

Meeting of the Hoke County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday, March 6, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Room of the Pratt Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

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

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

The County Attorney stated that he would like to add a closed session for a legal and personnel matter.

Motion: Jean Powell made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Robert Wright.

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing – Planning – Conditional Use

a. Application for a conditional use permit CU-07-02 for a daycare facility on Chantily Lane for Tarsha L. McRae - RA-20 zoning district – PIN 694251701107 - .935 Acres – The staff and Planning Board recommended approval. Heather Brown, Planner, stated that the application has met the findings of fact. There was no public input.

Motion: Jean Powell made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Robert Wright.

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

Motion: Tony Hunt made a motion to approve the conditional use for the daycare, seconded by Ellen McNeill.

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing – 10- year Solid Waste Plan

Don Russell, Solid Waste Director, stated this public hearing is required by General Statutes. This plan is a planning forecast of the program. It has to be updated every three years. The City has also approved this plan as they have to be a part of it. Once the plan has been approved locally, it has to be sent to the State for approval. There was no public input. Tony Hunt asked when it was sent to the State, will we get feedback? Mr. Russell stated yes. Mr. Hunt asked if there was a time limit on this plan. Mr. Russell stated it was actually late, in that he forgot about it.

Motion: Ellen McNeill made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Robert Wright.

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

Motion: Jean Powell made a motion to approve the resolution and accept the plan, seconded by Tony Hunt.

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING AND ENDORSING THE SOLID WASTE
MANAGEMENT PLAN OF 2006 FOR
HOKE COUNTY

WHEREAS, better planning of solid waste management will protect public health and the environment, provide an improved solid waste management system, better utilize and protect our natural resources and help control the rising cost of solid waste management; and,

WHEREAS, N.C. General Statute 130A-309.90A(b) requires each unit of local government to develop a 10-year comprehensive solid waste plan; and,

WHEREAS, this meeting has been held to allow public involvement;

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners does hereby approve this solid waste management plan for the County of Hoke.

Adopted this 6th day of March 2007.

James Leach, Chairman of the Board

Linda Revels, Clerk to the Board

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Consent Agenda:

- a. Minutes from the February 19, 2007 meeting
- b. Board of Education – Approval of ADM Funds
- c. Z. V. Pate – Farming Contract (Tabled from the February 19th meeting)
- d. Approval of NCACC Resolution on Medicaid Relief
- e. Approval of Church Exempt Fire Inspection Fees
- f. Approval of City of Raeford WWTP Share Cost Contract

Jean Powell stated that she would like to pull item c for discussion.

Motion: Robert Wright made a motion to approve item #'s a, b, d, e and f of the consent agenda, seconded by Ellen McNeill.

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

Jean Powell stated item #c this was tabled from the last meeting. She asked the County Attorney if he had a chance to look at it? Neil Yarborough stated that there was a mistake in the deed. Jean Powell stated that she raised a question about the deed when it was signed. The contract needs to read under #1 –Terms – current year instead of prior year. The Board can approve this lease agreement with the term prior instead of current, with him preparing a correction deed with the term prior that will correct the contract. They wanted an extension of time.

Motion: Jean Powell made a motion to approve the contract with the amendment in paragraph one reading January 2nd of the current year, seconded by Ellen McNeill.

Tony Hunt asked if the ethanol plant did not come, could they give the farming rights to someone else or do they still have them? Robert Wright stated that Z. V. Pate has the farming rights for 5 years. Jean Powell stated that they also have right of first refusal.

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

Neil Yarborough stated that he would draft the correction deed.

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING MEDICAID RELIEF FOR COUNTIES

WHEREAS, Hoke County pays \$2,454,903.00 (or) 10 percent of its expenditures for services to Medicaid eligible citizens; and

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WHEREAS, the counties share of Medicaid reimbursements has increased 96 percent since 2000 and is projected to total more than \$517 million during the 2007-08 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina is the only state in the nation that requires counties to pay a fixed share of all Medicaid services costs; and

WHEREAS, in Hoke County, 16 cents of the tax rate goes to support Medicaid and 23.7 percent of the population is Medicaid eligible; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hoke County Board of Commissioners urges the North Carolina General Assembly to provide immediate Medicaid relief to Hoke County.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the members of the General Assembly representing Hoke County.

Adopted this the _____ day of _____, 20____.

James A. Leach, Chairman

Linda Revels, Clerk to the Board (Attest)

Sheriff Peterkin gave a presentation on Southern Health Care Partners. He introduced Jeffrey Reasons and Litchard Hurley were present from Southern Health Partners. He stated that with the program they would be able to take the money for health benefits and supplies, which is about \$250,000.00 total, and get a full time LPN with no additional funds. The nurse would be at the jail 8 hours a day and on call on the weekends that would be incorporated in addition to what they are getting. Sheriff Peterkin stated that they requested a nurse in last year's budget. The nurse will be responsible for distribution of medications and packaging. She will also make the calls as to whether or not the inmates need to go to the hospital. The jail staff is not able to make that call. This company will also supply them with 1 million dollars in insurance liability and train the staff. Jeffrey Reasons, President, addressed the Board. They have been in business since 1994. They currently handle about 100 jails in 11 states. They only provide services to county jails. They have about 30 customers in North Carolina. They use basic medical equipment. They get the medical attention to the inmates to try and free up the jail staff. They also have a doctor that comes in once a week. They also reduce outside transports which is a major cost. They also provide liability insurance. He priced this several ways. The cost estimate for 90 inmates, with them picking up staffing, lab

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costs, medical supplies, over the counter medications, setting up a cost pool, paying the first \$40,000 of pharmacy outside the jail, and x-rays. It is priced at \$145,000.00. The 90 inmate cost is what they are proposing. They can start fairly soon with Board approval or in the next fiscal year. Jean Powell asked if this also included dental costs? Mr. Reasons stated yes outside costs. Sheriff Peterkin stated that they also do mental health screening. Chairman Leach stated that he attended a health care workshop at the legislative conference. Everybody is looking for a solution. These costs are very expensive. The board is going to be looking at a new direction. Chairman Leach asked the Board if they wanted to look at this now or wait until next year? Tony Hunt asked if he had done a comparison as to what this will save us and what it looks like now. Sheriff Peterkin stated that they have looked at a comparison cost. Mr. Hunt stated that he would like to recommend that the Sheriff, this company, the County Manager and the Finance Officer look at the figures and bring them back to the Board. Mike Wood stated that if this was a contract, the County Attorney would need to look at. Ellen McNeill asked if the nurse would look at HIV patients. Mr. Reasons stated yes. Chairman Leach asked if they would be taking on the liability? Mr. Reasons stated yes.

Dennis Bowen, Senior Services Director, gave a report on his programs. Hoke County is projected in the year 2030 to increase by over 200% in the 65+ population. The increase is basically the baby boomers generation. The state and county will incur a burden for services for this population. We need to plan and prepare for tomorrow. There are several major areas of concern for seniors such as: Aging/Human Services, Housing, Transportation, Health/Mental, Nutrition, Exercise, Public Safety/Emergency Services, Workforce Development, Civic Engagement/Volunteer Opportunities, Taxation and Finance. Some recommendations for the Board are: with May being designated as Older Americans month, express a commitment to make their future a bright and prosperous one, make a formal proclamation in May in recognition of Older Americans Month, conduct community forums, and appoint a planning committee to set strategies and develop a plan of action for seniors. Chairman Leach asked how many urgent care units have been done? Mr. Bowen stated in 2006 they proposed to do 20 units, which they are required to. Chairman Leach asked how much was usually spent on them? Mr. Bowen stated between \$3,500 to \$5,000 depending on the identified needs. Chairman Leach stated that winter is the most critical for citizens calling needing help. These services are behind. Mr. Bowen stated that they cannot do weatherization repairs under the urgent repair program. They are required to have a qualified housing inspector to do an assessment and work write up. They are hard to come by. Bobby Thomas is one for Hoke County. Chairman Leach asked how many people had applied? Mr. Bowen stated that they have had about 100 people apply, whereas, they can only serve about 20. They have to meet the criteria to be eligible. Chairman Leach stated that he was still getting a lot of complaints. Chairman Leach stated that he had called Mr. Bowen about 3 weeks ago to about an applicant and Mr. Bowen stated that he would go out to her home. Mr.

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Bowen stated that he did go out to the applicant's home to do the assessment. She will be the last person to be served under the program if this is the same lady they are talking about. Chairman Leach asked Mr. Bowen when did he go over and see the lady? Mr. Bowen replied last week. Chairman Leach asked if could have been this week? Mr. Bowen stated that it may have been. Tony Hunt asked what were the criteria for a qualified inspector? They have to be a North Carolina Licensed Home Inspector and a certified re-hab inspector. He comes highly recommended. We are fortunate to have him. Mr. Hunt asked if a licensed contractor would be qualified under the guidelines? Mr. Bowen stated that it would be hard to say. They would have to submit a resume to the housing finance agency. They have to approve the person. Chairman Leach asked how many contractors did we have? Mr. Bowen stated three with them being from Hoke County. Chairman Leach stated that we were not getting to them in a timely manner. The program is not doing what it needs to do for our seniors. Mr. Bowen stated that he could only do so much. Ellen McNeill asked if our building inspector could work? Mr. Bowen stated probably. Ms. McNeill asked if coordination with the building inspector and the manager would work. Mr. Bowen stated that it may work. Mr. Bowen stated that he felt that the program was working. Chairman Leach asked when seniors give donations, is the money deposited? Mr. Bowen stated that these are cost sharing contributions and they follow all the county's policies. Chairman Leach stated that the seniors are falling off. He stated that he was disappointed. Mr. Bowen stated that he would like to talk to the Chairman one on one. Tony Hunt asked if contributions were required? Mr. Bowen stated that they are required under their programs to solicit or try to encourage their participation to share in the cost. Chairman Leach stated that these were older adults and a lot of them had stopped coming because they don't have money to give. Mr. Bowen stated that there is something on the bulletin board on this. They are not required to give. Tony Hunt asked if they received federal, state or county funds? Mr. Bowen that most are federal funds. Mr. Hunt asked what was the practicality of them being located at Raeford Oil? Mr. Bowen stated that they needed more office space. Mr. Hunt stated that the Old Armory was remodeled for the purpose of the seniors. The staff is in another area. Mr. Bowen stated that they have site managers and many other programs. Mr. Bowen stated that he thought they would be moving back to the Old Armory. Ellen McNeill asked what are the other programs that he has? Mr. Bowen stated that they have more than the congregate lunch program such as, meals on wheels, chore, and funds for medical dialysis. They also help with heat and utility bills. Mr. Hunt asked if they had funds for energy assistance. Mr. Bowen stated yes. Chairman Leach asked what are the programs for the seniors in the senior room? Mr. Bowen stated that this is a meals program for seniors who are risk to be malnourished. Chairman Leach stated that he would to see them go over and spend more time for them. Mr. Bowen stated that they have tried to implement some program.

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Schedule Budget Workshops

Chairman Leach asked the County Manager when would he be ready to start? Mike Wood stated that he thought April would be good. Chairman Leach asked about the 15th – 20th. Tony Hunt stated that he would like to do afternoons or after work. Chairman Leach asked when would capital spending on projects be cut off except for operating costs for emergencies? Mr. Wood stated that he and the Finance Officer have talked about it. This can be done when the Board decides to do it. Ellen McNeill stated that a dollar amount may need to be put on the purchase with it coming through the Manager. Mike Dean with Utilities stated that a dollar amount may be a problem in that he was getting ready to make some capital purchases regarding the water system.

Motion: Tony Hunt made a motion to cease all spending except for operational expenses, with emergencies coming through the County Manager and being brought to the Board, seconded by Ellen McNeill.

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

After discussion the Board agreed to schedule a budget workshop on Thursday, April 19th starting at 5:00 p.m. The County Manager stated that they may want to hear from the big department heads on the first night and then schedule the other departments for later. James Leach requested that the Manager let them know that they need to cut their budget. Tony Hunt stated that he would like for the County Manger to instruct the departments to cut 5% off their current budget. Ellen McNeill stated that they need to do some long range planning.

Robert Wright stated that Judy Pittman, Tax Collector, needs to be put on the next agenda.

Presentation of Organization Chart

Neil Yarborough stated that any specific individuals discussed, or performance of an employee may need to be done in closed session. Broad base discussion can be done outside. Tony Hunt stated that also had a matter to discuss in closed session and he stated that the closed session needs to be done after the public input.

Public Input

1. Raven Martinez – She stated that some people’s yards look like landfills. We need to start a clean-up program such as clean sweep. Maybe the county can provide transportation for pick up. There are also a lot of condemned and abandoned buildings and trailers in Hoke County.

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She would like for the Board to pass a minimum housing ordinance. Chairman Leach asked Don Russell's opinion on the pick up. Mr. Russell stated that they did not have the equipment or trucks to pick up trash.

Motion: Robert Wright made a motion to go into closed session to discuss a legal and personnel matter, seconded by Tony Hunt.

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

Motion: Tony Hunt made a motion to come out of closed session and go back into regular session, seconded by Jean Powell.

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

The County Manager read the proposed changes to the Organizational Chart:

1. Information Technology will move back under Administration
2. Animal Control will move back under the Health Department
3. Planning and Zoning will be a department under the Manager
4. Code Enforcement and Inspections will be a department under the Manager
5. Cultural and Recreation will move under Administration
6. The Deputy Manager will move under the County Manager

Motion: Robert Wright made a motion to approve the chart as amended, seconded by Tony Hunt.

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Hoke County Board of Commissioners, Tony Hunt made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ellen McNeill, unanimously carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:17 p.m.

James A. Leach, Chairman

Linda Revels, Clerk