

The Hoke County Board of Commissioners convened for a regular meeting at 7:00 pm on April 19, 2021 in the Commissioners Room in the Pratt Building.

PRESENT:

Chairman Harry Southerland
Vice Chairman Allen Thomas, Jr.
Commissioner James Leach
Commissioner Tony Hunt
Commissioner Lonnie Baldwin

ALSO PRESENT:

County Manager Letitia Edens
County Attorney Grady Hunt
Clerk to the Board Gwen McGougan

ABSENT:

None

Chairman Southerland called the meeting to order with a quorum present. Commissioner Baldwin led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mrs. Baldwin gave the Invocation.

1. Adoption of Agenda

Hoke County
Board of Commissioners



April 19, 2021
7:00 P.M.

227 N. Main Street
Raeford, North Carolina
28376

Commissioner's Room
Pratt Building

A G E N D A

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION & REVIEW 5:30

INVOCATION & PLEDGE: Commissioner Lonnie Baldwin

ITEM

1. Adoption of Agenda
2. Consent Agenda
 - a. Minutes from April 5, 2021 regular meeting
 - b. NC Vehicle Tax System pending refunds
 - c. Reappointment of Will Wright and Gwen McGougan to Southeastern Economic Development Commission Board
 - d. Finance: Budget Amendments
3. Tax Collector's Report
4. Tax Assessor's Report/Releases
5. Surplus Properties: Clerk Gwen McGougan
 - a. Accept offer of bid for lot off Stevens Street. PIN 69435-14-01-095 (declared surplus 10/17/2016)
Assessed value: \$2,300 County's cost: \$1,274.50 Bid amt: \$1,400
 - b. Authorization to advertise a bid on property located at 219 Branchwood Lane PIN 29422-00-01-236 (declared surplus 02/17/2020)
Assessed value: \$21,730 County's cost: \$4,218.22 Bid amt: \$4,216.22
 - c. Authorization to advertise a bid on property located on Jeff Road PIN 39412-00-01-058 (declared surplus on 03/18/2019)
Assessed value: \$3,500 County's cost: \$3,612.64 Bid amt: \$5,500
6. JCPC County Funding Plan for FY 2022: JCPC Coordinator Lorraine Landry
7. Consideration of proposed changes to Utilities Department System Development Fees: Utilities Director Hilton Villines
8. Presentation of Proclamation recognizing Nation Volunteer Week: Cooperative Extension Director Howard Wallace
9. Hoke County Health Department State of the County Report: Health Director Helene Edwards
10. Presentation of Paychex Payroll Solution: Finance Officer E.J. Prevatte

- 11. Manager's Report
- 12. Chairman's Report
- 13. Closed Session
- 14. Adjourn

Chairman Southerland asked if anyone had any changes to the agenda. No changes were requested.

Motion: Upon motion by Commissioner Leach and second by Commissioner Baldwin the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

2. Consent Agenda

- a. Minutes from April 5, 2021 regular meeting
- b. NC Vehicle Tax System pending refunds

4-19-21

North Carolina Vehicle Tax System														
NCVTS Pending Refund report														
Parcel Type	IF (If Available)	Agency	Address 1	Address 2	Address 3	Assessed	Legal Description	Class	Amount	Refund Amount	Refund Date	County	Assessed	Refund Amount
BEAR		485 LEACH RD	BRUNSWICK NC 27814			000174937	SPB2378	AUTHORIZED	1,438.00	Refund Committed due to adjustment on 04/07/2021	04/07/2021	COU	158.41	32.00
DELATAH										Refund		COU	121.41	25.00
Total Refund 305.41														
DEPRE LE JUSTIN PEABEE		117 LOUANA DR	RAEFORD NC 28374			000174608	BS3331	AUTHORIZED	1,437.00	Refund Committed due to adjustment on 04/07/2021	04/07/2021	COU	158.41	32.00
Total Refund 320.00														
EVANS SHANE ROBERT		606 LEWIS ST	RAEFORD NC 28374			000173451	CSD1348	AUTHORIZED	1,436.00	Refund Committed due to adjustment on 04/07/2021	04/07/2021	COU	158.41	32.00
Total Refund 320.00														
FOWLES PATRICE		PO BOX 70078	ATLANTA GA 30374			020718721	T017405	AUTHORIZED	1,436.00	Refund Committed due to adjustment on 04/07/2021	04/07/2021	COU	158.41	32.00
Total Refund 320.00														
WARHANO TOMMY		2202 STONEGATE DR	RAEFORD NC 28374			000173068	RA52175	PENDING	1,436.00	Refund Committed due to adjustment on 04/07/2021	04/07/2021	COU	158.41	32.00
Total Refund 320.00														
W/O ATLANTIC DISPONAL NC INC		317 WOODLAW RD	RAEFORD NC 28374			000173754	JL6378	AUTHORIZED	1,436.00	Refund Committed due to adjustment on 04/07/2021	04/07/2021	COU	158.41	32.00
Total Refund 320.00														
ATLANTIC DISPONAL NC INC		317 WOODLAW RD	RAEFORD NC 28374			000174485	H03375	PENDING	1,436.00	Refund Committed due to adjustment on 04/07/2021	04/07/2021	COU	158.41	32.00
Total Refund 320.00														
W/O ATLANTIC DISPONAL NC INC		426 MILL WOOD LN	ASHEBORO NC 28815			000173268	F033709	PENDING	1,436.00	Refund Committed due to adjustment on 04/07/2021	04/07/2021	COU	158.41	32.00
Total Refund 320.00														
PRICE JEREMY MICHAEL		676A SANDY RD	RAEFORD NC 28374			000173164	AH6336	AUTHORIZED	1,436.00	Refund Committed due to adjustment on 04/07/2021	04/07/2021	COU	158.41	32.00
Total Refund 320.00														
RACDALE MARTIN		516 COLLEGE DR	RAEFORD NC 28374			000174728	HL0882	AUTHORIZED	1,436.00	Refund Committed due to adjustment on 04/07/2021	04/07/2021	COU	158.41	32.00
Total Refund 320.00														
YONK LOU ANN		547 GUYMON RD	ASHEBORO NC 28815			000173493	T003072	AUTHORIZED	1,436.00	Refund Committed due to adjustment on 04/07/2021	04/07/2021	COU	158.41	32.00
Total Refund 320.00														
STEPHENS LUCIENE		1208 CLAY CAMPBELL DR	RAEFORD NC 28374			000173911	HFC1668	AUTHORIZED	1,436.00	Refund Committed due to adjustment on 04/07/2021	04/07/2021	COU	158.41	32.00
Total Refund 320.00														
WATKINS BONNIE ANN		108 STAFF ST	RAEFORD NC 28374			000173841	T013362	AUTHORIZED	1,436.00	Refund Committed due to adjustment on 04/07/2021	04/07/2021	COU	158.41	32.00
Total Refund 320.00														
Total Refund 1403.90														

Total refund 1403.90
4-19-21

North Carolina Vehicle Tax System														
NCVTS Pending Refund report														
Parcel Type	IF (If Available)	Agency	Address 1	Address 2	Address 3	Assessed	Legal Description	Class	Amount	Refund Amount	Refund Date	County	Assessed	Refund Amount
LAD PENA MARCEL		918 CACO COURT #2C	FAVETTEVILLE NC 28333			000174540	793112	AUTHORIZED	1,436.00	Refund Committed due to adjustment on 04/07/2021	04/07/2021	COU	158.41	32.00
Total Refund 320.00														
MATHIWE CAROL BAFFER		108 WOODMAN BAFFER	ASHEBORO NC 28815			000173748	15P1376	AUTHORIZED	1,436.00	Refund Committed due to adjustment on 04/07/2021	04/07/2021	COU	158.41	32.00
Total Refund 320.00														
STANLEY WILLIAM CALVIN		436 MILL WOOD LN	ASHEBORO NC 28815			000173170	1C81668	AUTHORIZED	1,436.00	Refund Committed due to adjustment on 04/07/2021	04/07/2021	COU	158.41	32.00
Total Refund 320.00														
STEPHENS TYLER JOSEPH		366 DAWFLETT ILLIACHTH	RAEFORD NC 28374			000173974	HL18115	PENDING	1,436.00	Refund Committed due to adjustment on 04/07/2021	04/07/2021	COU	158.41	32.00
Total Refund 320.00														
SWANER MICHAEL THOMAS		602 C PROSPECT AVE	RAEFORD NC 28374			000173973	YHC410	AUTHORIZED	1,436.00	Refund Committed due to adjustment on 04/07/2021	04/07/2021	COU	158.41	32.00
Total Refund 320.00														
Total Refund 4262.84														

Total refund 4262.84

c. Reappointment of Will Wright and Gwen McGougan to Southeastern Economic Development Commission Board

d. Finance: Budget Amendments

AMENDMENT TO THE HOKE COUNTY BUDGET ORDINANCE
2020/2021
Amendment

Section 1 of the Hoke County Budget Ordinance, pertaining to the General Fund operations of the County, shall be amended as follows:

Increase/(Decrease) Appropriations:

Governing Body	37,662
Administration	37,418
Grants Management	1,200
Tax Collection	1,800
Department of Motor Vehicle	12,200
Information Technology	28,758
Public Buildings	8,325
Sheriff	160,855
Jail	49,248
Jail	(49,248)
Inspections	18,043
Planning & Zoning	12,692
Health Administration	47,914
DSS Administration	110,930
Non Departmental	(477,797)

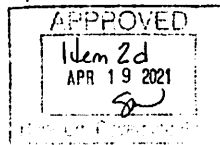
Total \$ -

This amendment:

- To transfer salary accrual from the non-departmental line item to departments that did not have lapse salary and prevent overspending.

Funding Source: Non-Departmental Salary Accrual

Submitted: 04-19-2021



Respectfully Submitted by:
Heaven Jones
Assistant Finance Director

Approved by:
Christal Edens
County Manager

AMENDMENT TO THE HOKE COUNTY BUDGET ORDINANCE
2020/2021
Amendment

Section 1 of the Hoke County Budget Ordinance, pertaining to the General Fund operations of the County, shall be amended as follows:

Increase/(Decrease) Appropriations:

Title XX	(5,631)
Title XX	20,000
Public Assistance	110,678
Total	\$ 125,047

Section 2 of the Hoke County Budget Ordinance, pertaining to the General Fund operations of the County, shall be amended as follows:

Increase/(Decrease) Revenues:

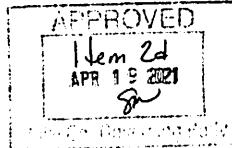
Social Services	110,678
Social Services	20,000
Social Services	(5,631)
Total	\$ 125,047

This amendment:

- To adjust Social Services budget to reallocate crisis intervention funds and Covid-19 LIEAP funds

Funding Source: Additional State funds

Submitted: 04-19-2021



Respectfully Submitted by:
[Signature]
Assistant Finance Director

Approved by:
[Signature]
County Manager

Motion: Upon motion by Commissioner Hunt and second by Vice Chairman Thomas the Board voted unanimously to approve Consent items 2a-2d.

3. Tax Collector's Report

Tax Collector Daphne Dudley presented the Tax Collector's Report:

HOKE COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT
April 19, 2021

Tax Levy 2020	\$29,312,051.44
Additons to Levy YTD	\$1,110,896.02
Total 2020 Levy to Date	\$30,422,947.46
Refunds 2020	\$84,721.06
Releases/Abatements	\$12,467.88
Discounts	\$417,572.61
Adjustments	\$490.24
Write Offs	\$173.98
Advertising Charged 2020 Tax Bills	\$0.00
Collectable Levy to Date	\$30,413,903.82
Collected To Date	\$29,202,653.37
Uncollected Balance 2020 Tax Levy	<u>\$1,211,260.45</u>

Collectons March 2021	\$726,658.38
Releases March 2021	\$35.54
Percent of Levy Collected (Receipts)	98.02%
Percent of Levy Collected (Releases, Etc)	0.04%

Prior Years Tax Levy March 2021	\$2,118,980.67
Prior Years Collected in March 2021 To Date	\$768,656.89
Uncollected Balance Before Releases	\$1,350,424.98
Refunds	\$915.31
Releases/Abatements	\$2,190.84
Discounts	\$0.00
Adjustments	\$705.00
Write Offs/Insolvent	\$2,540.70
Uncollected Balance Prior Years	<u>\$1,347,385.64</u>

Prior Years Collected in March 2021	\$134,239.34
Releases Prior Years March 2021	\$12.53
Percent Prior Years Collected (Receipts)	38.27%
Percent Prior Years Collected (Releases Etc)	0.16%
Total Uncollected Taxes	<u>\$2,658,815.99</u>

2019 Taxes

Tax Levy March 2020	\$29,586,282.64
Collectons March 2020	\$441,314.24
Releases March 2020	\$66.67
Percent Collected (Receipts)	94.52%
Percent Collected (Releases Etc.)	0.07%
Prior Years Tax Levy March 2020	\$2,170,903.70
Collectons March 2020	\$120,558.60
Releases March 2020	\$1,054.19
Insolvent	
Percent Collected (Receipts)	39.90%
Percent Collected (Releases,Etc.)	0.43%

4. Tax Assessor's Report/Releases

Tax Assessor Jennie Gibson presented the following tax release requests:

04/09/2021 15:15 9698jg1b	COUNTY OF HOKE RELEASES - 04/19/2021 TO 04/19/2021									1 tncsrapt
OWNER NAME AND ADDRESS	CAT YEAR PROPERTY REASON	BILL	RFP DATE JUR	REF NO	VALUE	CHARGE	AMOUNT			
239714 MCWROB, MICHAEL M. 709 SAUNDERS ST RANFORD, NC 28376	PP 2020 15602 RELEASES MOBILE HOME SOLD IN 2019	2602	04/19/2021 4	68500	0	COU F03 OOUL F03L	41.03 4.92 4.10 .49 ----- 50.54			
104438 WHITBECK, DOUGLAS C WHITBECK, JACQUELINE C 500 OVERLAKE DR RANFORD, NC 28376-0000	PP 2020 13684 RELEASES BOAT SOLD IN 2019	3803	04/19/2021 4	68501	0	COU F03 OOUL F03L	21.45 2.97 2.15 .26 ----- 26.43			
DETAIL SUMMARY	COUNT: 2	RELEASES - TOTAL			0		76.97			

Motion: Upon motion by Commissioner Leach and second by Vice Chairman Thomas the Board voted unanimously to approve the Tax Assessor's release requests totaling \$76.97.

5. Surplus Properties: Clerk Gwen McGougan

Clerk Gwen McGougan presented three Resolutions concerning the sale of Surplus Property:

- a. Accept offer of bid for lot off Stevens Street, PIN 69435-14-01-095

Harry Southerland
Chairman
Allen Thomas, Jr.
Vice Chairman
James Leach
Commissioner
Tony Hunt
Commissioner



Lonnie Baldwin
Commissioner
Grady Hunt
County Attorney
Letitia Edens
County Manager
Gwen McGougan
Clerk to the Board

HOKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION

ACCEPTING OFFER OF BID FOR SURPLUS PROPERTY

WHEREAS, the Hoke County Board of Commissioners declared the following property as surplus:
Parcel #694351401095 – off Stevens Street (undeveloped lot) – Raeford Township, and

WHEREAS, the Hoke County Board of Commissioners has received and proposes to accept an offer to sell to Joe L. Christian for \$1,400 for an undeveloped lot off Stevens Street – Raeford Township – Parcel ID Number 694351401095; and

WHEREAS, public notice of the intent to sell the above described property was published as required by law; and

WHEREAS, no upset bid has been received.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Hoke County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the execution of the necessary documents in order to sell the above described property to Joe L. Christian, 415 Stevens Street, Raeford, NC 28376, for the purchase price of \$1,400 and to deliver and receive the appropriate documents.

Adopted this 19th day of April, 2021.


Harry Southerland, Chairman


Gwen McGougan, Clerk to the Board

Motion: Upon motion by Vice Chairman Thomas and second by Commissioner Hunt the Board voted unanimously to accept the offer of \$1,400 from Mr. Joe L. Christian for the undeveloped parcel known as PIN 69435-14-01-095 off Stevens Street.

- b. Authorization to advertise a bid on property located at 219 Branchwood Lane

Harry Southerland
Chairman
Allen Thomas, Jr.
Vice Chairman
James Leach
Commissioner
Tony Hunt
Commissioner



Lonnie Baldwin
Commissioner
Grady Hunt
County Attorney
Letitia Edens
County Manager
Gwen McGougan
Clerk to the Board

HOKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION

AUTHORIZING THE ADVERTISEMENT OF AN OFFER TO PURCHASE CERTAIN PROPERTY

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Hoke desires to dispose of certain surplus property of the County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners that:

1. Parcel #29422-00-01-236 – 219 Branchwood Lane – Blue Springs Township Property is hereby declared to be surplus to the needs of the County.
2. The Board of Commissioners has received an offer to purchase for the sum of \$4,216.22 for this piece of property.
3. The Board of Commissioners proposes to accept this offer unless an upset bid shall be made.
4. The person making the offer shall deposit with the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners a sum equal to five percent (5%) of the offer. Such deposit shall be forfeited if the bid is withdrawn and the successful bidder shall pay the purchase price.
5. The Clerk shall cause a notice of such offer to be published in accordance with North Carolina General Statute §160A-269.
6. The Clerk is directed, should a qualifying upset bid be received within ten (10) days from the publication of said notice in accordance with NCGS §160A-269, to re-advertise the offer at the increased upset bid amount.
7. The Board of Commissioners reserves the right to reject any and all offers at any time.

This 19th day of April, 2021.

Harry Southerland, Chairman

Gwen McGougan, Clerk to the Board

c. Authorization to advertise a bid on property located on Jeff Road

Harry Southerland
Chairman
Allen Thomas, Jr.
Vice Chairman
James Leach
Commissioner
Tony Hunt
Commissioner



Lonnie Baldwin
Commissioner
Grady Hunt
County Attorney
Letitia Edens
County Manager
Gwen McGougan
Clerk to the Board

HOKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION

AUTHORIZING THE ADVERTISEMENT OF AN OFFER TO PURCHASE CERTAIN PROPERTY

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Hoke desires to dispose of certain surplus property of the County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners that:

1. Parcel #39412-00-01-058 – Jeff Road – Blue Springs Township Property is hereby declared to be surplus to the needs of the County.
2. The Board of Commissioners has received an offer to purchase for the sum of \$5,500 for this piece of property.
3. The Board of Commissioners proposes to accept this offer unless an upset bid shall be made.
4. The person making the offer shall deposit with the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners a sum equal to five percent (5%) of the offer. Such deposit shall be forfeited if the bid is withdrawn and the successful bidder shall pay the purchase price.
5. The Clerk shall cause a notice of such offer to be published in accordance with North Carolina General Statute §160A-269.
6. The Clerk is directed, should a qualifying upset bid be received within ten (10) days from the publication of said notice in accordance with NCGS §160A-269, to re-advertise the offer at the increased upset bid amount.
7. The Board of Commissioners reserves the right to reject any and all offers at any time.

This 19th day of April, 2021.

Harry Southerland, Chairman

Gwen McGougan, Clerk to the Board

Motion: Upon motion by Commissioner Hunt and second by Commissioner Leach the Board voted unanimously to approve advertisement of a bid of \$4,216.22 for the property at 219 Branchwood Lane, known as PIN 29422-00-01-236 and a bid of \$5,500 for an undeveloped property on Jeff Road known as PIN 39412-00-01-058.

6. JCPC County Funding Plan for FY 2022: JCPC Coordinator Lorraine Landry

Hoke County JCPC Coordinator Lorraine Landry presented the proposed JCPC County Funding Plan for FY 2022:

\$50,000	Project Reverso Teen Court Program
39,000	Maggie's Outreach Community Dev Y.E.S. Community Service & Restitution
37,590	MOCEDC Rebuilding the Dream Structured Day Program
29,012	MOCEDC Road to Success Mentoring Program
9,700	JCPC Administration Budget

\$165,302	Total Allocated Funds for Hoke County FY 2021-2022

Mrs. Landry added that, if the County continues including the \$10,000 match for FY 2022, the funds will be applied toward Teen Court and MOCEDC to assist with their continued operational costs. She continued by reminding those in attendance that JCPC funds are not intended to be the sole source of income for the participating programs.

Teen Court Coordinator Brandy McPherson said that the program is flourishing. During last fiscal year, the program increased their measurable objectives by 60%. The program had a 0% recidivism rate from youth that had successfully completed the program.

Attorney James Allen added that Attorney King Blue will be taking over the role of Director for Hoke County's Teen Court.

7. Consideration of proposed changes to Utilities Department System Development Fees: Utilities Director Hilton Villines

Utilities Director Hilton Villines presented an Analysis Supporting System Development Fees. The document was prepared by LKC Engineering. The System Development Fees pay for future infrastructure projects.

Commissioner Hunt added that the law has changed over the past couple of years. Systems used to collect Facility Investment Fees to provide funds needed to expand and maintain the system. The developer shared in the cost to bring the water or sewer to their project. Now the cost to bring the main lines to the development is borne by the County. The present System Development Fees are not sufficient to pay for the expansion of the system to the projects throughout the County.

Chairman Southerland added that the residential growth in Hoke County has made expansion of services, including infrastructure, necessary.

Mr. Villines said that, previously, with the Facility Investment Fees, the County was able to collect the fees early in the project from the developer. Under the new regulations System Development Fees are collected from the builder later in the project.

Commissioner Hunt said that the Utilities Committee wants to prioritize making sewer available to Rockfish Hoke Elementary School. The school has long dealt with issues with their septic system and they have invested a lot of money to keep it going until County sewer is available.

Mr. Villines concurs with LKC's recommendation of the County's System Development Fees:

Table 9: Summary of Recommended SDF

Utility	Current Charge (3BR House)	Proposed SDF	Percent Increase
Water	\$820.00	\$1,800.00	120%
Sewer	\$1,200.00	\$1,600.00	33%
Combined	\$2,020.00	\$3,400.00	68%

Motion: Upon motion by Commissioner Hunt and second by Commissioner Leach the Board voted unanimously to set the Sewer Development Fee for water at \$1,800 and sewer at \$1,600, effective immediately.

8. Presentation of Proclamation recognizing Nation Volunteer Week: Cooperative Extension Director Howard Wallace

Chairman Southerland recognized the Hoke County Cooperative Extension Director, Mr. Howard Wallace. Mr. Wallace introduced the Cooperative Extension's 4-H Life Skills Program Assistant, Ms. Gina Daniels.

Ms. Daniels said that the Extension averages over 400 volunteers participating across all the Extension programs in a non-Covid year. Ms. Daniels read aloud the following Proclamation in observance of National Volunteer Week:

**North Carolina Cooperative Extension
HOKE COUNTY
2021 National Volunteer Week Proclamation
By the Hoke County Board of Commissioners**

WHEREAS, North Carolina Cooperative Extension of Hoke County, a unit of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension System housed at North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University provides research-based education and technical assistance on issues that have helped agriculture producers establish North Carolina as a leading agriculture producing state; 4-H youth development reach millions of youth and help prepare them for responsible adulthood by equipping them with citizenship and leadership skills; family and consumer sciences prepare people for healthy, productive lives and breaking the cycle of poverty; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina Cooperative Extension in Hoke County engages with rural and urban learners through practical, community-based, and online approaches, resulting in the acquisition of knowledge, skills, and motivation to strengthen the profitability of animal and plant production systems, protect natural resources, help people make healthy lifestyle choices, ensure a safe and abundant food supply, encourage community vitality and prepare the next generation of leaders; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Hoke County Center, recognizes the service of approximately 350 volunteers during National Volunteer Week, April 18-24, 2021 and acknowledges that volunteers are full and part-time workers, retirees, young adults; men and women of all ages and backgrounds, who provide countless hours of selfless service; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina Cooperative Extension Hoke County Center volunteers have been the backbone of educational outreach programs, spending their time, talents, extensive knowledge, and experience to mentor our children, beautify our green spaces, protect the quality of our land and water, improve health and enhance the overall quality of life of Hoke County residents;

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Hoke County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim April 18-24, 2021 National Volunteer Week in Hoke County and thank all of the volunteers who support the work of North Carolina Cooperative Extension in Hoke County. In North Carolina, Hoke County, and commend this observance to all.

Proclaimed at the regular meeting of the Hoke County Board of Commissioners, in the city of Raeford, NC, this, the 19th day of April, 2021.


Chairman


Clerk to the Board



Several Extension volunteers were in attendance and posed for pictures with the Board of Commissioners.

9. Hoke County Health Department State of the County Report: Health Director Helene Edwards

Health Director Helene Edwards introduced Mr. Tony Locklear, Quality Assurance Coordinator with the Hoke County Health Department. Mr. Locklear summarized this year's State of the County Health Report for the Board. The report is for 2020.

- The leading cause of death in Hoke in 2020 was heart disease,
- Increases in the number of deaths from Alzheimer's Disease and Suicide, and
- In 2020, Hoke County had 2,744 positive COVID cases, with 73 hospitalizations and 36 COVID-related deaths

Mr. Locklear said the longtime goals of the Community Health Improvement Plan include Teen Pregnancy Prevention and a reduction in Sexually Transmitted Diseases. Short term goals will focus on Cancer Prevention and Cardiovascular Disease.

The Health Department is beginning three new initiatives:

- Partnering with Tia Hart Recovery to continue the syringe exchange program and provide Naloxone to reverse opioid overdoses,
- Triple P Parenting Program, and
- Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies

Commissioner Leach commented that the study shows Males are dying at a faster rate than Females. Ms. Edwards said that men are less likely to go to the doctor and often fail to take prescription medicine as directed.

Ms. Edwards added that exercise, healthy eating, and checkups are essential to good health.

Chairman Southerland commended Ms. Edwards and her staff on the outstanding job they have done during the Pandemic. People from as far away as New York have been vaccinated at the Hoke County Health Department because vaccines were unavailable in their locations. Chairman Southerland said that he wants to prioritize vaccinations for Hoke County residents.

Ms. Edwards said that the Health Department is taking walk-ins for the vaccine daily from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm.

Commissioner Baldwin added that men need to get their health screenings.

10. Presentation of Paychex Payroll Solution: Finance Officer E.J. Prevatte

Finance Officer E.J. Prevatte told the Board that he is investigating outsourcing payroll later this year. This will make the payroll process faster and more efficient. Our present system requires that we submit the payroll to the bank three days before payday. If we have a holiday, often someone must work over the weekend to ready the payroll to submit to the bank. In addition, last year several Finance employees were out at the same time due to COVID, creating a problem preparing the payroll.

Mr. Prevatte presented a PowerPoint presentation from Paychex Payroll Solution. A self-service payroll is available to give employees access to pay advices, W-2s and benefits information. The company has the flexibility to pay via direct deposit or live check. They will file the Federal and State taxes on behalf of the County. They can provide quarterly reports and annual reports. There is a module to track certifications and notify the employee when their certification needs to be renewed.

Paychex Payroll Solution has quoted the County a price of \$1,116.52 per payroll. This equates to an approximate cost to the County of \$31,000 per year. This is significantly lower than the cost to add a new employee's salary and benefits. Mr. Prevatte said the program would go live next Fiscal Year.

Commissioner Hunt asked if the County was moving their bank accounts to PNC. Mr. Prevatte replied that this would only require moving the payroll account. Central Depository and all other accounts would remain at Lumbee Guaranty. Payroll Paychex Solution recommended a larger bank to enable the ability to originate the ACH real-time.

Commissioner Baldwin asked if the fees will be charged one time or per payroll. Mr. Prevatte said that there are one-time fees, but the service will be charged per payroll.

Motion: Upon motion by Commissioner Hunt and second by Vice Chairman Thomas the Board voted unanimously to approve the contract with Paychex Payroll Solution for payroll processing for Hoke County.

11. Manager's Report

County Manager Letitia Edens advised the Board that all departments have submitted their FY 21-22 Budget. She has met with most department heads to review their submissions. She will prepare her recommended budget from the department budgets for the Board before the Budget Workshops. She will submit the official balanced Manager's Recommended Budget by June 1, 2021. There is no plan to increase taxes or use Fund Balance money to balance the budget.

12. Chairman's Report

Chairman Southerland spoke about the issue with litter in Hoke County. The Sheriff's Department will work with the Board to identify the source of the litter. The County has a contract with a company to pick up litter. They work 4 days per week but are unable to keep up. The Chairman, as well as the other Board members, have received numerous complaints about litter in Hoke County.

The Board of Commissioners is hosting a countywide Hoke County Cleanup Day on June 5, 2021. (Note: since this meeting the date was changed to June 12, 2021) Cleanup Day will be organized by the Board of Commissioners and Staff and will be carried out by volunteers. A planning meeting for staff and volunteers will be held on June 5, 2021 at the Robert A. Wright Hoke County Agricultural Building.

Commissioner Hunt said it was a great initiative and he plans to participate.

Vice Chairman Thomas thanked the Chairman for leading this project. He said that the litter in Hoke County is embarrassing. He supports the Board and the community working together to solve this problem.

Commissioner Baldwin said he wonders how much the Solid Waste Impact Fees affect the presence of couches, etc on the side of the road. The fees can hinder citizens from taking their large trash to the landfill.

12. Closed Session

No Closed Session was held.

13. Adjourn

Motion: There being no further business to come before the Hoke County Board of Commissioners, and upon motion by Vice Chairman Thomas and second by Commissioner Hunt, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm.


Gwen McGougan, Clerk to the Board


Harry Southerland, Chairman

