

The Sampson County Board of Commissioners reconvened at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, October 9, 2017 at the Sampson County Agri-Exposition Center, 414 Warsaw Road, Clinton, North Carolina. Members present: Chairman Clark H. Wooten, Vice Chairperson Sue Lee, and Commissioners Albert D. Kirby Jr., Harry Parker, and Jerol Kivett. The Board was joined by members of the Sampson County Board of Health and the Sampson County Social Services Board for a School of Government-facilitated information session regarding Human Service agencies consolidation.

Chairman Wooten called the meeting to order, and Vice Chairperson Lee provided an invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Those in attendance introduced themselves.

### **Options for Consolidated Human Services Departments**

Margaret Henderson of the UNC School of Government discussed the objectives for the meeting and encouraged participants to describe what they would want to ensure was maintained should the County elect to consolidate its human services agencies. The responses were:

- Our departments are efficient
- DSS Board works well
- Communication across departments
- Optimism; willing to change
- Maintain same quality
- Our staff
- Collaborative decision making on Public Health Board
- Best quality services for citizens
- Good relationship with State Office of Personnel
- Be willing to explore better customer service
- Consider all improvements
- Hire and retain the best staff (passionate and interested staff)
- Excellent accounting staff and processes
- Relationships across departments
- Cooperation

Jill Moore of the UNC School of Government provided a presentation on the options for changes in structure and governance under law (see attached). Following a break for lunch, the group asked questions including concerns regarding impacts to employees with “career status” under State Personnel [no definitive information yet available], whether or not there were cost efficiencies to be gain [potentially few since our agencies are already co-located], the logistics/process for action [a public hearing can be held without first determining which option the Board might pursue], and the reasons for

and lessons learned from other counties who have consolidated. Health and DSS Board members and staff discussed concerns about pursuing change for change sake and the unlikelihood of budget or staff decreases given the potential impact to the federal and state funding each receive and need to properly code to eligible programs or the fact that many Health programs are fee-based.

In conclusion, the group discussed what additional information may be needed and what the next steps might be. The group noted the benefits of considering informal options for greater efficiencies before formal change and the possibility of measuring if/how services might be improved by consolidation.

The group was dismissed and the Board recessed to the Expo Room to consider another matter of business.

### **Potential Purchase of Water from Dunn**

County Manager Ed Causey noted that in a recent work session the Board of Commissioners had heard a proposal to purchase water from Dunn, while at the same time decreasing the water purchased from the City of Clinton. However, he explained, water quality problems in the northern part of the County were necessitating the “decoupling” of these initiatives and a hastening of the purchase of water from Dunn to resolve the water quality issues. Public Works Director Lin Reynolds noted that while the chlorine levels in the water pushed up north met State requirements, the levels were not enough to prohibit odors and complaints from users. He explained that the City of Dunn was willing to sell water at \$2.00 per 1,000 gallons with a guaranteed minimum purchase; without a guaranteed minimum, the rate would be \$4.00. He stated that the amount needed would be 3.5 million gallons, which would remain consistent given current conditions, and the City of Dunn was willing to amend its contract with the County accordingly.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Kivett and seconded by Commissioner Kirby, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the purchase of water from the City of Dunn.

### **Adjournment**

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