

The Sampson County Board of Commissioners convened for their recessed meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, June 19, 2017 in the County Administration Building Conference Room, 406 County Complex Road in Clinton, North Carolina. Members present: Chairman Clark H. Wooten, Vice Chairperson Sue Lee, and Commissioners Albert Kirby Jr., Harry Parker and Jerol Kivett.

The Chairman convened the meeting and called upon Commissioner Parker for an invocation.

The Chairman then opened the floor for comments from the Board on the recommended budget, which had been duly presented on May 22, 2017, and offered for public comment on June 5, 2017.

Commissioner Kirby questioned about allocations for drones or robots in the Sheriff's Office budget, and staff stated that they were not aware of any such requests or recommended allocations. Commissioner Kirby then voiced concerns regarding the struggles experienced by the school systems, particularly the County school system. Commissioner Kivett commended the Board for their past efforts to improve school funding, noting comparisons of tax bases and debt load for adjacent counties which allows them to fund education at a higher rate. Commissioner Kirby noted the danger of the County school system's dependence of the use of their fund balance compared to the benefits enjoyed by the City school system's use of their supplemental tax revenue. Chairman Wooten stated that the Board of Commissioners and the Boards of Education would have to understand each other's budgets and challenges, and the management of money would be key.

Commissioner Kivett voiced concerns with the budgeted allocation of \$250,000 for capital needs for Sampson Community College, given their allocation of state bond funds of \$4.7 million and the possibility of receiving another \$1.2 million in grant funding. County Manager Ed Causey explained that the allocation was originally recommended to be paid for a ten-year period to allow the College to do long-range planning for capital needs. Staff discussed that the funding initiated from the allocation of the additional sales taxes which must be used for education or economic development. Commissioner Kivett moved that the \$250,000 allocation be removed from the Community College budget appropriations and be added to the capital reserve funds for education. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kirby and passed unanimously.

Vice Chairperson Sue Lee moved that the \$10,000 in Special Appropriations (that was to be determined for specific allocation by the Board at the first work session) be cut, given that every worthy organization could not be funded. Commissioner Kirby took exception because one organization – the Sampson County History Museum – received all of the special appropriations. He noted that other organizations, such as the Sampson Alumni Association and Coharie Tribe, deserved appropriations. Vice Chairman Lee noted that all citizens could partake in the History Museum whereas the others were special interest groups, and Commissioner Kirby noted that the other organizations were open as well and that he believed that the History Museum did not reflect history totally correctly and fairly. Commissioner Parker also dissented, expressing the needs of those in the southern portion of the County. Chairman Wooten seconded the motion, and it passed 3-2 (Commissioners Kirby and Parker voting nay).

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Kivett moved to direct staff to prepare the budget ordinance with the approved changes. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairperson Lee and passed 3-2 (Commissioners Kirby and Parker voting nay).

Upon a motion made by Chairman Wooten and seconded by Commissioner Kivett, the Board voted unanimously to recess to reconvene on Monday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the County Administration Building Conference Room.