

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2014 – 7:00 PM
CROWN COLISEUM – 1960 COLISEUM DRIVE – FAYETTEVILLE, NC
SPECIAL MEETING HOSTED BY FAYETTEVILLE REGIONAL CHAMBER
MINUTES

PRESENT: Commissioner Jeannette Council, Chair
Commissioner Kenneth Edge, Vice Chair
Commissioner Charles Evans
Commissioner Marshall Faircloth
Commissioner Jimmy Keefe
Commissioner Billy King
Commissioner Ed Melvin
Amy Cannon, County Manager
James Lawson, Deputy County Manager
Melissa Cardinali, Assistant County Manager
Rick Moorefield, County Attorney
Sally Shutt, Government Affairs Officer
Doug Peters, Fayetteville Regional Chamber President/CEO
Russ Rogerson, Economic Development Alliance Executive Vice
President
Tim Richardson, Economic Development Alliance Board
Chairman
Chris Bostock, Economic Development Alliance Board Past
Chairman
Pic Billingsley, Sanderson Farms, Inc. Director of Development
and Engineering
Bill Hurley, Former Fayetteville Mayor
Candice H. White, Clerk to the Board
Kellie Beam, Deputy Clerk to the Board
Press

Doug Peters, Fayetteville Regional Chamber President/CEO welcomed everyone to the community information meeting about the poultry industry and its regulations. Mr. Peters stated the meeting would include information from a variety of resources as it pertains to an operation such as Sanderson Farms Inc., which is considering locating a poultry processing facility in Cumberland County. Mr. Peters stated some of the information will be provided by representatives from the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services as it relates to the poultry industry and inspections and the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources as it relates to the environmental regulatory process.

Mr. Peters stated the purpose of the meeting is to provide accurate information regarding the poultry industry including processing, wastewater treatment, groundwater impacts and other scientific components impacting the environment. Mr. Peters stated Sanderson Farms, Inc. is currently looking into locating a new state-of-the-art poultry processing facility at the vacant Cedar Creek Business Park.

Tim Richardson, Economic Development Alliance Board Chairman, briefly explained the economic development function of the Alliance and stated the Alliance has focused its economic development activities on those industries that have matched well with the region, particularly defense contractors, logistics, food processing, innovative manufacturing and business and financial services.

Chris Bostock, Economic Development Alliance Board Past Chairman, explained that up to this point, both Sanderson Farms, Inc. and the Alliance have been conducting due diligence activities which resulted in a series of fact sheets once the project became public. Mr. Bostock stated information provided during this meeting would explain more about Project Destiny, which was the project name the Alliance had used for the Sanderson Farms project.

Mr. Peters introduced the following speakers:

- Ron Fish, N. C. Department of Agriculture, who provided an overview of the N. C. poultry industry.
- Christine Lawson, N. C. Department of Energy and Natural Resources, Animal Feedings Program Manager, who provided an overview of the State's regulations and regulatory processes with respect to animal feeding operations.
- Professor Mike Williams, North Carolina State University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, who spoke about poultry science.

Russ Rogerson, Economic Development Alliance Executive Vice-President, stated Sanderson Farms, Inc., is the third largest chicken producer in the United States with a net income of \$130 million in 2013 and publicly traded stock currently valued at \$93 per share. Mr. Rogerson stated the project will employ 1,000 individuals with an estimated average hourly pay rate at \$11.71 or \$24,338 per year. Mr. Rogerson stated there will be more than 100 salaried employees averaging \$52,000. Mr. Rogerson stated Sanderson Farms, Inc. employees participate in a comprehensive benefit package covering the employee and family, with Sanderson paying 75% of the costs of these benefits which represent additional hourly compensation of approximately \$2.50 per hour.

Mr. Rogerson stated 10,000 people in Cumberland County are unemployed, 22,000 households earn less than \$15,000 in Cumberland County and 40,000 households earn less than \$25,000 annually. Mr. Rogerson stated about 4,200 people in Cumberland County are already qualified for this classification of employment. Mr. Rogerson stated Sanderson Farms, Inc. demonstrates how science, technology and agriculture come together to feed the world.

The audience was invited to submit written questions which were screened and read aloud by former Fayetteville Mayor Bill Hurley. The questions were answered by the appropriate speaker from the State agencies, the Alliance and Mr. Pic Billingsley, Director of Development and Engineering for Sanderson Farms, Inc. .

Mr. Pic Billingsley summarized his comments by stating that the proposed processing plant would be state-of-the art and use new technology to manage water, waste and other logistics. Mr. Billingsley stated no chicken farms would be built in the Cedar Creek area.

Mr. Peters provided closing remarks and announced that the questions and answers would be posted on the Alliance's website.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Approved with/without revision:

Respectfully submitted,

Candice H. White
Clerk to the Board