

The Board of Commissioners of Sampson County met in the Second Floor Courtroom of the Sampson County Courthouse in Clinton, North Carolina on Monday, December 5, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. Members present: Chairman Billy Lockamy, Vice Chairperson Sue Lee, and Commissioners Clark Wooten and Harry Parker. Absent: Albert D. Kirby, Jr.

The Bailiff convened the special district court session with the Honorable William B. Sutton, Jr. presiding. Judge Sutton recognized Chairman Lockamy who called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Dr. Gary Threatt, Pastor of Grove Park Baptist Church, led the invocation.

**Item No. 1: Swearing In Ceremony**

Chairman Lockamy recognized the former commissioners and other special guests present. He then turned the meeting over to Judge Sutton, who proceeded to swear in Commissioners R. Jerol Kivett and Harry L. Parker; Register of Deeds Eleanor N. Bradshaw and her Deputy and Assistant Registers of Deeds; and Soil and Water District Supervisor Curtis G. Barwick. (Oaths filed in Inc. Minute Book \_\_\_\_\_, Page \_\_\_\_\_.) At the conclusion of the swearing in, Judge Sutton turned the session over to Vice Chairperson Sue Lee who presented outgoing Chairman Billy Lockamy with his granite name plate. Sheriff Jimmy Thornton then presented Mr. Lockamy with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine on behalf of the Governor. Upon a motion made Vice Chairperson Lee and seconded by Commissioner Parker, the Board voted unanimously to recess to reconvene at 7:00 p.m. in the County Auditorium, 435 Rowan Road, Clinton. The Bailiff closed the special session of Sampson County district court.

**Reconvene**

The Sampson County Board of Commissioners reconvened for their regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 5, 2016 in the County Auditorium, 435 Rowan Road in Clinton, North Carolina. Commissioners present: Vice Chairperson Sue Lee and Commissioners Albert D. Kirby Jr., Jerol Kivett, Harry Parker, and Clark H. Wooten.

Vice Chairperson Sue Lee reconvened the meeting and welcomed newly-elected Commissioner Kivett to the Board. She called upon Commissioner Parker for the invocation. Commissioner Wooten then led the Pledge Allegiance.

## **Item 2:           Organization of the Board**

County Manager Ed Causey conducted the election for Chairman. Commissioner Clark Wooten nominated Commissioner Sue Lee. Commissioner Lee withdrew her name and subsequently nominated Commissioner Clark Wooten. There were no other nominations. The Board voted unanimously to elect Commissioner Clark Wooten as Chairman. Newly-elected Chairman Wooten conducted the election for Vice Chairman and nominated Commissioner Sue Lee. There were no other nominations. The Board voted unanimously to elect Commissioner Sue Lee as Vice Chairperson. Chairman Wooten expressed his thanks to the Board for putting their trust and him as Chairman.

## **Approval of Agenda**

County Manager Ed Causey asked that Item 4b (Scheduling of Water Work Session) be removed from the agenda as it would be addressed at a subsequent meeting. He also asked that the consideration of nominations for appointment/reappointment to the Sampson Regional Medical Center Board of Trustees be added to Appointments (SRMC Letter dated November 30, 2016 filed in Inc. Minute Book \_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_.) Lastly, he asked that a budget amendment from the Sheriff's Office be added as item g on the Consent Agenda. Upon a motion made by Vice Chairperson Lee and seconded by Commissioner Kirby, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as amended.

## **Item 3:           Planning and Zoning Items**

TA-11-16-1 Chairman Wooten called the hearing to order and recognized Planning Director Mary Rose who reviewed a request to amend the Sampson County Zoning Ordinance Section 9.6 Outdoor Advertisement Signs to add G: *The leading edge of the sign must remain 20 feet from NCDOT Right of Way.* Ms. Rose informed the Board that the amendments were brought about due to a citizen's request to rezone property in order to place a billboard. The citizen stated that the 50' setback would cause the new billboard to be blocked by a preexisting structure, limiting its view. With that, the Planning Department then recommended a text amendment as opposed to a variance. Ms. Rose added that after researching other jurisdictions, the Planning Board determined that a 20' setback would be appropriate for Sampson County. Commissioner Kirby asked about safety concerns with the 20' setback, citing the occurrence of a fatal accident where a car struck a billboard. There were no comments presented from the floor, so the hearing was closed.

Upon a motion made by Vice Chairperson Lee and seconded by Commissioner Parker, the Board voted 4-1 (with Commissioner Kirby voting nay) to approve the request to amend the Sampson County Zoning Ordinance Section 9.6 Outdoor

Advertisement Signs, as recommended by the Planning Board to add G: *The leading edge of the sign must remain 20 feet from NCDOT Right of Way.*

Approval of Final Plat – Hudson Farms Subdivision Phase II Upon a motion made by Chairman Wooten, and seconded by Vice Chairperson Lee, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 21 lot subdivision final plat for Hudson Farms Subdivision Phase II.

**Item 4: Action Items**

Consideration of Award of Bid for Revaluation Services Purchasing and Contracting Officer Juanita Brewington reviewed the RFP process noting that RFPs were sent out to the 13 firms registered with the North Carolina Department of Revenue, with three bids being received from Assessment Solutions of NC, Inc.; Pearson Appraisal Service; and Tyler Technologies. The bid for Assessment Solutions of NC, Inc. was determined to be non-responsive as the proposal did not provide the 5% bid bond required in the RFP. The remaining two bids were compared pursuant to the County’s specifications and utilizing an equal amount of days for hearings and appeals. Based upon these comparisons, staff recommended the bid be awarded to Pearson Appraisal Service in the amount of \$935,000. Commissioner Kirby asked for more details on why Assessment Solutions of NC, Inc.’s bid was not considered. In response, staff informed the Board that Assessment Solutions of NC, Inc. failed to meet the bid requirements by not including a bid bond; therefore the RFP was not considered. Staff noted that Assessment Solutions of NC, Inc. acknowledged that a bid bond was not included in their response, and one never materialized even though they attended the bid opening. Commissioner Kivett questioned the process for soliciting bidders, and staff noted that all firms that had registered as qualified with the State of North Carolina had been sent a request for proposal.

The Board referenced previous experience with Pearson Appraisal Service, noting dissatisfaction from previous Boards. Mr. Fred Pearson of Pearson Appraisal Service assured the Board that the company would work closely with Sampson County staff and provide quality service to meet all the requirements ensuring that the citizens get a fair and equitable assessment. Upon a motion made by Vice Chairperson Lee and seconded by Commissioner Kivett, the Board voted 3-2 (with Commissioners Kirby and Parker voting nay) to award the bid to the lowest responsible bidder, Pearson Appraisal Service, in the amount of \$935,000 (Copy of the bid tabulation filed in Inc. Minute Book \_\_\_, Page \_\_\_).

Designation of Voting Delegate for NCACC Legislative Goals Conference Upon a motion made by Commissioner Wooten and seconded by Vice Chairperson Lee, the Board voted unanimously to designate County Manager Ed Causey to serve as the

voting delegate at the NCACC Legislative Goals Conference, January 12-13, 2017. (Copy of the NCACC Designation Form filed in Inc. Minute Book \_\_\_, Page \_\_\_.)

Appointments - Board of Health Upon a motion by Vice Chairperson Lee and a second by Chairman Wooten, the Board voted unanimously to reappoint Paul Bradshaw, Robert Butler, Jacqueline Howard, and Beth Turner and to appoint Allie Ray McCullen to the Board of Health.

Appointments - Sampson Regional Medical Center Board of Trustees Upon a motion by Vice Chairperson Lee and a second by Commissioner Parker, the Board voted unanimously to reappoint Enrique Coello, Andy Darden, Arthur Lee Naylor, and Lamont Parker and to appoint Craig Richardson to the Sampson Regional Medical Center Board of Trustees.

Listing of Commissioner Appointments to Various Boards Assistant County Manager Susan Holder called to the attention of the Board a listing of the boards and commissions on which members are currently serving. Ms. Holder also noted an attached resignation letter from Commissioner Kirby asking the Board to designate an alternative for himself on Eastpointe, the Mid Carolina RPO, and JCPC boards due to his inability to continue as the Board representative. Commissioner Kirby noted that he would be able to remain on the Eastpointe Board. No action was requested; the information was provided for Board review and consideration at the January regular scheduled meeting.

**Item 5: Consent Agenda**

Upon a motion made by Vice Chairperson Lee and seconded by Chairman Wooten, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:

- a. Approved the minutes of the November 7, 2016 meeting
- b. Adopted a resolution indicating intent to accept an offer for purchase of surplus property located on Ruffin Lane, McDaniel Township and direct advertisement for upset bid pursuant to GS 160-269 (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_.)
- c. Adopted a resolution authorizing the lease of agriculture tracts adjacent to the Detention Center for the period January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017 to Mac Sutton for farming purposes (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_.)
- d. Approved a late disabled veteran tax exclusion application for Katherine N. Hobson (widow of Steve R. Hobson)

e. Approved tax refunds and releases as submitted:

#7720	Bridget M. Tew	\$141.90
#7741	Crystal G. Matthews	\$179.66
#7733	Prestage Farms Inc.	\$164.89
#7748	Clayton C. Rich	\$214.60
#7740	Jesse M. Hall	\$373.55
#7757	Matthew R. Barrick	\$241.94
#7761	Percy C. Keene	\$117.33
#7754	Marie W. Warren	\$172.94
Tax Release	Frank Sinclair	\$154.49
Tax Release	T & N Nails	\$180.61
Tax Release	Rickey Lee, Jr.	\$220.46

f. Approved budget amendments as submitted

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		<u>JCPC Programs</u>			
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>		<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
05558310	581000	Transfer to State agency		14,438.00	

<u>REVENUE</u>					
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>		<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
05435831	409900	FBA Administration		2,664.00	
05435831	409903	FBA Youth Inspire		5,149.00	
05435831	409905	FBA Juvenile Innovations		2,000.00	
05435831	409902	FBA Restitution/Teen Court		4,625.00	

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		<u>Single Family Rehab Grant Program</u>			
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>		<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
29549420	519049	Administration		35,970.00	
29549420	562004	Rehabilitation		135,000.00	

<u>REVENUE</u>					
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>		<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
29034942	403614	Grant NC Housing Finance		170,940.00	

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		<u>Sheriff's</u>			
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>		<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11243100	526279	Dept. Supplies – Narcotics Squad		19,200.00	

<u>REVENUE</u>					
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>		<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11034310	403631	State Substance Abuse Tax		19,200.00	

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		<u>Finance</u>		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11141300	599900	Disaster relief	100,000.00	

<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11033010	402605	Federal FEMA funds	100,000.00	

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		<u>Sheriff's</u>		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11243100	554000	Capital Outlay – Vehicles	34,600.00	
11243100	555000	Capital Outlay – Other Equipment	1,500.00	

<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11034310	402603	Federal Asset Funds (Narc)	36,100.00	

- Approved Sampson County Board of Education's Budget Amendment No. 3 (Capital Outlay); as submitted.

**Item 6: Consideration of Tax Appeals**

Upon a motion made by Chairman Wooten and seconded by Commissioner Parker, the Board voted unanimously to adjust the penalties applied to the following tax accounts for failure to timely list business personal property by forgiving one-half of the assessed penalties.

Barefoot, Joseph Glenn (Tax \$8,963.19); Assessed Penalty \$1,899.51 Adjusted by Half  
 Franklin Lindsay Farms (Tax \$6,826.95); Assessed Penalty \$1,973.88 Adjusted by Half  
 Herring, Robert H. (Tax \$4,059.96); Assessed Penalty \$1,145.38 Adjusted by Half  
 Hobbs and Peterson Farms (Tax \$7,657.87); Assessed Penalty \$2,479.23 Adjusted by Half  
 Nature's Way Farms (Tax \$66,204.57); Assessed Penalty \$20,522.95 Adjusted by Half  
 Tyndall, Gregory Scott (Tax \$9,903.22); Assessed Penalty \$3,034.13 Adjusted by Half

**Item 7: Board Information**

The Board was provided with the following items for information only:

- UNC SOG – Opportunities for Ethics Training (After deliberation the Board agreed that they would like to participate in the SOG Webinar on May 24, 2016.)
- NCACC/NC Council of Community Programs' The Stepping Up Initiative (Reducing the Number of People with Mental Illness in Jail)

## **County Manager Reports**

County Manager Ed Causey informed the Board that Administration and Finance staff will begin focusing on the budget process, placing emphasis on the February Planning Session. Department Heads are asked to provide foreseeable expenditures early on for the Board to review and provide feedback, if so desired. Mr. Causey informed the Board that dates for the Budget Planning Sessions would need to be set in January, allowing time for all involved to schedule accordingly. Lastly, he informed the Board that an RFP for the next audit will be prepared for Board review by February.

Chairman Wooten inquired of the status of reaching the savings goals for the budget reduction project. Mr. Causey informed the Board that the goals for FY2017 and FY2018 have been met, and noted that the staff will continue looking for cost savings. Chairman Wooten lauded the efforts of the staff, department heads, and county employees for meeting those goals.

## **Public Comments**

The floor was opened for comments, and there were none received.

## **Adjournment**

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