

**SAMPSON COUNTY  
NORTH CAROLINA**

**August 11, 2020  
Special Called Meeting**

The Sampson County Board of Commissioners convened for a special called meeting at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 11, 2020. Because the State and the County were under a State of Emergency during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board met virtually via Zoom, and the meeting was broadcast via the County's YouTube page, proper notice of the virtual environment and broadcast information having been duly posted. Members present via virtual means, as verified by the Clerk's roll call were: Chairman Clark Wooten, Vice Chairperson Sue Lee, and Commissioners Jerol Kivett Thaddeus Godwin. Absent: Commissioner Harry Parker.

Chairman Wooten reconvened the meeting and acknowledged Vice Chairperson Lee who introduced John Lowe for an invocation. Vice Chairperson Lee then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Item 1: Consider Approval of Amended Meeting Schedule**

County Attorney Joel Starling explained that given the cancelation of the Board's August 3, 2020 regular meeting (given the anticipated impact of Hurricane Isaias) the Board needed to schedule a replacement meeting date. He reported that the School of Government recommended that any amendment to a published meeting schedule be done by Board action. Staff recommended that the Board amend the August meeting schedule to include a meeting at 6 pm on August 18 (replacing the cancelled 8/3 meeting) and a potential recessed meeting date of August 20 at 6 pm, proper notices having already drafted and published in order to provide the public with as much advance notice as possible. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Godwin and seconded by Vice Chairperson Lee, the Board voted unanimously to amend the meeting schedule as recommended. (Such votes confirmed by Clerk's roll call.)

**Item 2: Consider Approval of Easement to Duke Energy Progress, LLC**

County Attorney Starling reported that Duke Energy Progress, LLC ("DEP") had requested that Sampson County grant DEP an easement over a portion of the property on which Tarheel Challenge Academy is located in Salemburg, NC. The utility easement is needed as part of a construction project that is being completed by the NC Department of Public Safety. Attorney Starling noted that counties are authorized to grant easements over, through, under, or across any county property by G.S. 153A-176 and G.S. 160A-273. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Godwin and seconded by Commissioner Kivett, the Board voted unanimously to approve execution of the easement as presented in the Board's agenda package. (Such votes confirmed by Clerk's roll call.)

**Item 3: Consider Approval of Easement to Align RNG**

County Attorney Starling reported that Align RNG, LLC (“Align”) had requested that Sampson County grant Align a pipeline easement over a portion of certain real property owned by the County, a vacant 0.3-acre lot located on Cornwallis Road near the Town of Turkey. He explained that the easement was needed as part of a pipeline project that is the result of joint venture between Smithfield and Dominion Energy to produce renewable natural gas using swine waste as its principle feedstock. The County will receive the sum of \$500.00 for granting the easement to Align. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Kivett and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to approve execution of the easement as presented in the Board’s agenda package. (Such votes confirmed by Clerk’s roll call.)

**Item 4: Closed Session - NCGS § 143-318.11(a)(5)**

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Kivett and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to go into Closed Session pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143-318.11(a)(5) in order to instruct the County’s staff concerning the position to be taken by the County in negotiating the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease. (Such votes confirmed by Clerk’s roll call.)

In Closed Session, the Board was joined by Economic Developer Stephen Barrington and Assistant Economic Developer Ray Jordan who reviewed potential property sites for acquisition, both near-term and long-term development projects. No action was taken in Closed Session, and Board and staff entered back into the public virtual meeting broadcast. Upon a motion made by Chairman Wooten and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to come out of Closed Session. (Such votes confirmed by Clerk’s roll call.)

**Adjournment**

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Godwin and seconded by Commissioner Kivett, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn. (Such votes confirmed by Clerk’s roll call.)

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Clark H. Wooten, Chairman

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Susan J. Holder, Clerk to the Board