

The Sampson County Board of Commissioners convened for their regular meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 6, 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. Vice Chairperson Sue Lee called upon Commissioner McLamb who provided the invocation. Vice Chairperson Sue Lee then 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: Reports and Presentations

NCDOT Update Chairman Jerol Kivett called upon Keith Jackson, NCDOT Highway Maintenance Engineer, who gave an update on current and future projects. Mr. Jackson stated that the DOT is recovering from the COVID 19 Pandemic, has a level budget, and is actively hiring again. While they are still facing some material backlog, the situation has greatly improved, and DOT is working diligently through this issue. Mr. Jackson also discussed planned maintenance versus reactive maintenance. He then answered questions from the Board regarding the resurfacing of Lisbon Street and Firetower, Wildcat, and Maxwell Roads, and the completion of the Hwy 24 project on Sunset Avenue.

Presentation of Audit for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022 Chairman Kivett called upon Finance Officer David Clack and Wade Green who presented the audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022. Mr. Green commended the Commissioners and staff for a clean audit. Mr. Clack commented that staff had done a great job monitoring departmental expenses, allowing the County to increase its fund balance. Upon a motion by Vice Chairperson Sue Lee and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to accept and approve the audit subject to subsequent approval by the Local Government Commission.

Item 2: Action Items

Public Hearing – Naming of Private Roads Chairman Kivett opened a public hearing and called upon Clerk to the Board Stephanie Shannon who informed the Board that the County has duly advertised a public hearing to receive comments on the recommendations of the Road Naming Committee with regard to the names of certain private roads. The Road Naming Committee recommends that PVT 1361-364 be named Facility Road. Chairman Kivett opened the floor for comments and hearing none closed the public hearing. Upon a motion by Commissioner Godwin and seconded by Commissioner McLamb, the Board voted unanimously to name the road as recommended.

Tax Administration – Annual Statutory Activities Related to Tax Collection Chairman Kivett called upon Tax Administrator Jim Johnson who reported to the Board the amount of

unpaid taxes for last year which are liens on real property pursuant to GS 105-369. According to the general statutes, the Board must set a date to advertise these delinquent taxes at least once between March 1 and June 30 upon receipt of this information. Mr. Johnson recommended an advertisement date of April 12, 2023, with a deadline for payment being April 6, 2023. Upon a motion by Vice Chairperson Sue Lee and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to authorize advertisement of unpaid taxes which are liens on real property as recommended by the Tax Administrator. Mr. Johnson went on to explain that in accordance with GS 105-322, the first meeting of the Board of Equalization and Review shall not be held earlier than the first Monday in April and not later than the first Monday in May. In a year that the County conducts a real property revaluation, the Board shall complete its duties on or before December 1. The meeting dates are required to be published at least three times, with the first publication to be at least ten days prior to the first meeting. Also, the notice shall state the date the Board expects to adjourn. Mr. Johnson proposed Thursday, April 20, 2023, as the date for the 2023 Board of Equalization and Review Hearings with appointment times from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Upon a motion by Commissioner McLamb and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to set the dates for the Board of Equalization and Review as proposed.

Tax Administration – Potential Change in Reappraisal Cycle Mr. Johnson went on to inform the Board that in May 2022 the County received correspondence from the NC Department of Revenue advising that the County had fallen outside of the acceptance range of standards regarding the frequency of property reappraisals. The NCDOR has recommended that the County conduct its next reappraisal earlier than the currently scheduled reappraisal. In order to ensure that property values more closely reflect current market conditions and, in an effort to provide a more fair and equal tax base to its citizens, County staff recommends to advance the date of the next scheduled reappraisal of real property to January 1, 2024 and thereafter to follow a four-year reappraisal cycle. The County also solicited bids to conduct the next reappraisal. The County sent requests to 16 companies approved to conduct these services in North Carolina. The County received responses from 4 companies. The company with the lowest responsive bid that can complete the reappraisal quickest was Pearson's Appraisal Service. Upon a motion by Commissioner Godwin and seconded by Commissioner Lethia Lee, the Board voted unanimously to adopt a resolution designating a new four-year reappraisal cycle and advancing the effective date of the next scheduled reappraisal of real property to January 1, 2024. (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.) Upon a motion by Vice Chair Sue Lee and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to award the bid for a desk-top review appraisal to Pearson's Appraisal Service in the amount of \$779,324.50, approve the associated budget amendment, and allow the County Manager to negotiate and sign the contract for reappraisal services.

Economic Development – Masterplan of the Joe Britt Warren Business and Industrial Park Chairman Kivett called upon Economic Development Director Stephen Barrington who explained that on November 8, 2022, the County issued a request for qualifications for architectural and engineering services for Sampson County's Joe Britt Warren Business and Industrial Park Masterplan Project. County staff found Thomas and Hutton to be the most

qualified RFQ respondent. Mr. Barrington requested that the Board approve a resolution authorizing the County Manager to negotiate and execute a contract with Thomas and Hutton for architectural and engineering services to complete a Masterplan of the Joe Britt Warren Business and Industrial Park. He explained that funding for this project is grant-based and provided by NC's Southeast. Upon a motion by Chairman Kivett and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to adopt a resolution that authorizes the County Manger to negotiate and execute a contract with Thomas and Hutton for architectural and engineering services to complete a Masterplan of the Joe Britt Warren Business and Industrial Park. (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)

Item 3: Board Appointments

Sampson County Economic Development Advisory Board Upon a motion made by Vice Chairperson Sue Lee and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Bill Scott to the Sampson County Economic Development Advisory Board.

Eastern Carolina Regional Housing Authority Upon a motion by Vice Chairperson Sue Lee and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Patty Cherry to the Eastern Carolina Regional Housing Authority.

Mid-Carolina Rural Planning Organization Upon a motion by Vice Chairperson Sue Lee and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Commissioner Allen McLamb to the Mid-Carolina Rural Planning Organization.

Item 4: Consent Agenda

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

- a. Approved the minutes of the January 9, 2023 Board meeting (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
- b. Accepted grant funds awarded to Sampson County Emergency Services from Firehouse Subs to purchase an ATV and approved the associated budget amendment
- c. Adopted a resolution authorizing an Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Salemburg for Tax Collection and authorized the Board Chair to execute the Interlocal Agreement (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
- d. Approved the late disabled veterans tax exclusion request for Jimmie Lee Sanders
- e. Authorized the execution of a Facility Use Agreement between Sampson County Parks and Recreation and Sampson County Schools
- f. Authorized the submission of the 2023 United Way Funding Application for the Department of Aging's Wheelchair Ramp Program
- g. Awarded the bid for Upgrade and Repurposing of Existing Lights at Western District Park to the lowest bidder, Tommy Lawrence Electrical Contractors, Inc. at the bid price

of \$398,225 and authorized the County Manager to execute all associated documents

- h. Adopted a resolution accepting an upset bid and authorizing the sale of surplus property (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
- i. Adopted a resolution in support for compression increases for JCPC (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
- j. Approved the budget amendments as submitted

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		Finance		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11243800	535300	Maintenance Repair Vehicles	\$5,000.	
11999000	509700	Contingency		\$5,000.

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

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		Finance		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11243100	532100	Telephone and Postage	\$1,630.	
11243100	538100	Data Processing Programing	\$2,500.	
11243100	521300	Uniforms	\$38,171.	
11243100	526201	Department Supplies Equipment	\$1,500.	
11243100	526200	Department Supplies	\$35,011.	

<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11034310	403623	County Schools SROs	\$78,812.	

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		Public Buildings		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11142600	535100	Maintenance Repairs Buildings	\$30,000.	
11999000	509700	Contingency		\$30,000.

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

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		Expo Center		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
62998610	544002	Contract Services - Security	\$6,000.	
62998610	544003	House Manager Exp.	\$6,000.	
62998610	544007	Bar Waitstaff Exp.	\$3,000.	
62998610	522101	Liquor	\$2,000.	
62998610	522102	Beer & Wine Exp.	\$3,000.	

<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
62939861	405303	House Manager Rev.	\$6,000.	
62939861	405302	Security Officer Rev.	\$6,000.	
62939861	404010	Bar Sales	\$8,000.	

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		Expo Center		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
62998610	526201	Dept. Supplies – Non Depr. Asset	\$2,500.	
<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
62939861	408901	Misc.	\$2,500.	
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		Library		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11761100	544200	Cultural Programs	\$545.	
<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11036110	408900	Misc Revenue	\$545.	
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		Public Water		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
61971000	533400	Bulk Water Purchases	\$100,000.	
<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
61937100	405100	Water Sales	\$100,000.	
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		Aging		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
2558670	524100	Building Materials	\$15,442.	
<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
2035867	403601	State Grant Mid Carolina	\$15,442.	

Clinton City Schools, State Fund, Budget Amendment 2

Clinton City Schools, Federal Fund, Budget Amendment 2

k. Approved the tax refunds and releases as submitted

#10103	Cassell Devane	\$101.57
#10082	Kenneth Cox	\$375.21
#10074	Isiah Herring Jr.	\$416.25
#10084	John Jordan	\$245.48
#10088	Celestine Wright	\$275.76
#10091	Pamela Holland Coombs	\$131.55
#10098	Edwards Pig Nursery	\$129.94
Tax Release	Eric Douglas Matthis	\$191.69
Tax Release	Patricia Murphy Horrell	\$205.81
Tax Release	Ella E. and Matthew P. Sorrell	\$349.98
Tax Release	Mary Rachel Pope McLamb	\$267.26
Tax Release	John Bradshaw	\$660.08

Consent Agenda (as Board of Health)

1. Approved Sampson County Heath Department Fees/CPT Update

Item 5: Board Information

The Board received the following items as information only:

- a. November 21, 2022 Minutes from SCHD Advisory Committee Meeting
- b. 2022 Communicable Disease Report

Item 6: County Manager's Report

Mr. Causey commended Lin Reynolds for his accomplishments during his time with Sampson County and wished him the best in his future endeavors. He then praised the Board for a positive audit and increasing general fund balance. Mr. Causey stated that he was most proud of the fact that the budget had no deficiencies and thanked Mr. Clack and his staff for providing guidance over the course of the year. Chairman Kivett echoed Mr. Causey's sentiments.

Item 7: Public Comment Period

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

Hardy Ballance, 740 Belvoir School Road, Clinton, North Carolina - "The reason I'm here tonight is to talk about beavers. We have a problem here in Sampson County with beavers. All of you know. All of you have heard. I would like to say that I appreciate everything y'all do for the County. You take a lot of time out of your own personal lives to take care of this County and I appreciate it. I was trying to get ahold of someone about some beaver trapping and I was directed to a person to contact for trapping. That person later got back with me and told me that he could not trap any more this year for the County because he was already out of funding. So I dug into it a little bit and I found out that the County, if I'm wrong correct me, but my understanding, the County only allowed about \$6,000 in this past year's budget for trapping of beavers. That money is directed to the BMAP program and I think it winds up in the federal wildlife federation to take care of it in whatever route they choose to take care of it. Anyway, year before, I believe we allocated around \$67,000 for beaver management. That's quite a cut. I really don't understand it and I'm not here to question it, I just think we can do better, especially with a problem like beavers. Beavers don't stop working. They work all day every day. They reproduce every year. From one year to the next you could almost double the beaver population if you aren't controlling it. And this year we're not doing a very good job controlling it, so I would ask you to please consider putting more funding back into this beaver management so that we can take care of this problem because this problem is only going to escalate. We're going to have problems with our roads, our bridges, our timber, our crops. All of that is going to be affected if we don't continually control this beaver problem. I believe I read somewhere that for every dollar spent in beaver control we're saving ourselves somewhere between four and five dollars on preventative measures. And I've always been told that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. And I trust that you will find a way to put more funding back into beaver control. Thank you."

Tee Sealey, J.W. Sealey and Associates, 6534 Sisk Culbreth Road, Godwin, North Carolina - "We're in the building business. We've been building in Sampson County for years. Somehow with this shared driveway situation out in a rural area, that you know, that's hard to believe like over where we're building out in Autryville now. And what we've done, we've got a recorded plat map where we turned it in to the County for approval for our lots and everything. It got approved. It was signed off by Austin, whoever signed off on it. But DOT, we had to submit it to DOT and now we've got to get a driveway permit from DOT. And when we sent it over to DOT they sent it back with all of these revised mark ups on it that we have to change for more money, another surveyor going out measuring the width of this pipe and everything else. And the only think I'm doing is, you know, we build in numerous counties, and everything has gotten bad about double driveways and the problems you create with these double driveways between neighbors. And that is an issue. We need to check and see how many times the Sheriff's Office has gone to homes where they have these shared driveways. And I just think it's a bad thing to be doing out in the country and you're on an acre of land and you've got to share a driveway with your neighbor. Well, let's say your neighbor is having a get-together, everybody's having a good time, and all of a sudden, my neighbor's blocking my driveway and I'm mad with him. It's just chaotic. But you know, like I said, I've got an approved plat map from the County and then all of a sudden I send it over to DOT for a driveway permit and I've got to go through and like I said spend more and more money to be able to finish these houses. That's all I'm looking for is just somebody to say hey, we can help you get DOT and the County to communicate with each other so we don't have these issues because this is new. The shared driveways are new. Go to Salemburg, they've got driveways straight to the road. Get out here in the middle of Belvoir and South River and you don't see ten cars pass all day and we're going to share a driveway. That's just not even sound for us as a builder to even continue to build in Sampson County. So, we're looking for economic growth in Sampson County, we're in the country, it's a rural area. You want rural growth? You can't get rural growth when you're making people share driveways. And I do have one set of houses out there that I've got to do shared driveways on. And they're the last ones. Thank you very much. Y'all have a good evening."

Larry Sutton, 4761 Bearskin Road, Clinton, North Carolina - "I'm here to invite you to a marker dedication on February 23 at 1:00 in downtown Clinton on Vance Street honoring John Merrick. Merrick was born here in 1859 a slave, and he moved away at age twelve and moved to Durham. And in Durham, John Merrick became a prominent black citizen of Durham. There he opened up several businesses including the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company. And we are honoring his birth place with a marker, again, on February 23 in downtown Clinton at 1:00 pm. Please come out and enjoy that dedication ceremony. And we have the honor of Mrs. Lethia Lee that has agreed to have remarks that day as well. So there again, that's February 23, 1:00 pm in downtown Clinton. We're honoring John Merrick. Thank you."

Paul Fisher, 966 Marion Amos Road, Roseboro, North Carolina - "If you don't know where it's at, it's in the Snow Hill community next to the landfill. My concern is the landfill. We have smell, we have a lot of sound, construction area going on all throughout the night, and everybody knows about it, but there is nothing being done about it. So, I just wanted to bring to your attention that we out there need some help. Thank you."

Adjournment

Upon a motion made by Vice Chairperson Lee and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn.

/signed copy on file in Clerk's Office

R. Jerol Kivett, Chairperson

/signed copy on file in Clerk's Office

Stephanie P. Shannon, Clerk to the Board