

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

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OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS

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STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT

COUNTY OF STOKES

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DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA

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JANUARY 27, 2003

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met in regular session in the Council Chambers of the Administrative Building, located in Danbury, North Carolina, on Monday, January 27, 2003, at 7:00 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 and 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-APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman McHugh entertained a motion to approve or amend the minutes of the January 13, 2003 meeting.

Commissioner Joe Turpin moved to approve the minutes of the January 13th meeting.

Commissioner Inman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Abandonment of a Portion of Lum Hall Road – State Road #1437

Chairman McHugh called the Public Hearing to order for the purpose of citizen input concerning the Proposed Abandonment of a Portion of Lum Hall Road.

There was no public comments from the audience.

Mr. Kent Boyer, Stokes-Department of Transportation, explained to the Board the portion of the road that was requested to be abandoned is at located at the dead end of the road and the property owners located at the end of the road petitioned for the abandonment.

The last property owner at the end of the road has agreed to build a new turnaround according to state standards and place a gate at the beginning of his property. The turnaround will be built in front of the gate. Both properties owners are in agreement with the placement of the turnaround. Mr. Boyer stated the road dead ends at the beginning of the last property owner and does not land lock any other property owner. The requested abandonment of the portion of the Lum Hall Road is only 200ft. Mr. Boyer also stated that the road would not be abandoned until the turnaround was completed and approved by DOT.

Staff Attorney John McGrath recommended that the portion of the road be closed by the County in order to relieve the County of any liability to maintain the road if the State abandons that portion of the road from the Secondary Road System.

Staff Attorney McGrath also noted the complications that arose from the State’s abandonment of roads in the past.

Chairman McHugh moved to approve the Resolution contingent upon on the turnaround being completed to State standards with the portion of the road being closed and the County start the procedures to close that portion of the road.

Vice Chairman John Turpin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

(The Resolution is being amended to include the completion of the turnaround to State standards and the road being closed)

REQUEST FOR ABANDONMENT FROM THE STATE MAINTAINED SECONDARY ROAD SYSTEM

**NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF STOKES**

ROAD DESCRIPTION - 200 ft. at the dead end of Lum Hall Road –State Road #1437

WHEREAS, the attached petition has been filed with the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Stokes requesting that the above-described road, the location of which has been indicated on the attached map, be abandoned from the Secondary Road Systems; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners is of the opinion that the above described road should be abandoned from the Secondary Road System, if the abandonment is in the best interest of the public and of the Division of Highways of the Department of Transportation and Highway Safety.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Stokes that the Division of Highways is hereby requested to review the above described road, and to abandon the road from the Secondary Road System if it is in the best interest of the public and the Division of Highways.

CERTIFICATE

The foregoing **Resolution** was duly adopted by the **Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes** at a meeting on the **27th day of January, 2003, contingent upon the turnaround being completed to State standards and the road being closed** and appears on the minutes of the said Commission.

WITNESS by hand and official seal this the **27th day of January 2003**.

**Clerk to the Board
County of Stokes**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following citizens spoke to the Board:

Rachel Kauffman
PO Box 1922
King, NC 27021
Topic: Stokes County Animal Shelter

Ms. Kauffman spoke to the Board concerning the 18 dogs (Pit Bulls) that are currently being held at the Stokes County Animal Shelter concerning animal cruelty issue. Ms. Kauffman noted the problem of no space for other animals due to the dogs having to be retained until the court case is resolved which could be possibly be a year or longer. Ms. Kauffman requested that the Board support the dogs being destroyed by drafting a letter to the Superior Court Judge presiding over the animal cruelty case before the case is heard. Maintaining these dogs have resulted in a drop in the adoption rates by more than half and numerous other problems at the shelter.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT-SOLID WASTE/PUBLIC BUILDING UPDATE

Public Works Director Jay Kinney presented an update to the Board concerning the Solid Waste and Public Buildings Departments.

Greenbox Sites and Waste Transfer & Recycling Center –Closing on Holidays

Director Kinney presented statistical information pertaining to the usage at the Greenbox Sites during the week and on holidays. Director Kinney requested that the Board close the Greenbox Sites and Recycling Center on the following holidays due to the low volume of users:

- New Year’s Day**
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day**
- Good Friday**
- Memorial Day**
- Independence Day**
- Labor Day**
- Veterans Day**

Director Kinney noted that the sites and Recycling Center already close on Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day and at 3:00pm the day before any holiday due to the Hanes Mill Landfill closing those dates and time.

Chairman McHugh entertained a motion concerning the closing of the Greenbox Sites and Recycling Center on the requested holidays.

Commissioner Mabe moved to close the Greensbox Sites and the Recycling Center on the following holidays:

- New Year’s Day**
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day**
- Good Friday**

**Memorial Day
Independence Day
Labor Day
Veterans Day**

Vice Chairman John Turpin seconded the motion.

The motion carried 3-2 with Vice Chairman John Turpin and Commissioner Joe

Turpin voting against the motion.

Chairman McHugh requested Director Kinney to supply the Board with estimated costs to reopen the Greenbox Sites 6 days a week.

Vacant Sanitation Truck Driver

Director Kinney requested the Board's approval to fill the vacant sanitation truck driver position in the Solid Waste Department due to the excessive amount of comp. time being accrued by the other drivers having to man the route.

Chairman McHugh entertained a motion concerning the vacant sanitation truck driver position in the Solid Waste Dept.

Commissioner Mabe moved to fill the vacant sanitation truck driver in the Solid Waste Department.

Commissioner Inman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Vacant Maintenance Worker/Sign Position

Director Kinney requested the Board's approval to fill the vacant maintenance worker position in the Public Buildings Department that will be vacant on February 1, 2003.

Director Kinney stressed the importance of this position with the ongoing building maintenance along with the road signs repairs and installation.

Chairman McHugh entertained a motion concerning the vacant maintenance worker position in the Public Buildings Department.

Commissioner Mabe move to fill the vacant maintenance worker position in the Public Buildings Department.

Commissioner Inman seconded and the motion carried unanimously

GENERAL GOVERNMENT-TAX ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Interim Tax Administrator Jake Oakley requested the approval for the following Refunds and Itemized Releases (Real/Personal) and Motor Vehicle Releases for the Month of December 2002:

W. Brian & Sandra Work	\$184.49	
Charles Richard Wright	\$103.83	
Lucille Fulp	\$22.79	
Craig and Sheila Partin	\$202.77*	The original refund request was \$356.10. The refund of \$202.77 was adjusted due to the 2001 delinquent taxes.
Itemized Releases for December 2002	\$39,264.94	
Motor Vehicle Release for December 2002	\$4,646.18	

Chairman McHugh moved to entertained a motion to approve the requested Refunds and Itemized Releases and Motor Vehicle Releases for December 2002.

Commissioner Inman moved to approve the requested Refunds and Itemized Releases and Motor Vehicle Releases for December 2002.

Commissioner Mabe seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Interim Administrator Oakley also requested the approval of the Board to change the amount of the Returned Check fee from \$20.00 to \$25.00 due to the Magistrate already charging \$25.00 when warrants are being served.

Finance Director Julia Edwards requested the Board approve the change from \$20 to \$25 to be effective for all county departments.

Chairman McHugh entertained a motion to approve the returned check fee from \$20 to \$25 for all county departments.

Vice Chairman John Turpin moved to approve the returned check fee from \$20 to \$25 for all county departments.

Commissioner Joe Turpin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman McHugh requested information concerning why action has to be taken when the taxpayer has overpaid the taxes.

Interim Tax Assessor/Collector Wren Carmichael stated that General Statute 105/380 states if refunds are incorrectly refunded or releases incorrectly released, the Commissioners who voted for the action must pay the refund and any attorney's fees if challenged.

Interim Tax Administrator Oakley commended the Information System Department for their cooperation with the Tax Department.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT-EMS-FEMA-RV MOBILE UNIT-UPDATE

EMS Director Ricky Tuttle updated the Board with the current ownership status of the RV Camper Trailer(temporary housing unit).

Director Tuttle spoke with Mr. Thad Bryson, Chief of the Logistic Section-Division of Emergency Management. Mr. Bryson confirmed that Stokes County does not have the ownership or the right to use the trailer. Emergency Management will wait until after the next hurricane season (June 1st –November 30th) before asking FEMA to honor their verbal agreement and that Emergency Management will take the trailer back if the County no longer wishes to participate.

Director Tuttle recommended that the County continue to maintain the trailer per our agreement with Emergency Management in the hopes of obtaining ownership within the next 12 months since no county funding has been spent to purchase or maintain the trailer.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT-BIOTERRORISM TASK FORCE –UPDATE

EMS Director Ricky Tuttle informed the Board that the BioTerrorism Task Force met on January 16th and decided to apply for a Decontamination trailer (\$12,263) and training (\$1205) which funding in the amount of \$13,468 has already been awarded to Stokes County from the Department of Justice-(Weapons of Mass Destruction) Grant. Although the County has already been awarded the funding, a completed application indicating how the funding will be utilized must be received February 1st by the Dept. of Justice.

Director Tuttle concluded that the Task Force also approved the following:

- Renamed Task Force to LEPC(Local Emergency Planning Committee)
- Expand membership to include all county departments with Responsibilities during disasters, ie.- Public Works, Finance, and Planning groups
- Establish monthly meeting date: 3rd Thursday at 10:00 am
- Determine that EOC(Emergency Operations Center) the most immediate need.

Chairman McHugh entertained a motion concerning the funding awarded to StokesCounty from Department of Justice-WMD(Weapons of Mass Destruction) Grant.

Commissioner Mabe move to approve the motion to apply for the WMD Grant by the February 1st deadline.

Commissioner Joe Turpin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT-SMALLPOX-CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL-UPDATES

Health Director Steve Smith updated the Board concerning the National Security Concern-Smallpox.

Director Smith commented on the three scenarios of smallpox vaccination planning and the three stages of smallpox pre-event vaccination planning.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) requests that Health Departments be prepared to vaccinate every man, woman, and child in this County within (5) five days once the President declares a declaration to proceed with the vaccinations.

Director Smith concluded that the Health Department is currently working with the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and other partners to complete this planning procedure.

Director Smith concurred with EMS Director Tuttle's comments that the most urgent need for Stokes County is the EOC (Emergency Operations Center). Director Smith has submitted a multi-county bioterrorism grant proposal which included \$5,000 for the establishment of a County Emergency Operations Center. Director Smith noted the need for direction from the Board concerning the location of the EOC. Chairman McHugh requested Director Smith to return to the LEPC along with

input from the County Manager and submit a recommendation for the location of the EOC.

Chairman McHugh noted the need and importance of the public awareness concerning the facts of the smallpox vaccine in order to be prepared in the event the vaccine becomes available. Chairman McHugh also noted the Citizens' Corp. National Website which has available information to help prepare for all types of emergencies.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT-HEALTH DEPT.-BUDGET ISSUES

Health Director Steve Smith informed the Board of the following two line items that could be reverted back to the General Fund:

- Health Promotions-salary –part time hours \$2400
- Administrative staff –employee to reduce work week from 4 to 3 days

Director Smith concluded that further discussions would be with the Health Board on February 6th to offer additional budget reduction options.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT-HEALTH DEPT.-BUDGET AMENDMENT #32

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #32, which is necessary appropriate funds from the Aids to Counties process for education and training of public health personnel and our planning and response partners for improved public health preparedness for bioterrorism.

Chairman McHugh entertained a motion to approve Budget Amendment #32.

Commissioner Inman to approve Budget Amendment #32.

Commissioner Mabe seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL FUND	INCREASE	DECREASE
REVENUES		
Bioterrorism	100.3301.255 \$	3,000.00
EXPENDITURES		
Health Department		
Employee Training	100.5100.311 \$	1,000.00
Telephone & Postage	100.5100.320 \$	500.00
Travel	100.5100.310 \$	500.00
Office Supplies	100.5100.261 \$	1,000.00

GENERAL GOVERNMENT-HEALTH DEPT.-BUDGET AMENDMENT #33

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #33, which is necessary to transfer funds for Smart Start funds from salaries and fringe for Dr. Chandler to professional services for the contract.

Chairman McHugh entertained a motion to approve Budget Amendment #33.

Commissioner Mabe moved to approve Budget Amendment #33.

Commissioner Joe Turpin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL FUND	INCREASE	DECREASE
EXPENDITURES		
Health Department		
Salaries & Wages	100.5100.000	\$ (8,500.00)
FICA	100.5100.090	\$ (527.00)
Medicare Tax	100.5100.091	\$ (123.00)
Group Insurance	100.5100.110	\$ (249.00)
Retirement	100.5100.100	\$ (406.00)
BB&T 401K	100.5100.101	\$ (85.00)
Professional Services	100.5100.180 \$	9,890.00

GENERAL GOVERNMENT-GOVERNING BODY-REINSTATE FRAUD UNIT

Commissioner Mabe requested the reinstatement of the two-fraud unit positions that were eliminated December 16, 2002.

Commissioner Mabe referenced updated figures for fiscal year 2001/02, which indicates there was \$1365.53 collected during that time, that was over the cost for staff expense/salary/fringe for the two fraud positions. Fiscal year 2002/03 (July-Oct) the program integrity collections were \$6937.20 above County expenses.

Commissioner Mabe moved to reinstate the two fraud positions back into the County Budget.

Commissioner Inman seconded the motion.

Commissioner Mabe noted by eliminating these positions, the wrong message is being sent out.

Chairman McHugh noted surrounding counties have eliminated this special unit and are performing the fraud investigation from different program areas.

Following discussion, the motion failed 2-3 with Chairman McHugh, Vice Chairman John Turpin, and Commissioner Joe Turpin voting against the motion.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT-SOCIAL SERVICES-VACANT DSS POSITIONS

County Manager Craig Greer presented a request from DSS Director Sharon Scott to unfreeze a vacant Social Worker III which is 100% federally funded and needed to ensure the protection of children in Stokes County. Ms. Scott also requested to change the recent Income Maintenance Caseworker II eliminated position by allowing an employee (Food Stamps Unit) who is planning on retiring in 60 days be designated as that eliminated position.

Chairman McHugh moved to unfreeze the Child Protective Social Worker III position.

Commissioner Mabe seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT-GOVERNING BODY- SALARY CONSIDERATION-INTERIM POSITIONS

County Manager Greer requested the following salary considerations for interim appointments that have occurred in the County during the recent month:

Monty Stevens	Interim E911 Communications	\$723.30 (total) (11-25-2002/1-13-2003)
Jake Oakley	Interim Tax Administrator	\$250.00*
Wren Carmichael	Interim Tax Assessor/Collector	\$475.95*

*per pay period-bonus

**per pay period-salary increase

Vice Chairman John Turpin moved to approve the submitted salary considerations for interim appointments.

Commissioner Joe Turpin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT-GOVERNING BODY-CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Joe Turpin moved to enter into closed session to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body pursuant to General Statute 143.318.11.

Vice Chairman John Turpin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The Board reconvened to open session.

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

Commissioner Joe Turpin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Darlene Bullins
Clerk to the Board

Sandy McHugh
Chairman