

Meeting of the Hoke County Board of Commissioners on Monday, January 24, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Room of the Pratt Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robert Wright, Chairman
Charles Daniels, Vice Chairman
James Leach
Jean Powell
William Cameron, Jr.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mike Wood, County Manager
Neil Yarborough, County Attorney
Linda Revels, Clerk to the Board

Chairman Wright called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Charles Daniels led the Pledge of Allegiance and Commissioner Leach gave the invocation.

Employee Recognition

Marilyn Oxendine – Health Department - 5 years
Margaret Dugan – Department of Social Services – 5 years
Brenda McDuffie – Health Department – 10 years
Ms. McDuffie was present. She stated that they appreciated a job well done.

Chairman Wright stated that Attorney Yarborough wanted to add as item #1 under the consent agenda the Annual Service Grant for Transportation. Attorney Yarborough stated that he and Bob Mercer had reviewed the documents. James Leach stated that he had a question on the grant for Mr. Mercer.

Consent Agenda:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the January 3, 2005 meeting
- b. Approval of Minutes from the January 6, 2005 special meeting
- c. Renewal of Agreement for Medical Services
- d. Employee Assistance Program Contract
- e. Approval of Dates for Retreat
- f. Approval of Joint CJPP Resolution
- g. Approval LRCOG Rehabilitation List
- h. DSS – Copier Contract
- i. Approval of Bid Contract for the Health Department
- j. Grant Application – Governor’s Crime Commission – Domestic Violence Officer
- k. Grant Application – Governor’s Crime Commission – Mobile Data Equipment

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Jean Powell made a motion to approve the consent agenda, items a – k, seconded by William Cameron, unanimously carried.

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SUBMITTAL OF STATE FUNDING
APPLICATION FOR SCOTLAND-HOKE COUNTIES CRIMINAL
JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

WHEREAS, Scotland and Hoke Counties joined together in 1996 to form the Criminal Justice Partnership Board to provide services to probationary offenders with substance abuse problems, and;

WHEREAS, the Criminal Justice Partnership Board for Scotland and Hoke Counties has obtained State grant funds since its beginning to provide these services which include intensive outpatient substance abuse counseling to offenders on probation referred by the Court system; and

WHEREAS, Scotland and Hoke Counties through the Criminal Justice Partnership Program have experienced strong indications which reflect successful behavior modification, educational achievement and life skill development for these individuals; and

WHEREAS, the Scotland and Hoke Counties Criminal Justice Partnership Program has operated entirely without cost to either County; and

WHEREAS, the Scotland and Hoke Counties Criminal Justice Partnership Board is applying to the State Department of Correction, Division of Community Corrections, for Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Funding in the amount of \$137,361;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Hoke County Board of Commissioners endorses the application to the North Carolina Department of Correction, Division of Community Corrections for Fiscal Year 2005-2006 funding by the Scotland and Hoke Counties Criminal Justice Partnership Board.

This the 24th day of January 2005.

Clerk to the Hoke County
Board of Commissioners

Chairman
Hoke County Board of Commissioners

James Leach asked Bob Mercer about the vans not running during holidays. He stated that he had received some calls from folks that the van did not take them to dialysis. Bob Mercer stated they were supposed to be running during holidays. They have transportation unless it is a liability to the county. The rules come from DOT. James Leach stated that the patients need to know this. He asked if they could get a copy of the rules and regulations. Bob Mercer stated that they were supposed to get a copy before riding. James Leach stated that he would send anyone with questions on transportation over to Bob Mercer for answers.

James Leach made a motion to approve item #1, seconded by Charles Daniels, unanimously carried.

Hoke County Tax Collector's Report – January 24, 2005

Tax Levy December 2004	\$ 11,006,607.44
Collected to date	9,165,773.61
Uncollected balance before releases	1,840,833.83
Releases to date	13,667.24
Uncollected balance after releases	1,827,166.59
Deceased	
Advertising Charged	
Uncollected balance 2004 Tax Levy (1)	\$ 1,827,166.59
Collections December 2004	\$1,887,732.11
Releases December 2004	132.16
Percent of levy collected (receipts)	83.28%
Percent of levy collected(releases, etc.)	<u>0.12%</u>
Percent of levy collected(totals)	83.40%

PRIOR YEARS

Prior Years tax levy June 30, 2004	\$ 1,102,086.78
Collected to date	212,625.40
Uncollected balance before releases	889,461.38
Releases to date	236.37
Insolvent	
Deceased	
Uncollected balance prior years (2)	\$ 889,225.01
Collections December 2004	\$26,372.66
Releases December 2004	140.37
Percent Prior years collected(receipts)	19.29%
Percent pr. Yrs. Collected(releases, etc.)	<u>0.02%</u>

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Percent pr. Yrs. Collected(totals)	19.31%
Total Uncollected Taxes (1+2)	\$ 2,716,391.60

2003 Taxes

Tax Levy December 2003	\$ 10,366,223.78
Collections December 2003	1,277,771.33
Releases December 2003	690.67
Deceased	
Percent collected (receipts)	75.49%
Percent collected (releases, Etc.)	<u>6%</u>
Percent collected(totals)	75.55%
Prior years tax levy June 2003	\$ 1,260,521.58
Collections December 2003	26,351.40
Releases December 2003	
Deceased	
Insolvent	
Percent collected (receipts)	33.14%
Percent collected(releases, etc.)	<u>4%</u>
Percent collected (totals)	33.18%

Releases – January 24, 2005

Carson, Shirley – 2004 MH removed - \$192.00	Connell, Steve & Robin – 2002 MH sold - \$70.30
Connell, Steve & Robin – 2003 MH sold - \$65.73	Gautier, Brenda – 2004 MH on wrong lot - \$454.90
McNeill, Roberta – 2004 Late List Error - \$27.52	Scott, April – 2003 MH double-listed - \$74.04
Scott, April – 2004 MH double-listed - \$76.78	Wandawi, Dilan- 2004 House u/c on wrong lot - \$75.60

Total Releases - \$1,036.87

James Leach made a motion to approve the releases in the amount of \$1,036.87, seconded by Jean Powell, unanimously carried.

Refunds

Ricky Lynn Sandy - \$603.20 – error in assessment of property

William Cameron made a motion to approve the refund in the amount of \$603.20, seconded by James Leach, unanimously carried.

Lacy Koonce, with Koonce, Noble and Associates, presented a Water Update. He stated that they have submitted the information to USDA for approval on Phase V. He met with them back in December. With the County's present situation, Hoke County will not qualify for grant funds. The average water bill for 5,000 gallons would have to be \$29.50. Koonce Noble's projection is that after the Phase V project was complete, without any grants, it would be \$29.75. This is not the final say. The application goes to Raleigh where the final decision is made. Mr. Koonce has met with Mike Wood and Mike Dean. If you proceed, it would be primarily, loan money, which would be bond money, for the entire amount. You could also phase this project into two projects. They are on hold for the application. Some water lines have been added and the cost estimate was revised. With the latest budget figures, the cost is \$9.9 million. There are some other funds out there. All bonds must be LGC approved. You may still get some grant funds. Chairman Wright asked if John Cooper with USDA had the final say? Lacy Koonce stated that the State Director has the final say. The Board may want to contact Raleigh or Washington for help. Grant funds are down. The average water rate is \$26.50. Charles Daniels asked if Phase V was more wells and lines? Mr. Koonce stated a lot of line work and supply. Charles Daniels asked if tanks were still needed in the northern end of the county? Mr. Koonce stated yes that you were still short on supply. The county is still growing. Chairman Wright asked if it was better to put in our own wells or continue to rely on others to buy water? Mr. Koonce stated that it is better to have its own water supply. Hoke County already has a debt service that currently is not bad. Jean Powell asked if there was an advantage to phasing or doing it all? Mr. Koonce stated that interest rates could go up. Chairman Wright asked what was his recommendation? Mr. Koonce stated that they needed to check with the State on bond indebtedness. You could phase it. You could also look at surface water supply. They could get the recommendations in writing to the Board. Chairman Wright asked if he could get the recommendations by Thursday afternoon at the retreat at Camp Rockfish? Mr. Koonce stated yes, that he would have someone present with several options and priorities.

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Attorney Yarborough stated that he also needed to schedule Wednesday afternoon at 2 p.m. for legal matters.

There being no further business to come before the Hoke County Board of Commissioners, James Leach made a motion to recess until February 2nd at 8:00 a.m. at the Board Retreat, seconded by Jean Powell, unanimously carried.

Recessed meeting from Monday, January 24, 2005 to Wednesday, February 2, 2005 at 8:00 a.m. at Camp Rockfish for Board Retreat.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robert Wright, Chairman
Charles Daniels, Vice Chairman
James Leach
Jean Powell
William Cameron, Jr.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mike Wood, County Manager
Linda Revels, Clerk to the Board

Chairman Wright called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Commissioner Leach gave the invocation.

The Board then went over various current county policies and some possible changes.

Water Policy - Mike Wood stated that currently the Utilities Department asked for a copy of the deed or lease. Jean Powell asked what was the rationale for this? Mike Wood stated that he was not sure. Chairman Wright stated that a lot of people rented. The City of Raeford and other counties do not ask for this. Jean Powell stated that this is not part of county policy. James Leach stated that the customer had to put up a deposit. Jean Powell stated that that they wanted to provide this service to the citizens. Chairman Wright stated that they would ask the water department about this. James Leach asked if they were on Munis? Mike Wood stated that they would be started by March 1st. He stated that the Board may want to look at a Facility Investment Fee (FIF) for water as another source of revenue. They went over billing cycle comparisons. Chairman Wright stated that we need to give the same courtesy as the electric company. William Cameron stated that everybody needed to be treated the same. Chairman Wright stated that second notices would not need to be sent out. James Leach stated that it would also save on postage. Jean Powell stated that

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they are wasting a lot of manpower. They may need to move the cut-off date. Chairman Wright stated that they were looking at the PWC policy. James Leach stated that if the water bill is paid the same day, they should not cut the water off.

Animal Control Policy – James Leach stated that when they receive a call they should respond. Chairman Wright stated that he would like to see the policy also that they respond to all calls. The recommendation that the policy be changed to “After hours emergency contact of Animal Control Officer shall be for the following: 1. Wild or stray animals. 2. Respond to all stray animal calls. If a response does not occur, documentation shall be made as to why a response was not done. The County Manager is going work on the wording of this and bring it to back to the commissioners.

Personnel Policy – Chairman Wright asked who had the authority to hire and fire the Social Service and Health Directors? Mike Wood stated that their Boards do. Charles Daniels stated that all Board members need to know about positions. Mike Wood is going to check on employee benefits. Charles Daniels stated that the Board needs to know about re-classifications. William Cameron stated that he wanted to know about raises. Chairman Wright stated that this should be part of the County Manager’s job. He stated that if a re-classification or a raise is given the Board needs to know, but not get involved in the day to day activities. Charles Daniels stated that department heads and Mike Wood need to approve employees. Jean Powell stated that she agreed that the Board should not be involved in the day to day operations; however, she had no problem with the Board being notified. Chairman Wright requested a copy of the pay plan. James Leach stated that the Manager needed to bring back some recommendations.

The Board took a 10 minute break.

Chairman Wright stated that he appreciated the work that had been done on the policies by the commissioners.

Procurement Card – Chairman Wright stated that he would like for each commissioner to have a credit card. Charles Daniels stated that when individual cards are issued, each person is responsible for them. Scott Edwards, Finance Officer, stated that one credit card could be obtained for

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the departments and individual cards for the commissioners. Chairman Wright stated that way you would know who used the card and what for. William Cameron stated that the general public will not accept credit cards.

Addressing – Mike Wood stated that Jimmy Stewart says that E911 pays for signs and requested that this be changed.

Purchasing Policy – Scott Edwards stated that purchases over \$100.00 have to have purchase orders. William Cameron asked who was the purchasing agent? Scott Edwards stated that currently this is not one. The department heads have to get three bids. Service contracts do not have to be bided. The Board does not have to go with the lowest bid, but they do have to have justification. William Cameron stated that this policy needed to be given to the Finance Officer for review.

Fixed Assets – William Cameron asked if the fixed assets were up to date? Scott Edwards stated no. He stated that this is the department head's responsibility and then Finance makes sure that everything is tagged. William Cameron stated that department heads should have 5 months to get fixed assets current by June 30th.

County Owned Vehicle Policy – Chairman Wright stated that he would like to see it that when new vehicles are purchased, the old ones are turned in to be listed, even if they have to be sent back out.

Maintenance Policy – Charles Daniels stated that he is concerned about contracts for work going out of the county when there are qualified people who did not get an opportunity for the contract.

The Board went to lunch.

The Board came back in session. Attorney Neil Yarborough was present.

James Leach made a motion to go into closed session to discuss an attorney/client privilege matter, seconded by Jean Powell, unanimously carried.

Jean Powell made a motion to come out of closed session and go back into regular session, seconded by William Cameron, unanimously carried.

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Attorney Yarborough recommended that since the Register of Deeds no longer needs past scanning equipment, that a termination contract be entered into, the equipment be shipped back to Raleigh and a \$1,000.00 termination fee be paid. Jean Powell made a motion to approve this recommendation, seconded by William Cameron, unanimously carried.

Scott Edwards, Finance Officer, presented a financial update. He stated that Frank Baker is in the process of completing the audit to give it to LGC. There has been an increase of \$961,000.00 in fund balance. Frank Baker's contract will have to be extended this year because of the audit. James Leach made a motion to extend Frank Baker's contract from the June 30, 2004 date through February 28, 2005, seconded by Jean Powell, unanimously carried. There is a 5.7 million dollar available fund balance of about 26%. Most departments are at 50% of budget. Sales and use taxes are up. Tax collection looks well. Maintenance and repair and overtime are up. Overtime at the Sheriff's department and the jail is overspent. The jail has overspent \$10,000.00 in overtime. The Sheriff's department was budget at \$75,000.00 for overtime and has already spent \$122,102.36. William Cameron asked if the county could handle more debt load? Scott Edwards stated that LGC would allow us to borrow the money with us justifying how to pay for it. Chairman Wright asked what was the amount that was being given to the school out of sales tax? Scott Edwards replied \$397,500.00 with another \$400,000 for land. William Cameron thanked Scott Edwards for a good job as Finance Officer. Mike Wood stated that he felt good about the general fund and the trends for Solid Waste and the Water Department. Retail sales are getting better and better. He went over the reval chart. Reval looks good. This will be a good situation to do some capital projects. The county is growing. The Board can do a list of capital projects that they would like to do and send them to LGC for their review.

Bo Noble, with Koonce Noble and Associates went over some information requested by the commissioners on Phase V of the water system. They recommend that the county proceed with the application for the 9 million dollars. Chairman Wright stated that we need grant funds. User rates would have to be higher than \$29.50 for an average of 5,000 gallons. James Leach stated that the county has received some grants in the past. Bo Noble stated that the rules had changed. Jean Powell stated that this needed to be raised with Congressman Hayes. Mr. Noble stated that an alternative would be to remove water mains. Chairman Wright stated that everybody in Hoke County needed to be offered the chance for water. He would also like to mention this to Congressman Hayes on Friday. Jean Powell stated that improvements to the water system need to be made. We need to move forward with this and look at the total amount. Bo Noble

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stated that the county is running out of water supply. Mike Wood stated that this would still not totally cover the county.

Dennis Baxley – Public Buildings – He stated that the library addition should be put out for bid next week. The Highway Patrol wants to move back into their old building. They need a letter from the county with requirements regarding the lease and renovations. Chairman Wright stated that they still need to pay rent. He asked Dennis Baxley to calculate the rent, utilities and renovations and bring them back tomorrow. Dennis Baxley stated that the Atrium has to be moved for the Jail. It could be put up for sealed bids and moved. Chairman Wright asked about buying the lot behind the jail and moving it there for the Public Defender? Dennis Baxley stated that the lot may not be big enough for the setbacks and zoned properly. He recommended selling it and moving the Public Defender somewhere else. William Cameron made a motion to put bids out for the Atrium, seconded by James Leach, unanimously carried. Dennis Baxley stated that several people have inquired about the Health Department Building when it becomes vacant. Chairman Wright stated that DSS wants it for Transportation. This would save the county \$12,000.00 in Transportation rent. Karen Wright could be put in the WIC building. Grant money could pay back the county. If an Agriculture building is not built, Extension will need to move there. Dennis Baxley stated that the Health Department should take about 10 months to construct. Mike Wood stated that someone had called him and wanted to purchase the health department building. Dennis Baxley stated that the DSS has parking issues. They have looked at paving the front entrance. He will get the figures and bring it back to the Board. Chairman Wright asked about the paving at the Armory? Dennis Baxley stated that Ray Sistare was still working on it. Dennis Baxley stated that the stucco was falling off the district courthouse. He has a price of about \$60,000.00 to tear it off and putting on another surface. William Cameron stated that the bottom was brick. He could clear it to the brick and clean it. Dennis Baxley stated that he would bring back more information on this to the Board. He has gone out to measure for the Animal Shelter. They want to widen a portion of the building for animal control. This would go back to the pad at Solid Waste. Kim Shelton stated that new state regulations went into effect January 1st for Animal Shelters. Solid Waste wants to buy the building. He has priced a 50X100 metal building kit at about \$65,000.00. It could be put on the back of the property at the buffer. Kim Shelton stated that she would be worried about safety that far back. She would like it at or near the front of the building. Chairman Wright stated that they would talk to Don Russell about this tomorrow. Kim

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Shelton stated that the Animal Shelter was overcrowded. Dennis Baxley stated that there was \$22,000.00 in this year's budget. He will check on plans and prices and bring something back to the Board. William Cameron stated that some repairs were needed at some of the Solid Waste Convenience Sites. Mike Wood stated that Judge Pate has asked about a lock on the back door and a door to be put there at his secretary's office. Chairman Wright asked about the cage at the door of the jail? Dennis Baxley stated that they were working on it and waiting for locks that should be here in about 5 weeks. Chairman Wright stated that the Magistrate's Office looked bad. Dennis Baxley stated that he had checked on that, and there were some things that could be done this year. He stated that the DSS building needed to be painted. Dennis Baxley stated that he wanted a 50X100 building behind the Health Department. They need a central location. He is working on plans and will submit them to the Board. Chairman Wright requested that this be put in his budget.

Jim Davis with Blue Springs Community Development Corporation stated that the retreat has been wonderful. He stated that the Board was doing a good job. He stated that he is requesting that the Board incorporate Affordable Housing into the Land Use Plan. They will be coming to the Board sometime in February.

James Leach made a motion to recess until 8:00 a.m. in the morning, seconded by Jean Powell, unanimously carried. The meeting recessed at 4:15 p.m.

Recessed meeting of the Hoke County Board of Commissioners from February 2nd to February 3rd at Camp Rockfish for Board retreat.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robert Wright, Chairman

Charles Daniels, Vice Chairman

James Leach

Jean Powell

William Cameron, Jr.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mike Wood, County Manager

Linda Revels, Clerk to the Board

Chairman Wright welcomed everyone and called the meeting order.

Commissioner Cameron gave the invocation.

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William Fields, Chairman of the Hoke County Land Use Committee, presented the first draft. Patt Crissman and Ashton Slate were also present from the Wooten Company. William Fields thanked the Committee for their hard work on the Plan. He stated that they have scheduled four workshops throughout the county. They hope to present the final plan to the commissioners in March. Planning is very important to the county. With proper planning, growth goes where you want it to go. Most of the growth is in Stonewall and McLauchlin Townships. Hoke County is the second fastest growing county in the state. This plan looks at the cost of growth, the loss of farm land, open space, demand on schools, jail costs, parks and recreation, sewer needs and transportation. The number of building permits increases each year. The Land Use Plan looks at the benefits of growth such as new sources of sales tax revenue and new employment opportunities. The Land Use Plan looks at growing responsibly. Failure to regulate growth is as much a problem as over-regulating it. The committee met with several residential and commercial developers. They want the county to develop a plan and let them know what is expected of them. They are willing to help with infrastructure, land for schools and impact fees. The plan is general in nature. It also encourages dialogue with Ft. Bragg. New subdivision and zoning regulations are needed. He also showed a map that divides the county up into four areas of growth. This plan encourages conservation subdivisions with cluster development, open space and smaller lots where feasible. Sewer is needed in the eastern end of the county. We need to start creating neighborhoods and not just subdivisions. Chairman Wright thanked Mr. Fields and stated that they Board appreciated the work that the committee had put into the plan.

Mary Archie McNeill and Steve Connell presented information on Downtown Revitalization. Mrs. McNeill thanked the Board for allowing them this opportunity. She thanked the Board for their vision and leadership. They have invested in downtown. Downtown Revitalization is a part of economic development. Streetscapes will enhance property values and help with the environment. The plan entails sidewalks, lighting, streetscapes and burying overhead lines underground. It establishes a historical district downtown. Downtown is the center of activity. Steve Connell presented the plan and costs. He stated that he appreciated the support of the City and County. The project will run from Donaldson to Campbell Avenue. They are requesting money to complete the project. Burying the lines is costing a lot of money. The City has given \$55,000.00, having also received some grant money. They are approximately \$190,000.00 short. They are asking the County to participate in the project. Chairman Wright thanked Mrs. McNeill and Mr. Connell for coming.

Bill Bizzell and John Grey with the Wooten Company presented information on the sewer. Mr. Bizzell stated that he had met with the site selection committee and they will finalize their documents on the 15th. There is currently no sewer in the area for the mega site. John Grey stated that they were about 30% complete on the proposed plan of the complete design. They should be finished by July being ready for construction by September. There are two alternates for this site. Alternate #1 is to build a force main to

the main pumping station. This cost estimate is \$538,500.00. Alternate #2 is to a build force and some gravity system with an estimate of \$833,885.00. The first alternate will take about 6 months to construct with the second alternate taking about 8 months. The City of Raeford has a permit for 3 million gallons of capacity. The County has about ½ million gallons per day with about 1 million gallons per day more needed. The City is doing a study to upgrade to 4 million and gallons and a study for 5 million gallons. They hope to have a draft document in 4 to 6 weeks. There needs to be a joint meeting between the City and County. He will get more information on the gravity flow and bring it back to the Board. He thanked the Board for their time.

Bob Jessup with the Sanford Holhouser Law Firm was present. He does a lot of financial planning. The LGC puts emphasis on overall capital planning. He recommends talking to LGC about possible projects. They can talk to the county about finance. He recommends that the county compose a list of projects with what is most important with the information containing a time frame and cost. He stated that he has been working with Hoke County in the past and will be glad to lend any assistance needed. Chairman Wright thanked Mr. Jessup for coming.

Sheriff Peterkin and Chief Deputy Troy McDuffie presented information on the Sheriff's Department. He thanked the Board for this opportunity. He gave some highlights from his department. They have answered 82,000 calls for service, have done 35 drug raids, have collected \$200,000.00 in back jail fees, they established zone controls, have a K-9 program, Emergency Management and a Solid Waste Officer have been added to their department, they have a School Resource Officer with the school, they have a house check program, a gun permit program, all deputies have bullet proof vests and they are going to build a new jail. James Leach asked about part-time and overtime money. Sheriff Peterkin stated that he had asked for additional personnel in the Sheriff Office and the Jail. They have 4 people per shift. When someone is out, they have to call someone in. Money is wasted in overtime without personnel. The commissioners hired Mosley Architects for a study and the study stated that they needed additional personnel. James Leach asked about vehicles. Sheriff Peterkin stated that the deputies take their vehicles home and the supervisor has a spare vehicle that is parked at their house. Chief McDuffie stated that they do monitor overtime. Chairman Wright asked how the medical with the Health Department was working out? Captain Brewington stated that it was working well. EMS is called in for their recommendation. Chairman Wright asked if the jailers were certified to use the air packs? Freddie Johnson, Emergency Management stated that they were going to have to be trained. Captain Brewington stated that they were going to train in house. Chairman Wright stated that they needed to check with Dennis Baxley on the security fencing for the jail and cameras outside for the inmates. Chief McDuffie stated that they had addressed a lot of the safety issues. Sheriff Peterkin

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stated that the Annex booth is now manned 24 hours a day. Chairman Wright asked if supplies were sufficient? Captain Brewington stated yes, that they needed a few quilts and blankets for the inmates. They have now started charging a \$5.00 jail fee.

Freddie Johnson, Emergency Management was also present. He introduced Krystal Harvey, his new Administrative Assistant. He has received grant funds. He is waiting for federal approval on the Hazardous Mitigation Plan. He is also working on updating the Emergency Operation Plan which is 20 years old. He is working with the fire departments on a fire alarm and fire hydrant ordinance. He needs a vehicle with 4-wheel drive capability. He has written a grant for Tylertown Fire Department and they have received it for \$105,000.00. A matching grant from the county is needed in the amount of \$11,702.00. Tylertown Fire Department needs help. They do not receive enough fire taxes to operate. The county is maintaining their finances. James Leach made a motion to approve \$11,702.00 in matching funds for Tylertown Fire Department, seconded by Jean Powell, unanimously carried. Chairman Wright stated that these funds would be charged back to Tylertown Fire Department. Freddie Johnson thanked the Board.

Christina Davis-McKoy, with Blue Springs CDC, gave an update on the Affordable Housing Grant in the amount of \$75,000.00. The project was awarded in 2003. The amount of houses needed is 1,242. They are on target with the project. They will be coming back to the Board. They want to go after a \$250,000.00 grant in the spring. They are asking to be put in the budget this coming year. The amount of their budget request will be \$59,000.00. She thanked Scott Edwards for helping set up the financial information.

The Board took a lunch break.

The Board came back into session.

Bob Mercer with Social Services presented information. He stated that they have 2,840 active child support cases. They have collected \$1,795,000. They have taken 2,183 cases to court. Grace Pierce is the Interim Child Support Supervisor. They have had 244 referrals for children's services. They have 51 children in foster care. Jean Powell asked if they had any role in Group Homes? Bob Mercer stated no. They served 22,426 riders for half of the year, traveling 141,000 miles. They want to set up regions for the county. They are currently using the DSS office for a test. They will do another one. Currently the price is \$1.50 for the public to ride one way. This cost will increase due to gas prices. Chairman Wright asked why county commissioners could not use the van? Bob Mercer stated that this is rural transportation and the general public has to be able to ride. They have contacted the State and they are not funding any new building projects. They would like to have the old Health Department for DSS expansion. They could use the lobby

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their for patients instead of the DSS lobby. The cost of Medicaid in 2004 was \$1,664,796.00. They received 28,701 calls last month. Chairman Wright stated that they needed someone on the telephone. Bob Mercer stated that they would need someone who spoke Spanish. Chairman Wright asked how many lines did they have now? Bob Mercer stated 9 and that they would need about 30. He will check on this and get back to the Board.

Cynthia Oxendine was present for the Health Department. She thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as Interim Health Director. They are excited about the new Health Department. They are looking at purchasing new furniture and equipment. They are currently having a problem with maternity for Hispanics.

Don Russell was present from Solid Waste. Chairman Wright asked him about the Scurlock site. He stated that they needed to expand it. They continue to get more trash. He would rather put another truck on the road than build another convenience site. Chairman Wright asked about expanding the current Landfill site? He stated that the decision was up to the State. If seems fine for now. Chairman Wright asked if it would be better for him the get the current dog pound facilities and build a new dog pound? He stated that another road would have to be paved. Parking is becoming a problem. He is not sure he can extend the current pad there. It may have to be moved. A new dog pound would need a separate gate. Chairman Wright stated that they needed to look for another site for the Scurlock area, being close by. William Cameron stated that he would check on the current site and see if the folks at Z. V. Pate were willing to sell it.

Charles Willis was present for Vehicle Maintenance. He stated that Housekeeping needed a new vehicle. The Sheriff is still on track with rotation and is in good shape. He has about 4 or 5 spare vehicles. When new vehicles are purchased, old ones are turned in. It works well with an extra car being located at a supervisor's house for the sheriff's department.

Jimmy Carthens was present for Animal Control. He stated that his vehicles were okay. Chairman Wright asked about how many calls per month they received? He stated about 60 to 70. He gets a lot of complaints about dogs. Chairman Wright stated that they were thinking about changing the policy to check on complaints and document them if not responded to. Jimmy Carthens stated that he would prefer that they come through communications instead of the sheriff's department.

Mike Dean was present for the water department. He stated that he needed an additional dump truck. He also needs to replace a small truck. He needs two portable generators to operate wells. They are looking at changing from Radix hand meters to another touch read meter system. They may just update the current system, which ever is cheaper. Once this decision is made, they can then start on the Munis system. He would like to re-

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classify one employee – Randy Wright. Rufus Leggett is certified in distribution and Randy Wright is certified in treatment. Charles Daniels made a motion to approve the grade increase for Randy Wright to be effective for the next pay period, seconded by James Leach, unanimously carried. Chairman Wright stated that they had received complaints on the policy collection. They are looking at the PWC policy. Gwen McGougan stated that they would be getting into the next billing cycle. The Board may want to increase the deposit. Postage had doubled since the Board changed the last billing of second notices. Chairman Wright stated that he would like to see the system work. Mike Dean stated that Munis could do this, but it would be hard to do on the current system. Chairman Wright asked how much currently was the deposit? Mike Dean replied \$50.00. Charles Daniels stated that he would like to see the deposit increased to \$100.00 for water and \$150.00 for water and sewer. Chairman Wright stated that with the PWC system the cut-off would be the next day. James Leach made a motion to approve the increase of the deposit to \$100.00 for water and \$150.00 for water and sewer, changing to the PWC billing policy when they go on the MUNIS system, not to exceed 6 months, seconded by Charles Daniels, unanimously carried. The new deposit amount will be effective as of tomorrow. William Cameron made a motion to leave the late fee at \$5.00, seconded by Charles Daniels, unanimously carried. Mike Dean stated that they need a contact person at PWC. Mike Wood is to check on this and report back to the Board and Mike Dean. William Cameron asked Mike Dean if he thought they needed a FIF (Facility Investment Fee)? He stated yes that this would offset a rate increase. Mike Wood will check with Neil Yarborough to see if a public hearing is needed on this. Chairman Wright requested Linda Revels to place this on the agenda for Monday night.

The Board then went over the proposed capital projects to send to LCG and cost amounts.

1. Schools - \$14,600,000.00
2. Infrastructure - \$5,000,000.00
3. Water System – Phase V - \$9,900,000.00
4. Agriculture Complex - \$4,000,000.00
5. Parks and Recreation Center - \$2,000,000.00

William Cameron stated that the Board needed to hire someone to supervise the construction of the jail.

Jean Powell stated that they needed to have some specific items to request Congressman Hayes' assistance with tomorrow at the meeting. The three items are:

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1. Water system – 35% reduction – to reduce the amount from 9.9 million to 7.9 million
2. Sewer for the mega site – 1 million
3. Schools – Construction funds

There being no further business to come before the Hoke County Board of Commissioners, James Leach made a motion to recess until 9:00 a.m. in the morning in the Commissioner's Room, seconded by William Cameron, unanimously carried. The meeting recessed at 4:45 p.m.

Recessed Commissioner's meeting from February 3, 2005 to February 4, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioner's Room of the Pratt Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robert Wright, Chairman
Charles Daniels, Vice Chairman
James Leach
Jean Powell
William Cameron, Jr.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mike Wood, County Manager
Linda Revels, Clerk to the Board

Chairman Wright called the meeting to order.

Chairman Wright stated that he had received the lease amount information from Dennis Baxley for the old DMV for the Highway Patrol. The proposal is for \$6,35840 based on \$5.30 per/sq.ft. for 3 years. James Leach made a motion to approve the proposal to be sent to the Highway Patrol, seconded by William Cameron, unanimously carried.

The Board then went over policy changes. On the Animal Control Policy, Chairman Wright stated that the officers need to answer calls. He would like for Mike Wood to re-do the policy and put it in the commissioner's updates for review. The policies will be put on the agenda for Monday night's meeting.

They then discussed the water billing. They will change to the PWC billing policy with no second notice sent. They will still have the \$5.00 late fee. This will give the customer 25 to 45 days before cut-off, giving them more time. The deposit has increased to \$100.00 for water and \$150.00 for water and sewer. Jean Powell stated that they needed to try this and increase it if needed.

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Allen Strickland, Superintendent, came into the meeting.

Chairman Wright went over the capital needs of schools, water, sewer, agriculture complex and parks & recreation building to be sent to LGC. He stated that they were going to ask Congressman Hayes for help from the government with schools. Allen Strickland stated that he appreciated this as well as the Board of Education. He stated that they have also asked for help from the government for schools. They have not been successful. They will help keep fighting.

Congressman Robin Hayes came into the meeting.

Chairman Wright welcomed Congressman Hayes and stated that the Board appreciated his coming. He stated that the Board had prioritized some things that they wanted to discuss with him. The most pressing need is schools. They are trying to improve the schools system. Congressman Hayes asked what did you want specifically? Allen Strickland stated that schools were operating at capacity. We are growing by leaps and bounds. An elementary school is needed immediately with another one as soon as possible when that one is finished. The state nor the federal government is providing funds. Congressman Hayes asked how much would an elementary school cost? He replied about 18 million dollars. Congressman Hayes stated that he will help as much as possible. Allen Strickland stated that they needed classrooms. William Fields stated that they were maxed out in the school system. Hoke County is the second fastest growing county in the state. Jean Powell asked Congressman Hayes what was his recommendation to pursue this? He stated that they need to continue to do as they are doing now and keep him informed. Jean Powell stated that the school situation is related to growth. She stated that they also needed help with the county water system. They are looking at Phase V. USDA grant funding is not available. Chairman Wright stated that they usually get 35%. The cost is 9.9 million dollars. We also need assistance with funding for the mega-site for sewer. This will be one of the largest sites in the state. We will be bringing sewer from the City of Raeford. 1.8 million dollars is needed. This would help Hoke County economically. Wyatt Upchurch stated that Ft. Bragg has protection in Hoke County. Jean Powell stated that more recreation is also needed for young people. Most are military. Chairman Wright stated that they were looking at a Parks and Recreation Complex. James Leach stated that they wanted a central location. Congressman Hayes stated that the City of Raeford had been very successful with Downtown Revitalization. Chairman Wright thanked Congressman Hayes for his help with the new jail and health department. Chairman Wright thanked Congressman Hayes for his support. Congressman Hayes stated that he would check into these items and stated that he always enjoyed coming to Hoke County.

Mike Wood stated that with re-val, they were looking at 20 to 30 percent. He stated that he would be going to the LGC. We can generate money to retire debt. The key is to control operating expenses.

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Chairman Wright stated that they needed to advertise for a Finance Officer with the salary being negotiable. Mike Wood stated that he was advertising for an Assistant Finance Officer. William Cameron stated that the Finance Officer needed to be hired first, and then let him have input in an assistant. Scott Edwards name will have to be taken off as co-signing checks.

James Leach made a motion to go into closed session to discuss a personnel matter of the finance officer, seconded by Jean Powell, unanimously carried.

James Leach made a motion to come out of closed session and go back in regular session, seconded by William Cameron, unanimously carried.

There was no action taken in closed session.

Chairman Wright stated that a closed session would be held on Monday night to discuss the finance officer.

William Cameron made a motion that all department managers will have fixed assets done by June 30, 2005. If not, there will be no increases in their budget for monetary funds, seconded by James Leach, unanimously carried.

There being no further business to come before the Hoke County Board of Commissioners, James Leach made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jean Powell, unanimously carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Robert A. Wright, Chairman