

Meeting of the Hoke County Board of Commissioners on Monday, October 20, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Room of the Pratt Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Tim Johnson, County Manager
William Fields, County Attorney
Linda Revels, Clerk to the Board

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Tony Hunt, Vice Chairman

Chairman Leach called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Commissioner McNeill introduced Rodney Clark who led the Pledge of Allegiance and Rev. Frank Doublin who gave the invocation.

Employee Recognitions - Letitia Edens

John Pierce – 5 years – Sheriff’s Department
Darnell Jacobs – 5 years – Sheriff’s Department
Latoya Mason – 5 years – DSS
Terrence Francois – 5 years – DSS
Keyna Goodwin – 10 years – Health Department

The commissioners thanked these employees for their service to Hoke County.

Chairman Leach stated that there were some other special recognitions.

The Board recognized Linda Revels as the 2008 LRCOG 2008 Annie Kohnen Clerk of the Year. Linda Revels thanked the Board especially Chairman Leach who nominated her.

The Board recognized Wayne Ashburn with a plaque for 40 years of service with the ABC Board. The ABC Board was also present and Mr. James Conoly stated that Mr. Ashburn has done an outstanding job and hope he enjoys his retirement.

The Board also recognized Commissioner Ellen McNeill as the Ambassador of the Year for 2007-2008. The Library also received an award for Friendliest Place 2007-2008.

Planning Matters – Public Hearing - Conditional Use

a. Application for Conditional Use Permit CU-08-26 submitted by Bill Bentley for a recreation park, to be located on Stewarts Creek Dr., more specifically identified by the Hoke County Tax Records as PIN 494840401008. The property is located in an R-15 Residential District which allows a recreation park as a conditional use. The Planning Board recommended approval with additional conditions. (Continued from the October 6, 2008 meeting). Mr. Bentley was present for the request. Emily Weidner with Planning stated that they have not received a new map with boundaries or acreage as requested. She asked that it be tabled until the next meeting to get a correct map. Chairman Leach asked if Mr. Bentley knew exactly what he needed? Ms. Weidner stated yes. Mr. Bentley stated that he was told to only bring the map attached that showed the entranceway and parking with the ballfields. Ms. Weidner stated that the map that was given to the Planning Board showed the acres but the second map does not. Attorney Fields asked Mr. Bentley if he wanted to proceed with the map given to the Board or wait until the next meeting to make sure that we have everything we need? Mr. Bentley stated that the only thing he was changing was the entranceway and position of the ballfields. Mr. Fields stated that this map does not show a boundary line. Mr. Bentley stated that his property goes to the creek. Mr. Fields stated that a boundary line is important. A conditional permit use says what conditions are for operation of the property exactly as you say it is and it says that way. Without a map for this, it is hard for the Board to consider what it is that you want to do. If you go forward without the Board having what they need, you run the risk of the Board not allowing you to have the conditional use. Mr. Bentley stated that he would like to wait until he can get a map with the boundary lines. Mr. Fields asked if there was any opposition or support of this case? There was both. Mr. Fields stated that it is his understanding that Mr. Bentley wants to table this until the November 3rd meeting as recommended by the Planning staff. Jean Powell stated that some of these residents were here before. She asked if testimony could be split and taken tonight with the meeting on November 3rd? Mr. Fields asked the residents if they would like to be heard tonight or wait until the next meeting to have all the information? Arlene Mulrooney, who was in opposition to this, stated that she would like to wait until the next meeting. Dr. George Small stated that he would like to wait also.

Motion: Chairman Leach made a motion to table this request until November 3rd, seconded by Robert Wright.

Action: The motion was unanimously carried.

Mr. Fields stated that a map showing the boundary lines and acreage was needed. Larry Chavis with Planning stated that the map also needed to show the parking area and

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concessions. Mr. Fields asked that they step out to tell Mr. Bentley exactly what was needed. If Mr. Bentley has any questions before the next meeting, he can contact him or the County Manager's office.

Consent Agenda:

- a. DSS – Work First Plan
- b. Contract for John Britton – Tax Foreclosure
- c. Planning - Brooks Office Contract
- d. Budget Amendments

Motion: Robert Wright made a motion to approve the consent agenda, a – d, seconded by Ellen McNeill.

Action: The motion was unanimously carried.

Hoke County Tax Collector's Report – October 20, 2008

Tax Levy 2008	\$ 16,907,940.68
Collected to date	11,183,222.92
Uncollected balance before releases	5,724,717.76
Releases to date	7,062.15
Uncollected balance after releases	5,717,655.61
Deceased	
Advertising Charged	
Uncollected balance 2008 Tax Levy (1)	\$ 5,717,655.61

Collections September 2008	\$3,351,209.96
Releases September 2008	2,909.66
Percent of levy collected (receipts)	66.14%
Percent of levy collected(releases, etc.)	<u>4%</u>
Percent of levy collected(totals)	66.18%

PRIOR YEARS

Prior Years tax levy June 30, 2008	\$ 1,947,691.76
Collected to date	313,739.75
Uncollected balance before releases	1,633,952.01
Releases to date	749.28
Insolvent	
Deceased	
Uncollected balance prior years (2)	\$ 1,633,202.73

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Collections September 2008	\$95,811.37	
Releases September 2008	407.94	
Percent Prior years collected(receipts)	16.11%	
Percent pr. Yrs. Collected(releases, etc.)	<u>3%</u>	
Percent pr. Yrs. Collected(totals)	16.14%	
Total Uncollected Taxes (1+2)		\$ 7,350,858.34

2007 Taxes

Tax Levy July 2007	\$	15,762,736.93
Collections September 2007		618,607.75
Releases September 2007		1,443.44
Insolvent		
Percent collected (receipts)	64.67%	
Percent collected (releases, Etc.)	<u>5%</u>	
Percent collected(totals)	64.72%	
Prior years tax levy July 2006	\$	1,682,403.70
Collections September 2007		47,140.43
Releases September 2007		467.10
Deceased		
Insolvent		
Percent collected (receipts)	12.31%	
Percent collected(releases, etc.)	<u>3%</u>	
Percent collected (totals)	12.34%	

Releases:

Bartlett, Sallie – 2008	Basurto, Guadalupe – 2008
Acreage Adjustment - \$104.64	MH Double-listed - \$305.26
Wallace, Ieasha – 2005	Wallace, Ieasha – 2006
MH moved - \$137.72	MH moved - \$111.19
Wallace, Ieasha – 2007	Wallace, Ieasha – 2008
MH moved - \$114.03	MH moved - \$105.34

Total Releases:

\$878.18

Release – Chaffie C. Steele Property - \$2,537.23 – 2007-2008 – County owned since 2006

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Judy Pittman stated that the correct amount should be \$2,430.92.

Motion: Ellen McNeill made a motion to approve the releases in the amount of \$878.18 and the Chaffie Steele release in the amount of \$2,430.92, seconded by Jean Powell.

Action: The motion was unanimously carried.

Sheila Evans and Carol Walters were present to give the annual Library report. For total value of services for Hoke County's \$289,319.00 investment, the library provides services valued at \$3,954,647.00 which is a return per dollar of \$13.67. The total circulation of the library was up 50% from last year. Ms. Walters stated that for Hoke County's \$8,220.00 investment to the Sandhills Regional Library System, the Region provides \$113,236.00 in direct services which is a return per dollar of \$17.15 which does not include benefits of access to an additional \$1,000,000 in services and training. People in Hoke County appreciate the library services here in Hoke County. They also had a 3 year plan done. They want to provide better services. They met with focus groups and sent out surveys. Most of the libraries surveyed showed that they were about 35 to 40 years old and needed a makeover. Other areas were adult programs, empower the professional staff, train the staff, demonstrate fiscal responsibilities, create an overall marketing plan and promote outreach. They have received a grant for a smaller van that does not need a CDL driver. They hope to have it by about March or April to be on the road. They are extremely proud of Hoke County's library system.

Employee Christmas Bonus and Dinner – The County Manager stated that he was requesting that the Board finance the annual Christmas bonus and dinner for the employees. It has been since 2003 since any changes have been made in this policy. He asked if the Board had any questions. Robert Wright stated that this was a good idea for the increase due to the way the economy is. This also lets the employees know that the county manager is supporting them. Ellen McNeill stated that she agreed.

Motion: Robert Wright made a motion to approve the County Manager's recommendation to approve the annual employees Christmas Dinner and Christmas bonus of \$150.00 for full-time employees and \$100.00 for part-time employees, seconded by Ellen McNeill.

Action: The motion was unanimously carried.

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Appointments

Sandhills Mental Health – Bernis McLaughlin – reappointment for a 3 year term – Jean Powell stated that Mr. McLaughlin wishes to continue to serve. He has been here a long time and is a committed member. The statute requires that the person or family that serves has received some services as knowledge of the workings of the board.

Motion: Robert Wright made a motion to approve the recommendation for the reappointment of Bernis McLaughlin, seconded by Jean Powell.

Action: The motion was unanimously carried.

Chairman Leach stated that he had looked at the State's forecast on budget and asked the County Manager if we needed to look at the county budget? Tim Johnson stated that he is already looking at this and will have some recommendations to give the board. It will be necessary to take some steps for cutbacks due to shortfalls in the revenue stream.

William Fields stated that the Board had set a public hearing for the first meeting in November for the proposed subdivision ordinance changes. They are still working on the changes for the well sites. He is requesting that this public hearing be moved to the first meeting in December which is December 1st. He will get the changes to the board. Chairman Leach asked the clerk to advertise for this meeting.

Motion: Ellen McNeill made a motion to change the public hearing on the proposed subdivision changes from November 3rd to December 1, 2008, seconded by Jean Powell.

Action: The motion was unanimously carried.

There being no further business to come before the Hoke County Board of Commissioners, Robert Wright made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ellen McNeill, unanimously carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

James A. Leach, Chairman

Linda Revels, Clerk to the Board