

Meeting of the Hoke County Board of Commissioners on Monday, June 6, 2016 at 7:00 pm in the Commissioners Room of the Pratt Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

James Leach, Chairman
Harry Southerland, Vice Chairman
Tony Hunt
Robert Wright

OTHERS PRESENT:

Grady Hunt, County Attorney
Gwen McGougan, Clerk to the Board

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Allen Thomas, Jr.

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

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

ITEM 1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Garvin Ferguson asked Chairman Leach to add a Budget Amendment for the Health Department to the Agenda as Item 2g.

Motion: Commissioner Wright made a motion to add the Health Department Budget Amendment as Item 2g to the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Hunt.

Action: The motion was carried 4-0.

Motion: Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Vice Chairman Southerland.

Action: The motion was carried 4-0.

ITEM 2. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes from May 2, 2016 meeting
- b. NC Vehicle Tax System Report
- c. Finance:
 1. Budget Amendments
 2. Declare as Surplus items from the Jail
- d. DOT Petition to add Maria Drive, Mitzie Court and Gertie Court to State-Maintained Secondary Road System
- e. Resolution in support of Cape Fear Valley PA Program
- f. Closed Session minutes from May 2, 2016
- g. Finance: Budget Amendment for Health Department

Motion: Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve Consent Agenda items a-g, seconded by Vice Chairman Southerland.

Action: The motion was carried 4-0.

ITEM 3. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Chairman Leach said that the Special Recognition presentation will be held at the end of the meeting.

ITEM 4. TAX COLLECTOR

Mrs. Daphne Dudley presented two offers to purchase surplus properties.

- a. An offer of \$3,000 has been received on property located at 167 Graham Road, Blue Springs Township, Parcel # 394030001061. This property was obtained by tax foreclosure on March 29, 2016 and approved as surplus at the April 18, 2016 Board of Commissioners meeting. No upset bid was received.

Mrs. Dudley said that this property is valued at \$5,750. Commissioner Wright asked if selling the property for \$3,000 would lower the value of the property. Mrs. Dudley said it would not. Commissioner Wright said that, although the bid was less than the value, the County would at least be able to bill and collect taxes on it.

- b. An offer of \$1,500 has been received on property located at 711 McGilvary Lane, Quewhiffle Township, Parcel #584950001069. This property was obtained by tax foreclosure on December 16, 2015 and approved as surplus at the January 19, 2016 Board of Commissioners meeting. No upset bid was received.

Mrs. Dudley said that this property is valued at \$7,270 and has a dilapidated building on it. Vice Chairman Southerland asked if the value includes the structure and Mrs. Dudley confirmed that it does. That building is valued at \$3,890 and is included in the \$7,270 total value.

Motion: Commissioner Hunt made a motion to accept the \$3,000 offer on 167 Graham Road and the \$1,500 offer on 711 McGilvary Lane, seconded by Vice Chairman Southerland.

Action: The motion was carried 4-0.

ITEM 5. SANDHILLS REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPOINTMENTS

Mrs. Sheila Brown Evans addressed the Board on behalf of the Sandhills Regional Library System. The SRLS board is made up of three representatives from each of the five counties in the system. One of Hoke County's representatives, Ms. Jean McPhail, is at the end of her term and is eligible for reappointment. Ms. McPhail is willing to serve another term. Another Hoke County representative, Ms. Marie Daniel, resigned her position as of January 12, 2016. The SRLS board and administration wish to appoint Mr. Terraine Francois to complete Ms. Daniel's term which expires on June 30, 2018.

Motion: Vice Chairman Southerland made a motion to accept the reappointment of Ms. Jean McPhail to another term on the SRLS Board and to accept the nomination of Mr. Terraine Francois to complete the unexpired term of Ms. Marie Daniel, seconded by Commissioner Wright.

Action: The motion was carried 4-0.

Vice Chairman Southerland asked Mrs. Evans about the van belonging to the Sandhills Regional Library System. This van has been used as a mobile computer lab. The Friends of the Library had discussed purchasing it and using it as a small bookmobile. The Friends of the Library has been informed that this van is not heavy enough to support a bookmobile.

ITEM 6. HOKE COUNTY JAIL BUDGET REQUEST

Sheriff Hubert Peterkin appeared before the Board to present a Budget Amendment in the amount of \$80,000, broken down as follows:

- \$15,000 Food & Provisions. More inmates housed due to Superior Court.
- \$15,000 Housing for Safekeeping. Pay to house inmates with medical conditions, including pregnancies, at state facility in Raleigh.
- \$50,000 Medical expense. Jail has exceeded cost pool limit for the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

Commissioner Hunt asked if the shortfall in the medical expense was taken into consideration for the 2016-2017 budget. The Finance Officer confirmed that it was.

Sheriff Peterkin said that there has been an increase in female inmates. Commissioner Wright asked how many females the jail can house. Sheriff Peterkin said that female inmates are housed in the old jail annex, which has a capacity of 44.

Chairman Leach asked what happens to the children born to female inmates. Sheriff Peterkin replied that they are often taken by family members or placed in a home by the Department of Social Services.

Motion: Commissioner Hunt made a motion to approve the Budget Amendment submitted by the Sheriff in the amount of \$80,000 seconded by Commissioner Wright.

Action: The motion was carried 4-0.

ITEM 7. PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Billy Brunson addressed the Board on behalf of the Tylertown community. Some residents think the old fire station should be torn down and a recreation center put in its place. Most residents want the fire department restored so that they have fire protection in their community. There is a lack of communication between the Tylertown community and the North Raeford Fire Department chief.

ITEM 8. CLOSED SESSION – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OR PERSONNEL

No closed session was held.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION (RESUME ITEM 3)

Mr. Jonathan Charleston presented the **Order of the Long Leaf Pine** to Vice Chairman Harry Southerland. The Order of the Long Leaf Pine award is granted by the Governor of the State of North Carolina to individuals who have a proven record of service to their communities and who have devoted their lives to serving others. The Order of the Long Leaf Pine is the highest honor the state can give to persons with a proven record of exemplary service to the State of North Carolina and their community. Prior recipients of the Order of the Long Leaf Pine include Maya Angelou, Michael Jordan, Andy Griffith and Rev. Billy Graham.

Vice Chairman thanked his family, friends and fellow Board members for their support. Chairman Leach commended Vice Chairman Southerland for his dedication to the people of Hoke County and North Carolina and congratulated him on a job well done.

ITEM 9. RECESS

Chairman Leach thanked everyone for attending.

There being no further business to come before the Hoke County Board of Commissioners, Commissioner Wright made a motion to recess until 1:00 pm Monday, June 13, 2016 for the purpose of budget discussions for the FY 2016-2017 budget, seconded by Commissioner Hunt. The motion was unanimously carried. The meeting was recessed at 8:00 p.m.

Recessed meeting of the Hoke County Board of Commissioners from Monday, June 6, 2016 to Monday, June 13, 2016 at 1:00 pm in the Commissioners Room of the Pratt Building for the purpose of budget discussions.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

James Leach, Chairman
Harry Southerland, Vice Chairman
Tony Hunt
Robert Wright
Allen Thomas, Jr.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Letitia Edens, County Manager
Grady Hunt, County Attorney
Gwen McGougan, Clerk to the Board

Chairman Leach called the recessed meeting back to order with a quorum present. Commissioner Thomas gave the invocation.

Motion: Commissioner Wright made a motion to add Addendum #1 of the Envirolink Sewer Plant Management contract extending a one-year extension to the County's termination clause to the agenda. This motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Southerland.

Action: The motion was carried 5-0.

Motion: Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve Addendum #1 of the Envirolink Sewer Plant Management contract extending a one-year extension to the County's termination clause seconded by Vice Chairman Southerland.

Action: The motion was carried 5-0.

Discussion was held regarding the need to expand parking at the 211 park. Public Buildings Director James Tedder presented the Board with a site plan and estimate to grade and put down crush & run from the existing parking area to the pump house of \$39,879.

Commissioner Wright asked the County Manager to check on property adjacent to the 211 park. Perhaps an owner of an adjacent property would exchange for property across Hwy 211 that is owned by the County.

Commissioner Hunt said he would recommend Parks & Recreation schedule some games on Saturdays. That would help free up some parking simply by not having so many teams at the park at one time.

Discussion turned to the location of the proposed splash pad. Mr. Tedder told the board that the site for the splash pad will require installing underground holding tanks so the site will need to

be clear of any underground utilities. Commissioner Hunt suggested contacting companies who install splash pads to do a site survey and make a recommendation where the splash pad should be located. Commissioner Thomas said that he would like to see the splash pad located at the front of the park. Commissioner Wright added that it would be a good idea to have Parks & Recreation staff supervise the use of the splash pad.

Commissioner Wright asked Mr. Tedder to also check on the possibility of constructing a soccer field across the creek behind the park. Mr. Tedder said he thinks the biggest challenge will be getting utilities to the site.

Chairman Leach asked the other Board members if they have anything they wish to add to the 2017 budget. Vice Chairman Southerland said that he would like to confirm that funds are earmarked to repair the gym floors at West Hoke Elementary and Scurlock Elementary. Commissioner Hunt and Commissioner Wright stressed the need to list the capital outlay items for the schools individually with the budgeted amount specified for each project. Any funds left over would have to be approved by the Board before they can be used. Chairman Leach confirmed with the Manager that funds for the freezer are included. Commissioner Thomas asked if funds were included to repair the gym floor at the high school. The Manager replied that the funds, \$22,000, were included in the school system's capital outlay request but not included in the recommended budget. Chairman Leach asked the Manager to see if she can find funds for the repairs needed at Turlington Alternative School. They need repairs to the classrooms, hall, plumbing and the electrical system, as well as replacing some doors and adding a covered walkway. Commissioner Hunt said that \$22,000 needs to be specified for repairing the gym floor at the high school, with any remaining funds used toward the repairs needed at Turlington.

Commissioner Wright asked Mr. Tedder to check on whether an exterior door can be installed near the restrooms at the Stonewall Community Building.

Commissioner Thomas said that he thought last year's sales tax revenues were underestimated and asked the Manager if she added the sales tax redistribution funds that the State approved for the counties last year. He would like to add these funds in and use them to increase the bonus amount for full-time employees to \$500. Mrs. Edens reminded the Board that the cost to the county for the bonuses includes FICA and Medicare. She said that the Board would need to direct her as to which one of the line items in the sales tax fund to increase. Commissioner Thomas said he wasn't comfortable designating which Article to increase as his information is based upon a total sales tax amount. Commissioner Wright asked the Manager to calculate the difference in the cost to the county of a \$300 bonus and a \$500 bonus and let the Board know what it is.

Chairman Leach said he'd like to start looking at the feasibility of a Parks & Recreation building and an Agriculture building. Commissioner Hunt said that, while it would be helpful to form committees to look at what will be needed he would recommend that the county explore the Design/Build concept, where the county would place a Request for Qualifications and firms would bid to design the buildings, then would assist the county in a bid process for construction based upon the design. This would help to ensure that the buildings designed are actually within

the realm of what the county could afford. Chairman Leach added that now would be the time to start the process and the Board would look to the committee to inform them what is needed. The manager recommended that the Board set aside funds in a restricted account to put toward this process. These funds would accumulate each year as opposed to going to Fund Balance at year end. The manager suggested that the Board come up with a realistic amount that they would be willing to put toward the planning phases.

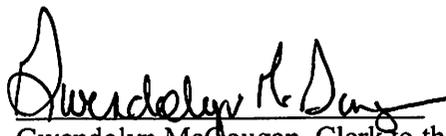
Discussion resumed with regard to the amount of the bonus. Mr. Ferguson said the cost to the county for a \$300 bonus for full-time employees is roughly \$175,000. To increase the bonus to \$500 would cost the county approximately \$116,000 more. The Board agreed, that while they support increasing the bonus, to wait until October or November and review revenues at that time before making a commitment.

The Board directed the Manager and Finance Officer to explore whether funds would be available to begin setting aside funds for the buildings and whether or not funds could be found for the increased employee bonus. Chairman Leach emphasized the importance of keeping the county in a strong fiscal position. The Manager added that with sales tax funds being redistributed and factoring in that this is an election year and that sales tax is tied to spending and the economy she is not ready to commit to increasing the anticipated funds for sales & use taxes. There is still a lot of discussion and uncertainty in Raleigh about how the State will be disbursing funds to the counties. It is better to be conservative up front and adjust later than to risk overestimating the revenues. Chairman Leach said he agreed with waiting until the State approves their budget.

There being no further business to come before the Hoke County Board of Commissioners, Commissioner Thomas made a motion to adjourn, with Vice Chairman Southerland seconding. The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 pm.



James A. Leach, Chairman



Gwendolyn McGougan, Clerk to the Board