

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

PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Commissioner Tony Hunt

Chairman Southerland opened the meeting with a quorum. Vice Chairman Thomas led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the Invocation.

1. Adoption of Agenda

Hoke County
Board of Commissioners

227 N. Main Street
Raeford, North Carolina
28376



June 7, 2021
7:00 P.M.

Commissioner's Room
Pratt Building

A G E N D A

INVOCATION & PLEDGE: Vice Chairman Allen Thomas, Jr.

ITEM

1. Adoption of Agenda
2. Public Comment
3. Public Hearings: Planning Matters

Public Hearing Items

- a. Application for General Use Rezoning RZ-21-8 submitted by J&K General Contractors to rezone an approximately 6.25 acre unaddressed parcel known as Hoke County Parcel Identification Number (PIN) 494550001386. The property is currently zoned Residential Agricultural (RA-20) and the applicant requests to rezone the property to Highway Commercial (HC). **The Planning Board unanimously recommended approval.**
- b. Application for General Use Rezoning RZ-21-9 submitted by Ralph Huff to rezone the approximately 93.66 acre unaddressed parcel known as Hoke County Parcel Identification Number (PIN) 494460001129 and a 23.86 acre portion of the 92.48 acre parcel known as PIN 494450001001. The properties are currently zoned Residential Agricultural (RA-20) and the applicant requests to rezone the properties to Residential (R-8). **The Planning Board unanimously recommended approval.**
- c. Application for General Use Rezoning RZ-21-10 submitted by Ralph Huff to rezone an approximately 69.72 acre unaddressed parcel known as Hoke County Parcel Identification Number (PIN) 494550001013. The property is currently zoned Residential Agricultural (RA-20) and the applicant requests to rezone the property to Residential (R-8). **The Planning Board recommended approval (5-1)**
- d. Application for Conditional Use Permit CU-21-5 submitted by Janice Locklear for the use of "Restaurant" on the approximately 1.00 acre parcel located at 187 N. Hilltop Road also known as Hoke County Parcel Identification Number (PIN) 384920001112. The property is currently zoned Residential Agricultural (RA-20). **The Planning Board unanimously recommended approval.**

Subdivisions

- e. Preliminary plat amendment request submitted by 4D Site Solutions for the 166 lot major subdivision located at the 44.01 acre portion of the unaddressed parcel known as Hoke County Parcel Identification Number (PIN) 494560301008. The property is zoned Conditional Use District (CUD) 12-01. This one was approved by the Board of Commissioners at their April 2021 meeting. At that time it was approved for 131 lots. They have adjusted the density and are increasing the total number of lots from 131 to 166. **The Planning Board unanimously recommended approval with one (1) abstention.**
- f. Preliminary plat amendment approval request submitted by 4D Site Solutions for the 33 lot major subdivision named Woodhaven located at the 27.89 acre unaddressed parcel known as Hoke County Parcel Identification Number (PIN) 794730001348. The property is zoned Residential Agricultural (RA-20). **The Planning Board unanimously recommended approval with one (1) abstention.**
- g. Preliminary plat approval request submitted by 4D Site Solutions for the 61 lot major subdivision named Townsend Estates located at the 25.75 acre portion of the unaddressed parcel known as Hoke County Parcel Identification Number (PIN) 494550001072. The property is zoned Residential (R-8). **The Planning Board unanimously recommended approval with one (1) abstention.**

- h Preliminary plat approval request submitted by 4D Site Solutions for the 80 lot major subdivision named Graceland Subdivision located at the 55.8 acre parcel located at 774 TC Jones Road also known as Hoke County Parcel Identification Number (PIN) 494740001122. The property is zoned Residential Agricultural (RA-20). The Planning Board unanimously recommended approval with one (1) abstention.
- i Preliminary plat approval request submitted by 4D Site Solutions for the 18 lot major subdivision named Johnson Estates Subdivision located at unaddressed parcels known as Hoke County Parcel Identification Number (PIN) 494830101001, 494830101002 and 494830101092, 24.85, 25.12 and 0.73 acres respectively. The properties are zoned Residential Agricultural (RA-20). The Planning Board unanimously recommended approval with one (1) abstention.
- j Preliminary plat approval request submitted by Double D Engineering for the 64 lot major subdivision named Carolina Crossing located at the 40 acre parcel located at 1685 N Horace Walters Road also known as Hoke County Parcel Identification Number (PIN) 584950001059. The property is zoned Residential Agricultural (RA-20). The Planning Board unanimously recommended approval.
- k Preliminary plat approval request submitted by Double D Engineering for the 67 lot major subdivision named Waters Meadow located at the 44 acre parcel located at 2496 N Horace Walters Road also known as Hoke County Parcel Identification Number (PIN) 584950001044 and 584950001045. The property is zoned Residential Agricultural (RA-20). The Planning Board unanimously recommended approval.
- l Preliminary plat approval request submitted by Moorman, Kizer & Rietzel for the 117 lot Phase 5 of the major subdivision named Bedford Subdivision located at the 55.15 acre unaddressed parcel known as Hoke County Parcel Identification Number (PIN) 494660101005. The property is zoned Residential (R-8). The Planning Board unanimously recommended approval.

4. Consent Agenda

- a Minutes from May 3, 2021 regular meeting
- b NC Vehicle Tax System pending refunds
- c Health Department copier lease contract
- d Letter of Intent to City of Raeford for bulk water purchase
- e RFP for Design-Build Services for new HATS Facility
- f Finance Budget Amendments

5. Reappointment of Ophelia Ray and Will Wright to Lumber River Workforce Development Board

6. Manager's Report

7. Chairman's Report

8. Adjourn

Motion: Upon motion by Commissioner Leach and second by Vice Chairman Thomas the Board voted 4-0 to adopt the agenda as submitted.

2. Public Comment

Robin Bush
(no address given)

Ms. Bush said that Parcel Identification Numbers are not adequate. There needs to be a map attached to the agenda indicating the areas to be rezoned.

County Attorney Grady Hunt advised Ms. Bush that a 911 address is used if available. If not, the parcel can be viewed in the Hoke County GIS system using the Parcel number.

Ellen Bradford
300 Reservation Road
Aberdeen, NC

Ms. Bradford believes that the number of subdivisions should be limited. Rural areas should remain rural.

Jim Davis
(no address given)

Mr. Davis thanked the Board for their leadership and for the Community Building to be built in the Bowmore area. Wants the "dirt roads committee" reinstated.

3. Public Hearing Items/Planning Matters

- a. Application for General Use Rezoning RZ-21-8 submitted by J&K General Contractors to rezone an approximately 6.25 acre unaddressed parcel known as Hoke County Parcel Identification Number (PIN) 494550001386. The property is currently zoned Residential Agricultural (RA-20) and the applicant requests to rezone the property to Highway Commercial (HC). **The Planning Board unanimously recommended approval.**

Chairman Southerland said he'd received a call from the applicant asking to table this matter until the next available date. They cannot attend this meeting.

Motion: Upon motion by Vice Chairman Thomas and second by Commissioner Baldwin the Board voted 4-0 to table Item 3a until the July meeting.

- b. Application for General Use Rezoning RZ-21-9 submitted by Ralph Huff to rezone the approximately 93.66 acre unaddressed parcel known as Hoke County Parcel Identification Number (PIN) 494460001129 and a 23.86 acre portion of the 92.48 acre parcel known as PIN 494450001001. The properties are currently zoned Residential Agricultural (RA-20) and the applicant requests to rezone the properties to Residential (R-8). **The Planning Board unanimously recommended approval.**

Planner Robert Farrell advised the Board that this property is located behind the Walmart on Club Pond Road. David Upchurch, Double D Engineering, representing Ralph Huff, was available for questions.

Motion: Upon motion by Vice Chairman Thomas and second by Commissioner Baldwin the Board voted 4-0 to close the Public Hearing.

Motion: Upon motion by Vice Chairman Thomas and second by Commissioner Baldwin the Board voted 4-0 to approve the Application for General Use Rezoning RZ-21-9.

- c. Application for General Use Rezoning RZ-21-10 submitted by Ralph Huff to rezone an approximately 69.72 acre unaddressed parcel known as Hoke County Parcel Identification Number (PIN) 494550001013. The property is currently zoned Residential Agricultural (RA-20) and the applicant requests to rezone the property to Residential (R-8). **The Planning Board recommended approval (5-1)**

Mr. Farrell said the parcel is located on Townsend Road. Larry King, Larry King & Associates, representing Ralph Huff, was available for questions.

Motion: Upon motion by Vice Chairman Thomas and second by Commissioner Baldwin the Board voted 4-0 to close the Public Hearing.

Motion: Upon motion by Vice Chairman Thomas and second by Commissioner Baldwin the Board voted 4-0 to approve the Application for General Use Rezoning RZ-21-10.

- d. Application for Conditional Use Permit CU-21-5 submitted by Janice Locklear for the use of "Restaurant" on the approximately 1.00 acre parcel located at 187 N. Hilltop Road also known as Hoke County Parcel Identification Number (PIN) 384920001112. The

property is currently zoned Residential Agricultural (RA-20). **The Planning Board unanimously recommended approval.**

Mr. Farrell told the Board that the property is located at the corner of N. Hilltop Road and Laurinburg Road. There is a residential structure on the property, occupied by the Applicant. Applicant Janice Locklear said that it would be a walk-up restaurant. There will be no inside seating.

Motion: Upon motion by Vice Chairman Thomas and second by Commissioner Baldwin the Board voted 4-0 to close the Public Hearing.

Motion: Upon motion by Commissioner Leach and second by Commissioner Baldwin the Board voted 4-0 to approve the Application for General Use Rezoning RZ-21-10 subject to the conditions named by Mr. Farrell, including approval by the Hoke County Inspections Department and the Hoke County Environmental Health Department.

- e. Preliminary plat amendment request submitted by 4D Site Solutions for the 166 lot major subdivision located at the 44.01 acre portion of the unaddressed parcel known as Hoke County Parcel Identification Number (PIN) 494560301008. The property is zoned Conditional Use District (CUD) 12-01. This one was approved by the Board of Commissioners at their April 2021 meeting. At that time it was approved for 131 lots. They have adjusted the density and are increasing the total number of lots from 131 to 166. **The Planning Board unanimously recommended approval with one (1) abstention.**

Mr. Farrell said that the Engineers and Developers made changes to the density of the lots, permitting more lots in the same footprint. Chris Pusey, 4D Site Solutions, said the project changed developers and it was noted that the Plat could be changed.

Speakers:

- o Robin Bush spoke against the addition, referencing education and public safety.
- o David Frump asked if this development will be served by County water & sewer. Mr. Farrell confirmed that it will be.

Motion: Upon motion by Vice Chairman Thomas and second by Commissioner Leach the Board voted 4-0 to close the Public Hearing.

Motion: Upon motion by Vice Chairman Thomas and second by Commissioner Baldwin the Board voted 4-0 to approve the Preliminary Plat Amendment for the 44.01 acre parcel known as PIN 494560301008.

- f. Preliminary plat amendment approval request submitted by 4D Site Solutions for the 33 lot major subdivision named Woodhaven located at the 27.89 acre unaddressed parcel known as Hoke County Parcel Identification Number (PIN) 794730001348. The property is zoned Residential Agricultural (RA-20). **The Planning Board unanimously recommended approval with one (1) abstention.**

Mr. Farrell said that a change in the fire code enables the developers to make an amendment to this plat. Mr. Pusey said that the development will change from having one entrance on Phillipi

Church Road and a secondary entrance on Koonce Road to having only the one main entrance on Phillipi Church Road.

Speakers:

- o Ken Gregory expressed concern about the large number of houses being constructed in the area and the ability of the water infrastructure to keep up with the growth. He is also concerned about overcrowding in the area schools.
- o Robin Bush said she was concerned that the prices of new houses exceeds what the average Hoke County resident can afford. She is concerned that the growth will change the character of Hoke County.

Motion: Upon motion by Vice Chairman Thomas and second by Commissioner Baldwin the Board voted 4-0 to close the Public Hearing.

Motion: Upon motion by Vice Chairman Thomas and second by Commissioner Baldwin the Board voted 4-0 to approve the Preliminary Plat Amendment for the 33 lot major subdivision named Woodhaven.

Vice Chairman Allen Thomas, Jr. said that he wanted the public to know that the Board appreciates their input.

- g. Preliminary plat approval request submitted by 4D Site Solutions for the 61 lot major subdivision named Townsend Estates located at the 8.8 acre portion of the unaddressed parcel known as Hoke County Parcel Identification Number (PIN) 494550001072. The property is zoned Residential (R-8). **The Planning Board unanimously recommended approval with one (1) abstention.**

Mr. Pusey advised the Board that this is a high-density development and will have stormwater controls. County water and sewer is available for this project.

Speakers:

- o David Frump asked if the subdivision will connect to the County sewer system. Mr. Pusey confirmed that it would.
- o Ellen Bradford asked if the chicken houses shown on the GIS map are in use. Mr. Pusey said that they are no longer there.

Motion: Upon motion by Vice Chairman Thomas and second by Commissioner Baldwin the Board voted 4-0 to close the Public Hearing.

Motion: Upon motion by Vice Chairman Thomas and second by Commissioner Baldwin the Board voted 4-0 to approve the Preliminary Plat for the 61 lot major subdivision named Townsend Estates.

- h. Preliminary plat approval request submitted by 4D Site Solutions for the 80 lot major subdivision named Graceland Subdivision located at the 55.8 acre parcel located at 774 TC Jones Road also known as Hoke County Parcel Identification Number (PIN) 494740001122. The property is zoned Residential Agricultural (RA-20). **The Planning Board unanimously recommended approval with one (1) abstention.**

Mr. Farrell advised the Board that the property is located at the intersection of T.C. Jones Road and Pittman Grove Church Road. The development will be served by County water; however, County sewer is not available so the homes will have individual septic tanks.

Mr. Pusey said that there is a wetlands area that divides the property. A portion of the wetlands area will not perc, but it can be used as lawns or play area.

Speakers:

- o Ken Gregory said the residential growth is overloading the agricultural areas with septic tanks.

Motion: Upon motion by Commissioner Leach and second by Vice Chairman Allen Thomas, Jr. the Board voted 4-0 to close the Public Hearing.

Motion: Upon motion by Vice Chairman Thomas and second by Commissioner Baldwin the Board voted 4-0 to approve the Preliminary Plat for the 80 lot major subdivision named Graceland Subdivision.

- i. Preliminary plat approval request submitted by 4D Site Solutions for the 18 lot major subdivision named Johnson Estates Subdivision located at unaddressed parcels known as Hoke County Parcel Identification Number (PIN) 494830101001, 494830101002 and 494830101092, 24.85, 25.12 and 0.73 acres respectfully. The properties are zoned Residential Agricultural (RA-20). **The Planning Board unanimously recommended approval with one (1) abstention.**

Mr. Farrell said the property is located at the intersection of Mumford Road and Pittman Grove Church Road in the Davis Bridge area. There is a gas line easement near the center of the property. Part of the area is in a flood zone. The wetlands area cannot be developed. The project will be served by County water and individual septic tanks.

Motion: Upon motion by Commissioner Leach and second by Vice Chairman Allen Thomas, Jr. the Board voted 4-0 to close the Public Hearing.

Motion: Upon motion by Vice Chairman Thomas and second by Commissioner Baldwin the Board voted 4-0 to approve the Preliminary Plat for the 18 lot major subdivision named Johnson Estates Subdivision.

- j. Preliminary plat approval request submitted by Double D Engineering for the 64 lot major subdivision named Carolina Crossing located at the 40 acre parcel located at 1685 N Horace Walters Road also known as Hoke County Parcel Identification Number (PIN) 584950001059. The property is zoned Residential Agricultural (RA-20). **The Planning Board unanimously recommended approval.**

Mr. Farrell said the project is located in the Five Points area near the intersection of Horace Walters Road and Neil Sinclair Road. The project will be served by County water. County sewer is not available in this area of the County.

David Upchurch, P.E. with Double D Engineering, was in attendance and available for questions.

Speakers:

- Robin Bush said that she was in favor of this and the next subdivision on the agenda, but she has concerns about the safety of the roads in that area and about the sustainability of water pressure in the area after the new homes are added. High-speed internet is not available.
- Ken Gregory is concerned about fire protection and low water pressure in the area. The infrastructure in Hoke County needs to be improved.

Mr. Upchurch said that there may be low water pressure areas in Hoke County, but this area isn't likely one of them. There is a water tank in the area and the water lines are adequate to support the usage in the area. With regard to high-speed internet, prospective home buyers will not purchase where high-speed internet is not available.

- Mike Cain, 1302 N. Horace Walters Road, said that he does have low water pressure at his address. He is concerned that the number of septic tanks to serve all these homes will adversely affect the Lumber River.
- David Frump said that the western part of Hoke County has always been intended to remain agricultural. He is also concerned about increased traffic accidents in the Five Points area.

Mr. Upchurch said the water pressure in the area is 45 psi, which is adequate for fire protection.

- (Female attendee-no name given) asked the Board to visit the sites and observe the traffic flow and consider the effect the development will have on the area.

Motion: Upon motion by Vice Chairman Thomas and second by Commissioner Leach the Board voted 4-0 to close the Public Hearing.

The Board discussed the need for more information before making a decision whether to approve or deny the plat approval. Mr. Farrell said that the Board may be acting in an administrative capacity and denial of the request would require a statement giving the specific reason for denial.

Motion: Due to the proximity of the locations of items 3j and 3k, and upon motion by Vice Chairman Thomas and second by Commissioner Baldwin the Board voted 4-0 to table this item, 3j, and the next item on the agenda, 3k, until the August 2, 2021 Board of Commissioners regular meeting.

- k. Preliminary plat approval request submitted by Double D Engineering for the 67 lot major subdivision named Walters Meadow located at the 44 acre parcel located at 2496 N Horace Walters Road also known as Hoke County Parcel Identification Number (PIN) 584950001044 and 584950001045. The property is zoned Residential Agricultural (RA-20). **The Planning Board unanimously recommended approval.**

- I. Preliminary plat approval request submitted by Moorman, Kizer & Reitzel for the 117 lot Phase 5 of the major subdivision named Bedford Subdivision located at the 55.15 acre unaddressed parcel known as Hoke County Parcel Identification Number (PIN) 494660101005. The property is zoned Residential (R-8). **The Planning Board unanimously recommended approval.**

Mr. Farrell advised the Board that this is the last phase of Bedford Subdivision. Existing roads will be connected which will improve access for emergency vehicles; however the roads within the development are private and there could possibly be a gate constructed that would limit vehicular access.

Speaker:

- o William Sutherland, representing the residents of Bedford, said that the development was sold as a gated community. There is only one entrance into the subdivision, and is used by all residents, delivery vehicles and school buses. Mr. Sutherland said that he believes that, if the additional 117 lots are approved, the developer should be required to add another entrance, address the traffic concerns within the development and install sidewalks. He is concerned about the structure of the Restrictive Covenants for Bedford.
- o (Female attendee-no name given) said that Bedford needs another entrance and security for the neighborhood.
- o Jeff Pottabaum shared earlier concerns and expressed concern about the use of the HOA fees.

Engineer Jimmy Kizer said that he was there concerning the approval of Phase 5, so he could not answer the questions regarding the Restrictive Covenants or the HOA fees. Bedford was a master planned community and presented to the Board of Commissioners in 2007. Original plans called for more than 500 lots. After the last section is complete the lots will total slightly more than 400. The Department of Transportation required a traffic impact analysis before the development could be approved. As phases are constructed, additional improvements to the entrance will be required. The access points at the back of the subdivision were intended to be for emergency use only. There was no plan to interconnect those streets with streets in other developments. The new phase will have 2 stormwater ponds. Curbs, gutters and sidewalks will be constructed.

Motion: Upon motion by Vice Chairman Thomas and second by Commissioner Baldwin the Board voted 4-0 to close the Public Hearing.

Chairman Southerland and Vice Chairman Thomas commented on the limited authority the Board has over Restrictive Covenants and HOAs.

Motion: Upon motion by Vice Chairman Thomas and second by Commissioner Baldwin the Board voted 4-0 to approve the preliminary plat for Phase 5 of Bedford Subdivision.

4. Consent Agenda

- a. Minutes from May 3, 2021 regular meeting
- b. NC Vehicle Tax System pending refunds
- c. Health Department copier lease contract
- d. Letter of Intent to City of Raeford for bulk water purchase
- e. RFQ for Design-Build Services for new HATS Facility
- f. Finance Budget Amendments

Motion: Upon motion by Vice Chairman Thomas and second by Commissioner Leach the Board voted 4-0 to approve the Consent Agenda.

5. Reappointment of Ophelia Ray and Will Wright to the Lumbee River Workforce Development Board

Motion: Upon motion by Commissioner Leach and second by Vice Chairman Thomas the Board voted 4-0 to reappoint Ms. Ophelia Ray and Mr. Will Wright to the Lumbee River Workforce Development Board.

6. Manager's Report

Saturday, June 12, is Community Litter Day. Volunteers will choose the area where they pick up the litter.


The auditors have started work on the pre-audit for FY 2021.

7. Chairman's Report

No report was given.

8. 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 Leach, the Board voted 4-0 to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 pm.



Gwen McGougan, Clerk to the Board



Harry Southerland, Chairman



The Hoke County Board of Commissioners convened for a special meeting at 7:00 pm Thursday, June 10, 2021 in the Commissioners Room in the Pratt Building. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the restoration of the Tylertown Fire Department.

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:

Chairman Southerland opened the meeting with a quorum. Dr. Bronson gave the Invocation.

Hoke County Fire Marshal Bryan Marley gave a presentation explaining the importance of the ISO Fire Rating. Insurance companies use the ISO rating when calculating homeowner's insurance premiums. The ISO rating is determined by the State Fire Marshal based upon:

- Department-staff, training and proximity to the area that it serves,
- Water supply,
- Emergency Communications system, and
- Community outreach and fire prevention

Mr. Lee Kennedy, with the State of NC Fire Marshal's office, said that, if the Tylertown Fire Department was returned to service, the ISO rating would start out at a 10. After being in service, and meeting certain criteria along the way, the rating may be lowered. After the department compiles one year's worth of hose testing, they may qualify for a 9S rating.

Mr. Marley said that he has provided an ISO checklist for the department to go by. Mr. Marley added that the department will need to re-establish their district and enter into a Contract for Services with the Hoke County government.

Mr. Kennedy added that the district lines are now determined by parcel lines.

County Attorney Grady Hunt said that a Public Hearing must be held to give the public a chance to give their opinions before the Board can make a decision to reopen the Tylertown Fire Department.

Mr. Hervon McCollum, representing the Tylertown community, spoke to the Board. The community wants to re-form the fire department so that they will have first responders in their neighborhood that can respond to calls quickly.

Mr. McCollum said that he's traveled throughout the state acquiring equipment to be used by the fire department. They have acquired trucks, hoses and turn-out gear. A group of volunteers have begun training.

Members of the Tylertown community spoke in support of the restoration of the community's fire department.

Commissioner Hunt suggested that the Board allow the Manager, the County Attorney and Mr. Marley set up a timeline for the Board of the things that need to be done and when they need to be done to make sure all legal requirements are met.

Chairman Southerland added that the Public Hearing is a critical part of the process.

Mr. McCollum suggested that the district be based upon the old boundary lines.

Adjourn

Motion: There being no further business to come before the Hoke County Board of Commissioners, and upon motion by Commissioner Leach and second by Commissioner Baldwin, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm.


Gwen McGougan, Clerk to the Board


Harry Southerland, Chairman



The Hoke County Board of Commissioners convened for a special meeting at 7:00 pm Monday, June 14, 2021 in the Commissioners Room in the Pratt Building. The purpose of the meeting was to hold a Public Hearing for the FY 2022 Budget.

PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Commissioner Lonnie Baldwin (conflict with Health Board meeting)

Chairman Southerland opened the Public Hearing with a quorum. Commissioner Leach gave the Invocation.

County Manager Letitia Edens reviewed the Manager's Recommended Budget with the Board. The proposed budget is based upon the tax rate, unchanged from last year, of .75 (per \$100). The Manager's budget is balanced and the General Fund budget totals \$57,610,706. Following is the Manager's Letter:

Letitia J. Edens
County Manager



Phone: (910) 875-8751 ext. 1530
Fax: (910) 875-7651
humanresources@hokecountync.gov

To: Hoke County Board of Commissioners
Harry Southerland, Chairman
Allen Thomas Jr., Vice Chairman
James Leach, Commissioner
Tony Hunt, Commissioner
Lonnie Baldwin, Commissioner

From: Letitia J. Edens, County Manager

Date: 05/28/2021

The proposed budget is one that intends to maintain and support the current level of service while operating at the current tax rate of .75 (per 100).

Manager's recommended budget totals \$ 57,610,706 and is presented with the following assumptions in the General Fund

New Positions

• Grant Mgt.	Grants Mgt. Admin.	62/1	\$31,457
• Audio Maintenance	Audio Maintenance Tech.	62/1	\$31,457
• Building Inspections	Building Inspector III	75/1	\$59,317
• Health Administration	Public Health Nurse II	73/1	\$53,802
• Health Administration	Public Health Nurse II	73/1	\$53,802
• Health Administration	Processing Asst. III	59/1	\$27,174
• DSS	SW IAT/QA (TL)	71/1	\$48,800
• DSS	IMC III/QA (TL)	65/1	\$36,416
• DSS	IMC I FNS/Energy (TL)	61/1	\$29,949

Regrades/Reclassifications

• All Sheriff Deputies Regraded 15% No Cola			
• Regrade/Reclassification Nutritionist II to WIC Director	72/5	\$55,180	
• Regrade Nutritionist I from grade 68	70/3	\$47,638	
• Regrade/Reclassification Nutritionist III to Nutritionist I	70/1	\$46,477	
• DSS - Regrade/ Reclassify and Reclass OA III to OA IV	61/1	\$29,959	

• DSS –Regrade/Reclassify Personnel Tech I to Personnel Tech II	66/5	\$42,206
• DSS – Regrade/Reclassify Administrative Officer I to Administrative Officer II	71/10	\$60,945
• DSS – Regrade/ Reclassify Social Program Mgr. to Social Work Admin. I	75/6	\$67,112
• DSS- Regrade/Reclassify Administrative Asst.IE to Processing Asst. V	63/1	\$33,030

Other County Funding Activity

- \$500.00 (FT) \$300.00 (PT) \$100.00 (new employees FY) Christmas Bonus for employees
- 2.5% COLA

Hoke County School Funding

Recommended funding for the Hoke County School System current expense is based on \$ 600.00 per student @ 9,500 students for a total of \$ 5,700,000.

Capital Outlay Recommendation \$ 1,004,000

- Technology 1:1 Initiative - \$ 600,000
- Other School Projects - \$ 404,000

Additional County Department Vehicles

Grant Management - 1
 Building Inspection - 2
 Sheriff - 5
 HATS - 2
 Soil & Conservation - 1

Hoke County Enterprise Funds

Public Utilities \$ 8,570,171

No Fee Increase Water or Sewer

Capital Outlay

\$245,943

Vehicles

2

Solid Waste - \$3,301,799

- The Solid Waste Collection Fees reflect a change from \$128 to \$130.00 per Household
- The Solid Waste Transfer Station Tipping Fee reflects \$50.75 to \$52.75 per ton.

Capital Outlay

\$212,500

Speaker:

Christopher Holland: Mr. Holland was concerned that the County was hiring new employees instead of contracting for some of the County's services. He believes that this would save the County money in the long run.

Motion: Upon motion by Commissioner Hunt and second by Commissioner Leach the Board voted 4-0 to close the Public Hearing.

Commissioner Hunt asked the Manager if the sewer extension and backbone sewer line project at Rockfish is included in the budget. Mrs. Edens replied that the Highway 211 Widening and Water Line Upgrade is included in the proposed budget. Assistant Finance Officer Garvin Ferguson said that the project Commissioner Hunt is referring to will require a Budget Amendment with the Utilities Fund Balance as the revenue source.

Commissioner Hunt asked the Board to consider giving Hoke County Schools an additional \$200,000 for capital outlay in addition to the amount already budgeted.

Mrs. Edens advised the Board that two fire districts, Stonewall and Hillcrest, have requested increases of their tax rates to .10.

Chairman Southerland said that he is concerned about the Rockfish sewer extension and backbone sewer line project not being included in the budget. Mrs. Edens replied that funding sources are being considered, including funds from the American Rescue Plan Act. She will assemble that information and bring back to the Board at a later date. Commissioner Hunt added that the County recently sent a letter to Raleigh requesting approximately \$15M in funds for these projects. The hope is that at least some of the funds requested are approved.

Mrs. Edens told the Board that another meeting is planned for Wednesday, June 23. This meeting will be the Board's opportunity to request changes to the Manager's proposed budget. A follow-up meeting will be held on Monday, June 28 to review the changes made to the proposed budget. The plan is to adopt the budget at that meeting.

Adjourn

Motion: There being no further business to come before the Hoke County Board of Commissioners, and upon motion by Commissioner Hunt and second by Commissioner Leach, the Board voted 4-0 to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm.


Gwen McGougan, Clerk to the Board


Harry Southerland, Chairman

