

The Sampson County Board of Commissioners convened for their regular meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, September 9, 2024, 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 who provided the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

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

- Added Item 2(e): Emergency Management Presentation by Rick Sauer
- Added a Memorandum of Understanding between the Sampson County Child Advocacy Center and the Sampson County Health Department to the Consent Agenda

Item 1: Swearing In of County Attorney

Chairman Kivett called upon County Attorney Paul Allen and acknowledged his family. Clerk to the Board Stephanie Shannon administered Mr. Allen's Oath of Office.

Item 2: Presentations and Updates

Fort Liberty Regional Land Use Advisory Commission Recognition Chairman Kivett called upon Mr. Roland Hall who has served faithfully on the Fort Liberty RLUAC since 2012. Upon his retirement, the RLUAC presented Mr. Hall with the Distinguished Service Award. Chairman Kivett expressed the County's appreciation for Mr. Hall's service.

Citizen Recognition Chairman Kivett called upon Commissioner Lethia Lee who acknowledged Tyler Wise. Ms. Wise serves as the Lead for NC Fellow for the Town of Roseboro. Commissioner Lee presented Ms. Wise with a certificate of appreciation and thanked her for her contributions to the Town of Roseboro and Sampson County as a whole. Ms. Wise and Mayor Alice Butler then spoke briefly about her work with the Town of Roseboro.

Animal Shelter Update Chairman Kivett called upon Animal Shelter Director Anna Ellis who provided an update on the Animal Shelter renovations and operations. Ms. Ellis discussed the advantages of having a veterinarian and surgical suite on site. Ms. Ellis also proposed that adoption fees be reduced four times per year when the shelter becomes full and that the County offer a rabies vaccination clinic for the citizens of Sampson County once per quarter at a cost of \$10 per vaccine. Upon a motion by Chairman Kivett and Vice Chairperson Sue Lee, the Board voted unanimously to approve these proposed changes.

Ivanhoe Water Project Status Update Chairman Kivett called upon Public Works Director Mark Turlington and Engineer David Ross who provided an update on the Ivanhoe Water Project. Mr. Ross reviewed the map of proposed water lines and informed the Board that the project has been advertised for bids. Public Works will hold a pre-bid conference on September 16 prior to the bid opening on October 3. Mr. Ross stated that he hopes to have a recommendation of award at the October 7, 2024 Board meeting.

Emergency Services Presentation Chairman Kivett called upon Emergency Services Director Rick Sauer who reviewed two recent 911 calls and the dispatch errors that were made. Mr. Sauer also discussed staffing issues at the 911 Center and presented a detailed improvement plan that he intends to implement immediately. Overall, the issues of staffing, infrastructure, and funding need to be addressed by Emergency Services leadership as well as the Board of Commissioners. Chairman Kivett provided remarks on a recent visit to the 911 center and commended staff for their hard work despite the department being understaffed and lacking necessary funding.

Item 3: 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:

- a. Approved the minutes of the August 5, 2024, August 12, 2024, and August 19, 2024 meetings (Copies filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
- b. Approved the revised Ethics Policy for Sampson County Department of Social Services (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
- c. Authorized the execution of a contract for non-emergency medical transportation between Sampson County Department of Social Services and Sampson Area Transportation (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
- d. Authorized the execution of a contract for legal services between Sampson County Department of Social Services and Warrick & Bradshaw, PA (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
- e. Authorized the execution of a contract for child support civil officer services between Sampson County Department of Social Services and Jimmy Thornton, Sheriff of Sampson County (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
- f. Authorized the execution of a contract for juvenile court officer/investigator services between Sampson County Department of Social Services and Jimmy Thornton, Sheriff of Sampson County (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
- g. Authorized the execution of a contract for consulting services between Sampson County Department of Social Services and ADR Consultants, Inc. (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)

____, Page ____.)

- h. Authorized the execution of a contract for school health nursing services between the Sampson County Health Department and Sampson County Schools (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page ____.)
- i. Authorized Emergency Management to surplus an old ambulance and to transfer the ambulance to the Sampson County History Museum for display
- j. Adopted a Resolution of Support for a Building Reuse Grant Program Application for Project Level (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page ____.)
- k. Approved a Policy Regarding the Acceptance and Placement of Commemorative Items and Artwork for the Sampson County Courthouse (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page ____.)
- l. Authorized the execution of the audit contract for fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 between Sampson County and W. Greene PLLC (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page ____.)
- m. Authorized the execution of an agreement for the protection, development, and improvement of forest lands in Sampson County between Sampson County and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page ____.)
- n. Approved the surplus of weapons from the Sampson County Sheriff's Office and authorize the department to trade the weapons in for credit to purchase new weapons
- o. Approved the surplus of the service weapon used by retiring employee Eric Pope (Sig Sauer pistol, serial number 58J615595) and authorize the transfer of the weapon to the retiring employee
- p. Approved the acceptance of a Capacity Building Competitive Grant from North Carolina Emergency Management and authorize the execution of the associated Memorandum of Agreement
- q. Approved the 2024-2025 Capital Outlay Request for Sampson County Schools
- r. Approved late disabled veterans tax exclusion requests for Terry Mann, Faron Boyer, and Herbert Jones
- s. Approved tax refunds and releases as submitted
- t. Approved budget amendments as submitted
- u. Authorized the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Sampson County Child Advocacy Center and the Sampson County Health Department (Copy filed in

Item 4: County Manager's Report

Chairman Kivett called upon County Manager Ed Causey who introduced new Inspections Director Devin Hall. The Board welcomed Mr. Hall and shared that they had already heard positive comments from constituents about the work that he is doing in his new role.

Item 5: Public Comment Period

Chairman Kivett opened the floor for public comments. The following were received:

Steve Lamb - "I appreciate seeing you all Board members and whatever. I've got a very, very bad complaint over the food inspection system of Ms. Wanda Robinson. The way it's been handled she's going to one place, Sharon's. Had it closed down but all the other places, when people tries to get something done, she's refused and I've called several other places about it and I've called the human resources issue about it. It's unreal. She closed one restaurant down and then will go to the other restaurants by the North Carolina state law they're supposed to have hair nets wearing hair nets, beard nets, gloves and other than other things but it needs, she needs, somebody needs to have something done to the way her and her people are running the show over there because if you're going to go to one place business it's just like other inspections. You don't play. You don't go to one inspection and close your eyes because you've got a friend. If you've got a state job you're supposed to do your job. Thank you."

Anthony Monds - "Good evening. Y'all miss me? Been three months, but I've been following you on the YouTube channel due to some personal issues. That's why I wasn't here but I'm glad to be here. Good to see y'all. Okay, let's get started. My issue of many that I have, but I'm going to address one is we going to define character. Character is the mental or moral quality distinctive to an individual. Now, with that being said, I've had to address the character flaws with the Board and you all know what I've been battling and I've seen that the human resources has addressed some ethical policy issues with your DSS department, something that should have been addressed a long time ago and being that it is being addressed right now...if one's heart doesn't change, you can change all the laws and ethics and put whatever you want to in writing, but if the character of the individual from the head down doesn't change, you get the same stuff. One of the mothers of my church said that an eagle never flew so high that his stuff didn't hit the ground. You know what that stuff is. So, eventually, the stuff is going to be exposed. I said that when I first started coming here and it starts at the head, and it works its way down. Now, I've spoke with each commissioner except for one and you know who you are, the one I have not spoke with individually and it's funny that one just said earlier that he loves hearing from his constituents but when his constituents bring issues to you that you negate them and you turn deaf ear to them and then when the constituent continually brings the issue to you, you, now we see what your character is. Now we see what your mental and your moral distinct quality is for you as an individual and this is what I would like to point out because going forward, we elected y'all. If we elected y'all, y'all work for us. Now, we're not looking for perfection, but we are looking for is accountability. What we are looking for is if you get it wrong own it. And we see what's been happening here the last few months even

with the million dollar type thing and you know if you get it wrong own it. One thing I can say about my commissioner, he is not perfect. I can tell you that. He and I do bump heads. He and I do disagree on some things, but if he miss it he owns it, and that's something that each one of you should take to heart including the new atty here. But, if you miss it, you own it. Therefore, you get respect. But if you don't own it now I have to question your character because of what you said you would do and now you choose not to do it. So, and don't be a puppet. If you're going to represent your constituents, do what you say you was going to do. Don't back away from it. Y'all have a blessed night."

Joshua Harrell - "Good evening. My name is Johsua Harrell and I live at 312 Maple Street, Roseboro, NC. I am here today to talk about EMS response times and policy changes that need to be made. My mother, Carla Small, had a cardiac arrest on June 15, 2024 at my home in Roseboro and went unconscious while on the phone with the operator. Due to the current policies in place, the fire department was not dispatched immediately with EMS and she went without oxygen for more than ten minutes. While nothing may have changed the outcome that evening, if Roseboro fire was dispatched immediately alongside EMS, there is a possibility that life-saving aid could have been provided to her sooner. I am sure there are others in the county who have experienced similar delays in response times as well. It is my understanding that fire is not automatically dispatched with EMS, however, that multiple fire departments have requested this policy be changed. Many other counties and states have opposite policies where the fire department is dispatched immediately, alongside EMS regardless of the type of call in order to provide continuous care. The International Association of Fire Chiefs has recommended the use of fire-based EMS since 1975, which means our county is far behind schedule on this issue. The fire department may not be able to provide advanced medical care, however they could provide oxygen and administer CPR if needed prior to the arrival of EMS. A simple change in policy can fix this and I'm calling on this policy to be updated immediately. The County Commissioners should consider putting together a committee of public safety professionals and members of the public in order to address this issue and others that may arise. Let me be clear, this is not an attack on our first responders. They do an amazing job. It is about removing red tape so that they can save lives. Thank you."

Andrea Rouse - "Good evening. Andrea Rouse. Roseboro, NC. Snow Hill Community. Another familiar face. It's not often I guess I can come up here and say a whole lot positive, but today I will. Mr. Causey, great selection in Devin. Known him since he was born, graduated with his mother, work with his wife in Sampson County Schools. Upstanding young man, for people who don't know him. The young lady in Roseboro, is she still here? Well, I knew there was a lot of things going on in Roseboro, but I didn't know who to give credit to for that. She's doing a great job. If none of y'all have been through the Roseboro community, we're coming up. We're coming up in the city of Roseboro. So, let me get to my business, the landfill. As we all know, probably seen on the news that there has been something going on and that there's been a plan for some things to go on with a settlement with EJCAN and GFL to help the quality of life in Snow Hill. That's how I look at it. To help the quality of life in Snow Hill. But, I'm going to stand by what I've always said. The landfill has been here 50 years. It's run its course, and we want it closed. It's time to take it down. And I thank EJCAN, I think those people have done what they've done but the County has received benefits from that landfill that Snow Hill has never gotten any of. We've never heard anything. And I like what Commissioner McLamb said. The lines of communication are so important. The character that Reverend Monds talked about. To know that people care about us in the community. These meetings are nice. I come

and I hear some great things that I didn't know like the young lady from Roseboro. I didn't know that Devin had the position that he has now. These are great things. EMS I know they do great things. Everybody makes mistakes. We make mistakes in the school system. You guys make mistakes, but a line of communication to say, 'we care for you', outside of that chair. Continue to do what you're doing, but let's do it a little bit better. Let's talk to the community, okay? Let's get a better connection, alright?"

David Brown - "Good evening. My name is David Brown. I live at 3030 Fleet Cooper Road in Roseboro, NC. I probably have in line with the two previous speakers with me right here. I'm going to begin with a quote and an old saying. The quote was from Admiral Yamamoto. He was the architect of the Pearl Harbor raid. The one responsible. The Japanese were celebrating but he wrote in his diary, 'I fear the only thing that we have done is awaken a terrible, sleeping giant.' Your sleeping giant are the citizens and the taxpayers. We're awake now and we're going to take a real hard look at a lot of things. My particular emphasis happens to be money. I'm retired so I can't work overtime and make more money. Okay? The second one is my perception is my reality until you do something to change it. I could be wrong. Perceptions, I get information in and I formulate a thought, and I have a perception. One of my perceptions is that you're wasting money on a terrible level. I talked briefly when you mailed all the letters out about the convenience site fee. I found out there's 30,500 taxpayers for Sampson County. I'm really surprised at that number. I honestly thought it would be more than that with our population. But, you round the numbers up, at 57¢ a letter at the bulk mail rate, \$17,000 to mail those letters out saying I've got to pay a fee. And then you had to send another letter out rescinding that. That's another \$17,000. That's \$34,000. That's an average salary for a person in Sampson County for a whole year that you just took and threw it away. That doesn't count the letters and the checks that you had to send out there also. Only thing I'm going to say about the lawsuit settlement, you spent \$28 of taxpayer dollars for every \$1 that you saved in that lawsuit. I'm glad that you are not my financial advisors, okay? I found out about, I heard a comment about the million dollars. I'm not going to say a lot about that. What I read in the article was apparently a clerk made an error because of an interpretation for wording. If that's not correct then please correct me. I don't want to put wrong words out. My question is who's in charge of writing that wording? Why did you write that wording? Did you not know that it wasn't clear enough? Did the clerk who read that...did she misinterpret that? You know, now we're back to these effective lines of communication and also about our perception. Somebody's accountable, and you need to hold people accountable."

Steve Lamb began speaking from the audience: "Back to the Snow Hill deal. That not only goes to Snow Hill, it goes on Five Bridge Road and you can be sitting at Coharie Country Club in a golf cart and you can smell it down there. It just don't go to Snow Hill. It's more than Snow Hill. It goes to Peavine Road. It goes to Five Bridge Road. More areas than just Snow Hill. Thank you."

Clerk to the Board Stephanie Shannon then read the following public comment that was received via email into the record:

"In a perfect world, individuals would not have to fight hard for others to see and do the right thing. In a perfect world, individuals would see the needs of others and do what they can to assist. However, we do not live in a perfect world, nor are we perfect people. However, we should have people who assume responsibility for doing what is right and just-just for all. We still need assistance obtaining county water. We started with this

request in March 2022, and as of today, September 9, 2024, it is still before you. I have included pictures for your viewing. These past weeks have been hectic. I have had to call out plumbers, a well contractor, you name it--all because of water problems. I would be in attendance this evening; however, I cannot do so because of this water problem. We would be very appreciative if you, Public Works Director Turlington, our Board representative, or someone else could take a few minutes out of your busy schedule to communicate with us and find a resolution for us. I am reminded of the oaths taken by each of you to faithfully, impartially, and justly perform duties for the County of Sampson and its residents. We, on Old Warsaw Road, are Sampson County residents. We earnestly need your help. County water is not a luxury for us; it is a necessity. We are asking you to visualize this being you or someone you love in this situation. How would you handle this matter? In a perfect world, you would be taking initiative rather than seemingly being inactive. Thank you for your time. Humbly submitted, Elaine F. Hunt."

Adjournment

Upon a motion made by Chairman Kivett 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