

The Hoke County Board of Commissioners convened for a regular meeting at 7:00 pm on Monday, April 20, 2020 in the Commissioners Room in the Pratt Building.

PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Commissioner Tony Hunt

Chairman Leach called the meeting to order with a quorum present. Commissioner Thomas led the Pledge of Allegiance and Commissioner Wright gave the Invocation.

1. Adoption of Agenda

Hoke County
Board of Commissioners



April 20, 2020
7:00 P.M.

227 N. Main Street
Reeford, North Carolina
28376

Commissioner's Room
Pratt Building

A G E N D A

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION & REVIEW - 5:30 PM

INVOCATION & PLEDGE: Chairman James A. Leach

ITEM

1. Adoption of Agenda
2. Public Comment
3. Consent Agenda
 - a. Minutes from April 6, 2020 regular meeting
 - b. NC Vehicle Tax Refunds totaling \$597.69
 - c. HATS Contract with Teen Court
 - d. Resolution Designation of Applicant's Agent: COVID-19
 - e. Finance: Budget Amendments
 - f. Contracts for Copier/Printer Leases with Dex Imaging:
 1. Tax Assessor
 2. Tax Collector
 3. Utilities
4. Tax Assessor's Report/Releases
5. Tax Collector
 - a. Tax Collections Report for March 2020
 - b. Request to declare foreclosed property as Surplus:

| | | | |
|-----------|------------|---------|---------------------------------------|
| Vass Road | Lot | Parcel | 69435-13-01-161 |
| | Tax Value: | \$4,260 | Taxes/Costs (minimum bid): \$3,352.95 |
6. Resolution to Accept Offer of Bid for Surplus Property:

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------|--|
| 150 Windlock Drive | Parcel | 29431-00-01-228 |
| | Tax Value | \$26,490 Taxes/Costs: \$6,520.95 Bid: \$7,000.00 |
7. Consideration of HATS Interlock Agreement
8. Sunpath Revolving Loan Request
9. Manager's Report
10. Closed Session
11. Adjourn

Chairman Leach asked County Attorney Grady Hunt if removing Item 6 from the agenda would also serve as a rejection of the bid offer. Mr. Hunt replied that doing so would serve as a rejection of the bid offer.

Motion: Upon motion by Commissioner Thomas and second by Vice Chairman Southerland the Board voted unanimously to remove item 6, Resolution to Accept Offer of Bid for Surplus Property, from the agenda.

Motion: Upon motion by Commissioner Wright and second by Commissioner Thomas the Board voted unanimously to adopt the agenda as amended.

2. Public Comment

Due to the Coronavirus, citizens were invited to submit comments by email to the Clerk. None were received.

3. Consent Agenda

- a. Minutes from April 6, 2020 regular meeting
- b. NC Vehicle Tax Refunds totaling \$597.69

| North Carolina Vehicle Tax System | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------|-------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--|----------------|------------|------------------|-----------|--------|--------------|-------------|
| NCVTS Pending Refund report | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Payee Name | Primary Owner | Secondary Owner | Address 1 | Address 2 | Address 3 | Vehicle Type | DOB | Current Year | Status | Registration | Vehicle Description | Vehicle Status | Group Date | Tax Jurisdiction | Levy Type | Group | Amount Group | Total Group |
| TRUDY PUGH | TRUDY PUGH | JENNIFER PUGH | 144 N. HILL ST | | RAEFORD, NC 28370 | Approved | 04/01/1984 | 2019 | AUTHORIZED | 12/12/2019 | Refund Generated due to suspension on 04/01/2020 on 04/01/2020 on 04/01/2020 on 04/01/2020 on 04/01/2020 | Vehicle Refund | 03/01/2020 | COU | Tax | 187.99 | 187.99 | 187.99 |
| LINDSAY JACOBSON | LINDSAY JACOBSON | MICHELLE MICHELLE | 161 BHEET | | RAEFORD, NC 28370 | Provision | 06/09/1928 | 2019 | AUTHORIZED | 12/11/2019 | Refund Generated due to suspension on 03/20/2020 on 03/20/2020 on 03/20/2020 on 03/20/2020 on 03/20/2020 | Vehicle Refund | 03/01/2020 | COU | Tax | 187.99 | 187.99 | 187.99 |
| MCPHATER | MCPHATER | APRIL MCPHATER | 731 BILKINGTON DR | | RAEFORD, NC 28370 | Provision | 09/03/1974 | 2019 | AUTHORIZED | 12/11/2019 | Refund Generated due to suspension on 03/20/2020 on 03/20/2020 on 03/20/2020 on 03/20/2020 on 03/20/2020 | Vehicle Refund | 03/01/2020 | COU | Tax | 187.99 | 187.99 | 187.99 |
| WILLIAMS CHRISTOPHER | WILLIAMS CHRISTOPHER | JOE BAYT | JOE BAYT | | RAEFORD, NC 28370 | Approved | 08/05/1961 | 2019 | PENDING | 11/10/2019 | Refund Generated due to suspension on 04/01/2020 on 04/01/2020 on 04/01/2020 on 04/01/2020 on 04/01/2020 | Vehicle Refund | 03/01/2020 | COU | Tax | 187.99 | 187.99 | 187.99 |
| Total Refund | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Total Refunds \$597.69

| North Carolina Vehicle Tax System | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------|--------------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--|----------------|------------|------------------|-----------|--------|--------------|-------------|
| NCVTS Pending Refund report | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Payee Name | Primary Owner | Secondary Owner | Address 1 | Address 2 | Address 3 | Vehicle Type | DOB | Current Year | Status | Registration | Vehicle Description | Vehicle Status | Group Date | Tax Jurisdiction | Levy Type | Group | Amount Group | Total Group |
| DRAKE AMY | DRAKE AMY | DRAKE TERRY | 104 W. CLET | | RAEFORD, NC 28370 | Approved | 01/01/1969 | 2019 | AUTHORIZED | 12/11/2019 | Refund Generated due to suspension on 04/01/2020 on 04/01/2020 on 04/01/2020 on 04/01/2020 on 04/01/2020 | Vehicle Refund | 03/01/2020 | COU | Tax | 187.99 | 187.99 | 187.99 |
| KAPLAN RICHARD | KAPLAN RICHARD | LYNDA | 3rd LINDSEY DR | | RAEFORD, NC 28370 | Approved | 06/11/1944 | 2019 | AUTHORIZED | 12/11/2019 | Refund Generated due to suspension on 04/01/2020 on 04/01/2020 on 04/01/2020 on 04/01/2020 on 04/01/2020 | Vehicle Refund | 04/01/2020 | COU | Tax | 187.99 | 187.99 | 187.99 |
| TEV DAVID | TEV DAVID | BRANTLEY | 150 LOVE | | SOUTHERN PHEAS, NC 28547 | Provision | 08/06/1962 | 2019 | AUTHORIZED | 12/11/2019 | Refund Generated due to suspension on 04/01/2020 on 04/01/2020 on 04/01/2020 on 04/01/2020 on 04/01/2020 | Vehicle Refund | 04/01/2020 | COU | Tax | 187.99 | 187.99 | 187.99 |
| Total Refund | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

- c. HATS Contract with Teen Court

d. Resolution: Designation of Applicant's Agent: COVID-19

| RESOLUTION DESIGNATION OF APPLICANT'S AGENT <small>North Carolina Division of Emergency Management</small> | |
|---|---|
| Organization Name (hereafter named Organization) Disaster Number: 4487 | |
| County of Hoke | |
| Applicant's State Cognizant Agency for Single Audit purposes (if Cognizant Agency is not assigned, please indicate): N/A | |
| Applicant's Fiscal Year (FY) Start _____ Month: July _____ Day: 1 | |
| Applicant's Federal Employer's Identification Number 56-6001525 | |
| Applicant's Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) Number 37063 | |
| PRIMARY AGENT | SECONDARY AGENT |
| <i>Letitia J Edens</i> | Charles Andrew Jacobs II |
| Organization County of Hoke Official Position County Manager | Organization County of Hoke Official Position Emergency Management Coordinator/ Grants Manager |
| Mailing Address 227 N. Main St. | Mailing Address 227 N. Main St. |
| City, State, Zip Roxford, NC, 28376 | City, State, Zip Roxford, NC, 28376 |
| Daytime Telephone 910-875-8761 ext. 1830 | Daytime Telephone 910-585-0808 |
| Facsimile Number | Facsimile Number 910-875-3725 |
| Pager or Cellular Number | Pager or Cellular Number |
| <p>BE IT RESOLVED BY the governing body of the Organization (a public entity duly organized under the laws of the State of North Carolina) that the above-named Primary and Secondary Agents are hereby authorized to execute and file applications for federal and/or state assistance on behalf of the Organization for the purpose of obtaining certain state and federal financial assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief & Emergency Assistance Act, (Public Law 95-289 as amended) or as otherwise available. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above-named agents are authorized to represent and act for the Organization in all dealings with the State of North Carolina and the Federal Emergency Management Agency for all matters pertaining to such disaster assistance required by the grant agreements and the assumptions printed on the reverse side hereof. BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT the above-named agents are authorized to act severally. PASSED AND APPROVED this 20th day of April 2020.</p> | |
| GOVERNING BODY | CERTIFYING OFFICIAL |
| Name and Title James A. Leach, Chairman | Name Gwendolyn McGougan |
| Name and Title | Official Position Clerk to the Board |
| Name and Title | Daytime Telephone (910) 875-8751 |
| CERTIFICATION | |
| I, <u>Gwendolyn McGougan</u> (Name) duly appointed and <u>Clerk to the Board</u> (Title) of the Governing Body, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution passed and approved by the Governing Body of <u>Hoke County, NC</u> (Organization) on the <u>20th</u> day of <u>April</u> , 20 <u>20</u> . | |
| Date: <u>April 21, 2020</u> | Signature: _____ |

e. Finance: Budget Amendments

AMENDMENT TO THE HOKE COUNTY BUDGET ORDINANCE
2019/2020
Amendment

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

Insert Additional Appropriations

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Non-Departmental | 13,000 |
| Court Facilities | 129,000 |
| Capital Outlay | 14,000 |
| Emergency Management | 4,000 |
| Self-Insurance | 11,000 |
| Health Administration | 50,000 |
| Bidirectional | 24,500 |
| Governing Body | 40,500 |
| Governing Body | 140,000 |
| Public Buildings | 110,000 |
| Public Buildings | 28,400 |
| Parks & Recreation | 43,000 |
| Parks & Recreation | 420,000 |
| Special Appropriation | 571,400 |
| Special Appropriation | 571,400 |
| Total | \$ 75,326 |

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

Transfer of Unexpended Revenues

| | |
|--------------|------------------|
| Health | 75,326 |
| Total | \$ 75,326 |

This amendment:

- Allocates funds to Governing Body, Public Buildings, Parks & Recreation to prevent over spending. In Special Appropriations reallocates Bank of America payroll to re-annual payment to reduce current expenditure.
- Funding Source: Unexpended capital outlay and existing funds within departments.
- Allocates state funds for Covid-19 Crisis Response in Health Administration and Children.
- Funding Source: Additional State funds.

Submitted: 04/20/2020

Respectfully Submitted by:
Marvin Ferguson
Assistant Finance Director

Approved by:
Thomas Southernland
County Manager



f. Contracts for Copier/Printer Leases with Dex Imaging:

1. Tax Assessor
2. Tax Collector
3. Utilities

Motion: Upon motion by Commissioner Thomas and second by Vice Chairman Southernland the Board voted unanimously to approve Consent Agenda items a-f3.

4. Tax Assessor's Report/Releases

Tax Assessor Jennie Gibson submitted the following tax releases for consideration by the Board:

04/13/2020 09:07 COUNTY OF HOES
9698jg1b RELEASES - 04/20/2020 TO 04/20/2020

P 1
tncrapt

| OWNER NAME AND ADDRESS | CAT YEAR PROPERTY REASON | BILL | EFF DATE | JUR | REF NO | VALUE | CHARGE | AMOUNT |
|--|--|------------------|------------|-----|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 101008 LOCKLEAR, MALONNA LOCKLEAR, JAMMIE 285 EVELYNS LN SHANNON, NC 28386-0000 | PP 2015 | 1606 | 04/20/2020 | | | 3,250 | COU | 24.37 |
| | 12702 | | | 2 | | | F08 | 2.60 |
| | RELEASES | | | | 68417 | | COUL | 2.43 |
| | MOBILE LISTED AS REAL PROPERTY ALSO | | | | | | F08L | .26 |
| | | | | | | | | 29.66 |
| 101008 LOCKLEAR, MALONNA LOCKLEAR, JAMMIE 285 EVELYNS LN SHANNON, NC 28386-0000 | PP 2016 | 1721 | 04/20/2020 | | | 3,020 | COU | 22.65 |
| | 12702 | | | 2 | | | F08 | 2.42 |
| | RELEASES | | | | 68416 | | | |
| | MOBILE LISTED AS REAL PROPERTY ALSO | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | 25.07 |
| 101008 LOCKLEAR, MALONNA LOCKLEAR, JAMMIE 285 EVELYNS LN SHANNON, NC 28386-0000 | PP 2017 | 1866 | 04/20/2020 | | | 2,820 | COU | 21.15 |
| | 12702 | | | 2 | | | F08 | 2.26 |
| | RELEASES | | | | 68415 | | | |
| | MOBILE LISTED AS REAL PROPERTY ALSO | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | 23.41 |
| 101008 LOCKLEAR, MALONNA LOCKLEAR, JAMMIE 285 EVELYNS LN SHANNON, NC 28386-0000 | PP 2018 | 1941 | 04/20/2020 | | | 2,650 | COU | 19.07 |
| | 12702 | | | 2 | | | F08 | 2.12 |
| | RELEASES | | | | 68414 | | COUL | 1.90 |
| | MOBILE LISTED AS REAL PROPERTY ALSO | | | | | | F08L | .21 |
| | | | | | | | | 24.10 |
| 101008 LOCKLEAR, MALONNA LOCKLEAR, JAMMIE 285 EVELYNS LN SHANNON, NC 28386-0000 | PP 2019 | 2015 | 04/20/2020 | | | 0 | COU | 30.38 |
| | 12702 | | | 2 | | | F08 | 3.24 |
| | RELEASES | | | | 68413 | | COUL | 3.04 |
| | MOBILE HOME LISTED AS REAL PROPERTY ALSO | | | | | | F08L | .32 |
| | | | | | | | | 36.98 |
| DETAIL SUMMARY | COUNT: 5 | RELEASES - TOTAL | | | | 11,740 | | 139.30 |

Motion: Upon motion by Commissioner Wright and second by Commissioner Thomas the Board voted unanimously to approve the tax releases shown totaling \$139.30.

5. Tax Collector

a. Tax Collections Report for March 2020

Tax Collector Daphne Dudley presented the Tax Collections Report for March 2020:

HOKE COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT
April 20, 2020

| | | |
|------------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Tax Levy 2019 | | \$28,500,528.08 |
| Additions to Levy YTD | | \$1,085,756.56 |
| Total 2019 Levy to Date | | \$29,586,284.64 |
| Refunds 2019 | | \$71,008.49 |
| Releases/Abatements | | \$20,227.99 |
| Discounts | | \$381,954.95 |
| Adjustments | | \$13,843.93 |
| Write Offs | | \$1,378.19 |
| Advertising Charged 2019 Tax Bills | | \$0.00 |
| Collectable Levy to Date | | \$29,579,899.58 |
| Collected To Date | | \$27,959,102.74 |
| Uncollected Balance 2019 Tax Levy | | \$1,621,795.84 |

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Collections March 2020 | \$441,314.24 |
| Releases March 2020 | \$69.67 |
| Percent of Levy Collected (Receipts) | 94.62% |
| Percent of Levy Collected (Releases, Etc) | 0.07% |

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Prior Years Tax Levy March 2020 | \$2,140,903.70 |
| Prior Years Collected in March 2020 To Date | \$864,147.78 |
| Uncollected Balance Before Releases | \$1,286,755.91 |
| Refunds | \$9,340.88 |
| Releases/Abatements | \$5,640.86 |
| Discounts | \$0.00 |
| Adjustments | \$137.12 |
| Write Offs/Insolvent | \$12,823.10 |
| Uncollected Balance Prior Years | \$1,281,877.93 |

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Prior Years Collected in March 2020 | \$120,668.50 |
| Releases Prior Years March 2020 | \$1,054.18 |
| Percent Prior Years Collected (Receipts) | 38.60% |
| Percent Prior Years Collected (Releases Etc) | 0.43% |
| Total Uncollected Taxes | \$2,902,873.77 |

2018 Taxes

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|-----------------|
| Tax Levy March 2019 | | \$28,743,039.88 |
| Collections March 2019 | | \$808,327.03 |
| Releases March 2019 | | \$253.19 |
| Percent Collected (Receipts) | 94.79% | |
| Percent Collected (Releases, Etc) | 0.02% | |
| Prior Years Tax Levy March 2019 | | \$2,205,627.31 |
| Collections March 2019 | | \$99,080.28 |
| Releases March 2019 | | \$603.28 |
| Insolvent | | |
| Percent Collected (Receipts) | 40.76% | |
| Percent Collected (Releases, Etc) | 0.28% | |

b. Request to declare foreclosed property as Surplus:

Mrs. Dudley presented a request to declare foreclosed property as Surplus to the needs of the County:

Vass Road PIN 69435-13-01-161 lot Raeford township
 Tax Value \$4,250 Taxes/Costs (minimum bid: \$6,520.95:

Motion: Upon motion by Commissioner Wright and second by Vice Chairman Southerland the Board voted unanimously to declare the referenced property as surplus to the needs of the County and authorize the disposition of said property.

James Leach
Chairman

Harry Southerland
Vice Chairman

Tom Hunt
Commissioner

Allen Thomas, Jr.
Commissioner



Robert Wright
Commissioner

Grady Hunt
County Attorney

Letitia Edens
County Manager

Gwen McGougan
Clerk to the Board

**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 surplus property from Tax Collections (foreclosed property) located on Vass Road, parcel number 69435-13-01-161, Raeford Township. This property has been determined as no longer needed by the County;

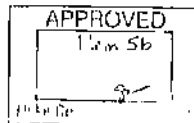
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Hoke County Board of Commissioners that the property located on Vass Road, parcel number 69435-13-01-161, Raeford Township, is hereby declared to be surplus to the needs of the County and the disposition of the property in the best interest of the County of Hoke is authorized

ADOPTED this 20th day of April, 2020.


James A. Leach, Chairman

Attest:


Gwen McGougan, Clerk to the Board



6. Resolution to Accept Offer of Bid for Surplus Property:

Item 6 was removed from the agenda by unanimous vote before agenda adopted.

7. Consideration of HATS Interlock Agreement

HATS Director Nancy Thornton advised the Board that HATS' RFP agreement for scheduling software will expire in May 2020. The agreement was signed in 2015 with a term of 60 months. Ms. Thornton said that the County does not currently have an interest in the agreement. The NC Department of Transportation is considering a statewide scheduling system, so they do not recommend entities entering into an RFP such as this at this time.

Ms. Thornton introduced Ms. Susan Starwalt, Business Development Director with Ecolane. Ms. Starwalt was in attendance to present information to the Board with regard to the extension of HATS' RFP agreement for scheduling software. Ms. Starwalt said that the RFP process is tedious, and this RFP has been approved by NCDOT. Hoke County is the lead agency and other counties can use this RFP to avoid having to go through the RFP approval process. Ms. Starwalt said there is no cost to the County to extend this RFP.

Vice Chairman Southerland asked Ms. Starwalt how this agreement benefits the County. Ms. Starwalt replied that there is no pro or con to consider, but the other agencies that were part of the original agreement will appreciate if Hoke County extends the agreement.

Chairman Leach pointed out that this allows other counties to "piggyback" off Hoke County's agreement. Ms. Starwalt agreed, adding that each agency is accountable for remaining within the requirements of the agreement.

Chairman Leach asked Ms. Thornton if she has used this contract to purchase software. Ms. Thornton said she had not; the agreement was done because she had over \$100,000 to spend on advanced technology. HATS is currently using CTS, which is one of the vendors included in the RFP.

Ms. Starwalt said that Ecolane is seeking an extension of two years.

Upon inquiry from Commissioner Thomas, Ms. Starwalt said that the agencies would have the option to continue purchasing from this RFP.

County Attorney Grady Hunt observed that the original agreement was entered into in 2015, with Hoke County being the lead agency. Mr. Hunt questioned how an RFP from 2015 is still viable in 2020. Ms. Starwalt replied that the basic services in the RFP, scheduling and dispatching, have not changed since 2015. All three companies certified in 2015 are still in business and providing the same services. Mr. Hunt asked Ms. Starwalt if a new RFP should be done based upon changing technology.

Ms. Thornton asked Ms. Starwalt how many agencies have signed on for the renewed agreement. Ms. Starwalt said that Orange County and one other organization have interest.

Upon inquiry from Chairman Leach, Ms. Starwalt acknowledged that there are entities that have the funds but can't purchase based upon this agreement until Hoke County agrees.

County Attorney Grady Hunt said that he'd have to do some research to ascertain whether the County can enter into a 5-year old RFP.

Chairman Leach asked Ms. Starwalt to get the pertinent information to the County Attorney and the matter will be considered at the May 4, 2020 meeting.

Commissioner Thomas advised Ms. Starwalt that she can speak via Video Conferencing at the May 4, 2020 meeting.

Motion: Upon motion by Commissioner Thomas and second by Vice Chairman Southerland the Board voted unanimously to table this matter until the May 4, 2020 Board of Commissioners meeting.

8. Sunpath Revolving Loan Request

Economic Developer Will Wright advised the Board that Sunpath, a local manufacturer of parachute rigging equipment, plans to purchase a company in Arizona and relocate those employees to Hoke County. This will bring roughly 20 jobs to the County. Sunpath is requesting a \$200,000 Revolving Loan with an 8-year term and 0% interest to facilitate the

relocation and hiring of employees. Sunpath will offer their facility in Raeford as collateral. The tax value of the Raeford facility is approximately \$750,000. The Revolving Loan would be subordinate to a small existing loan.

Vice Chairman Southerland reminded the Board and Mr. Wright that a similar loan was approved last year to bring a restaurant to downtown that would employ roughly ten people. That project has yet to come to fruition. In light of this situation, Vice Chairman Southerland wants assurance that the loan funds be used specifically for the reason given when the applicant asks for the loan. County Attorney Grady Hunt said that the Promissory Note can be amended to add the terms of the loan. Mr. Wright asked if the Note revision could include a period of time, for example 18 months, that the applicant would be given to meet the terms of the agreement. Chairman Leach said that, in the current climate, jobs will be at a premium. Vice Chairman Southerland added that, in his opinion, the revolving loan funds should be used to boost development on Highway 401, but he is open to assisting businesses elsewhere in the county.

Commissioner Thomas recommended that Mr. Wright meet with the officials at Sunpath to determine what terms they would agree to.

Motion: Upon motion by Commissioner Thomas and second by Vice Chairman Southerland the Board voted unanimously to table the Sunpath revolving loan request until the May 4, 2020 meeting.

9. Manager's Report

County Manager Letitia Edens asked Finance Officer EJ Prevatte to come before the Board and tell them about news he received recently regarding the County's financial standing. Mr. Prevatte advised the Board that the County's long-term bond rating increased from A+ to AA- by Standard and Poor's. The County's rating for Limited Obligation Bonds rose from A to A+.

Mr. Prevatte read aloud from the report: *The upgrade reflects improved financial performance, as demonstrated by a trend of sustained positive operating results and material increases in reserves. Steady growth in assessed values, property tax revenues, and sales tax revenues since 2015, combined with management's prudent budget practices, have resulted in five years of consecutive general fund surpluses. The additional flexibility has allowed the county to cash-fund capital projects, limiting the need to borrow, and thereby keeping debt levels manageable. The county's limited exposure to pressure from debt and pension obligations further support the rating.*

Mr. Prevatte added that positive factors were the County's low debt levels and Capital Projects funded by cash. Chairman Leach and the Board congratulated Mr. Prevatte and his staff for their hard work to improve the County's financial ratings.

County Manager Letitia Edens advised the Board that the staff is working diligently to keep the County's core functions operating, including processing applications and providing public safety.

County Finance staff is working with Martin Starnes on the audit. Much of the work is being done virtually and via email.

Administration and Emergency Management are working every possible resource to secure Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for all employees.


Upon inquiry from Chairman Leach, Mrs. Edens said that there are now 25 people in Hoke County who have tested positive for the Coronavirus, primarily due to travel. Cases are assigned to the County of residence for the citizen who tests positive.

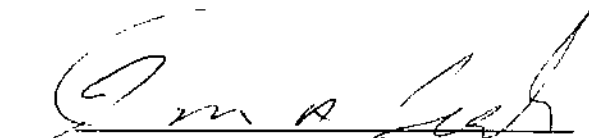
Department Heads turned in their budgets to the Manager and Finance in March. The Manager's Recommended Budget will be submitted to the Board before the June 1, 2020 deadline. Mrs. Edens said she would send the Board a schedule and they could plan workshops from there.

Commissioner Thomas asked Mrs. Edens about the status of the HATS building. Mrs. Edens replied that those are discretionary funds and we are waiting for DOT to release the final amount of the awards. Two locations are ready for consideration once the information from DOT is released.

11. Adjourn

Motion: There being no further business to come before the Hoke County Board of Commissioners, and upon motion by Commissioner Wright and second by Commissioner Thomas the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm.


Gwen McGougan, Clerk to the Board


James Leach, Chairman

