

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF STOKES)

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS
STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT
DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA
JANUARY 9, 2006

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met for regular session in the Commissioners' Chambers of the Ronald Wilson Reagan Memorial Building (Administrative Building) located in Danbury, North Carolina on Monday, January 9, 2006 at 7:00 pm with the following members present:

Chairman Leon Inman
Vice-Chairman Joe Turpin
Commissioner Sandy McHugh
Commissioner John Turpin
Commissioner Jimmy Walker

County Personnel in Attendance:
Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins
County Attorney Jonathan Jordan
Finance Director Julia Edwards
Support Services Supervisor Danny Stovall
Emergency Services Director Monty Stevens
Captain Al Tuttle - Sheriff's Department
Economic Development Director Ron Morgan
Director of Elections Olivia Robbins
Emergency Communications Director Del Hall
Health Director Don Moore

Chairman Leon Inman called the meeting to order.

Chairman Inman delivered the invocation.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT-GOVERNING BODY-PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Inman opened the meeting by inviting the citizens in attendance to join the Board with the Pledge of Allegiance.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT -GOVERNING BODY-APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Inman entertained a motion to approve or amend the minutes of the December 27th meeting.

Commissioner John Turpin moved to approve the minutes of the December 27th meeting.

Vice Chairman Joe Turpin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following spoke during public comments:

Mr. Mark George
1190 Hobert Overby Road
Westfield, NC 27053
RE: Personnel Policy - Family

Mr. George requested that the Board re-consider the personnel policy that does not allow members of the same family to work in the same department. Mr. George noted that the best paramedics come from this county growing up in the fire departments and feels that this policy pushes Stokes County residents to have to go to another county to work and eventually move there.

Ms. Fredricka Cecile
1741 Marshall Smith Road
King, NC 27021
RE: Health Clinic of King

Ms. Cecile expressed concerns and questioned the recent vote that stopped the re-opening of Health Clinic in King where the services are needed. Ms. Cecile noted that the services were taken away due to mold in the building, which has been eliminated, and questions why the services have not been put back there. Ms. Cecile concluded that it was time to give the clinic back to the people in King.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT - GOVERNING BODY - PIEDMONT AUTHORITY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION- PRESENTATION

Mr. Brent McKinney- Piedmont Authority Regional Transportation (PART), presented the Board with a presentation regarding PART. (Commissioner Paul Johnson-Surry County Commissioner was also in attendance for the meeting).

Mr. McKinney spoke on the following:

- PART began in the early 90's to address the transportation problems
- In 1997, NC General Assembly approved enabling legislation to form a regional transportation authority whereby local triad governments can work together to develop transportation systems throughout the region
- Incorporated in 1998 with seven counties which includes Alamance, Davidson, Forsyth, Guilford, Randolph, Rockingham, and Surry with the potential for twelve counties
- Mission - PART is to enhance the quality of all forms of transportation for each of our citizens through efficient use and protection of our natural, economic, and human resources
- Vision - PART will be recognized as an innovative, effective, and efficient transportation authority that meets the needs of and is accountable to our citizens
- Objective - PART Board of Trustees is pursuing RAIL Services, Coordination of Human Services Transportation, Regional BUS Service, Air Quality Planning, Regional Land Use/Transportation Planning to assist local governments accomplish the goal of achieving the betterment of transportation infrastructure to the citizens we represent
- According to 2000 census, 10,259 Stokes County residents travel to Forsyth County to work each day, a 17% increase over the 1990 census
- Based on 2003 data, it cost an estimated \$.53 per mile to commute
- Other associated costs for commuters such as parking fees
- PART helps eliminate congestion on roadways and air pollution
- Discussed current transportation route programs being sponsored by PART
- Tax on rental cars in Forsyth and Guilford County funds PART in those counties
- Current budget - \$9.8 million
- Federal funding = 80%, State funding = 10%, County funding =10% when building ride lots in the county
- To join PART - no County funding
- Each county has a seat with voting privileges on the PART Board of Trustees
- Stokes County is the leading county in North Carolina for commuters traveling to other counties to work
- Intercity bus service to start by September 2006 from Winston Salem to Mount Airy
- Stokes County can withdraw their membership at anytime

Commissioner Paul Johnson - Surry County, serves on the PART Board of Trustees representing Surry County, strongly encouraged Stokes County to become a member of PART.

Commissioner Johnson spoke on the benefits of PART for the citizens.

Mr. McKinney concluded by extending a very sincere and cordial invitation to Stokes County and would be delighted for Stokes County to become a member county of the Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation. Mr. McKinney presented a proposed Resolution for the Board's consideration.

The Board discussed the following:

- Discussed the riding lots with Commissioner Paul Johnson-Surry County
- Riding lot capacities and size
- Possibly of using the Veteran's Park in King for a possible riding lot
- PART's association with YVEDDI
- Routes currently being sponsored by PART

- PART's membership
- Requirements for membership
- Other riding lots within PART
- Advantages of being a member of PART
- County matching funds can also be in-kind contributions
- Reiterated no cost to Stokes County to join PART

Commissioner McHugh moved to approve the Resolution of the Stokes County Board of Commissioners to Become a Member of the Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation.

Commissioner John Turpin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

(a copy of the Resolution will be retained by the Clerk to the Board)

Chairman Inman opened the floor for volunteers from the Board to serve on the PART Board of Trustees.

Chairman Inman volunteered to serve as the representative from Stokes County for the PART Board of Trustees.

Vice Chairman Joe Turpin moved to approve Chairman Inman to serve as the representative from Stokes County for the PART Board of Trustees.

Commissioner John Turpin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT - ELECTIONS- PROPOSED ELECTIONS VOTING EQUIPMENT

Director of Elections Olivia Robbins presented the following information regarding the proposed voting equipment which was approved by the Board of Elections on December 16th: (Board of Elections members - Velmalene Leake and Richard Rutledge was also in attendance - Mycleta Burwell was unable to attend)(County's voting equipment was decertified by the State in December 2005)

- Optical Scan for the following reasons - (1) voters are already familiar with this type of voting; (2) grant from the State (HAVA) cover this type of the equipment causing no hardship on Stokes County = \$272,064
- Optical Scan will cost an estimate around \$10,000 per precinct = \$272,064 other equipment (Direct Record) would cost Stokes County estimated \$500,000
- State requires that equipment must be approved by the Board of Commissioners
- State requires that a contract with the vendor be signed by January 20, 2006
- State requires a public forum to demonstrate the voting machine which was held on January 7, 2006
- Only one vendor in the State to supply the new voting equipment
- Equipment is much heavier than old voting machines
- Urgent need for storage space for the 48 new machines
- Training is required for all elections workers

Director Robbins presented Board members with a copy of the Resolution as required by G.S. 163-165.9.

(a copy of the Resolution will be retained by the Clerk to the Board)

Director Robbins presented a cost projection from Optical Scan Marking System = \$391,894.00. Director Robbins noted additional equipment and other items such as tables, training costs, etc. had been added, but one ADA voting machine (\$5000) for One Stop Voting could be eliminated.

The Board discussed the presented cost projection.

Commissioner McHugh noted a discrepancy in the cost projections.

The Board directed Director Robbins to get in touch with the sales representative for clarification.

Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins presented Board members information from North Carolina Association of County Commissioners requesting the County to send a letter to legislators and the governor seeking a special session of the General Assembly to enact a modest delay in the implementation of Senate Bill 223, Public Confidence in Elections,

along with an adopted Resolution from Brunswick County Supporting the Solicitation of New Voting Machine Vendors and Implementing a Delay in Implementation of New Voting Machine Requirements. The Board discussed the information from the NCACC and took no action.

Director Robbins presented a new cost projection after contacting the sales representative who had made a calculation error - new cost projection = \$273,094.

Director Robbins noted that with the elimination of one ADA voting machine, the HAVA Grant would cover the entire cost of the new voting equipment.

Chairman Inman entertained a motion regarding the Board of Elections' recommendation for the new voting equipment.

Commissioner John Turpin moved to approve voting equipment from Elections Systems and Software for the Stokes County Board of Elections.

Commissioner McHugh seconded the motion.

Commissioner John Turpin amended his motion to include that the Elections Director hold the contract approval until January 18th and if something comes from the State that the contract does not have to be signed by January 18th, the Board will be meeting on the 23rd for further consideration.

Commissioner McHugh amended her second to the motion.

The motion to approve the voting equipment from Elections Systems and Software for the Stokes County Board of Elections and for the Elections Director to hold the contract approval until January 18th and if something comes from the State that the contract does not have to be signed by January 20th; the Board will be meeting on the 23rd for further consideration carried unanimously.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT - E911- PROPOSED E911 RENEWAL BACKUP CONTRACT - CITY OF KING

E911 Communications Director Del Hall requested the Board's approval for the submitted proposed E911 Backup Contract with the City of King.

Director Hall noted that the City of King currently serves as the secondary public safety answering point (PSAP) for the County's communication Center in the event of a disaster. The E911 Advisory Committee chose the City of King based on location and the usage of a different phone service provider. Director Hall also noted that County Attorney Jonathan Jordan had approved the proposed contract and it has already been approved by the City of King.

The Board discussed the proposed contract with the City of King.

Commissioner John Turpin moved to approve the E911 Backup Contract with the City of King.

Commissioner McHugh seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

(a copy of the E911 Backup Contract with the City of King will be retained in the Clerk to the Board's office)

GENERAL GOVERNMENT - HEALTH DEPARTMENT - PROPOSED POSITION REALLOCATION

Director Don Moore requested the Board's approval to reallocate a Public Health Nurse II (Grade 74) to a Social Work Supervisor III (Grade 73).

Director Moore explained that certain programs administered by the Health Department can be filled either by a Public Health Nurse or Social Work Classification. In this particular program- Family Care Coordination, the program can be administered by a Social Work Supervisor III which would be a savings to the Health Department. Currently, recruitment for Public Health Nurses are extremely difficult due to salary requirements. Director Moore concluded that with leadership and full staffing, this program will increase revenue by 25-30% in a program that is already cost effective.

Commissioner McHugh moved to approve the request to reallocate a Public Health Nurse II position in the Health Department to a Social Worker Supervisor III for the purposes that Health Director deems fit.

Commissioner John Turpin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT -PURCHASING - PROPOSED LAWSONVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT -LOAN

Support Services Supervisor Danny Stovall presented the following Resolution which approves of Lawsonville Volunteer Fire Department entering into the financing, as required under the Code for the financing to be carried out on a tax-exempt basis.

Lawsonville Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. will be financing an amount up to \$160,000 for a Freightliner Fire Truck from Branch Banking and Trust for 15 years with a 4.37% interest rate. As required, the Lawsonville Volunteer Fire Dept., Inc. held a public hearing on the financing.

Vice Chairman Joe Turpin moved to approve the Lawsonville Fire Department Resolution approving the financing for a Freightliner Fire Truck.

Commissioner McHugh seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT - EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES - PROPOSED AMBULANCE PURCHASE 05/06 BUDGET

Support Services Supervisor Danny Stovall presented a quote from Northwestern Emergency Vehicles totaling \$107,980.00 for the purchase of one (1) 2006 Horton Type III 523-B ambulance approved in the 05/06 fiscal year budget. Emergency Services Director Monty Stevens was also in attendance for the agenda item. Mr. Stovall referenced the following NC General Statute 143-129 (e)(6) which is a sole source exception:

“(e) Exceptions - The requirement of this Article does not apply to:”

- (6) “Purchases of apparatus, supplies, materials, or equipment when:
- (I) performance of price competition for a product are not available,
 - (II) a needed product is available from only one source supply; or
 - (III) standardization or compatibility is the overriding consideration.
- Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the Governing Board of a political subdivision of the State shall approve the purchasing listed in the preceding sentence prior to the award of the contract.

Mr. Stovall and Director Stevens recommended to the Board of Commissioners to use the Sole Source Exception for this purchase for the following reasons:

- All ambulances in County fleet have been manufactured by Horton Emergency Vehicles
- Ambulances will be manufactured to past bid specifications
- Northwestern Emergency Vehicles is the **only** licensed Horton dealer for the State of North Carolina.

Commissioner McHugh moved to approve the sole source exception and the bid of \$107,980 for the purchase of one (1) 2006 Horton Type III 523-B ambulance.

Chairman Inman seconded the motion.

Chairman Inman requested Director Stevens update the Board with the County’s current ambulance fleet.

Director Stevens stated that this purchase would probably replace the front line unit stationed at Lawsonville, which has over 218,000 miles.

Commissioner Walker requested that any equipment purchased be delayed until after the Board receives the 04/05 audit which is scheduled for the 23rd of January and after the upcoming meeting with Local Government Commission (LGC) in Raleigh this week.

Mr. Stovall noted that the purchase of all equipment would be financed together. The Board discussed the option of delaying the purchase of any equipment until after the meeting with LGC and the results of the 04/05 audit.

Chairman Inman stated that the County would be meeting with LGC on financial matters regarding the borrowing of funding for the Walnut Cove Library Expansion Project.

Chairman Inman called the vote.

The motion failed (1-4) with Chairman Inman, Vice Chairman Joe Turpin, Commissioner John Turpin, and Commissioner Walker voting against the motion.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT - SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT - PROPOSED LAW ENFORCEMENT VEHICLE PURCHASE - 05/06 BUDGET

Support Services Supervisor Danny Stovall requested the Board's approval to purchase the following vehicles utilizing state contracts 070A Passenger Automobiles and 070B Law Enforcement Automobiles and 070G Trucks from Capital Ford in Raleigh, North Carolina: (Captain Al Tuttle was also in attendance for the agenda item)

• 2006 Ford Crown Vic	6 each	\$20,375.00	\$122,250.00
• 2006 Ford Taurus	3 each	\$12,378.00	\$37,134.00
• 2006 Ford Explorer 4-WD	1 each	\$21,000.00	<u>\$21,000.00</u>
		Vehicle Cost	\$180,384.00

The budget amounts for the following equipment will be purchased from other vendors:

• 3% NC Vehicle Sales Tax	\$5,412.00
• Light Bars, Dash Lights, Wig Wags	\$7,713.00
• Speakers, Sirens, Control Switches	\$3,699.00
• Go Rhino Push Bars	\$2,300.00
• Security Screens	\$2,454.00
• Strobe Kits, Power Supplies	\$1,989.00
• Consoles	\$1,800.00
• UHF Radio	\$6,300.00
• Vehicle Lettering	\$1,650.00
• Equipment Installation	\$4,950.00

Total Project Budget: \$218,651.00

Mr. Stovall noted that the price of the purchasing Dodge V6 Chargers instead of the four Taurus would \$20,141 instead of \$12,378 (\$7,763 increase in the total project cost).

Commissioner Walker requested to also postpone this agenda item as the previous agenda item-purchase of ambulance until after the presentation of the 04/05 audit and meeting with LGC.

Vice Chairman Joe Turpin requested information from Captain Al Tuttle regarding if there were any officers who do not have all the proper equipment such as bulletproof vests that are out of date or inadequate uniforms.

Captain Tuttle noted to the best of his knowledge that all officers' bulletproof vests follow the recommended manufacturers' guidelines.

Captain Tuttle also noted that there should be no officer not having an adequate uniform.

The Board discussed the purchase of 4 wheel drive vehicles for Sergeants instead of Crown Vics.

Captain Tuttle noted concerns with 4 wheel drive vehicles being easy to overturn especially on rural roads in Stokes County.

Commissioner John Turpin requested additional information regarding the horsepower and gas mileage of the Charger V6 versus the Crown Vic V8 for the next meeting.

Chairman Inman entertained a motion to postpone the purchase of any law enforcement vehicles until the January 23rd meeting.

Commissioner John Turpin moved to postpone the purchase of any law enforcement vehicles until the January 23rd meeting.

Vice Chairman Joe Turpin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT - FINANCE - BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT #53

Finance Director Julia Edwards requested the approval of Budget Ordinance Amendment #53, which is necessary to amend the General Fund to transfer funds middle year review. The appropriations are to be changed as follows:

Account Number	EXPENDITURES	Decrease	Increase
100.9910.000	Contingency	_____	\$10,575.00
			\$10,575.00

This will result in a net increase of \$10,575.00 in the appropriations of the General Fund. To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will be increased.

Account Number	REVENUES	Decrease	Increase
100.3982.968	Transfer from Revaluation Fund	_____	\$10,575.00
			\$10,575.00

Finance Director Edwards noted that the following justification of the budget ordinance amendment for fiscal year 2005-06:

- Middle Year Review

Chairman Inman entertained a motion to approve Budget Ordinance Amendment #53.

Vice Chairman Joe Turpin moved to approve Budget Ordinance Amendment #53.

Commissioner McHugh seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT - E911 FUND BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT #54

Finance Director Julia Edwards requested the approval of Budget Ordinance Amendment #54, which is necessary to amend the E911 Fund to appropriate funds for computer for new staff and rack mounts on towers. The appropriations are to be changed as follows:

Account Number	EXPENDITURES	Decrease	Increase
	E-911		
200.4325.510	Equipment		\$ 4,136.00
			\$ 4,136.00

This will result in a net increase of \$4,136.00 in the appropriations of the E911 Fund. To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will be increase.

Account Number	REVENUES	Decrease	Increase
200.3991.000	Fund Balance		\$ 4,136.00
			\$ 4,136.00

Finance Director Edwards noted that the following justification of the budget ordinance amendment for fiscal year 2005-06:

- New position approved November 28, 2005

Chairman Inman entertained a motion to approve Budget Ordinance Amendment #54.

Vice Chairman Joe Turpin moved to approve Budget Ordinance Amendment #54.

Commissioner McHugh seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT - SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT - BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT #55

Finance Director Julia Edwards requested the approval of Budget Ordinance Amendment #55, which is necessary to amend the General Fund to appropriate funds for from insurance claim for accident that occurred during a chase. The appropriations are to be changed as follows:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>Decrease</u>	<u>Increase</u>
	Sheriff's Department		
100.4310.351	Maint. & Repairs-Auto		\$ 909.00
			\$ 909.00

This will result in a net decrease of \$909.00 in the appropriations of the General Fund. To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will be decreased.

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>REVENUES</u>	<u>Decrease</u>	<u>Increase</u>
100.3839.850	Insurance Claims		\$ 909.00
			\$ 909.00

Finance Director Edwards noted that the following justification of the budget ordinance amendment for fiscal year 2005-06:

- Insurance claim for accident on December 14, 2005

Chairman Inman entertained a motion to approve Budget Ordinance Amendment #55.

Commissioner McHugh moved to approve Budget Ordinance Amendment #55.

Vice Chairman Joe Turpin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT - BOARD OF ELECTIONS - BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT #56

Finance Director Julia Edwards requested the approval of Budget Ordinance Amendment #56, which is necessary to amend the General Fund to appropriate funds from HAVA Grant to purchase voting equipment. The appropriations are to be changed as follows:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>Decrease</u>	<u>Increase</u>
	Elections		
100.4170.510	Equipment		\$ 272,064.00
			\$ 272,064.00

This will result in a net increase of \$272,064.00 in the appropriations of the General Fund. To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will be increased.

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>REVENUES</u>	<u>Decrease</u>	<u>Increase</u>
100.3301.419	HAVA Grant		\$ 272,064.00
			\$ 272,064.00

Finance Director Edwards noted that the following justification of the budget ordinance amendment for fiscal year 2005-06:

- NC State Election Board requires the purchase of new voting equipment by January 20, 2006

Chairman Inman entertained a motion to approve Budget Ordinance Amendment #56.

Commissioner John Turpin moved to approve Budget Ordinance Amendment #56.

Commissioner Walker seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - PROPOSED PRELIMINARY PARTF APPLICATION

Economic Development Director Ron Morgan requested guidance from the Board regarding the County's application for a Parks Area Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) for Moratock Park. Director Morgan noted the following:

- PARTF application due by January 31, 2006
- 1 to 1 match for the county

- Estimated county's match = \$125,000
- Time consuming grant process
- Concerns regarding finances and upcoming budget
- Grant to include additional parking, trails, signage, safety factors, lighting, landscaping, access to Sheppard's Mill Road, etc.
- Being awarded the grant and not being able to proceed due to funding can hurt future grant applications

The Board discussed financial status of the County regarding appropriating \$125,000 match, time consuming grant, Town of Danbury sharing in the cost of renovations, limit value of timber on existing property, current county recreation, and the future tourism at Moratock Park. The Board commented on the importance of the proposed project, but felt it was unfair for Director Morgan to spend countless hours on the application process/deadline and then there could be no matching funding available this fiscal year.

Chairman Inman entertained a motion to instruct the Economic Development Director to hold off on applying for the PARTF application.

Commissioner McHugh moved to hold off on the PARTF application until next fiscal year. Commissioner John Turpin seconded and the motion carried (4-1) with Vice

Chairman Joe Turpin voting against the motion.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT -GOVERNING BODY - ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR FORSYTH TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Commissioner Walker requested information regarding the Advisory Council that had been set up by Forsyth Tech Community College and the status of members that had been appointed by the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Walker noted to his knowledge no one that have been appointed by the Board of Commissioners had received any information. Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins noted that FTCC had been notified of all appointees and FTCC was in the process of appointing two Trustees to serve on the Council. Ms. Deanna Ray - FTCC had reported last week to Ms. Bullins that letters would be going out to all appointees within the next week. Staffing issues and FTCC awaiting the appointment of Trustees delayed the organization of the first meeting.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT - BOARD OF ELECTIONS- SPACE

Commissioner Walker reiterated the need for space for the Board of Elections and storage for the new voting equipment.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT - GOVERNING BODY - PROPOSED RESOLUTION OPPOSING GAS TAX INCREASES FOR STOKES COUNTY CITIZENS AND BUSINESS

Vice Chairman Joe Turpin read the following proposed Resolution:

RESOLUTION OPPOSING GAS TAX INCREASES FOR STOKES COUNTY CITIZENS AND BUSINESS.

Stokes County, North Carolina

WHEREAS, the Stokes County Board of Commissioners strives to keep the cost of living low in our County as well as promote business and

WHEREAS, an element of that goal is helping keep tax rates low or eliminating them when possible. In addition, many of our residents commute long distances to work, school, and church; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina drivers are paying \$300 million a year in extra gas tax. Stokes County residents are included in shouldering this cost. The state's gas tax is the sixth highest in the country, and the highest in the Southeast.

WHEREAS, the Stokes County Board of Commissioners recommends the repeal of the newly imposed 2006 gas tax increase. In addition, encourage the Legislature strengthen the Highway Trust Fund which they have raided for approximately \$1 billion dollars over the last few years.

Thereby be it resolved that the Stokes County Board of Commissioners oppose any tax increase in North Carolina's gas tax.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 20__

Vice Chairman Joe Turpin noted the need for the proposed Resolution for the citizens of Stokes County.

The Board discussed the proposed Resolution and the need to include lowering the pre-existing tax rate.

Vice Chairman Joe Turpin moved to approve the following amended Resolution Opposing Gas Tax Increases for Stokes County Citizens and Business:

RESOLUTION OPPOSING GAS TAX INCREASES FOR STOKES COUNTY CITIZENS AND BUSINESS

STOKES COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, the Stokes County Board of Commissioners strives to keep the cost of living low in our County as well as promote business and

WHEREAS, an element of that goal is helping keep tax rates low or eliminating them when possible. In addition, many of our residents commute long distances to work, school, and church; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina drivers are paying \$300 million a year in extra gas tax. Stokes County residents are included in shouldering this cost. The state's gas tax is the sixth highest in the country, and the highest in the Southeast.

THEREBY, BE IT RESOLVED, the **Stokes County Board of Commissioners** recommends the repeal of the newly imposed 2006 gas tax and lowering the preexisting tax rate. In addition, we encourage the Legislature to strengthen the Highway Trust Fund which they have raided for approximately \$1 billion dollars over the last few years; and

Be it also resolved that the **Stokes County Board of Commissioners** opposes any future tax increase in North Carolina's gas tax.

Adopted this 9th day of **January, 2006**.

J. Leon Inman
Chairman

Darlene M. Bullins
Clerk to the Board

Commissioner Walker seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT - GOVERNING BODY - REGIONAL TOURISM BOARD

Commissioner John Turpin updated the Board regarding the upcoming Regional Tourism Board (Stokes, Surry, Patrick, Grayson, Alleghany counties) on January 20, 2006 at Shelton's Vineyard, which focuses on marketing these areas as a regional tourism area.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT - GOVERNING BODY- UPCOMING EVENTS

Chairman Inman presented the Board with the following upcoming meetings sponsored by the King Chamber of Commerce:

January 25 Community Update Luncheon at 11:30 am in the Multipurpose Room of the Stokes Family YMCA

Dr. Cartner will present the results of the recent demographic study relating to our schools. A representative of the County Commissioners is asked to speak to the group as to the county plans to address the issues identified by the study. Lunch will be served at 11:30 am at a cost of \$8.00 (payable at the door). The Chamber requests advance reservations with the Chamber office at 983-9308.

January 26 Stokes County Listening Tour with Congresswoman Virginia Foxx
4:00-5:00 pm in the Shelton Room of the King Public Library

A representative from County government is asked to present their concerns or issues. Printed inquiries and /or documentation will be accepted for Congresswoman Foxx to address after reviewing those at a later time. We will ask a representative from King, from Walnut Cove and from Danbury to also present their concerns along with those of the King Chamber of Commerce

Chairman Inman requested if there were any volunteers who would be willing to represent the Board.

Vice Chairman Joe Turpin volunteered to attend the January 25th - Community Update Luncheon at 11:30 am.

Commissioner John Turpin volunteered to attend the January 26th - Stokes County Listening Tour with Congresswoman Virginia Foxx.

Chairman Inman requested Board members submit any concerns or issues to Vice Chairman Joe Turpin or Commissioner John Turpin on either topic.

CLOSED SESSION

Chairman Inman entertained a motion to enter into closed session for the following:

- To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the county pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4).
 - To consider and take action with respect to the position to be taken by the county in negotiating the price or other materials terms of an agreement for the acquisition or lease of real property pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5)
 - To consider the initial employment or appointment of an individual to any office or position, other than a vacancy in the Board of County Commissioners or any other public body, or to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, and fitness of any public officer or employee, other than a member of the Board of Commissioners or of some other public body pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6)
- Vice Chairman Joe Turpin moved to enter into closed session for the following:

- To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the county pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4).
- To consider and take action with respect to the position to be taken by the county in negotiating the price or other materials terms of an agreement for the acquisition or lease of real property pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5)
- To consider the initial employment or appointment of an individual to any office or position, other than a vacancy in the Board of County Commissioners or any other public body, or to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, and fitness of any public officer or employee, other than a member of the Board of Commissioners or of some other public body pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6)

Commissioner John Turpin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The Board re-entered into regular session of the January 9, 2006 meeting.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT - ADMINISTRATION -COUNTY MANAGER DUTIES

Commissioner John Turpin moved to allow the Clerk to the Board to sign travel expenditures, payroll issues, and budget amendment ordinances.

Vice Chairman Joe Turpin seconded the motion.

The Board discussed approval until an interim manager is appointed and that all documents would be open for the Board's inspection.

The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Inman entertained a motion to recess the meeting until Wednesday, January 18, 2006 at 6:00 pm.

Commissioner McHugh moved to recess the meeting until Wednesday, January 18, 2006 at 6:00 pm.

Vice Chairman Joe Turpin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Darlene M. Bullins
Clerk to the Board

J. Leon Inman
Chairman