

The Sampson County Board of Commissioners convened for their regular meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 4, 2019 in the County Auditorium, 435 Rowan Road in Clinton, North Carolina. Members present: Chairman Clark Wooten, Vice Chairperson Sue Lee, and Commissioners Thaddeus Godwin, Jerol Kivett, and Harry Parker.

The Chairman called the meeting to order and acknowledged Vice Chairperson Lee, who then called upon Commissioner Kivett for the invocation. Commissioner Godwin then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Parker and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

Roads

Quarterly Roads Report NCDOT District Engineer Keith Jackson provided the Board with an update on Hurricane Florence road recovery efforts, noting that repairs are still being finalized for certain projects and are expected to continue through February, along with other day to day maintenance projects. Mr. Jackson mentioned that his staff is currently working on the routes in the 2019 Resurfacing Package and that his staff is currently working on the 2020 Resurfacing Package.

Commissioner Parker addressed the occasional flooding on Billy Lane which caused concerns for residents while entering and exiting and raised concerns for posted speed limit on Reedsford Road near the Billy Lane intersection, noting the safety hazard it presents for children boarding school buses. Commissioner Kivett then expressed appreciation for the work done on 701 Business and the Beamon Street bridge. He also noted that he would share Commissioner Parker's concerns regarding the flooding on Billy Lane with the Mid-Carolina RPO.

Item 1: Presentations and Reports

Presentation of the Audit for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018 and Approval of the Amended Audit Contract Chairman Wooten called upon Wade Green of W. Green, PLLC, who presented the Board with the audit report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2018. Mr. Green noted that there were zero noncompliance issues, zero deficiencies, and that the audit was approved by the Local Government

Commission. Upon a motion by Vice Chairperson Lee and seconded by Commissioner Kivett, the Board voted unanimously to accept and approve the audit and approve the audit contract amendment. (Copies filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)

Fire Department Presentations Regarding Potential Substation Expansions

Piney Grove Fire Department Chief Ashley Grimes presented to the Board an expansion plan for the Piney Grove Volunteer Fire Department. He informed the Board that the Piney Grove Volunteer Fire Department Board of Directors voted in favor of establishing a substation at the current Suttontown EMS building (5680 Suttontown Rd., Faison, NC 28341), and that the Suttontown Board had voted in favor of the plan as well. He stated that recent Department of Insurance staffing requirement changes made it feasible for the expansion to take place and for the fire department to initiate an expansion plan. He noted the plan had been under development for more than 20 years and will benefit both departments and the citizens of the fire districts. The Piney Grove Fire Department will take ownership of the expansion location and assume responsibility of expenses related to the building and services. Suttontown EMS will continue to operate out of the building at no cost. The mutually beneficial plan will allow for a fire truck to be located at the new expansion location, which will decrease emergency response time for area citizens by one-half, according to trial statistics. Chief Grimes stated that the proposal included that the Sampson County areas currently served by Smith's Chapel and Jordan's Chapel Fire Departments. He noted that areas within the six-mile district of Newton Grove Fire and Rescue and Hall's Fire and Rescue would be included in the Piney Grove fire five-mile district. However, the change will not affect the districts' tax income. He did note that the change will result in approximately \$2,000 of revenue lost to the Smith's Chapel and Jordan's Chapel fire departments. Chairman Wooten thanked Chief Grimes and noted that the County Attorney would need to continue his review and could report to the Board at a future meeting (the County Attorney was out of town and not available to report that evening).

Taylor's Bridge Fire Department Chief Allen Williams presented to the Board a similar proposal to establish a substation to better serve the citizens in an area of approximately 30 square miles south of Clinton. Chief Williams noted that the citizens of that area will benefit from being in an ISO 6-rated district, which will decrease homeowner's insurance properties within the new 5-mile district. However, he noted, the County will have to levy a tax on the previously un-taxed area to support the substation. Chairman Wooten advised Chief Grimes that the County Attorney will continue his review and the Board would take the proposal into advisement.

Item 2: Action Items

Tax Administration – Report of Unpaid Taxes Which Are Liens on Real Property Tax Administrator Jim Johnson reported to the Board the amount of \$3,022,802.88 of unpaid taxes for the current fiscal year which are liens on real property. This total is \$249,918.91 more than the previous fiscal year. Mr. Johnson noted that Sampson County had collected 91% of real and personal property taxes, equal to the collection rate of the previous fiscal year. Mr. Johnson requested authorization to advertise the unpaid taxes on April 4, 2019, with a deadline for payment to avoid publication being March 29, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Kivett and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the request.

Scheduling of 2019 Board of Equalization and Review Hearings Mr. Johnson asked the board to consider setting dates for the 2019 Board of Equalization and Review hearings. Mr. Johnson noted that revaluation letters will be mailed to property owners by March 1, 2019, providing property owners two months for informal appeals to be made. Upon a motion made by Chairman Wooten and seconded by Commissioner Kivett, the board voted unanimously to schedule the Board of Equalization and Review hearings for May 6, 2019; May 14, 2019; May 16, 2019; May 21, 2019; May 23, 2019; and May 30, 2019, each session to convene from 1-6 p.m.

Appointment – SCC CoAEMSP Advisory Committee Upon a motion made by Commissioner Kivett and seconded by Commissioner Parker, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Vice Chairperson Lee to the SCC CoAEMSP Advisory Committee.

Item 3: Consent Agenda

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

- a. Approved the minutes of the January 7, 2019 meeting
- b. Adopted the resolution proclaiming February as Black History Month in Sampson County (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book ____ Page ____.)
- c. Adopted a resolution supporting expansion of the JCPC State funding allocation (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book ____ Page ____.)
- d. Approved the fare revisions requested by Sampson Area Transportation Advisory Committee to \$20 for General Public round trip and \$5 for Elderly/Disabled/Veterans round trip

- e. Adopted a fee of \$350 for all non-emergent (convalescent) transports provided by Sampson County EMS
- f. Authorized the renewal of the lease between the County and State Employees Credit Union for the SECU Cash Points ATM kiosk located on the County Complex for a period of one year (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book ____ Page ____.)
- g. Approved requested revisions to the Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) bylaws (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book ____ Page ____.)
- h. Approved a request from the Sampson County Public Library to discard withdrawn items pursuant to Materials Selection Policy
- i. Approved the contract between the County and Turkey Fire Department for emergency rescue services (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book ____ Page ____.)
- j. Approved an amendment to the contract for solid waste and recyclables collection service (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book ____ Page ____.)
- k. Approved late property tax exemption applications from Fayetteville Area Habitat for Humanity and Human Development Council, Inc. (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book ____ Page ____.)
- l. Approved tax refunds and releases as submitted:

| | | |
|-------------|-------------------------|------------|
| #8869 | Darrell Wright | \$144.48 |
| #8867 | Lucy Burnette | \$167.79 |
| #8875 | Tony Woo | \$156.73 |
| #8857 | Jesse Sumner | \$133.26 |
| #8872 | Linda Wynn | \$343.08 |
| #8859 | Catherine Smith | \$243.63 |
| #8862 | Noel Thompson | \$828.48 |
| #8861 | Noel Thompson | \$2,621.76 |
| #8836 | Christopher Matthis | \$3,467.17 |
| Tax Release | L&H Farms LLC | \$212.36 |
| Tax Release | Noel Thompson | \$652.71 |
| Tax Release | Hog Heaven Farming, LLC | \$784.30 |

- m. Approved budget amendments as submitted:

| <u>EXPENDITURE</u> | | <u>Public Works</u> | | | |
|--------------------|--------|--|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| <u>Code Number</u> | | <u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u> | <u>Increase</u> | <u>Decrease</u> | |
| 61971000 | 544000 | Contracted Services | \$82,950.00 | | |
| <u>REVENUE</u> | | | | | |
| <u>Code Number</u> | | <u>Source of Revenue</u> | <u>Increase</u> | <u>Decrease</u> | |
| 61937100 | 408900 | Miscellaneous Revenue | \$82,950.00 | | |

| <u>EXPENDITURE</u> | | <u>Cooperative Extension</u> | |
|---------------------------|--------|--|---------------------------------|
| <u>Code Number</u> | | <u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u> | <u>Increase</u> <u>Decrease</u> |
| 04449570 | 526200 | Departmental Supplies | \$100.00 |

| <u>REVENUE</u> | | | |
|-----------------------|--------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <u>Code Number</u> | | <u>Source of Revenue</u> | <u>Increase</u> <u>Decrease</u> |
| 04034957 | 404012 | Health & Wellness Revenue | \$100.00 |

| <u>EXPENDITURE</u> | | <u>Health Dept. – Maternal Health</u> | |
|---------------------------|--------|--|---------------------------------|
| <u>Code Number</u> | | <u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u> | <u>Increase</u> <u>Decrease</u> |
| 12551630 | 526201 | Department Supplies Equipment | \$20,757.00 |

| <u>REVENUE</u> | | | |
|-----------------------|--------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <u>Code Number</u> | | <u>Source of Revenue</u> | <u>Increase</u> <u>Decrease</u> |
| 12535163 | 404000 | State Assistance | \$20,757.00 |

| <u>EXPENDITURE</u> | | <u>Eastpointe</u> | |
|---------------------------|--------|--|---------------------------------|
| <u>Code Number</u> | | <u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u> | <u>Increase</u> <u>Decrease</u> |
| 11552100 | 506800 | Contribution to mental health | \$10,000.00 |
| 11999000 | 509700 | Contingency | \$10,000.00 |

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

| <u>EXPENDITURE</u> | | <u>Social Services</u> | |
|---------------------------|--------|--|---------------------------------|
| <u>Code Number</u> | | <u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u> | <u>Increase</u> <u>Decrease</u> |
| 13554810 | 568414 | LIEAP | \$78,361.00 |

| <u>REVENUE</u> | | | |
|-----------------------|--------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <u>Code Number</u> | | <u>Source of Revenue</u> | <u>Increase</u> <u>Decrease</u> |
| 13535480 | 403314 | LIEAP | \$78,361.00 |

Consent Agenda (Board of Health Items)

- n. Approved the request for laboratory fee revisions as submitted
- o. Accepted the Communicable Disease Report for 2018

County Manager’s Reports

County Manager Ed Causey reminded the Board of the Board Planning Sessions scheduled for February 13 and 19, 2019, in the Administration Office Conference Room, beginning at 8:30 a.m. on each date; and February 21, 2019, if needed. He then informed the Board that County staff had entered into a contract with the University of North Carolina at Wilmington Continuing Education Department for leadership development training of the department heads. He then noted that the department heads had been given a March 15, 2019 deadline to provide budget proposals, which will be followed

by a staff preliminary review, with the goal of having a budget presented to the Board mid-late May, providing adequate time to have the approval and adoption process completed in early June.

The Chairman lauded the efforts of the staff for beginning the leadership development training.

Public Comments

The Vice Chairperson opened the floor for comments and the following were received:

Kalton Newkirk: My name is Kalton Newkirk. I live down near Newton's Crossroads. I'm in the corner of three counties: Sampson, Duplin, and Pender. So, I hear all kinds of noises from the critters at night. My neighbor lost her dachshund due to a coyote. And they are getting brave. They also carry rabies. So, what are we doing? If it's an epidemic, then we would work on that. The CDC and people like that would work on it. How do we cure this? But, nevertheless, what I'm here to do is encourage you to work with me, if you feel you can, to let's get a fox trapping law. Right now, if I catch a fox I cannot legally do anything with him, other than supposedly turn him loose. So, that's counterproductive. I cannot turn him loose, because he will bite you because he is ill when you get there. Have you ever set a mouse trap and watched and see what happens if he's not dead he's mad as fire? So, then you've got to turn him loose to be legal. What we're proposing is - correct me if I'm wrong - we want to get a fox trapping law in Sampson County that says I can keep that boy if I catch him, don't turn him loose, he's worth about \$2.50 for a hide, if I buy a permit to keep him. I certainly am not going to eat him because that's like eating a ground buzzard. It's like a waste of natural resource, that's what happens when you turn him loose. If he's hurt. If he's not, then you turn loose something that have been traumatized. I think for all concerned, and according to Colleen Olfenbuttel, and if you have a question about that name, she is a very kind lady that works in Raleigh. She is over the furbearing management for bear, everything. Very fine lady. I enjoyed talking with her. If you have so inclined to like to hear what she says, she'd be glad to tell you that there is no endangered species in the fox and dog category. The Red Fox was brought here in the 1700s. The Gray Fox is a homeboy. But if the groceries become thin the coyote will attack the red fox and the gray and kill them. So, if you're concerned about there being a depletion of them, have you ever thought about depleting roaches? It don't happen. They are a natural preservative animal. If they would move out of the country, they'd move to town. They'd eat your house cats, Dotson dogs. Fact of life. It's not always pleasant. It can be cold. If I can answer a question, I'd be glad to. And if I can't I brought two gentlemen with me that can. But, if necessary we can come back.

Chairman Wooten advised Mr. Newkirk that the County Attorney and staff would review the matter.

Kalton Newkirk: Who do I need to see about coming back?

Staff advised Mr. Newkirk to provide his phone number so that he could be contacted in the future, and Mr. Newkirk agreed to do so.

Kalton Newkirk: I appreciate your time. I really do. I didn't have a clue what this would be like. In fact, I was terrified that I would fall on my face and couldn't recite anything. But this is a very passionate subject of mine and I can't help it. You love your kids, you are passionate about them. Mine are grown and I've got grand kids. But I think this is really something that really needs to be changed. In Raleigh there's an act already in the General Assembly three years old. Let's finish it. Let's do ourselves a favor.

Caden Overton: I've been trapping for the past several years. One of my high school agriculture teachers actually brought me into the world of trapping. And for the past several years I've noticed the problem, particularly in Sampson and Harnett Counties, both of which I trap in. In those counties you are not allowed to trap foxes. And like Mr. Newkirk said, it's a waste of a natural resource. And I avoid the unethical use of a natural resource for the simple reason that I try to be an upstanding and ethical hunter and trapper at all times. The past year or so I have also become an animal damage control trapper and in the dispensation of my duties I have not been able to effectively carry out my duties as I cannot do anything with the fox. So, I've been able to do everything I want to with the coyote, but I can't do anything with the fox and that's hindering my abilities as I am not able to effectively trap out coyotes if I can't kill the foxes in the area. So, that's why I urge this to move further in the courts. Thanks for your time. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns feel free to contact me or email me.

Russell Devane: I just want to give you an update (on Ivanhoe recovery following Hurricane Florence). I believe in giving you an update and letting you know what's going on. This afternoon I wanted to give you an update on our evacuation route down in Ivanhoe. You know, every time it rains real hard we get kind of flooded out, so we're in the process of trying to get an evacuation route especially for our senior citizens down there. On the 14th of January, Mr. William Brisson, Sheriff Thornton, and Mr. Ronald Bass came down and they surveyed the two options that we had for the evacuation route. So, we got all the paperwork filled out and I think it went from Mr. Bass' hands to Mr. Brisson's hands and he has taken our paperwork back up to Raleigh. And all this happened on the 14th of January. Mr. Kivett, we hope that Mr. Brisson and Mr. Rouzer talk to one another, and in that case, we'll soon get an evacuation route down there. So that's where we stand right now. Everything seems to be moving forward and that's what I believe in, moving forward.

Commissioner Kivett noted the Mid-Carolina RPO is actively looking ways to assist with the project as well. He also noted that he would contact Congressman David Rouzer's and Representative William Brisson's offices to assist with the efforts.

Recess to Reconvene

Upon a motion made by Chairman Wooten and seconded by Vice Chairperson Lee, the Board voted unanimously to recess to reconvene on February 13, 2019, at 8:30 a.m. in the County Administration Conference Room for a Board Planning Session.