

Meeting of the Hoke County Board of Commissioners on Thursday, September 28, 2006
at 8:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Room of the Pratt Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robert Wright, Chairman
Jean Powell, Vice Chairman
James Leach
Charles Daniels
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. Vice Chairman Powell gave the invocation.

Jean Powell made a motion to go into closed session to discuss a land acquisition, seconded by Charles Daniels, unanimously carried.

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

David Burns with Z. V. Pate was present for the meeting to discuss the property located on Highway 20 for the mega-site. Chairman Wright welcomed Mr. Burns and stated that the Board appreciated what they have done for the school system. The board wants to discuss the contract. Mr. Burns stated that they really didn't want to sell the land. Z. V. Pate became involved in this land contract several years ago. They want what is best for Hoke County for economic development. The county first wanted all of the property and then half of it. This is half of their farming area. They wanted some concessions. They want to continue to farm the land. This is some of the best farmland in the state. They are willing to help Hoke County. If the land is not needed right away, they would like to continue farming it. They would also like the timber left. This would not cost the county any more money. William Cameron asked if the timber had been appraised? Mr. Burns said no. Mr. Cameron asked how many of the 650 acres were cleared? Mr. Burns stated about 350. Neil Yarborough stated that the timber rights were in the original option. Mr. Cameron stated that the timber could be worth about 1 million dollars. Mr. Burns stated that they also wanted access to the ditches or canals because of water run-off. Neil Yarborough stated that a survey of the ditches was needed. Mr. Burns stated that this was fine. Mr. Cameron asked how soon did they want to close on this land deal? Mr. Burns stated at least by the first of next week, hopefully Monday. Neil Yarborough stated that the Board would need to vote to do a re-imbusement resolution to pay themselves back from loan proceeds. Mike Wood stated that this would be paid out of current county

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funds and then reimburse ourselves from loan funds. Charles Daniels stated that he has no problem with the deal. We need the taxes off the land. He has some reservations about the Clean Burn deal. Chairman Wright stated that the Board has made a commitment to Clean Burn. The mega-site has put Hoke County on the map. He would like to see this move forward. James Leach stated that he would like to hear from the Finance Officer regarding our finances. He is concerned about the dip in fund balance. Mike Wood stated that the cash is available. He has talked to LGC about the funds. A check from county funds has already been written. Mr. Leach stated that he is still concerned about low cash money. Mike Wood stated that we usually have a lot of cash this time of year because of taxes. William Cameron stated that they have not heard anything from Clean Burn. They need to make a commitment. David Burns stated that if the Board wanted to look at the land for another price, they are willing to do this. Chairman Wright stated that he would like for the Board to ask for a reimbursement and move forward on this contract. Mike Wood stated that if Z. V. Pate were willing to do a flexible contract, they could get the tracts as needed. Chairman Wright stated that they could not do this now. James Leach stated that they could have Clean Burn commit to a time frame. Chairman Wright stated that it could be January 1st. William Cameron stated that he agreed that a specific date was needed. Chairman Wright stated that Z. V. Pate needed to know this for farming. Neil Yarborough stated that the motion needs to consist of: a – approving a reimbursement resolution, b - approving the amended option and c – a contract with Clean Burn for a commitment date of January 1, 2007. Jean Powell stated that if Clean Burn gets the land, they will want to start construction as soon as possible. David Burns stated that he did not have a problem with this. Chairman Wright made a motion to approve the motion as recommended by the county attorney, seconded by Jean Powell. The motion carried 4 to 1 with Charles Daniels voting against. Chairman Wright stated that they need to move forward on the ditches being surveyed. William Cameron stated that this needs to be bided out. Chairman Wright made a motion to get bids on the surveying and bring them back to the Board, seconded by William Cameron, unanimously carried. James Leach stated that on the previous motion for the land he did not vote either way. The Chairman called the vote as a yes vote.

James Leach stated that Senior Services needed to move back into the Old Armory. Some of the seniors have complained about having to eat at the armory and then having to go to the old Highway Patrol building to see the staff.

William Cameron made a motion to have the County Attorney to notify Jack Carlyle with Clean Burn of the time table by Monday and report back to the Board by Monday night's commissioner's meeting, seconded by James Leach, unanimously carried. Chairman Wright requested the clerk to add this to the agenda.

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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 9:15 a.m.

Robert A. Wright, Chairman