

The Sampson County Board of Commissioners convened for their regular meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, December 4, 2023, in the County Auditorium, 435 Rowan Road in Clinton, North Carolina. Members present: Chairman Jerol Kivett, Vice Chairperson Sue Lee, and Commissioners Thaddeus Godwin, Lethia Lee, and Allen McLamb.

Chairman Jerol Kivett called the meeting to order and turned the meeting over to Vice Chairperson Sue Lee. Commissioner McLamb provided the invocation and Vice Chairperson Sue Lee led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

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

Item 1: Organization of the Board

County Manager Ed Causey conducted the election for Chairman of the Board. Commissioner Godwin nominated Chairman Jerol Kivett. There were no other nominations. The Board voted unanimously to elect Jerol Kivett as Chairman. Newly re-elected Chairman Kivett conducted the election for Vice Chairperson. Commissioner Lethia Lee nominated Sue Lee. There were no other nominations. The Board voted unanimously to re-elect Sue Lee as Vice Chairperson.

Item 2: Reports and Presentations

CVB Annual Report Chairman Kivett called upon CVB Director Shelia Barefoot who provided a detailed summary of the CVB's accomplishments this year and reviewed the Annual Report. Mrs. Barefoot shared helpful information regarding tourism in the County as well as barn quilts and other programs.

Sampson County Schools - Funding Request Presentation Chairman Kivett called upon Sampson County Schools Superintendent Dr. Jamie King who presented information regarding a grant that could potentially fund a new Hobbton High School. Dr. King was joined by Student Body President Sa'Tori Lorenzo as well as Hobbton High School Principal Michael Warren.

Item 3: Board Appointments

Planning Board Upon a motion by Vice Chairperson Sue Lee and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to reappoint Gail Gainey and Jason Tyndall to the Planning Board.

Airport Advisory Board Upon a motion by Vice Chairperson Sue Lee and seconded by Chairman Kivett, the Board voted unanimously to reappoint Teddy St. Pierre to the Airport Advisory Board.

Item 4: Consent Agenda

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

(As Board of Commissioners)

- a. Approved the minutes of the November 6, 2023 meeting (Copies filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
- b. Adopted the 2024 Reappraisal Schedule of Values (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
- c. Authorized the execution of an EMS Clinical Internship Agreement between Sampson County and James Sprunt Community College
- d. Adopted the Amended Hazard Mitigation Plan as submitted by Emergency Services
- e. Authorized the County Manager to execute the funding application for the 2024 Urgent Repair Program
- f. Authorized the execution of the 2024 United Way Funding Application for the Department of Aging's Wheelchair Ramp Program
- g. Adopted a Resolution for Offer and Acceptance for the Ivanhoe Water Project
- h. Approve a late disabled veterans tax exclusion request for Kim Bordeaux
- i. Approved tax refunds and releases as submitted

#10331	John Spence Crawford	\$104.49
#10293	Anthony Jay Lane	\$124.58
#10329	Loretta Sulmonetti Heeter	\$125.63
#10328	Nolan Rufus Smith	\$117.24
#10317	Kathy Bass Lane	\$236.34
#10312	Deborah Marlene Johnson	\$112.47
#10304	Cameron Brody Smith	\$227.19
#10306	Glen Russell Noonan	\$284.35
#10307	Peggy Eloise Register	\$205.73
#10318	Steve Green	\$324.45
#10290	David Watne Tyndall	\$416.25
#10325	Jason Alexander Bogart	\$402.75
#10321	Prestage Farms Inc.	\$1,274.55
Tax Release	Brian Williamson	\$267.17
Tax Release	Sassoni Reid	\$246.79
Tax Release	Travis Pate DBA Della's Farm	\$246.13
Tax Release	Charles Boone	\$121.51
Tax Release	Heather Marie Weeks	\$161.79

Tax Release	Tom Ashley Dow Jr.	\$289.54
Tax Release	Carey Steve Branch	\$101.89
Tax Release	Star Telephone Membership Corp	\$934.24
Tax Release	Joshua Ryan Williams	\$153.89

j. Approved budget amendments as submitted

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		Sheriff		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11243100	526200	Department Supplies	\$4,300.	
<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11034310	402603	Federal Assets Revenue	\$4,300.	

(As Board of Health)

- k. Approved the SCHD Fee/CPT Code Update
- l. Approved the Updated Health Advisory Committee Conflict of Interest Policy
- m. Approved the Updated Health Advisory Committee Operating Policy and Procedures
- n. Approved the Board of Health Operating Policy and Procedures
- o. Approved the Updated FISCAL Policy Update
- p. Authorized execution of the 2024 United Way Funding Request for the Breast and Cervical Cancer Awareness and Outreach Program
- q. Approved the 2024 SCHD Health Advisory Committee Meeting Dates

Item 5: Board Information

The Board received the following for information only:

- a. 2022-2023 Sampson Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Report
- b. September 18, 2023 SCHD Health Advisory Committee Minutes
- c. SCHD Fiscal Monthly Update
- d. SCHD 2023 Annual Report

Item 6: County Manager's Report

No report given.

Item 7: Public Comment Period

Following a brief overview of Public Comment Policies and Procedures by Clerk to the Board Stephanie Shannon, Chairman Kivett reviewed standards of conduct and decorum and then opened the floor for public comments. The following were received:

Megan Mouldon, 2360 Old Mintz Highway, Roseboro, NC - "I'm sorry, I'm really nervous. Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I thank you for taking the time to listen to my voice and request for your consideration in providing funds to help build a new high school for the Hobbton district. This school has had thousands upon thousands of students over the past sixty-six years, as it is one of the oldest in the County. It has also educated two to four generations of families. It has become old, worn out, and used. It has served it's purpose for years, but now its time for a change. As a parent and educator, I humbly ask you for your support. Yes, \$4.2 million is a lot of money and times are tough right now but with the cost of everything going up and inflation it is sure to cost us a lot more in the coming years to build a new school. So, why not invest now and do what is right for not only the staff but also the students of Hobbton? Some might argue that new windows and a roof being installed in the past year was wasted money, but this was like putting a band-aid where stitches are needed. Repairs need to happen all over the school for the safety of the staff and students as well to keep up with times of the education system. By no means am I saying that we need a state-of-the-art high school, but we need to give the staff and students what they deserve. We are teaching future doctors, CEOs, managers, presidents, teachers, and first responders to name a few occupations. These students are our future. We need to invest in them just as we invest in our retirement, 401K, IRA, etc. Without investing in our children, we are telling them that we don't care. That they aren't worth getting an education in a new high school. That's why I'm here. I'm here to be their voice and to stand up for them. I have two children that attend Hobbton district. One at Hobbton Elementary, and one at the middle school. My family and I reside over forty minutes from Hobbton, but that commute is one that we gladly take every day. I'm a second grade teacher at Hobbton Elementary and my husband works at the high school. When I say we bleed black and gold, we truly do. We are at 90% of the home sporting events and put in ten plus hours a day not including our commute. When we came to Hobbton we immediately felt a sense of community which turned into Hobbton pride and now we consider everyone a family. This is why I stand firm. I want the best for my family, blood or not. As a parent and teacher I tell my children and students to chase their dreams, stand up for what is right and what you believe in, and the sky is the limit on what they can do. With a school that is deteriorating year after year, the hopes and dreams of some students may deteriorate as well if we don't show them that we care enough to build them a new school. So again, I ask that you invest in our future as I promise you it won't be one that you regret. Thank you."

Angela Martin, 90 Deer Grass Lane, Clinton, NC - "Hi there. I am an educator at Hobbton High School. In the fall of 2004 I stepped through the door of Hobbton High School as a newly-hired theater arts teacher. For the past nineteen years I have taught the very talented young people of Hobbton High School. Hobbton, first and foremost, is a school whose primary focus is on our students, their academics, and their ability to grow to become caring, empathetic, and disciplined young men and women in our society. Our world has become smaller due to technology. Our students see the world around them. Not just in our community, but they see the schools that are grand structures with brand new sparkling hallways and classrooms

throughout our country, state, and county on all forms of social media. They know that Hobbton is physically sub-par. When you walk into a classroom, every child deserves the same opportunities, the same chances, and the same rigor. When you walk into our dilapidated building, in every classroom you see rooms where every child sees mis-matched desks that were designed for elementary kids and students from the 1980s. In the hall, rusted exposed pipes and crowded thoroughfares. In the bathroom, stalls that were built for a 1957 teenage body with missing doors on some of the stalls. In the auditorium, signs that remind you that asbestos is in our ceilings and do not create dust because it could be dangerous. And in the cafeteria they find tables that are blue and red and brown and black and some with broken seats and ill-fitting mis-matched designs. It doesn't take much to surmise that Hobbton has been a discarded school for quite some time. When each district receives new and improved innovations, their remnants come to Hobbton. It is true that education can occur anywhere and a building doesn't create the learning or the tools needed for education but a new school would bring more to the students than mortar and brick. It would bring a strong sense of pride to our student body, to our community, and our County. Hobbton students deserve the opportunity to walk into a classroom that was designed for the 21st century learner in mind. Hobbton students deserve to walk the hall proud of their building and of their school home. Hobbton students deserve the same equitable education that every student in our county deserves. The benefits of a new school will be felt for generations to come and will make an impact economically on our county as well. We have many success stories at Hobbton. Our students attend universities all over our country, become successful adults, doctors, lawyers, judges, to business owners. We even had a double winner of the Parks Scholar and Morehead-Cain Scholar just last year. I'm proud to be a Hobbton educator, and it is time that our county shows how much it cares for our students, our district, and community by funding a new Hobbton High School. In closing, when we discovered we had the opportunity to attend a County Commissioner meeting to speak and show support of funding a new Hobbton High School, I couldn't wait to discuss this with my students. As I glance around you see few of them are present because they told me, 'Ms. Martin, why should we attend? We will never get a new school. It is hopeless.' You have the power to change their minds. Show our Hobbton students, Hobbton school district, and the Hobbton community that building a new Hobbton High School is not just a possibility, because you have the power to make it their reality. Thank you."

Lorie Grant, 103 Alston Street, Clinton, NC - "Good afternoon and thank you so much for this opportunity. What I'd like to bring to you tonight is something that has been on my heart and on our community's heart. It's making awareness of sex trafficking and human trafficking. Just to help you and give you a little more education, Clinton stands number one in sex trafficking. We stand number one in the nation for missing indigenous native American people. I am here to tell you today to ask to be that voice. To be that demonstration to our community to be safe to our young people. To bring awareness to our community that this is going on and you ask how. The reason what we can do is teach, educate. We need to be eyes and ears in our communication. It's like for our future children and our future grandchildren and we need to be that eyes. You're looking at from age two to twenty-one. And these are girls and boys. You're looking at many of them being taught how to traffic. In our schools, in our Walmarts, in our hospitals, on our streets. We don't need Clinton to be another statistic. We need Clinton to be a safe place so we can have travel. We need Clinton to be a safe place so that when we lay down our heads tonight our children and their future is safe and protected. With sex trafficking

being number one here in Clinton, I'm here to tell you, with 500 children missing just in the last two months, 500. You ask me where am I getting my resource from. I'm getting my resource from the FBI of Native Americans. He also works very closely with the Sheriff's Department and we will work closely with our Sheriff's Departments. But we have to educate our public people. We have to bring awareness that this is going on. We have to have extra ears and extra eyes. So I pray and ask that you will give me that opportunity in my community to see greater success for Clinton and each of us. And thank you for your time I humbly appreciate it."

Wendy Taylor, 2556 Greens Bridge Road, Garland, NC - "Every citizen in Sampsonville likes Christmas a lot, but the Board of Commissioners absolutely did not. The people were busy planning holidays with cheer. They were so excited that Christmas was near. Then they went to their mailboxes and found a new bill. The commissioners had sent them another raw deal. Those sneaky commissioners had devised a scheme to take more of their money and spoil their Christmas dreams. A tax on our trash, the poor citizens hollered. And look at the cost, why it's \$80. So they called the commissioners to voice their concerns. We aren't rich people, you're taking all we earn. But the commissioners were unphased, these folks were just peasants. They don't need this money to buy Christmas presents. They must buy these decals, it's important they said. We've got to have more money, for we've got to pay Ed. Not to mention our lawsuit and the new pay scale too, our monthly private security bill that is due. So go buy your decal by January 1, and open your wallets for we've only just begun. If you don't buy the decal, well you'll drive to Snow Hill. We know it's a long way but you must do it still. If you're in Lee's District 4, it's a very long drive. The poor people there are struggling to survive. But Lethia didn't care, she just taxed them more. So when the March primaries come voters will even the score. In Whoville the Grinch's heart grew a size. I'm sorry this is public comment and you can't, you don't get to determine what I say. You don't get to determine, this is public comment. In Whoville the Grinch's heart grew a size. Unfortunately, our commissioners are not just as wise. Reappraisals for everyone in the coming new year. It's unprecedented times, or didn't you hear. So the time is now citizens, we must take a stand. Or the money grabs won't end, they will only expand. Take a look at these faces and remember them well because starting in March let's bid them farewell."

BJ Lockamy Bass, Clinton, NC - "Good evening. Thank you guys for letting us come and speak tonight and for our community. We appreciate that. I come tonight humbled, believe it or not, humbled, with a true Wildcat heart and pride. I'm humbled because we have a deal of a lifetime in front of us. We have a deal that I do not want us to pass up and please have careful consideration. Remember this is an appeal for your consideration. Nothing's written in stone, we don't have to have the money, just for your consideration. So, please listen with an open heart and an open mind and consider all that's going to be said tonight, not only by me but some other people that have good points to say. Table it. Discuss it. Pray about it. Call your farmers. Call your voters. Ask around. Get their opinions. Whatever it takes, just please let it be a fair and just decision. That's all I'm asking for tonight. I'm humbled because I wouldn't have your job for nothing, okay? I wouldn't. I know this country's rural. I know we're in a crisis. There's no way to make everybody happy, I get that. The government employees need higher wages. We need more deputies on patrol in our streets to keep us safe at night, I know that. We don't need another tax hike, I get that. Farmers and business owners, we're taxed to death. I get all that. I get it. I get it. I saw firsthand my daddy, what he went through as he served as a County Commissioner in the seat for you guys. He worried about this day in and

day out. He tried to think about how this will affect this one or affect that business or can we take from this one and pay Peter to pay Paul, I mean I heard him talk about all of it and I hate it for you. I don't want your job, but I do want you to come visit our school and see what we...what's against us. Again, I can't imagine. I know \$4.2 million is a lot to ask for. I know we sound crazy as all get out. I know that. But, we need it. We just need your pledge. Just pledge your word just saying that we can do it. We can make this happen and see that I'm very humbled. But I'm also...wildcat pride. I just want to give you an example of something that I want you to think about other than what you hear. You have two houses for sale in the area, twelve miles apart. There's not but 80 square feet difference in the houses, okay? \$40,000 price difference in the house. One has less square foot, one more acre, and is \$40,000 less. One has 80 square foot more, \$40,000 less, and guess which house the buyer decides to buy, number two because of the school district. The house was twelve miles apart. Y'all, we're going to have growth in northern Sampson County. It is coming. We have to have, what they see when they drive by and see our school is not what's inside the school and inside the hearts of the Hobbton Community. We deserve that appearance. We deserve the curb appeal. Thank you very much. Please take that into consideration. There is growth coming for northern Sampson County."

Tonya Blackman, 6764 Hobbton Hwy., Clinton, NC - "Mr. Kivett I believe you're my person. I did email each of you last night late. I hope you had a chance to read it. If you didn't you have a four page email waiting for you. I will try to consolidate but this is scary. I'm a parent of a sophomore at Hobbton. My parents attended Hobbton. My husband and I attended Hobbton. My daughter just graduated from Hobbton. I have nothing but pride for this school. To even attempt to say that it is not amazing is hard for me because when I look at Hobbton I see what's on the inside, not what's on the outside. Hobbton and Hargrove have terrible curb appeal for what they offer our students inside. We have staff and students that do an amazing job every day but when you drive by on 701 or Faison Highway you don't see it and it's unfortunate. Building a new high school will take a great deal of planning and thought. Obviously, Dr. King showed a lot of that consideration. However, having the ability to build this school with the help of this grant seems like the best opportunity that's going to come our way in a while. This school is over 65 years old and the oldest in the county. My children went to Hargrove, Hobbton Middle, and Hobbton High School. They've spent 75% of their educational career in schools that were built in the 50s. To me that's great. I love what they offer, but that's really unacceptable when I look truly at it objectively. The three things that I want to call attention to as the school gets older, because we're going to need a new high school at some point, it's going to happen. It's just if it happens now with the help of the grant or later. The older the school gets the more difficult it is to keep it safe. We have so many outdoor classrooms. If something happens whether its weather, active shooter, all of that is harder at Hobbton right now. It becomes less accessible like Sa'Tori said. I'm a physical therapist, I work with students. The older schools all have issues with accessibility. New schools just don't have those same problems. The third thing is that we lose opportunities. Hobbton does not host district band nights. They don't host district art nights because we can't support the extra people in our building, the extra things in our building. We don't have a track. That's a huge issue. 10% of our students participate in winter and spring track and they don't even have the equipment to use. I mean, it is astronomical that they actually excel at track and don't have what they need. At Hobbton we use every speck of grass possible to have our athletes excel. We persevere, but should we have to persevere with what we've been given? So much more to say. My son today sat at a science table that I sat at thirty years ago. It's just unacceptable. The school was built in

the 50s. In the 50s they didn't think that there would be girls in shop class because there's only a male bathroom in the shop right now. They did not consider disabled students because there was no ADA. There was no idea. Those weren't options. Years ago they didn't consider in the 50s computers and high speed internet and technology needs. The school was built and did great things from the 50s on but we need something new. The question I have for you tonight is what could our school and students do if our outside reflected our inside? We have an amazing school community but nobody can see it past those six arches at the front, so please help us to make our outside reflect our inside. Thank you."

Marilyn Brooks, 112 East Magnolia Lisbon Road, Rose Hill, NC - "Good evening. Solid waste management. I'm going to be fast reading. The County Manger confirmed with me that currently convenience sites are funding by our tax dollars. I asked why we are being twice with this new fee and he informed me that it was because the current taxes don't completely cover the cost of these sites in terms of volume of waste. I was also told that households with more than two vehicles would pay an additional \$80 for two more decals. We have three vehicles. Those with more than two are being penalized for owning more than the government feels that we should own. I would have to pay \$160 per year for four decals. I only need three. So please, help me understand this. We're doubling the taxes to be able to use these sites, yet how does my ownership of three cars produce any more waste for these sites than they do now? This does not add up for me. The dissemination of information regarding this change, I feel, could have been handled a little bit differently. We get a bill in the mail with no warning. The county office's residents are given stacks of brochures to hand out after the fact. How many of these actually got distributed and how many will go in the garbage because they are still sitting in the county office? The rollout of this was also somewhat inconsistent, I feel, as some people were given these flyers early on at the local convenience sites and then they got pulled back. And my question would be why. That's a rhetorical question. The rollout sounds punitive as the brochure states the following: Decals lost in the mail are nonrefundable so if the postal service loses the envelope, a resident has to pay again. You also don't allow decals to be transferred from one vehicle to another. Thus, we the people have to buy more than we need. If a vehicle is stolen, sold, or the windshield is replaced, the owner must purchase another decal. So, vehicle gets sold in November, I must shell out \$80 for a two month decal and come back in January and purchase new decals at who knows what price then. Between the letter and the brochure, I'm still not sure if I'm required to have a decal if I choose not to use the convenience sites. Finally, Americans are tapped out. We are in a recession, borderline depression. If folks start throwing their garbage in fields or on the roadside this county is going to have an infestation of rats and other vermin which leads to disease. I, for one, enjoy living in a clean community and don't want to see it become a rat-infested hell hole. Thank you."

Ann Knowles, 618 Honrine Road, Clinton, NC - "Good evening. I am a Hobbton graduate. My daughter is. My grandson is. That school, when I was there, Ms. Lee, had the courtyard, we could go out there and sit. We didn't bring lunches there. You didn't bring food in much, but we would go out there and sit and talk. It was wonderful when I was there. It was a wonderful school. My granddaughter is leaving the middle school this year. I am so dreading her going to the building, not to the fabulous teachers, they are awesome, but to the building. To the darkness. Last year I was at a Board of Education meeting and they had just done a walkthrough with the newspaper at Hobbton if y'all remember it, and it was in the paper how bad Hobbton was. The students were not smart, they were not learning, it was too dull, it was

dark and dreary. And I asked them, then why haven't you fixed it? No answers. So, I am glad to be here. I didn't know all this was happening, but I'm glad I was here because I fully support Hobbton getting a new school. They need it. Our children deserve it. My grandchildren. Your grandchildren. All of the children here and their grandchildren, because it will be another sixty years before another one is built, and we know that. I don't understand why we have \$77 million in school debt, and we've been building schools a long time back. So, I don't know. I don't understand that part of it. I'm sure y'all do. You know why you're keeping it going, but please do not let Hobbton not have what they need because we have not paid off schools before. They deserve. Thank you. And I will say thank you for my veterans park. Don't forget. We've got some veterans sitting out there, but don't forget us."

Arianna Corbett, 5790 Faison Highway, Clinton, NC - "Hello. I have attended Hobbton Elementary School, Middle School, and High School. I started Kindergarten in 2006, I graduated high school in 2019, and in January of 2024 I will start as an educator. Through my collegiate career, I always knew that I wanted to come back to my home, and I did that. I am a coach, I am a leader, I am a future educator at Hobbton and I am very glad to have that opportunity. I have built many relationships within the school system and the community. I am thankful for the opportunities that Hobbton has given me as a student, a coach, and now an educator. Our students deserve to have more opportunities than myself, as an alumni, have had. These opportunities include better classroom environments, newer facilities including such as a cafeteria, auditorium, gymnasium, bathrooms, athletic fields such a track, and proper locker rooms for volleyball, basketball, and general PE classes. All classrooms need to be in one building as others have said for safety reasons. And overall, to have an appealing school to prospective students or faculty members. I could have chosen any other school in the county and other counties that had a lot better to offer when it comes to looks and what is provided to us and to my students, but I chose to go home. As I got on Facebook today, I happened to run into a memory from 2016 that a Midway student had posted. They said, 'You go to Hobbton? I'm sorry. You go to a trash, poor, trailer classroom, cockroach infested school that is inferior to Midway. You are just lucky to live in Sampson County so your school's name might be mentioned in the same breath as ours. Now, don't you have some cockroaches to go clean out of your bookbag?' That is not something that was said to me, but a classmate of mine, and I can point you to the exact student who said it and said it to one of my classmates. It's a shame that other schools in this community think the same thing and think about Hobbton as that way. But I don't see it that way. These people in this room don't see it that way. We choose to continue to support Hobbton and continue to let it grow within the future. I am the future, and I can't wait to let the future continue to grow. Thank you."

Whitney Parker, 7745 Snow Hill Drive, Roseboro, NC - "Good evening. I want to start out by saying that everyone deserves clean air and clean water. That is not the case in Sampson County because of this toxic dump that's between Clinton and Roseboro. The air is full of methane gas, we now know that the water has perfluoroalkyl chemicals which is PFAS, so our water is contaminated. It's obvious that Sampson County is choosing profit over people. It's kind of frustrating when you think about it because you have anxiety that you can't sleep at night, you can't enjoy what you work for, now you want us to pay for dumping trash. Moving forward, I just recommend eliminating this trash tax and moving toward capping and closing this landfill. That's all I have."

Edward Gillam, 817 W. 2nd Street, Garland, NC - "Good evening, Commissioners. I'm here to talk about a subject, one of my town commissioners, we were having a conversation, and he was advising me that the Garland Shirt Company had closed on November 28. That's over 100 jobs. We all know that. He was telling me about how the families are about like this room right here. I mean, people are out of work and it's very frustrating. It's sad because, you know, this is Christmas. We know that if they file for unemployment it's going to take them a while to get it and all that kind of stuff. I'm not blaming the County Commissioners for this. I'm not blaming the Mayor or anybody else. But, the thing is we have to hold accountability in the lower part of Sampson County. I feel like sometimes it's overlooked. Maybe there's some alternatives for actually income in Garland and places like that down there. I'm thinking about historical preservation, you know you just got the CVB Annual Report, investing in that. If you walk down those streets in Garland there's a lot of history there. A lot of historical landmarks there. And maybe we can invest in that and get grants and stuff like that and put people in work and stuff so we won't have to worry about this kind of stuff because 100 people down there, it's devastating. Believe me because there's not that many people actually down there but the southern end of the county is part of the county and we have to make sure that we take care of this. You know, it was good, we celebrated when the business got back there and now you know it's closed and I don't hear anything else about it. It's like it's just gone you know, and it's sad. And I think about those people a lot because actually my mother used to work there a long time ago and some of my family members actually had currently worked there. And so I'm just here to acknowledge it and maybe you can do something and go down there and help the mayor and the town board members and everything because we need that. We need your help. That's all I have to say. Merry Christmas."

Jack Hill, 1391 Mt. Olive Highway, Newton Grove, NC - "I don't have a big speech, but I just got frustrated today and I called the county office and the lady told me to come to the board meeting. I'm going to tell you why. Trash tax. I got that. What the... is this? I go to a trash dump once a week. Convenience site in Newton Grove. Couple of weeks ago I went on Friday. Got to the gate, gate is locked. Nothing there. Nobody there. Looked at the hours. They're supposed to be open. Went today. Pulled up to the gate. Gate locked. I called the number on the fence. It's evidently broke down, full or something. There ain't no sign on the gate. That's my gas and time I've carried two times recently. This has been going on for years. Not just the last two months. It's been there when Waste Industries was there. Same thing. And then you want me to pay an \$80 tax. I don't get it. It don't make sense. It's just my frustration. I pay county tax. I don't have county water. I don't have the privilege of that. I don't know why. Never been told why. But I got the privilege to carry trash over to the dump site. It's supposed to be convenient. I don't see where it's convenient me going two or three times to carry one little four or five bags of trash. How is that convenient to me and then you want me to pay \$80 a year for that convenience? Why weren't we told about this ahead of time? Instead of like one individual mentioned while ago we just got a tax bill. I don't understand how our government is working. Right now it's not working to me and I don't agree with it. And I told my wife when I left the house, I'm going to try to control my temper, but if I call you bring the checkbook."

Anthony Monds, 6428 Autry Mill Road, Godwin, NC - "Good evening. They told me last time someone said to address myself as I am and that's Apostle Monds so it's accordingly. So, this is my issue, first of all of those of you that are part of Hobbton this is not part of what I've come

here today to address but I came today, my daughter went to Hobbton for a period of time. She played basketball in 2016 and she was on that state four by one hundred state championship so I'm familiar with it. Infested with black mold, so on and so forth. She has allergies so the black mold was definitely an issue. So I do understand. When someone says they understand that means they've been there. Not just saying it as surface. You've been there. You can relate to what I'm talking about so I can relate to what y'all are saying about the dilapidation of the school and so on and so forth. So Dr. King, I think he's still here. He did an awesome job. Everybody else that's been up here did an awesome job as well but this is why I'm here this evening. My purpose of being here this evening first of all one commissioner reached out to me last month about the noise issue that I brought up so there is a lack of effective communication so if I were you I would take down this number. This is number 910-286-6604 so you can call me because I only had one commissioner reach out to me concerning that. So my issue this evening is those of you who have children who have been part of the DSS of Sampson County system, I'm bringing to the commissioners' attention that there has been a grave injustice that has been handed down and continues to be handed down. There's various families that has been affected by Sampson County DSS system and the grievous, the grievous actions that has been taking place by those in authoritative positions. I have brought them to several people's attention, not going to mention names, but you know who you are and so I submit to you, the board, this evening that I've been in contact with various families and for those of you who are part of Hobbton and so on and so forth, the power of the pen come voting time is very powerful so y'all remember that. Don't just come here when it's time to vote you can change things like that as well. That's one way of getting people's attention. But I submit to you, let's have a forum with these families. As commissioners, sit down, see us as humans, not just a statistic, and hear, listen to what these families and individuals has to say in the grievous actions and scrupulous activities that has been going on with Sampson County DSS and I would like for that to happen. If anyone would like to get in contact with me after this you can get in contact with me as well and if you know anyone have them to get in contact with me because this is a movement that's about to start. So I thank you this evening for listening. Don't just let it go in one ear and out the other. If I were you I would get in contact with me so 910-286-6604. I greatly appreciate it so we need to do something at least if we can stop the funding for DSS that's one way of getting their attention as well so I'm not going away. Even when I get my grandchild back, I'm not going away. Appreciate it. Y'all have a blessed evening."

Diane Newkirk, 4730 Old Warsaw Road, Turkey, NC - "We do have others here with us on tonight. I ask that you'll stand, all that are here due to our water conditions in the Turkey area. The reason why we're here on tonight, we're here with Elaine Faison Hunt who has been coming I think over a year now talking about our water in our area. We do have rust in our water and Lord knows what else is in the water. We can't drink it. We buy bottled water to drink, to cook, to wash our hair, to wash our clothes, especially white clothes or we wear them dingy. We also have to buy filters to go into our units on a monthly basis and still we see some film on top of the water when we leave it in a glass. We just want clean water and to feel good about drinking from our faucet. We want great things for Sampson County as well in our community we look for great things to happen for the residents of Turkey. We have elderly people from 80 to 90 buying filters out of their social security checks. We pay county taxes like everyone else and would love to drink clean water from our faucet. There are many diseases in the land and we pray that drinking our water would not impact a disease within us. To buy a case of water is \$6 per case, there's 40 bottles. We buy two cases, depending on the household.

Two cases is \$12 a week there's four weeks, \$48 a month, there's 12 months to the year. That's \$576 a year that we buy water just so we can have clean water to drink so we ask that you would consider again running the lines that's needed for us to get clean drinking water. Thank you."

Following the public comment section, Chairman Kivett reviewed budget statements that were made earlier in the year.

Item 8: Closed Session - G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(6)&(a)(3)

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

Recess to Reconvene

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Godwin and seconded by Vice Chairperson Sue Lee, the Board voted unanimously to Recess to Reconvene on Monday, November 20, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Administrative Board Room, 406 County Complex Road, Clinton, NC.

/signed copy on file in Clerk's Office

R. Jerol Kivett, Chairman

/signed copy on file in Clerk's Office

Stephanie P. Shannon, Clerk to the Board