

The Board of Commissioners of Sampson County met in the Second Floor Courtroom of the Sampson County Courthouse in Clinton, North Carolina on Monday, December 1, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. Members present: Chairman Jefferson Strickland, Vice Chairman Jarvis McLamb, and Commissioners Albert Kirby, Billy Lockamy and Harry Parker.

Chairman Strickland called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Rev. Ray Ammons of First Baptist Church of Clinton led the invocation.

Item 1: Swearing In Ceremony

Chairman Strickland recognized the former commissioners present. He then turned the meeting over to The Honorable James L. Moore, Jr., Fourth District Court Judge, who proceeded to swear in Commissioners Albert Kirby, Sue Lee and Clark Wooten; Sheriff Jimmy Thornton and the Sheriff's deputies; Clerk of Court Norman Wayne Naylor and Deputy/Assistant Clerks of Court; and Soil and Water District Supervisors James L. Lamb, Henry E. Moore and L. Craig Thornton. (Oaths filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)

Judge Moore then returned the floor to the Board, and County Attorney Joel Starling explained that with the retirement of both the Chairman and Vice Chairman, the Board must designate a "presiding officer" to lead the Board until its formal organization at the Board's evening meeting. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Kirby seconded by Commissioner Parker, the Board voted unanimously to designate the County Manager as the temporary presiding officer.

County Manager Ed Causey then presented outgoing Chairman Jefferson Strickland and Vice Chairman Jarvis McLamb with plaques commemorating their years of service.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Lockamy and seconded by Commissioner Kirby, the Board voted unanimously to recess to reconvene at 7:00 p.m. in the County Auditorium for their regular monthly meeting.

Reconvene

The Sampson County Board of Commissioners reconvened for their regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 1, 2014 in the County Auditorium, 435 Rowan Road in Clinton, North Carolina. Commissioners present: Albert D. Kirby Jr., Sue Lee, Billy C. Lockamy, Harry Parker, and Clark H. Wooten.

Acting as temporary president, County Manager Ed Causey reconvened the meeting. Mr. Causey called upon Commissioner Parker for the invocation. Commissioner Lockamy then led the Pledge Allegiance.

Item 2: Organization of the Board

Upon the recommendation of Mr. Causey, County Attorney Joel Starling reviewed the General Statute citations which required the Board to elect its officers during its first meeting in December each year and provided options for the Board to use for the process. By consensus, the Board agreed to use a runoff process if no one received a majority of the votes. County Manager Ed Causey conducted the election for Chairman. Commissioner Sue Lee nominated Commissioner Billy Lockamy. There were no other nominations; therefore Commissioner Kirby moved the slate be approved by acclamation. Newly elected Chairman Lockamy conducted the election for Vice Chairman. Commissioner Lockamy nominated Sue Lee. There were no other nominations; therefore Commissioner Kirby moved the slate be approved by acclamation. Chairman Lockamy took the opportunity to thank County Manager Causey, and expressed his thanks to the Board for putting their trust and him as Chairman. New commissioners Sue Lee and Clark H. Wooten were afforded the opportunity to introduce themselves.

Approval of Agenda

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Kirby seconded by Commissioner Parker, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as published.

Roads

Monthly Report - NCDOT Keith Eason, NCDOT Assistant District Engineer, was present to answer questions and concerns of the Board and citizens in attendance. He reported he did not have anything in particular to present, and the Chairman opened the floor for questions. Chairman Lockamy asked if there were plans to add turning lanes on Hwy 701 at the Keener crossroads and at the intersection of Hwy 701 and Brown's Church Road. Chairman Lockamy mentioned the concerns of the community due to heavy traffic and EMS services, and subsequently presented the idea of a caution light at the Keener crossroads in the future. Mr. Eason noted he would present the ideas to the traffic department for study and provide the Board with more information at a later date. Commissioner Kirby asked for information on the construction on Hwy 403. Mr. Eason informed the Board that the construction had been completed.

Item 3: Planning and Zoning Items

RZ-10-14-1 Planning Director Mary Rose informed the Board that request RZ-10-14-1 had been withdrawn and no further actions were needed at that time.

ZA-10-14-2 Chairman Lockamy reconvened the continued hearing and called upon Planning Director Mary Rose who reviewed a request to amend the Sampson

County Zoning Ordinance Section 3.3.4. D to remove Electronic Gaming as a special use in a C-Commercial District, as recommended by the Planning Board. Commissioner Parker expressed his concerns and the concerns expressed to him by other citizens as to why electronic gaming operators were desiring to relocate to Sampson County. Commissioner Parker noted his apprehension due to a lack of clarity as to why some of the owners are relocating, and safety concerns caused by the reported number of security guards needed to provide security. Commissioner Lee stated that her concern was the legality of electronic gaming, making reference to NC General Statute 14-036.4. Ms. Rose noted that the Planning Committee had voiced similar concerns as well. Chairman Lockamy asked Ms. Rose for a total of permissible permits. Ms. Rose informed the board that there had been zero permits approved by the Sampson County Planning Board, but could not guarantee there were not any machines in operation illegally. Ms. Rose also informed the Board that the City of Clinton recently decided to remove electronic gaming as a use in their ordinance.

The following comments were offered from the floor:

Diamond Butler: I appreciate the opportunity to be with you here tonight, and I have spoken with many of you, and I was very impressed when I spoke with you that I could see that you really want the best for Sampson County, and I appreciate that. And that is the reason I am here tonight too, because I want the very best for Sampson County. If this gaming comes in it's going to be right on down the line for generation and generation, and never be voted out, I do not think. I do ask that you refuse sweepstakes gambling in Sampson County because I'm thinking about my children, my grandchildren and further on down the generations. I am not opposing the people that want the gambling, because I've got friends; my friends are some of those people, I know them, but I am against this. I cannot agree with the gambling in Sampson County. Thank you.

Linda Sessoms: Thank you again for allowing us to be here today. I do have some documents that I'd like to give you. Some of these are the General Statutes, and some of these are from the District Attorney Ernie Lee's office. (Ms. Sessoms provided the board with documents retained by the Clerk to the Board). This is from the D.A.'s office Ernie Lee; it's a synopsis of gambling for North Carolina. This is also from the State of North Carolina Court of Appeals on a case in Edgecombe County that was just put forth and came out November 18, 2014. This is North Carolina Supreme Court case that we're going to be talking about; this is where the law comes in. And these are some newspaper articles from various counties that have enforced the North Carolina laws that are in place. After the November commissioners meeting, I happened to call several counties around Sampson County and inquire with their Sheriff's departments why they decided to get rid of sweepstakes gambling in their county. Every county I called, I got the same response, "It's illegal in North Carolina, and we're enforcing the laws of North Carolina." I was directed by one of the Sheriffs to call the North Carolina District Attorney General's Office of Roy Cooper and look up the Supreme Court case 169a-11-2, which you've got here in front of you. So I called the Attorney General's Office and talked to Deborah Pharrell in Special Prosecutions. Ms. Pharrell said that sweepstakes

gambling is not legal in North Carolina. She said that her office is willing to give information to D.A.s on the laws that are in place in North Carolina if they don't understand them. I called our elected official, our elected D.A. Ernie Lee. He returned my call and was very helpful, and he sent me two of the documents that you have sitting in front of you right now: one dated November 20, 2014 titled "Gambling and Video Sweepstakes" pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 14-306.4, and the second document is a case found in North Carolina Court of Appeals on November 18, 2014 from Edgecombe County. Mr. Lee told me that sweepstakes gambling is illegal in North Carolina. He quoted several cases that he's taken to court: nine people were charged in Duplin County, four convictions and three plead guilty. A simple internet search with Mr. Ernie Lee's name and the counties that he represents, and you'll come up with all kinds of newspaper articles from the different counties where he's gone to court with these different cases. I asked Mr. Lee if he would prosecute cases in Sampson County, and he said if the Sheriff makes an arrest, he would prosecute it as he has in Onslow and Duplin counties. I've talked to North Carolina Senator Brent Jackson, on two occasions, one on just this afternoon. I asked him to be here tonight. He said he would have been here if he didn't have another obligation. He also stated that North Carolina has a statute on the books declaring that sweepstakes gambling is illegal. Senator Jackson said that his office has been telling officials, including Sampson County officials, that sweepstakes gambling is illegal. He directly said that there is a General Statute on the books and that we need to enforce it and we need to obey it. (Chairman Lockamy informed Ms. Sessoms that her time was up.) Well, I'll just say one more thing I'll just beseech you as an elected official representing us all. We've elected you to represent us, and we just ask you obey the laws of North Carolina, and the laws of North Carolina says that sweepstakes gambling in North Carolina is illegal. Thank you.

Brooke Soles: In light of what you've just heard and the information you've been provided, I would just ask you to just consider our county, as well as the people here and those that are not here tonight. As Ms. Butler mentioned, we'll be affecting generations to come. Just tonight before I came I was deciding on whether or not I should speak, and I looked at my little girl, that is four, and she just sort of looked up at me and smiled, and I said that's my sign that I need to come say something for her. So I would just ask you to please consider this: ask yourselves are these the type of establishments that we want for Sampson County, that we need for the County? Is it worth the risk that we've been discussing for the past two meetings? We talked about possible risk such as crime, and personal and family hardships. Those are just to name a few. Now is the time to stand up for what you believe in. Now is the time to represent the people that elected you here. And now is the time to stand up for Sampson County values. Thank you.

Kevin Simmons: I own a building at the end of Hayne Stretch here in Sampson County, and we got a restaurant and had a pool room there for two years. It's supposed to be one of the roughest roads in Sampson County, but while I was running that pool room, you never had to call the law out there. The road is misled a lot to what people think it is. I was born and raised there. I stayed two houses down from my building that I want to use the special permit for. You know people come up here. I worked for the phone

company for six years in Sampson County- Autryville, Roseboro, Salemburg. I see what's hurting the county. I've got friends 27 years old, friends that's 20 years old. Their friends is all on Meth. Most of my friends - I'm 40 - they're all on Meth. Security guards that are at businesses nowadays, Meth is the cause of those security guards to be there. Because there's money there. The Dollar General is being robbed; Piggly Wiggly is being robbed, and I'm sure if I went to the Sheriff's Department I can find out a lot more that is being robbed. Fair is fair, ya know, whether it's somebody going to the liquor store getting liquored up, someone going buying cigarettes. I seen a paper in Hardee's and this sort of got me; if you're worried about lives being messed up, worry about the children. There was a corn-hole tournament. \$30 entry fee. This is Mintz Christian Academy. \$30 cash payout for 2nd and 3rd. If that's not playing to win, I don't know what is. And you take a 15 - 16 year old boy that wins \$200 for throwing a sack in the hole, ain't that just as bad as anything else. I'm in the neighborhood. I'm in the county. I know what's messed this county up. The county is already messed up. And in 10 more years there'll be security guards standing in front of Piggly Wiggly. I'm trying to get mine just like everybody else has got theirs. For me to be knocked out of it when I've built my building and I've been living there for 40 years at the same place is really going to hurt me and the families I plan on giving jobs to. I plan on opening a restaurant and game room to help out 8 or 10 families. Most people that say it's hurting the county ain't been in the county to know what's hurting the county. Thank you.

Commissioner Parker asked Mr. Simmons why he originally built the building. Mr. Simmons replied, "Restaurant and pool room."

John Hobbs: Thank you Commissioners. I accidentally signed that paper because I thought you were supposed to sign up if you were here, so I thank you for the opportunity. Hey, I'm honest and transparent. Maybe we need to laugh to lighten up a little bit. It sounds like an open and shut case to me. If you want to pledge on in ignorance and disobey the law, we can go forward in that way, but I urge you to follow the law of the State of North Carolina and remove this from the zoning request you're considering. Some of your members have already pledged support to do so, so I urge you in that way to consider that and follow the law of the State of North Carolina. And thank you for letting me speak.

James Bevins: Thank you for this opportunity to speak. You've already gotten a presentation about the various state laws that and so forth and that may just seem academic to some folks, but what I'd like to do ... I've got a sheet I've come up with from a couple of websites that will hopefully give you more information on a national level as far as why there are objections to gambling. And I'll just save time to pass them out to each of you if I could. I indicated last time concerns about all these debts we have to try to pay off, but unfortunately for each dollar that comes in there's a lot of extra costs that's involved. I've got a reminder on that. And if you'll go to some of these websites when you get a chance, you will see a lot of experts that see the problems that families face when there are a lot of, I know this harks back to before, earlier this year, when there are a lot of ... when there's a big increase in alcohol sales outlets, there's a big increase in problems that ends up costing us more than the money we get in. Same

sort of thing with the gambling and so forth. I've got some things here, if you'll go to this website when you get a chance, you'll see. I remember there was a woman on there that was concerned because her husband committed suicide after he went bankrupt. About gambling and such things like that. So if you want to see the other side about why there are laws about things like this, this will help you out. (Mr. Bevins provided the Board with documents.) Thank you for your time.

Doug Hunt: I can see both points. If I got to come out for or against I would probably say against, but I can see both sides. Isn't the lottery gambling? Okay, I would suggest this to the five of you: don't follow the example that the state legislator did a few years back. If three of you decide you want it and two of you against, if you figure that out, but don't wait until somebody's absent and cast your vote. Don't do that. Cast your vote when all five of you are here. Thank you.

William Smith: I can probably enlighten you about the law. The law was passed to outlaw machines. It was left up to the counties. The City of Roanoke Rapids said they were not going to do away with their machines because that creates the revenue to pay for their taxes. They don't have to pay extra taxes. I'm not for the casino game rooms. I'm not for the big game rooms. But you can't go in the store without having to wait in line from someone buying lottery tickets, in the town or any convenience store. There's gambling all over the county. Why are you going to penalize the small country stores that's had two machines for years, since 1989, and is not having any problems? Limit the number of machines in the county and you'll stop the "riff-raff".

Commissioner Parker asked Mr. Smith if he was a business owner in the area. Mr. Smith replied, "Yes sir, I have machines in my store, and I have machines in other stores." Commissioner Parker then asked which store. Mr. Smith replied, "Smith's Oil Company in Salemburg."

William Smith (cont.): In 1989, the state put up a law that you couldn't put up over four machines per location. No problems. In 2009, the state was sued again, and they didn't put any limit on it. And it opened it up for all these casino rooms and all the riff-raff.

Commissioner Parker asked Mr. Smith where his business was located. Mr. Smith replied, "Rebel City." Commissioner Parker then asked if the County received any of the revenue generated from the machines. Mr. Smith replied, "Yes sir, they get taxes for every store that's open." Commissioner Parker asked if the county received revenue directly from the revenue generated from the machines. Mr. Smith replied, "No sir, but I wouldn't have no problem with that, with putting a license on each machine."

William Smith (cont.): There's two stores in Duplin County has opened back up. This is a man that works for me.

Mark Hall: The lady that just said they had closed up Duplin County ... the court has let two of them open back up.

William Smith (cont.): Wake County has opened back up and let machines in. Several counties have. I know Wake has and I'm pretty sure Greenville has. If you're going to allow the city stores to sell lottery tickets, why are you going to penalize the country stores and take their couple of machines? I mean gambling is gambling. If you're going to outlaw gambling, do away with the lottery; do away with it all of it.

Jenna Daniels: I'll be honest with you, I came in here with no intentions to speak, but after listening to the viewpoints tonight, I feel like I need to say something, and that is: I am a school administrator. I deal each and every day with children. Not only do I deal with the children, I deal with the parents. And I'm not trying to sit here and say that it's right or it's wrong if you want to buy a lottery ticket, or if you want to go gamble. But my concern is the fact that these parents need to be at home at night with their children. They do not need to be in a situation where they're sitting there hour, after hour, after hour, sitting there gambling. Not only that but we deal with children each and every day that do not have the food in their home. And if parents are getting money, I would hope they would be responsible enough to use it correctly, but unfortunately there's a lot of parents out there that do not know how to use the money responsibly, or any other resource they get. And that's my issue, that they're using money inappropriately, when they need to be providing for their families. And I just do not agree with us allowing this gambling, or these gaming stations to come in. We need to look for the children. We need to make decisions for the best interest of our tax payers, our citizens of Sampson County. And I hope that you would consider that in your decision making. Thank you.

Charles Sessoms: I understand what Billy is talking about, and I understand what Mr. Simmons is talking about, but my main concern is not really with the country stores. My main concern is with the casino type. Because the business I was trying to open up beside me had 90 machines there on Blue Diamond that was in that. He already had 90 machines from what I've been told, in that store there even before it was rezoned. That's my concern, that things like that come to the county I just don't think come again good. He said he wanted to hire 10 security guards. And if he's going to hire 10 security guards in there for protection there, beside my business and in the community, it can't be good.

Bill Price: I'm also seated on the Veteran's Council. I also work with Billy Smith, so this may be subsequent, but he knows by now I am going to voice my own opinion on a lot of things that doesn't agree with him. What bothered me was somebody came up here and saying that children are involved with these machines. They are not. I'm a tech. I take care of building these machines and maintaining them. I've always told all of our customers and the people that are running them that children are not even supposed to be in these establishments or around these machines. It does happen from time to time. I've always been steadfast. But we've got a lot of other things that these children are messing with that they shouldn't be. The parents need a little bit of control on this. Now, there's a big argument that'll go both ways but the biggest thing is a lot of these businesses are hanging on by their tooth. There is a lot of money involved here and a lot of back and forth arguing on it. But my theory is the biggest problem happens when

you get the outside people coming in and doing other things. And believe me, some of these people come in from places like South Carolina and all, and they're bringing in big ole huge, basically casinos. And that's not what we're in favor of. We just want the small business to be able to support itself. Children shouldn't be gambling to start with. If you want to talk about state laws, I'm pretty certain there's a law on the book that they aren't supposed to be messing with gambling. They're not even supposed to be in bars after certain hours as well. That was just one thing I wanted to bring up to this council. Before you think that our children are going and playing in these places, they are not supposed to be. I don't even condone, it and I don't think my boss does either. Thank you.

Michael Simmons: I stay on Hayne Stretch Road, Roseboro, North Carolina. I'd like to state that my building that me and my brother are trying to get special use permits; I built my building. I've invested over \$155,000 of my money out of my pocket. I pay high rate county taxes on that building. Plus, with the fact of banning or controlling to the extent that it's going to be an empty and abandoned building. I mean there's a enormous of empty buildings that I'm seeing from Florida to New Jersey that's for sale, for sale, for sale. I mean, free enterprise has to work. People have to make money in order to pay for it. There has to be a substantial amount of money coming into a business to afford employees and create jobs. Free enterprise has got to be let run. It's not illegal to make money. As long as you're not stealing, shooting, robbing, the basic laws of the land is all we need. People have to make money. That's the nature of free enterprise. It has to run. As long as you're not committing murder, stealing, and ya know, illegal stuff. The freedom to spend money, the freedom to make money. That's simply what I'm saying as free enterprise, and it has to be let run. So appreciate it.

Commissioner Kirby discussed the difficulties as they relate to the interpretation and enforcement of statutes regarding gaming and gambling which hasn't been totally and fully explained by the Supreme Court. County Attorney Joel Starling noted that this was a policy decision the Board was authorized to take. It was pointed out that the action only impacted the unincorporated portions of the county. Commissioner Lee and Commissioner Parker expressed concerns with perpetuating a situation which could be illegal. Ms. Rose clarified that those businesses currently operating in various municipalities were in compliance with zoning regulations. If the Sheriff or a police Chief wanted to enforce other laws, that would be a different matter. The Board and Ms. Rose discussed changes in the State law with regard to business and privilege licenses which lessen the potential revenue associated with gaming operations.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Wooten and seconded by Commissioner Parker, the Board voted unanimously to uphold the request of the Planning Board and amend Section 3.3.4 D of the Sampson County Zoning Ordinance to strike Electronic Gaming as a special use in C-Commercial Districts.

Item 4: Reports and Recognitions

Ebola Preparedness Ms. Wanda Robinson, Health Director, along with EMS Director Mr. Ronald Bass, provided a report on Ebola. The report included helpful tips to prevent the spread of the Ebola virus, signs and symptoms, and contact information in the event Sampson County encounters an Ebola outbreak. Mr. Bass provided insight on how the Sampson County 911 Center and EMS has made the necessary changes needed to conform to Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, as well as other changes that have been made in efforts to be prepared for an Ebola outbreak.

Item 5: Action Items

Scheduling of Work Sessions for Presentations on Business Audits and Consultation Report on Pay Plan County Manager Ed Causey provided the Board with dates for two planning sessions, one for a presentation on business audits (as requested by the Board after budget adoption), and the second a presentation by Springsted on the Pay Plan. The dates of January 13, 2015 at 1 p.m., and January 21, 2015 at 1 p.m. were selected as meeting dates by the Board.

Appointments - Workforce Development Board This item was tabled.

Appointments - Library Board of Trustees Upon a motion made by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Kirby, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Cynthia Asante to replace Lynn Register, Letitia Evans to replace Linda Faircloth, Jill Usher to replace Quenita Lee, and Susan Hunt to replace Polly Wilson on the Library Board of Trustees.

Appointments - Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee Upon a motion made by Commissioner Parker and seconded by Commissioner Lee, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Beth Smith to the Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee.

Appointments - Board of Health Upon a motion made by Commissioner Kirby and seconded by Commissioner Parker, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Linda Peterson (Nurse), Cherish Naylor (Pharmacist), and Commissioner Wooten (Commissioner) to the Board of Health.

Appointments- Mid Carolina Council of Government (BOC Seat) Upon a motion made by Commissioner Kirby and seconded by Commissioner McLamb, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Commissioner Sue Lee to the Mid Carolina Council of Government Board of Directors.

Item 6: Consent Agenda

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Parker and seconded by Commissioner Wooten, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda items as noted:

- a. Approved the minutes of the November 3, 2014 meeting
- b. Approved the Department of Aging's submission of an application for United Way funding for construction of wheelchair ramps (Application documents filed in Inc. Minute Book ____, Page ____.)
- c. Adopted a resolution authorizing the lease of agriculture tracts adjacent to the Detention Center for the period January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015 to Jesse Sumner for farming purposes (Resolution/lease filed in Inc. Minute Book ____, Page ____.)
- d. Approved the Health Department request to increase the clinic co-pay from \$20.00 to \$30.00 effective January 1, 2015
- e. Approved late disabled veteran tax exclusion applications for Paul B. Fisher, David Devane Underwood, Larry B. Bryant, and Pervis R. Owens
- f. Approved tax refunds as follows:

#6579	James T. Hairr	\$179.21
#6558	N. Coleman Norris and Teresa Norris	\$112.07
#6557	John D. Clapper	\$362.35
#6586	Tyann Darden	\$313.72
#6594	John M. Roberts Jr.	\$240.00
#6601	Brittany T. Fann	\$181.71

- g. Approved budget amendments as follows:

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		<u>Various Departments</u>	
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	
11449200	519100	Professional Services	Increase 3,293.00
11449200	531101	Existing industry project	Increase 3,441.00
11141300	544000	Contract Services	Increase 36,134.00
11761700	506151	Wellness Center Grant	Increase 4,977.00

<u>REVENUE</u>			
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	
11039999	409800	Fund balance approp encumbrances	Increase 4,7845.00

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		<u>Health Department/Communicable Disease</u>	
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	
12551250	537000	Advertising	Increase 1,050.00

REVENUE

<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
12535125	404003	State Assistance- STD	275.00	

EXPENDITURE

		<u>Health Department/Immunizations</u>		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
12551600	526201	Department Supplies Equipment	2,500.00	
12551600	537000	Advertising	1,000.00	
12551600	512100	Salaries	2,338.00	
12551600	518100	FICA	146.00	
12551600	518120	Medicare FICA	34.00	
12551600	518200	Retirement	166.00	
12551600	518300	Group Insurance	500.00	
12551600	518400	Dental Insurance	346.00	
12551600	518901	401K	60.00	

REVENUE

<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
12535160	404000	State Assistance	7,090.00	

EXPENDITURE

		<u>Health Department/Health Promotions</u>		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
12551550	512100	Salaries	7,171.00	
12551550	518100	FICA	445.00	
12551550	518120	Medicare FICA	104.00	
12551550	518200	Retirement	508.00	
12551550	518300	Group Insurance	5,000.00	
12551550	518400	Dental Insurance	347.00	
12551550	518901	401K	182.00	

REVENUE

<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
12535155	404000	State Assistance	13,757.00	

EXPENDITURE

		<u>Health Department/BCCCP WISEWOMAN</u>		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
12535156	519300	Medical Services	275.00	

REVENUE

<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
12535156	404000	State Assistance	275.00	

EXPENDITURE

		<u>Aging</u>		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
02558670	524100	Home Repairs- Materials	50.00	

REVENUE

<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
02035867	408400	Home Repairs- Consumer Contributions	50.00	

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		<u>Aging</u>		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
02558710	589000	Transfer to SAT	2,626.00	

<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
02035871	409601	Contribution from DSS	2,626.00	

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		<u>Soil Conservation District</u>		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
28349610	529900	Misc Exp	550.00	

<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
28334961	409909	Fund balance approp		

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		<u>Social Services</u>		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
13553100	519902	Filing Fees	6,000.00	
13553100	525100	Gas, Oil, & Tires	10,000.00	
13553100	531100	Travel	10,000.00	
13553100	532500	Postage	20,000.00	
13553100	537000	Advertising	1,895.00	
13553200	568400	Child Day Care	177,019.00	
13553320	544000	In-Home Contracted Services	2.00	
13554810	568413	CIP	51,113.00	
13554810	568414	LIEAP	76,761.00	

<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
13535310	403352	Child Welfare State	40,945.00	
13535310	403353	Child Welfare State In-Home	22,675.00	
13535310	403354	CPS State	5,480.00	
13535310	403363	Adult Home Specialist	2,136.00	
13535310	403367	CCDF Administration	3,899.00	
13535310	403372	SSBG	1,561.00	
13535310	403376	Energy Administration	9,380.00	
13535310	403391	Family Reunification		38,181.00
13535320	403307	State Day Care Subsidy	177,019.00	
13535330	403305	State In Home	2.00	
13535480	403313	CIP	51,113.00	
13535480	403314	LIEAP	76,761.00	

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		<u>Aging</u>		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
02558660	544000	PC II - Contracted Services	100.00	

<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
02035866	408400	PC II - Consumer Contributions	100.00	

- Approved Clinton City Schools budget amendments: #5(State Public School Fund), #5(Current Expense Fund), #5(Federal Programs Fund), #5(Special Revenue Fund) as submitted.
- Approved Sampson County Schools budget amendments #3(Capital Outlay-Special Projects) as submitted.

County Manager Reports

County Manager Ed Causey reported that the new commissioners had expressed an interest in customer service and citizen engagement, as offered an example of customer service provided by Public Works Director Lee Cannady and his staff on Thanksgiving. Mr. Cannady and his crew worked diligently through the night to control a water leak at the entrance of Timberlake Subdivision, thoughtfully delaying turning off water service until late evening so no to disrupt residents' Thanksgiving. Mr. Causey commended Mr. Cannady and his staff for their dedication. Mr. Causey then reminded the Board of the Legislative Goals Committee meeting in Pinehurst, January 15th - 16th, and of the need for the Board to select a voting delegate.

Public Comments

The following public comments were offered:

Debra Kornegay: I want to comment about the Enviva facility that's proposed for Exit 355, off of I-40. It seems that North Carolina and Sampson County are open to any industry as long as it creates a few jobs, regardless of the negative impact it might otherwise have. And for those new Commissioners, kind of a short synopsis of the industry plan for Sampson County is that the forest will be clear cut, and the wood trucked to a plant where it would be made into pellets, and this is very noisy according to the people who live close some of these plants that are already in existence. Once the pellets are made, they're transported to the port at Wilmington and then eventually shipped to Europe where they'll be burned to produce electricity. As a long-time resident who lives less than 10 miles from where these pellets will be made in Sampson County, I have a lot of concerns. I'm concerned first of all about deforestation, that would produce things such as flooding and run-off, or promote flooding and surface run-off, as well as the destruction of animal and plant ecosystems. A logger can cut a tree in a matter of minutes with a good chainsaw- I've seen them do it in my own yard- but it can take decades for a newly planted tree to reach full maturity. So, while wood pellet consideration may be a renewable source of energy, it's probably not sustainable over the long haul because trees can be cut so much faster than they can be grown. It's ironic in one sense for our forests to be disseminated in order to produce energy for foreign countries that tightly regulate their own logging industry and so out-of-state investors can make a lot of money at our expense. Secondly - and this is very important to me - I'm concerned about the truck traffic. For Sampson alone, for the one plant, that will be well over 100 log trucks per day, going in and out of this facility. They'll be bringing wood from a 75 mile radius. The truck traffic at the entrance road to this

facility is going to pose some dangers for those traveling on the US 117 connector between I-795 and I-40. And besides the traffic, just think of the carbon footprint left by huge numbers of trucks bringing trees to the pellet projection facility, as well as the wear and tear on our roads. I have environmental and health concerns. Most of us know that trees are important to air quality because they take in carbon dioxide and let out oxygen, and good air quality is important to all of our health, all of us's health and well-being. While it's true that the pellets won't be incinerated here, do we really want to contribute to pollution in other parts of the world? We know that air pollution isn't contained within the borders of counties, or countries that are producing it. For example, an article in the Washington Post from January of 2014 states that, air pollution created by manufacturing in China is currently affecting the West Coast of the United States. That's a long way for pollution to travel. It's well documented that incineration produces air pollution that is harmful to health, and I've talked with you before about particulate matter and all the problems including premature death that can occur with increased amounts of particulate matter in the air. Lastly, I'm concerned about tax dollars being poured into an industry that may not be sustainable. It's possible that policy makers in Europe might decide that incineration is not such a good thing, and if they do then there won't be a European market for the pellets, and the industry in our state may cease to exist. If we are going to invest our tax monies into industry, it should be for the long haul and not for the short run. So in summary, it kind of defies common sense to cut huge numbers of trees, truck them to a plant to be made into pellets, transport them to Wilmington, ship them to Europe to be incinerated in order to produce energy. So when everything is taken into consideration, wood pellet production doesn't seem very clean and green, and not a wise use of our valuable forest resources nor our tax dollars. However, since it seems that the industry is coming to my area, regardless of my opinion, I'd ask three things of Enviva, and I don't think they'll do these out of the kindness of their hearts unless you insist as county commissioners. Number one, use best available control technology to control both noise and dust emissions at the plant. I have visited Ahoskie, and noise and dust are a real problem for those people that live near that plant. Number two, ask that they set up an escrow account so that the site can be returned to its pre-industry condition, if and when Enviva abandons it, and that way the tax payers won't be left to foot the bill for an expensive clean up, and local residents like Mrs. Thornton over here won't be left with an unsightly industrial site in her neighborhood. And number three, and this might be most important of all, if any traffic accidents occur because of the way the entrance road to this facility is set up, Sampson County and Enviva will make every effort to change the entrance road to a less hazardous location. Please take my request into consideration. Thank you and I hope you have a Merry Christmas and welcome to the new Board members.

Emily Zuchino: Thank you for letting us take the time to submit a comment tonight. I'm actually from Buncombe County in Western North Carolina, but I'm here tonight to speak about the same concern that Ms. Kornegay just addressed, the Enviva biomass facility. And I've worked with some of the communities in Northampton County and in Southampton County, also in Ahoskie that have been living near these biomass facilities, and I'm here tonight to share some of the concerns that these community

members have shared with me and also that I've seen from visiting their communities. I understand that this community in Sampson County will be facing similar issues should Enviva invest their facility here. The main concern I've heard from community members living near the plant is that the Enviva biomass facility is disrupting the communities with the dust that is a by-product of the pellet production, with the noise from the facilities, with the truck traffic; 55 trucks coming in and out every day, so more than 100 trucks coming in the county each day, and that the deforestation caused by this industry has led to a loss of wildlife and an increase of erosion in the community, and they're noticing increase dust from the erosion and flooding from the loss of trees in the area. Also, the facility has not brought an economic benefit to the community. In fact, Enviva has actually made living conditions so bad in specifically Northampton County, which is where I most recently worked, that I've met two people that have actually had to pack up and leave the community. They left their homes where they grew up because living conditions were so bad in Northampton County that they chose not to live there anymore. So I'd like to share tonight, if possible, some images from documentation that I've done of Enviva's plant, so I've brought a couple of pictures and I hope you might be willing to look at some of the photos that I have here. The first two are overhead shots of Northampton County and Southampton County, and these are really just to give an idea of the size and scope of the facilities. Just looking at it overhead you can see how massive they are, and also just how much wood is required for production at these plants. As Ms. Kornegay mentioned, they're servicing from a 75 mile radius, and what I've noticed from visiting these plants is that this isn't wood that is just sitting there; this is turning over every day and that this much wood is coming in and it's clear that this is unsustainable. (Ms. Zuchino asked for permission to disseminate the photos to the Board for viewing.) The next one is in Ahoskie, and this is just a facility burning at night. We've heard from community members that these facilities operate all night long since the electricity is actually cheaper at night, so they're operating all night. They have a conveyor belts that run on the outside, and they're clanking all night, and the noise is keeping people up. It's bothering them during the day, and then it's keeping them up all night. So the people that are up early in the morning, they don't get any sleep. And when they do get up, they're having problems with their respiratory systems from the matter from the facilities. They're having problems with their asthma and their respiratory systems. And the last few I have are just to show some of the environmental concerns that community members have expressed from the Enviva facilities. From what I understand, Enviva representatives have told commissioners that they'll be just using wood wastes and wood debris, but what we've documented, every single time we've documented, this isn't just one time but every time we follow Enviva trucks from the Enviva facility to the clear-cutting factory and facility, we're seeing that they're taking not just debris but they're taking whole trees. When they talk about tree tops and limbs, as they've mentioned, they're talking about everything but the tree trunk. So when they say "tree tops and limbs" it's not just little things that they're taking, they're actually taking everything and leaving a little stump; a little stump there. And as I've mentioned, this is something we've seen every single time we followed the trucks, and as we're following them we're documenting their license plates, so we know these are Enviva trucks that are leaving the Enviva facility and are going to the clear-cut sites, and they're bringing the wood back to the facility, and they're clear-cutting from

hardwood forests, from wet-wood forests. They're taking whole trees, and it has just been extremely devastating to the forests and the environment. And just to address again the economics of the situation, as I've heard from the community members in the counties that I've worked with, that economically the plants have not helped. According to Belinda Joyner, a Northampton County resident, of all the people she knows in Northampton County that applied for jobs at the Enviva plant, not one of them received a position. What's happening is that Enviva is bringing in their own people from outside the community and most of the time the people aren't even living in the community. They're living in the next biggest city next to the community. This is the concern I've heard from people living in the communities. So in closing, from what I understand from other community members is that Sampson County will not see an economic benefit from this plant coming in. What this is is a transfer wealth from Sampson County residents to Enviva corporate executives. The wood pellets are not even being used here. Sampson County is being left with the destruction and people in Europe get the benefit of the energy. And furthermore, as Ms. Kornegay mentioned, policies are supposed to change as policy makers are starting to see biomass as not being a renewable energy. In fact, it's often worse than coal in terms of carbon emissions, so these policies are set to change in the next five to ten years. So when that happens in five to ten years, Sampson County will be left high and dry with this facility that is no longer good for anything. So what I'm asking tonight is to please consider the concerns of the people you represent here in Sampson County, and if Enviva must develop in this community please make sure that they do so in a way that is least disruptive to the community members here and the environment. Thank you.

Adjournment

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Parker and seconded by Commissioner Wooten, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn.