

The Sampson County Board of Commissioners convened for their regular meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, April 4, 2022 in the County Auditorium, 435 Rowan Road in Clinton, North Carolina. Members present: Chairperson Sue Lee, Vice Chairperson Jerol Kivett, and Commissioners Thaddeus Godwin, Lethia Lee, and Clark Wooten.

Chairperson Sue Lee called the meeting to order and acknowledged Vice Chairperson Kivett who provided the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Upon a motion by Vice Chairperson Kivett and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda with the following changes:

- Amended the Consent Agenda items f and g [Subagreements between Sampson County (by and through the Sampson County Health Department) and the Clinton City Board of Education and Sampson County Board of Education for school nurse funding utilizing ARPA funds] to include the term “reasonable bonus” in the allowable uses section of the agreements.
- Replaced the Mid Carolina Workforce Development Consortium Agreement in Item 2 (a) with a revised copy, incorporating changes requested by Cumberland County

Item 1: Planning and Zoning

(Public Hearing) Rezoning of Tax Parcel 13016168801 from Commercial (C) to Residential Agricultural (RA) Chairperson Sue Lee opened the Public Hearing and acknowledged Senior Planner Austin Brinkley who presented the Board with an overview of a proposed rezoning of a 2.91-acre parcel from Commercial (C) to a Residential Agricultural (RA) Zoning District. The Sampson County Planning Board found that the rezoning request is consistent with the Rural Residential/ Agricultural Land Use Category and that it positively aligns with the main purpose and intent of such designation. They found it reasonable and in best public interest and recommended approval to the Sampson County Board of Commissioners. The Chairperson opened the floor for public comments, and none were offered. The Public Hearing was closed. Upon a motion by Commissioner Godwin and seconded by Vice Chairperson Kivett, the Board voted unanimously to approve the rezoning request, adopting the following zoning consistency statement: *The Sampson County Board of Commissioners finds the proposed rezoning to be consistent with the Rural Residential/Agricultural Land Use designation and to positively align with the main purpose and intent of such designation. The Sampson County Board of Commissioners finds that the rezoning request is reasonable and votes to approve the rezoning request. The Sampson County Board of Commissioners also finds the proposed rezoning to be consistent with the land use plan.*

Item 2: Action Items

Approval of Proposed Agreement for Mid Carolina Workforce Development Consortium In December 2021, the Board voted unanimously to join with Cumberland County and Harnett County to form a new regional workforce area/workforce development board to be known as the Mid Carolina Workforce Area/Workforce Development Board, with the Mid Carolina Regional Council as the grant administrator for the new workforce area. Our next step is to approve a consortium agreement to formalize the partnership and its activities. Upon a motion by Commissioner Wooten and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to adopt a resolution approving the Workforce Development Consortium Agreement. (Resolution and Agreement filed in Inc. Minute Book ____, Page ____.)

Public Water System Items - Adoption of Resolutions Supporting Applications for State Grant Funding for the Ivanhoe Water System Project, the Iron and Manganese Treatment System Project, and the Johnston County Interconnection Phase II Project There are new grant funds available from the NC Division of Water Infrastructure that staff propose to use to construct a new public water supply system in the Ivanhoe area of Sampson County and to replace the low interest loan components of the Iron and Manganese Treatment System and Johnston County Interconnection Phase II projects with grant funding, creating cost savings for our public water system. Public Works Director Lin Reynolds and Dewberry Associate David Ross reviewed the proposed uses for the grant funds and requested adoption of resolutions of support for the grant applications. Upon a motion by Chairperson Sue Lee and seconded by Commissioner Wooten, the Board voted unanimously to adopt a resolution supporting the Application for State Grant Funding for the Ivanhoe Water System Project. (Resolution filed in Inc. Minute Book ____, Page ____.) Upon a motion by Vice Chair Kivett and seconded by Chairperson Sue Lee, the Board voted unanimously to adopt a resolution supporting the Application for State Grant Funding for the Iron and Manganese Treatment System Project. (Resolution filed in Inc. Minute Book ____, Page ____.) Upon a motion by Commissioner Wooten and seconded by Chairperson Lee, the Board voted unanimously to adopt a resolution supporting the Application for State Grant funding for the Johnston County Interconnection Phase II Project. (Resolution filed in Inc. Minute Book ____, Page ____.)

Public Water System Items - Adoption of Project Ordinance for Clement Area Expansion Project (State DWI Grant of \$1,717,000) The Division of Water Infrastructure has determined that the County is eligible to receive \$1,717,000 in ARP funding from the State Fiscal Recovery Fund. David Ross discussed the timetable for the use of these funds for expansion of the water system in the Clement area of the County. Upon a motion by Vice Chair Kivett and seconded by Chairperson Lee, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the capital project ordinance for the \$1,717,000 American Rescue Plan - Earmark grant dollars for project SRP-D-ARP-002. (Copy filed in Ordinance Book ____, Page ____.)

Public Water System Items - Authorization to Begin Recruitment of Areas to be Funded by State Capital Infrastructure Fund Grant Funding The County has received \$9,000,000 in State Capital Infrastructure Funds (SCIF) from the recently adopted State budget. Public Works director Lin Reynolds discussed the recommended use of the funds from the prioritized listing

reviewed at the planning session and requested authorization to begin recruiting customers on the recommended roads until the grant funds are all expended. Upon a motion by Vice Chair Kivett and seconded by Chairperson Lee, the Board voted unanimously to authorize staff to begin recruitment of customers in those areas on the prioritized listing, beginning with Lakewood School Road and continuing through the list until funds are expended.

(Public Hearing) Proposed Expenditure of Funds for Economic Development Purposes (Option Agreement for the Purchase of Parcels) Chairperson Lee opened the public hearing and called upon Economic Development Director Stephen Barrington and County Attorney Joel Starling who reviewed the proposed execution of an option to purchase ten parcels comprised of 210.85+ acres near the intersection of I-40 and Harnett-Dunn Highway. The proposed option money is \$50,000, in exchange for what the County will have the right to purchase a fee simple interest in the property for the price of \$2,000,000. Chairperson Lee acknowledged the following:

Dewayne West: It's been about twenty years since I stood before the Board of Commissioners, so if I get nervous, you'll know why. I don't know how many we had to show up. I saw three and I thought there was another one or two from Newton Grove coming and they can address the town's position on this. Madam Chair, I am Dewayne West, I live at 132 West Grove Street in Newton Grove, and I appreciate the Board offering an opportunity on this. I was just talking to Ray a little bit; I think this is my tenth year on the Economic Development Advisory Board. I rotate off at the end of June, I so guess I finally wore them out or they wore me out. I don't know which. I want to add my support for this project. It's something that I would urge you to support. It is a significant opportunity in regard to cost, it is not cheap I understand that. But one I believe is worth the cost of Economic Development in the County and the Town, and it's a long-term investment that will pay dividends for many years after we're gone. Not only to Newton Grove, but to the County. It's a rare opportunity to find farmland for sale around Newton Grove, I can promise you that. If it is, it's between farmers and rightfully so. This falls in that category and it's never occurred since I've been there, and I've been there a right good while now and I don't think I'll live long enough to see it occur again. So, it is, the time is right. We've talked about the water at the southern end of the County, and it sounds like it's past due and those folks need some help, but this is an opportunity that we just don't need to turn our back on. I know there's a lot of needs in the County, and this is just one of those, but I've learned a little bit over the last ten years from staff and listening to you folks talk. We can't continue to make improvements to the quality of life, school buildings, and many, many other needs, replacing infrastructure that's wearing out every day on farmland tax and homeowner's tax alone. It won't work. You all know, we're one of the higher ones in the area anyway. So, it's something I think we need to look at as a way to offset that. Enviva and many of our other industrial partners in the County have proven to be a tremendous asset to us and have added to that. And there are others to come. Some good pending projects from what I hear that will add even more to it. But several years ago, you folks, and I applaud you for it, made a commitment to Economic Development. Not only did you make a verbal commitment, you made a financial commitment and that had never been done in the ten years I've been here. Clark, you were Chairman when that went on. I thank you for that and I think it says a lot about the priorities

this Board has placed on Economics in the County. I'm sure there were some people that were naysayers and probably still are on the fact that you funded and set money aside purely for Economic Development, but you saw the opportunity and you had the faith. You stepped out in some knowledge and faith and went ahead and did that. I urge you tonight to do it again with this project because it's well worth it. I appreciate your time.

Following Mr. West's comments, Chairperson Lee closed the public hearing. Upon a motion by Commissioner Godwin and seconded by Commissioner Wooten, the Board voted unanimously to adopt a resolution authorizing the expenditures, option, and acquisition. (Resolution filed in Inc. Minute Book ____, Page ____.)

(Public Hearing) Proposed Amendments to the Economic Development Budget for the Purchase of Property Chairperson Lee opened the public hearing and Economic Developer Stephen Barrington, along with Finance Officer David Clack and County Attorney Joel Starling, discussed amendments to the Economic Development budget, namely the allocation of the \$2,000,000 from the County's general fund balance for the acquisition of property and \$80,000 from the County's economic development reserve fund for closing costs and due diligence activities. Chairperson Lee opened the floor for public comments and hearing none, closed the public hearing. Upon a motion by Commissioner Wooten and seconded by Commissioner Lethia Lee, the Board voted unanimously to approve the amendments to the Economic Development budget as follows:

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		Library		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11449200	557000	Capital Outlay Land	\$2,080,000	
11449300	582096	Economic Development Reserve		80,000
<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11039999	409900	Fund Balance Appropriated	\$2,000,000	

(Public Hearing) Naming of Private Roads Chairperson Lee opened the public hearing and called upon Assistant County Manager Susan Holder who offered the recommendations of the Road Naming Committee as follows:

PVT 1446-5404-241 Killdeer Court
PVT S. Main-501 Eleven Farms Road

Chairperson Lee opened the floor for public comment, and hearing none closed the public hearing. Upon a motion by Commissioner Godwin and seconded by Commissioner Wooten, the Board voted unanimously to name the private roads as recommended.

Appointments - JCPC Upon a motion by Vice Chair Kivett and seconded by Chairperson Lee, the Board voted unanimously to appoint William Sellers as the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council's Eastpointe representative.

Item 3: Consent Agenda

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

- a. Approved the minutes of the February 17, 2022; February 23, 2022; and March 7, 2022 meetings
- b. Rejected all five bids received for the Runway 24 Land Clearing Project and authorize rebidding of project
- c. Adopted a capital project budget ordinance for State SCIF Grant funding in the amount of \$1,100,000 (Copy filed in Ordinance Book _____, Page _____.)
- d. Approve tax refunds and releases as submitted

#9842	Ernest Avery	\$391.68
#9844	Rodney Flowers	\$176.17
#9843	Helen Johnson Martinez	\$181.20
#9847	Shannon Lewis Stewart	\$158.96
#9848	Juana Paula Caceres	\$238.62
#9849	Taylor Lewis Calcutt	\$216.36
#9850	Nicolasa Sanchez	\$304.15
#9851	Matthew Edwin Millen	\$365.24
#9854	Elbert Banks Jr.	\$303.61
#9857	James Haywood Bass	\$277.24
#9862	Craig Patrick Collins	\$135.83
#9861	Rita Ann Wilson	\$104.25

- e. Approved budget amendments as submitted

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		Library	
<u>Code Number</u>	<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11761100	544200 Cultural Programs	\$547.	

<u>REVENUE</u>			
<u>Code Number</u>	<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11036110	408401 Library Donations	\$547.	

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		Health Department	
<u>Code Number</u>	<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
12551120	544000 Contract Services	\$199,383.	

<u>REVENUE</u>			
<u>Code Number</u>	<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
12535112	404000 Funding for City & County Schools – pass through	\$199,383.	

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		Social Services	
<u>Code Number</u>	<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
13554210	568438 AA-AD-AB SAA Rest Home		\$39,000.
13553100	568417 IV-E Foster Care	\$300,000.	

REVENUE

<u>Code Number</u>	<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
13535410	403312 IV-E Foster Care	\$261,000.	

EXPENDITURE

<u>Code Number</u>	<u>Finance</u> <u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11659140	555031 Capital Outlay Category 2	\$1,197,996.	
11659140	555030 Capital Outlay Category 1		\$1,067,051.
11659140	555032 Capital Outlay Category 3		\$130,945.

REVENUE

<u>Code Number</u>	<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
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EXPENDITURE

<u>Code Number</u>	<u>Finance</u> <u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
26659100	581001 Transfer to City Schools	\$75,000.	

REVENUE

<u>Code Number</u>	<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
26031840	412000 Current Year Taxes	\$75,000.	

EXPENDITURE

<u>Code Number</u>	<u>Aging</u> <u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
2558670	525100 Home Repairs – Gas, Oil, & Tires	\$1,490.	
2558670	554000 Home Repairs – Capital Outlay – Vehicles	\$7,200.	

REVENUE

<u>Code Number</u>	<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
2035867	408900 Home Repairs – Misc Revenue	\$8,690.	

Consent Agenda (as Board of Health)

- f. Approved the subagreement between Sampson County (by and through the Sampson County Health Department) and Clinton City Board of Education for school nurse funding utilizing ARPA funding (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
- g. Approved the subagreement between Sampson County (by and through the Sampson County Health Department) and Sampson County Board of Education for school nurse funding utilizing APRA funding (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
- h. Approved fee revisions as requested (Pfizer PEDS Dose 1, Dose 2 Admin)

Item 5: County Manager's Report

County Manager Ed Causey shared that staff have been diligently working on budget preparations. He added that he would like to schedule the budget presentation meeting in late May, in order to have a public hearing regarding budget approval at the regularly scheduled June meeting. Chairperson Lee thanked Mr. Causey for all of his hard work.

Item 6: Public Comment Period

Following a brief review of the public comment guidelines provided by Assistant County Manager Susan Holder, Chairperson Sue Lee opened the floor for public comment. The following were received:

Tonya Montgomery Gillam, 817 W 2nd St., Garland, North Carolina: I am speaking on the water issue. We are elated that you all voted in our favor, however, we do still have the issue of the tap in fee. The lower end of Sampson County is economically challenged. We have retirees, we have people that are working to exist, and the rate that is proposed, it's insane, and we're asking that the Board vote to go back to that 2017 rate to incentivize people to sign up because almost \$1,300 is too much. Especially in a distressed area such as Ivanhoe. And so we would hope that in order to incentivize people to sign up, and they will sign up, if they can get the same rate that was given to people in 2017. They need the water. They want the water. Cost should not be a prohibitive measure for people to get something that is a basic right, which is clean, healthy, drinkable water. Thank you.

Ed Gillam: I'm not going to drink this, okay? I just wanted to let you know that. My name is Edward Gillam. I live at 817 W 2nd St., Garland, North Carolina. I first want to say, can the residents of Ivanhoe please stand up again? I want to say, first, I want to thank God for this opportunity, and for what He's done for us, and for making this dream a reality, for this water and for having such good commissioners and everything, Board and everything. Mr. Reynolds, your staff, I really appreciate everything you guys have done to bring water here. But I really want to say that Ivanhoe brought water to Ivanhoe. The reason I say that is because we did a lot of research, a lot of praying, we did a lot of groundwork. Mr. Russel DeVaughn, for years and years he's been helping and trying to get things done. I thank you, sir. I thank the people who are just out there with everything, and I really appreciate everybody that's really helping out. I do have one question about the grants. One important thing is, I know, from what I understand, we have like two periods... (At this point, Mr. Gillam requested for Public Works Director Lin Reynolds to come up to the podium.) With the grant applications, don't we have two different phases, so we can do one in the spring and one in the fall. From what I understand. If we don't get all the money for the one in the spring, which I heard that we will have the actual, if we got the grant in July, can we reapply in the fall of the year for the rest? Mr. Reynolds replied, "It's my understanding that we can do it each quarter. With the grant that the Board approved tonight, there is no tap fee. So that answers that. Now there are two lists. One is the grant that we're going to apply for, and we should know way before we go down the list, this point system. We should know by the end of August whether the free tap would be awarded." Mr. Gillam noted that his allotted time was running out, and Assistant County Manager Holder informed Mr. Gillam that she would restart his time. Mr. Reynolds continued, "So, we're going to attack two systems two different ways. There are two systems in this County that qualify for the distressed areas and that is the Mintz Road area and the Ivanhoe community. There will be no tap fees for those two areas if a grant is awarded. If we do not have that award, we will still have it on our list, but it will go to the tap fee charge of \$500. And the reason why that is, we're having to charge everybody else in the County \$500, or up to \$900 starting July 1. So, they would be grandfathered in at the \$500 so it's still a good deal even though it's a lot of money." Mr. Gilliam then said, now my question to you is, now I've been hearing different things about \$75-\$100 before the project even starts in the past. Like, I had one of my friends to tell me that he only paid like \$100 before the water was even ran to his place for

a tap on fee. I mean is that any truth to that? Mr. Reynolds answered that there was at one time a \$75 tap fee. At this point, Chairperson Lee respectfully reminded Mr. Gillam that this was a public comment period, and Mr. Gillam agreed to talk with Mr. Reynolds at a later time. Mr. Gilliam then thanked the Board for the work that is being done.

Lacy Bell: Good afternoon. It's certainly a pleasure to be back before the Commissioners once again. Some of you I haven't seen in quite a while, and it's good to be back. Mr. Causey, it's good to see you. I'm Lacy Bell, Jr. I live at 2812 E. Darden Rd. in Faison, North Carolina. I'm here this afternoon to request an extension to the access of Sampson County municipality water, the water supply that Sampson County has. Currently, we at my house at 2812 E. Darden Rd., we are using a well system there. It's a deep well system, but we have to have a filtration system on that well. Research has shown that well water can contain bacteria, lead, arsenic, chlorine, and other organic compounds. I want you to take just a minute to look at the pictures that my wife has shared with Mrs. Holder, and you can see some of the rust that we have in our house from the water. And not only do I have it, my neighbors have it, too. Just take a look at it real quick. As you can see, the pictures, this is what we deal with on a daily basis. Additionally, there's a bottle of water I think she brought there. You can see that some of the water is a brownish looking color and it has fragments in the water, and it settles at the bottom of that bottle there. Though we don't actually drink the water that we get from our well. We actually have to purchase the water. We're one of Walmart's favorite customers. Would you want to drink that kind of water or have that in your home? We certainly don't and we've dealt with it a long time. I used to work for Sampson County. I worked with them for 31 years as most of you know, and I remember when the County initiated the water system, and I immediately applied. I think I had \$50 or \$75 and I rushed on over there and got with it. And I found out that I would not be able to receive the water later on. The water line comes down my road and is as far as from here to the highway from where I live at. They have a fire hydrant there, and that fire hydrant number is Water Point 5, and it's for Piney Grove. During the initial stage I did say that I think I paid \$75 or somewhere around there. My neighbor also paid his fee and we never, we got our little flags and we put them out, but we never got access to the water. So that's just how close we are and we'd like to get that water line extended. Since it's been there on that road we've had other residents to move in and they've been able to tap into it but we haven't been able to tap into it because it stops at a little run just before it gets to my house. It's less than 500 feet from my house. I know there's some other neighbors on that road that want it also. Thank you.

Closed Session - GS143-318.11(a)(3)

Upon a motion by Commissioner Lethia Lee and a second by Chairperson Sue Lee, the Board voted unanimously to enter into Closed Session pursuant to GS 143-318.11(a)(3), to consult with the County Attorney. No action was taken. Upon a motion by Commissioner Wooten and a second by Vice Chairman Kivett, the Board voted unanimously to come out of Closed Session.

Adjournment

Upon a motion by Commissioner Wooten and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn.

/signed copy on file in Clerk's Office
Sue Lee, Chairperson

/signed copy on file in Clerk's Office
Susan J. Holder, Clerk to the Board