

Joint Meeting with the Sampson County Convention and Visitors Bureau

The Sampson County Board of Commissioners convened at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, January 6, 2014 in the County Administration Building for a dinner meeting with the Sampson County Convention and Visitors Bureau Board. Members present: Chairman Jefferson Strickland, Vice Chairman Jarvis McLamb and Commissioners Albert D. Kirby, Jr., Billy Lockamy and Harry Parker.

Chairman Jefferson Strickland called the Board to order and recognized SCCVB Chairman Ray Jordan who offered thanks to the Board of Commissioners for the invitation to present the SCCVB Annual Report. Mr. Jordan introduced each member of the SCCVB present. Following dinner, Mr. Jordan presented those present with a copy of the 2013 Annual Report of the Sampson County Convention & Visitors Bureau, and he and CVB Director Vickie Crane reviewed its highlights and the fiscal report. The Board then recessed to reconvene in the County Auditorium for their regular monthly meeting.

The Sampson County Board of Commissioners convened for their regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 6, 2014 in the County Auditorium, 435 Rowan Road in Clinton, North Carolina. Members present: Chairman Jefferson Strickland, Vice Chairman Jarvis McLamb and Commissioners Albert D. Kirby, Jr., Billy Lockamy and Harry Parker.

The Chairman convened the meeting and called upon Commissioner Parker for the invocation. Commissioner Lockamy then led the Pledge Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

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

Roads

Monthly Report - NCDOT District Engineer Len Reynolds was present and reported that the Highway 24 Section D project had been awarded to the Fred Smith Company out of Raleigh; he noted that Sections A, B, and C had already begun. Chairman Strickland noted the unusual amount of litter that had gathered on the shoulders of the roadways, particularly on Highway 24 from Roseboro to Bonnetsville. He encouraged citizens to do their part to assist the transportation folks in picking up the litter in their own areas. Commissioner Parker passed along reports from citizens in

the Ivanhoe area regarding Ivanhoe Road, one mile either way on Royal Chapel Church, that there were dips in the road that could be detrimental. Commissioner Kirby asked again regarding the manner in which funds were allocated for work on roads – was it activity on the roads or were there other objective methods for determining how funds were allocated to one district over another? Mr. Reynolds explained that the funds were allocated based upon data – the number of vehicles driven on the road and the condition of the road. He explained that the Department had been using a target of 460 cars a day or more for the road to get asphalt, anything less than that, a road in decent condition would have stone on it, which gives it a lifetime of fifteen years, and that’s how much funding the Department has available. Mr. Reynolds stated that he had looked at some of the Department’s past projects, and for the district in Mr. Kirby’s area, there is currently \$3.6 million being spent in that area this year. Commissioner Kirby stated that it seems to be pretty even throughout the County, as far as condition, there doesn’t seem to be a great disparity anywhere. Mr. Reynolds agreed that all roads needed more work than there was funding for. He added that the condition of the roads is rated every two years, and there is a rating (0-100) on every road in the county. The rating and ADT determines what is resurfaced. He noted for Commissioner Parker that Ivanhoe Road was on a list for widening and resurfacing when funds are available, but there is not as much traffic on that road. Ms. Ann Knowles asked if the State picked up deer on the side of the road, and Mr. Reynolds stated yes, if it is on the right-of-way. Ms. Knowles reported that there was a deer on Highway 701, going toward Newton Grove.

Item 2: Planning and Zoning Items

CZ-C-12-13-1 Planning Director Mary Rose reviewed a request to conditionally rezone approximately 6.25 acres located at 3846 North Salemburg Highway from R-Residential to CZ-C (Conditional Zoning Commercial District), noting that it had been unanimously recommended by the Planning Board and that all adjoining property owners had been notified. She reviewed the findings of fact, including that the owner was proposing an 80 x 80 foot building to be used to store work trucks. The trucks were used as an inedible hauler for deceased animals out of the county, after which trucks were cleaned. No products or cleansing would be done on site, just storage and maintenance. Ms. Rose reported that there had been one adjoining property owner who had called with questions, which had been answered, and there were no subsequent concerns with the request. There were no comments from the floor, and the hearing was closed. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Kirby and seconded by Commissioner Lockamy, the Board voted unanimously to approve rezoning request CZ-C-12-13-1, accepting the presented findings of fact and making the following zoning consistency statement: *Whereas, in accordance with the provisions of North Carolina General Statute 153A-341, the Sampson County Board of Commissioners does hereby find and determine that the recommendation of the ordinance amendment CZ-C-12-13-1 is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Sampson County Land Use Plan and other long range planning documents*

due to the fact this property is located along a major thoroughfare where commercial development is encouraged.

Item 3: Reports and Presentations

Recognition of Retiree Retirees Benny Greene, Mary Lou Bass, Brenda Marable and Teresa Underwood were presented with plaques in recognition of their years of service with the County.

Courthouse Security Update The Chairman recognized Public Works Director Lee Cannady to provide information with regard to physical improvements made to date with regard to security at the Courthouse facilities. Mr. Cannady started by offering a history of the facilities, noting that the 1904 Courthouse began as a two-story facility with law library, jury box, deliberation room and judges' chambers. In 1950, an additional courtroom was needed and wings were added, and later a third floor courtroom, jury box, deliberation room and jury chambers. In the 1980's, the County renovated the old TPL building, using the upper floors with a courtroom, jury box, jury deliberation room, judges' chambers and attorneys room, while the remainder of the building has been used by the Tax Office, Sheriff's Office, Veterans and Elections, among other departments. In the early 2000's, Mr. Cannady explained that he, along with the County Manager and Chairman of the Board of Commissioners were summoned by a judge to the Courthouse to see the life and safety hazard caused by the number of people waiting to enter the courtroom, and negotiations for another court facility soon followed. The preliminary plans, Mr. Cannady recounted, were to obtain the remainder of the block for a Jail annex, DA's Office, courtroom and Courthouse addition, but the plans were scaled back because "it was not a good year." After meetings with those involved, it was determined that the plans for the courtroom would also include a jury box, holding cell and a deliberation room, as well as offices for the overcrowded District Attorney's Office. Now, the facility has become a Superior Courtroom, which it was never designed to be. Mr. Cannady pointed out that this has necessitated recent efforts to brick up the windows behind the jury box for safety purposes. This illustrates, he noted, that the County has been reactive, rather than proactive. In another ten years, he questioned, will the need be another courtroom or another Courthouse? He encouraged that Board to begin to think about planning for its future needs.

With regard to Courthouse security, Mr. Cannady recalled that the Committee formed a few years back (he, the County Manager, the Sheriff, Commissioner McLamb and the Clerk of Court) had presented recommendations at a planning session in 2011, which remained the most cost effective solutions: (1) metal detector scanning needs to be done at entrances at three different locations; (2) video cameras in key areas - courtrooms, entrances, hallways and exits, cashier/counter areas; (3) card access hardware for doors at key locations; and (4) alarm devices at exits and in courtrooms.

Judge Doug Parsons addressed the Board, recalling a U. S. Marshal's study done several years prior regarding security deficiencies. He recalled several recent incidences impacting Judge Stevens, Judge Thagard and Attorney Frank Bradshaw, who were also in attendance. Under the authority of 15A-1034, Chapter 7A, Judge Parsons stated that he would enter an order that effective April 1, 2014, anyone entering any of the three courtrooms will go through a manned metal detector and that by June 1, 2014 panic buttons will be operable at each judge's bench in each courtroom.

Sheriff Jimmy Thornton added that Judge Thagard, Juvenile Probation representatives, and Attorney David Hobson were also on the Courthouse Security Committee. He noted that he had attempted to place in his budget each year positions to resolve some of these security matters. He discussed a typical court day for each of the courthouse facilities and the necessary personnel for bailiffs for each of the courtrooms and for prisoner transport. He cautioned the liability for the Board, the County Manager and him as Sheriff if a serious incident should occur. He reminded the Board of their General Statute obligation to provide security for the Courthouse; his obligation was to provide it for the courtroom. He discussed the use of private security by other counties for scanning monitoring. Sheriff Thornton stated that that in the past he had recommended four full-time officers, but that after having talked to the judges, and looking at the tremendous amount of court that we have, it would be his recommendation that five full-time deputies be hired, along with two civilian staff or two contact security personnel, such as DSS uses (one at each of the scanners, alternating every other week from the Extension to the Annex). He added that there needed to be a Command Center so that all of the courtrooms could be monitored and watched by way of closed circuit TV in each of the locations. He noted that in Harnett County, there were panic buttons not only for the judge but for the clerks. He explained that there was a serious problem with the 800 MHz radios broadcasting from the building which needs to be resolved. He acknowledged that there are times when the court would be finished and the personnel would not be needed, but that they could be utilized in some form or fashion when court was not in session. The Sheriff was asked if grant funds were still available for personnel, and he stated that they were not.

Kevin Kiernan, President of the Sampson County Bar Association, spoke briefly in support of improvements to Courthouse security, as a former District Attorney and a private practicing attorney.

Commissioner Lockamy moved that as a minimum that the order of Judge Parsons be enacted, that by April 1, 2014 that manned motion detectors be each of the Courthouses and that June 1, 2014, panic buttons will be installed and in use. It was noted that the final costs for implementation would be brought back to the Board for consideration and approval. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McLamb. Upon a motion by Commissioner Kirby and a second by Commissioner Parker, the

Board voted unanimously to hold a special meeting immediately preceding their January budget meeting to discuss how best to fund the Courthouse security improvements mandated by the judge. The County Manager noted that this meeting may have to include a report on how much the staff has been able to accomplish with regard to assimilating the necessary costs.

Budget Update Finance Officer David Clack provided a report on the mid-year fiscal status of the County budget. He reviewed the revenues for period ending December 31, 2013 as compared with the same period last year, noting an increase in property tax collection due to the tax and tag program. Sales taxes are falling in line with last year more, state grants are ahead, but federal grants are down because projects have not been completed. Monies are not spent until received, however. On the whole, revenues were tracking at 53.60%. With regard to expenditures, Mr. Clack reported that expenditures were tracking at 44.97%, more than the same time as last year (42.88%) which is attributed to the increase in healthcare costs. It was noted that departments would be spending greater percentages of their budgets if this trend continued.

Item 4: Action Items

Request for Placement of Sign at Clinton-Sampson Airport for Eagle Scout Project Billy Prestage, a Life Scout with Troop 27 of Graves Memorial Presbyterian Church of Clinton, was present to request approval for the placement of a sign at Clinton-Sampson Airport Terminal as his Eagle Scout project. He explained that he had already appeared before the Airport Authority and received support to erect the sign, and that he had contacted Mr. Don Frazier with the Department of Transportation to perform a field investigation to determine that the sign in no way posed any Outdoor Advertising Violation. He stated Mr. Frazier had confirmed that as long as the sign remained 30 feet back from the centerline of Sampson Airport Road, it would not be in violation of the DOT's right of way. Mr. Prestage provided a dimensional sketch of the 30 x 70 foot granite sign, which would serve as an informational sign as well as a beautification project to benefit the city/county airport as well as the community. He explained that according to the Boy Scouts of America, he would need to raise the monies himself through fundraisers and/or private donations, and the sign will not be at any cost to the county. He explained that Mr. Shawn Purvis, the City Manager, had agreed to work with him on the project and be a representative of the city and county. Upon a motion made by Commissioner McLamb and seconded by Commissioner Lockamy, the Board voted unanimously to approve the request for the placement of the sign by Mr. Prestage as his Eagle Scout project.

Request for Approval of Revisions to the LEPC Bylaws, Information Access Procedures and the Facility Emergency Planning Form (continued from December 2, 2013 meeting) Emergency Management Director Ronald Bass reviewed the statutory requirement for and structure and responsibilities of the LEPC. He explained that the

Committee membership was large, which made achieving a meeting quorum difficult, and thus revisions to the bylaws were being requested. Mr. Bass also reviewed the facility emergency planning forms. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Kirby and seconded by Commissioner Parker, the Board voted unanimously to approve the bylaw revisions, information access procedures and facility emergency planning form. (Copies filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)

Appointment - Workforce Development Commission This item was tabled.

Appointment - Adult Care Home CAC This item was tabled.

Appointment - BOC Committee/Board Assignments Review This item was tabled.

Item No. 5: Consent Agenda

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

- a. Approved the minutes of the December 2, 2013 meeting
- b. Approved the revised Electronic Communications Policy (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
- c. Approve the Forestry Services Contract for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
- d. Approve the Audit for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2013, as approved by the Local Government Commission (Copy filed in the Finance Office.)
- e. Approved disabled veterans tax exclusions for Thomas M. Bass and Joe R. Matthews
- f. Approved the following tax refunds:

#5970	Mildred G. Jackson	\$ 153.39
#5946	Prestage Farms, Inc.	\$ 147.37
#5959	Estate of Nancy Wiggins Shirley	\$ 162.16
#5957	Beatrice Shaw	\$ 987.54
#5943	Walter Junior Rayner	\$ 100.84
#5941	Wades Auto Sales Inc.	\$ 181.75
#5927	Marjorie Strouth	\$ 210.37
#5940	Michael Scott McLamb	\$ 104.19

- g. Approved the following budget amendments:

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		<u>Cooperative Extension - EDF/AG INPUTS</u>	
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	
04549550	512600	Part Time Salaries	
			<u>Increase</u> <u>Decrease</u>
			5,731.00
<u>REVENUE</u>			
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	
04434955	404012	EDF-AG INPUTS MGMT	
			<u>Increase</u> <u>Decrease</u>
			5,731.00
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		<u>Cooperative Extension SHIIP</u>	
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	
04549580	526200	Departmental Supplies	
			<u>Increase</u> <u>Decrease</u>
			1,739.00
<u>REVENUE</u>			
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	
04034958	404088	SHIIP Revenue (NC Dept of Insurance)	
			<u>Increase</u> <u>Decrease</u>
			1,739.00

Item 6: Board Information

The following items were provided to the Board for information:

- a. Cellular Phone Policy, with Revisions Recommended by Board of Commissioners
- b. Invitation from Sampson County History Museum and Chamber of Commerce for Succession Planning Discussion
- c. Attorney Opinion Regarding Action at Special Meetings
- d. NC DHHS Correspondence Regarding Next Phase of NC FAST Implementation
- e. NRCS – Flyer Regarding Wetlands Training
- f. Cumberland Community Action Program CSBG 2014-2015 Funding Application

County Manager Reports

County Manager Ed Causey noted that the Board works diligently to recognize others and perhaps some kudos should come back to the Board. He recalled that the Board was very deliberate in their decision to go into 2014 having budget meetings once a month in addition to their regularly scheduled meetings. He stated that each deserved accolades for their efforts to demonstrate to the public their interest in the affairs of Sampson County and the budget. He reminded the Board that they had put the Animal Control Ordinance in abeyance, and suggested that the Board may wish to be thinking about a date for a work session on this matter to be scheduled at their regular meeting in February. He called the Board’s attention to the letter under Board Information from the Chamber of Commerce requesting a meeting regarding the future of the Sampson

County History Museum in early February. Mr. Causey noted that the next budget work session was scheduled for January 21st at 4:00 p.m., with presentations scheduled with Lee Cannady, Soil Conservation, and Cooperative Extension. The Chairman reported that the Mid Carolina COG Annual Dinner was to be held on the 30th of the month, with Sampson County as the host county.

Public Comments

There were no public comments offered.

Recess to Reconvene

Upon a motion made by Commissioner McLamb and seconded by Commissioner Kirby, the Board voted unanimously to recess to reconvene on January 21, 2014 at 3:45 p.m. in the County Administration Building.