

The Sampson County Board of Commissioners reconvened their regular meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 20, 2020. Because the State and the County were under a State of Emergency during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board met virtually via Zoom, and the meeting was broadcast via the County's YouTube page, proper notice of the virtual environment and broadcast information having been duly posted. Members present via virtual means, as verified by the Clerk's roll call were: Chairman Clark Wooten, Vice Chairperson Sue Lee, and Commissioners Jerol Kivett Harry Parker and Thaddeus Godwin.

Chairman Wooten called the meeting to order and acknowledged Vice Chairperson Lee who then called upon Commissioner Kivett for the invocation. Vice Chairperson Lee then led the Pledge.

Item 2: Action Items

Discussion of Confederate Monument Situated Upon Courthouse Grounds
Chairman Wooten recognized County Attorney Joel Starling who provided a legal opinion with regard to relocation of the monument. He recalled for the Board that on July 12th, a person (or persons) pulled down the Confederate soldier monument located on the south grounds of the Sampson County Courthouse. At the time that this occurred, County staff had been carefully reviewing General Statutes and applicable law as it pertains to Confederate monuments in the State of North Carolina and decisions of other local governments, along with researching the history of the monument from as far back as 1907. Mr. Starling addressed assertions made in some of the comments received. With regard to the assertion that the County cannot remove the monument without approval from the NC Historical Commission, he disagreed, noting that within GS 100-2.1 the subsection refers to monuments owned by the State. He referenced the widely circulated photographs which reflected the precarious dangling position the statute was left in, noting that Public Works had advised that it posed a threat to public safety because of the unsafe/dangerous condition with respect to the physical object. This is one of the exceptions to the law. With regard to the assertion that the County had an obligation to restore the monument within a 90-day window, he disagreed, noting that one could not find the issue an exception to a law then apply the fact to that issue. For those reasons, he advised that the removal of the statue pursuant to the statute had occurred and the Board is not legally obligated to restore the monument at this time.

Commissioner Kivett stated that considering that the Clinton City Council voted unanimously for the County to move the statue, he moved that the statue previously located on top of the Confederate Soldiers Monument, which was

removed after County officials determined that it posed a threat to public safety because the life-sized bronze statue was hanging from its base and likely to cause injury to persons or property, be relocated to the Sampson County History Museum and that its accompanying base, which continues to pose a threat to public safety, be placed in storage, with the contents of any time capsule that may be located in the base being relocated to the Sampson County History Museum. The motion was seconded to by Commissioner Godwin. Finance Officer David Clack requested clarification on the motion, noting that there were anticipated costs of moving the base and staff would request that the Board appropriate funds from Contingency, estimated at approximately \$40,000. Commissioner Kivett agreed to amend his motion to that effect and encouraged staff to seek assistance from the City of Clinton in sharing the costs. Commissioner Godwin agreed to amend his second accordingly. The Board then voted unanimously to approve the motion, as amended. (Such votes confirmed by Clerk's roll call.)

Distribution of Second Round of CARES Act Funding Allocation Finance Officer David Clack reviewed a proposed distribution plan for the additional CARES Act funding, which included additional funding for municipalities. Upon a motion made by Vice Chairperson Lee and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the funding distribution plan and the recommended budget amendment as follows (such votes confirmed by Clerk's roll call):

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		CARES Act		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
20558311	512100	Salaries	170,000.00	
20558311	518100	FICA	10,540.00	
20558311	518120	Medicare FICA	2,465.00	
20558311	518200	Retirement	33,219.00	
20558311	518901	401K County	8,500.00	
20558311	526200	Department Supplies	90,931.00	
20558311	526201	Dept. Supplies Equipment	25,000.00	
20558311	544000	Contract Services	75,000.00	
20558311	518100	Transfer to other agencies	817,351.00	
<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
20035831	402600	CARES Act Grant	1,233,006.00	

Recognition of Employees Participating in COVID Testing Events County Manager Ed Causey applauded Commissioner Parker who had requested that the employees involved in COVID response be recognized. Acknowledging the challenge of knowing how long the crisis will last, how many employees will be ultimately involved and how to appropriately recognize all of them, the recognition of those

involved in on-site testing events was a good start. He recommended payment of \$200 to each employee for each Saturday worked (a total cost of \$21,200). Upon a motion made by Commissioner Parker and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the monetary recognition as recommended. (Such votes confirmed by Clerk's roll call.)

Request for Adoption of Resolution Declaring Sampson County a Second Amendment Sanctuary Upon a motion made by Chairman Wooten and seconded by Vice Chairperson Kivett, the Board voted unanimously to table the matter. (Such votes confirmed by Clerk's roll call.)

Item 3: Action Items - Water District

Acceptance of Offer of Loan Assistance from NC Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) for Sampson/Johnston Interconnection: Easy Street (Phase I) Public Works Director Lin Reynolds explained that the County had been approved for loan assistance from the NC Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) in the amount of \$465,000 for the Sampson/Johnston Interconnect at Easy Street (Phase I) at a 1.13% interest rate. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Godwin and seconded by Commissioner Parker, the Board voted unanimously to adopt a resolution accepting the loan offer and making the applicable assurances contained therein. (Such votes confirmed by Clerk's roll call.)

Notice of Intent to Fund - Sampson/Johnston Interconnection Phase II (acknowledgement of loan amount and interest rate) Mr. Reynolds also reported that the County also received a Letter of Intent to Fund the Sampson/Johnston Interconnect Phase II with \$3,148,000 in loan funds at a maximum interest rate of 1.18%. The Board has previously authorized the funding application; this was presented for the Board's confirmation that they are willing to proceed now that the funding offer has been made and authorize the County Manager to execute the associated documents. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Kivett and seconded by Commissioner Parker, the Board voted unanimously to accept funding offer for \$3,148,000 at a maximum interest 1.18% and confirm proceeding with Phase II project. (Such votes confirmed by Clerk's roll call.)

Item 5: Consent Agenda

Upon a motion made by Vice Chairperson Lee and seconded by Commissioner Kivett, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda: (Such votes confirmed by Clerk's roll call.)

- a. Approved the minutes of the July 6, 2020 and July 9, 2020 meetings

- b. Authorized the execution of the FY 20-21 Agreement for the Protection, Development and Improvement of Forest Lands between Sampson County and the NC State Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
- c. Approved the contracts between Sampson County (Department of Social Services) and the Sampson County Sheriff's Office (Juvenile Court Officer/Investigator); Sampson County Sheriff's Office (Child Support Civil Officer Services); Law Office of Tiffany N. Naylor; Law Office of Corinne A. Railey; Warrick, Bradshaw & Lockamy, P.A.; Sampson County Department of Aging (Copies filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
- d. Approved the Department of Social Services' Revised On-Call Policy (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
- e. Adopted a resolution requesting the addition of Tyson Carriage Lane (Stagecoach Estates Subdivision) to the State Secondary Road System (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
- f. Authorized the execution of the Agreement between Eastpointe Human Services and County of Sampson 4H Prevention Program (FY 20-21) (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
- g. Approved the following tax refunds and releases as submitted:

#9319`	Nicholas Westbrook	\$140.14
#9333	Samuel Wayne Hubbs	\$646.43
Tax Release	Hugh Wallace Rich	\$422.89

- h. Approved the following budget amendments as submitted

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		ESFR20 Housing Program			
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>	
TBD	TBD	Administration	40,000.00		
TBD	TBD	Housing Rehabilitation	150,000.00		

<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
TBD	TBD	NC Housing Fund Grant	190,000.00	

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		Various Departments			
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>	
11449200	519500	Engineering Services	12,500.00		
11449300	544000	Contract Services	4,600.00		
11449200	519100	Professional Services	1,700.00		

REVENUE

<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11039999	409800	Fund Balance Approp Encumbrances	18,800.00	

EXPENDITURE

<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11141700	512600	Part Time Salaries	20,346.00	
11141700	534300	Election Expense	14,184.00	
11141700	518100	FICA	1,262.00	
11141700	581820	Medicare FICA	296.00	

REVENUE

<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11034170	402600	HAVA Grant	36,088.00	

- Approved Clinton City Schools budget amendments #3 (State); #2 (State); #2 (Federal); #3 (Federal); #1 (Local); #1 (Special Revenue); #1 (Fund 5) as submitted.
- Approved the Sampson County School Capital Outlay Budget FY 20-21 as submitted:

EXPENDITURE

<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11659140	555030	Capital Outlay category 1	2,216,446.00	
11659140	555031	Capital Outlay category 2	91,156.00	
11659140	555032	Capital Outlay category 3	63,844.00	
11659140	550000	Unallocated Capital Outlay		867,153.00
11659140	582096	Transfer to General Fund	1,504,293.00	

REVENUE

<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11035914	409612	Transfer from School Capital Reserve	1,504,293.00	
19932320	409900	Fund Balance Appropriated	1,504,293.00	

Consent Agenda (Board of Health)

- Adopted the COVID-19 Policy and Procedure (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
- Approved the Amended Board of Health Operating Procedures (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
- Approved the Annual Update to Local Health Department Services Analysis Policy and Procedures (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)

- l. Approved the Contracts for School Nursing Services between the Sampson County Health Department and Clinton City School and Sampson County Schools (Copies filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
- m. Wrote off as uncollectible the amount of \$159.00

County Manager’s Report

Mr. Causey reported that the architects for the 911/EMS Facility were ready to have a design development presentation and asked which commissioners wished to participate. As with the previous presentation, Commissioners Kivett and Godwin will participate in the Zoom presentation.

(The Public Comment period for August was duly held on August 18, 2020. The Clerk provided instruction for the Public Comment period for the September meeting.)

Adjourn

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Kivett and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn. (Such votes confirmed by Clerk’s roll call.)

/signature on file
Clark H. Wooten, Chairman

/signature on file
Susan J. Holder, Clerk to the Board