

Meeting of the Hoke County Board of Commissioners at 7:00 pm on Monday, February 19, 2018, in the Commissioners Room in the Pratt Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

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

Chairman Leach called the meeting to order with a quorum present and welcomed everyone.

Commissioner Thomas led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the invocation.

ITEM 1. Adoption of Agenda

Hoke County
 Board of Commissioners

227 N. Main Street
 Raeford, North Carolina
 28376



February 19, 2018
 7:00 P.M.

Commissioner's Room
 Pratt Building

A G E N D A

INVOCATION & PLEDGE: Commissioner Allen Thomas, Jr.

ITEM

1. Adoption of Agenda
2. Consent Agenda
 - a. Minutes from February 5, 2018 regular meeting
 - b. NC Vehicle Tax System pending refunds totaling \$1,277.78
 - c. Finance
 1. Budget Amendments
 2. Declaration of Surplus Property
 - d. Amendment to Martin Starnes & Assoc. audit contract
 - e. Amendment to Tyler Technologies, Inc. Agreement
 - f. Amendment to Divine Home Care, Inc. contract
 - g. Jail contract with Simplex
3. Tax Collector's Report
4. Tax Assessor's Report

Proposed schedule for 2018 Board of Equalization & Review
5. Lease Agreement with NC Fall Festival to use Armory Park
6. Request to rent soccer field behind Sports Complex for adult soccer league
7. Manager's Report
8. Closed Session
9. Adjourn

Chairman Leach asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Vice Chairman Southerland asked to pull item 2f (Amendment to Divine Home Care, Inc. contract) for discussion. County Manager Letitia Edens asked to table item 2e (Amendment to Tyler Technologies, Inc. Agreement) until the next Board of Commissioners meeting.

**RESOLUTION OF THE HOKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DECLARING CERTAIN PROPERTY TO BE SURPLUS AND
AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSITION OF SAID PROPERTY**

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Hoke, North Carolina desires to dispose of certain equipment from the Hoke County Sheriff's office as listed below that has been determined as no longer needed by the County.

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SERIAL NUMBER</u>	<u>ASSET NUMBER</u>
Glock 23 pistol	KLE984	None

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Hoke County Board of Commissioners that the listed property is hereby declared to be surplus to the needs of the County and authorizes the disposition of the property in the best interest of the County of Hoke.

ADOPTED this the 19th day of February, 2018.


 James Leach, Chairman
 
 Gwen McGougan, Clerk to the Board

- d. Amendment to Martin Starnes & Assoc. audit contract
- e. Amendment to Tyler Technologies, Inc. Agreement
- f. Amendment to Divine Home Care, Inc. contract
- g. Jail contract with Simplex

Motion: Commissioner Hunt made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items a – d and g and table Item e, seconded by Commissioner Wright.

Action: The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Leach opened the floor for discussion of item 2f (Amendment to Divine Home Care, Inc. contract).

Vice Chairman Southerland asked Senior Services Director Mary Hollingsworth to update the Board about the need for changes to the Divine Home Care contract. Mrs. Hollingsworth explained that her department has been awarded an additional \$9,510 in State and Federal funds for the Level II Personal Care program. Vice Chairman Southerland commented that with the additional funds services can be expanded. The community needs to be made aware any time the County is able to offer additional services.

Mrs. Hollingsworth added that there are currently 42 people on the waiting list for this program. The cost is roughly \$5,700 per person per year, so the additional funds will allow at least one person, possibly two, to come off the waiting list.

Commissioner Hunt asked Mrs. Hollingsworth if the County can expect the same funding next fiscal year. Mrs. Hollingsworth replied that the amount of the County's

allocations have not yet been determined. She expects to receive that information from Lumber River Council of Governments in May.

Commissioner Hunt asked if the clients understand that funds are determined on an annual basis. Mrs. Hollingsworth replied that the clients are aware of this and a reduction in funds would result in a reduction in hours of services that they receive.

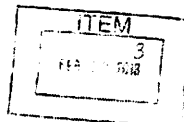
Motion: Vice Chairman Southerland made a motion to approve the amendment to the contract with Divine Home Care, Inc., seconded by Commissioner Hunt.

Action: The motion was approved unanimously.

ITEM 3. Tax Collector's Report

Tax Collector Daphne Dudley presented the Tax Collector's Report for the month of January:

<u>HOKE COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT</u>	
February 19, 2018	
Total Levy 2017	\$27,196,551.83
Additions to Levy YTD	\$237,456.02
Total 2017 Levy to Date	\$27,434,007.85
Releases/Adjustments	\$68,954.63
Adjustments	\$17,936.45
Write Offs	\$386,523.82
Adjustment	\$234.04
Write Offs	\$278.43
Advertising Charged 2017 Tax Bill	\$0.00
Collectible Levy to Date	\$29,117,417.31
Collected To Date	\$25,694,248.27
Uncollected Balance 2017 Tax Levy	<u>\$3,423,170.04</u>
Collections January 2018	\$1,602,617.74
Releases January 2018	\$108.58
Percent of Levy Collected (Releases)	91.40%
Percent of Levy Collected (Releases Etc.)	0.00%
Prior Years Tax Levy January 2018	\$2,017,265.45
Prior Years Collected in January 2018 To Date	\$974,472.81
Uncollected Balance Before Releases	\$2,038,013.94
Releases	\$159,010.11
Releases/Adjustments	\$51,219.87
Disbursements	\$49.34
Adjustments	\$969.44
Write Offs/Adjustment	\$38,887.79
Uncollected Balance Prior Years	<u>\$1,609,016.84</u>
Prior Years Collected in January 2018	\$50,397.38
Releases Prior Years January 2018	\$0.00
Percent Prior Years Collected (Releases)	42.93%
Percent Prior Years Collected (Releases Etc.)	27.86%
Total Uncollected Taxes	<u>\$4,027,185.68</u>
<u>2016 Taxes</u>	
Tax Levy January 2017	\$27,622,250.75
Collections January 2017	\$1,499,291.78
Releases January 2017	\$303.92
Percent Collected (Releases)	90.91%
Percent Collected (Releases Etc.)	0.02%
Prior Years Tax Levy January 2017	\$2,601,555.95
Collections January 2017	\$74,042.24
Releases January 2017	\$7,769.71
Disbursements	\$9.00
Percent Collected (Releases)	21.88%
Percent Collected (Releases Etc.)	0.93%



ITEM 4. Tax Assessor's Report

Tax Assessor Jennie Gibson presented a tentative schedule for the 2018 Board of Equalization and Review meetings.

The meetings will be advertised in the March 21, 2018, March 28, 2018 and April 4, 2018 newspapers. The first meeting will be held on April 16, 2018 and the second meeting will be held on May 7, 2018, both at 5:30 pm.

Motion: Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve the proposed schedule for 2018 for the Board of Equalization & Review seconded by Vice Chairman Southerland.

Action: The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 5. Lease Agreement with NC Fall Festival to use Armory Park

Melissa Pittman, Executive Director of the NC Fall Festival, presented a lease agreement for the Festival to use the ball field behind the old National Guard Armory for their annual concert. The NC Fall Festival will be held from September 11 – 15, 2018. The concert will be Saturday evening, September 15, 2018.

Motion: Vice Chairman Southerland made a motion to approve the lease agreement with the NC Fall Festival to use Armory Park on Saturday, September 15, 2018 for an outdoor concert, seconded by Commissioner Thomas.

Action: The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 6. Request to rent soccer field behind Sports Complex for adult soccer league

Commissioner Hunt introduced Mr. Colin McDavid. Mr. McDavid spoke with Commissioner Hunt a couple of months ago about his adult soccer league, which has outgrown the park in Red Springs where they have been playing. Commissioner Hunt and Mr. McDavid looked at the unused field behind the 211 Sports Complex and Mr. McDavid thought the field would be a suitable place to relocate their league's games. Commissioner Hunt added that the soccer league is looking for a space to lease that will enable them to hold their games on Sundays.

Mr. McDavid explained to the Board that the adult soccer league is made up of 16 teams. The teams come from all over the area to play in this league. Most, but not all, of the players are Hispanic. Traditional Mexican food is sold at the games. The league will provide security and port-a-johns. They will paint the fields and maintain the fields.

Vice Chairman Southerland asked Mr. McDavid to give him the specific location of the field. Mr. McDavid replied that he is looking at an area behind the tree line behind the park. He said he's been told that this area is intended to be used for soccer and football, but an environmental issue relating to the creek crossing to access the area is delaying development.

Commissioner Hunt added that he has spoken with Public Buildings Director James Tedder about the creek crossing and they believe that the soccer league could drive into the area to set up their equipment but the players and officials must use the parking lot at the park and walk back to the field. To ensure adequate parking, the league would be willing to cancel if another event is being held that day. Details such as this would need to be made part of the contract between the league and the County.

Chairman Leach asked Mr. McDavid if the league has liability insurance for their events. Mr. McDavid replied that the league does not currently have an insurance policy, but they are willing to obtain a policy. County Attorney Grady Hunt recommended they purchase a policy.

Chairman Leach then asked Mr. McDavid if he was aware that there's a policy in place that only the Parks & Recreation Department can serve concessions at the park. Mr. McDavid said that he is aware of the policy but hopes the league and the County can discuss this issue further. Commissioner Hunt said that the concession stand would be a long way for league participants to have to walk and he'd be willing to discuss waiving the policy and let the league obtain the proper permits to bring in their own food vendors. Again, details such as insurance and concessions could be worked out in the contract.

Chairman Leach asked for input from the Parks & Recreation Board members and staff in attendance at the meeting. Parks & Recreation Assistant Stephen Kessinger agreed that adequate parking could be an issue if there's another event taking place at the park. Also, the staff is concerned that if the soccer league is given a waiver for the concessions, other users of the park, such as baseball teams, will want the same thing.

Commissioner Wright commented that the baseball program and this soccer league are two different things and he agrees that the soccer area is a long way from the concession stand. The park is there to be used and it is something the County should be proud of.

Parks & Recreation Board member Tasha Oldham expressed concern as both a Board member and a citizen that if this league is allowed to use that area, we are doing a disservice to the citizens of Hoke County. The area should be developed for Hoke County citizens first. Ms. Oldham is also concerned about any organization using the park without Parks & Recreation staff present. Commissioner Wright commented that Mr. McDavid said that the league would provide security and, depending on the type of security, that might be adequate supervision.

Commissioner Hunt commented that the environmental issue can be resolved by building a bridge across the creek. Rental income from the soccer league could be used toward the cost of the bridge. Commissioner Hunt added that this is very early in the process and many of these issues can be worked out in the contract. The goal is not to approve the contract at this meeting. The goal is to discuss the feasibility of leasing the field.

Vice Chairman Southerland asked Mr. Tedder to give his opinion as to whether the area and its access is safe. Mr. Tedder said that there are large landscaping boulders in the field. These boulders are an impediment to the maintenance of the field.

Melissa Pittman asked to speak to the Board. The liability insurance is actually quite expensive. The same policy for the Fall Festival is approximately \$1,000 per day. If the soccer league can afford to pay for this kind of insurance and security, the County's Parks & Recreation Department should be running the program. Another concern is whether children will be allowed to roam the park without adult supervision. An injury to a child could present a liability to the County.

Mr. Jim Davis asked to speak to the Board. He agrees that safety is an issue. The County's Parks & Recreation Department should consider a soccer league or association for citizens of all ages.

Commissioner Wright reiterated that the purpose of this discussion is to bring to light issues that will need to be addressed in a contract.

Mr. Billie Edens, a Parks & Recreation Board member, asked to speak to the Board. Rental of the field is an opportunity for the County to bring in some additional revenue.

Mr. McDavid said that safety is the number one consideration. The County can benefit if this arrangement is approved because the league will paint the lines and maintain the field. The league will only use the field on Sundays, so the area can be used as the County sees fit the other six days of the week.

Motion: Commissioner Wright made a motion that the Board direct the County Attorney to meet with the Parks & Recreation Board and draft a contract between the County and the soccer league for the Board to consider, seconded by Commissioner Hunt.

Action: The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Leach asked Mr. McDavid if he has approached the school system about using one of their fields. Mr. McDavid said that the league had played at Hoke High School and West Hoke Middle and outgrew both venues. The league also played at Don Steed Elementary but issues arose that required them to stop using that field. Commissioner Thomas asked Mr. McDavid to elaborate on the issues. Mr. McDavid said there was a misunderstanding with the school system involving cutting the field and the league was accused of bringing alcohol on the property and leaving trash. Mr. McDavid disputes this claim, adding that the league paid deputies to provide security and their cleanup crew cleaned up after every game. Commissioner Thomas asked Mr. McDavid if the school system would agree to allow the league to again use Don Steed's fields. Mr. McDavid replied that they would not.

Chairman Leach instructed Parks & Recreation Director Kendric Maynor to arrange a meeting for the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and the County Attorney.

ITEM 7. Manager's Report

The Manager advised the Board that the deadline had passed for companies to submit RFQs for the Design/Build project. There were 4 submissions:

Clancy & Theys Construction Company from Raleigh,
Bobbitt Design Build, Inc. from Raleigh,
Metcon Construction from Pembroke, and
CSI Construction Systems from Fayetteville

The Manager, County Attorney and departments will meet and review the RFQs, then bring them before the Board for consideration. Mrs. Edens expects to bring the RFQs to the Board at the March 19, 2018 meeting.

The County Attorney added that the Board will select the 3 most qualified firms based upon a ranking system. Interviews will be held with those firms before a selection is made.

Mrs. Edens introduced Mr. David Richardson, Executive Director of the Lumber River Council of Governments. Mr. Richardson began by thanking Chairman Leach for his service representing Hoke County on the COG's Board of Directors.

Mr. Richardson gave an overview of the services offered by the Council of Governments. The County should consider the COG an extension of their staff.

The NC Association of Regional Councils of Government has developed the NC Tomorrow Plan, which is a comprehensive economic and community development plan for the entire State of NC. Focus is on each region's infrastructure needs, challenges and strengths. The plan offers strategies to address those needs.

Vice Chairman Southerland asked Mr. Richardson to keep Hoke County at the top of his list for any housing and housing rehab grants. Hoke County has senior citizens that need housing repairs, or in some cases, replacement because their houses are damaged beyond repair.

ITEM 8. Closed Session


No Closed Session was held.

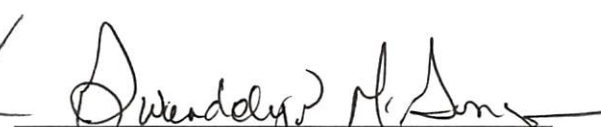
ITEM 9. Adjourn

Motion: There being no further business to come before the Hoke County Board of Commissioners, Commissioner Thomas made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Wright.

Action: The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.


James A. Leach, Chairman


Gwendolyn McGougan, Clerk to the Board

APPROVED

MAR 19 2018

Hoke Co. Governing Body

