

The Sampson County Board of Commissioners convened for their regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 3, 2014 in the County Auditorium, 435 Rowan Road in Clinton, North Carolina. Members present: Chairman Jefferson Strickland, Vice Chairman Jarvis McLamb, Commissioner Albert D. Kirby, Jr., Commissioner Billy Lockamy and Commissioner Harry Parker.

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

### **Approval of Agenda**

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Lockamy and seconded by Commissioner Parker, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as with the deletion of the Community College request portion of Tab 2 (c); the addition of Tab 2 (e) consideration of the First Amendment to the Exchange Agreement with Southern Produce; Tab 2 (f) consideration of a revised Interlocal Agreement between the County and Board of Education for the use of school facilities for recreational programming; Tab 3 Consent Agenda (k) adoption of Authorizing Resolution – North Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority Economic Infrastructure Grants Program; and a Board Information item regarding actions needed at the December meeting.

### **Roads**

There was no representative from the Department of Transportation available for the meeting, and there were no comments from the floor or from commissioners.

### **Item 1: Planning and Zoning Actions**

RZ-10-14-1 The Chairman opened the hearing and recognized Planning Director Mary Rose who reviewed the request to rezone approximately 1.54 acres located at 1935 Autry Highway from I-Industrial to C-Commercial. She reviewed the findings of fact and zoning consistency statement and noted that all adjoining property owners had been duly notified and the property posted, and that this request was unanimously recommended by the Planning Board. Commissioner Lockamy asked why the applicant wished to change the zoning classification, and Ms. Rose explained that the applicant desired to change the zoning so that he could apply for a special use permit for an electronic gaming operation. She explained that Commercial zoning was the only zoning classification in Sampson County that would provide for an electronic gaming special use permit application. The property use would not be limited to that, she added; the office building on the property could still be used as an office if the applicant

did not pursue the special use permit. Commissioner Lockamy asked if the owner of the property had requested the rezoning, and Ms. Rose explained that it was not the property owner; the applicant had an option to purchase the property and had the owner's permission to apply for the rezoning. Ms. Rose noted that the applicant was aware of the meeting, but was not currently present. Commissioner Kirby asked who the owner of the property was, and Ms. Rose stated that the owner was Jackson Family Investments, LLC. Ms. Rose noted that since the applicant was not present to answer questions, the hearing could be continued. Commissioner Kirby asked the County Attorney from a legal perspective would the action affect the existing municipal corporations that have similar operations in existence now. County Attorney Joel Starling noted that the Board had been advised what the applicant intended to do with the property, but at this stage in the process, if there were a rezoning granted, the applicant would still have the requirement that they apply for and obtain a special use permit. The Board, he stated, is only acting on whether the request is consistent with the County zoning ordinance, not the expressed use; they should not consider the stated use, only whether the property should be rezoned. Ms. Rose reiterated that the hearing could be continued in the absence of the applicant. Commissioner Lockamy and Commissioner Kirby expressed concerns acting in the absence of the owner and applicant, but the Board opted to recognize those citizens who had signed up to speak. The following comments were offered from the floor:

Betty Butler: My concern is that this guy has got quite a few jobs offering if he could get something going. I am mostly concerned about going to work. There's plenty of people who will work if they can get some place to work. I want to work. I want a job.

May Owens: He is trying to get work.

Ms. Rose noted that the applicant had arrived, and the Board called upon the applicant for comment.

Michael Wynn: I want to open for business, first, to make money. Second, we can create jobs. We purchased 21.5 acres, and we only want to turn 1.5 acres in the front to do business. The building is huge, and my plan is to do more than one business. In the back, when the first business starts making money, hopefully in March, start slowly and open a manufacture in the back for nail and beauty supply. That would create another 30-40 jobs. That building is empty for 3-4 years, and it sat right there, kinda sad. I hope I can make money and give people jobs. I want to create more than just a small building in the front. We need to slowly make money first before we can expand on the back of the building.

Commissioner Kirby asked Mr. Wynn about the application in the name of Sawan Rcom, and Mr. Wynn indicated that that was his brother, who was also in the room. He explained that he was speaking because his brother did not speak much English.

Commissioner Parker asked Mr. Wynn what would be the business they would start, and Mr. Wynn explained that he wanted to open a sweepstakes and a late night restaurant. He stated at night every restaurant was closing down; he would serve homemade food and chicken. He would open computer games, internet and fax; some people had no access to internet. They can come there to fax papers and look for a job. Mr. Wynn stated that in that town nothing was open after 11:00 p.m. so he would like to stay open late, to 1-2:00 a.m., every single night serving food, no alcohol. Commissioner Parker asked if this would create enough funds to start a business behind it, and Mr. Wynn answered that he had had internet businesses before, and he felt very good about a restaurant there too. He stated that he had a business in Hoke County. Commissioner Parker asked if he were still there, and Mr. Wynn stated no, that they had changed the law and closed them down about three months ago. Commissioner Parker asked why, and Mr. Wynn stated he thought they wanted to shut everything down, then reopen so they could start charging tax. Commissioner Kirby asked how many jobs had been created in Hoke County, and Mr. Wynn stated they had 4 full-time security and 10 employees. Mr. Wynn stated that the Sampson site would be bigger; he would need about 15-20 employees because there would be a restaurant and gaming. They needed servers and cooks. He stated in three or four months, they would have 10,000 square foot manufacturing on the back, with at least another 30 employees. Commissioner Parker asked Mr. Wynn about the relationship between his business and Hoke County, were there any difficulties. Mr. Wynn stated that they had no issue with the county, with the sheriff, because he had security to protect clients and employees.

The Board indicated a desire to speak also with the property owner, and Commissioner Kirby asked if it were Brent Jackson's family. Ms. Rose confirmed that this was her understanding. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Kirby and seconded by Commissioner Lockamy, the Board voted unanimously to continue the hearing until their December 1, 2014 meeting at 7:00 p.m.

ZA-10-14-1 The Chairman opened the hearing and recognized Planning Director Mary Rose who reviewed the request to amend the Sampson County Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance Article 4, Section B, (3) to require only pre-construction and final certification Elevation Certificates, as recommended by the North Carolina Department of Public Safety and the Planning Board. Commissioner Kirby asked if this would generate any costs, and Ms. Rose explained that the reduction in number of permits required should save citizens money. There were no other comments, and the hearing was closed. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Lockamy and seconded by Commissioner Parker, the Board voted unanimously to amend the Sampson County Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance Article 4, Section B, (3) as follows:

### (3) Certification Requirements.

#### (a) Elevation Certificates

- i) An Elevation Certificate (FEMA Form 81-31) is required prior to the actual start of any new construction. It shall be the duty of the permit holder to submit to the floodplain administrator a certification of the elevation of the reference level, in relation to mean sea level. The floodplain administrator shall review the 'certificate data submitted. Deficiencies detected by such review shall be corrected by the permit holder prior to the beginning of construction. Failure to submit the certification or failure to make required corrections shall because to deny a floodplain development permit.
- ii) ~~An Elevation Certificate (FEMA Form 81-31) is required after the reference level is established. Within seven (7) calendar days of establishment of the reference level elevation, it shall be the duty of the permit holder to submit to the floodplain administrator a certification of the elevation of the reference level, in relation to mean sea level. Any work done within the seven (7) day calendar period and prior to submission of the certification shall be at the permit holder's risk. The floodplain administrator shall review the certificate data submitted. Deficiencies detected by such review shall be corrected by the permit holder immediately and prior to further work being permitted to proceed. Failure to submit the certification or failure to make required corrections shall be cause to issue a stop work order for the project.~~
- iii) ii) A final as-built Elevation Certificate (FEMA Form 81-31) is required after construction is completed and prior to Certificate of Compliance/Occupancy issuance. It shall be the duty of the permit holder to submit to the floodplain administrator a certification of final as-built construction of the elevation of the reference level and all attendant utilities. The floodplain administrator shall review the certificate data submitted. Deficiencies detected by such review shall be corrected by the permit holder immediately and prior to Certificate of Compliance/Occupancy issuance. In some instances, another certification may be required to certify corrected as-built construction. Failure to submit the certification or failure to make required corrections shall be cause to withhold the issuance of a Certificate of Compliance/Occupancy.

ZA-10-14-2 The Chairman opened the hearing and recognized Planning Director Mary Rose who reviewed the 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. She noted that this action was initiated by the Planning Board. Chairman Strickland asked how the action would impact municipalities or other parts of the county. Ms. Rose explained that the Sampson County Zoning Ordinance does not impact any of the municipalities; it governed the unincorporated portions of the county. Chairman Strickland asked about extra-territorial jurisdictions (ETJs), and Ms. Rose explained that several municipalities had ETJs, but this ordinance would not regulate the ETJs. Commissioner Kirby asked if the previous rezoning request was within a municipal jurisdiction, and Ms. Rose stated no. Commissioner McLamb asked if it were clear whether or not the gaming operations were legal, and Ms. Rose stated that the law was murky at this time and its questionable legality was why the Planning Board had made the zoning amendment recommendation at this time. County Attorney Joel Starling stated that sweepstakes law at this time was a complicated issue, an area of law

in flux with different courts ruling differently. He stated that this was not a protected use, and the Board did have the authority to take the recommended action if they so chose. Ms. Rose clarified that there were currently no legally-permitted operating gaming establishments in the unincorporated areas of the county; no special use permits had been applied for or approved. Commissioner Kirby asked if the ones operating currently were within the municipal jurisdictions and the Board could not undo what other municipalities had done, and Ms. Rose stated that was correct. Commissioner Kirby asked about the previous rezoning request, and Ms. Rose explained that they were seeking rezoning to Commercial as that was the only zoning classification that provides for the opportunity to apply for a special use permit for electronic gaming; she explained that approval of special use permits would go before the Planning Board and there were special requirement for gaming operations. Commissioner Kirby asked about the liability for county or municipalities if allowing such operations if illegal, and County Attorney Starling stated there was no law he was aware of with liability to municipal entities. Commissioner McLamb asked if the County would receive any revenues from the operations, and it was noted the only revenue would be the one-time permit fee.

The following comments were received from the floor:

William Smith: I operate a country store here in the county. I am not in favor, nor am I defending, more sweepstakes coming into this county. We've operated machines in our store for years. We have customers who love the play them. Our revenue depends on it as well as well as a lot of other country stores who will be closed if they are completely banned. But I am in favor of a stop of any more machines coming in and a limit per store of machines. If you limit the machines, you don't get the riff-raff, and you don't get the trouble that you get from these rooms we are having the problem with. If we ban them in the county, it is not going to help the situation in Autryville and Roseboro where the problems are coming in at. I am also in favor of putting a license per machine for revenue for the county, but I do suggest for the commissioners to put a moratorium on them like the city did and stop any more machines from coming in and putting a limit per location to stop the riff-raff and the owners coming in from other counties that are in this business that have caused a lot of problems.

Diamond Butler: I am here tonight because of God. I would like to see Sampson County remove any electronic gaming or similarities in Sampson County. There are many here tonight (asked for show of hands) who do not want electronic gaming. I do understand that gambling can be very addictive.

Wayne Butler: When we have things that need to be decided on, I don't know if they are murky or not, but my Bible says there is a right and a wrong. God don't like it when we are lukewarm. In this country, our leaders need to make decisions that will help people. If that man wants to establish ... we need more Christian bookstores, that's what we

need. These young people coming up, we don't need to make things easy for them to get to. We do not need gambling. We don't need to get it where it is easy to get it. It takes from the family. These people who are going in and gambling, they're taking from their family. They're taking from their babies. It's the beginning of a destruction. It starts real little and maybe one in a country store, and it grows. That person becomes addicted. What if he becomes addicted, and he loses a car and is separated from his family because of a decision that was made here tonight. We don't need to go that way. We need to make the right decision. We began with prayer tonight, and I know you believe in God. So, you search your heart, and you let God guide you in this decision, and I know that you'll make the right one.

Kevin Ray Simmons: I applied for a special use permit; me and my brother built a building in '99. We sacrificed a lot of our lives to put money in this building to have a business for our families. For people to say it hurts the county, I work with CenturyLink. I have been working in Autryville, Salemburg and Roseboro for six years. The number one thing that's messed this county up is called meth and crack. I don't see where opening a business in Sampson County is going to hurt Sampson County, not unless the taxes are on each machine or it's done to the fullest extent of the law. I don't see where it should be banned for everybody. There's people out here who work hard and put their money in buildings and places to try to make a living to help the community, help churches. For it to be banned because somebody's got a belief it would hurt, there's more out here in the county hurting people besides a machine. I was born and raised on Hayne Stretch Road, been there for 39 years. I've got five friends that I had when I went to school at Lakewood. Every one of them is in jail or on meth, and you can't help them, even if you wanted to help them. We had the building up for sale. I know people who need jobs bad. I've got a grill that's already ready to open up and I've got an empty building beside it. I would love to put them people to work so I wouldn't have to help pay their light bill every month.

Mike Simmons: I built this building out of love for the game of billiards. I've probably played top three in the world right now. I've watched drugs, crack, meth, cocaine, alcohol, all that. I've been accused of everything in the book in my building except for professional pool playing. When I got tired of the hassle, I closed it down. I was approached about this building, helping friends. Like one guy said, it would create 10-14 jobs. I've got people right now, I'm helping out paying their light bill, feeding their family out of money that I make working. I'm trying to just get something. Take a building that once was a legacy but now is gone. Turn this building into something that will benefit some friends of mine who desperately need a job. When the grill was going, the best hot dog and hamburger that's ever been made. This would be back up running, with my signature hot dog. I'm just trying to create business, let free enterprise run. It's just free enterprise.

Kimberly Simmons: I am part of the Simmons family of the two gentlemen who were just speaking. What they said is correct. We do have the building that once had a name for itself. The food we had done there was great, and a lot of people have asked about bringing that back. We want to do that, quite personally we miss it too. We don't really consider what we want to do with that place gambling. If a person wants to gamble, they're going to find a place to gamble. If a person is that addicted to gambling, they're going to find a way to do it, just like drugs. So, it's not fair to say because you opened this place, this family suffered. The family would have probably suffered whether it was opened or not. I would just like to speak in favor of this place to create jobs, to bring the sense of community, to bring the fellowship together. They have their opinion of what's right and what's wrong, I'm not trying to go against what the Bible says. I really think this would be a good thing because when we had this place open before there was never any problems. We represent ourselves well as good standing people in the community, and we still want to maintain that. Not any ill will, we're just trying to be profitable, trying to show our children entrepreneurship.

Lindia Simmons: My husband and I got a letter a few weeks ago about the rezoning of the Blue Diamond building. Charles asked around and heard in Roseboro that the person Sawan Rcom wanted to bring an internet electronic gaming site to Roseboro similar to the one in Autryville right now. Before this time I didn't know a lot about gaming or gambling because in our county where we live, I understand a decision that can be made here tonight will affect me because I live in the rural area. In looking up and studying a little more about gaming and about gambling, I found out it is murky in North Carolina. Some people even say that it is against the law. Some counties are pursuing to close these businesses down and prosecute. Some counties are choosing not to prosecute. Clinton city, my understanding, has just decided not to have any more of these businesses in their city. The ones that are there are grandfathered in, but no more can come in. I think this was just done at the first of October meeting. When I was looking for that I also found that Sawan Rcom had also tried to open a place in Roses parking lot in Clinton and had to meet minimum requirements. (Reading from the Sampson Independent) The Council had to find that the request meets the four requirements for conditional use including that the development will not materially endanger the public health or safety, would not substantially injure the value adjoining or abutting property, will be in harmony with the area in which it is to be located, and will be in general conformity with the land development ordinance, thoroughfare plan or other plan officially adopted by the council. The council unanimously voted that the request passed three of these four standards, but also voted unanimously that it did not pass the fourth, the fourth being finding that the establishment could injure the value of adjoining property values. So he was declined the privilege, the permit to open this establishment in Clinton, in the Roses parking area because it would affect the value of the properties that were there. If it's going to affect the value of the properties there, it's going to affect the value of the properties wherever he puts it, whether that be at the Blue Diamond on Highway 24 or whether that be beside my house in rural Sampson

County. I don't want it beside my house in rural Sampson County. I don't think any of you guys want this kind of stuff in your neighborhood. Friday night, me and my two daughters were coming back from Fayetteville. We go through Autryville, and there's probably 120 cars in the parking lot there, people standing all outside the building. It's scary. I work. I travel by that area. Everybody talks about that place being open, and just like he said earlier he want to stay open late. That place is open all the time. There are people in the community that do not go and eat at the restaurant across the road after dark. There are people who don't even go and pick up their mail at the post office beside this establishment after dark. I don't think if the Blue Diamond turns into a restaurant/gaming casino too many people will be going there and eating a lot of food. It's not going to be a thriving restaurant with that type of business. The man said in Hoke County he had to have 4 security guards. He's going to need more here. He's going to employ more because it is going to be bigger. Do you want your children going somewhere that's going to have security guards? I don't want to go there; I don't want my kids going there. I don't want them passing through it. I don't want it around me. That's the kind of business that he's going to be opening. I don't think we need that in rural Sampson County. (Gave printed materials to Clerk.)

Brooke Soles: Most of the negative effects of gambling can be found on the internet through a simple internet search. We know through this research that it can create a variety of problems, and any economic gains that may be from this internet gambling will be outweighed with increased crime, perhaps domestic violence, mental health issues, even suicide, for those who may get to that point, unfortunately. Of course, there may be some that may not have that happen, and hopefully no one would, but we just don't know who would be susceptible that and research shows that anyone can be. It's not limited to low class. It can be high class, anyone. When we were young, we asked our mothers and fathers for permission to do things that we knew were probably not the best things to do. At the time, we could argue to our parents why they were fun, why we should be allowed to do them, but we knew in the back of our minds we shouldn't be allowed to do them. I think we know that this is wrong, and it should not be allowed either. Looking at some of those risks, there's a researcher from Harvard, and it says that today there are more children experiencing adverse symptoms from gambling than from drugs. I think that's a big wake up call. If we know that this type of establishment can carry these types of risks, why would we allow them to increase within our county? We need to put a stop to it now while we can.

James Miskimer: I live on Hayne Stretch Road, right near where the Simmons brothers want to open their establishment. When I seen the Z sign come up in front of their establishment, I called the Sheriff's Department and asked if it were against the law. The man I talked to said there's a law against electronic gaming. I asked him why they didn't close them down. They said some judge can make a loophole, and they can stop it. Cumberland County doesn't allow this gaming. This gentlemen that wants to open it up on 24 is from Cumberland County. He opened it up in Hoke, and they closed him. If



it was good for Cumberland County to close it down, I don't think we need to have the trash from Cumberland County coming into Sampson County. Hayne Stretch has a bad reputation. Most of the people either died or went to jail. We don't need to turn that road into a gambling den again.

Jim Clark: I run an internet café in Roseboro. We do pay dues there, and we help the town. This guy doesn't need to come here because I know about him. Ask him about Mr. Barefoot in Hoke County. He owes Mr. Barefoot money. He went there and opened it up and started in South Carolina, Georgia. He runs under about ten different names, that's what Mr. Barefoot told me. He's trouble.

Jim Blevins: I realize, especially after reading the newspapers over the past few months, that you are always struggling to find money to pay bills that somebody else has accumulated, so I understand why you'd be looking for opportunities to make money. But I submit to you that electronic gaming because of what it might be or lead to if we expand it – and I'm not trying to protect those who have it now. If we expand it more, I don't think this is a good answer. The more locations, the more gamblers, the more society problems. Many years ago, back in the 80's, I went to conventions, one in Las Vegas and one in Atlantic City. I've been in casinos, and I have not gambled a penny or any other amount. There was one thing I noticed that I thought was kind of interesting. As a psychology major, I happened to write an article on this, because I noticed in the casinos that no matter where you were, there were slot machines grouped around that area so that anybody who was coming in there could hear somebody's winning, somebody's winning. There's a psychological effect there that draws more people into gambling if you happen to set foot in the casino. That was many years ago, now the research I'm seeing is – from research online – we've come a long way from slot machines to electronic machines that are in your face with flashing lights and sounds. From what I hear, it captivates you, gets you in the zone, and gets you entranced. You don't know if you've lost or won.

From the floor, Ms. Diamond Butler stated if approved, it would open the door wide open. Mr. Simmons offered a copy of a petition of people on his road in favor. Audience was asked how many for or against; the number was approximately 20 each side.

There being no further comments, Commissioner Lockamy moved that the hearing be continued to the December evening meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Parker, and passed unanimously.

## **Item 2:           Action Items**

Public Hearing – Community Transportation Program Grant Funds FY 2015-16  
The Chairman opened the hearing and called upon Sampson Area Transportation Coordinator Earle McNeil. Mr. McNeil reviewed the application for grant funding,

explaining the two areas of requested funding: administrative (\$157,507; local share \$23,627) and capital (\$290,501; local share 29,050). The floor was opened for comments, and the following were received:

Ann Knowles: The Transportation Department in Sampson County is one of the most useful programs that we have to help our elderly and disabled. It is very much needed and appreciated.

There being no further comments, the Chairman closed the hearing. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Kirby and seconded by Commissioner Lockamy, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the grant resolution authorizing the submission of the grant and making assurances and certifications regarding compliance with federal and state requirements. (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book \_\_\_\_\_, Page \_\_\_\_\_.)

Public Hearing – Naming of Private Roads The Chairman opened the public hearing and called upon Assistant County Manager Susan Holder who reviewed the recommendations of the Road Naming Committee. There were no other comments, and the hearing was closed. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Kirby and seconded Commissioner Parker, the Board voted unanimously to name the private roads as follows:

PVT 1217 2349      Hawthorne Lane

Golden Leaf Community Based Grant Funding Potential Applications The Community College request for support for the lease/transfer of County property associated with their anticipated Golden Leaf application was removed from the agenda (at the Community College's request) as they were not prepared to develop their truck driver training range at this time. Economic Developer John Swope noted that the goal of the Golden Leaf funding was to create building blocks for economic development. He explained that eligible rural counties could submit up to three applications totaling no more than \$1.5 million, and must show the availability of a 20% match. Mr. Swope explained the process used by County Administration to solicit/identify potential applications from eligible entities (municipalities, community college, and hospital) by the County's deadline of November 5<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Swope discussed a potential application from Economic Development and Public Works to add additional wells at the Faison/I-40 interchange to support significant economic development for the I-40 area as well as other areas in northern Sampson County. Mr. Swope noted that the wells would complement the water infrastructure planned for the Enviva project, would provide a second source of water for the interchange, build more capacity at the interchange, and would allow for refilling the planned water tank more rapidly. Matt West of Dewberry engineering firm reported that the current well development project was concluding. He pointed out that the additional wells which would be developed with Golden Leaf funding would provide redundancy for the system, would make the interchange more marketable, and would add excess water capacity for the County's

water system. He noted an additional benefit of the added well(s) would be the opportunity for the bulk sale of water to Johnston County as a revenue builder for the future. County Manager Ed Causey noted that the County's project would require a 20% match. If proposing a \$500-600,000 grant, then a 20% match would be approximately \$100,000, and sales tax refunds from the construction of the existing USDA well project could be used for this purpose. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Lockamy and seconded by Commissioner McLamb, the Board voted unanimously to allow the sales tax refunds to be used as a County grant match should the County's Golden Leaf application be approved.

Appointments - Workforce Development Board This item was tabled.

Appointments - Library Board of Trustees This item was tabled.

Appointments - Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee Upon a motion by Commissioner McLamb and seconded by Commissioner Kirby, the Board voted unanimously to reappoint Christal Freeman and Thomas Sampson. Upon a motion by Commissioner McLamb and seconded by Commissioner Kirby, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Toni Coats.

Appointments - Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee Upon a motion by Commissioner McLamb and seconded by Commissioner Parker, the Board voted unanimously to reappoint Joan Carr.

First Amendment to Exchange Agreement with Southern Produce County Attorney Joel Starling explained that the amendment simply extended the deadline for closing on the exchange of property at the I-40 Exit 355 to February of 2015. Upon motion made by Commissioner Kirby and seconded by Commissioner Lockamy, the Board voted unanimously to approve the First Amendment to the Exchange Agreement. (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book \_\_\_\_\_, Page \_\_\_\_\_.)

Interlocal Agreement with Sampson County Board of Education Regarding Use of Facilities for Recreation Programming County Attorney Joel Starling presented an interlocal agreement revised with changes requested by the Board of Education. Mr. Starling noted that the changes were not substantive. Commissioner Kirby asked about the concerns raised from the citizens from the northern end of the County, and Mr. Starling noted that a discussed separate agreement with that organization was not part of this action. He also noted that a user fee schedule discussed at one time was not ultimately included in this agreement. Upon motion made by Commissioner Kirby and seconded by Commissioner McLamb, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Interlocal Agreement. (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book \_\_\_\_\_, Page \_\_\_\_\_.)

**Item 3: Consent Agenda**

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Lockamy and seconded by Commissioner Parker, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda items (with the addition of item k) as follows:

- a. Approved the minutes of the October 6, 2014 and October 27, 2014 meetings
- b. Adopted a proclamation honoring Chasity Melvin - 2014 Inductee NCSU Athletic Hall of Fame (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book \_\_\_\_\_, Page \_\_\_\_\_.)
- c. Adopted a resolution supporting NC Vision 25 Transportation Funding Plan (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book \_\_\_\_\_, Page \_\_\_\_\_.)
- d. Approved revised Sampson County Library Policies: Code of Conduct; Computer/Internet Access; Fines, Fees and Replacement; and Registration and Lending (Copies filed in Inc. Minute Book \_\_\_\_\_, Page \_\_\_\_\_.)
- e. Approved the Use of Seized Asset Funds for Purchase of Equipment as requested by the Sheriff
- f. Approved the 2015 Holiday Schedule for Sampson County Local Government
- g. Approved the 2015 Sampson County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting Schedule
- h. Approved a late disabled veteran tax exclusion application for Eddie W. Williams, Jr.
- i. Approved the following tax refunds:

#6546	S&W Ready Mix Concrete	\$ 108.64
#6540	Prestage Farms, Inc.	\$ 129.11
#6531	Prestage Farms, Inc.	\$ 133.18
#6522	Cheryl Ann Montgomery	\$ 198.83
#6549	Anthony R. and Todd Marshall	\$ 455.76

- j. Approved the following budget amendments:

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		<u>Sheriff's Department</u>	
<u>Code Number</u>	<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11243100	555000 Capital Outlay - Other Equipment	9,295.00	
11243100	554000 Capital Outlay - Vehicles	29,000.00	
11243100	549100 Dues and Subscriptions	6,500.00	
<u>REVENUE</u>			
<u>Code Number</u>	<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11034310	402603 Federal Asset Funds (NARC)	44,795.00	

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		<u>Aging</u>		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
02558670	524100	Home Repairs-Materials	100.00	
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>
02035867	408400	Home Repairs- Consumer Contributions	100.00	
02035866	408400	PC II - Consumer Contributions	100.00	

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		<u>Clinton Fire and Autryville Fire Depts</u>		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
23043410	581022	Clinton Fire Department	19,090.00	
23043410	581024	Autryville Fire Department	12,500.00	

<u>REVENUE</u>				
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
23043422	414000	Clinton Fire District PY taxes	19,090.00	
23043424	499900	Autryville FD Fund Balance Approp	12,500.00	

- k. Approved the Authorizing Resolution for the North Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) grant application for economic infrastructure grant funding for the Enviva Pellets Sampson, LLC project (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book \_\_\_\_\_, Page \_\_\_\_\_.)

**Board Information**

County Attorney Joel Starling explained that at the December 1, 2014 meeting, with the loss of both the Chairman and Vice Chairman, the Board will need to designate a temporary presiding officer to recess the Board from the swearing in ceremony, reconvene the Board at their evening meeting and preside until the Board re-organizes with a new Chairman and Vice Chairman. Customarily, the County Manager has presided over the election for Chairman.

**County Manager Reports**

On behalf of the county citizens and staff, County Manager Ed Causey thanked Commissioners Strickland and McLamb for their perseverance and service. Each of the commissioners expressed their appreciation to the retiring commissioners.

**Public Comments**

The following public comments were offered:

Mark Strickland (accompanied by brothers Neal and Stephen Strickland): As we three Strickland boys are here in front of you, conventional wisdom and prior historical knowledge would tell you that you could come up with one of two conclusions: we've

either gotten in trouble or we're about to do something and someone stopped us before we got there. Tonight, both of those conclusions would be incorrect. As parents of children who attend public schools or have attended public schools, during the quarterly awards ceremonies we went to every year, we waited to see if our children would get the Kiwanis Terrific Kid bumper sticker. Not that we needed the Kiwanis to tell us our kids were terrific, we kind of wanted that bumper sticker to let everyone else know our kids were terrific. As adult children, we don't have the opportunity very often to find a bumper sticker to let us know how terrific our parents are. In 2006 and 2010, during the Chairman's election and re-election, we could not have been more proud than going around District 3 and seeing the *Strickland for Commissioner* signs. These signs were more symbolic. The signs there told us who Strickland was and what he stood for. As children, these campaign signs were our bumper stickers. As we've all seen during these past eight years, Chairman Strickland has displayed integrity, statesmanship, passion, dedication, honesty, leadership and a work ethic that is unmatched. As we are here tonight, we can unequivocally say that no one in this county loves Sampson County more than Jefferson Baggett Strickland. Chairman Strickland's slogan was "Strickland: It's the Difference He Makes." As your eight years as commissioner comes to a close tonight, we sincerely believe that that is what sets you apart. It's not so much the difference you make, it's the difference you have made. Your extended family has known that for a long time. District 3 knows that as well. In closing, thank you for the job that you have done, for the conviction you possess, and the manner in which you have represented all of Sampson County. You've made us proud, and we love you.

Neal Strickland: The three of us want to thank you. Thank you to Commissioner McLamb, to Commissioner Lockamy, Commissioner Kirby and Commissioner Parker, as well as Commissioner Blanton, Commissioner Faison and Commissioner Wilson. We've become friends with Mr. Causey. We've known Joel a long time, Susan and David. On behalf of the three of us, thank you for your friendship.

### **Adjournment**

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