

The Sampson County Board of Commissioners convened for their regular meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, January 9, 2023, in the County Auditorium, 435 Rowan Road in Clinton, North Carolina. Members present: Chairman Jerol Kivett, Vice Chairperson Sue Lee, and Commissioners Thaddeus Godwin, Lethia Lee and Allen McLamb.

Chairman Jerol Kivett called the meeting to order and turned the meeting over to Vice Chairperson Sue Lee. Vice Chairperson Sue Lee called upon Commissioner Lethia Lee who provided the invocation. Vice Chairperson Sue Lee then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Upon a motion by Vice Chairperson Sue Lee and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as published with the following changes:

- Added the following items to the Consent Agenda
 - o Resolution Requesting DOT Funding for Hwy 24 Extension (Item K)
 - o Condemnation – Waste Booster Pump Station (Item L)
 - o Resolution of Support for Project Bose (Item M)

Item 1: Swearing in of Clerk to the Board

Chairman Jerol Kivett called upon Sampson County Clerk of Superior Court Chris Fann who administered the Oath of Office for Clerk to the Board Stephanie Shannon.

Item 2: Planning and Zoning Items

ZTA22-01 – Sampson County Zoning Ordinance Amendment Request (Public Hearing)
Chairman Kivett opened a public hearing and called upon Planner Michelle Lance who informed the Board that the Planning Board addressed a request by Tri-State Turf, Inc. at its November 14, 2022, and December 12, 2022 meeting. The request sought amendments to the Sampson County Zoning Ordinance, specifically, the request to amend the Definitions and Table of Uses Sections and Chapter 15, Special Uses: Specific Use Requirements. The Planning Board found these amendments to be consistent with the Sampson County Land Use Plan and voted unanimously to recommend approval with some modifications. Chairman Kivett called upon Clerk to the Board Stephanie Shannon who read comments received from Carla Peterson prior to the meeting. Ms. Peterson wrote to the Board expressing her concerns regarding noise, traffic, dust, and potential danger associated with permanent sawmills. Ms. Peterson stated that she was opposed to the request. Ms. Lance noted that the Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend this amendment. Andrew Dickerhoff, legal representative for Tri-State Turf, Inc., made himself available for discussion with the Board. Chairman Kivett then opened the floor for public comments and hearing none, closed the public hearing. Upon a motion by Vice Chairperson Sue Lee and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the recommended Zoning Consistency Statement and approve the amendments to the Sampson County Zoning Ordinance as recommended. (Copy filed in Ordinance Book _____, Page____.)

Item 3: Audit Information

Chairman Kivett called upon Finance Officer David Clack who apologized to the Board and explained that the Audit was not yet complete. He further explained that the auditors should have the audit ready to present at the February 6, 2023 meeting.

Item 4: Public Hearings

Amendments to Economic Development Budget for FY 22-23 Chairman Kivett opened a public hearing and called upon Economic Development Director Stephen Barrington who explained that the Economic Development Department has received grant funds from Golden Leaf, therefore requiring amendments to the department's budget. Chairman Kivett opened the floor for public comments and hearing none closed the public hearing. Upon a motion by Chairman Kivett and seconded by Vice Chairperson Sue Lee, the Board voted unanimously to approve the amendments to the Economic Development budget as requested.

Item 5: Action Items

Economic Development – Authorize Support of Building Reuse Grant for Project Bose Chairman Kivett called on Economic Development Director Stephen Barrington who discussed information about Project Bose, a well-established company in the western portion of the County. The company is seeking a Building Reuse grant from NC Commerce and is requesting that Sampson County support this grant application. Upon a motion by Chairman Kivett and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the County Manager and staff to contract with NC Commerce on behalf of Project Bose, and to sign documentation as needed for the Building Reuse grant application and any post-grant reporting documents.

Water – Tentative Recommendations of Project Change for Ivanhoe Water Project Chairman Kivett called upon Public Works Director Lin Reynolds to discuss tentative recommendations of project change for the Ivanhoe Water Project. David Ross of Dewberry Engineers stepped in for Mr. Reynolds and reviewed the required Engineering Report for the Ivanhoe Water System Project that was submitted to DWI for review. As part of this report, an alternative analysis was performed to identify multiple ways that the project can be constructed to meet the original project intent. Following this analysis, Dewberry recommends that the preferred alternative to be tentatively changed. Upon a motion by Commissioner Godwin and seconded by Commissioner Lethia Lee, the Board voted unanimously to concur with the recommended changes proposed by Dewberry Engineers.

Approve Request from Sampson County Board of Education to Accept Grant Funding for Additional SROs Chairman Kivett called upon County Manager Ed Causey who informed the Board that the Sampson County Board of Education applied for and has been awarded grant funding to increase the number of SROs for their schools. The available funding would increase SROs from 10 to 17, assigning an SRO for every school building. Mr. Causey discussed the proposal to add SROs and Finance Officer David Clack discussed the budgetary impacts for the proposal. Chairman Kivett then discussed these impacts. Upon a motion by Chairman Kivett and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the increase in SRO positions.

Consideration for the Addition of a Floating Holiday Chairman Kivett called upon County Manager Ed Causey who discussed employee compensation and a proposal to add an additional "floating" holiday as an incentive for current and future employees. Mr. Causey added that a floating holiday can increase diversity in the workplace, allowing for the celebration of religious or cultural holidays which may not be covered under state or federal calendars, and that an extra paid day off offers employees some flexibility and help to improve their work-life balance. Upon a motion by Commissioner Godwin and seconded by Commissioner Lethia Lee, the Board voted unanimously to approve the addition of a floating holiday as recommended.

Item 6: Board Appointments

Clinton-Sampson Airport Authority Upon a motion by Vice Chairperson Sue Lee and seconded by Chairman Kivett, the Board voted unanimously to appoint David Taylor to the Clinton-Sampson Airport Authority.

Item 7: Consent Agenda

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

- a. Approved the minutes of the December 5, 2022 meeting (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book ____, Page ____)
- b. Adopted a resolution accepting Golden Leaf funding for clearing and grading of a 10-acre tract on Sampson Southeast Business Park and authorizing the County Manager and Finance Officer to execute any grant acceptance documents, agreements, and reports required by the grant (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book ____, Page ____)
- c. Adopted a resolution waiving the contingent sale clause in the Rackley Hangar Contract (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book ____, Page ____)
- d. Approved the proposed Airport Layout Plan
- e. Approved the lease agreement between the County and DASCO Outdoor, LLC (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book ____, Page ____)
- f. Approved submission of the CSBG-FY 23-24 grant application by Action Pathways Inc.
- g. Authorized execution of a lease between Sampson County and W. Max Pope for +/- 7 acres of cleared land within a larger 8.2 acres of land described in that certain deed recorded in Book 1023, Page 342 of the Sampson County Registry, more commonly referred to by Sampson County PIN No. 18071632005 (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book ____, Page ____)
- h. Approved the late disabled veterans tax exclusion request for Frederick Lynn Jewell

i. Approved budget amendments as submitted

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		Health Department		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
12551230	539500	Employee Training	\$50,000.	

<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
12535123	404000	Additional State Funding	\$50,000.	

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		Economic Development		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11449200	519500	Professional Services - Engineering	\$15,544.	
11449200	544000	Contracted Services	\$259,869.	

<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11034920	408922	Golden Leaf Grant for Product Development	\$265,113.	
11034920	408900	Farming Lease Revenue	\$10,300.	

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		Library		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11761100	526200	Department Supplies	\$5,000.	
11761100	544000	Contracted Services	\$1,926.	
11761100	529900	Misc Expenses	\$1,000.	

<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11036110	403624	Increase to Yearly State Grant	\$7,926.	

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		JCPC		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
5558310	581300	Transfer to State Agency	\$12,960.	

<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
5435831	409900	Fund Balance Approp Admin	\$104.	
5435831	409902	Fund Balance Approp Teen Court	\$6,786.	
5435831	409903	Fund Balance Approp Youth Inspire	\$5,370.	
5435831	409905	Fund Balance Approp Psychological	\$700.	

j. Approved the tax refunds and releases as submitted

#10080	Sandra Price Carter	\$160.03
#10075	Gleenwell S. Stevens	\$405.00
#10072	Joe E. Godwin, Sr.	\$533.79
Tax Release	Lionel Morris	\$366.00
Tax Release	Michael Richard Ammons	\$407.72
Tax Release	Joe E. Godwin, Sr.	\$177.93
Tax Release	James William Hobbs	\$270.74
Tax Release	Glenn Montrel Williams	\$414.84
Tax Release	Kathleen Stover Hoover	\$178.96

Tax Release	Walter Quinn Leach	\$212.23
Tax Release	Charlotte Jernigan Baggett	\$176.84
Tax Release	Dannie H. Robinson, Sr.	\$1,033.16
Tax Release	Dannie H. Robinson, Sr.	\$314.50

- k. (Walk On) Adopted a resolution requesting DOT funding for Hwy 24 Extension (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
- l. (Walk On) Adopted a resolution authorizing condemnation action to acquire certain real property (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
- m. (Walk On) Adopted a resolution of support for Project Bose (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)

Item 8: County Manager’s Report

Chairman Kivett called upon County Manager Ed Causey who expressed his appreciation for the Board of Commissioners. He commended the Board on its efforts regarding employee retention and compensation, the Hwy 24 extension, and the Ivanhoe Water Project. Mr. Causey also discussed budget planning and preparation. He went on to discuss vacancies and challenges in the Department of Social Services. Following the County Manager’s comments, Chairman Kivett expressed his gratitude for all County employees.

Item 9: Public Comment Period

Following a brief overview of Public Comment Policies and Procedures by Clerk to the Board Stephanie Shannon, Chairman Kivett opened the floor for public comments. The following were received:

Lacy Bell, 2812 East Darden Road, Faison, NC – “Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A few months ago I came before the Board in reference to an extension of a water line. Right now the water line stops at point five on East Darden Road. The residents on the lower end of East Darden Road, which I live on, made a request to the Board of Commissioners to extend the water line. Some of us had already paid when the water line was first being put down. As a result of that, and me coming before the Board, and tonight I’m here on behalf of those residents as well as myself to say thank you to the Board of Commissioners, thank you to the Water Board, and a special thanks to Mr. Reynolds. Once I made my request to you all, action was taken immediately. Mr. Reynolds just informed me just before Christmas that the engineers were in the process of working on the plans and it looks like something is going to happen around March or early April for us on East Darden Road. So again, I want to thank you on behalf of the residents of East Darden Road. Thank you.”

Temple Byrd, 317 Old Tom Morris Road, Garland, NC – “Hello. Thank you for hearing me tonight. My name is Temple Byrd. I’m from Garland, North Carolina. I’m here mostly tonight not because I expect any answers, other than to tell you thank you for everything you do. I had an unfortunate situation that I just didn’t feel like as a concerned citizen was properly addressed. So, I kind of felt like I had a need to make a public record of it. We live in a rural

area. When I say we, me and a pretty large population. We had a horse that was running loose and not being properly tended to. This originally started on the Thursday before Christmas. Several phone calls were made. We were calling 911 and we kept being directed to the Highway Patrol. On the Tuesday after Christmas, I actually contacted the Animal Control department. I did that after I had made a post on a public forum asking for some sense of direction. What do we need to do? I was concerned with the public's safety because this was a large horse, as I was the animal. And to be fair, I was concerned about both. So I made a phone call and spoke with someone that I sincerely thought was a gentleman. The phone call lasted all of about nine minutes, went around in a circle. I was given no assurances, no promises. Essentially, I hung up frustrated. My first mistake was, I did get frustrated. I did not lose my temper. I did not cuss at anyone. But I did feel like my concerns were not being addressed. I think I actually hung up asking to speak with the highest ranking officer on patrol, but in the end I think I proceeded with, I think I'll just call the Sheriff. In three minutes time I was called back by the Sheriff. That conversation also did not go well. I'm not sure if I was set up because I was already frustrated or if he was set up because he'd been listening to his officer. That conversation as well didn't go well. Again, I felt like I was not being heard. As a result of that, no one showed up. I did get a call sometime later and was told that they had been out there, there was no horse to be found. That became a problem because the horse was there. The summary is, the North Carolina Highway Patrol ended up showing up. They helped us get the horse rounded up. This occurred last Sunday. So that's almost two weeks. Had it not been for the Highway Patrol, we would have never gotten this horse taken care of. Now the big mystery becomes, where is the horse? Because I had made arrangements for the horse to be located at the arena and several good horse people to go and adopt the horse. The horse has mysteriously disappeared. And I have heard, although its not appropriate, that the horse was taken to the Animal Control officer's house so that the original homeowner could go back and adopt the horse. (At this point, Ms. Byrd's time ended. Chairman Kivett offered her an additional minute to finish her statement.) So, I'm concerned as a citizen that we were not properly heard. To make this story even more complicated, the Animal Control officer went on Facebook, under my post, posted some very inappropriate comments, made some accusations that were way out of line, extremely unprofessional, and then proceeded to post my phone number on a public forum. Now granted, she blocked three digits after the area code. But I work in an environment where I would have lost my job on the spot. I do not think that anyone representing Sampson County Sheriff's Department should be allowed to do so. I did try to file a complaint with Sheriff Thornton. Unfortunately, his answer to me was, he didn't answer to anybody. He was the beginning, the end, and he was the only person who had any responsibility for correcting his officers. I would be profoundly disappointed if someone represented me, in a Sampson County Sheriff's Department uniform and treated me the way his officer treated me. Be it Animal Control or someone else. And I just have a problem with the fact that as a concerned citizen that was trying very hard to prevent the safety of a person and the safety of an animal and there appeared to be no repercussions for the actions of that Animal Control officer. Thank you, I just wanted to be heard. Have a blessed day and thank you all for what you do. You face a lot of hard, hard things. Thank you very much."

Adjournment

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

/signed copy on file in Clerk's Office

R. Jerol Kivett, Chairperson

/signed copy on file in Clerk's Office

Stephanie P. Shannon, Clerk to the Board