

The Sampson County Board of Commissioners convened for their regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 2, 2015 in the County Auditorium, 435 Rowan Road in Clinton, North Carolina. Members present: Chairman Billy C. Lockamy, Vice Chairperson Sue Lee, and Commissioners Albert D. Kirby Jr., Harry Parker, and Clark H. Wooten.

The Chairman convened the meeting and called upon Commissioner Kirby for the invocation. Vice Chairperson Sue Lee then led the Pledge Allegiance.

Former Commissioner Quincy Edgerton and his granddaughter Emily Edgerton presented the Board members with new name plaques.

Approval of Agenda

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Parker and seconded by Vice Chairperson Lee, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as provided with the addition of Tab 2 (f) – Access Agreement with Southern Produce.

Roads

Monthly Report Keith Eason, NCDOT Assistant District Engineer, was present to receive questions and comments from the Board and citizens in attendance. There were no comments offered.

Item 1: Reports and Recognition

Health Department 2014 Community Health Assessment Health Director Wanda Robinson, Health Educator Sydney Smith, Center for Health and Wellness Director Hunter Balltzglier, Nursing Director Kathie Johnson, and Healthy Carolinians Chair Chick Gancer presented the Board with the 2014 Community Health Assessment. The Community Health Assessment, referred to as the CHA, is the foundation for improving and promoting the health of county residents. It collects and presents information on health status, community health needs, resources, and other studies of current local health problems. The CHA identified obesity as the chief health issue for Sampson County residents, and recommended that obesity be addressed in the 2015 – 2019 Community Action Plan (CAP) by public health. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Wooten and seconded by Commissioner Kirby, the Board voted unanimously to accept the CHA as reported.

Governing Body - Report from Voting Delegate on NCACC Legislative Goals Conference Commissioner Kirby provided a report on actions taken by voting delegates at the 2015 NCACC Legislative Goals Conference.

Item 2: Action Items

Tax Administration Tax Administrator Jim Johnson reported to the Board the amount of \$3,611,811.81 of unpaid taxes for the current fiscal year which are liens on real property. This total is \$230,000 higher than the previous fiscal year. Mr. Johnson reported that Sampson County has collected 89.8% of real and personal property taxes, which is an increase from the 87.9% collection rate from February 2014. Mr. Johnson requested authorization to advertise the unpaid taxes on April 2, 2015, with a deadline for payment to avoid publication being March 27, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Lockamy and seconded by Commissioner Parker the Board voted unanimously to approve the request.

Scheduling of 2015 Board of Equalization and Review Hearings Mr. Johnson asked the board to consider setting dates for the 2015 Board of Equalization and Review hearings. Upon motion made by Commissioner Wooten and seconded by Vice Chairperson Lee, the board voted unanimously to schedule the Board of Equalization and Review hearings for April 21, April 23 and April 28, each session to convene from 1-6 p.m.

Business Personal Property Compliance - Public Information and Education Campaign County Manager Ed Causey reviewed a proposal for a campaign to educate the public on compliance with the legal requirements for listing business personal property, as a follow-up to the Board's discussions at their January 13, 2015 meeting. He recommended the following components to the educational campaign, at a total estimated cost of \$7,196.00.

- Informational brochure mailed to each of the 2600 business listed with the Tax Office and all local accounting firms and placed in lobbies of municipal offices and other high-traffic areas for businesses such as Chamber Offices, the Cooperative Extension Service and Farm Service Office.
- Full-page advertisements in both local newspapers (will also appear on the webpages and Facebook pages of respective papers)
- Information posted on County webpage
- Two education/training sessions conducted by County Tax Services, Inc. (one for ag-related businesses, the other for non-ag related businesses), possibly in mid-March

Mr. Causey noted that County Tax Services, Inc. (CTSI) was the vendor that staff would recommend to conduct business compliance reviews if the Board of Commissioners elected to implement such program. Commissioner Wooten asked whether social media would be used to advertise the trainings. Assistant County Manager Susan Holder informed the Board that social media and all of its facets will be used to advertise. In addition, Ms. Holder stated that traditional forms of advertising would be used to accommodate the vast majority of the population who do not have access to social media outlets. Commissioner Wooten applauded the staff for notification letters sent to constituents, stating that he has received positive feedback. Upon motion made by Commissioner Wooten and seconded by Commissioner Kirby, the board voted unanimously to accept the proposed budget and authorize the staff to proceed with educational campaign, funding costs from the Board's Contingency account.

Travel Policy and Credit Card Policy Commissioner Kirby expressed a desire to have more time to review the Travel Policy and Credit Card Policy. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Kirby and seconded by Commissioner Parker, the Board voted unanimously to table the consideration of the policies to the March 2, 2015 regular scheduled meeting.

Guidance for Next Steps with Regard to the Job Classification, Compensation and Benefits Program Study County Manager Ed Causey noted that the Board and employees all had been given access to the consultant's report on the Job Classification, Compensation and Benefits study. He stated he was impressed with the employees' interest in that approximately 186 employees (35%) attended the February 21st presentation. He noted that employees had been asked to take the time and give the Board time to review and digest the information given, and to direct any questions to the manager for response. All of the questions and responses, he added, would be provided to the Board later in the process. He recommended that the Administration staff - the Manager, Assistant County Manager and Finance Officer - develop recommendations as to how to fund the implement the recommendations of the study. He noted that there would be something in the recommendations for everyone to not like as the Administration staff recognizes the sincerity of the obligation to both employees and the long-term physical stability of the county and the need to come up with proposals that are both reasonable and sustainable and thought long-term. He noted that the Board may wish to have Springsted representative John Anzivino come back for questions once the proposals are made. Chairman Lockamy recommended that the Administration staff develop several options. Commissioner Kirby stated that his interests would be the immediate impact it would have on the budget. He also stated that he would interested in knowing how the increases would be distributed and that the increases would be fair.

Appointments- Workforce Development Commission Vice Chairperson Lee informed the Board that Mr. Terry Spell, who was appointed at the Board's January meeting, has declined to serve. Vice Chairperson Lee informed the Board of the vacant seat on the Workforce Development Commission.

Appointments- Transportation Advocacy Group Upon a motion by Vice Chairperson Lee and a second by Commissioner Kirby, the Board voted unanimously to reappoint Steve Stefanovich, Jefferson Strickland, Billy Lockamy (BOC Chairman), Jerol Kivett and Nash Johnson to the Transportation Advocacy Group.

Appointments- Agri Exposition Center Board of Directors Upon a motion by Vice Chairperson Lee and a second by Chairman Lockamy, the Board voted unanimously to reappoint as follows:

- Floyd Collins, Keith Jones, Robby James – Term expiration June 2015
- Patty Cherry, Chris Fann, John Wengert – Term expiration June 2016
- Dee Bryan, Gerald Warren, Kermit Williamson – Term expiration June 2017

Appointments- Adult Care Community Action Committee Vice Chairperson Lee informed the Board that recently appointed committee member Mr. Winfred Ashford had resigned his seat due to other personal obligations. There is, therefore, one vacant seat on this board.

Appointments- Firefighters Relief Fund Trustee- Autryville FD Upon a motion by Vice Chairperson Lee and a second by Commissioner Parker, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Charles Nunnery and Alda Faircloth as the Autryville Fire Department Relief Fund Trustees.

Access Agreement – Southern Produce County Attorney Joel Starling presented the Board with a proposed Access Agreement with Southern Produce Distributors, Inc. He explained that the extended access agreement was necessitated due to a delay in the closing on the transfer of property from Southern Produce to Sampson County and a desire for the County not to delay activities (surveys, wetlands delineation, etc.) related to the location of an industrial prospect. Upon a motion by Commissioner Wooten and seconded by Vice Chairperson Lee, the Board voted unanimously to accept and approve the revised Access Agreement. (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book _____, Page _____.)

Item 3: Consent Agenda

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

- a. Approved the minutes of the January 5, 2015 meeting
- b. Approved the contract for the FY2015 Juntos program and associated budget amendment:

<u>Expenditure Account Code</u>	<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
04449500-526200	Departmental Supplies	2,750.00	
04449500-531100	Travel	3,000.00	

<u>Revenue Account Code</u>	<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
04034950-531100	4-H Juntos NCSU Grant	5,750.00	

- c. Approved the Revision #2 to the Home and Community Care Block Grant Funding Plan (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book ____, Page ____.)
- d. Adopted a Capital Project Ordinance for Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Funding and approve associated budget amendment (Copy of Project Ordinance filed in Ordinance Book ____, Page ____.)

<u>Expenditure Account Code</u>	<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
85551950-544000	Contract Services	44,000.00	
85551950-526200	Department Supplies	8,000.00	
85551950-531100	Travel	1,500.00	
85551950-534100	Printing	6,500.00	

<u>Revenue Account Code</u>	<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
85035195-403601	State Hazard Mitigation Plan Grant	60,000.00	

- e. Approved the revision to the bylaws for the Agri Exposition Center Board of Directors to add the CVB Director as an ex-officio, non-voting member (Copy filed in Inc. Minute Book ____, Page ____.)

- f. Approved the following tax refunds:

#6627	Charles Brantley Barefoot	\$100.98
#6668	Michael Glenn Cottle	\$168.74
#6664	Harold Clayton Rich Jr.	\$146.88
#6691	Edward Harold Carr	\$132.70
#6680	Autry Road Limited Partnership	\$349.93
#6699	Linton Leonard Meza	\$182.91
#6704	Tony Franklin Draughon	\$132.66

- g. Approved the following budget amendments:

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		<u>Library</u>		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11761100	526200	Department Supplies	\$398.00	

REVENUE

<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11036110	408401	Donations	\$398.00	

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		<u>Library</u>		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11761100	526201	Department Supplies- Equipment	\$5,000.00	

REVENUE

<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11036110	403646	LSTA Grant	\$5,000.00	

<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	\$10,500.00	
11243100	526200	Department Supplies	\$600.00	

REVENUE

<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11034310	402603	Federal Asset Funds (NARC)	11,100.00	

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		<u>OBCM & CC4C</u>		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
12551650	544000	Contracted Services	\$5,969.00	
12551650	531100	Travel	\$900.00	
12551680	531100	Travel	\$3,727.00	

REVENUE

<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
12535165	404083	Medicaid	\$6,869.00	
12553168	404083	Medicaid	\$3, 727.00	

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		<u>Animal Shelter</u>		
<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Description (Object of Expenditure)</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11243800	523900	Medical Supplies	\$1,000.00	

REVENUE

<u>Code Number</u>		<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
11034380	408401	Donations	\$1,000.00	

Item 4: Board Information

The following items were provided to the Board for information only:

- a. Health Department – Communicable Disease Report 2014
- b. Health Department – Limited Food Establishment Policy/ Application
- c. Health Department – Public Health & Response Preparedness (PHRP) Report 2014
- d. Health Department – Strategic Plan 2014-2018
- e. Agri Exposition Center – 2014/15 Class Acts-Sampson CenterStage for Students
- f. NCDOT – Notification of State of Activities for TIP Bridge Replacement Projects 2018/19
- g. NC Railroad Company 2015 Inventory of Rail-Served Industrial Sites

County Manager Reports

County Manager Ed Causey brought to the attention of the Board that he and Assistant County Manager Susan Holder would attend the Manager’s Conference in Durham, NC February 4 – 6. Mr. Causey then reminded the Board of the planning sessions scheduled for February 17 – 19, 2015. He then informed the Board of an NCACC strategic planning session scheduled for March 6, 2015.

Public Comments

The floor was opened for public comments, and the following were offered:

Delbridge Peterson: We’ve got a safety problem in the county, it’s been going on for years, and it’s gotten out of hand this year. They’re shooting high powered rifles on the level, and I always thought that was against the law, but I’ve found out through the Wildlife that they can shoot a high powered rifles on the level at deer. I always thought you had to be in a stand. They say not so. Now they’ve opened up another problem. I’ve been woke up at 3 o’clock every morning with shooting and spotlighting. Now they’ve opened up the door for feral hogs, and coyote hunting and spotlighting all night long. And so it’s left up to the county to do something about it. There should be a cut-off time for spotlighting anything. [County staff to research into ability to enact local regulations.]

Carla Peterson (Twiddle Dee Farms – also provided written handouts in agenda)
Recently, in fact very recently, I saw an article in the online edition of the Sampson Independent that said that this Board in a special meeting of the Board voted to send

Sanderson Farms a letter of recruitment. I was disappointed that I was not aware - I'm not sure you made that you actually made that option available to citizens of the county to provide input on how they felt about recruiting Sanderson Farms. Nash County rejected Sanderson Farms; Cumberland County is in the throes of deciding if it wants it. In your notebooks you have a detailed financial analysis of the company based on its fiscal year ending October 31, 2014. The thrust of that analysis is that this is a publicly traded company. It is no longer a mom-and-pop company. It is not Prestage Farms; it is not is not Nash Johnson Farms. It is a publicly traded company based out of Mississippi. I ask that before you take any additional action regarding this company that you give us, the citizens of this county, an opportunity to come forward to discuss the benefits and the non-benefits of inviting Sanderson Farms to our county.

Charles West: I am a Vietnam veteran, and I just wanted to put out a comment pertaining to Van-Go Transportation. The comments that I have received since I have been working with Van-Go. It's been absolutely amazing, the positive comments that the public has made about our transportation service here in the county. I think that the service that Van-Go provides for the county is very important. I meet a lot of elderly people that really need this type of service and I very glad to say that I thank the Board for approving this type of service here in our county.

Benita McLean: I am the Quality Control Supervisor for Van-Go Transportation, and I just wanted to take an opportunity as well, as Mr. West said, thank you for allowing our services here. The cost savings that we've brought to the county over last year was a little over \$300,000. And we provided top-notch service and we just wanted to say thank you, and we look forward to continuing.

Ron Barney: I want to thank you Chairman and the Board for the moment to address you. I'm retired, as several other drivers are, but we also have some other drivers that this is the forefront of getting into the job market, so they're trying to get a career and support their families. And I just want to kind of echo Mr. West's comments. Not a day goes by when I'm transporting people that I don't get just fantastic comments and the one that sticks out the most is, "I don't know what I would do without Van-Go to get me to my medical appointments." The second thing, and I take this very personal, as for me and the other drivers in our organization. Almost invariably every person says Van-Go drivers are courteous; they're polite; they assist me in getting into the vehicle and getting to my appointments on time. So I'm just very proud to be a part of an organization that shows concern and care about our county and about our residents. And this is a fantastic opportunity if we continue forward.

Larry Sutton: Good evening. I would like to address the Board on two matters. The first one is the Community Health Assessment report. I would like for the Board to put its influence behind reducing the health gap in the county. We heard the report tonight. There is great concern about diabetes, obesity, and those illnesses are preventable. They

can be prevented. And I want the County commissioners and the whole county to get in behind the Health Department and make sure that we are working very hard to close the health care gap in the county. There is a great disparity when it comes to health care in Sampson County. Number two, the appointment matter; I wish that in the future that we do a very good job in trying to make sure we have diversity in the appointments to all the boards in Sampson County. Let's make sure we are giving everyone a chance to serve and to have their input when it comes to appointments being made in the county. I have no idea now what the appointment looks like when it comes to diversity across all the boards, but I do hope we will begin to consider making sure that we are aware. Everyone needs to have a chance to express their views and have input when it comes to the appointments being made in the county. And again I do appreciate all you do for the county. It's not easy work. You have your personal schedules and your work schedules, and it can be, I'm sure pretty taxing at times, to handle the county business as well. But again, I do appreciate all you do for the county.

Mr. Charles Boykin (Van-Go): At the last meeting, Mr. Starling gave the Commissioners three options, and it was interesting to me that it's as if the job that we've been doing since August 2013, there's no weight given to that, because we feel we've been doing a superior job. And we feel also that we've saved the county quite a bit of money, as Ms. McLean said; about \$300,000 over the first year. So when this contract ends we would have saved the county over \$600,000. If you remember there was even some talk before, when we got the contract at \$1.85, there were comments about even giving the other company \$2.57. So we feel like we've done a superior job at \$1.85. We felt like we should have been. One of the things that Mr. Starling mentioned, we felt like we might be awarded the contract. Why does it have to go out for bid if we're doing a superior job at a lower rate than what you were getting before?

Closed Session- 143-318.11(a)(4) Matters Related to the Location of an Industry

Upon a motion by Chairman Lockamy and seconded by Commissioner Parker, the Board voted unanimously to go into Closed Session pursuant to 143-318.11(a)(4) to discuss matters related to the location of an industry. In Closed Session, Economic Developer John Swope provided information regarding existing and two new industrial projects. (Minutes maintained separately.)

Upon a motion by Commissioner Wooten and seconded by Commissioner Kirby, the Board voted unanimously to come out of Closed Session. Upon a motion by Commissioner Wooten and seconded by Commissioner Parker, the Board voted unanimously to call for public hearings for two economic development prospects on March 2, 2015.

Recess to Reconvene

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Kirby and seconded by Commissioner Wooten, the Board voted unanimously to recess to reconvene at 8:30 a.m. on February 17, 2015 for the Board's annual pre-budget planning sessions.