

Meeting of the Hoke County Board of Commissioners on Monday, March 7, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Court Room of the Hoke Court Annex.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

James Leach, Chairman  
Harry Southerland, Vice Chairman  
Robert Wright  
Tony Hunt  
Allen Thomas (arrived at 7:09p.m.)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Letitia Edens, County Manager  
Grady Hunt, County Attorney

Chairman Leach called the meeting to order with a quorum present and welcomed everyone.

Commissioner Wright gave the invocation, and Commissioner Hunt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

**Motion: Commissioner Hunt made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Commissioner Wright.**

**Action: The motion was carried, 4-0.**

ITEM 2. PUBLIC HEARING – PLANNING MATTERS

Attorney Hunt stated that we have two public hearings regarding planning matters.

The first is regarding the rezoning of four lots located at 288, 302, 314, and 330 Wildwood Drive. They are currently zoned Neighborhood Business (NB). The request is to be zoned as Residential Agricultural (RA-20). The application was submitted by Stafford-Turner Development Partnership. Hoke County Planner, Robert Farrell, referred to a map of the parcels. When the subdivision they are located in was started, the four parcels were one tract of land. They were zoned NB because at the time the developers idea was to get neighborhood commercial development in that area, which never happened. It meets residential use so homeowners are not taxed at a commercial rate, unlike their neighbors who are being taxed at a residential rate. Commissioner Hunt asked if this subdivision has sewer? Mr. Farrell confirmed that no, it does not. Mr. Kenny Turner from Stafford-Turner stated he was present in case anyone had any questions.

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**Motion: Vice-Chairman Southerland made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Commissioner Hunt.**

**Action: The motion was carried, 4-0.**

**Motion: Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve the rezoning request, seconded by Vice-Chairman Southerland.**

**Action: The motion was carried, 4-0.**

Commissioner Thomas arrived before the start of the second public hearing. Attorney Hunt stated there is a second public hearing. This application was submitted by Ms. Paula Joseph for Puppy Creek Farms, Inc. The current zoning is Residential Agricultural (RA-20), and the request is to be zoned Highway Commercial (HC). The one acre parcel is located at 8002 Fayetteville Road. Mr. Farrell stated that this property has been used for commercial on highway 401, and the owners are requesting that it is rezoned to reflect its historical use and potential future use. The planning board recommended approval. Commissioner Hunt asked which tract it was on the map? Mr. Farrell identified the parcel on the map. Mr. Johnny Joseph spoke about the land. He stated that the location used to be a convenience store. They were surprised to find it was still zoned as agriculture. It was brought to his attention, so they are trying to get it rezoned.

**Motion: Commissioner Hunt made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Vice-Chairman Southerland.**

**Action: The motion was unanimously carried.**

**Motion: Vice-Chairman Southerland made a motion to approve the rezoning request, seconded by Commissioner Wright.**

**Action: The motion was unanimously carried.**

### ITEM 3. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes from the February 15, 2016 meeting
- b. Surplus Property Resolution - DSS
- c. HATS Drug & Alcohol Policy update
- d. Health Department Contracts
  1. Contract for NCACPHA
  2. Consolidated Agreements FY 2016-2017
- e. NCVTS Report
- f. Budget Amendments

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**Motion: Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Hunt.**

**Action: The motion was unanimously carried.**

#### ITEM 4. TAX ASSESSOR – 2016 BOARD OF EQUILIZATION & REVIEW SCHEDULE – JENNIE

Ms. Jennie Gibson greeted the Board. She requested the approval for the schedule of 2016 Board of Equalization and Review. She requested advertisement of meetings per G.S. 105-322 on March 16, 2016; March 23, 2016; and March 30, 2016. The first meeting will be April 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm and the adjournment meeting would be May 16 at 5:30 pm.

**Motion: Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Hunt.**

**Action: The motion was unanimously carried.**

#### ITEM 5. TAX COLLECTOR – APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY TAX COLLECTORS

Ms. Daphne Dudley stated that Ms. Susan Quick and Ms. April King have completed the first steps required to become Deputy Tax Collectors. To complete the requirement the North Carolina Tax Collector's Association requires that they are appointed by the Board and sworn in by the Clerk to the Board. If this step is completed at this time, she can submit their paperwork and then on April 28 at the Tax Collector Conference they will receive their full rights to be a Deputy Tax Collector.

**Motion: Commissioner Hunt made a motion to appoint Susan Quick and April King as Deputy Tax Collectors, seconded by Vice-Chairman Southerland**

**Action: The motion was unanimously carried.**

#### ITEM 6. APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Kendric Maynor, Parks and Recreation Director, introduced Mr. Jamie Dover. Mr. Maynor stated he would like to submit Mr. Jamie Dover's name for re-appointment to the Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. He stated that Mr. Dover has been on the board since 2010, and Chairman since 2012. He has coached baseball and soccer for over 10 years, and helps with the senior program. Vice-Chairman Southerland stated that his work speaks volumes, and is appreciated. Chairman Leach stated that they have heard lots of positive things about Mr. Dover in the community.

**Motion: Commissioner Hunt made a motion to re-appoint Jamie Dover to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, seconded by Commissioner Thomas.**

**Action: The motion was unanimously carried.**

## ITEM 7. MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Edens stated that with the Phase 1B sewer closing all the paperwork is complete and has been submitted to the LGC. They stated that this is the best closing packet that they have received from Hoke County. Commissioner Wright asked about the change in the interest rate. Ms. Edens stated that the interest rate was originally set around 3.5%, and has been lowered to 2.5%. We have saved on the bonds. Hoke County Inspections Department revenue – we've brought in \$211.20 for Commercial Building Permit Costs and \$17,168.48 for Residential Building Permit Costs.

Commissioner Hunt asked if our new Chief Building Inspector accepted the job? Ms. Edens stated that Andy Connors will start on March 28 as the new Chief Building Inspector. Commissioner Hunt asked about Sandy Grove project? Ms. Edens stated that it is almost complete, and she will have an update at the next meeting.

Commissioner Thomas took a moment to apologize to citizens for his tardiness to the meeting. He did the Keynote address at West Hoke Middle School, and came directly from there.

## ITEM 8. PUBLIC INPUT

Attorney Hunt stated that we have three people signed up for Public Input tonight.

Dr. Mary McIntosh-McClinnahan spoke on behalf of the Tylertown community. She has concerns about the fire station in her community. Citizens are paying taxes, but not getting the resources for upkeep of the station or to assist in gaining volunteers. With the amount of taxes they pay, they should be able to upgrade and maintain their station. Other communities have maintained their stations with equal or less revenue with no problem. She stated there have been inquiries about where the revenue for their fire station has gone. She stated that Mr. Billy Bronson has provided documents to the Fire Chief Johnny Baker requesting finances for the Tylertown district. Dr. McIntosh-McClinnahan stated that she had the know-how to procure a grant, but the funds were instead used for the North Raeford Fire Station - said grant has since expired.

Ms. Slania Santizo spoke regarding II Lions FC. It's a youth soccer program. They are seeking outreach through the Latin community support efforts. The Latino community is growing in Hoke County. They are seeking to introduce a new soccer program in Hoke County in March/April. They have partnered with Upchurch Elementary. For the kids, they do community

outreach, tutoring, English as a Second Language, and assist to procure recruitment scouts at events for college.

Vice-Chairman Southerland said he has met with the club, and they are trying to do more. They support the community. He also stated that, regarding Tylertown, Major Freddy Johnson has a meeting next Tuesday. Maj. Freddy Johnson stated that the attorney contacted the state. He has a meeting with them on Tuesday. He will be provided info regarding funding sources and ramifications.

Vice-Chairman Southerland stated that he will have to get back to Ms. McIntosh-McClinnahan regarding the funding. Chairman Leach stated that this issue is important to the whole board and they are looking into it. Vice-Chairman Southerland stated that Mr. Bronson has been very diligent with this issue.

Mr. Leonard Baldwin spoke regarding Best and Trudeau Roads. He is a member of Soil and Water Conservation. He wanted to know if there has been any sort of update about Best and Trudeau Roads? Ms. Edens stated that the surveys have been completed, and according to engineers the costs associated with repairs are triple the amount we had budgeted for. We will have to plan for this in the new budget. Ms. Edens also stated that we do not repair roads. In the case of Best and Trudeau we are working on the sewer and infrastructure.

Commissioner Wright stated that James Warner from Soil and Water Conservation just had double knee surgery, and may need a ground-level office. Mr. Baldwin stated that they could probably share the bottom floor office with the Farm Bureau. They are at the Fayetteville regional office 2 days per week. It would cost the county less for a 1<sup>st</sup> floor office.

## ITEM 9. OPEN PERSONNEL ACTION

Chairman Leach thanked everyone for coming tonight, and stated there would be an open personnel matter. Commissioner Wright said the Board is in the process of hiring a new Clerk to the Board, and would like to put forward a nomination for Gwen McGougan. Chairman Leach stated that this is a very important position. This is the contact person between the community and the Board. Ms. Revels has retired, so the position is available. The Board wanted to see who could move up into the position. Vice-Chairman Southerland stated that Ms. McGougan works with the county, and has worked with many citizens in surrounding areas. Everyone he has spoken to regarding Ms. McGougan have said all good things, which speaks to her character and work ethic. He stated that he supports Ms. McGougan 110%. Commissioner Hunt stated he is glad we can promote from within the county, someone who lives locally and pays taxes in the county. Commissioner Leach stated he felt they were making a good choice with Ms. McGougan. She knows the county well. He asked Ms. McGougan if she could accept working for the five of them. Ms. McGougan said she could. Commissioner Thomas stated that he supports Gwen McGougan, and looks forward to working with her. But he does not support the process to hire Ms. McGougan. He stated that he felt the position should have been advertised, to see the interest, and to ensure those who wanted to interview for the position had been given a

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chance. His vote is a protest to the process, but not the person. And he hopes in the future they can do a better job of being transparent in our county government. Chairman Leach asked Attorney Hunt if they were within the law to do this. Attorney Hunt stated yes.

**Motion: Commissioner Wright made a motion to appoint Gwen McGougan as the Clerk to the Board of Hoke County Commissioners, seconded by Commissioner Hunt.**

**Action: The motion was carried 4-1 with Leach, Southerland, Hunt, and Wright voting approval, and Thomas voting against.**

The Clerk of Courts Ms. Evelyn McCloud swore-in Ms. McGougan as the new Clerk to the Board of Commissioners for Hoke County.

Vice-Chairman Southerland stated that this is a historical moment, and invited everyone to stay after the meeting to meet Ms. McGougan and her family.

#### ITEM 10. CLOSED SESSION

Chairman Leach stated there was no need for a closed session this evening.

#### ITEM 11. ADJOURN

Chairman Leach thanked everyone for coming.

There being no further business to come before the Hoke County Board of Commissioners, Commissioner Hunt made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Vice-Chairman Southerland. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

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James A. Leach, Chairman

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Gwendolyn McGougan, Clerk to the Board