NHCCommissionersObsCorps Feb20 2017

Of environmental interest - A yearly presentation was given detailing the water quality monitoring of the seven tidal creeks in New Hanover County. The link to the entire report can be found in the observer Corps report on the website in the Observer Corps section. In addition, the NHC Pine Valley Branch Library design plan was explained. The commissioners also voted to approve a resolution of support for adequate funding to meet the mental health, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and substance use disorder service needs for citizens.

The regular meeting of the New Hanover County Board of Commissioners was held at the Court House from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. All commissioners were present.

There were several main agenda issues. The most comprehensive item was the presentation about the water quality monitoring in NHC, the 2015-2016 annual report. Nineteen monitoring sites are in use for the seven tidal creeks. These sites are visited multiple times to gather the physical, chemical, and biological properties of the water. In a summary of the results: dissolved oxygen has declined and enterococci bacteria levels are fair to poor (there have been a small amount of negative changes shown overall).

The link to the report is <file:///C:/Users/cwrob/Downloads/2015-2106%20Final%20Report%20(1).pdf>.

The NHC Pine Valley library branch is being planned to accommodate increased population in this area of the county. It will be a big improvement over the Myrtle Grove library and will have 16,000 sq. ft. The library is in the design development phase now with construction to last from Sept. ’17-Dec. 18. It will be open to the public in Jan. 2019. The total projected cost estimate is $5,775,000.

Commissioners approved a “Resolution of Support for Adequate funding to Meet the Mental Health, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Substance Use Disorder Service Needs for the Citizens of New Hanover County”. There has been decreased state funding (40 million) in the last year, and the company that provides these services, Trillium, stated that without additional funds there would have to be a reduction in services.

A league member, Nancy Pritchett, was appointed to the Board of Equalization Review.

Carol Roberts, Observer