

The Sampson County Board of Commissioners convened for their regular meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, January 8, 2018 in the County Auditorium, 435 Rowan Road in Clinton, North Carolina. Members present: Commissioners Clark Wooten, Vice Chairperson Sue Lee, and Commissioners Albert Kirby Jr., Jerol Kivett, and Harry Parker.

Chairperson Wooten convened the meeting and recognized Vice Chairperson Lee. She called upon Commissioner Parker for the invocation. She then called upon Commissioner Kivett to lead the Pledge Allegiance.

Chairman Wooten offered a moment of personal privilege to Commissioner Kirby, who announced that this was his last meeting as a member of the Sampson County Board of Commissioners, as he would be taking the oath of office as the Senior Resident Superior Court Judge of NC District 4A on January 22nd. Commissioner Kirby expressed words of gratitude to fellow Board members and Sampson County staff for their hard work over the years. The Board then offered Mr. Kirby congratulations on his appointment.

Approval of Agenda

Upon a motion made by Chairman Wooten and seconded by Vice Chairperson Lee, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

Item 1: Planning and Zoning Items

RZ-12-17-1 Chairman Wooten acknowledged Planning Director Mary Rose, who reviewed a request to rezone 42.2 acres along Giddensville Road from RA-Residential Agriculture to C-Commercial. The Chairman opened the floor for public comment, and none were received. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Kirby and seconded by Vice Chairperson Lee, the Board voted unanimously to approve rezoning request RZ-12-17-1, accepting the findings of fact and making the following zoning consistency statement: *Whereas, in accordance with the provisions of North Carolina General Statute 153A-341, the Sampson County Board of Commissioners does hereby find and determine that the recommendation of the ordinance amendment RZ-12-17-1 is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Sampson County Land Use Plan and other long range planning documents due to the fact this property is located within 1.5 miles of the Highway 403/I-40 interchange, a major thoroughfare, where commercial development is encouraged.*

RZ-12-17-2 Chairman Wooten acknowledged Planning Director Mary Rose, who reviewed a request to rezone approximately 9.71 acres located along Connector Road

and Eldon Thornton Road from RA-Residential Agriculture to C-Commercial. The Chairman opened the floor for public comment, and none were received. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Parker and seconded by Commissioner Kirby, the Board voted unanimously to approve rezoning request RZ-12-17-2, accepting the findings of fact and making the following zoning consistency statement: *Whereas, in accordance with the provisions of North Carolina General Statute 153A-341, the Sampson County Board of Commissioners does hereby find and determine that the recommendation of the ordinance amendment RZ-12-17-2 is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Sampson County Land Use Plan and other long range planning documents due to the fact this property is located within 2900' of the Highway 403/I-40 interchange, a major thoroughfare, where commercial development is encouraged.*

RZ-12-17-3 Chairman Wooten acknowledged Planning Director Mary Rose, who reviewed a request to rezone approximately 19.42 acres located along Ralph Hargrove Road from RA-Residential Agriculture to C-Commercial. The Chairman opened the floor for public comment, and none were received. Upon a motion made by Vice Chairperson Lee and seconded by Commissioner Kivett, the Board voted unanimously to approve rezoning request RZ-12-17-3, accepting the findings of fact and making the following zoning consistency statement: *Whereas, in accordance with the provisions of North Carolina General Statute 153A-341, the Sampson County Board of Commissioners does hereby find and determine that the recommendation of the ordinance amendment RZ-12-17-3 is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Sampson County Land Use Plan and other long range planning documents due to the fact this property is located in close proximity to existing commercial development.*

Item 2: Presentations and Reports

Recognition of Retirees A service plaque was presented to retirees Jerry Bradshaw, Marie Carroll, Thomas Jackson, Kathie Johnson, and Roberta Parker. Retirees Carrie Cooper, Elizabeth Phillips, and Ardith Taylor were not present.

Progress Report – Property Revaluation Tax Administrator Jim Johnson introduced Project Supervisor Robert Ezzell, of Pearson Appraisal Service, who provided the Board with an update on the revaluation, noting that the project was still in Phase 1 and that approximately 30,000 properties had been reviewed as of December 1, 2017, at an average of 3,000 parcels per month, equating to approximately 58% of all Sampson County properties, and that there was an anticipated sales ratio of 100.5%. Mr. Ezzell concluded by noting that they anticipated completing the field work by July 2018.

Item 3: Action Items

Public Hearing – Potential Consolidation of Human Services Departments

County Manager Ed Causey and County Attorney Joel Starling recapped the options for consolidation of the County's Human Service agencies (particularly Social Services and the Health Department) via PowerPoint, and the options were as follows:

Consolidation Option 1: The Board would assume direct control over the Sampson County Board of Social Services and the Sampson County Board of Health, as authorized by N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 153A-76 and 153A-77, having authority to appoint an Advisory Board to the Sampson County Department of Social Services members of which shall be appointed by the Sampson County Board of Commissioners; and appointing an Advisory Committee to the Sampson County Department of Health, the members of which shall be appointed by the Sampson County Board of Commissioners provided such membership complies with membership requirements set forth in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 130A-35; the Board of Commissioners would assume authority to hire and fire the Directors of the Sampson County Department of Social Services and the Sampson County Health Department, with both Directors under the supervision of the County Manager, effective April 1, 2018.

Consolidation Option 2: The Sampson County Department of Social Services and the Sampson County Health Department would consolidate into one consolidated human services agency, creating the Sampson County Consolidated Human Services Agency and creating the Sampson County Consolidated Human Services Board, which shall serve as the policymaking, rulemaking, and administrative board of the Consolidated Human Services Agency, whose twenty-five (25) members shall be appointed by the Sampson County Board of Commissioners and shall fulfill the membership and residency requirements set forth in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 153A-77(c); the County Manager to appoint and supervise, with the advice and consent of such Board, a Consolidated Human Services Agency Director, effective April 1, 2018.

Consolidation Option 3: The Sampson County Department of Social Services and the Sampson County Health Department would consolidate into one consolidated human services agency and creating the Sampson County Consolidated Human Services Agency; abolishing the Sampson County Board of Social Services and the Sampson County Board of Health and constituting the Sampson County Board of Commissioners as the newly-constituted Sampson County Consolidated Human Services Board, which shall serve as the policymaking, rulemaking, and administrative board of the Sampson County Consolidated Human Services Agency; the County Manager to appoint and supervise, with the advice and consent of the Board of Commissioners, a Consolidated Human Services Agency Director, effective April 1, 2018.

A remaining option would simply be to take no action and to leave the departments as they current exist.

The Chairman opened the floor for public comment, and the following were received:

Barbara Faison: Ms. Faison informed the Board that she was a retiree with the County (32 years, mostly with the Health Department) and was speaking in opposition to the consolidation. She spoke regarding the makeup of the Health Board, noting the experience and qualifications of the veterinarian, nurse, physician, engineer, dentist, a commissioner and citizens at large. She noted that this diverse group of this nature helps the county, and she did not know how the people on the [new] board would be picked and that advisory boards would be important for both departments. She stated that she would recommend the departments stay as they are, and if not, she would be in favor of Option I.

Jacqueline Howard: Ms. Howard informed the Board of her concerns with consolidation. She stated that the Health Department and DSS were headed by people really trying to look for ways to make the departments better, and when you look for ways to make things better there are changes. She commended the presentation of the options, noting that Option 1 was similar to the structure the County has now. She noted appreciation for the October meeting with the School of Governing where they provided information without bias. She asked the commissioners to consider what was best for the whole entire County. If the decision was made for Options 1, 2, or 3, that ample time be allow for stakeholders to have input.

The Chairman closed the hearing and commended the speakers for their professionalism and thoughtful comments.

Mr. Causey clarified that under any of the options, the County must maintain a Health Advisory Board with people with the qualifications as those that are presently participating on the Board (by statute). The Chairman noted that it could be the Health Board as it currently sits. Mr. Causey noted that a Social Services Board was not required under Option 1, but many counties have assumed they would want one, and the draft Option 1 resolution includes a Social Services Advisory Board.

Commissioner Kirby noted that he was in opposition of consolidation chiefly because there was no significant cost savings, with additional work for the commissioners. He then asked County Attorney Joel Starling for clarification on the commissioners' roles and responsibilities in Option 1. Mr. Starling stated that there would be some responsibilities that could be delegated; however, being some of the responsibilities would not be delegable the workload of the commissioner board would likely increase. Mr. Starling also noted that the most significant component of Option 1

was the Board would assume authority to hire and fire the Directors of the Sampson County Department of Social Services and the Sampson County Health Department, with both being under the supervision of the County Manager. Commissioner Kirby concluded by lauding the Health and Social Services Departments directors, Wanda Robinson and Sarah Bradshaw. Vice Chairperson Lee noted that with \$6 million appropriated to these two agencies, the commissioners should have more input, adding that she had seen nothing negative and agreed the directors had done a good job. Commissioner Parker noted that he served on one of the boards, and there was a necessity for both boards. He noted his satisfaction with the management of both directors and that his initial vote was to not consolidate because he believed that each department and its respective board were managed as best they could, and that making a change would disrupt things, and secondly, because there were no significant cost savings. However, after reviewing the options and deliberating, Commissioner Parker recommended that the Board vote for Option 1. Commissioner Kivett agreed that the Board should have more input and that believed consolidation could achieve cost savings. Mr. Causey noted a 90-day implementation period was recommended that would allow for discussions and the drafting of resolutions which set forth the delegation of specific duties as allowed within the law. In response to a question from Commissioner Kirby with regard to the impact on the departments' staff, Mr. Causey noted that in Option 1 they would continue to operate under the State Personnel Act.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Parker and seconded by Vice Chairperson Lee, the Board voted unanimously to adopt Option 1 resolution, assuming direct control over the Sampson County Board of Social Services and the Sampson County Board of Health, as authorized by N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 153A-76 and 153A-77, appointing an Advisory Board to the Sampson County Department of Social Services members of which shall be appointed by the Sampson County Board of Commissioners; and appointing an Advisory Committee to the Sampson County Department of Health, the members of which shall be appointed by the Sampson County Board of Commissioners provided such membership complies with membership requirements set forth in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 130A-35; the Board of Commissioners assuming authority to hire and fire the Directors of the Sampson County Department of Social Services and the Sampson County Health Department, with both Directors under the supervision of the County Manager. Effective April 1, 2018 (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book ____ Page ____).

Scheduling of February (Pre-budget) Planning Session The Board selected the dates of February 14, February 21, and February 28, beginning at 9 am daily, for their annual work session.

Appointment - Aging Advisory Board Upon a motion made by Vice Chairperson Lee and seconded by Commissioner Kivett, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Jeff Grey, Sr. to the Aging Advisory Board.

Item 4: Consent Agenda

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

- a. Approved the minutes of the December 4, 2017 meeting.
- b. Approved execution of the Department of Aging’s grant application for United Way funding for wheelchair ramps (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book ____ Page ____).
- c. Approved a request to surplus certain confiscated and obsolete weapons, to be used as purchase credit with appropriate vendor(s) (List of surplus items filed in Inc. Minute Book ____ Page ____).
- d. Approved the Department of Aging’s submission of an application for 2018 Urgent Repair Program funds from the North Carolina Finance Agency (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book ____ Page ____).
- e. Approved a request from the Tax Office to dispose of certain files in accordance with the Records and Retention Schedule for Tax Administration (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book ____ Page ____).
- f. Approved tax refunds and releases as submitted

#8347	William Everett Edward	\$151.80
#8356	Clay Matthew Strickland	\$228.52
#8360	Sandra Blackburn Leggett	\$128.35
#8359	Edward Alan Oneal	\$209.76
#8361	Terrie Baldwin Brown	\$399.97
#8363	Rosa Cannon Naylor	\$183.90
#8368	Crystal Gayle Matthews	\$107.72
#8365	William Edison Murphy	\$121.73
#8349	Teresa Ann Jackson	\$106.93
#8377	Gregory Johnson Barnes, Jr.	\$158.48
#8358	Walter Alan Norris	\$255.14
#8385	Tammy Lee Smith	\$154.92
#8374	Janie Ruth Williams	\$1,093.64
Tax Release	Virginia Phillips Simmons	\$223.56

- g. Approved budget amendments as submitted

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		<u>Cooperative Ext.</u>		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11449500	518200	Retirement	\$22,700.0	
11449500	525100	Gas Oil Tires		\$1,000.00
11449500	526200	Department Supplies		\$1,500.00

11449500	532100	Telephone and Postage		\$500.00
11449500	535300	Maint/repair Vehicles		\$500.00
11449500	531100	Travel		\$1,000.00
11999000	509700	Contingency		\$18,200.00
<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>		<u>Increase</u> <u>Decrease</u>
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Cooperative Ext.</u> <u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>		<u>Increase</u> <u>Decrease</u>
04449500	555030	Capital Outlay – Other Equipment		\$2,800.00
04449500	529930	Miscellaneous		\$2,516.00
<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>		<u>Increase</u> <u>Decrease</u>
04034950	403602	Miscellaneous Revenue		\$5,316.00
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Social Services</u> <u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>		<u>Increase</u> <u>Decrease</u>
13554810	568414	LIEAP		\$42,781.00
<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>		<u>Increase</u> <u>Decrease</u>
13535480	403314	LIEAP		\$42,781.00
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Social Services</u> <u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>		<u>Increase</u> <u>Decrease</u>
13553770	568405	Foster Care – Basic Needs		\$25,000.00
13554310	568401	State Foster Care		\$50,000.00
<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>		<u>Increase</u> <u>Decrease</u>
13535430	403309	State Foster Care		\$25,000.00
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Health Department</u> <u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>		<u>Increase</u> <u>Decrease</u>
12551550	526200	Department Supplies		\$1,810.00
12551550	531100	Travel		\$2,000.00
<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>		<u>Increase</u> <u>Decrease</u>
12535155	404000	State Assistance		\$3,810.00
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Sheriff's Department</u> <u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>		<u>Increase</u> <u>Decrease</u>
11243100	521300	Uniforms		\$2,299.00

<u>REVENUE</u>			<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>		
11034310	402602	USDOJ-BPV Grant	\$2,299.00	

Item 5: Consideration of Tax Appeals

Upon a motion made by Chairman Wooten and seconded by Commissioner Kivett, the Board voted unanimously to adjust the penalty applied to the following tax accounts for failure to timely list business personal property by forgiving one-half of the assessed penalties.

Delmas Hobbs (Tax \$5,545.80) **Assessed Penalty \$2,232.83 Adjusted by Half**

Gary Vann Nichols (Tax \$7,154.35) **Assessed Penalty \$2,280.25 Adjusted by Half**

County Manager Reports

County Manager Ed Causey provided the Board a copy of the Action Pathways, Inc. FY 2018-2019 Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) application for the Board’s review, and the Board acknowledged the application. Mr. Causey then called upon Public Works Director Lin Reynolds who updated the Board on the county’s water system project, which involved a reduction in tapping fees in efforts to increase the customer base. Mr. Reynolds informed the Board that there had been 13 new customers since the program began, which was far above average and that updates would be provided at a later date. Mr. Causey then offered Commissioner Kirby kind regards for his appointment as Senior Resident Superior Court Judge of NC District 4A.

Public Comments

The floor was opened for comments, and none were received.

Adjournment

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