

Meeting of the Hoke County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday, January 19, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Room of the Pratt Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tony Hunt, Chairman
James Leach, Vice Chairman
Robert Wright
Jean Powell
Ellen McNeill

OTHERS PRESENT:

Tim Johnson, County Manager
William Fields, County Attorney
Linda Revels, Clerk to the Board

Chairman Hunt called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Mr. Kenneth Young and Boy Scout Troop 409 led the Pledge of Allegiance and Commissioner McNeill gave the invocation.

Employee Recognitions

Marilyn Oxendine – 10 years – Health Department
Margaret Dugan – 10 years – DSS
Brenda (Jenny) McDuffie – Utilities

These employees were unable to attend. Letitia Edens will make sure that they get their pins.

Planning Matters – Conditional Use

Dainter Jacobs – CU-09-45 – RMH District – Accessory Use Permit Request with a Home Occupation for a beauty shop– PIN 494460001074 – 115 Bronson McRae Road – Raeford. The Planning Board recommended approval. Ms. Jacobs was present for the request. She stated that this was for a small beauty salon which will have only a few clients. William Fields asked how many employees would be working? Ms. Jacobs stated just herself, being part-time. Mr. Fields asked if any infrastructure would be put in such as parking? Ms. Jacobs stated no. There was no public comment. Conrad Garrison stated that staff recommended approval.

Motion: James Leach made a motion to approve the request for the conditional use for a beauty shop, seconded by Robert Wright.

Action: The motion was unanimously carried.

Conditional Use Criteria

- A. The use requested is listed among the conditional uses in the district for which application is made; or is similar in character to those listed in that district;
- B. The requested use will not impair the integrity or character of the surrounding or adjoining districts; not adversely affect the safety, health, morals or welfare of the community or of the immediate neighbors of the property;
- C. The requested use is essential or desirable to the public convenience or welfare and will not be injurious to the use and enjoyment of other property in the immediate vicinity for the purposes already permitted nor substantially diminish and impair property values within the neighborhood;
- D. The establishment of the conditional use will not impede the normal and orderly development and improvement of the surrounding property for uses permitted in the district;
- E. The exterior architectural appeal and functional plan of any proposed structure will not be so at variance with either the exterior architectural appeal and functional plan of the structures already constructed or in the course of construction in the immediate neighborhood or the character of the applicable district as to cause a substantial depreciation in the property values within the neighborhood;
- F. The requested use will be in conformity with a land use plan;
- G. Adequate utilities, access roads, drainage, sanitation or other necessary facilities have been or are being provided;
- H. That adequate measures have been or will be taken to provide ingress and egress so designed as to minimize the traffic congestion in the public streets; and
- I. That the conditional use shall, in all other respects, conform to the applicable regulations of the district in which it is located.

Consent Agenda

- a. Minutes from the January 4, 2010 meeting
- b. Budget Amendments
- c. Communications – Embarq Maintenance Contract

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Motion: Robert Wright made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by James Leach.

Action: The motion was unanimously carried.

Hoke County Tax Collector's Report – January 19, 2010

Tax Levy 2009	\$	17,787,588.47
Collected to date		14,577,089.51
Uncollected balance before releases		3,210,498.96
Releases to date		8,041.83
Uncollected balance after releases		
Deceased		
Advertising Charged		
Uncollected balance 2009 Tax Levy (1)	\$	3,202,457.13
Collections December 2009	\$1,597,622.07	
Releases December 2009	465.50	
Percent of levy collected (receipts)	81.95%	
Percent of levy collected (releases, etc.)	<u>4%</u>	
Percent of levy collected (totals)	81.99%	

PRIOR YEARS

Prior Years tax levy June 30, 2009	\$	2,175,368.20
Collected to date		417,515.16
Uncollected balance before releases		1,757,853.04
Releases to date		2,940.57
Insolvent		
Deceased		
Uncollected balance prior years (2)	\$	1,754,912.47
Collections December 2009	\$64,647.35	
Releases December 2009		
Percent Prior years collected (receipts)	19.19%	
Percent pr. Yrs. Collected (releases, etc.)	<u>13%</u>	
Percent pr. Yrs. Collected (totals)	19.35%	
Total Uncollected Taxes (1+2)	\$	4,957,369.60

2008 Taxes

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Tax Levy July 2008	\$	16,928,638.51
Collections December 2008		1,572,252.56
Releases December 2008		271.77
Insolvent		
Percent collected (receipts)	79.73%	
Percent collected (releases, Etc.)	<u>5%</u>	
Percent collected (totals)	79.78%	
Prior years tax levy July 2008	\$	1,947,691.76
Collections December 2008		41,149.03
Releases December 2008		410.60
Deceased		
Insolvent		
Percent collected (receipts)	20.27%	
Percent collected (releases, etc.)	<u>14%</u>	
Percent collected (totals)	20.41%	

Releases:

Bemis, Valerie – 2009
MH double-listed - \$87.04

Draughon, David – 2009
DOT Property - \$179.12

Eaker, Michel – 2009
MH double-listed - \$41.04

Hunt, Tony – 2009
MH double-listed - \$40.15

Hunt, Samuel – 2008
Transfer Error - \$159.12

Hunt, Samuel – 2008
Transfer Error - \$799.76

Hunt, Samuel – 2009
Transfer Error - \$159.12

Hunt, Samuel – 2009
Transfer Error - \$827.28

Locklear, Jessie – 2008
Transfer Error - \$497.76

Locklear, Jessie – 2009
Transfer Error - \$387.15

Total releases: \$3,178.15

Motion: Robert Wright made a motion to approve the releases in the amount of \$3,178.15, seconded by Jean Powell.

Action: The motion was unanimously carried.

Keith Walters, Extension Directors, was present to give the Farmland Preservation Plan. Mr. Walters stated that this plan was started last year with a survey being sent out. The funding is part of the BRAC Regional Taskforce. Each of the 11 counties affected by BRAC was tasked with drafting a farmland preservation plan for training around Fort Bragg. Hoke County is the first county plan to be presented for endorsement. The approved plan needs to go to the Department of Agriculture to be certified. The purpose of the plan is to assess the agriculture needs and resources in our county and make recommendations to develop and preserve agriculture. It can be edited. The plan establishes a baseline for our county in agriculture. Jean Powell stated that the plan seems like a good tool. Mr. Walters stated that a certified plan can qualify for State funding. Chairman Hunt asked what can the funds be used for? Mr. Walters stated projects such as greenspace and forest lands. Other counties also have tax incentives. Of the farmers surveyed, 30% stated that they plan to retire in 10 – 20 years and there is competition to rent or buy land which is a big threat to agriculture. The plan provides a framework and timeline to protect farms and forests. A plan was needed to educate our farmers and this is a tool to keep farms viable. Jean Powell stated that BRAC had complemented Mr. Walters on the plan and on being the first to take it to their County Board. Chairman Hunt thanked Mr. Walters and stated that he had done a lot of work on the plan.

Motion: Robert Wright made a motion to approve the Hoke County Farmland Preservation Plan, seconded by Jean Powell.

Action: The motion was unanimously carried.

Jimmy Stewart with Communications was present for a request for appropriations of E-911 Funds. Mr. Stewart stated that this would not come out of the general fund. The money already exists with the Board approving the application as follows: Project 1 – Replacement of Telephones – for the front room 911 system equipment. The cost of upgrade is \$132,768.00 – Project 2 – Upgrade of the Moducom Radio System – 3 of the consoles will be upgraded at a cost of \$62,919.00 and Project 3 – Re-appropriation of Donations – 2 companies made cash contributions of \$115.00. The total is \$195,802.00

Motion: James Leach made a motion to approve the requested E-911 fund appropriations in the amount of \$195,802.00, seconded by Ellen McNeill.

Action: The motion was unanimously carried.

County Manager's Report

Tim Johnson stated that the Tax Collector, Judy Pittman, was going to retire at the end of March. She has served 35 years and does a great job. He thanked Ms. Pittman.

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James Leach stated that the money from Smartstart may not be available for the playground equipment for the new park. Mr. Johnson stated that they could discuss this at the retreat. We may have to look for alternative funds.

Chairman Hunt stated that a closed session was needed for a personnel matter.

Motion: James Leach made a motion to go into closed session to discuss a personnel matter, seconded by Robert Wright.

Action: The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion: James Leach made a motion to come out of closed session and go back into regular session, seconded by Ellen McNeill.

Action: The motion was unanimously carried.

There was no action taken in closed session.

Chairman Hunt asked if there were any other departments that the Board wanted to meet with at the retreat? Robert Wright stated that he would like to add Smartstart. Chairman Hunt asked Linda Revels to schedule an appointment for them.

There being no further business to come before the Hoke County Board of Commissioners, Ellen McNeill made a motion to recess to January 26, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. at Camp Rockfish, seconded by Robert Wright, unanimously carried. The meeting recessed at 7:45 p.m.

Recessed meeting from Tuesday, January 19th to Tuesday, January 26, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. at Camp Rockfish.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tony Hunt, Chairman
James Leach, Vice Chairman
Robert Wright
Jean Powell

OTHERS PRESENT:

Tim Johnson, County Manager
Linda Revels, Clerk to the Board
Regina Sutherland, Attorney
Garvin Ferguson, Finance Officer

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ellen McNeill

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Chairman Hunt called the meeting to order. Mrs. McNeill is sick.

The Board then heard from the various department scheduled for the retreat.

Finance – Garvin Ferguson – Mr. Ferguson stated that we were having software problems due to the internet connection which is Time Warner. We are looking at some different options such as having our own server. We have done well financially. There have been no staff cutbacks or reductions. We still need to be frugal. Tim Johnson stated that the Capital Improvement Plans were in. He will look over them and give a report to the Board.

Board of Elections – Caroline Shook and Lloyd Perry - Mrs. Shook stated that this is an election and anticipates being busy. There are about 25,000 registered voters. Voter records need to be cleaned up. They are getting ready to hire a new clerk. A new desk and computer is needed. Space and fire proof cabinets are also needed. Mr. Perry stated that they will have an audit this year with some issues being looked consisting of storage and security. Their equipment is sensitive and needs to be stored in a climate controlled secure area.

Communications – Jimmy Stewart – He needs two additional personnel. This will give him 3 people. The State is looking at some mandated training. They also need a new building and some equipment, especially radio equipment. He would also like to have a graduated pay plan for his employees.

Economic Development – Don Porter – Hoke County is doing well. We have a low unemployment rate. The Ethanol Plant is going to open soon. Our citizens need to be educated and trained. The Alpla Plant is also in the works. It should start up about May and employ 40 good jobs. The Wal-Mart is also going up quickly. Existing industry is our number one priority. We should also do well with BRAC. Hoke County also needs to look at the option on the remaining industrial property of Z. V. Pate. Pennsylvania Transformer is also going well.

Cooperative Extension – Keith Walters – They need an additional food assistant program person. They will apply for grant funds for this position. They are in need of office space and additional office supply funds. They also need a printer. Maintenance also needs to be done on their current building.

Health Department – Cynthia Oxendine – She stated that they are within this year's budget. They had a program audit that went well. She will be requesting a public health nurse I. They need a new environmental health truck. She hopes this can come from state funds. They also need a new HIPPA safety compliance officer position for

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accreditation for 2011. They hope to get state funds to upgrade the WIC supervisor and clerk. She also wants to upgrade the lab manager position.

Inspections – Billy Coxe – Mr. Coxe stated that Jerry Thompson is going to retire between February and June. They have been interviewing applicants that are certified in all fields including fire. Their inspections are done within 24 hours of calling. Their trucks need to be replaced. They also need laptops in the trucks for inspections. Chairman Hunt asked if there was money in this year's budget for the laptops? Mr. Ferguson stated yes. He would check into this.

Planning Conrad Garrison – His department needs more training funds for staff.

Library – Sheila Evans – Their budget will have an approximate 3% increase. They need supplies and books. Space and parking is also needed.

Literacy – Carole Taitt - She is asking that her position be funded again this year. They also need new carpet, paint and storage lockers. They also need a part-time computer lab person.

Board of Education - Superintendent Freddie Williamson and Board of Education members Hank Richards, Irish Pickett, Barbara Buie and Della Maynor-Bowen were present along with staff. Mr. Williamson thanked the Board for allowing them to be present at the retreat. Hoke County test scores have improved. There is a need for three middle schools. More units are also needed at the high school. They presented a drawing for the storage building and AV offices. The building consists of 30,000 square feet and is 150 x 200. They will survey out two acres for financing. Garvin Ferguson state that the funds will come out of their operating budget. They are already paying \$25,000.00 that can be applied to this new structure. Tim Johnson stated that the county can pay for the building and get re-imbursed. The number of students have increased and will continue to increase especially due to BRAC. The Qualified School Construction Bond projects are as follows and would put the schools in good shape: (2010) - Upchurch Elementary - replace single pane windows, brick up exterior of classroom building, replace three roofs, and set up new eight classroom academic building, Scurlock – upgrade electrical service to school and main office and replace fire security systems, (2011) -Upchurch Elementary – remodel classrooms, install new Bard HVAC units and expand parking lots, Hoke High School – replace fire and security systems and install energy controls, McLaughlin Elementary School – replace single pane windows, (2012) – East Hoke Middle School – install energy saving controls and expand parking lot, West Hoke Middle School – install energy savings controls – Rockfish – install energy savings controls – Sandy Grove – expand parking lot, West Hoke Elementary – install Bard HVAC units – Hawk Eye – install Bard HVAC units. Mr. Ferguson stated that BBT is

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set to buy the QSCB bonds with a cheap rate. This will be a good opportunity. We are still watching sales tax. The commissioners need to look at what has already been committed to the school system. Jean Powell stated that she is concerned about financing repairs versus new construction. Dr. Williamson stated that they wanted to re-direct funds that were budgeted and saved on projects to the HVAC units to West Hoke Middle and East Hoke Middle and paving for Rockfish Elementary. Their budget requests will be as follows: completion of bond proposal items, modular classroom lease (6 units at Rockfish and removing 6 at Upchurch), system wide furniture, 8 tennis courts at high school, 3 acres for tennis courts, 2 new classrooms are high school, 6 modular units are Rockfish, maintenance truck, and (paving at Rockfish, a/c units at West Hoke Middle, a/c at East Hoke Middle- if not approved in 2009-2010 budget) and install tile in libraries at Scurlock, Hoke High and Sandy Grove. The current expense is approximately \$4,080,510 based on \$533.40 per student and 7,650 students, for a total of 7,936 including pre-k. For budget year 2010-2011 they are requesting 4.5 million anticipating 8,250 students including pre-k. In addition to their regular allocation they are asking for \$100,000 to help with teacher assistant funding. They are also asking that the commissioners consider the lease to own option for Sandy Grove Middle School. They would like for the two boards to get together and discuss this project. Chairman Hunt thanked the school for coming and stated that they would take all these requests into consideration.

Lunch

Juvenile Services – Tom Landry – He stated that they are requesting the same amount of funding from the county as last year in the amount of \$10,000.00. They have several programs geared toward youth. They will be applying for grant money also.

Personnel – Letitia Edens – Insurance will be about the same as last year. Garvin Ferguson stated that unemployment insurance may increase by \$100,000.00. Ms. Edens stated that the board needs to decide if we want to stay with the same broker for insurance. Chairman Hunt stated that he would like to give local people the opportunity to present an insurance package. She also gave the commissioners a draft of the tax collector position for them to look over and make any changes. First aid kits are needed in each building.

Animal Control – Jimmy Carthens – They need a receptionist with the volume of calls that they get.

Soil & Water – Jimmy Warner – They need new office furniture.

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Parks & Recreation – David Jackson – They have had a 10% growth in participation in the last 3 years. They have also added some new programs. Parks and Recreation has a good staff. They need additional parking for the new park. Security is needed there also. Once the area is constructed, football will be played in the rear. Chairman Hunt stated that an estimate on the ballfields in the rear needs to be gotten. Once the new center is constructed, it can be utilized by the public. James Leach stated that the concession was well managed. Mr. Jackson stated that this year the State Dixie Youth Tournament will be held here in Hoke County.

Tax Collector – Judy Pittman – Her budget will be about the same. They may need some more personnel in DMV once the tax law changes. They also need a new computer. Space is also an issue. The server has also been going down. Tim Johnson stated that there may be some major issues with DMV moving to the Pratt Building such as space and parking.

Tax Assessor – Jennie Gibson – There are no major changes. Her department is also concerned about the server be down.

IT – Steve Billings – They will need a new staff member in the future due to the work load. The wireless system needs to be upgraded. Chairman Hunt asked if they were doing work orders? Mr. Billings stated no but he would check into it.

Senior Services – Don Woods – Hoke County needs a senior center. They are looking for funding for this project. He wants to make sure that the aide's salary is competitive. He also wants the nutrition site managers to have the same benefits. He has also applied for the urgent repair grant for this year.

James Leach made a motion to recess until Tuesday, January 27, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. here at Camp Rockfish, seconded by Robert Wright, unanimously carried. The meeting recessed at 3:40 p.m.

Recessed meeting from January 19th to January 26th to January 27, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. at Camp Rockfish.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tony Hunt, Chairman
James Leach, Vice Chairman
Robert Wright
Jean Powell

OTHERS PRESENT:

Tim Johnson, County Manager
Linda Revels, Clerk to the Board
Regina Sutherland, Attorney
Garvin Ferguson, Finance Officer

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ellen McNeill

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Chairman Hunt called the meeting to order. Mrs. McNeill is still sick.

Solid Waste – Don Russell – He is requesting a roll off truck, a pick up truck, a new position of laborer, land purchase for the Scurlock site, 3 open top containers and a cell for limbs. The new laborer position will help with recycling. Tim Johnson stated that there will not be an increase in fees. They will also look at trying to restructure during the holidays off.

Public Buildings/Utilities – Dennis Baxley – The DMV lease is up for renewal and there will be a 15% increase. He has received 2 bids for the utilities building. The low bidder was Chavis, Inc. He recommends that the board approve the low bidder. Chairman Hunt stated that this will be put on Monday night's agenda. The sign at the new Parks & Recreation complex is complete. Top dressing is needed for the new park. A new sprayer is also needed. He will check on prices and get back to the board. Regarding Phase V of the water system, they are waiting on USDA approval to begin construction of 4 wells. They have also notified the City of our intent to turn over Silver City to them. Chairman Hunt stated that he wanted the Board to get information on the DMV move to see if it is workable or not.

DSS – Della Sweat – She will be requesting the following: new staff consisting of, 1 program manager for child protective services, foster care and adult services – office assistant III – income maintenance caseworker I and a computer technician. The State will pay for ½ of the positions. She also will be requesting a reclassification of 2 Medicaid income maintenance caseworker positions to income maintenance caseworker III positions. They also need additional transportation funds for Workfirst clients. They need two vehicles, additional space and additional funds for unclaimed bodies. Chairman Hunt stated that they need to look at the funds for the transportation for Workfirst. They may need to look at putting in a cap on these funds. Transportation costs also need to be looked at.

Sheriff – Hubert Peterkin – Sheriff Peterkin stated that they have had an increase in the number of calls. They need to be proactive with growth. The new jail has helped with the number of inmates. He will be requesting 10 additional staff members consisting of 4 to 6 officers, 3 detectives and 2 civil officers. New positions will help with response time. The 18 car lease program needs to be reviewed and increased. He will be asking for 25 new cars. The cars will be rotated out and can be used somewhere else. Robert Wright stated that the cars need to be looked at for the age and number of miles for rotation. Some cars need to be rotated out each year. He wants to look at pay as we go and do away with leasing. Sheriff Peterkin stated that the accreditation process is going well. Regarding the jail, housing money from inmates, especially federal inmates, is generating funds. More funds for the jail in overtime are needed. He still wants the Board to look at the ABL program. They will hire the staff and also bring in a dietitian.

They pay the staff and we would be getting additional staff. We would also be saving money. James Leach stated that he wanted to make sure that our employees would still be employed with benefits. Sheriff Peterkin stated that this would happen. The company would also be liable for insurance. He has checked with several other counties who use this service.

Emergency Management – A new E911 Center is needed and needs to be co-located with the EOC center. Law enforcement is not on the VIPER system and needs to be. This is a requirement for this radio system. BRAC will help pay for half of it if we commit to the funds for the other half now for the next fiscal year. He is requesting a letter of commitment. Tim Johnson stated that we have to have this equipment. He is also requesting a police package Tahoe. The red truck is requiring major repairs.

Motion: Robert Wright made a motion to approve a letter of commitment for Hoke County's portion of the radios, seconded by James Leach.

Action: The motion was unanimously carried.

Veteran's Service – Freddie McPhaul – The Veteran workload has increased. He will have some increases in his budget. Chairman Hunt stated that Mr. McPhaul needs to assist with informing the Veterans about the deadline for reduced payments.

Sandhills Community College – Dr. Dempsey – This will be a full blown High School with the construction of the third building. We have a great program. He is asking for a budget increase. The telephone system needs to be upgraded and they will be hiring a part-time grounds keeper. The mobile trailers will be given back to the school. James Leach asked about the 2nd person on the Board of Trustees? Dr. Dempsey stated that Mr. Cunningham was doing a great job for Hoke County and he will check on the second person.

HATS – Nancy Thornton – Chairman Hunt asked about the routes for Workfirst and Senior Services? Mr. Thornton stated that they were charged by share miles. They have not had an increase in the rider cost in several years. William Fields is dealing with the State regarding the legal issue of the TANF money. Ms. Thornton stated that there may be some DOT money at 90% to build a building. She will check into this.

Smart Start – Jean Squier – They are the largest non-profit in the county. They also had a funding reduction. She has asked about the playground equipment for the new park complex. Her superiors were not receptive. She may be able to get some other resources. She may be able to get some with the outdoor learning program. A proposal must be submitted for this. They are going through a community assessment of programs. They are trying to keep children in daycare here in Hoke County. Agencies

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that receive Smartstart funds are required to provide a 10% match. They have a lot of programs in Hoke County.

Blue Springs CDC – Christina Davis McCoy – They are requesting \$25,000.00. This is a general support request. They have not requested county funds since 2003. Hoke County needs to look at job opportunities for our citizens. They want to expand the CDC work, especially with housing for families. They hope to partner with the county positively and continuously. Chairman Hunt asked if there was grant available through HUD? Ms. McCoy stated yes, and they were looking into this program.

There being no further business to come before the Hoke County Board of Commissioners, Robert Wright made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jean Powell, unanimously carried. The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Tony Hunt, Chairman

Linda Revels, Clerk to the Board