

The Hoke County Board of Commissioners convened for a regular meeting at 7:00 pm on Monday, July 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 opened the meeting with a quorum. Mr. Andrew Jacobs led the Pledge of Allegiance and Ms. Lena Green gave the invocation.

1. Adoption of Agenda

Hoke County
Board of Commissioners

227 N. Main Street
Raeford, North Carolina
28378



July 19, 2021
7:00 P.M.

Commissioner's Room
Pratt Building

A G E N D A

INVOCATION & PLEDGE: Commissioner James Leach

ITEM

1. Adoption of Agenda
2. Consent Agenda
 - a. Minutes from June 7, 2021 regular meeting
 - b. Minutes from June 10, 2021 special meeting
 - c. NC Vehicle Tax System pending refunds
 - d. Hoke ESFR21 Procurement & Disbursement policy
 - e. Hoke ESFR21 Assistance Policy
3. Tax Collector's Report
4. Tax Assessor's Report/Releases
 - a. Release request from Ms. Charlotte Gibson
 - b. Presentation of 2022 Schedule of Values
5. Grant Items: Grants Manager Andrew Jacobs
 - a. National Service Line Warranties of America deposited \$20,000 to our account as royalties for our participation in their warranty campaign here in Hoke County, asking the BOC to accept the funds.
 - b. North Carolina Emergency Management Tier II LEPC Competitive Grant, \$10,000, requesting the BOC accept funds.
 - c. North Carolina Emergency Management Tier II LEPC Non-Competitive Grant, \$1,000 requesting the BOC accept funds.
 - d. Southeastern Economic Development Commission Product Development Grant, \$10,000 requesting the BOC accept funds.
 - e. Butterball Bus Stop Agreement (Signature Needed)
6. Budget Amendments: Garvin Ferguson
7. Chairman's Report
8. Manager's Report
9. Adjourn

Chairman Southerland asked if there were any changes needed to the agenda.

Motion: Upon motion by Commissioner Leach and second by Vice Chairman Thomas the Board voted unanimously to adopt the agenda as presented.

2. Consent Agenda

- a. Minutes from June 7, 2021 regular meeting
- b. Minutes from June 10, 2021 special meeting
- c. NC Vehicle Tax System pending refunds
- d. Hoke ESFR21 Procurement & Disbursement policy
- e. Hoke ESFR21 Assistance Policy

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

3. Tax Collector's Report

Tax Collector Daphne Dudley presented the Tax Collections report for the month of June, 2021:

<u>HOKE COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT</u>		
<u>July 19, 2021</u>		
Tax Levy 2020		\$29,312,051.44
Addtoms to Levy YTD		\$1,110,896.02
Total 2020 Levy to Date		\$30,422,947.46
Refunds 2020		\$86,892.90
Releases/Abatements		\$14,331.56
Discounts		\$417,572.61
Adjustments		\$536.34
Write Offs		\$217.43
Advertising Charged 2020 Tax Bills		\$2,934.00
Collectable Levy to Date		\$30,412,066.24
Collected To Date		\$29,495,803.21
Uncollected Balance 2020 Tax Levy		<u>\$816,263.03</u>
Collections June 2021	\$85,292.15	
Releases June 2021	\$1,781.19	
Percent of Levy Collected (Receipts)		86.99%
Percent of Levy Collected (Releases, Etc.)		0.05%
Prior Years Tax Levy June 2021		\$2,118,980.67
Prior Years Collected in June 2021 To Date		<u>\$888,891.32</u>
Uncollected Balance Before Releases		\$1,129,989.35
Refunds		\$2,302.62
Releases/Abatements		\$4,729.17
Discounts		\$0.00
Adjustments		\$708.53
Write Offs/Insolvent		\$18,648.22
Uncollected Balance Prior Years		<u>\$1,125,781.48</u>
Prior Years Collected in June 2021	\$69,356.73	
Releases Prior Years June 2021	\$2,513.81	
Percent Prior Years Collected (Receipts)		46.67%
Percent Prior Years Collected (Releases Etc.)		0.42%
Total Uncollected Taxes		<u>\$2,047,064.49</u>
	<u>2019 Taxes</u>	
Tax Levy June 2020		\$29,566,282.64
Collections June 2020		<u>\$295,619.09</u>
Releases June 2020		\$0.00
Percent Collected (Receipts)	98.33%	
Percent Collected (Releases, Etc.)	0.07%	
Prior Years Tax Levy June 2020		\$2,140,903.70
Collections June 2020		<u>\$87,666.58</u>
Releases June 2020		\$0.00
Insolvent		
Percent Collected (Receipts)	42.57%	
Percent Collected (Releases, Etc.)	0.46%	

4. Tax Assessor's Report/Releases

Tax Assessor Jennie Gibson advised the Board that the 2021 tax bills have been mailed.

a. Release request from Ms. Charlotte Gibson

Mrs. Gibson said that Ms. Charlotte Gibson is requesting approval of a Veteran Disability Exemption. She submitted her application in December 2020, which was before the deadline; however, due to COVID, the Veterans' Administration Office was closed and were unable to respond to the tax department's request for certification.

The VA office has since reopened, and Ms. Gibson obtained the certification she needs for the tax exemption. She brought the certification to the Tax Assessor's office on June 21, 2021. The deadline was June 1, 2021, so staff told her that she would be exempt in 2022. The Tax Assessor cannot approve an application for exemption after the deadline, so Ms. Gibson requested that the Board consider her exemption application. Approval would result in a release of \$382.50 from Ms. Gibson's tax bill.

Mrs. Gibson said that she received confirmation from the VA office that the certification was issued by them on January 12, 2021 and was mailed to Ms. Gibson on January 15, 2021.

Upon motion by Commissioner Hunt and second by Commissioner Leach the Board voted unanimously to approve the application for the Disabled Veteran's Exemption submitted by Ms. Charlotte Gibson.

Ms. Gibson, who was present during this meeting, appeared before the Board to explain why she requested the exemption.

b. Presentation of 2022 Schedule of Values

Mrs. Gibson presented the 2022 Schedule of Values for the recently completed Reappraisal. The Schedule will be open for inspection by the public for 30 days. Following the 30-day period the Schedule will be brought back before the Board for approval. The final values should be ready by mid-January.

Mr. Bob Pearson from Pearson's Appraisal Service said he'd be happy to answer any questions that the Board may have, and he is amenable to any suggestions from the Board.

Commissioner Leach asked Mr. Pearson to share his opinion on how the new property values will affect the County's overall property values. Mr. Pearson said he'd estimate an increase between 10 and 15%. Some property values will actually be reduced, and some property values will increase more than 10-15%. Pearson's will continue to monitor sales and collect data to make sure that the information the County receives is as accurate as possible. Taxpayers will be given a period to appeal their new property values.

Commissioner Hunt said he expects that there will be several appeals and he asked Mr. Pearson about the appeals process. Mr. Pearson said that the taxpayer can request an Informal Hearing with a representative from his office.

County Manager Letitia Edens asked Mrs. Gibson when appeals should be brought before the Board. Mrs. Gibson said the Board of Equalization and Review will meet in April or May.

Chairman Southerland, speaking for the Board, accepted the presentation by Pearson's Appraisal Service.

5. Grant Items: Grants Manager Andrew Jacobs

Grants Manager Andrew Jacobs gave the Board an update on the status of several grant projects.

- a. **National Service Line Warranties of America** has paid the County \$20,000 as royalties to date for our participation in their warranty campaign here in Hoke County; the Board needs to accept the funds. The County will continue to receive royalties each year, based upon the previous year's participation.

Motion: Upon motion by Vice Chairman Thomas and second by Commissioner Leach the Board voted unanimously to accept \$20,000 from National Service Line Warranties of America.

- b. **North Carolina Emergency Management Tier II LEPC Competitive Grant**, has awarded the County \$10,000 as a training grant. The Board must move to accept the funds.

Motion: Upon motion by Vice Chairman Thomas and second by Commissioner Baldwin the Board voted unanimously to accept the Tier II LEPC Competitive Grant funds from North Carolina Emergency Management in the amount of \$10,000.

- c. **North Carolina Emergency Management Tier II LEPC Non-Competitive Grant** has awarded Hoke County a \$1,000 grant in administrative funds for the Tier II grant.

Motion: Upon motion by Commissioner Baldwin and second by Vice Chairman Thomas the Board voted unanimously to accept the Tier II LEPC Competitive Grant funds from North Carolina Emergency Management in the amount of \$1,000.

- d. **Southeastern Economic Development Commission** has awarded Hoke County a Product Development Grant in the amount of \$10,000. Mr. Jacobs said those funds are intended to be used for soil studies and surveying on the Hwy 401 corridor in order to attract more businesses to that area.

Upon motion by Commissioner Hunt and second by Commissioner Baldwin the Board voted unanimously to accept the \$10,000 Product Development Grant from the Southeastern Economic Development Commission.

- e. **Butterball Bus Stop Encroachment Agreement.** The Encroachment Agreement formally allows the County to place a HATS bus stop on property owned by Butterball. The County will own and maintain the structure. There is no financial consideration for this Encroachment Agreement.

Upon motion by Commissioner Hunt and second by Vice Chairman Thomas the Board voted unanimously to approve the Encroachment Agreement to place a bus stop on property owned by Butterball, and grant approval for the Chairman to sign future Encroachment Agreements related to the HATS bus stop project.

Mr. Jacobs updated the Board on the bus stop project. The structures are being installed throughout the County and, upon completion, a map will be prepared showing the location of each bus stop.

6. Budget Amendments: Assistant Finance Officer Garvin Ferguson

Mr. Ferguson advised the Board that the first two of the Budget Amendments pertain to the grant funds that the County accepted early. The last Budget Amendment is to adjust the SFR 2018 grant to reflect \$175,000 for the project with no County funding.

- a. BUA SEDC Product Development Grant \$10,000
- b. BUA NC EM Tier II LEPC Tier II \$11,000
- c. BUA 2018 SFR Grant from NCHFA \$17,927

Motion: Upon motion by Commissioner Leach and second by Commissioner Baldwin the Board voted unanimously to approve the Budget Amendments referenced in Item 6 a-c.

7. Chairman's Report

Chairman Southerland warned the Hoke County citizens that the COVID Delta Variant is increasing. He wants the County Manager and Health Director to encourage all citizens to be vaccinated.

8. Manager's Report

Mr. Jesse Wimberley wants to set up a meeting with Community Forest stakeholders and the Board of Commissioners. After discussion, the Board decided to hold the meeting at the Wright Building on Wednesday, August 4, 2021 from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm.

The Board will hold interviews with the applicants for the Design/Build Courthouse Project on Monday, July 26, 2021 beginning at 11:00 am.

The submission deadline for the RFQs for the HATS building was July 15, 2021. The County received five submissions. Packets will be prepared for each member of the Board.

County Manager Letitia Edens updated the Board on the James A. Leach Aquatic & Recreation Center project: Commissioner Leach has chosen the colors for the building. Work has progressed on the parking lots. Completion is expected in November, 2022.

Work on the Grow Hoke project has begun. Some of the materials have been installed and work continues on the clearing of the wetlands.

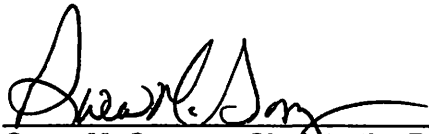
Southeast Community Action Partnership has requested to use the 211 Sports Park Complex on September 10, 2021 from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm. This is for an event for 215 employees. They want to close the park to the public and invite game and food vendors.

Chairman Southerland said that he'd like to let Southeast Community Action use the park at no charge, but he doesn't want the park closed to the public. He will yield to the Health Department about the food vendors.

Motion: Upon motion by Commissioner Hunt and second by Vice Chairman Thomas the Board voted unanimously to allow Southeastern Community Action Partnership to use the 211 Sports Park Complex on September 10, 2021 at no charge, stipulating that (1) the park will not be closed to the public, and (2) the organization must comply with the Rules and Regulations of the Hoke County Health Department as they pertain to the food vendors.

9. 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 Baldwin the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm.



Gwen McGougan, Clerk to the Board



Harry Southerland, Chairman



The Hoke County Board of Commissioners convened for a special meeting at 11:00 am on Monday, July 26, 2021 in the Commissioners Room in the Pratt Building. The purpose of the meeting was to interview selected respondents for the Hoke County Courthouse & Administration Building Design/Build Project.

PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

County Manager Letitia Edens

Clerk to the Board Gwen McGougan

ABSENT:

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

The following teams were selected to be interviewed for their qualifications to design and build the proposed Hoke County Courthouse and Hoke County Administrative Building:

- Barnhill Contracting-Chavis, Inc.-Moseley Architects
- Raleigh Raised-Bordeaux Construction-CRA Associates
- M Square Construction- HH Architecture-LKC Engineering
- Samet Corporation-CJMW Architecture-Heery Design
- Metcon Construction-Silling Architects-J & K General Contractors-sfL+a Architects

Each team was given 45 minutes to present their qualifications and proposed designs.

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 Vice Chairman Thomas, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 4:15 pm.



 Gwen McGougan, Clerk to the Board



 Harry Southerland, Chairman

