

The Hoke County Board of Commissioners convened for a regular meeting at 7:00 pm on May 4, 2020 in the Commissioners Room in the Pratt Building.

PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

None

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

1. Adoption of Agenda

<p>Hoke County Board of Commissioners</p> <p>227 N. Main Street Raeford, North Carolina 28376</p>		<p>May 4, 2020 7:00 P.M.</p> <p>Commissioner's Room Pratt Building</p>
<p>A G E N D A</p>		

INVOCATION & PLEDGE: Commissioner Tony Hunt

ITEM

1. Adoption of Agenda
2. Public Comment: new: www.hokecountync.com/publiccomment/hokecounty.htm
3. Public Hearings: Planning Matters

Application for General Use Rezoning RZ-20-4 submitted by J&K General Contractors to rezone two (2) parcels and a portion of a third parcel totaling approximately 17.50 acres located on the west side of Townsend Road also known as Parcel Identification Numbers (PINs) 49455001289, 49455001002, and an approximately ten (10) acre portion of 49455001072. The properties are currently zoned Residential Agricultural (RA-20) and the applicant requests the zoning be changed to Residential (R-8). The Planning Board unanimously recommended approval.

4. Consent Agenda

- a. Minutes from April 20, 2020 regular meeting
- b. NC Vehicle Tax Refunds totaling \$1,597.44
- c. Request from Board of Education for Capital Outlay funds
- d. Contract for Architect for Parks & Recreation Building
- e. Finance: Budget Amendments
5. Resolution Authorizing the Advertisement of an Offer to Purchase Surplus Property

<u>Address</u>	<u>PIN</u>	<u>Cost (taxes & utility fees)</u>	<u>Bid Amount</u>
Vass Road undeveloped lot	69435-13-01-149	\$1,445.48	\$1,445.48
6. Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Council FY 2020-2021 Funding Plan
Tabled from April 6, 2020 meeting
7. Consideration of Sewer Waiver for Winchester Subdivision - Hilton Villines
8. Report from County Attorney on Liquid Aluminum Sulfate Class Action
9. Consideration of Sunpath Revolving Loan request
Tabled from April 20, 2020 meeting

- 10. Manager's Report
- 11. Closed Session
- 12. Adjourn

Chairman Leach asked if anyone had any items to add to the agenda or items to remove or table.

Commissioner Hunt said that he'd like to add Ms. Jackie McLean from Hoke County High School to discuss a proposed alternative to the traditional graduation ceremony that can't be held due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Vice Chairman Southerland asked to table Item 4d from the Consent Agenda.

Motion: Upon motion by Commissioner Hunt and second by Vice Chairman Southerland the Board voted unanimously to add Ms. McLean to the agenda as Item #10, adjusting subsequent item numbers and to table Item 4d from the Consent Agenda to a future date to be determined.

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

2. Public Comment new: www.publiccomment@hokecounty.org

A designated email address was set up for public comments. As of the date and time of this meeting, none had been received.

3. Public Hearings: Planning Matters

Application for General Use Rezoning RZ-20-4 submitted by J&K General Contractors to rezone two (2) parcels and a portion of a third parcel totaling approximately 17.59 acres located on the west side of Townsend Road also known as Parcel Identification Numbers (PINs) 494550301289, 494550301002, and an approximately ten (10) acre portion of 494550001072. The properties are currently zoned Residential Agricultural (RA-20) and the applicant requests the zoning be changed to Residential (R-8). **The Planning Board unanimously recommended approval.**

Planner Robert Farrell advised the Board that the neighboring parcels are zoned Residential (R-8). The property also adjoins Turnberry Subdivision, giving the developer access to County water and sewer.

Mr. Steve Phillips, representing J & K Builders addressed the Board. J & K purchased this property from Mr. Jimmy Wood. J & K's intent is to construct homes on ½ acre lots. These homes will be comparable to existing area homes at roughly 1500-1900 square feet.

Motion: Upon motion by Commissioner Hunt and second by Commissioner Thomas the Board voted unanimously to close the Public Hearing.

Motion: Upon motion by Commissioner Wright and second by Vice Chairman Southerland the Board voted unanimously to approve Rezoning Permit RZ-20-4, rezoning approximately 17.59 acres located on the west side of Townsend Road also known as Parcel Identification Numbers (PINs) 494550301289, 494550301002, and an approximately ten (10) acre portion of 494550001072 from RA20 to R-8.

4. Consent Agenda

- a. Minutes from April 20, 2020 regular meeting
- b. NC Vehicle Tax Refunds totaling \$1,597.44

Report Date: 02/24/2020 11:31:41 AM

NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	COUNTY	MAILING COUNTY	MAILING CITY	ZIP	TYPE	AMOUNT	STATUS	DATE	TOTAL
WILLIAMS DARRYL	1121 WASH CT	FALMOUTH	ALABAMA	ALABAMA	FALMOUTH	36522	Vehicle Tax Refund	50.00	Yes	01/15/20	50.00
WEEKS JAMES	12108 WINDYBUSH	RALEIGH	NORTH CAROLINA	NORTH CAROLINA	RALEIGH	27612	Vehicle Tax Refund	122.00	Yes	01/15/20	122.00
BURTON BRUCE	206 BRENDELTON LN	RALEIGH	NORTH CAROLINA	NORTH CAROLINA	RALEIGH	27612	Vehicle Tax Refund	122.00	Yes	01/15/20	122.00
DAVE MULLIN	398 WINDYBUSH LN	RALEIGH	NORTH CAROLINA	NORTH CAROLINA	RALEIGH	27612	Vehicle Tax Refund	122.00	Yes	01/15/20	122.00
DAVE MULLIN	398 WINDYBUSH LN	RALEIGH	NORTH CAROLINA	NORTH CAROLINA	RALEIGH	27612	Vehicle Tax Refund	122.00	Yes	01/15/20	122.00
HEATHER MULLIN	398 WINDYBUSH LN	RALEIGH	NORTH CAROLINA	NORTH CAROLINA	RALEIGH	27612	Vehicle Tax Refund	122.00	Yes	01/15/20	122.00
FRAZER JAMES	171 FLYING DUTCHMAN	RALEIGH	NORTH CAROLINA	NORTH CAROLINA	RALEIGH	27612	Vehicle Tax Refund	122.00	Yes	01/15/20	122.00
FRAZER JAMES	171 FLYING DUTCHMAN	RALEIGH	NORTH CAROLINA	NORTH CAROLINA	RALEIGH	27612	Vehicle Tax Refund	122.00	Yes	01/15/20	122.00
HILLARY MULLIN	398 WINDYBUSH LN	RALEIGH	NORTH CAROLINA	NORTH CAROLINA	RALEIGH	27612	Vehicle Tax Refund	122.00	Yes	01/15/20	122.00
HILLARY MULLIN	398 WINDYBUSH LN	RALEIGH	NORTH CAROLINA	NORTH CAROLINA	RALEIGH	27612	Vehicle Tax Refund	122.00	Yes	01/15/20	122.00
WILLIAMS DARRYL	1121 WASH CT	FALMOUTH	ALABAMA	ALABAMA	FALMOUTH	36522	Vehicle Tax Refund	50.00	Yes	01/15/20	50.00
WILLIAMS DARRYL	1121 WASH CT	FALMOUTH	ALABAMA	ALABAMA	FALMOUTH	36522	Vehicle Tax Refund	50.00	Yes	01/15/20	50.00
WILLIAMS DARRYL	1121 WASH CT	FALMOUTH	ALABAMA	ALABAMA	FALMOUTH	36522	Vehicle Tax Refund	50.00	Yes	01/15/20	50.00

Total Refunds \$1,597.44

- c. Request from Board of Education for Capital Outlay funds

Hoke County Schools Superintendent Dr. Freddie Williamson presented a request for the remaining balance of the funds budgeted for the Hoke County School System's Capital Outlay for FY 2019-2020. Of the \$1,107,531 budgeted, \$15,217 remains. The school system wishes to use this amount toward the cost of grading and water lines at the practice football field at Hoke County High School.

- d. Contract for Architect for Parks & Recreation Building

This item was tabled until a future date (to be determined).

- e. Finance: Budget Amendments

AMENDMENT TO THE HOKE COUNTY BUDGET ORDINANCE
2019/2020
Amendment

Section 1 Revenue of the Hoke County Budget Ordinance pertaining to the Administrative Project Funds shall be amended as follows:

Increase (Decrease) Revenues

Transfer from General Fund	145,000
Total	\$ 145,000

Section 2 of the Hoke County Budget Ordinance pertaining to the Administrative Projects Fund

Increase (Decrease) Expenditures

Construction	120,000
Equipment	10,000
Land Improvements	35,000
Total	\$ 145,000

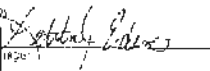
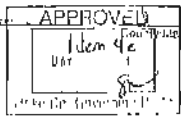
This amendment:

- Allocates \$145,000 to cooperative extension building project relating to masonry and landscaping

Funding Source: Transfer from the General Fund

Submitted: 05-04-2020

Respectfully Submitted by:

6. Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Council FY 2020-2021 Funding Plan

JCPC Board Chairman Rev. Al Anderson and JCPC Coordinator Lorraine Landry addressed the Board. Mr. Anderson and Mrs. Landry are seeking the Board's approval of the FY 2020-2021 JCPC County Funding Plan:

Hoke County
NC DPS - Community Programs - County Funding Plan

Available Funds: \$ 518,302 Local Match: \$ 574,524 Ratio: 10%

DPS & JV Funds must be committed within Program Agreement as outlined in NC Rules and electronically signed by all financial officials

Program Expense	DPS JCPC Funding	LOCAL FUNDING			OTHER STATE/Federal	OTHER Funds	Total	Ratio DPS/JV Programs Expense
		County Cash Match	Local Cash Match	Local In-Kind				
Hoke County JCPC Administration	\$10,700						\$10,700	
F.E.B. Community Service & Restitution Programs	\$55,000			\$0,900			\$55,900	9%
Offending in the House Shuffled Day Program	\$37,590			\$4,132			\$41,722	10%
House to Successes Mentoring Program	\$28,012			\$4,395			\$32,407	13%
Wright Memorial Teen Court Program	\$50,000	\$10,000	\$225	\$61,900			\$122,125	20%
TOTALS:	\$185,302	\$10,000	\$225	\$66,200			\$261,727	31%

The above plan was drafted through a planning process by the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Council and represents the County's Plan for use of these funds in FY 2020-2021

Approved by:

 Vice Chairman

 Chairman

 Treasurer

 Secretary

 Auditor

 Date: 4-27-2020

 Date: 5-4-2020

In addition to the DPS funding of \$50,000 the JCPC Board wishes to give the entire amount (\$10,000) of the County's cash match to the Teen Court Project.

Chairman Leach advised the Board that the Teen Court program is now mandated by the State of North Carolina. The State is giving units more funds due to the "Raise the Age" legislation. These funds are to be used exclusively for the Teen Court program.

Motion: Upon motion by Vice Chairman Southerland and second by Commissioner Hunt the Board voted unanimously to approve the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Council's FY 2020-2021 Funding plan as submitted.

7. Consideration of Sewer Waiver for Winchester Subdivision -- Hilton Villines

Utilities Director Hilton Villines addressed the Board. There were no representatives in attendance on behalf of the developer. Mr. Villines reminded the Board that a decision on whether to approve the 33-lot Winchester Subdivision was tabled at the April 6, 2020 until tonight's meeting to give the Board time to review the location of the subdivision within the County's Urban Service Area.

Chairman Leach inquired how far the project is from the sewer lines. Mr. Villines replied that the location of the proposed subdivision is roughly three miles from the sewer lines.

Chairman Leach stated that, if the County approves the sewer waiver for Winchester Subdivision, there will be other properties in the area requesting the same. The possibility of using the wastewater plant to its capacity is greatly diminished.

Commissioner Hunt asked Mr. Villines if the developer had investigated the cost to extend the sewer to the proposed subdivision. Mr. Villines said that the developer had not; they only investigated the cost of the water. When asked by Vice Chairman Southerland what his recommendation would be, Mr. Villines replied that extending sewer lines that far would not be cost-effective for the County. Commissioner Hunt added that the County would bear the cost of the extension to the project.

Mr. Villines said that the amount the County would receive in System Development Fees would approximate \$66,600. Chairman Leach asked Mr. Villines what the average monthly sewer bill is and how many lots in this subdivision. Mr. Villines replied that the average sewer bill is \$60-\$85. There are 33 lots in the proposed subdivision.

Commissioner Hunt said that other side of the debate would be that, if the County granted this waiver as close as this project is to the sewer, it might be worth the County spending the money to extend the line. Its possible that property owners along the extension would sign up for the sewer. Commissioner Hunt added that if this waiver is granted, it would set a precedent where other developers building nearby would expect to be granted sewer waivers.

Motion: Upon motion by Vice Chairman Southerland and second by Commissioner Hunt the Board voted unanimously to deny the sewer waiver for Winchester Subdivision.

8. Report from County Attorney on Liquid Aluminum Sulfate Class Action

County Attorney Grady Hunt advised the Board that a Class Action lawsuit has been filed against the manufacturer of liquid aluminum sulfate, a chemical used in water treatment. The Agreement presented to the Board, Exclusive Claims Management Agreement: Liquid Aluminum Sulfate Class Action(s), authorizes Financial Recovery Strategies (FRS) to file claims and submit documents on behalf of the County. If funds are awarded, FRS will retain 30% of the amount as their fee.

Motion: Upon motion by Commissioner Wright and second by Commissioner Hunt the Board voted unanimously to authorize FRS to proceed in the Liquid Aluminum Sulfate Class Action lawsuit on behalf of Hoke County.

9. Consideration of Sunpath Revolving Loan request – Economic Developer Will Wright

Economic Developer Will Wright summarized the request by Sunpath Products to enter into a Revolving Loan Agreement with Hoke County for \$200,000 at zero interest. Sunpath manufactures parachutes and equipment. They are purchasing a company in Arizona and the funds are requested to help move that operation to Raeford, creating twenty jobs for the community.

This item was tabled at the April 20, 2020 meeting to give the Board and the Economic Developer time to negotiate the terms of the agreement with Sunpath executives. Mr. Wright spoke with representatives from Sunpath and they want a \$200,000 Revolving Loan with a 2-year term. They plan to hire twenty employees over an 18-month period. Mr. Wright added that Sunpath has already hired a small number of people with regard to the move and they'd like to count those people toward the twenty positions. All were hired after January 1, 2020, so they'd like to use this as their start date.

Chairman Leach asked the County Attorney if he could incorporate these terms in the loan agreement. Mr. Hunt replied that he can make the terms part of the Promissory Note or he could draft an agreement. Mr. Hunt added that he needs documentation of the number of Sunpath's employees before the beginning of the loan term and the number of employees they have at the end of their term.

Upon inquiry from Vice Chairman Southerland, Mr. Wright assured the Board that the loan proceeds will not be used by Sunpath to purchase the company. Those funds will be used to hire and train employees in Raeford.

Motion: Upon motion by Commissioner Wright and second by Vice Chairman Southerland the Board voted unanimously to approve the \$200,000 Revolving Loan to Sunpath Products with the provisions set out in the Promissory Note.

10. Presentation by Jackie McLean, Hoke County Schools

Ms. McLean began by recognizing Hoke County Schools Superintendent Dr. Freddie Williamson. Dr. Williamson said he wanted to thank the Board for the 1:1 devices that the County funded in the budget three years ago. The COVID-19 pandemic closed schools nationwide and students having the Chromebooks in hand put Hoke County ahead of other systems in enabling online instruction.

Dr. Williamson said that school buses will continue to deliver meals to students at home up to June 10, 2020. To date, over 365,000 meals have been served.

The School System has distributed Mi-Fi mobile hot spot devices to students and teachers that do not have access to the Internet. Funds have been allotted to school systems statewide to be used for Coronavirus-related needs.

Chairman Leach added that the Board is equipping all Hoke County community buildings to have internet access.

Vice Chairman Southerland and Commissioner Hunt commended the school system for the excellent job they've done adapting to the current circumstances.

Ms. McLean advised the Board that Hoke County has 437 seniors graduating June 8, 2020. Due to the restrictions placed on gatherings due to the Pandemic, these seniors have missed their prom, their senior trip and now their graduation.

The school system is proposing a Festival of Lights to honor this year's graduates. Using Hoke High School's soccer field, and decorated with lights, the school system is proposing to hang 24" x 30" pictures of each senior. A processional would circle through the exhibit. After the student receives his diploma, they will be given their portrait.

Ms. McLean is seeking help for funding this project. The cost is \$20 per student with a total cost of \$8,400. To date, about half that amount has been raised. Commissioner Hunt added that there will be additional expenses for this project, such as lighting. Ms. McLean is asking the Board to fund the remaining amount, at least \$2,500.

Commissioner Hunt is sponsoring 5 students and challenged the other Board members to do the same. In addition, he would like the County to assist the school system in funding this project.

Commissioner Thomas suggested the County contribute the remaining balance to the school system and leave the amount open to be determined once all donations are in. Commissioner Wright suggested a donation of \$3,000. Vice Chairman Southerland said he'd prefer a fixed amount but \$2,500 is not enough.

Dr. Williamson said that the school system could tally the donations received to date and give the County an exact dollar amount.

County Manager Letitia Edens advised the Board and Dr. Williamson that the school system will need to get an invoice to the County in order for the check to be issued.

Motion: Upon motion by Commissioner Wright and second by Vice Chairman Southerland the Board voted unanimously to authorize the County Manager to issue a check in an amount not to exceed \$4,400 to the Hoke County Schools as a donation from Hoke County to be used for the Festival of Lights.

11. Manager's Report

County Manager Letitia Edens advised the Board that the Golden Leaf Foundation has awarded Hoke County \$1,400,000 for the Grow Hoke project. The Board needs to formally accept the funds.

Emergency Management Coordinator Andrew Jacobs addressed the Board. Golden Leaf awarded the County a \$1,400,000 grant for the Grow Hoke project, which will extend sewer lines in the area of the Highway 401 Corridor. This is the largest award of grant funds by Golden Leaf for this cycle.

Motion: Upon motion by Commissioner Hunt and second by Vice Chairman Southerland the Board voted unanimously to add the acceptance of the Golden Leaf grant to the agenda as Item 12, adjusting subsequent item numbers.

Motion: Upon motion by Commissioner Hunt and second by Commissioner Wright the Board voted unanimously to accept the \$1,400,000 in grant funds from the Golden Leaf Foundation.

Mrs. Edens advised the Board that her team is constantly looking for grant opportunities. The County has applied for \$714,000 in Emergency Management funds related to technology, staffing and equipment. There is loan money available for small businesses. Vice Chairman Southerland has inquired about grants for non-profits. Updated information is posted on ReadyHoke.org.

There are 103 COVID-19 cases in Hoke County as of today. Recent cases are from poultry processing plants and congregate facilities. More tests are available so the number of positives will likely increase.

Mrs. Edens said that employee safety is her priority. Work is available even if buildings are closed.

Plexiglass has been put up in customer service areas. Mrs. Edens has ordered safety shields for desks as well as masks and other PPE. Emergency Management is attempting to procure PPE wherever they can find it available.

Vice Chairman Southerland said he is concerned about a possible second wave of COVID coming in the fall. He is encouraging the Manager to procure and stockpile as much as possible.

Vice Chairman Southerland said that the public needs to know that capital projects, such as the Agriculture building and the Parks & Recreation facility are ongoing.

Mrs. Edens said she has an approximate completion date of May 15 for the Agricultural building. told the Board that she is ready to schedule a walk-through at the new Agricultural building. After discussion the Board agreed to meet at the building at 10:00 am on Friday, May 8, 2020.

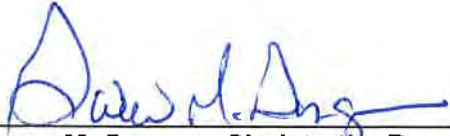
Mrs. Edens asked the Board for input as to when to hold the budget meetings. The dates for the workshops will be May 26, 27 & 28. Vice Chairman Southerland said that he'd prefer meetings be held after 11:00 am. The Board decided to hold the workshops beginning at noon each day.

12. Closed Session

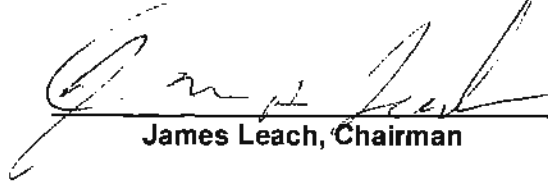
No Closed Session was held.

13. Adjourn

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. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.



Gwen McGougan, Clerk to the Board



James Leach, Chairman

