

The Sampson County Board of Commissioners convened for their regular meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, September 14, 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, Thaddeus Godwin, and Lethia Lee.

Chairman McLamb called the meeting to order and acknowledged Vice Chairman Pope who called upon members of the Sampson County Veterans Council to provide the invocation and Boy Scouts of America Troop 80 to join them in leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Upon a motion by Commissioner Crumpler and seconded by Commissioner Godwin the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as published.

Item 1: Public Information

Chairman McLamb called upon Dalton Dockery, Southeast District Extension Director for North Carolina Cooperative Extension, who presented the Board with the County Partnership Award. Sampson County was one of only seven counties in the state to receive the award which recognizes outstanding commitment of resources, inclusion of Extension in County Government, and advocacy for and involvement in Extension programs.

Chairman McLamb called upon Victoria Jackson, former Regional Vice President of Trillium Health Resources. Ms. Jackson informed the Board that she is now serving as the Senior Vice President of Trillium Health Resources and thanked them for the opportunity to work together. Ms. Jackson then introduced her successor, South Central Regional Vice President Catrina McKinnon. Ms. McKinnon presented the Trillium Health Resources Annual Report.

Chairman McLamb called upon Elections Director Niya Rayner for a “Department Spotlight.” Ms. Rayner shared an overview of the Elections Department and also provided important information regarding the upcoming election.

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

Item 2: Consent Agenda

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

- a) Approved the minutes of the August 3, 2026 special called meeting and the August 3, 2026 regular meeting

- b) Ratified the Chairman's signature on the Compliance with State Aid Eligibility Rules form for the Sampson-Clinton Public Library
- c) Ratified the Chairman's signature on a letter of support for Phinite, Inc.
- d) Adopted a Resolution Appointing Plat Review Officers
- e) Approved an interlocal agreement allowing the Sampson Clinton Public Library to lend materials to Sampson Correctional Institute
- f) Approved a contract between the Sampson County Health Department and Bonnie Matthews, R.PH for Pharmacist Services
- g) Approved a contract between Sampson County DSS and the Sampson County Sheriff's Office for Child Support Civil Officer Services
- h) Approved a contract between Sampson County DSS and the Sampson County Sheriff's Office for Juvenile Court Officer/Investigator Services
- i) Approved a contract between Sampson County DSS and Generations Family Services for Guardianship/Case Management Services
- j) Approved a contract between Sampson County DSS and ADR Consultants, Inc. for Child and Family Team Meetings Facilitation Services
- k) Approved a contract between Sampson County DSS and Clinton Police Department for Juvenile Court Officer/Investigator Services
- l) Approved a contract between the Sampson County Health Department and Clinton City Schools for School Nursing Services
- m) Approved a contract between the Sampson County Health Department and Sampson County Schools for School Nursing Services
- n) Approved a contract between Sampson County DSS and Just-Rite Cleaning Services for Janitorial Services
- o) Approved a contract between Sampson County and William C. Oglesby, Jr. D.V.M. for Veterinary Services

- p) Approved updated Sampson County Purchasing Manual to incorporate recently approved changes in the NC General Statutes
- q) Approved Capital Project Ordinance for Apron & Taxilane Construction
- r) Approved purchase agreement with Weatherstem to purchase equipment to be covered by the NC NGWSGP grant
- s) Approved late disabled veteran and elderly tax exclusion requests for Arthur D. Nuss, Merlowese Devane Bradley, Celestine A. Wright, Tammy Newman, Rebecca Lynn Carter, Dixie O. Jordan, Roger Clarence Wells, Otis Beasley, James N. Ragland, Jr., Daiien Anthony Pittman, Daniel Iorizzo, Myles Nelson Stinney, Harvey F. Reagan, Brittany Y. Peebles, Glenda Raynor Carraway, Billy Lambert Godwin
- t) Approved tax refunds and releases as submitted
- u) Approved budget amendments as submitted

Item 3: Action Items

Taylor's Bridge and King Road Well Head Completion Chairman McLamb called upon Ashley Holland who informed the Board that the proposed projects include detailed design, permitting, and funding administration services for the wellhead completion at the Taylor's Bridge site, as well as detailed design and permitting services for the wellhead completion at the King Road site. The County received funding from the NC Division of Water Infrastructure (DWI) through the State Reserve Earmark funding program for up to \$1,255,000 for the Taylor's Bridge project. The County received funding from the NC State Capital and Infrastructure Fund (SCIF) for up to \$9,000,000, with \$1,100,000 allocated for the King Road project. Upon a motion by Commissioner Crumpler and seconded by Commissioner Godwin the Board voted unanimously to approve Task Order No. 29 for the Taylor's Bridge Well Head Completion Project. Upon a motion by Commissioner Crumpler and seconded by Commissioner Godwin the Board voted unanimously to approve Task Order No. 30 for the King Road Well Head Completion Project.

Sampson Middle School Roof Funding Chairman McLamb called upon County Manager Allen Vann who stated that there have been multiple discussions with Clinton City Schools regarding replacement of the Sampson Middle School Roof, rather than continuing to spend money on repairs that aren't lasting. In the FY25-26 budget, \$1M was allocated from sales tax capital outlay to assist with Phase 1 of that endeavor. Clinton City Schools advised that there would be economies of scale in completing Phase 2 at the same time and they are requesting \$1,125,177 from the City Schools Capital reserve to complete the 2nd phase. Upon a motion by Commissioner Crumpler and seconded by Commissioner Godwin the Board voted unanimously to approve the budget amendment appropriating the unspent funds from Phase 1 in the amount of \$826,060.88. Upon a motion by Commissioner Crumpler and seconded by Commissioner Godwin the Board voted unanimously to

approve the budget amendment appropriating \$1,125,177 from the Clinton City Schools Capital Reserve Fund.

JBW Industrial Park Engineering Funding Chairman McLamb called upon Economic Development Director Ray Jordan who requested that the Board consider allocating \$250,000 from the Economic Development Reserve Account for the continued planning and phased development of the Joe Britt Warren Industrial Park in Newton Grove. Upon a motion by Vice Chairman Pope and seconded by Commissioner Godwin the Board voted unanimously to approve an allocation of \$250,000 from the Economic Development Reserve Account for the purpose of contracting for engineering, design, planning, and related professional services necessary to advance the phased development of the JBW Industrial Park.

Item 4: Public Comment

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

Elaine F. Hunt – “My name is Elaine Hunt. I reside at 7171 Old Warsaw Road, Turkey, North Carolina., and first I would like to surprise and I know to some of you it will be...I would like to publicly thank whoever initiated all the work that has been done or is being done on old Warsaw Road and whoever initiated it. NCDOT have put up guard rails on alongside the bridge where a tragedy occurred recently and I thank you. They have come and trimmed the trees with the limbs that's overhanging on the highway which appear to be dangerous especially during the storms and I thank you. And last they patched Old Warsaw Road in the vicinity of 7171 Old Warsaw Road and we thank you for that. So, for all the work that has been done on behalf of the group that usually comes before you, I'm here to publicly thank you. They have done an excellent job. Now, secondly, my ongoing concern, and I thank you, Commissioner Crumpler, for the question you asked because that was on my list to ask, but I heard the gentleman say there's no timeline that he can give. But we come before you because I believe out of sight, out of mind. And I don't want any of you to forget old Warsaw Road in the vicinity of 7171 Warsaw Road. So, I thank you for what you have done and I thank you for what you're going to do in the future. Thank you.”

Item 5: County Manager's Comments

Chairman McLamb called upon County Manager Allen Vann who introduced the new Assistant County Manager, Kevin Lowther. Mr. Lowther expressed his excitement and gratitude for the opportunity to work with the Board and Sampson County as a whole. Mr. Vann then touched on the Tax Office Peer Review being provided by NCACC as well as several upcoming local events.

Item 6: Commissioners' Comments

Chairman McLamb opened the floor for commissioners' comments. Commissioner Crumpler provided the following statement:

“I would like to briefly address something I have discussed with each of you, my fellow commissioners, concerning our future fiscal planning in light of the potential for additional sales and

use tax revenue if the half-cent referendum is approved in November. As we look ahead to next year's budget, if the sales tax is approved by the voters, I believe we should continue looking for opportunities to provide property tax relief while still meeting the obligations and service needs of Sampson County. As part of that planning, if this additional sales tax revenue becomes available to the County, I intend to advocate that this Board consider reducing the property tax rate by approximately one cent next year. I want to be clear: I am not making a pledge on behalf of this Board, nor can this Board bind a future Board to a particular tax rate. Any reduction would have to be considered during the normal budget process and would depend upon actual revenues, expenditures and the financial condition of the County at that time. But I do believe it is appropriate for us to begin having that discussion now. If our revenues allow us to reduce the burden on property taxpayers while continuing to meet our responsibilities to education, public safety and other essential county services, I believe we should seriously consider doing so. If the citizens of Sampson County ultimately approve an additional sales tax, I believe we should make every reasonable effort during the next budget process to return some measure of relief to those same citizens through the property tax rate. At the same time, while the County's finances remain stretched thin, we as a Board need to continue setting the tone and policy that County government must find ways to live within its means. Additional revenue should not relieve us of our responsibility to control spending, operate efficiently and be good stewards of the taxpayers' money." Commissioner Crumpler reiterated that if the sales tax referendum is approved, he hopes to advocate for lowering the property tax rate by one cent during the next budget process.

Vice Chairman Pope commented that he agrees with Commissioner Crumpler. He also clarified that the Board did not vote to raise sales tax, only that they are providing the citizens an opportunity to make a decision. Vice Chairman Pope stated that as the county grows, more streams of income will be needed. He stated that increased sales tax or increased property tax could be options, but that he will not vote for another property tax increase. He also stated that county services could potentially be cut if funding is not available through these channels and that an increased sales tax would allow some of the burden to be taken off property owners. Vice Chairman Pope then invited BSA Troop 80 up for a photo with the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Godwin touched on the effects that tax rates have on the community. He stated that the sales tax gives each citizen the opportunity to make an impact and that it could enhance county projects going forward. Commissioner Godwin also spoke about SNAP benefits and challenges that counties all over the state are experiencing.

Commissioner Lee reiterated that the Commissioners are in favor of the sales tax referendum. She stated that it is vital to the support and growth of Sampson County.

Chairman McLamb expressed that the Board is all on the same page regarding the sales tax referendum. He also stated that we may be a tier 1 county, but that we are rich in people and that is what matters most. Chairman McLamb went on to share that he and Mr. Vann attended the NCACC Conference and that he will serve on the Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee as well as the Executive Committee.

Item 7: Closed Session – N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(3)&(a)(4) [Attorney/Client Privilege & Economic Development]

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

Recess to Reconvene

Upon a motion by Vice Chairman Pope and seconded by Commissioner Crumpler the Board voted unanimously to adjourn Recess to Reconvene on Monday, September 28, 2026 at Sampson Regional Medical Center for the Annual Board of Trustees Meeting.

/signed copy on file in Clerk's Office
C. Allen McLamb, Chairperson

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Stephanie P. Fulton, Clerk to the Board