

The Sampson County Board of Commissioners convened for their regular meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, July 6, 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 Facebook Live, 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. Susan Holder then led the Pledge.

Approval of Agenda

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Parker and seconded by Commissioner Kivett, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda with the following additions: Item 4 (d) engagement agreement with the firm of Brook Pierce McLendon Humphrey and Leonard, LLP to serve as legal counsel in connection with advice and counsel about potential merger of the Sampson County school systems and associated budget amendment.

Item 1: COVID Pandemic Updates

COVID Update (Health Department) Health Director Wanda Robinson and Nursing Director Kelly Parrish provided the Board with COVID updates for the county noting that the State was currently seeing record highs in confirmed cases and hospitalizations, with Sampson having 1,122 cases and seven deaths to date, with a positive rate of 32 (up from the previous rate of 31.62%). Ms. Robinson noted that the June 13, 2020 mass testing event provided testing to 520 persons, resulting in 29 positive cases at a rate of 5.6%. Ms. Parrish noted that two long-term care facilities had been 100% tested (testing for all residents and staff), and all residents had tested negative. Two additional long-term care facilities were scheduled to be tested at 100% in the upcoming week. Ms. Robinson noted that the Latino population has been disproportionately affected, accounting for approximately 69% of the positive cases due to many factors such as multi-generational housing, underlying health conditions, and work environments. As a result, county public health agencies are working with the Latino population and migrant farmers to assist in lessening the impact on this particular population. She concluded by reminding the public that it is critical that everyone follow the safety recommendations of health officials and

solicited the support of community leadership in sharing that message. Vice Chairperson Lee inquired of the number of current active cases and Ms. Robinson stated approximately 300-350 total.

Challenges of Disaster Sheltering in a Pandemic (Emergency Services)

Emergency Management Director Ronald Bass presented some of the potential challenges the County could face during a disaster sheltering event during the pandemic, briefly reviewing past operations and the anticipation that additional resources, both employees and financial, will be needed, particularly due to the large migrant worker population and the current number of COVID-19 cases in the county. Mr. Bass noted that staff had placed a lot of attention on procedures for pre-registration, testing, maintaining social distancing, isolation of potential cases, congregant feeding, sanitation, and managing both health and mental health issues, and will work closely with partnering agencies such as the school systems and local health agencies to ensure said procedures are effective and safe. He explained that CDC guidance recommended at least six feet distance between individuals, and the Red Cross recommended 120 square feet per person with a cot or 60 square feet per person without a cot (which are prioritized to those in need first). Family clustering will be permitted. He noted that further conversation with the State will be had regarding coastal evacuees taking shelter in the County. Health screenings will be mandatory for anyone entering the shelter and conducted daily for the duration of each person's stay. Symptomatic persons and positive cases will be isolated with dedicated health staff to provide health care. Mr. Bass projected that a disaster shelter event could cause great strain on both employee and financial resources, particularly translators and public information professionals.

Item 2: Planning and Zoning Items

R20-000002: Request to Rezone 254.6 Acres at I-40 and Preacher Henry Road from HCO-Highway Corridor Overlay to RA-Residential Agriculture The Chairman opened the hearing and acknowledged Senior Planner Anita Lane who reviewed the request by ITAC 443, LLC to rezone approximately 254.6 acres from HCO-Highway Corridor to RA-Residential Agriculture, noting the findings of fact and the unanimous recommendation of the Planning Board that R20-000002 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 an area that is already zoned RA-Residential Agriculture. The Chairman asked the Clerk to read any public comments received prior to the meeting. None had been received. The Chairman closed the public hearing. Due to the fact that the hearing was conducted during a remote/virtual meeting, actions were deferred to the July 9, 2020 recessed meeting.

R20-000003: Request to Rezone 17.85 Acres Between I-40 and William R. King Road from HCO-Highway Corridor Overlay to C-Commercial (3.0 acres) and RA-Residential Agriculture (14.85 acres) The Chairman opened the hearing and acknowledged Senior Planner Anita Lane who reviewed the request to rezone approximately 17.85 acres from HCO-Highway Corridor, noting the findings of fact and the unanimous recommendation of the Planning Board that R20-000003 is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Sampson County Land Use Plan and other long range planning documents due to the fact the request for Commercial is adjacent to I-40 and the remaining is currently being farmed. The Chairman asked the Clerk to read any public comments received prior to the meeting. None had been received. The Chairman closed the public hearing. Due to the fact that the hearing was conducted during a remote/virtual meeting, actions were deferred to the July 9, 2020 recessed meeting.

R20-000004: Request to Rezone 79.81 Acres Between I-40 and William R. King Road from HCO-Highway Corridor Overlay to C-Commercial (4.5 acres) and RA-Residential Agriculture (75.31 acres) The Chairman opened the hearing and acknowledged Senior Planner Anita Lane who reviewed the request to rezone approximately 79.81 acres from HCO-Highway Corridor, noting the findings of fact and the unanimous recommendation of the Planning Board that R20-000004 is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Sampson County Land Use Plan and other long range planning documents due to the fact that the request for Commercial is adjacent to I-40 and the remainder is currently being farmed. The Chairman asked the Clerk to read any public comments received prior to the meeting. None had been received. The Chairman closed the public hearing. Due to the fact that the hearing was conducted during a remote/virtual meeting, actions were deferred to the July 9, 2020 recessed meeting.

Item 3: Public Hearings

Public Hearing Regarding Community Development Needs, Intent to Apply for CDBG-NR Funding The Chairman opened the hearing and acknowledged Finance Officer David Clack who reviewed the purpose of the hearing, the second of two required hearings. The Chairman asked the Clerk to read any public comments received prior to the meeting. None had been received. The Chairman closed the public hearing. Due to the fact that the hearing was conducted during a remote/virtual meeting, actions were deferred to the July 9, 2020 recessed meeting.

Public Hearing Regarding Naming of Private Road The Chairman opened the hearing and acknowledged Assistant County Manager Susan Holder who reviewed the recommendation for the naming a certain private road. The Chairman asked the Ms. Holder to read any public comments received prior to the meeting. None had

been received. Due to the fact that the hearing was conducted during a remote/virtual meeting, actions were deferred to the July 9, 2020 recessed meeting.

Item 4: Action Items

Tax Settlement and Charge to Tax Collector Tax Administrator Jim Johnson reported to the Board the amount of \$1,420,928.88 of unpaid taxes for the current fiscal year which are liens on real property. This total is \$322,174.82 more than the previous fiscal year. Mr. Johnson noted that Sampson County had collected 96.6% of real and personal property taxes, down approximately 1% from the previous year percentage rate, likely due to the pandemic and related challenges, such as court closures, foreclosure abilities, and other means of collection. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Kivett and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to accept the settlement and charge Tax Collector with collection of taxes for FY 2020-2021. (Such votes confirmed by Clerk's roll call.) (Copy of Tax Charge filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)

Designation of Voting Delegate - NCACC Annual Conference Upon a motion made by Chairman Wooten and seconded by Vice Chairperson Lee, the Board voted unanimously to designate Commissioner Kivett to serve as the County's voting delegate at the NCACC Annual Conference (Such votes confirmed by Clerk's roll call.) (Copy of the voting delegate designation filed in Inc. Minute Book ____ Page _____.)

Convention and Visitors Bureau Upon a motion made by Vice Chairperson Lee and seconded by Commissioner Kivett, the Board voted unanimously to reappoint Roy Patel, Phillip Bell, and Susan Richert to the Convention and Visitors Bureau. (Such votes confirmed by Clerk's roll call.)

Workforce Development Board (WIA Board) Upon a motion made by Vice Chairperson Lee and seconded by Commissioner Kivett, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Daniel Ruggles to the Workforce Development Board (WIA Board). (Such votes confirmed by Clerk's roll call.)

(Walk on) Engagement Agreement with the Firm of Brook Pierce McLendon Humphrey and Leonard, LLP and Associated Budget Amendment County Manager Ed Causey reviewed the item authorizing the County Manager to execute the engagement agreement with the firm of Brook Pierce McLendon Humphrey and Leonard, LLP to serve as legal counsel in connection with advice and counsel about potential merger of the Sampson County school systems and to approve the associated budget amendment. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Kivett and

seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to authorize staff to execute the agreement and approved the associated budget amendment. (Such votes confirmed by Clerk’s roll call.) (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book ____ Page ____.)

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		Administration		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11141200	519200	Legal Services	\$25,000.00	
11999000	509700	Contingency		\$25,000.00

Item 5: Consent Agenda

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

- a. Approved the minutes of the June 1, 2020; June 11, 2020; and June 18, 2020 meetings
- b. Approved and authorized the execution of the FY 2020-2021 Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG) Funding Plan (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book ____ Page ____.)
- c. Approved the revised 2020 lease documents for the Agri Exposition Center (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book ____ Page ____.)
- d. Approved the lease between the County and Eastpointe LME for 6,000 square feet of space at 120 County Complex Road (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book ____ Page ____.)
- e. Authorized the execution of the FFCRA (Families First Coronavirus Response Act) Funding Agreement between Sampson County (Department of Aging) and Mid Carolina Council of Governments (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book ____ Page ____.)
- f. Authorized the execution of the 2020 Urgent Repair Program Post-Approval Documents (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book ____ Page ____.)
- g. Adopted a resolution authorizing the City of Clinton to issue pyrotechnic permits for pyrotechnics that will be exhibited, used, or discharged within the corporate limits of the City (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book ____ Page ____.)
- h. Approved the Animal Shelter’s request to adjust the adoption/neuter fees for male cats and dogs to reflect current contract fees (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book ____ Page ____.)
- i. Approved the delinquent property tax exemption request for Prestage Ag Energy of NC, LLC (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book ____ Page ____.)

- j. Authorized the waiver of late list penalties for business personal property listings for Circle N Farms
- k. Approved tax refunds and releases as submitted:

#9303	Cynthia Smith	\$317.06
#9324	Timothy Craddock	\$100.77
#9321	Christopher Calcutt	\$137.42
#9306	White Investment Co. NC Corp.	\$1,391.51
Tax Release	Federal Servicing	\$118.26

- l. Approved budget amendments as submitted:

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		Finance		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11558311	512100	Salaries	\$75,000.00	
11558311	518100	FICA	\$4,650.00	
11558311	518120	Medicare	\$1,088.00	
11558311	518200	Retirement	\$7,431.00	
11558311	518901	401K County	\$3,750.00	
11558311	526200	Department Supplies	\$79,420.00	
11558311	526201	Dept. Supplies Equipment	\$87,185.00	
11558311	544000	Contract Services	\$34,372.00	
11558311	532100	Telephone and Postage	\$2,688.00	
11558311	555000	Capital Outlay other	\$203,180.00	
11558311	518100	Transfer to other agencies	\$784,906.00	

<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11039999	409900	Fund Balance Appropriated	\$1,283,670.00	

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		Finance		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
72154000	545100	Claims paid	\$400,000.00	

<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
72035400	408900	Miscellaneous Revenue		

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		WIC		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
12551670	537000	Advertising	\$4,200.00	
12551670	543000	Rental Equipment	\$190.00	
12551670	526200	Department Supplies	\$64.00	
12551670	532100	Telephone/Postage	\$692.00	

<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
12535167	404000	State Assistance	\$5,146.00	

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
		Health - WIC		
12551670	526201	Department Supplies Equipment	\$6,048.00	
12551670	544000	Contract Services	\$32,000.00	
12551670	526200	Department Supplies	\$454.00	
12551670	512100	Salaries	\$7,267.00	
12551670	518100	FICA	\$451.00	
12551670	518120	Medicare FICA	\$106.00	
12551670	518200	Retirement	\$550.00	
12551670	518300	Group Insurance	\$1,161.00	
12551670	518400	Dental Insurance	\$44.00	
12551670	518901	401K	\$546.00	

<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
12535167	404000	State Assistance	\$48,627.00	

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
		Aging		
02558800	522100	Nutrition – Food Provision	\$54,496.00	
02558800	526201	Nutrition – Dept. Equipment	\$5,250.00	

<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
0203588	403601	Mid-Carolina – State Grant	\$59,746.00	

County Manager' Report

Mr. Causey reiterated the challenges of disaster sheltering and potential associated burdens.

Public Comments

Assistant County Manager Susan Holder read the written public comments of Mr. Jeff Robertson, regarding the removal of statues, and Mr. Michael White, regarding the same:

Jeff Robertson: The University of Kentucky is removing of a controversial mural of enslaved Africans from its wall. In Louisiana, Nicholls State University officials have scrapped the names of two college buildings dedicated to Confederate generals. In New

Orleans, city lawmakers are renaming Jefferson Davis Parkway after Norman C. Francis, a civil rights pioneer. Outside Tampa, Florida, a Sons of Confederate Veterans have lowered a huge Confederate battle flag that has long been flown in view of two interstate highways. These are examples of what cities across the country are doing in the wake of George Floyd's death at the hands of a Minneapolis police officers. It is time to do the same in our city of Clinton, to remove the statues and other subtle homages to the Confederacy, starting with the Confederate Soldier's Monument outside the Sampson County Courthouse, in Downtown Clinton. The inscription on this "monument" reads, "For a cause, though lost still just," which is incredibly sickening and offensive. It is time to get rid of that statue that honors a racist past and to begin the process to remove that offending statue. Quoting Indiana's Mayor Joe Hogsett, "We must name these instances of discrimination and never forget our past, but we should not honor them." Thank you for your time.

Michael White: I am Michael White from Newton Grove area. I am writing you about the confederate monument at the courthouse in Clinton. I believe it should stay right where it is. Why? I will give you a small list on why I believe this and I hope you hear me out. Thank you for your time. First, the monument was paid for by help from the State so the North Carolina Law protects it because tax payer money with to it. Second, the monument dedication was held on the 12th of May 1916 according to contemporaneous newspaper accounts, with a original confederate Battle flag placed in the bottom of the monument. The Battle flag was one that the confederate veterans from Sampson County had in the war. The third, the monument was put up for the dead who died in the war for their state and home county, Sampson County. These men were not all white. You had free Black man from Sampson County who fought for the confederate army. They are confederate veterans who this monument is for too. The fourth, we have laws to protect veterans monuments in this country, but a lot of people and city forget we are a Republic! A land of law and order. Congress of the United States recognize this confederate veterans has U.S. Veterans, and head stones for them where paid for by the VA. So the U.S. Laws for veterans monuments apply to this monument too. The last one, I think this is going to hit the nail on the head, with the news article I seen and a lot of people seen in Sampson County were you have the NAACP President of Sampson County talking that the monument was a white supremacy in front of the courthouse to remind the black man and woman of Sampson County that they are not equal. I believe this man is wrong. I will not say his name but it is not hard to find the news article. My response to this is easy. 1) Did a confederate flag ever fly over a slave ship? No. 2) Did the confederacy ever condone slavery? There is two parts to this, from state to next state. Yes, from one country to another? No. That was their way of killing slavery off, to end it. 3) To monuments being some kind of white-supremacy, that holds no water. Because free black man ran to join the confederate army and died in battle, this time we live in today, we can not look to a monument and say, I am not equal because of this monument. That is the wrong way of thinking. Instead, we need to look at how we can help one and other, instead taking

down something that united white man and black man in the past. To do this we should look at our community. To do work there and not take down a monument to white confederate's and black confederate's brothers in arms. If anything, that monument should united us today, but in today times we have more people trying to divide us as a country then united us. They put is in groups; white, black, Hispanic, Native American, and it goes on. But we are American all of us. This groups I named, all had their own confederate regiments! Look it up. They were united in the cause they fought. If you look on the monument it says, Fell in a cause though lost still just! And died for me and you. All came to that cause, all groups, we should honor them, and respect them, and pray we can unite like they did. So I ask of you to share this with all the other commissioners please. I also ask of all of the commissioners what is Sampson County going to be, a land of law or a land where law is good only when it suits us. The law says monuments stay.

Recess to Reconvene

Upon a motion made by Vice Chairperson Lee and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to recess to reconvene on July 9, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. (Such votes confirmed by Clerk's roll call.)

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Clark H. Wooten, Chairman

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Susan J. Holder, Clerk to the Board