

The Sampson County Board of Commissioners convened for their regular meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, August 7, 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 Godwin who provided the invocation. Vice Chairperson Sue Lee then asked the veterans in the audience to lead 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 with the following changes:

- Added Reports and Presentations – NCDOT Update by Highway Maintenance Engineer Keith Jackson
- Added Item 2B – Sampson Regional Medical Center Board of Trustees Appointment
- Added one item to the Consent Agenda – Authorize the County Manager to execute a contract between Sampson County Department of Aging and the Mid-Carolina Agency on Aging for the NC Family Caregiver Support Program
- Added a Closed Session following the Public Comment Period pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) (attorney-client privilege)

### **Reports and Presentations**

Chairman Kivett called upon NCDOT Highway Maintenance Engineer Keith Jackson who provided a brief update on DOT projects throughout the County. Mr. Jackson clarified that repairs on Lisbon Street are scheduled to go under contract later this year.

### **Item 1: Public Hearing**

Sampson Area Transportation – FY25 Community Transportation Program Application  
Chairman Kivett opened a public hearing and called upon Sampson Area Transportation Director Rosemarie Oates-Mobley who reviewed four grants that the department is planning to apply for in preparation for FY25. Chairman Kivett opened the floor for public 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 adopt a resolution authorizing the submission of grant applications for federal and state funding and to authorize

the County Manager to execute any necessary related documents. (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book \_\_\_\_\_, Page \_\_\_\_\_.)

**Item 2: Action Items**

Adopt a Resolution Supporting the Naming of a Portion of Interstate 40 from Mile Marker 352 to 357 in Honor of Representative Larry M. Bell Chairman Kivett called upon Commissioner Lethia Lee who presented a resolution supporting the naming of a portion of Interstate 40 in honor of Larry M. Bell. Upon a motion by Commissioner Lethia Lee and seconded by Commissioner McLamb, the Board voted unanimously to adopt a Resolution Supporting the Naming of a Portion of Interstate 40 From Mile Marker 352 to 357 in Honor of Representative Larry M. Bell. (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book \_\_\_\_\_, Page \_\_\_\_\_.)

Sampson Regional Medical Center Board of Trustees Upon a motion by Vice Chairperson Sue Lee and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Brandon Warren to the Sampson Regional Medical Center Board of Trustees.

**Item 3: Consent Agenda**

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

**(as Board of Commissioners)**

- a. Approved the minutes of the July 10, 2023 meeting (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book \_\_\_\_\_, Page \_\_\_\_\_.)
- b. Authorized execution of the contract for legal services for FY 23-24 between Sampson County (DSS) and Warrick and Bradshaw
- c. Authorized execution of the contracts for non-emergency medical transportation services for FY 23-24 between Sampson County (DSS) and Sampson Area Transportation, The Gardens of Roseboro, and The Magnolia
- d. Authorized execution of the contract for school nursing services for FY 23-24 between Sampson County (Health Department) and Clinton City Schools
- e. Authorized execution of an Agreement for the Protection, Development, and Improvement of Forest Lands between Sampson County and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- f. Approved a request by Sampson County Sheriff's Office to retire canines "Peggi" and "Kane" and relinquish ownership to their current handlers, Ronie Robinson and Heathe Williams effective September 1, 2023

- g. Authorized the County Manager to execute the Urgent Repair Program 2023 Assistance Policy for the Department of Aging
- h. Authorized the County Manager to execute a memorandum of understanding between Sampson County and Sampson County Amateur Radio Services, Inc. (SCARS) allowing SCARS to install a radio repeater at the Taylors Bridge Highway Communications Tower
- i. Declared as surplus and authorize transfer of service weapon (Sig Sauer 9mm pistol, serial number 47A066236) to retiring officer Robert Stroud
- j. Approved the Funding Plan for the FY 23-24 Home and Community Care Block Grant
- k. Approved a late disabled veterans tax exclusion request for James Wesley Reaves
- l. Approved the tax refunds and releases as submitted

#10217	Willie Kim Kinson	\$434.74
#10210	Sharon Lee Bowden	\$148.92
#10211	Michael Glenn Cottle	\$229.68
#10199	David Mark Calcutt	\$104.83
#10214	Nick Eugene Dailey Jr.	\$194.00
#10215	Christine Morgan McCurdy	\$220.14
#10219	Crystal Yvette Gillespie	\$122.61

- m. Approved budget amendments as submitted

<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>		Various Departments	
<u>Code Number</u>	<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
25141410	519400 Professional Services Reappraisal	\$680,101.	
11141210	544000 Contract Services	\$2,000.	
11243250	539500 Employee Training	\$475.	
11243250	526201 Department Supplies – Equipment	\$9,997.	
11243250	526200 Department Supplies	\$6,973.	
15243256	526200 Department Supplies	\$2,558.	
11243700	554000 Department Supplies – Equipment	\$5,265.	
11243700	554000 Capital Outlay – Vehicles	\$801,419.	
61971000	526200 Department Supplies	\$606.	
61971000	526201 Department Supplies – Equipment	\$3,245.	
4449560	555000 Capital Outlay – Other Equipment	\$14,900.	
<b><u>REVENUE</u></b>		<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
<u>Code Number</u>	<u>Source of Revenue</u>		
15134141	409800 Fund Balance Approp Encumbrances	\$680,101.	
15232556	409900 Fund Balance Approp Encumbrances	\$2,558.	
11033910	409100 Loan Proceeds	\$752,974.	
04034956	404010 Lagoon Management	\$14,900.	
11039999	409800 Fund Balance Approp Encumbrances	\$73,155.	
61937100	409800 Fund Balance Approp Encumbrances	\$3,851.	

<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>		Health Department – Maternal Health		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
12551630	523902	Medical Supplies	\$12,000.	

<b><u>REVENUE</u></b>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
12535163	404000	State Funding	\$12,000.	

<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>		Health Department – COVID		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
12551230	539500	Employee Training	\$40,000.	

<b><u>REVENUE</u></b>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
12535123	404095	Fund Balance - State	\$40,000.	

<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>		Health Department – COVID		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
12551240	539500	Employee Training	\$295,150.	

<b><u>REVENUE</u></b>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
12535124	404095	Fund Balance - State	\$295,150.	

<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>		Health Department – COVID		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
12551240	523900	Medical Supplies	\$4,615.	

<b><u>REVENUE</u></b>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
12535124	404095	Fund Balance - State	\$4,615.	

<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>		Cooperative Extension		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
04449560	526200	Department Supplies	\$13,505.	

<b><u>REVENUE</u></b>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
04034956	404010	Lagoon Management Revenues	\$13,505.	

<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>		Health Department – Child Health		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
12551810	525100	Gas, Oil, & Tire	\$1,751.	
12551810	529700	Lab Supplies	\$4,500.	

<b><u>REVENUE</u></b>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
12535181	404000	State Funding	\$6,251.	

<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		Health Department – WIC		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
12551670	526200	Departmental Supplies	\$2,000.	
12551670	529700	Lab Supplies	\$2,500.	
12551670	532100	Telephone/Postage	\$2,500.	
12551670	533000	Utilities	\$2,000.	
12551670	537000	Advertising	\$3,000.	
12551670	543000	Rental Equipment	\$1,000.	
12551670	544000	Contract Services	\$40,332.	
<b>REVENUE</b>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
12535167	404000	State Funding	\$53,332.	

- n. Authorized the County Manager to execute a contract between Sampson County Department of Aging and the Mid-Carolina Agency on Aging for the NC Family Caregiver Support Program

**(as Board of Health)**

- o. Approved SCHD Fee/CPT Code Update

**Item 4: County Manager’s Report**

Chairman Kivett called upon County Manager Ed Causey and requested that he provide an update on the pay study. Mr. Causey shared that the pay study is delayed due to Human Resources staff being heavily involved in work concerning the current lawsuit between the County and employees at the Sampson County Sheriff’s Office. Mr. Causey stated that he hopes that work on the pay study will pick up speed and conclude in the near future.

**Item 5: 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 - “Good evening. This is for the public record. Within less than twenty-four hours of the last council meeting, there was a toxic spill on 3900 Old NC Hwy 24, Bonnetsville. I think it’s safe to say that that truck was headed to the toxic waste dump. If you don’t know, that’s the back entrance to the landfill where, in my opinion, anything goes. Complaints were filed with the Department of Environmental Quality, DEQ, about an earlier spill that happened around the week of June 26<sup>th</sup>. I got a response back from a Jason N. Watkins, he’s the head of the field operations branch for the Division of Waste Management for DEQ. He said that it was byproduct material that was being shipped to Darling Ingredients, former Valley Proteins plant in Fayetteville. He said it’s not material that normally goes in there. So why is it going there? That goes to the landfill. He also said in another email that Darling has shut down parts of their operations for several days in Fayetteville due to a disruption in their water waste system. I wonder why? Hmm.

Throughout several emails Mr. Watkins said that the material is not waste, it's not waste, it's not waste, it's not waste. I beg to differ. According to the DEQ website, not only is it waste, it's considered hazardous waste. According to Article 9's Solid Waste Management under part one, definitions. That's on their website. It says, hazardous waste means a solid waste or combination of solid waste which because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics, may cause a significant increase in serious irreversible or incapacitating reversible illness or pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, disposed of, or otherwise managed. Also, in an interview with WRAL back in May, the reporter asked the mayor of Clinton, Lew Starling, 'When something like this happens, what kind of recourse do you have?' He said, quote, 'We have no recourse.' In closing, I'd like to say the GFL toxic waste dump needs to be shut down. Thank you."

Whitney Parker, 7745 Roseboro Highway, Roseboro, NC - "Good evening. I'm here once again to address the elephant in the room, the Snow Hill toxic waste dump. Mr. Fisher just stated a huge problem. The spills. The thing that came to my attention is that the kids have to stand and wait for the bus stop in these toxic materials. And not only that, they have to live in it. Let's run outside their front door and have to stand and wait for the bus. As Mr. Fisher said, there's no repercussions. I don't understand why, but something needs to be done. And that's all I have to say. Thank you."

Kenny Williams, 301 Carolina Avenue, Clinton, NC - "I'm Kenny Williams. I'm the commander of the American Legion Post 22 here in Clinton. I just wanted to bring some attention to the Veterans Park. I wanted to remember some veterans that their bricks are out there. Corporal John R. Edwards, USMC, 1944-1950, World War II Veteran; Corporal Delbert A. Carr, USMC, 1951-1953, Korean Veteran; and Corporal John Carlisle, USMC, 1960-1966, a Cambodia Veteran. Thank you for your time."

Stephanie Graham, 106 Sampson Street, Clinton, NC - "Hello everyone. I'm standing here today as the director of the Uplift Project and I know y'all are looking at me like, 'Stephanie, what is the Uplift Project? We've never heard of this before.' You're right. It's new. It is a new non-profit organization that has been developed to not only help Clinton City School children but to help Sampson County School children. All of them. You know, one day I was sitting at my shop and I saw some kids and they were considered displaced. Displaced means that they don't have a home, right? These kids were staying inside of hotels. So that let me know that you know what, this is a concern. Everybody's doing backpack giveaways and that's absolutely amazing, good job on the backpacks, but what about those kids that are displaced that don't have shoes, that don't have hygiene products, that don't have the proper things that they need in order to mix and mingle in the schoolhouse with the other kids. So, that's when the Uplift Project was birthed, to be able to give these kids an opportunity to walk in confidence in this 2023-2024 school year. So, I am here to personally invite each and every one of you commissioners, yes, to an event that we are having this Friday at Sunset School. At this event, why should you come? At this event we will have all of the kids that have been identified and that have registered to be there which as of this morning I have 78 kids that will be there. It is going to start at 11:00 a.m. at Sunset, but we've teamed up with Clinton PD. They're going to be there to teach the kids about bullying. What is bullying? How do they counteract bullying? Right? We've got nurses, registered nurses there to talk about hygiene, what it means to have

hygiene because what we're going to do is equip these kids with the knowledge that they need to be able to stand amongst the rest of the kids, not because of the way that they look, but because of the way that they're going to be able to feel and be able to participate just like everybody else. So, I look forward to seeing you there. Thank you."

Larry Sutton, 4761 Bearskin Road, Clinton, NC - "Good evening, Commissioners, staff members, and others. I want to begin by thanking you as a Board of Commissioners for all you do for Sampson County. Your job, task, it's an endless assignment. I'm sure you get phone calls and other concerns from constituents throughout the County, as we should send to you as Commissioners and on my last check, Commissioner Lee, I think I have been assigned to your district at this point. I was moved from Commissioner Lee's District Four to Three so I'm glad to have you as my commissioner. Tonight, I was pleased to hear that the County is concerned about the future needs of transportation for the County, mainly for our senior citizens including yours truly and I look forward to the expansion of programs that you are offering to assist seniors in their needs for transportation. Secondly, I was quite pleased that the Board adopted the resolution supporting Dr. Bell. Dr. Bell, Larry Bell is a staple, a pillar of this community and has been for years, and he is quite deserving of that name for I-40 segment. And lastly, the landfill. The landfill is a nuisance. The landfill meaning the Snow Hill landfill. I would like for the Commissioners to do all you can to make sure that the end date of this nuisance does not become extended ever again. It's time that we begin to consider closing the Snow Hill landfill. It's been 50 years since the Snow Hill landfill began. It began in 1973 and I'm currently doing the research on the background to the landfill at Snow Hill and I do want you to consider making sure that the end date of that landfill does not become extended. Thank you for your attention."

Diane Brown, Mt. Calvary Center for Leadership Development - "Mr. Baylor is having mechanical car problems at this moment so I'm going to speak on his behalf as well as myself. I'm here tonight to honor one of your Commissioners for a job well done. We did this last year for another Commissioner, how he provides in the neighborhood, Commissioner Godwin. He has been a provider for the neighborhood and the surrounding communities, and we honored him last year, but this year we are honoring Commissioner Lethia Lee. 2023 Community Service Award presented to Lethia R. Lee, Sampson County Commissioner, in grateful appreciation of your dedicated service to the people of Sampson County, presented by Dr. Jimmy Tate, Mt. Calvary Center for Leadership Development. We are a nonprofit organization and we connect people to resources and when we have come to these Commissioners, they have provided resources for your County, and for this we want to say thank you and with gratitude we give this award to her. Thank you so much."

Robert Graczyk, 2556 Greens Bridge Road, Garland, NC - "I just wanted to come by and inform you all that the Garland Softball League concluded its baseball league this year with over 150 young adults, young kids I should call them, between the ages of four and nineteen. They paid \$10 each to play. All of the coaches are volunteers. The only thing the Town of Garland pays for is to supplement the umpires there. The fences are falling down. The lights don't work. They can only play until it gets dark. They had playoffs last week and a young individual, because it got dark, kids want to play, they want to win, got injured. The lights don't work, and they haven't worked since a hurricane took out the main ball field back in Florence. We called our representative Ms. Lee for assistance. I just want to say over 150 young boys and girls

played softball in Garland. They don't have helmets because they don't have safety equipment. The catchers don't have any catcher's equipment. The moms and dads go out there and buy them mitts and baseball bats, the league provides the balls for 150 young kids. When I grew up, we played little league baseball. We played little league football. We played flag football and that started us in organized sports. That started us to work together and become a team. These are the things that young people need. I heard people walking aimlessly on streets. They need some support. They need leadership and they need guidance from adults, and they get it from the Garland Softball League. Thank you for your time."

**Item 6: Closed Session - G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3)**

Upon a motion by Vice Chairperson Lee and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to enter into closed session. Upon a motion made by Commissioner McLamb and seconded by Vice Chairperson Lee, the Board voted to come out of closed session.

**Adjournment**

Upon a motion made by Vice Chairperson Sue Lee and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, 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