

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)

COUNTY OF STOKES)

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**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS
STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT
DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA
JANUARY 20, 2007**

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met to continue the Board Retreat session (first session - January 6, 2007) in the Commissioners'

Chambers of the Ronald Wilson Reagan Memorial Building (Administrative Building) located in Danbury, North Carolina on Saturday, January 20, 2007 at 10:00 am with the following members present:

Chairman Leon Inman
Vice-Chairman Jimmy Walker
Commissioner Ron Carroll
Commissioner Ernest Lankford
Commissioner Stanley Smith

County Personnel in Attendance:
Clerk to the Board/Interim County Manager Darlene Bullins
Finance Director Julia Edwards

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.

Chairman Inman welcomed those in attendance to the Board Retreat.

Tourism- Continuation

Commissioner Smith presented the following brief overview from the Regional

Tourism Initiative meeting on January 19th.

- Steering Committee meeting (which Commissioner Smith and Interim Manager Bullins serve on) discussed the current \$7500 allocated from the participating counties
- Projected allocation from each county for the 2007-08 fiscal year will probably remain \$7500
- Regional website is under construction – when website is developed all Boards of participating counties will be invited to a regional meeting for the presentation of the website before releasing the website to the public
- The meeting was designed for branding a name for the Regional Tourism Initiative – first choice "Rocking on America's Front Porch" second choice "Crossing Borders" – Branding names will be submitted to the Steering Committee for further consideration

Interim Manager Bullins noted the need for a definite direction of where the Initiative is headed, how many counties are going to belong in the Initiative, and to determine if the Initiative will benefit Stokes County.

Tourism Committee member Sam Hill who also attend the January 19th meeting noted the need to know exactly who will be included in the Region and that most counties have a Tourism Director along with the Economic Development Director.

The Board discussed the need to know exactly who will be included in the Region, how will the Initiative help Stokes County, will the Region have something in common with Stokes County, and what is Stokes County actually getting for its allocation.

Commissioner Smith concluded that the Board's concern would be presented to the Steering Committee.

Chairman Inman reiterated the need for a motel/conference center in Stokes County to promote tourism.

Vice Chairman Walker presented the vision from the Angelo Study pertaining to Stokes County. The Board also discussed the identity of Stokes County and the current County Seal.

Finance Director Julia Edwards noted possibly setting up a Financial Advisory Committee, which would be made up of County and School Officials and a Financial Advisor who could offer all aspects of financing.

Commissioner Lankford noted the School Board would be receiving a report in February from a committee detailing the schools' need at this time which could enable both Boards to begin a planning process. Commissioner Lankford also noted the top three 2007-08 Legislative goals are: (1) Medicaid relief, (2) School construction and (3) Revenue options. Eliminating the County's Medicaid cost, could increase revenues by \$2 million dollars if sales tax were not affected.

The Board agreed the need for school construction is a top priority.

Community College Facility in the County

Chairman Inman noted that Stokes County is one of the few remaining counties in North Carolina that does not have a true satellite campus, actually the largest county remaining in North Carolina that does not have a true satellite campus.

The Board discussed the need for Stokes County to have a stand-alone facility that has its own identity, possible location at the Old Prison Camp site for a Community College, a site adequate for Stokes County needs, possible feasibility study for the Old Prison Camp site, and renovation costs to the Old Prison Camp site.

Chairman Inman directed the Interim County Manager to provide the Board with information regarding the two mobile units that had been previously sold and should have already been moved.

Vice Chairman Walker noted the need for a facility to represent Stokes County and the central location of the Old Prison Camp site.

Commissioner Carroll noted the recent facility built in Yadkin County by special appropriations from the Legislature and the need to have a facility that can serve Stokes County.

The Board agreed to further investigate the possibility of using the Old Prison Camp site as a possible location for a stand alone facility for a Community College or other possible County uses, seeking outside funding, and the need for the Forsyth Tech Community Advisory Council to promote the need for a stand-alone facility that Stokes County can be proud of.

Code of Ethics/Salary Classification Study

Commissioner Carroll noted the need for further discussion regarding the Code of Ethics Policy adopted by the previous Board and the possible need for a Salary Classification Study at a later date.

Compensatory Time – Holiday Time – Vacation Time Pay Off

Chairman Inman noted the need to review the County's policies regarding the amount of compensatory time and holiday time that employees are allowed to carry forward from year to year. The large amount of pay offs when employees resign or retire causes budgeting issues during the fiscal year.

County Manager's Vacant Position

The Board discussed the current county manager's vacant position. Chairman Inman noted the cutoff date for the county manager's position is January 31, 2007.

Chairman Inman noted that he had spoken with Dennis Thompson, who was employed last year by Stokes County as a Budget Consultant. Mr. Thompson confirmed with Chairman Inman that he would be able to assist the County with the 2007-08 county budget if needed.

County Vision

The Board discussed developing a vision for Stokes County. Commissioner Lankford presented the following statements for discussion:

The Stokes County Government will operate as an effective and efficient local government that will promote a friendly and open environment for its citizens and will provide needed services in an accountable and professional manner.

The Stokes County Government will provide for its citizens an effective and efficiently managed local government that will move our county forward in a friendly and open environment with high quality employees accountable for providing needed services.