

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA )  
 ) OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS  
 ) STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
COUNTY OF STOKES )  
 ) DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA  
 ) DECEMBER 12, 2002

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met in recessed session (recessed from December 2<sup>nd</sup> regular meeting – rescheduled from December 4<sup>th</sup> due to inclement weather) in the Council Chambers of the Administrative Building, located in Danbury, North Carolina, on Thursday, December 12, 2002, at 6:00 pm with the following members present:

- Chairman Sandy McHugh
- Vice-Chairman John Turpin
- Commissioner Howard Mabe
- Commissioner Leon Inman
- Commissioner Joe Turpin
  
- Craig Greer, County Manager
- Darlene Bullins, Clerk to the Board

Chairman McHugh called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Inman delivered the invocation.

**GENERAL GOVERNMENT-GOVERNING BODY-PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman McHugh invited the citizens in attendance to join the Board with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**GENERAL GOVERNMENT-GOVERNING BODY-LOCATION OF MEETING**

Chairman McHugh entertained a motion to move the meeting to the Courtroom- Government Center due to the large attendance at the meeting.

Commissioner Joe Turpin moved to move the meeting to the Courtroom-Government Center due to the large attendance at the meeting.

Commissioner Inman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The Board reconvened in Courtroom “A” – Government Center.

**GENERAL GOVERNMENT-GOVERNING BODY-RULE OF PROCEDURES**

Chairman McHugh entertained a motion to clarify the motion made at the December 2<sup>nd</sup> concerning the adoption of the Rules of Procedure retaining to the time and date being effective January 1, 2003.

Commissioner Joe Turpin moved to amend the Rule of Procedures to began immediately except for the meeting times.

Vice Chairman John Turpin seconded the amendment. The amendment to began the Rules of Procedures immediately except for the meeting times carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman John Turpin moved to accept the Rules of Procedures immediately with the meeting times to began January 1, 2003.

Commissioner Joe Turpin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**GENERAL GOVERNMENT-GOVERNING BODY-PERSONNEL POLICY**

Chairman McHugh entertained a motion to waive County Personnel Policies Article 6, Section 1-3; Article 8, Section 3; and Article 9, Section 3 until after the budget crisis is over and/or until the Board has a chance to address the personnel policies and make amendments.

Commissioner Joe Turpin moved to waive County Personnel Policies Article 6, Section 1-3; Article 8, Section 3; and Article 9, Section 3 until after the budget crisis is over and/or until the Board has a chance to address the personnel policies and make amendments.

Vice Chairman John Turpin seconded and the motion carried (3-2) with Commissioners Mabe and Inman voting against the motion.

**GENERAL GOVERNMENT-GOVERNING BODY-ADULT DAY CARE**

County Manager Craig Greer informed the Board that the County did not have to provide the match for the Adult Day Care. Another identity can provide the match, but the funds must come through the County.

Chairman McHugh entertained a motion to allow the Adult Day Care in King to provide the required matching funds for the State Adult Day Care Allocation, which would eliminate the County providing the matching funds, but allow the County to receive the allocation, which would be transferred to the Adult Day Care in King.

Vice Chairman John Turpin moved to allow the Adult Day Care in King to provide the required matching funds for the State Adult Day Care Allocation which would eliminate the County providing the matching funds, but allow the County to receive the allocation which would be transferred to the Adult Day Care in King.

Commissioner Joe Turpin seconded the motion.

Ms. Julia Edwards noted the amount of the funding \$9,042.

Ms. Laurel Hudgins, Director-Adult Quality of Life Day Care Center, noted that by receiving the funding directly from the County, this would eliminate administrative fees thus greatly benefiting the program.

The motion carried unanimously.

## **GENERAL GOVERNMENT-GOVERNING BODY-BUDGET CUTS**

County Manager Craig Greer presented the Board data concerning requested budget cut information relating to the County's current fiscal year budget.

### **Lapsed Salaries-\$39,305 - DSS**

Chairman McHugh entertained a motion to use lapsed salaries in the amount \$39,305 (funds are from vacant positions that have not been filled).

Vice Chairman John Turpin moved to use lapsed salaries in the amount \$39,305 (funds are from vacant positions that have not been filled).

Commissioner Joe Turpin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Program Integrity (Fraud Unit-Two positions) \$15,507 -DSS**

County Manager Craig Greer identified the two positions of Program Integrity as the DSS Fraud Unit. With the elimination of these two positions, there would be no specific Fraud Unit at DSS, but rather responsibility having to be shared with other DSS workers.

DSS Director Sharon Scott noted that the State had discontinued funding to counties (Stokes- \$25,000) this past year which helped to fund this program. This lack of funding has forced other counties to eliminate the program. Ms. Scott also noted that the Sheriff's Department would be involved only if it is criminal activity, most of the fraud overpayment is not criminal activity. During the past fiscal year, the County recouped \$83,368 of which \$31,517 being the County's share.

Commissioner Joe Turpin moved to eliminate Program Integrity from the County Budget.

Vice Chairman John Turpin seconded the motion.

Commissioners Mabe and Inman noted the Program basically paid for itself.

Commissioner Inman noted the possibility of more fraud if the program was eliminated.

Chairman McHugh turned the Chair over to Vice Chairman John Turpin.

Chairman McHugh noted by the other caseworkers being able to provide some of the fraud work, this recoupment would be a greater savings for the County with no separate program to fund.

Ms. Scott noted the caseworkers that were already understaffed, could not begin to provide the service that was provided by the Program Integrity workers. The greater amount of fraud identified and recouped, the greater amount received by the County.

Chairman McHugh moved to table this line item until information can be obtained from Forsyth County why the program was eliminated and how the program is now handled.

Commissioner Joe Turpin submitted a substitute motion to eliminate the two positions and if needed reinstate the two positions after information is received from Forsyth County.

The substitute motion died due to lack of second.

Commissioner Joe Turpin seconded the motion to table this line item until information can be obtained from Forsyth County why the program was eliminated and how the program is now handled.

The motion carried (3-2) with Commissioners Mabe and Inman voting against the motion.

Vice Chairman John Turpin turned the Chair back to Chairman McHugh.

### **Medicaid Clerical (Impending Retirement) \$6,500 -DSS**

County Manager Greer noted that DSS had a Medicaid worker that would be retiring.

Chairman McHugh entertained a motion on this line item.

Commissioner Mabe moved to freeze this position after retirement of the individual.

Commissioner Inman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

### **General Assistance -\$1,800 -DSS**

County Manager Greer noted that General Assistance (all County funding) is used to bury unclaimed bodies, cut off notices such as electricity, emergency prescriptions, etc.).

Ms. Scott noted the funding is used only in an emergency and has a \$50 limit (unless for an unclaimed body).

Chairman McHugh entertained a motion on this line item.

Commissioner Inman moved to leave this line item in the Budget.

Commissioner Mabe seconded the motion.

The motion failed (2-3) with Chairman McHugh, Vice Chairman John Turpin, and Commissioner Joe Turpin voting against the motion.

Vice Chairman John Turpin moved to eliminate this line item from the Budget.

Commissioner Joe Turpin seconded the motion. Chairman McHugh noted that other than the case of unclaimed bodies, King Outreach Ministry handles all types of emergencies with the Food Bank currently having an overstock of food.

The motion carried (3-2) with Commissioner Mabe and Inman voting against the motion.

### **TANF-Staff -(3 Positions- 97% County) DSS**

County Manager Greer noted that the DSS TANF-Staff (3 positions) is 97% county funding but there is MOE funding involved which would have to be cost allocated in other areas within the department.

Chairman McHugh entertained a motion on this line item.

Commissioner Joe Turpin moved to eliminate the TANF Staff (3 positions). Vice

Chairman John Turpin seconded the motion.

DSS Director Scott reiterated that MOE funding has to be spent in other places. Ms. Scott also noted these Work First positions are responsible for assessing and helping individuals become self sufficient within the two-year time clock set forth in the Work First Program.

Chairman McHugh turned the Chair over to Vice Chairman John Turpin.

Chairman McHugh expressed concerns over the Budget Crisis due to Governor's cuts during the past two and half years which has resulted in cuts from all departments and that cuts are having to be made to balance the budget not just to eliminate positions.

Vice Chairman John Turpin called the motion on the floor.

The motion carried (3-2) with Commissioners Mabe and Inman voting against the motion.

Vice Chairman John Turpin turned the Chair back to Chairman McHugh.

### **Elimination of Pagers, Cell Phones, Vehicles - DSS**

County Manager Greer noted these items are not earmarked directly to a program within the department and existing equipment can be shared.

Chairman McHugh entertained a motion on this line item.

Commissioner Joe Turpin moved to eliminate the (2) two pagers, (1) one cell phone, and (2) vehicles.

Vice Chairman John Turpin seconded the motion.

The motion carried (3-2) with Commissioner Mabe and Inman voting against the motion.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Vice Chairman John Turpin moved to enter closed session to consult with the County Attorney retained by the County in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege for discussion of a possible judicial action pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11.

Commissioner Joe Turpin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The Board reconvened to regular session.

### **Senior Citizens Director**

County Manager Greer presented the cost savings for elimination of the Senior Citizens Director estimated as \$5,704.

Chairman McHugh entertained a motion to this line item.

Vice Chairman John Turpin moved to eliminate the Senior Citizens Director and take one-half of the additional salary \$2544 for staff to be divided equally between the two office staff taking on the extra responsibilities.

Commissioner Joe Turpin seconded the motion.

Chairman McHugh moved to amend the motion to include the Accounting Tech II be given the duties of the Director until any other changes are made in this Department.

Commissioner Joe Turpin seconded the amendment.

The amendment carried (3-2) with Commissioners Mabe and Inman voting against the amendment.

Commissioners Mabe and Inman expressed concerns that elimination of this position could possibly affect services to the Senior Citizens of the County.

The amended motion to eliminate the Senior Citizens Director and take one-half of the additional salary \$2544 for staff to be divided equally between the two office staff taking on the extra responsibilities and to give the Accounting Tech II the duties of the Director until any other change in the Department carried (3-2) with Commissioner Mabe and Inman voting against the motion.

### **Previously Mentioned Possibilities**

Chairman McHugh read the previously mentioned possibilities for budget cuts:

- (1) Pinnacle & Walnut Cove Garbage Sites to 4 days
- (2) HWY 66 Garbage Site to 1 day
- (3) Other Garbage Sites to 3 days
- (4) Eliminate Driver Position due to garbage sites being cut
- (5) EMS Unit 4 to 12 hours/day

Chairman McHugh entertained a motion on any of the line items. There were

no motions on the previously mention budget cut possibilities.

### **County Property Parcels Not in Use**

County Manager Greer noted the Cherry Park parcel had been discussed previously by the Board with no action being taken. At that time, County Attorney Tyrone Browder recommended the parcel be surveyed prior to the sell. The Bryce Gordon Property is part of a 16- acre parcel that cannot be sold as long as the grantor is alive. The Prison Unit Property was received from the State from the deed restriction, which states if the property ceases to be a Correctional Center, the property reverts back to Stokes County. Also, the Board has taken previous action to identify that parcel as the future home of the Satellite Community College.

Chairman McHugh entertained a motion on any of the mentioned parcels.

Vice Chairman John Turpin moved to sell the Cherry Park parcel contingent on the price of the survey not exceeding \$1500 via the upset bid process.

Commissioner Inman seconded the motion.

Chairman McHugh moved to amend the motion to sell the property by auction and then upset bid.

Commissioner Joe Turpin seconded the amendment.

Danny Stovall, Services Support, recommended selling the parcel via upset bid with a minimum starting price.

Vice Chairman John Turpin noted the upset bid process would be the most economical considering an auction incurs auctioneer fees.

The amendment failed (0-5) with the Board voting against the amendment.

Vice Chairman John Turpin moved to amend the original motion to start the minimum bidding at \$24,000. Commissioner Inman seconded and the amendment carried unanimously.

The amended motion to sell the Cherry Park parcel contingent on the price of the survey not exceeding \$1500 via the upset bid process with the minimum bidding starting at \$24,000 carried unanimously.

#### **GENERAL GOVERNMENT-GOVERNING BODY-NEWSOME ROAD PROPERTY**

Commissioner Inman requested information concerning property on Newsome Road.

Chairman McHugh noted the County has involvement with property on Newsome Roadin which the County has guaranteed lease payments concerning the shell building on the property.

County Manager Greer noted that the County did not own the shell building or the property, but own or have permanent option on the an estimated 2 acres that adjoins the property.

Chairman McHugh requested the County Manager return to the Board with the original contract or any other vital documentation pertaining to the said property.

#### **GENERAL GOVERNMENT-GOVERNING BODY-BUDGET CUTS -ELIMINATED POSITIONS**

Chairman McHugh moved to approve December 31, 2002 as the effective date for all budget cuts, which eliminated positions except for the pending retirement and the selling of Cherry Park.

Vice Chairman John Turpin seconded the motion.

The motion carried (4-1) with Commissioner Mabe voting against the motion.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Mabe moved to adjourn the meeting.

Vice Chairman John Turpin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

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**Darlene Bullins**  
**Clerk to the Board**

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**Sandy McHugh**  
**Chairman**