

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
STOKES COUNTY
ADOPTING A CODE OF ETHICS
FOR THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS, Section 160A-86 of the North Carolina General Statutes requires local governing boards to adopt a Code of Ethics, and

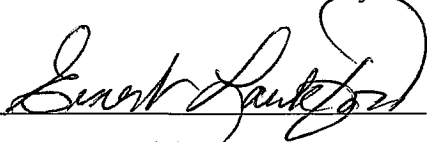
WHEREAS, as public officials we are charged with upholding the trust of the citizens and residents of Stokes County, and with obeying the law, and

WHEREAS, as public officials of Stokes County, we believe our citizens and residents are entitled to the most open and ethical government possible under the law.

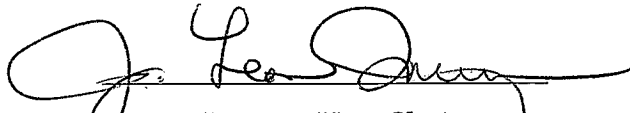
NOW THEREFORE, in recognition of our blessings and obligations as citizens of the State of North Carolina and as public officials representing the citizens and residents of Stokes County and acting pursuant to the requirements of Section 160A-86 of the North Carolina General Statutes, we the Stokes County Board of Commissioners, do hereby adopt the Code of Ethics, attached hereto as Exhibit A, to guide the Board in its lawful decision-making. The Board of Commissioners directs all advisory boards and committees, which currently serve, or which may in the future be created to serve, to respect and abide by this Code of Ethics in the performance of their lawful duties inasmuch as they may be applicable to the performance thereof.

Upon the effective date of this Code of Ethics, the previously adopted Code of Ethics of Stokes County is hereby repealed.

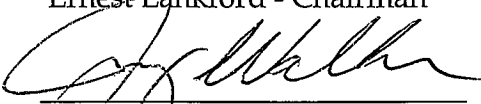
This Resolution duly adopted this 28th day of December, 2010.



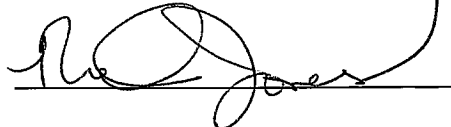
Ernest Lankford - Chairman



J. Leon Inman - Vice Chairman



Jimmy Walker - Commissioner

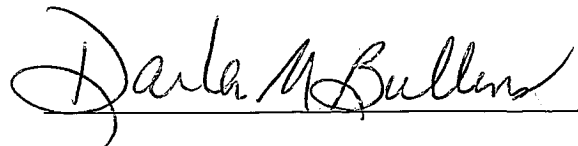


Ronda Jones - Commissioner



James D. Booth - Commissioner

Attest:



Darlene M. Bullins - Clerk to the Board

EXHIBIT A

STOKES COUNTY
CODE OF ETHICS
FOR THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The stability and proper operation of democratic representative government depends upon the continuing consent of the governed, upon the public confidence in the integrity of the government and upon responsible exercise of the trust conferred by the people. Government decisions and policy must be made and implemented through proper channels and processes of the governmental structure. The purpose of this code is to establish guidelines for ethical standards of conduct for the Board of Commissioners. It should not be considered a substitute for the law or a Board of Commissioners member's best judgment.

Board of Commissioners members must be able to act in a manner to maintain their integrity and independence; yet must be responsive to the interests and needs of those they represent. Board of Commissioners members serve in an important advocacy capacity in meeting the needs of their citizens and should recognize the legitimacy of this role as well as the intrinsic importance of this function to the proper functioning of representative government. At the same time, Board of Commissioners members must, at times, act in an adjudicatory or administrative capacity and must, when doing so, act in a fair and impartial manner. Board of Commissioners members must know how to distinguish these roles and when each role is appropriate and they must act accordingly. Board of Commissioners members must be aware of their obligation to conform their behavior to standards of ethical conduct that warrant the trust of their constituents. Each Board of Commissioners member must find within his or her own conscience the touchstone on which to determine appropriate conduct.

I. A Board of Commissioners Member Shall Obey the Law

Board of Commissioners members shall support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of North Carolina and the laws enacted by the Congress of the United States and the General Assembly pursuant thereto. Members specifically acknowledge and agree to comply with the requirements of NCGS §14-234 entitled "Public officers or employees benefiting from public contracts; exceptions."

II. A Board of Commissioners Member Should Uphold the Integrity and Independence of His or Her Office

Board of Commissioners members should demonstrate the highest standards of personal integrity, truthfulness, honesty and fortitude in all their public activities in order to inspire public confidence and trust in County government. Board of Commissioners members should participate in establishing, maintaining, and enforcing, and should themselves observe, high standards of conduct so that the integrity and independence of

their office may be preserved. The provisions of this Code should be construed and applied to further these objectives.

III. A Board of Commissioners Member Should Avoid Impropriety and the Appearance of Impropriety in All His or Her Activities

It is essential that county government attract those citizens best qualified and willing to serve. Board of Commissioners members have legitimate interests of a private nature: economic, professional and vocational. Board of Commissioners members should not be denied, and should not deny to other Board of Commissioners members or citizens, the opportunity to acquire, retain and pursue private interests, economic or otherwise, except when conflicts with their responsibility to the public cannot be avoided. Board of Commissioners members must exercise their best judgment to determine when this is the case.

Board of Commissioners members should respect and comply with the law and should conduct themselves at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity of the office of Board of Commissioners.

Board of Commissioners members should not allow family, social, or other relationships to unduly influence their conduct or judgment and should not lend the prestige of the office of Board of Commissioners to advance the private interests of others; nor should they convey or permit others to convey the impression that they are in a special position to influence them. Board of Commissioners members shall not grant any special consideration, treatment or advantage to any citizen beyond that which is available to every other citizen.

If a Board member believes that his or her actions, while legal and ethical, may be misunderstood, the member should seek the advice of the Board's attorney and should consider publicly disclosing the facts of the situation and steps taken to resolve it.

IV. A Board of Commissioners Member Should Perform the Duties of the Office Diligently

Board of Commissioners members should, while performing the duties of the office as prescribed by law, give precedence to these duties over other activities. In the performance of these duties, the following standards should apply:

A. Legislative Responsibilities

1. Board of Commissioners members should actively pursue policy goals they believe to be in the best interests of their constituents within the parameters of orderly decision-making, rules of the Board of Commissioners and open government.

2. Board of Commissioners members should respect the legitimacy of the goals and interests of other Board of Commissioners members and should respect the rights of others to pursue goals and policies different from their own.

B. Adjudicative Responsibilities

1. Board of Commissioners members should be faithful to the general and local laws pertaining to the office and strive for professional competence in them. They should be unswayed by partisan interests, public clamor, or fear of criticism.
2. Board of Commissioners members should demand and contribute to the maintenance of order and decorum in proceedings before the Board of Commissioners.
3. Board of Commissioners members should be honest, patient, dignified and courteous to those with whom they deal in their official capacity, and should require similar conduct of their staff and others subject to their direction and control.
4. Board of Commissioners members should accord to every person who is legally interested in a proceeding before the Board full right to be heard according to law.
5. Board of Commissioners members should dispose promptly of the business of the County for which they are responsible.

C. Administrative Responsibilities

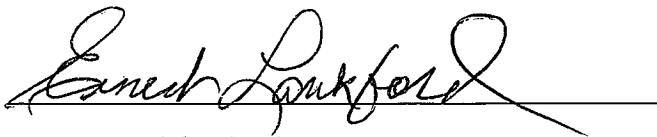
1. Board of Commissioners members should clearly distinguish legislative, adjudicatory and administrative responsibilities and should refrain from inappropriate interference in the impartial administration of County affairs by County employees. Board of Commissioners members should diligently discharge those administrative responsibilities that are appropriate, should maintain professional competence in the administration of these duties and should facilitate the diligent discharge of the administrative responsibilities of fellow Board of Commissioners members and other County officials.
2. Board of Commissioners members should conserve the resources of the County in their charge. They should employ County equipment, property, funds and personnel only in legally permissible pursuits and in a manner that exemplifies excellent stewardship.
3. Board of Commissioners members should require County employees subject to their direction and control to observe the standards of fidelity and diligence that apply to Board of Commissioners members as well as those appropriate for employees.

4. Board of Commissioners members who become aware of improper conduct by a County employee should promptly inform the County Manager, or, in the case of a County employee who reports directly to the Board, initiate appropriate disciplinary measures.
5. Board of Commissioners members should not employ or recommend the appointment of unnecessary employees and should exercise the power of employment only on the basis of merit, avoid favoritism and refrain from illegal discrimination and nepotism. They should not approve compensation of employees beyond the fair value of services rendered.

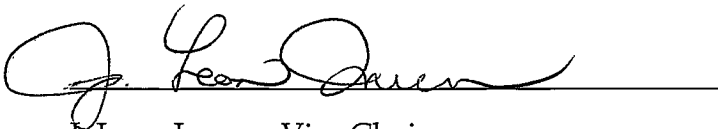
V. A Board of Commissioners Member Should Conduct the Affairs of the Board of Commissioners in an Open and Public Manner

Board of Commissioners members should be aware of the letter and intent of the State's Open Meetings Law, should conduct the affairs of the Board of Commissioners consistent with the letter and spirit of that law and consistent with the need to inspire and maintain public confidence in the integrity and fairness of County government and the office of Board of Commissioners. Consistent with this goal of preserving public trust and in compliance with the State's Open Meetings Law. Board of Commissioners members should be aware of the need for discretion in deliberations when the lack of discretion would pose a threat to the resources of the County, to the reputation of current or potential County employees, to orderly and responsible decision making, to the integrity of other governmental processes or to other legitimate interests of the County.


This Code of Ethics is adopted this the 28th day of December, 2010 and shall apply to all Board of Commissioners members holding office on that date. Upon the effective date of this Code of Ethics, the previously adopted Code of Ethics of Stokes County is hereby repealed.



Ernest Lankford, Chairman



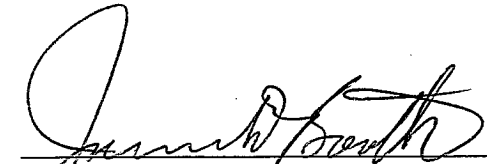
J. Leon Inman, Vice Chairman



Jimmy Walker, Commissioner



Ronda Jones, Commissioner



James D. Booth, Commissioner

ATTEST:



Darlene M. Bullins, Clerk to the Board