

Meeting of the Hoke County Board of Commissioners on Monday, May 16, 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. Chairman Wright led the Pledge of Allegiance and Rev. Billy Joe Brady gave the invocation. Rev. Brady also invited everyone to their church's groundbreaking ceremony to be held on May 29th at 11:00 a.m. on Palmer Avenue for the Evangelical Methodist Church. A meal will follow at the current church on Green Street. He would like for the Chairman to speak at the ceremony.

Chairman Wright stated that the Health Department requested that item #f under the consent be pulled. Parks and Recreation also requested that item #11 be pulled. Mike Wood stated that Attorney Yarborough would like to place a bond for a subdivision on the agenda. It was sent to zoning and did not get to the Board on time. Chairman Wright stated that this would be added as item #k under consent. Jean Powell made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by James Leach, unanimously carried.

Employee Recognition

Shawana L. James – Health Department – 5 years

Ms. James was not present. Ed Crutchfield stated that he would convey the Board's thank you to her.

Consent Agenda

- a. Minutes of the Board of E & R – 4-18-05
- b. Minutes of the Board of E & R – 5-2-05
- c. Minutes from the May 2, 2005 meeting
- d. Emergency Management – LRCOG Contract
- e. Wooten Contract
- f. MOU- Health Department
- g. Approval of Tylertown Invoices

- h. HCCBG Budget Revisions
- i. Urgent Repair Program
- j. Bid for White Goods Pad
- k. Bond – Marsh Pines Subdivision

Charles Daniels stated that he would like to pull item #e and #g. James Leach made a motion to approve item #a, b, c, d, h, i, j and k, seconded by William Cameron, unanimously carried. Mike Wood stated that he asked that they break out the conditional use and the design standards into one unit of work at \$18,000.00. A budget amendment would not be needed. The balance of the work would be contracted for next year. James Leach asked if they were able to reduce the price? He stated that the price was the same. Charles Daniels asked if the whole zoning ordinance has to be done or if it could be done in part? Mike Wood stated that part one is the conditional use and design standards, with part two being the balance of the work. They will do a unified development ordinance. This is related to the updated land use. The ordinance would better fit the land use plan. The conditional use zoning and the design standards are important and needs to be approved as quickly as possible. Attorney Yarborough stated that the Land Use part was for community involvement. The ordinance is technical. The zoning ordinance has been amended and piece milled. It would be beneficial from a legal standpoint to review the entire ordinance. William Cameron made a motion to approve the agreement with the Wooten Company, seconded by Jean Powell. The motion carried with Charles Daniels voting no. Freddie Johnson stated that he had been trying to get a Board of Directors meeting since January, with it being accomplished in April. He made it clear to the Board that future expenses would have to be approved by the commissioners. The bills are going to come in on a monthly basis. He is working on legal issues. There are some good things that are going on with Tylertown Fire Department in the future. With the budget that they have, it is just impossible to run a fire department. There are some management things that they can do to help themselves. Attorney Yarborough stated that Tylertown Fire Department does not have the funds in their account. An appropriation will have to be done. They need to talk about a long term solution. Jean Powell asked if there was a legal question about using the general fund? He stated no that they could spend general fund money. The liability insurance needs to be paid. Jean Powell asked if these were necessary and appropriate expenses? Freddie Johnson stated yes. Jean Powell made a motion that an appropriation from the general fund be made to pay these bills, seconded by James Leach. The motion carried with William Cameron and Charles Daniels voting no.

Hoke County Tax Collector's Report – 5-16-05

Tax Levy December 2004	\$ 11,024,348.59
Collected to date	10,126,750.37
Uncollected balance before releases	897,598.22
Releases to date	15,946.20

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Uncollected balance after releases	881,652.02
Deceased	
Advertising Charged	
Uncollected balance 2004 Tax Levy (1)	\$ 881,652.02
Collections April 2005	\$146,296.76
Releases October 2004	\$437.05
Percent of levy collected (receipts)	91.86%
Percent of levy collected(releases, etc.)	<u>0.14%</u>
Percent of levy collected(totals)	92.00%

PRIOR YEARS

Prior Years tax levy June 30, 2004	\$ 1,102,086.78
Collected to date	355,110.49
Uncollected balance before releases	746,976.29
Releases to date	1,359.42
Insolvent	
Deceased	
Uncollected balance prior years (2)	\$ 745,616.87
Collections April 2005	\$32,289.02
Releases April 2005	247.88
Percent Prior years collected(receipts)	32.22%
Percent pr. Yrs. Collected(releases, etc.)	<u>0.12%</u>
Percent pr. Yrs. Collected(totals)	32.34%
Total Uncollected Taxes (1+2)	\$ 1,627,268.89

2003 Taxes

Tax Levy December 2003	\$ 10,366,223.78
Collections April 2004	242,537.12
Releases April 2004	951.60
Deceased	
Percent collected (receipts)	93.44%
Percent collected (releases, Etc.)	<u>9%</u>
Percent collected(totals)	93.53%
Prior years tax levy June 2003	\$ 1,260,521.58
Collections April 2004	93,610.75
Releases April 2004	618.23
Deceased	
Insolvent	
Percent collected (receipts)	53.52%

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Percent collected(releases, etc.)	<u>36%</u>
Percent collected (totals)	53.88%

Judy Pittman stated that the totals are a down slightly from last year. She did nine bankruptcies today.

Releases

Releases – May 2005

Daniels Temple Revival – 2004 Exempt Church - \$841.59	Billy R. Locklear – 2002 MH Double Listed - \$72.40
Billy R. Locklear – 2003 MH Double Listed - \$67.74	Billy R. Locklear – 2004 MH Double-Listed - \$63.64

Total Releases - \$1,045.37

James Leach made a motion to approve the releases in the amount of \$1,045.37, seconded by Jean Powell, unanimously carried.

Refund

Jimmy W. Allen – 2246 Calloway Road – Raeford – Billing error - \$460.45

William Cameron made a motion to approve the refund in the amount of \$460.45, seconded by James Leach, unanimously carried.

Insolvent List

INSOLVENT LIST

ASKING COMMISSIONERS TO DECLARE INSOLVENT

UNDER G.S.105-373

16-May-05

Heirs Adell Bailey	112296	Real	1994	Statute of Limitations	\$117.59
Rose M Baker	109444	Real	1994	Statute of Limitations	\$218.00
Heirs James Barker	112320	Real	1994	Statute of Limitations	\$16.00

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Ernest Bethea	112359	Real	1994	Statute of Limitations	\$6.34
Heirs Lola Blue	112388	Real	1994	Statute of Limitations	\$10.00
Heirs Woodrow Blue	112392	Real	1994	Statute of Limitations	\$154.00
Ronald W. Buie	101747	Real	1994	Statute of Limitations	\$21.20
Linda Burch	109512	Real	1994	Statute of Limitations	\$139.06
Clayton Chavis	109568	Real	1994	Statute of Limitations	\$26.00
D & M Enterprises	116632	Real	1994	Statute of Limitations	\$91.00
Shelby Day	110394	Personal	1994	Statute of Limitations	\$197.95
Freddie Douglas	102374	Real	1994	Statute of Limitations	\$143.91
Heirs Annie Elliott	101245	Real	1994	Statute of Limitations	\$193.04
John Evans	102381	Real	1994	Statute of Limitations	\$112.00
Willie J Fairley	102383	Personal	1994	Statute of limitations	\$27.30
Mary Gilchrist	112865	Real	1994	Statute of Limitations	\$177.00
James Goodale	109867	Real	1994	Statute of Limitations	\$101.00
Brenda McNair Grace	110381	Personal	1994	Statute of Limitations	\$68.55
James C. Graham	112897	Real	1994	Statute of Limitations	\$20.00
Grant Morrissey	120079	Personal	1994	Statute of Limitations	\$1.82
Rosa Lee Handon	107696	Real	1994	Statute of Limitations	\$178.00
Glenn Hunt	101904	Real	1994	Statute of Limitations	\$57.33
Joseph Griffin	119859	Personal	1994	Statute of Limitations	\$84.19
Heirs Fannie Leslie	113209	Real	1994	Statute of Limitations	\$23.00
Keith Locklear	109853	Personal	1994	Statute of Limitations	\$13.51
Mary Little	120016	Personal	1994	Statute of Limitations	\$37.51
Paul McCall	113397	Real	1994	Statute of Limitations	\$164.00

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Patricia A McLaurin	101491	Real	1994	Statute of Limitations	\$17.16
Roy Lee McLean	101891	Real	1994	Statute of Limitations	\$31.30
Charlotte McNeill	113554	Real	1994	Statute of limitations	\$11.00
Heirs Janie McNeill	113562	Real	1994	Statute of Limitations	\$51.00
James McPhatter	113539	Real	1994	Statute of Limitations	\$48.00
Mid State Homes	107263	Real	1994	Statute of Limitations	\$10.27
Mid State Homes	118465	Real	1994	Statute of Limitations	\$5.00
Katie Lee Morrison	109902	Real	1994	Statute of Limitations	\$6.00
Mary Morrison	100297	Personal	1994	Statute of Limitations	\$115.29
Nellie R. Smith	120360	Personal	1994	Statute of Limitations	\$42.90
Richard T Odom Jr.	117896	Personal	1994	Statute of Limitations	\$94.60
Odes Roberson	112795	Real	1994	Statute of Limitations	\$25.03
Ronald L Hickman	116637	Real	1994	Statute of Limitations	\$5.00
Latoya Smith	113946	Real	1994	Statute of Limitations	\$24.00
Thomas & Davis	114040	Real	1994	Statute of Limitations	\$21.00
Henry Tillman	108248	Real	1994	Statute of Limitations	\$36.89
Heirs Flora M. Wilson	101714	Real	1994	Statute of Limitations	\$126.24
Calvin B Blue	165469	Personal	1993	Statute of Limitations	\$53.29
Eddie Hollingsworth	131389	Personal	1993	Statute of Limitations	\$32.14
Keith Locklear	140815	Personal	1993	Statute of Limitations	\$17.28
Machell G. McIntyre	158017	Personal	1993	Statute of Limitations	\$79.49
Christopher G. Misner	151406	Personal	1993	Statute of Limitations	\$52.18
Geoffrey W. Smith	158865	Personal	1993	Statute of Limitations	\$73.84
Shelia C. Thomas	153093	Personal	1993	Statute of Limitations	\$20.84

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Luther W. Brownlow	141479 Personal	1994 Statute of Limitations	\$79.48
Bruce A. Cobb	121923 Personal	1994 Statute of Limitations	\$46.72
Reala Hunt	121890 Personal	1994 Statute of Limitations	\$17.19
Keith Locklear	160913 Personal	1994 Statute of Limitations	\$5.30
Keith Locklear	160913 Personal	1994 Statute of Limitations	\$5.00
Willie Jr. McCaskill	129226 Personal	1994 Statute of Limitations	\$14.80
Myron McGilvary	137473 Personal	1994 Statute of Limitations	\$151.90
Anthony W. McLaurin	152404 Personal	1994 Statute of Limitations	\$21.09
Anthony W. McLaurin	158990 Personal	1994 Statute of Limitations	\$8.59
Emma S. Murchison	150434 Personal	1994 Statute of Limitations	\$10.20
Antoine T. Swain	122631 Personal	1994 Statute of Limitations	\$49.13
Sheila C. Thomas	165299 Personal	1994 Statute of Limitations	\$17.19
Sheila C. Thomas	165300 Personal	1994 Statute of Limitations	\$15.80
TOTAL REAL STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS			\$2,386.36
TOTAL PERSONAL STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS			\$1,455.07
TOTAL TO DECLARED INSOLVENT			\$3,841.43

The Insolvent List is for taxes ten years or older. It can be put back on the books if the people are found. William Cameron some of these names are familiar. Judy Pittman stated that the list was given to the Board; however, they did not have to act on it tonight. William Cameron made a motion to table the Insolvent List until the next meeting, seconded by Charles Daniels, unanimously carried.

Michael Watson with Sandhills Mental Health was present to present their 2005 – 2006 budget. He stated that they were continuing with Mental Health Reform. They are contacting out several services. There is a strong center in Hoke County with a good operation. The merger with Lee and Harnett County will come about on July 1st. This will create an eight county area. They are requesting a 5 percent increase, being \$2,770.00 more than last year. The total request is \$58,170.00. He thanked the Board for their contribution last year. Chairman Wright thanked Mr. Watson for coming.

Richard Gough and Anna McPhatter were present from Sandhills Community College to present their budget. The new facility should break ground the first of the year. It will cost about 1.10 million dollars taking about one year to complete. There will also be new programs offered. The total request is \$190,336.00 which is about \$25,000.00 more than last year. It will cover a part-time person to work evenings for longer hours, a 4% salary increase for employees, and pay for service contracts for equipment. He thanked the Board for their continuing support at the college. James Leach stated that Anna McPhatter did a good job at the college.

James Sessoms gave a presentation on Lumber River State Park. He thanked the Board for allowing him to come. The Lumber River State Park is the longest state park in the southeast United States. It encompasses 115 miles of river and 9,000 acres of land. Last year 63,879 people visited the park. The plan calls for three developed areas. They currently only have one. The second phase is called Chalk Banks, just across the county line in Scotland County. They are putting in roads, water, picnic areas, nature trails and canoeing. There will be economic benefits for Hoke County with families stopping to pick up items for the park. They anticipate drawing a lot of people from Ft. Bragg, Fayetteville and Hoke County. They are hoping to extend the park into Hoke County. They also impact the public school system by doing programs. Jean Powell stated that the Clerk has handouts on the park for the public for anyone that would like one. Mr. Sessoms stated that they hope to have a ceremony for the Chalk Banks by the early fall. If the Board has any questions or would like for him to come back, please let him know. Chairman Wright thanked Mr. Sessoms for coming.

Allen Strickland, School Superintendent was present regarding their 2005-2006 budget request. He stated that Russell Smith, Chairman of the Board of Education and Andrew Callihan, Finance Officer were also present. They appreciated the invitation to be part of the budget retreat and he thanked the Board for that opportunity. Mr. Callihan presented the 2005 – 2006 School Budget Request. The amount of ADM allotment for 2005-2006 is 6,977, which is a slight increase from last year. This coming year they need three buses and an activity bus. The worker's compensation and health insurance will increase as well as state salary increases, the cost for 500 more students and proposed decreases in State and Federal budgets. The 2005-2006 local current expenses are \$4,552,740.00. The capital outlay proposed budget is \$517,300.00 with an additional request of \$206,000.00. Mr. Callihan stated that this is a fair budget. The Board of Education looked hard at cuts in the budget. They want to maintain a healthy situation for the school. William Cameron asked about the situation for a classical school? Mr. Strickland stated that they hoped to get the entire Turlington building back once the county vacates it, for a classical high school. William Cameron asked where would the alternative school be located at? Mr. Strickland stated that they have requested to build a new elementary. Upchurch is presently overcrowded with it being redistricted,

having some space for the alternative school. They only serve about 70 students at the alternative school. James Leach stated that the Parks and Recreation has some concerns about East Hoke and West Hoke Middle regarding them not being able to use the schools. Mr. Strickland stated that if they would let him know, he would do everything to help them. Chairman Wright thanked Mr. Strickland for coming.

Ed Crutchfield, Personnel Director, was present and gave an update on the personnel study. He stated that the committee has met three times since April. They want to look at several things such as: 1 – updating the pay grade scale, 2 - fixing the pay grade scale to bring employees back on step, 3 – establishing a formula for hiring vacant positions at a higher entry level, 4 – an appropriate hourly wage increase for part-time and temporary employees and 5 – looking to add two steps (14 and 15). Some employees are off step. They are attempting to bring them back on by applying longevity. Three prior COLAs were not worked into the scale being: 2.5% in 1999, \$750.00 in 2000 and 3.0% in 2001. They still have a lot of work to do. There have been some instances where the Board has had to take action on employees that reached the top of the scale. He stated that this information will be in the Manager's proposed budget. Jean Powell asked if the report would include cost? Mr. Crutchfield stated that it would have to. The problem needs to be fixed to get people back on step. James Leach stated that he hopes the committee can make a recommendation to fix this problem. He asked if the committee had looked at other counties? Mr. Crutchfield stated that they have looked at neighboring counties. He stated that what they are proposing would put us in line with the other counties, especially the Sheriff's Department, hoping to stem the flow of turnover. Chairman Wright asked if adding a COLA to the basic salary would help? He stated tremendously. Charles Daniels stated that he is against adding the additional steps of 14 and 15. Some people are already overpaid. He is concerned for the people that are underpaid. He wants to be fair to everybody. Mr. Crutchfield stated that the low end of the scale is where the problem is. Chairman Wright stated that they appreciated the work that they had done. They need this information for the budget workshops. Mike Wood stated that he would work this into his proposed budget. He will give his budget message at the first meeting in June.

Randy Hoffman and Dave Carter of First Health were present regarding discussion of the EMS contract. James Leach asked how many units are scheduled in Hoke County? Mr. Hoffman stated 3. James Leach stated that it is taking a lot of time to pick up citizens. He is concerned about this. He asked what could be done to improve this? Mr. Hoffman stated that Hoke County has experienced a significant amount of growth. They have increased the number of ambulances in Hoke County. The distance of travel has an impact with Hoke County not having a hospital. Steps can be taken for improvement. Mr. Hoffman stated that in 2001 they were using 2 ambulances 24 hours a day. They had less volume of calls. James Leach stated that some citizens are making complaints. Mr.

Hoffman stated that they do have mutual aid with other counties. The average response time is 11 minutes, which is close to the state average. Neil Yarborough stated that the contract agreement is from October 1, 2001 and ends September 30, 2006. The agreement shall renew automatically for additional terms of five years each unless either party gives written notice of termination at least 180 days prior to the next renewal date. William Cameron stated that there may be some competition out there. Chairman Wright thanked Mr. Hoffman for coming.

Ray Sistare, County Engineer, gave an update on sewer. He stated that there are three scenarios of how sewer could be handled: 1 – Pump to the existing 401 outfall to PWC, 2 – Pump to Raeford waste water treatment plant, and 3 – Pump to lift station at Jack Britt high school PWC system. The sewer use for the 401 outfall is calculated at 468,826 gallons per day. The current PWC contract is for 500,000 gallons per day. The estimate for the east side for the length of sewer lines, the number of lift stations and the number of manholes is about \$3,000,000.00 to upgrade. The county gets to choose what goes where. This is a basic system. They could also use the 801 housing lift station with some upgrades. Charles Daniels asked if the lift station in Cumberland County wouldn't be closer? Mr. Sistare stated yes, that this is another alternative. The Raeford Plant could also treat some of it. Chairman Wright thanked Mr. Sistare for coming.

Mike Wood reported on the water bill statement situation for Shirley McNair. The McNairs were not present. There were two meters uncovered by the water department. They never received a bill, but when they did, they requested to come before the Board. William Cameron stated that Mr. McNair had come and talked to him about this situation a year ago and had gone and talked to someone at the water department. Rufus Leggett, Water Department Supervisor, stated that Mr. McNair did not get a bill due to the fact that he did not pay a deposit or an inspection fee. William Cameron asked who put the meter in? Mr. Leggett stated that the meter was put in when the tap was installed. When the water line is run, the water department puts door hangers on the doors. William Cameron asked who turned the water on? Mr. Leggett stated that whoever ran the water line. Mr. McNeil knew that when his water was turned on, he owed a bill. Ms. McNair has signed an agreement to pay by July 31st. The Board of Commissioners can agree to give them more time to pay the bill, which is approximately \$1,290.00. James Leach asked if 90 days would be okay? Mr. Leggett stated that this was the decision of the Board. Mike Wood stated that they were trying to make monthly payments. William Cameron made a motion to give the McNairs six (6) months to pay the past due amount of their water bill, keeping their current bills up to date, seconded by James Leach, unanimously carried.

Budget Amendments

Extension Service - \$11,000.00 – State Grant Funds – James Leach made a motion to approve the budget amendment, seconded by Jean Powell, unanimously carried.

Health Department - \$2,790,450.00 – Construction Loan Funds – James Leach made a motion to approve the budget amendment, seconded by Jean Powell, unanimously carried.

Contingency - \$1,000,000.00 – Southeastern Tool & Die CDGB Funds – James Leach made a motion to approve the budget amendment, seconded by Jean Powell, unanimously carried.

Medical Examiner - \$20,000.00 – Expenditures Exceeding Budget – Fund Balance – Mike Wood stated \$20,000.00 had been budgeted originally. William Cameron stated he did not think that he would spend \$40,000.00 this year. Charles Daniels stated that he agreed. This needs to be looked at. Mike Wood stated that he would look at this and bring it back.

DSS – \$7,000.00 - Professional Services

DSS - \$1,000.00 – Professional Services

DSS - \$8,794.00 – CIP Program

DSS - \$600.00 – Share the Warmth

DSS - \$305,000.00 – Medicaid

(The DSS budget amendments were tabled from the May 2nd meeting) Mike Wood stated that the major portion is from fund balance for Medicaid. James Leach made a motion to approve the DSS budget amendments, seconded by Jean Powell, unanimously carried.

Health – Family Planning - \$2,063.00 – James Leach made a motion to approve the budget request, seconded by William Cameron, unanimously carried.

Appointments

a. DSS – Charles Daniels made a motion to approve Brenda Branch, seconded by James Leach, unanimously carried.

b. City of Raeford – William Cameron made a motion to approve the recommendations from the City Council for the following Board of Adjustment members: Johnny Graham, Julian Butler, J. D. McAllister, Don Burrows and Brian Daniels, seconded by Jean Powell, unanimously carried.

James Leach asked Neil Yarborough if the changes to the Dog Ordinance would be on the next meeting? He stated yes.

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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 9:45 p.m.

Robert A. Wright, Chairman