

The Sampson County Board of Commissioners convened for their regular meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, May 1, 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 Lee provided the invocation and 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 with the following changes:

- Added Item 2D – Newton Grove Rescue Squad Funding Discussion

Item 1: NCDOT Update

Chairman Kivett called upon Highway Maintenance Engineer Keith Jackson who provided an update on highway maintenance as well as current and ongoing NCDOT projects. Mr. Jackson informed the Board that the Highway 24 project has an estimated completion date of June 30, 2023. He also added that he did not foresee any delays in scheduled completion. Mr. Jackson then reviewed the fully funded all-way stop installations that will be completed before July 1, 2023 and answered questions from the Board regarding specific roads and lighting.

Item 2: Action Items

Water Shortage Response Plan Revisions Chairman Kivett called upon David Ross of Dewberry Engineers who reviewed the required revisions of the County's Water Shortage Response Plans. These plans are revised at least once every five years to reflect changes in relevant data and projections. Upon a motion by Chairman Kivett and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Water Shortage Response Plan revisions for District I, District II – Dunn, and District II – Plainview as recommended.

Establish Date to Deliver Budget Message Chairman Kivett called upon County Manager Ed Causey who provided a short overview of the budget process. In accordance with the North Carolina General Statutes, the Finance Officer has prepared a proposed budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. This budget, together with the budget message must be presented to the Board of Commissioners no later than June 1. Mr. Causey proposed to deliver the 2023-2024 Budget Message on Monday, May 22, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. in the Administrative Board Room. The Board agreed to Recess to Reconvene this meeting on Monday, May 22, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. in the Administrative Board Room for the 2023-2024 Budget Message Presentation.

Temporary Targeted Raises for Sampson County Sheriff's Office Chairman Kivett called upon County Manager Ed Causey who provided the following statement regarding employee compensation:

"Financial compensation for County employees and the Sheriff's Department in particular has been a grave concern for months. The County has authorized the completion of a market study to evaluate compensation for all employees. This study should be available in the late May/June timeframe. It is the intent of the Board of Commissioners to promptly implement study findings when received, reviewed, and approved. At the same time, we acknowledge that the Sheriff's Department and Detention have been particularly hard hit with vacancies. Salary disparities are a significant part of the recruitment challenges. Heretofore, the County has utilized targeted raises on a temporary basis to deal with the specific challenges until a complete market study can be completed. This effort can be effective. At the same time, this kind of effort could lead to misunderstanding if everyone involved does not understand that the effort is temporary and intended to address a specific challenge. The Sheriff has had grave concerns for his entire department for a considerable period of time. He has expressed concern that he needed to tackle the salaries of his entire department. We respect that view. From the County's perspective, the market study is intended to create fairness for everyone. On March 8th, the County Manager communicated with the Sheriff and suggested to the Sheriff that because vacancies were increasing, and the market study is forthcoming that he might wish to consider some targeted increases as a temporary measure. The Sheriff agreed to evaluate. On April 11, a specific recommendation was forwarded to the Sheriff for his consideration. He reviewed the recommendation and met with the Chairman and County Manager on April 26th. The Sheriff proposed several changes, and these changes were found to be reasonable. The Sheriff has agreed to the attached proposal. This agreement, if approved by the board, is temporary until the new market study is implemented."

Mr. Causey added that this proposal includes all detention officers, deputies, Sgts. and 1st Sgts. Part-Time deputies/detention officers and cadets are not included in this proposal; however, those positions will be addressed with the Pay Study.

Add \$4200/Year to LEOs: Deputy I (67), Deputy II (68), Deputy III (69), Sgt. (71), 1st Sgt. (72)

Add \$2400/Year to Detention, Non-Leos: Detention Officer I (63), II (64) and III (65) and Detention Sgt. (67), and 1st Sgt. (68)

This proposal affects 71 positions in the Sheriff's Department and 42 positions in the Detention Center with an estimated annual cost of this proposal, including fringes, is \$518,186 (\$87,000 for May and June). Upon a motion by Commissioner McLamb and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the proposal as recommended.

Newton Grove Rescue Squad Funding Discussion Chairman Kivett called upon County Manager Ed Causey who provided the Board with a letter sent to the Newton Grove Rescue Squad on April 18, 2023. Mr. Causey reviewed the letter and highlighted several deficiencies within the Rescue Squad. He added that the County suspended funding pending a response to this letter. Further, no response has been received and it is recommended that the County cancel the contract with the Newton Grove Rescue Squad with a 90-day notice. Upon a motion by Commissioner McLamb and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to terminate the Newton Grove Rescue Squad's contract with Sampson County as recommended.

Item 3: Board Appointments

Upon a motion by Vice Chairperson Sue Lee and seconded by Commissioner Godwin, the Board voted unanimously to reappoint Amber Halstead, Jeff Nethercutt, and Robby James to serve a subsequent three-year term (FY 2023-2026), effective July 1, 2023.

Item 4: Consent Agenda

Upon a motion made 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 April 3, 2023 Board meeting (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book ____, Page ____.)
- b. Adopted a resolution approving a lease between the Estate of Emma Smith King and Sampson County and authorizing the County Manager to execute any and all related documents (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book ____, Page ____.)
- c. Approved an application for lottery funds to reimburse the County for the debt payments on school buildings
- d. Adopted a resolution approving the lease of County property to State Employees Credit Union and authorizing the County Manager to execute any and all related documents (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book ____, Page ____.)
- e. Adopted a joint resolution by the Sampson County Board of Commissioners and the Sampson County Water and Sewer District II Board of Directors authorizing Chairman R. Jerol Kivett to execute a Bulk Water Purchase Agreement and Temporary Assignment Agreement between the Town of Newton Grove and Sampson County and Sampson County Water and Sewer District II (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book ____, Page ____.)
- f. Adopted a resolution acknowledging that Juneteenth has been established as a federal holiday and supporting its continued county-wide celebration (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book ____, Page ____.)
- g. Approved a Capital Outlay budget amendment for Sampson County Schools
- h. Approved the budget amendments as submitted

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		Clinton City Schools SCE		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
26659100	581001	Transfer to City Schools	\$75,000.	
<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
26031840	412000	Ad valorem taxes Current	\$75,000.	

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		Library		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11761100	544200	Cultural Programs	\$878.	

<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11761100	408401	Donations	\$663.	
11761100	408930	Discard Sale	\$215	

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		Aging		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
2558790	526200	Info/Case Asst – Dept Supplies	\$1,333.	
2558790	544000	Info/Case Asst – Contracted Services	\$2,000.	

<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
2035879	403602	Info/Case Asst – Health Promotion	\$3,333.	

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		Aging		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
2558670	525000	HR – Construction/Repairs – United Way	\$3,000.	

<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
2035867	403602	Grant United Way	\$3,000.	

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		Animal Shelter		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11234800	526200	Departmental Supplies	\$2,600.	

<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11034380	408401	Donations	\$2,600.	

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		Health Department - Immunizations		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
12551260	523902	Medical Supplies PVT Vaccines	\$44,012.	

<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
12535160	404079	Local – Insurance	\$35,718.	
12535160	404081	Local – Other Fees	\$4,456.	
12535160	404083	TXIX Fees	\$3,838.	

i. Approved the tax refunds and releases as submitted

#10150	Hannah Steer	\$141.83
#10149	Turner Chicken Ranch, LLC	\$388.15
#10142	Dustin Frank Horner	\$366.36
Tax Release	Mance Leland Wurtz	\$181.15
Tax Release	Richard Grant Galbreath III	\$100.91
Tax Release	Daniel Keith Warwick	\$106.83
Tax Release	Joshua Nathan Brown	\$259.00

Item 5: County Manager's Report

Chairman Kivett called upon County Manager Ed Causey who recognized the City of Clinton for their assistance with equipment during the construction of the County's radio tower. He also commended Interim Public Works Director Mark Turlington and his department for their efficient work. Mr. Causey then shared information on challenges within the market study due to a lack of responses. Additionally, Mr. Causey gave an update on the Emergency Management department's transition to its new facility, emphasizing that equipment at the old facility will need to be utilized until much later in the year. He added that County Administration will not recommend any action that jeopardizes the Veterans Memorial Park. Finally, Mr. Causey discussed the Ivanhoe Water Project. He stated that discussions about a public water system began in the 1980's and congratulated the community as a whole for their efforts on this project. He highlighted that the \$13 million grant for the project is an anomaly and reviewed the project costs had the County not received this grant. Commissioner Lethia Lee recognized the residents of Ivanhoe and expressed her gratitude for the water system project coming to fruition.

Item 6: Public Comment Period

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

Marshall Falatovich, 410 Beaverdam Drive, Clinton, NC – "I'm a 78 year old Vietnam veteran and I'm here tonight representing veterans. At this time I'd like to ask the veterans to please stand. Okay commissioners, this is your voters that are veterans. The purpose tonight, I had not intended to speak but when I came in and the young lady asked me did I want to speak I said yes. So, I won't take long. You know, as a veteran, we feel like a lot of times were not asked our opinions on things. We're told what's going on, but yet if you'll notice, when there is a war we're asked to go to war and we go without question. There's some people in here that's been in hand to hand combat. I was in the Vietnam war, I didn't have the hand combat but we were there. We're a dying breed. If you'll look at us and just look at our age and so forth. I know we've got three minutes. Mr. Causey made the comment about working with the city on some projects. Well, we have a project at the Veterans Park at the old 911 Center. I would ask that the Commissioners direct Mr. Causey to work with the City of Clinton and come up with an idea that we can preserve that Veterans Park. Now, my dad has a brick out there. I have a brick out there. We have our Memorial Day out there. It's just a place we like. I appreciate you putting your concern, Mr. Causey, about relocating it to a nice place, but I would imagine the majority of the veterans in here would tell you, 'Do not relocate'. You know, bases are renamed, statues are removed, we need to keep our park where it's at. Thank you. Have a good evening."

Elaine Hunt, 7171 Old Warsaw Road, Turkey, NC – "Good evening. I come with a repetitive request. Please do something to assist us in eliminating the brown water on Old Warsaw Road. I was told to take a poll of the group to see how many of you would enjoy drinking the type of water that I usually bring. I didn't bring it this afternoon, but I already know the answer to that. I'm coming before you month after month and I'm seeing no one responding back but I'm

not going to give up. We're not going to give up on this effort because water is a necessity, and we need clean drinking water like others have. The water is undrinkable. The washing of white clothes is out of the question, and I hope you realize how serious the problem is because it is a serious problem and we need help. We need something done with the water on Old Warsaw Road. As I said before, we are not looking handouts, but we are looking helping hands to assist us as you have helped so many others. Thank you for your time, your attentive ear, and your consideration to the people on the opposite side of Timberlake on Old Warsaw Road. Thank you."

Clemon Eure, 251 Airport Road, Clinton, NC - "I didn't realize that this was even being considered, to move this memorial. I certainly hope, Mr. Causey, that this will not be moved to any other place. You know, when you've got a prime location you've got a prime location and I believe that's what this is. It's really a good thing to be able to have at least half of that parking lot and that Veterans Memorial so we can have a ceremony there. And Jerol, I've been in this town, I got married in this town in 1966. I've been here ever since. I went to Vietnam from Gates County up in the northeastern part of the state, but I'm a part of this county. No, I didn't want my brick up there, I'll be glad to put one, but I want my brick here. Matter of fact, I didn't realize, I thought I had missed the date. I gave Ann a check for my brick out there. Out there is where the location is, Mr. Causey. I would appreciate you considering, as Marshall just said, we don't ask a lot, but we've been asked a lot of and we'd appreciate your consideration on that. Thank you."

Ann Knowles, 618 Honrine Road, Clinton, NC - "I gave you a little bit about what I felt last month about how important the park is, but you don't really know how we started that park. There's a big memorial for Mr. Geddie Herring, Sampson County's only medal of honor recipient, in the middle of that park. Those beautiful flagpoles, the Jaycees, that is no longer in Clinton, bought those, erected them, and dedicated them to that park. That's why that park, there's a lot of history in that park. We had all, Hog Slat put all the concrete there, no cost to us. We had people that, Marshall Thornton brought a group in, the first bricks were laid, it was friends of his that laid the bricks. And we've had family members of veterans that have laid the bricks thereafter. It is very, very personal to the veterans in this county. And, I've known Mr. Causey since he's been here, and I believe when he tells me that he's going to try to keep that there. Mr. Causey, we appreciate that, but we do need some room to have our group. That first parking, that first driveway to the memorial, straight across, we could be happy. We could extend our park as we need to. Because, and that's the reason we left grass between it, so when we could lay more concrete and add more bricks. But we appreciate y'all and I thank all my veterans, my Vet Council, we're all in this together and we're not against anybody, we just want to keep what we feel is very important to the veterans in this county and to the widows that's lost their husbands, the children that's lost their dads for that so we'd appreciate all consideration that you can give us. Thank you."

Whitney Parker, 7745 Roseboro Highway, Roseboro, NC - "Good evening, everybody. I've got two items. The first item that I want to discuss is, we filed an appeal for the proposed name change for Bend Road. Just for transparency I wanted you to know that we did file an official appeal. Second item is in reference to the toxic waste dump. I want to recommend or propose to the Board that they have a series of sessions for the residents to come express the effects on

the landfill and their families, their health, and just how it affects the Snow Hill community in general. And that's all I have. Thank you."

Larry Williams, 336 Chester Road, Roseboro, NC - "I hope everybody's doing great this afternoon. My concern is the landfill in Sampson County, or out in our neighborhood. There's a lot I could say but we've all read and heard about what the effects of it is. I would just like to say that we are dying over there. I just had a tumor removed on my kidney. It was cancerous. And my aunt had to move out to Maryland. She went to go for a month because she kept having stomach trouble and the doctors couldn't figure it out. She just came back last week. But I just wanted to make, just let you know that we are dying there. I mean, y'all heard, y'all heard about the vinyl chloride how much its putting out per day and you can't see it, you can't smell it, but we're breathing it every day. So, thank you for your time.

Larry Sutton, 4761 Bearskin Road, Clinton, NC - "Good evening, Commissioners, and fellow citizens. I have three things I want to touch on. My first concern is, I should have done this when I first spoke to the Board some while back, is to acknowledge a few of my former students. The first one is Mr. Thaddeus Godwin, 1972. I was doing my student teaching at Clinton High School when I met him as a student. And Mr. David Clack, some years later, and most recently Mr. Joel Starling who's the Board attorney. So, these were former students of mine, great students of mine, and it's pleasing to see you young folks involved in County government for the people of Sampson County. Secondly, I want to thank the Board for adopting the consent item F on your agenda. That item addresses Juneteenth as a federal holiday, and also it expresses the County's support for having this county-wide celebration annually on June 19. Thank you, Commissioners. Thank you, Mr. Manager Causey. My last point is the county landfill. The landfill has been a nuisance for quite a long time. Going back some fifty years when it first opened. And, lastly, it is a fundamental right to have good health and the landfill is a threat to the good health of the folks who live in the Snow Hill Community. The County should do something to help monitor and help keep this landfill from becoming a greater nuisance than it is already. So, tonight I implore you to use your influence to make the landfill more conducive to the folks who live in the Snow Hill Community. They have suffered and endured enough from the landfill's presence in that once vibrant community that's now almost a ghost community. So, again, please do your part to help make this area a more wholesome place to live. Thank you, sir and madame."

Gene Parsons, 305 Deer Track Trail, Clinton, NC - "Good evening. I came with more questions and I realized this is a comment tonight, but you really need to think about this memorial being relocated. That piece of property out there, as we all know, is wet, and about the only piece of that property that's above water when it rains is that memorial. The rest of it is swampland just about. That's why we have a new building. So, in respect to my questions not being answered, but I'm sure they will be about this before it's voted on or decided upon, I'd just like to say that we need to really think hard and I'm sure you guys will and ladies, to not relocate it. A lot of people given their life. My father-in-law is one of them and I'd just like to see it stay where it's at. That's all. Thank you."

Recess to Reconvene

Upon a motion made by Chairman Kivett and seconded by Vice Chairperson Sue Lee, the Board voted unanimously to Recess to Reconvene at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, May 22, 2023 in the Administrative Board Room.

R. Jerol Kivett, Chairman

Stephanie P. Shannon, Clerk to the Board