

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)
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COUNTY OF STOKES)
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OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS
STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT
DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA
FEBRUARY 1, 2003

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met for a Planning Retreat in the Council Chambers of the Administrative Building, located in Danbury, North Carolina, on Saturday, February 1, 2003, at 8:30 am 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 Planning Retreat 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.

Chairman McHugh moved to suspend the rules and procedures as adopted by the Board for the Planning Retreat in order for a more relaxed atmosphere.

Commissioner Joe Turpin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

PLANNING RETREAT

County Manager Craig Greer presented the Board with a power point presentation illustrating the County's demographics household income, transportation, taxation, etc. along with future needs of the County and graphic information.

Power Point Presentation See attached

The Board identified the following needs and prioritized the top five goals for the County:

GOALS -PLANNING RETREAT

1. Get churches/non profit more involved in helping needy
2. No tax increase (property tax)
3. Satellite community college
4. Reduce debt services
5. Combine permitting process (one stop shop)
6. New schools
7. Job creation-private section
8. Expand/Exploit tourism
9. Expand garbage services-operating hours
10. Work with private health providers to provide greater healthcare opportunities
11. Improve delinquent tax collections
12. East-West connector
13. Work with DOT on secondary road priority system
14. Grant writing emphasis more focused to target need
15. Tighter restrictions on subdivisions-Impact fees
16. Managed growth residential
17. Impact municipal growth-residential
18. Comprehensive emergency plan-countywide
19. Zero based budgeting (ZBB)
20. Expand Stokes County Water & Sewer Authority services area
21. Keep industrial property available for industrial/community growth
22. Make better use of zoning
23. Tax bill donations-voluntary for selected departments

24. Small business incubator/incentives
25. Better ways to communicate with the citizens
26. Continued website improvements
27. Identify county resources for tourism, commercial
28. Tourism Center
29. Quicker more efficient inspections
30. Reduced/more efficient use of county facilities
31. Urgent care available to all citizens
32. Motor fleet management
33. Establish tourism board
34. County buy local
35. Employee input opportunities
36. Increase Fund Balance
37. Funding capital improvement program CIP
38. Improve the planning processes-long range planning
39. Employees - COLA
40. Rent 3rd floor.
41. EOC on 3rd floor.
42. Expand Jail

TOP FIVE PRIORITY GOALS

1. No property tax increase
2. Increase fund balance
3. Job creation-private sector
4. ZBB-Zero based budgeting
5. Satellite Community College
 - 5a. Reduce debt service
 - 5b. Improve delinquent tax collections

The Board concluded with views on ways to achieve these goals:

- 1. No property tax rate increase**
 1. Improve delinquent tax collections
 2. Privatize County Services
 3. Targeted grant writing
 4. Faith Based Charities
 5. Combine permitting process-One-Stop Shop
 6. Look at impact fees
 7. Tax Bill Donations-voluntary for departments
 8. Reduce/more efficient use of county facilities
 9. Employee Input Opportunities
 10. Jail expand possibilities
 11. Fees
- 2. Increase fund balance**
 1. Same as Goal #1
 2. Save a % of Budget
 3. 2003/04-6%
2004/05-8.50%
- 3. Job Creation-Private Sector**
 1. MacDonald Bldg Leased
 2. Enterprise Zones
 3. Business incubator
 4. Zone to protect business property
 5. Satellite community college-job training
 6. Tourism-overnight accommodations/winter attraction
- 4. ZBB-Zero Based Budgeting**
 1. Justify each line item.
 2. Board of Education include Federal/State funds
 3. Seek private options
 4. Look @ cost accounting

5a. Satellite Community College

1. Influence state representatives
2. Don't sell prison unit
3. Forsyth Tech Community College needs to be pro-active-Talk to FTCC
4. Have FTCC at BOCC meeting
5. Check with other colleges

5b. Decrease Debt Services

1. Efficient use of County facilities

5c. Improve Delinquent Tax Collection

1. Debt Setoff
2. Other law firms
3. Rest care facilities
4. Liens
5. Privilege licenses

CLOSED SESSION

Vice Chairman John 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.

Commissioner Joe Turpin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The Board reconvened to the Planning Retreat.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Joe Turpin moved to adjourn the Planning Retreat.

Commissioner Mabe seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Darlene Bullins
Clerk to the Board

Sandy McHugh
Chairman