

The Sampson County Board of Commissioners convened for a recessed meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 11, 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 reconvened the meeting and acknowledged Vice Chairperson Lee who led an invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 1: Budget Public Hearings

Public Hearing Regarding Proposed Budget for FY 20-21 Chairman Wooten opened the public hearing and called upon Assistant County Manager/Clerk to the Board Susan Holder to read any comments received prior to the meeting date. Ms. Holder read the following into the record:

From Larry Sutton of Clinton, NC:

If given a chance, most people want the opportunity of being able to better themselves through their own hard work. I'm very much in favor of economic development in Sampson County, with an emphasis and commitment to equal the playing field as we work to come to terms with our long history of economic inequity which remains "the defining challenge of our time." Going forward with this emphasis on economic development and growth, it is incumbent on the Sampson County Board of County Commissioners and staff to make sure we all benefit from any investments made for future economic growth and prosperity. We are at a unique moment in time in Sampson County, North Carolina and the American nation. This is an opportunity for our community to develop economic policies that will continue to honor Dr. Martin Luther King's legacy, by implementing those policies and practices to fulfill his dream. Let's make sure all new businesses and industries represent a great fit for all of us as they reflect the American values on inclusion and diversity in their employment and promotion practices, especially in the area of providing job-training for the underserved and underemployed. It's time to develop an economy that works for everyone, providing for economic justice for all. Moving into the future, as we strive to become more equitable and inclusive, I do hope you will bear in mind that the wealth gap in Sampson County and across the State and nation continues to widen, creating disparities in progress among the different social groups. With that in mind, it is imperative that we continue to identify and remove structural economic barriers which will allow for a more productive economic environment and possibly, more income-earning opportunities. Now, to do otherwise would involve great costs in terms of lost earnings, taxes, productivity and in perpetuating economic inequality –

something we need to remedy with deliberate speed. Future captains of industry must do their part to contribute to the movement for racial equality and economic justice. And, for us to be a more just and equal society, we must believe and demonstrate that everyone deserves a fair chance. Thank you.

Chairman Wooten expressed appreciation for community feedback on the positives economic development brings to the community and concurrence with the offered comments. County Manager Ed Causey noted that the school systems had indicated their understanding of the County's need to hold funding stable given the current uncertain pandemic situation. He noted that the budget would have to be revisited mid-year, with hopes of cautious optimism. There being no further comments, the hearing was closed. Chairman Wooten noted that the budget ordinance would be considered at a recessed meeting to be held at 6 pm on June 18.

Public Hearing Regarding Economic Development Expenditures in Proposed Budget for FY 20-21 Chairman Wooten opened the public hearing and called upon Assistant County Manager/Clerk to the Board Susan Holder to read any comments received prior to the meeting date. Ms. Holder noted there were no comments received (other than those read previously). County Manager Causey noted that the current budget did not include an allocation of funds in the economic development reserve fund, but the opportunity could be revisited after the mid-year review. There being no further comments, the hearing was closed.

Item 2: Public Hearing - CDBG

Public Hearing Regarding Community Development Needs, Intent to Apply for CDBG-NR Chairman Wooten opened the public hearing and called upon Assistant County Manager/Clerk to the Board Susan Holder to read any comments received prior to the meeting date. Ms. Holder noted there were no comments received as of the meeting. Finance Officer David Clack explained the block grant funding for housing needs. There being no further comments, the hearing was closed. A second hearing will be scheduled for the Board's regular meeting in July.

Item 3: Actions Related to June 1 Public Hearings

Proposed Expenditures for Economic Development Purposes – Acquisition of Property The Chairman asked Assistant County Manager/Clerk to the Board Susan Holder to read any comments received prior to the meeting date. Ms. Holder noted there were no comments received as of the meeting. County Attorney Joel Starling noted that the Board had duly held a hearing on June 1 regarding the proposed acquisition of a fee simple interest in a 1.5± acre parcel from Grace H. Byrd for economic development purposes for \$14,244. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Kivett and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to adopt

a resolution approving the appropriation for the acquisition of the real property, subject to the terms and conditions of the Offer to Purchase and Control and Addendum to the Offer to Purchase and Contract. (Such votes confirmed by Clerk’s roll call.) Copy of resolution filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.

Proposed Expenditures for Economic Development Purposes – Consideration of Incentive Agreement The Chairman asked Assistant County Manager/Clerk to the Board Susan Holder to read any comments received prior to the meeting date. Ms. Holder noted there were no comments received as of the meeting. Economic Developer Stephen Barrington noted the anticipated investment of the company (name yet to be revealed). Upon a motion made by Vice Chairperson Lee and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to adopt a resolution that determines that the appropriation will increase the population, taxable property, agricultural industries, employment, industrial output, and business prospects of Sampson County, sets forth the proposed incentives and performance-based commitments, and authorizes the execution of the Incentive Agreement . (Such votes confirmed by Clerk’s roll call.) Copy of resolution filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.

Item 4: Other Action Items

Re-appointment/DSS Advisory Board Upon a motion made by Vice Chairperson Lee and seconded by Commissioner Kivett, the Board voted unanimously to reappoint David Richert to the DSS Advisory Board. (Such votes confirmed by Clerk’s roll call.)

Approval of Budget Amendment/Plain View Fire Department Upon a motion made by Vice Chairperson Lee and seconded by Commissioner Kivett, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following budget amendment. (Such votes confirmed by Clerk’s roll call.)

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		Plain View Fire Department		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
23243410	581018	Plain View Fire Department	20,000.00	
<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
23043418	499900	Fund Balance Appropriated	20,000.00	

Recess to Reconvene

Assistant County Manager Holder reviewed the contact information for the recessed meeting and noted that additional comments would be accepted until 5 pm on June 18 via email at susanh@sampsonnc.com. Upon a motion made by Chairman Wooten and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to

recess to reconvene on June 18th at 6 pm, the meeting to be held again virtually via Zoom and to be broadcast via Facebook Live. (Such votes confirmed by Clerk's roll call.)

/signature copy on file

Clark H. Wooten, Chairman

/signature copy on file

Susan J. Holder, Clerk to the Board