

Meeting of the Hoke County Board of Commissioners on Monday, December 6, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Room of the Pratt Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robert Wright, Chairman
Charles Daniels, Vice Chairman
James Leach
Jean Powell
William Cameron, Jr.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mike Wood, County Manager
Neil Yarborough, County Attorney
Linda Revels, Clerk to the Board

Chairman Wright called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Tom Squier led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the invocation.

Approval of Minutes

- a. November 15, 2004
- b. November 23, 2004 Special Meetings

James Leach made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by William Cameron, unanimously carried.

The Board took a short recess until Mrs. Hollingsworth arrived.

Vera Hollingsworth, Clerk of Court, swore in new Board members Robert A. Wright and James A. Leach.

Election of Officers

- a. Chairman – James Leach nominated Robert Wright as Chairman. William Cameron made a motion to close the nominations and that Robert Wright accept by acclamation, seconded by Jean Powell, unanimously carried. Chairman Wright stated that he appreciated the Board's faith in him and that he would try and do a good job.
- b. Vice Chairman – William Cameron nominated Charles Daniels as Vice Chairman. James Leach made a motion that nominations be closed and that Charles Daniels accept by acclamation, seconded by Jean Powell, unanimously carried. Charles Daniels stated that he appreciated the Board's support.

(minutes continued from the December 6, 2004 meeting) 1487

James Leach thanked Linda Revels and her staff for the nice reception. Chairman Wright stated that he agreed and appreciated the reception and thanked everyone that came.

Planning Matters – Rezoning – Public Hearing

- a. Case No. P2004-38 – New Beginning C.G.P. Inc./Derwin Johnson – Request for a conditional use for a cemetery located at 4725 N. Duffie Road – Allendale Township – The Planning Board recommended denial. Mike Wood stated that the area is mostly RA-20. Two tracts of land are owned by the church. The first tract with the church is approximately .82 acres. The second tract is approximately .48 acres. There is an existing grave presently on the second tract of land. Pastor Derwin Johnson affirmed and spoke for the request. He stated that they have had one funeral at the church. He was not aware of zoning for church cemeteries. He thought the zoning was for private cemeteries. Nothing mentions church cemeteries. He wants the church to get due process. The regulations were to deter cemeteries in people's back yard. He is trying to provide a service for the church. People can not afford to be buried on private property. Chairman Wright asked if there was a house about 50' near the grave site? Pastor Johnson stated yes, but he did not know how close. Veronica Johnson, Co Pastor, affirmed and spoke for the request. She stated that they are trying to do a service for the members. Only one person has complained. If the board needs signatures, they will do this. They are a non-profit organization. There was no opposition. James Leach made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Jean Powell, unanimously carried. James Leach made a motion to approve the request. Jean Powell asked Neil Yarborough about the legalities? Attorney Yarborough stated that this request does not meet the minimum requirement, being one acre. This tract is .48 acres which is less than a half acre. There are also buffer requirements. The Commissioners can amend the zoning ordinance. This does not comply. The church is a private cemetery and not a public cemetery. James Leach stated that the church is adjoining the cemetery lot. Attorney Yarborough stated that they could recombine the property and resubmit. Pastor Johnson stated that they are willing to recombine and put in the buffers. The motion died for lack of a second. Charles Daniels stated that several people in objection had come to talk to him but did not want to offend the church. Charles Daniels made a motion to deny the

(minutes continued from the December 6, 2004 meeting) 1488

request, seconded by Jean Powell. The motion carried 4 to 1 with James Leach voting no.

Subdivisions:

- 1a. Posey Farm Subdivision – Preliminary – Walter Jones – Property owner – 24.53 acres – 44 lots – zoned RA-20 – Planning Board recommended approval. Mike Wood stated that lot #25 did not meet the subdivision regulations. He recommended approval of the preliminary plat based on lot #25 being removed or coming into compliance. It does not abut a street. James Leach made a motion to approve the recommendation, seconded by Charles Daniels, unanimously carried.
- 2a. Galatia Farms Subdivision – Preliminary - Express Investment – Property owner – 37.67 acres – 67 lots – zoned RA-20 – Planning Board recommended approval. James Leach made a motion to approve the preliminary plat, seconded by Jean Powell, unanimously carried.

Consent Agenda:

- a. Approval of Upset Bid for Backhoe
- b. Approval of Chairman as Voting Delegate for Legislative Goals Conference
- c. Approval of Contract for Mosley Architects
- d. Acceptance of \$11,000 for Extension

Jean Powell made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by James Leach, unanimously carried.

Mike Wood discussed the upgrades to the City Wastewater Treatment Plant. He stated that they have had discussions with the City of Raeford over the past few months regarding more capacity. The Wooten Company has offered a proposal to the City that will do two things. 1 – Looking at what it would take to expand the treatment plant from 3 million to 4 million gallons and then from 4 million to 5 million and 2 – looking at the current operating plant to identify any problems or needed upgrades. He recommends to the Board to expedite this by offering to pay \$20,000.00 of the \$30,000.00 proposal for looking at the needs for expansion. James Leach asked if they were going to guarantee us any capacity? Mike Wood

(minutes continued from the December 6, 2004 meeting) 1489

stated yes, that this would be placed in an agreement. Chairman Wright asked if we should add to this that if we get additional capacity, we get credit on the FIF fee? Mike Wood stated that this would be fine. Chairman Wright stated that this should speed the process up. This could be approved subject to. Neil Yarborough stated that this would be for the study itself. It keeps us from getting double-billed. James Leach asked where would the funds come from? Mike Wood stated from the water and sewer funds. Charles Daniels asking if anything was being collected now on the sewer? Mike Wood stated yes that they were in the first billing cycle. Chairman Wright stated that he would rather pay the City of Raeford instead of PWC. He appreciates the City working with us. William Cameron made a motion to go ahead with the study and ask Neil Yarborough to draft up a letter, seconded by Charles Daniels, with a cap of \$20,000.00. The motion carried unanimously.

Dennis Bowen presented a request by Senior Services for a Senior Center Study and approval of the Committee. He introduced some of his board members. He stated that the face of the aging community is changing. There is a significant population of older adults that demand services and programs. There are currently 162 centers in North Carolina. These senior centers have programs that cater to the elderly and active older adults. Hoke County has done well to establish an aging department to address the needs of the senior population. Many of the needs are going unmet due to not having a senior center. Hoke County is one of the five counties that does not have a senior center. It is the recommendation from this advisory board to request the appointment of a Senior Center Study Committee. They will provide a study report documenting a needs assessment, give building plans, operational cost estimates and sources of funding.

The recommended committee is:

Ireni Autry, Joyce Blackburn, Evelyn Price, Dennis Bowen,
Representative from Lumber River Area Agency on Aging, Mary K.
Thomas, Richard Ferguson, Linda Teal and James Leach.

James Leach made a motion to approve the request for the Senior Center Study Committee, seconded by Jean Powell, unanimously carried.

Ray Sistare, County Engineer, presented an update on Deaton Road. He stated that the road is nearly impassable. There is no drainage or ditches,

with improper grading. Buses will not go down the road. He has met with Marcus Jones with DOT. A total estimated cost for residential road minimum standards is approximately \$147,121.25. The cost is \$44.47 per foot of 3308 linear feet. Financing will need to be in place and then a survey will need to be done. The residents have to agree to this. The legalities will then have to be worked out. The design will then be done with the contractors. Jean Powell stated that the surveying may be premature. The residents need to give an indication that they want to proceed. This estimate needs to be communicated to the residents where they understand the costs. For the county to do an assessment, Neil Yarborough stated that it will require a petition of 75% of the property owners representing 75% of the front footage. If the Board is going to pursue this, letters need to be sent out to the property owners with a petition prepared by him. It can be financed for 10 years and not 20 years. Costs are expensive. They would have to retro-fit the lots. His advice would be to send a letter to the property owners with prices with the possibility of a 10 year financing. Mike Wood stated that there is a danger also in doing this. If the decision is to do this, there may be many others. He is hesitant recommending that the county get into the road business. DOT will not participate. William Cameron stated that the question is once the street is put in to DOT standards, if they will take it over. He does not agree with Mike Wood's dismissal of this. They have been on this for almost two years. They need to do something. Either they can do it, or if the residents don't want it, that would be the end of it. He recommends that the Board notify the residents with an estimate and do the petition. If they don't have 75% of the property owners with front footage, that kills it. The people need to be given the chance. Jean Powell stated that the issue of the state taking over the road is a separate issue. The state has its own requirements. They may not take it over. Neil Yarborough stated that they would have to meet the house number requirements. William Cameron made a motion to notify the residents with an estimate and petition, seconded by Jean Powell, unanimously carried.

Appointments:

- a. ABC Board – Charles Daniels made a motion to reappoint James Conoly for three years, seconded by James Leach, unanimously carried.
- b. Parks & Recreation – James Leach made a motion to reappoint Martha Beatty. The motion dies due to lack of a second. William

(minutes continued from the December 6, 2004 meeting) 1491

Cameron made a motion to appoint Clayton Singletary, seconded by Jean Powell. James Leach stated that the Parks and Recreation Board has been treated unfairly. Almost each time that they send a name, they Board goes a different route. They interview these people and send us their recommendation. This is not right. William Cameron stated that they approved their recommendation last month. The motion carried 4 to 1 with James Leach voting no.

c. Senior Services – Jean Powell made a motion to appoint Della Maynor-Bowen, seconded by James Leach, unanimously carried.

Public Input

1. Tom Squier and Richard Fergison- Tom Squier stated that the troops would be returning shortly. He would like to have a homecoming celebration with a great showing. Chairman Wright requested that they come back to the Board with a recommendation.

There being no further business to come before the Hoke County Board of Commissioners, James Leach made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Charles Daniels, unanimously carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Robert A. Wright, Chairman