearing none closed the public hearing. Upon a motion by Vice Chairman Pope and seconded by Commissioner Lee the Board voted unanimously to authorize the application for FY28 Public Transportation Grants.

Item 4: Action Items

Sampson Area Public Transportation Grants Chairman McLamb acknowledged Mrs. Oates-Mobley again who stated that Sampson Area Public Transportation has been approved for two new coordination grants from NCDOT/IMD for FY27. The first grant is in the amount of \$200,000 and will support the cost of transporting students to and from SCC. The second grant is in the amount of \$600,000 and will support the transportation of Sampson, Duplin, and Bladen County residents to Fayetteville, N.C. Both grants are funded 100% through state funds for a one-year period, from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, or until all available funds have been exhausted, whichever occurs first. Upon a motion by Vice Chairman Pope and seconded by Commissioner Lee the Board voted unanimously to accept the grants from NCDOT/IMD.

Annual Tax Settlement Chairman McLamb called upon Tax Administrator Jim Johnson who provided the annual tax settlement report. Upon a motion by Commissioner Crumpler and seconded

by Vice Chairman Pope the Board voted unanimously to accept the annual tax settlement and charge Mr. Johnson with collecting the FY 2026-2027 property taxes.

Non-Discrimination Policy and Notices Chairman McLamb called upon Finance Officer Melissa Burton who reviewed the County's Non-Discrimination Policy which was created pursuant to EPA regulations. Upon a motion by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Crumpler the Board voted unanimously to approve the Non-Discrimination Policy and notice as presented.

Item 5: Board Appointments

Upon a motion by Vice Chairman Pope and seconded by Commissioner Crumpler the Board voted unanimously to appoint Floria Oates-Williams to the Sampson Community College Board of Trustees.

Item 6: Information Items

The Board received the following items for information only:

- Board of Health Operating Procedures Policy
- SCHD Health Advisory Conflict of Interest Policy
- SCHD Health Advisory Operating Procedures Policy
- SCHD HIPPA Policy
- SCHD FISCAL Policy
- SCHD Health Advisory Minutes – February 16, 2026

Item 7: Public Comment

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

Dr. Ruby Bell – “Happy Monday. I am Ruby Bell. My address is 2812 East Darden Road, Faison, North Carolina on the Sampson County side. I am a community organizer for Impacted Communities Against the Wood Pellets Coalition. We are a coalition of neighbors, parents, and young people from the counties most impacted by wood pellet production. We fight for forest protection and environmental justice in North Carolina. We work with Dogwood Alliance organizing to hold polluters accountable and build a healthier future for our families. For those who don't know, we have a wood pellet production industry in Sampson County that started production of wood pellets in 2016 known as Enviva Sampson. Enviva uses trees sourced from North Carolina to make wood pellets to be shipped overseas to be used for electricity. We don't use it for electricity, but we ship it out for that purpose. There are four wood pellet facilities in North Carolina. They're located in Ahoskie, which is Hertford County, Garysburg, which is Northampton County, Hamlet, which is Richmond County, and of course, Faison here in Samson County. My home is located 4.3 miles from Enviva Sampson. Enviva is a bad neighbor producing fine particulate matter, dust, chemical pollution, noise, truck traffic, and they operate 24/7. My community needs help. Please join us for the Wood Pellet Town Hall meeting Friday, July the 17th at 10:00 from 10:00 to 1:00 at the EJCAN headquarters located 200 Northeast Boulevard here in Clinton. This is of course a free event. I've emailed each of you an invitation commissioners, so I hope you will find that and I hope that you will attend. For anyone else in the audience, if you're interested, see me before I leave. Thank you for your time, but I will be back.”

Wendy Graczyk – “Good evening, commissioners. Um, I'd like to speak to you tonight about the Planning and Inspections department. Their recent announcement regarding the site plan requirements for new residential construction. My concern isn't simply the policy itself. It's also the process, the conflicting explanations, whether requirement is clearly authorized. The notice posted on the county's website is titled New Site Plan Requirements starting August 1st. It states that beginning August 1st, new homes will require a new site plan prepared by a licensed surveyor. However, after questions were raised by the public, the explanation changed. We were told that they are not actually new requirements, but simply enforcement of existing standards. And those two explanations can't both be true. Um, if this has always been required, then why was it announced as a new requirement? And if it is changes in the policy or enforcement, who approved it? As I researched the issue, I could find nowhere in any North Carolina law that requires every applicant for a new residential zoning permit to hire a licensed land surveyor. Counties certainly have the authority to adopt local requirements, but if this is a Sampson County requirement, then the public deserves to know exactly what ordinance authorizes it. The department has pointed to the zoning ordinance. You have the county zone published guidance referencing it as section 2.202. 202C states that a survey plan site may be required. A new announcement says it will be required. May and will is not the same thing. I understand the reasons that have been given. Better plans reduce mistakes. Better plans improve efficiency, reduce liability. Those are all worthwhile goals. However, let's be honest about who's being asked to pay for that efficiency. And the burden isn't being placed on the department, It is being placed on the citizens. If the problem is incomplete, accurate application, then strengthen the application process, require more detailed site plans, require better measurements, reject incomplete applications. These are reasonable administrative improvements, but before requiring every citizen to spend hundreds or even thousands of additional dollars on a licensed surveyor, this board should ensure that the requirement is clearly authorized, legally supported, and openly discussed. So, I respectfully ask four questions. First, is this a requirement by Sampson County? Second, what specific section of the Sampson County Zoning Ordinance requires every new resident applicant to supply to submit a plan that is prepared by a licensed surveyor? Third, if this has always been required, why is it announced as a new site plan? And finally, will this board pause implementation until the legal authority is clearly identified? The policy can be publicly reviewed. Government works best when changes affecting private property rights are transparent, legally supported, and openly debated, not simply announced. Thank you.”

Brad Coats – “I'm Brad Coats, 2006 Morris Bridge Road. Just to follow up with what Wendy was saying, I think she did a great job. I'm a builder and I'm a trade. I have several licenses. But on her topic, we have no surveyors in this county. Go to North Carolina surveyors. There's not a single one listed for this county. Uh so that's another problem. I mean, the county's dealing with it with no people qualified. If I need a survey to start a construction job, where can I find them? A prime example, I have a personal piece of property I'm building a house on. I applied for a permit 417 days ago, and it's been tied up between zoning, surveyors, and a septic tank permit. If that's acceptable for this county, and I can build in Pender County in less than a year, which is way more populated than Sampson, I see that we have a problem. I've applied for permits. It's taken over 14 days to get an electrical permit. I understand we have problems, but how is that acceptable with my business if I've planned a two weeks out to start a job and ain't even got a permit? I think two weeks is way more time necessary to fill out a permit. I understand the inspection process. We're behind, don't have inspectors, but I can't even get the permit to complete the job. I mean, that's all I can say. Thanks for y'all's time.”

Anthony Monds – “Good evening. I'm here this evening um to provide notice in accordance with the USCS rules of civil procedure as well as rule 17 and rule 20 from the United States Supreme Court the constitution of the United States Supreme Law of the Land. No state, no county and no court has authority to create and enforce policies that contradict the constitution or deprive citizens of their security and protected rights. Yet this is happening every day. Not only in Sampson County, but in the United States, across this nation, children are being removed from fit and loving parents, not for abuse, not for danger, but for profit. Under Title 4D and Title 4E federal funding, states and counties receive financial incentives tied to the removal, separation, and adoption of children. This means the system profits when families are torn apart. A federal pipeline of money has turned our children to financial commodities. Unfortunately, this is not conspiracy. This is codified federal funding. It is true that a portion of the county's budget contributes to the operation of the federal uh court's participation in unlawful removal of children fit from fit loving healthy parents without due process of law without jury trials and without preponderance of evidence. When government officials, including judges, attorneys in the clerk of court, law enforcement, and other county funding agency knowingly or negligently deprive citizens of their rights that are secured and protected by the constitution that is uh federal law under 18 USC 242, when two or more agents operate under the color of the law to provide children and families of their rights, it becomes a criminal conspiracy. Under 18 USC 241, when state actors deprive individuals of rights in exchange for federal finance gains, such conducts constitutional unlawful enrollment under article 1, section two. This also a pattern of rights-based exploitation, which is in many cases include kidnapping, bribery, extortion, and sometimes murder. In other words, that's the RICO law. Moving forward, all this will be in the paperwork I'm going to submit to you. As elected officials, you swore an oath to uphold the constitution because this commission allow uh allocates funding that enables these courts and state actors to operate. Continuing to fund these unconstitutional practices after receiving notice places this commission at risk of being implicated in ongoing violations. We are calling on you to immediately, immediately. We're calling on you to immediately withhold any county level funding that supports or enables these actions until compliance with the constitution restored. And every child that's being removed unlawfully is returned to their prospective homes. Our children are not for sale. Parents are not revenue streams. And no system that profits from the destruction of families has the moral and constitutional authority to exist. I'm going to serve each commissioner with this right here and also I like to implement it on record and continue and consider yourselves served.”

Cost Barksdale – “I'm Cost Barksdale with the nonprofit organization Living with a Purpose. I come to talk about the tragedy that happened on June 12th. I just want to ask some questions. How would you feel if you got a call early in the morning saying your child has been killed? How would you feel hearing that and finding that your child was murdered by the people who have taken and sworn the oath to protect you? How would you feel knowing your child had a mental health problem and all he is doing is pleading for help? How would you feel when the family finally sees the body his chest has been carved out so no one can see how many times he's been shot. So, what's going on? Ask these questions because this happened to Mr. Shawn West Jr. Now the question is what kind of training or has any been put in place for officers to deal with mental health patients? Why was he shot so many times allegedly having a knife? And why aren't the police officers who committed this crime because why and why aren't the officers fired who committed these crime because these are not officers that I or the community need to try to protect us. I understand they are put on administrative leave, but their badges need to be taken. If this was justified, then why wasn't the body cam footage released? If this

was your child, wouldn't you be seeking justice? And some of the red flags were that he was picked up from his job on Monday and took by Sampson County. He was took to ECU. He was picked up on Thursday by Sampson County. So, when he called the Duplin County had to transfer him to Sampson County. It's on the 911. So why wasn't a red flag thrown up saying that this is the person that we've been dealing with and we took to mental health and we took to ECU. Why didn't this happen? Lastly, the family had talked to the SBI wanted some answers. They told him to talk to the DA. I think his name Mr. Ernie Lee when they called him he said that he didn't know anything about this case. So, what's going on Sampson County? Because right now anybody could see that something is really going on. Stevie Wonder could see this. So, we ask y'all for some answers please.”

Item 8: County Manager's Comments

Chairman McLamb called upon County Manager Allen Vann who introduced Josh Deaver as the new Emergency Services Director. Mr. Vann also shared information about a potential ½ cent sales tax referendum. Finally, Mr. Vann shared information regarding the codification of county ordinances and particularly recognized Clerk to the Board Stephanie Fulton as well as Special Projects Administrator Brandon Wiggins. After some clarification on the Planning and Zoning regulations and a motion made and duly seconded, the Board voted unanimously to suspend the new regulations until after the August meeting.

Item 9: Commissioners' Comments

Chairman McLamb opened the floor for commissioners' comments. None were received.

Item 10: Closed Session – N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(3) [Attorney/Client Privilege]

Upon a motion by Vice Chairman Pope and seconded by Commissioner Crumpler the Board voted to enter into Closed Session. Upon a motion by Commissioner Crumpler and seconded by Vice Chairman Pope the Board voted unanimously to come out of Closed Session.

Action Items (Presented later due to Board of Education meeting time conflict.)

Hobbton High School Greatest Maximum Price Chairman McLamb called upon Sampson County Schools Superintendent Dr. Jamie King who reviewed the Greatest Maximum Price for the new Hobbton High School. Upon a motion by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Vice Chairman Pope the Board voted unanimously to approve the GMP as presented. Upon a motion by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Vice Chairman Pope the Board voted unanimously to approve the appropriation of \$2M from the County Schools Capital Reserve Fund to restore two alternate items as a change order to the GMP.

Adjournment

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

/signed copy on file in Clerk's Office

C. Allen McLamb, Chairperson

/signed copy on file in Clerk's Office

Stephanie P. Fulton, Clerk to the Board