

Minutes of the special meeting of the Hoke County Board of Commissioners on Wednesday, March 29, 2006 at 11:30 a.m. in the Commissioner's Room of the Pratt Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robert A. Wright, Chairman
Jean Powell, Vice Chairman
James Leach

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Charles Daniels
William Cameron, Jr.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mike Wood, County Manager
Linda Revels, Clerk to the Board
Donald Porter, Executive Director, Economic Development
Don Steed, Interim School Superintendent
Hank Richards, Vice Chairman, Board of Education
Rick Sandy, President, Chamber of Commerce
Richard Douglas, City Manager
Paul Dordal, BRAC Liaison
Gil Gillaland, BRAC Liaison

Chairman Wright welcomed Mr. Dordal and Mr. Gillaland to Hoke County. Mr. Gillaland stated that they were here to get come information regarding Hoke County. The military move will not happen in 2006 or 2007; however, it has to take place by 2011. There will be over 2,000 people from the joint headquarters. The question is when they will move. They need information to take back to the military families. They are looking at the area with regards to housing, education, health costs, cost of living and the tax rates. Mr. Dordal stated that this was their first visit. They will set up a welcome command center with a web site. This will be a long term effort. The forces command center is higher end salaries. These people will contribute to the community. They are interested in the quality of life. Jean Powell stated that a lot of information was collected for the JLUS. It may be helpful. Mike Wood stated that they would get them information on Hoke County. Mr. Gillaland asked about county water. Chairman Wright stated that we were built out abut 95 to 97 per cent in the county. Mr. Gillaland stated that they will also be looking at the school situations. Don Steed stated that they have been approved for new classroom additions. The commissioners have also approved the preliminary framework for a new elementary school. Mr. Gillaland asked about jobs in the school system. Hank Richards stated that there was a teacher shortage in the entire state. Chairman Wright stated that the tax rate was 74 cents in the county. Richard Douglas stated that it is 48 cents in the City of Raeford. James Leach stated that the commissioners have also purchased land for a Parks and Recreation Center. Chairman Wright stated that they have just built a new Health Department, borrowed money for a new jail, built a new Probation and Parole Center and is building an addition to the Social Services Building. Mr. Gillaland stated that there will also be a large number of civilian families. Mike Wood asked if a military liaison committee would be

helpful? Mr. Dordal stated yes. The date should be set by the summer as to when they will move. Mr. Gilliland stated that they have been given some good information to take back. He stated that there are a lot of good things going on in Hoke County. He appreciated the Board taking the time to meet with them. Jean Powell thanked them for coming. Mr. Dordal stated that there is a lot to offer in this region.

There being no further business, lunch was served and the meeting was adjourned.

Robert A. Wright, Chairman