

The Sampson County Board of Commissioners convened for their regular meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, July 10, 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 Lee called upon Commissioner Allen McLamb who provided the invocation. Vice Chairperson Sue Lee then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

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

- Added Item 3C - Designation of Voting Delegate for NCACC Annual Conference

Item 1: Planning and Zoning Items

R23-01 Rhetson Companies, Inc. Rezoning Chairman Kivett called upon Senior Planner Michelle Lance who informed the Board that the proposed Rhetson Companies, Inc. Rezoning for tax parcel 13013268103 (1.50 acres) and a portion (1.12 acres) of tax parcel 13013407501 was reviewed by the Sampson County Planning Board at its June 12, 2023, meeting. This proposal would rezone 2.62 acres from Residential Agricultural (RA) to Conditional Commercial (C) (CZ) for the purpose of a retail variety store. The proposed site is located on the corner of Carroll A Britt Rd and Faison Hwy, a major throughfare. The proposed site will be served by County water and an individual septic system. The Sampson County Land Use Plan classifies the parcels as being within the Rural Residential Agricultural Land Use Category. The Planning Board voted 4-0 to recommend approval of the rezoning request. Chairman Kivett called upon Jessica Bowers, an attorney for Rhetson Companies, Inc. Ms. Bowers reviewed the information that Ms. Lance shared and pointed out an aerial map included in the application. Upon a motion by Chairman Kivett and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the rezoning based on the fact that the conditional rezoning to establish a retail variety store is reasonable, in the public interest, and consistent with the Sampson County Land Use Plan.

Item 2: Public Hearings

Renaming of Private Road Chairman Kivett opened a public hearing and called upon GIS Coordinator Jessie Matthews who shared that the Road Naming Committee members have reviewed the road name appeal of SR 1364 and recommend that the road be renamed Snow Hill Drive. Chairman Kivett opened the floor for public comments. The following were received:

Margaret Butler, 7786 Roseboro Hwy., Roseboro, NC - "Good evening. My name is Margaret Butler and just like she was saying, we were concerned about the naming of the road to Snow

Hill Drive and we wish you would consider, take that in consideration, and because that's the last of the Snow Hill Community. So, we would like the name, it's been there for over 150 years. So we need to, we want to keep that name afloat. Okay, thank you."

Whitney Parker, 7745 Roseboro Hwy., Roseboro, NC - "Good evening. I concur with the name change to Snow Hill Drive for our historical and all the right reasons. And I can yield my time to the next speaker. Thank you."

Chairman Kivett opened the floor for any other comments and hearing none closed the public hearing. Upon a motion by Vice Chairperson Sue Lee and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to rename the road as recommended.

Amended Economic Development Appropriations Chairman Kivett opened a public hearing and called upon Finance Officer David Clack who discussed amendments to the Economic Development budget, namely extending grant funds that were not expended in FY 2022-2023 to FY 2023-2024 in order to complete projects and/or initiatives associated with NC Commerce, Golden Leaf, and NC's Southeast awarded grants. Chairman Kivett opened the floor for public comments and hearing none closed the public hearing. Upon a motion by Commissioner Godwin and seconded by Commissioner Lethia Lee, the Board voted unanimously to approve the amendments to the Economic Development budget as requested.

Item 3: Action Items

Booster Pump Station Contract Award Chairman Kivett called upon David Ross with Dewberry Engineers who shared that bids for the Booster Pump Station Procurement were received on Thursday, May 11, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. Fewer than three bids were received for the project, so the bids were not opened. A re-advertisement for bids was issued, which set the bid opening date to Thursday, May 25, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. After the bid opening, Dewberry Engineers Inc. reviewed the bid received for this project and determined that the bidder has submitted a responsive, responsible bid. This bid package includes the procurement of two booster pump stations. One will be installed in Midway at the Midway Elevated Storage Tank and the other will be installed in Bonnetsville, NC to support the Roseboro Elevated Storage Tank. The total base bid includes instrumentation, controls, and SCADA integration for each booster pump station. This project is being funded by the directly allocated American Rescue Plan (ARP). Mr. Ross then stated that Dewberry recommends that the contract for the Sampson County Booster Pump Stations Procurement Project be awarded to EFI Solutions, the apparent low, responsible, responsive bidder based on the base bid at a contract price of \$734,413.76. Upon a motion by Vice Chairperson Sue Lee and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to award the bid to EFI Solutions as recommended by Dewberry Engineers.

Tax Settlement and Charge to Tax Collector Chairman Kivett called upon Tax Administrator Jim Johnson who provided tax settlement information for the previous fiscal year. Upon a motion by Commissioner McLamb and seconded by Commissioner Lethia Lee, the Board voted unanimously to accept the settlement and charge Jim Johnson with the collection of taxes for FY 2023-2024. (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)

Designation of Voting Delegate for NCACC Annual Conference Chairman Kivett called on Mr. Causey who explained that the Board selects a voting delegate annually to represent them at the NCACC Annual Conference. Mr. Causey mentioned that Chairman Kivett has historically attended the Conference and Chairman Kivett briefly discussed his involvement with the NCACC and volunteered to act as the voting delegate. Upon a motion by Vice Chairperson Sue Lee and seconded by Commissioner Lethia Lee, the Board voted unanimously to designate Chairman Jerol Kivett to serve as the County's voting delegate for the 2023 NCACC Annual Conference.

Item 4: Board Appointments

Sampson County Convention and Visitors Bureau Board Upon a motion by Vice Chairperson Sue Lee and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Kullen Bell to the Sampson County CVB Board. Upon a motion by Vice Chairperson Sue Lee and seconded by Commissioner Lethia Lee, the Board voted unanimously to reappoint Denise Rentz, Roy Patel, and Sharad Surati to the Sampson County CVB Board.

Sampson Community College Board of Trustees Upon a motion by Vice Chairperson Sue Lee and seconded by Chairman Kivett, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Catherine Ezzell-Joyner to the Sampson Community College Board of Trustees.

Southeastern Economic Development Commission Upon a motion by Vice Chairperson Sue Lee and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Grover Ezzell to the Southeastern Economic Development Commissioner (SEDC) Board.

Item 5: Consent Agenda

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

- a. Approved the minutes of the June 5, 2023, June 12, 2023, June 20, 2023, and June 26, 2023 meetings (Copies filed in Inc. Minute Book ____, Page ____.)
- b. Authorized Sampson County Emergency Services to accept a grant from Southern River Electric Membership Corporation and approve the associated budget amendment
- c. Adopted a Resolution modifying the prior Resolution Approving the Request of the Town of Newton Grove for Sampson County to Perform All Inspections within the Jurisdiction of the Town of Newton Grove as set forth in the Contract for Building Inspections Services and authorized Chairman R. Jerol Kivett to execute said contract on behalf of Sampson County (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book ____, Page ____.)
- d. Adopted the Sampson County Solid Waste Availability Fee Ordinance (Copy filed in Ordinance Book ____, Page ____.)

- e. Authorized the County Manager to execute an Amendment to Engagement for Legal Services between Sampson County and The Law Office of W. Joel Starling, Jr., PLLC
- f. Authorized a revision of the 2022-2023 Home and Community Care Block Grant for Older Adults
- g. Authorized Sampson Area Transportation to apply for the following grants from the NC Department of Transportation for FY 23: CTP/5311 (Administrative expenses), 5310 Elderly/Disabled (to provide transp. services), Capital (purchase transit vehicles), and a Non-STI Grant to replace a mini-van that was previously purchased by Sampson County
- h. Authorized a contract between Sampson County and W Greene PLLC for audit services for fiscal year ending June 30, 2023
- i. Approved the Sampson County Schools Capital Outlay Budget for FY 2023-2024
- j. Approved late disabled veterans tax exclusion requests for James A. Brewington and Christopher N. Corbin
- k. Approved the tax refunds and releases as submitted

#10204	Robert Felton Naylor	\$102.88
#10194	Nathan Piercy	\$247.25
#10192	Meral Luna Benitez	\$624.12
#10185	Horrell Swine & Poultry Inc.	\$139.08
#10187	Jahisien Jahikwin Jiffir Cruse	\$207.21
#10198	Tonja Lee Carter	\$137.83
#10180	Genia Larese Newkirk	\$105.61
#10203	Sherry Marie Norris	\$132.62
#10202	Kenneth Robert Norris	\$199.80
Tax Release	T. Robinson Trucking	\$387.16
Tax Release	Eric Judd Delph	\$710.70

- l. Approved budget amendments as submitted

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>			
<u>Code Number</u>	<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11243300	526200 Department Supplies	\$5,000.	
<u>REVENUE</u>			
<u>Code Number</u>	<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11034330	408402 Donations	\$5,000.	

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		Economic Development		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11449200	529902	Building Reuse	\$221,759.	
11449200	519500	Professional Services – Engineering	\$93,041.	
11449200	544000	Contracted Services	\$344,248.	

<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11034920	403602	Building Reuse Grants	\$221,759.	
11034920	408920	NC’s Southeast Econ Dev Grant	\$195,418.	
11034920	408922	Golden Leaf Grant	\$241,871.	

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		Various Departments		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11142600	535123	Maint/Repair of Buildings	\$84,683.	
11449600	526201	Dept Equipment	\$2,109.	
16145000	554001	CO Vehicles State	\$1,295,050.	
16145000	554002	CO Vehicles County Match	\$171,139.	
11761200	555000	Capital Outlay Other Equipment	\$8,975.	
62998610	526200	Dept Supplies	\$3,484.	
11243100	526200	Dept Supplies	\$11,609.	
11243100	521300	Uniforms	\$13,950.	
11243100	555000	Capital Outlay Other Equipment	\$141,731.	
11659220	550000	Unallocated Capital Outlay		\$250,000.
11659220	558000	Roofs/Building Improvements	\$250,000.	
11141200	544000	Contract Services	\$30,000.	

<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
16134500	403612	State Trans Funds Vehicles	\$1,295,050.	
16134500	409800	Fund Bal Approp Encumbrances		\$717,139.
11039999	409800	Fund Bal Approp Encumbrances	\$293,057.	
62939861	409800	Fund Bal Approp Encumbrances	\$3,484.	

- Clinton City Schools Budget Amendment 4 – State
- Clinton City Schools Budget Amendment 2 – Local
- Clinton City Schools Budget Amendment 4 – Federal
- Clinton City Schools Budget Amendment 2 – Capital Outlay
- Clinton City Schools Budget Amendment 1 – Child Nutrition
- Clinton City Schools Budget Amendment 2 – Other Special Revenue

- m. Adopted a Resolution Authorizing Sampson County to Enter into a Contract with Granicus for the Sampson County Website Redesign Project and Further Authorizing the County Manager to Execute Said Contract and Any Necessary Related Documents

Item 7: County Manager's Report

Chairman Kivett acknowledged the new Sampson County Schools Superintendent Dr. Jamie King. He expressed his appreciation for Dr. King and welcomed him to Sampson County. Chairman Kivett then called upon County Manager Ed Causey who had nothing to report.

Item 8: 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:

Abdullah Fisher, 966 Marion Amos Road, Roseboro, NC - "For the public record, on June 27 there was a public hearing about the Sapphire Renewable Natural Gas facility to be located at the Sampson County toxic waste dump, or should I say, Sampson County Landfill. 99% of the people that spoke disapproved and, in my opinion, the 1% that did approve were the GFL/Sapphire representatives and possibly that district's representatives and surrounding districts. Alright, I say that because they weren't there. It was the people speaking for the people. At that meeting maps were given out which showed the toxic dump and a one mile so called buffer zone which looks like this. One mile. To me, I said in the meeting that it looks like a danger zone or a drop zone or like when you drop a bomb, the blast radius. Also, that being said, companies like BFI in the 90's and now GFL who's founder and CEO is not even a US citizen and FYI he just bought a \$362,000,000 super yacht at the expense of the Snow Hill Community. Thank you."

Larry Sutton, 4761 Bearskin Road, Clinton, NC - "Good evening to everyone. I appreciate the opportunity to have the public input sessions at the board meeting that we have monthly and I would like to encourage other citizens to avail yourself to have the chance to present input for the County to consider. This is America and we do have the right to express our views on what's going on in our communities and I have one or two concerns. Recently the County was considering and probably you still are as a body asking for a sales tax increase and according to my understanding, Board members felt like that tax was the fairest tax to levy on the folks in the County and I would choose to oppose that notion because I believe if you went deeper into studying sales taxes you would find out that sales taxes are regressive taxes and they generally put a burden on the lower income households in the County. So, for the record, right now I am opposing the idea of raising or asking to have a sales tax raised up to \$.01 because, in my opinion, that tax would basically impact the lower income households more than any other group and right now we are facing issues in our County that would not be conducive to adding on to the burden of lower income households. We are already a tier one county. There are forty tier one counties in North Carolina and we rank in that tier one section as well as a distressed county in North Carolina. Thank you, sir.

Adjournment

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

/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