

Meeting of the Hoke County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 7:00 pm in the Commissioners Room of 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.

Hoke County Sheriff Department Chief Gary Hammond led the Pledge of Allegiance and Bishop Al Anderson gave the invocation.

**ITEM 1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Motion: Commissioner Thomas made a motion to adopt the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Hunt.**

**Action: The motion passed unanimously.**

**ITEM 2. CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Approval of Minutes from the January 3, 2017 meeting
- b. NC Vehicle Tax System Pending Refund Report – Total \$3,558.85
- c. Surplus Items from Hoke County Sheriff Department
- d. Approval of Refunding Application for Program Year 2017-2018 Community Services Block Grant
- e. RFP for Disaster Recovery Services

**Motion: Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve items a-e on the Consent Agenda, seconded by Vice Chairman Southerland.**

**Action: The motion passed unanimously.**

**ITEM 3. TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT**

**HOKE COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT**  
1/17/2017

Tax Levy 2016	\$26,668,312.24
Additions to Levy YTD	\$755,939.91
Total 2016 Levy to Date	\$27,622,252.75
Refunds 2016	\$40,117.33
Releases/Abatements	\$4,485.86
Discounts	\$378,332.37
Adjustments	\$191.16
Write Offs	\$38.71
Advertising Charged 2016 Tax Bills	
Collectible Levy to Date	\$27,617,046.01
Collected To Date	\$23,611,484.86
Uncollected Balance 2016 Tax Levy (1)	\$4,005,491.16

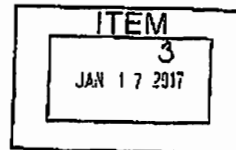
Collections December 2016	\$1,887,969.38
Releases December 2016	\$692.76
Percent of Levy Collected (Receipts)	85.49%
Percent of Levy Collected (Releases, Etc.)	0.02%

Prior Years Tax Levy December 1, 2016	\$2,581,555.95
Prior Years Collected in December 2016 To Date	\$614,953.81
Uncollected Balance Before Releases	\$2,166,802.14
Refunds	\$3,083.72
Releases/Abatements	\$24,780.57
Discounts	\$0.00
Adjustments	\$160.48
Write Offs/Insolvent	\$36,107.33
Uncollected Balance Prior Years (2)	\$2,112,402.88

Prior Years Collected in December 2016	\$101,030.60
Releases Prior Years December 2016	\$0.00
Percent Prior Years Collected (Receipts)	19.20%
Percent Prior Years Collected (Releases, Etc.)	0.92%
Total Uncollected Taxes (1+2)	\$6,118,894.13

**2015 Taxes**

Tax Levy December 2015	\$27,308,652.06
Collections December 2015	\$1,838,670.79
Releases December 2015	\$303.73
Percent Collected (Receipts)	65.38%
Percent Collected (Releases, Etc.)	0.03%
Prior Years Tax Levy December 2016	\$2,560,718.88
Collections December 2016	\$108,898.36
Releases December 2016	\$0.00
Insolvent	\$37,497.23
Percent Collected (Receipts)	24.11%
Percent Collected (Releases, Etc.)	0.29%



**ITEM 4. TAX ASSESSOR'S REPORT/RELEASES**

Name	Category	Year	Reason	Amount
Herbert Amaral	PP	2016	MH double listed	2.65
Deborah Deberry	PP	2015	MH sold in 2014	124.65
Deborah Deberry	PP	2016	MH sold in 2014	116.33
Tommy Freeman	PP	2016	MH listed in Robeson County	11.09
Jackelin Jimenez	PP	2015	MH double listed	52.32
Jackelin Jimenez	PP	2016	MH double listed	48.85
Donnie Snead	RE	2016	SW fee error	128.00
				<u>483.89</u>

**Motion: Commissioner Hunt made a motion to approve the tax releases listed totaling \$483.89, seconded by Commissioner Wright.**

**Action: The motion passed unanimously.**

**ITEM 5. SURPLUS PROPERTY**

The County Manager presented Resolutions to accept offers made on two parcels of land owned by the County and designated as surplus:

- a. 421 Stevens Street, PIN 69435140193, Raeford Township. Minimum bid required:
 

Unpaid taxes	\$1,236.16
Attorney Fees	<u>1,189.94</u>
Total Minimum Bid	\$2,426.10

An offer has been made by Harley Johnson to purchase the property for \$2,655.

- b. 350 Locust Lane, PIN 394030001101, Blue Springs Township. Minimum bid required:
 

Unpaid taxes	\$2,578.91
Attorney Fees	<u>1,002.95</u>
Total Minimum bid	\$3,581.86

An offer has been made by Stephanie Carter to purchase the property for \$3,581.86.

James Leach  
Chairman

Harry Southard  
Vice Chairman

Troy Hunt  
Commissioner

Allen Thomas, Jr.  
Commissioner



Robert Wright  
Commissioner

Grady Hunt  
County Attorney

Leitia Eikas  
County Manager

Owen McGowan  
 Clerk of the Board

**HOME COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**RESOLUTION**

**ACCEPTING OFFER OF BID FOR SURPLUS PROPERTY**

WHEREAS, the Home County Board of Commissioners declared the following property as surplus:

Parcel #0394030001101 - 350 Locust Lane - Blue Springs Township; and

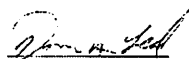
WHEREAS, the Home County Board of Commissioners has received and proposes to accept an offer to sell to Stephanie Carter for \$3,581.86 for 350 Locust Lane - Blue Springs Township - Parcel ID Number 394030001101; and


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 Home County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the execution of the necessary documents in order to sell the above described property to Stephanie Carter, 1005 Posoy Farm Road, Raeford, N.C., for the purchase price of \$3,581.86 and to deliver and receive the appropriate encumbrances.

Adopted this 17th day of January, 2017.

  
James A. Leach, Chairman

  
Owen McGowan, Clerk of the Board

James Leach  
Chairman  
Harry Southerland  
Vice Chairman  
Tony Hunt  
Commissioner  
Alvin E. Burns, Jr.  
Commissioner



Robert Wright  
Commissioner  
Grady Hunt  
County Manager  
Lectia Edens  
County Manager  
Gwen McCougan  
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 0604351401003 421 Stevens Street - Raeford Township, and

WHEREAS, the Hoke County Board of Commissioners has received and proposes to accept an offer to sell to Harley Earl Johnson for \$2,655.00 for 421 Stevens Street - Raeford Township - Parcel ID Number 060435-1401003, and

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

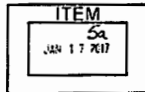
WHEREAS, no useful bid has been received;

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 Harley Earl Johnson, 5711 St. Matthews Church Road, Havelock, NC, for the purchase price of \$2,655.00 and to deliver and receive the appropriate documents.

Adopted this 17th day of January 2017

James A. Leach, Chairman

Gwen McCougan, Clerk to the Board



**Motion: Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve Resolutions a & b accepting the offers of \$2,655 for 421 Stevens Street and \$3,581.86 for 350 Locust Lane seconded by Vice Chairman Southerland.**

**Action: The motion passed unanimously.**

**ITEM 6. ABC BOARD**

Mr. Cleo Bratcher, Chairman of the Hoke County ABC Board, introduced ABC Board member Alfred K. Leach, Jr. to the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Leach explained that the ABC Board is considering placing an ABC store at a location along the Hwy 401 corridor. The Cumberland County ABC store located at the intersection of Hwy 401 and Gillis Hill Road has been very successful. The Hoke ABC Board believes now is the opportune time to expand to a second location. There's a shopping center being constructed called Stonegate Center. Construction is not complete, so if action is taken quickly the unit being considered could be upfitted by the contractor to make it more suitable for a retail business such as an ABC store. The developer has offered a 5-year lease with a provision that the lease can be terminated after 3 years if the store is not profitable.

The ABC Board has no working capital, but the annual profits could cover the cost of setup and purchase of inventory. Inventory is expected to be approximately \$120,000. The ABC Board has explored various ways of raising these funds, including asking the County if the ABC Board could retain the distribution funds from the existing store instead of distributing them to the County at the end of the year. This is prohibited by statute. Another funding source they considered was a loan from Lumbee River Electric Membership Cooperative. That loan, however, would require collateral. Finally, the ABC Board explored the possibility of acquiring a loan from the County's Revolving Loan Fund. The Revolving Loan Fund is an Economic Development tool that assists existing business to expand and create jobs. The funds would be repaid by lowering the ABC distributions in 2017 and 2018. This would allow a buildup of capital.

Located on Hwy 401, the store would serve a population of roughly 46,000 people within a 5 mile radius. The average age of these residents is 30 so the demographic is favorable for an ABC store to be located there.

Vice Chairman Southerland and Commissioner Wright agreed that this would benefit the County. Commissioner Hunt asked how many employees the new store would need. Mr. Leach replied that they would need a store manager and part-time staff of five.

**Motion: Commissioner Wright made a motion that the Board approve a loan in the amount of \$150,000 from the County Revolving Loan Fund seconded by Vice Chairman Southerland.**

**Action: The motion passed unanimously.**

**The County Manager requested that the 2017-2018 Certifications and Assurances agreement for the Hoke Area Transportation System be added to the agenda. This needs to be heard and approved in order for the County to receive Federal and State funding.**

**Motion: Commissioner Wright made a motion that the 2017-2018 HATS Certifications and Assurances agreement be added to the agenda as Item 7, seconded by Vice Chairman Southerland.**

**Action: The motion passed unanimously.**

**ITEM 7. Approval of the 2017-2018 HATS Certifications and Assurances Agreement.**

HATS Director Nancy Thornton addressed the Board. The Certifications and Assurances agreement must be approved each year in order for the County to receive Federal and State funding.

**Motion: Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve the 2017-2018 HATS Certifications and Assurances agreement, seconded by Vice Chairman Southerland.**

**Action: The motion passed unanimously.**

Vice Chairman Southerland advised the Board members that he serves on the Fayetteville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (FAMPO) Board and was recently advised by their Director, George Strickland that next year, HATS will receive an additional \$70,000 in grant funds for operation and will likely receive discretionary funds to go toward building a HATS facility. Vice Chairman Southerland recognized Director Nancy Thornton for her hard work.

#### **ITEM 8. HOMELESS SHELTER PRESENTATION**

Bishop Al Anderson addressed the Board. He has prepared a PowerPoint presentation about a proposed shelter in Hoke County. Bishop Anderson introduced Ms. Betty Perkins.

Ms. Perkins began by explaining that a "Point in Time" study is a survey to determine the actual number of homeless individuals in a community on a specified date. These studies are conducted nationwide. Individuals and organizations that serve the homeless are asked to participate. In 2012, Ms. Perkins and Ms. Martha Beatty conducted the first Point in Time study in Hoke County. At that time, 82 homeless individuals were identified.

A Point in Time study is scheduled to be conducted in Hoke County on January 25, 2017. This will be led by Bishop Al Anderson and the Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Center.

Bishop Anderson introduced Ms. Tracy Morrison, with the group Family Endeavors. The number of homeless will affect the amount of funding for programs such as Subsidized Housing. Family Endeavors concentrates their efforts on homeless Veterans. They address risk factors that cause a Veteran to become homeless. Family Endeavors also assists the individuals in areas such as overcoming credit issues and finding job opportunities. Hoke County lacks the resources, such as funding and shelters, to adequately fund programs and address the needs of homeless individuals. Bishop Anderson introduced Mr. Floyd Long, formerly a homeless Veteran. Mr. Floyd met Bishop Anderson approximately 1-1/2 years ago. Bishop Anderson took him to the soup kitchen and fed him and then worked to find him housing. Next, Mr. Ron Flippin discussed the importance of addressing the mental health of homeless individuals.

Bishop Anderson said that the shelter would be open 24 hours, seven days per week. Sheriff Hubert Peterkin has assured Bishop Anderson that the Sheriff Department will respond quickly whenever they are needed.

Bishop Anderson said he is compiling information from contractors about the cost of renovating the building the soup kitchen is in on Oakdale Gin Road to also serve as a shelter. Bishop Anderson introduced Mr. Ted Currie with ABC Construction. The plan is to add a metal building on to the existing wooden structure. He is waiting on plans to be drawn in order to estimate a cost for the work.

Bishop Anderson added that ultimately he hopes to have a small church within the structure as well as a men's' dorm and women's' dorm, both with cots, and the soup kitchen. The facility must be staffed for supervision and to maintain security. He is concerned about housing children so he hopes to use the Domestic Violence Center to assist in finding housing for mothers with children.

Bishop Anderson said that his purpose at this meeting was to find out if there's help available to fund the shelter. Chairman Leach asked Bishop Anderson who the members of his Board are. Bishop Anderson replied that his Board members are James Allen, Ronald Flippin, Betty Perkins, Melba Aikens, Janice Davis and himself. He added that he needs additional Board members.

Vice Chairman Southerland commented that he sees a need for a homeless shelter in Hoke County. Bishop Anderson's organization appears to be private, non-profit, and faith-based. It will have to be determined what the County can do to help. Chairman Leach recommended that they get a grant writer if they don't already have one. Commissioner Thomas thanked Bishop Anderson for his presentation and expressed his support for his vision. Chairman Leach asked Bishop Anderson to keep the Board informed of his progress.

#### **ITEM 9. NCACC VIDEO**

The Board viewed a brief video from the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners which updated them about Association activities during January, 2017.

#### **ITEM 10. MANAGER'S REPORT**

County Manager Letitia Edens advised the Board that there will be a Department Head meeting on Wednesday, January 25, 2017. Included will be a presentation from Emergency Management Director Freddy Johnson about the Hurricane Matthew After-Action plan.

The annual meeting of the NC Southeastern Partnership will be held on January 31, 2017 at 6:00 pm. She asked that Board members let her know if they plan to attend so that she can RSVP.

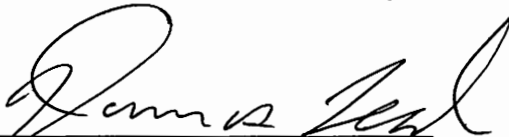
**ITEM 11. CLOSED SESSION – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OR PERSONNEL**

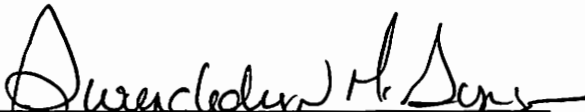
No closed session was held.

Commissioner Hunt commented that he had spoken with Deborah Carpenter, Director of Child Nutrition for Hoke County Schools and she told him that the school system received their first large shipment of food, valued at \$47,497 and donated to the School System at no cost. Ms. Carpenter wished to thank the Board for approving funds for the large walk-in freezer in the FY 2017 budget. The School System would not be able to accept donations such as this if not for the new freezer.

**ITEM 12. ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Hoke County Board of Commissioners, Commissioner Thomas made a motion to adjourn, with Commissioner Hunt seconding. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

  
James A. Leach, Chairman

  
Gwendolyn McGougan, Clerk to the Board

