

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)

COUNTY OF STOKES)

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**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS
STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT
DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA
JANUARY 22, 2007**

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 22, 2007 at 6:00 pm 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
Support Services Supervisor Danny Stovall
DSS Director Jan Spencer

Chairman Leon Inman called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Smith 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 AGENDA

Chairman Inman entertained a motion to approve or amend the agenda for the January 22nd meeting.

Commissioner Lankford requested to add a "Closed Session" to discuss personnel after the Action Agenda.

Commissioner Smith requested to add an item to the Discussion Agenda "Draft of a Resolution in Support of Widening of HWY #8 from HWY #704 to Lawsonville Post Office".

Chairman Inman entertained a motion to approve the agenda with the requested additions.

Vice Chairman Walker moved to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was

unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Martha Hartley

1100 Buck Meadow Lane

King, NC 27021

RE: **Economic Development**

Ms. Hartley suggested the great economical development potentials in an industry that is the backbone of this county- agricultural. Ms. Hartley spoke about organic food industry with food sales growing 10 to 20 percent in recent years and the growing demand for organic food.

Ms. Hartley noted the importance of buying locally, saving transportation cost, and the vast amount of knowledge, wisdom, and experience located within our county. The organic food industry offers new choices to residents of Stokes County. Ms. Hartley requested that the Board of Commissioners support and promote organic agricultural in Stokes County.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Inman entertained a motion to approve or amend the following items on

the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of January 8, 2007
- Budget Ordinance Amendments #44, #45, #46, #47, & #48 discussed at the January 8th meeting
- Tax Administration Refund Request for Mike Callaghan in the amount of \$28.10 discussed at the January 8th meeting
- Tax Administration Refund Request for Garland D. and Jayme R. Conner, Jr. in the amount of \$78.02 discussed at January 8th meeting
- Contract for 2007 Audit in the amount of \$42,000 with Martin Starnes & Associates, CPA for the fiscal year 2006-2007 discussed at the January 8th meeting – (Contract to be retained by the Finance Director and the Clerk to the Board)
- Transfer of the Walnut Cove Library to the Town of Walnut Cove per the Interlocal Agreement between the Town of Walnut Cove and the County of Stokes regarding the proposed Walnut Cove Library Project (Interlocal Agreement approved at the December 11th meeting - A copy of the Deed to be retained by the Clerk to the Board)

Commissioner Lankford moved to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was

unanimous.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY - INFORMATION AGENDA

Proposed Relocation of Medical Helicopter Helipad

Interim County Manager Darlene Bullins presented the following information

pertaining to the proposed relocation of the Medical Helicopter Helipad as requested by the

Board:

- Per EMS Director Monty Stevens, approvals for the relocation have been given by NC Baptist Hospital and Danbury Vol. Fire Department
- \$6,000 estimated cost for 30x30 six inch pad, development of a road to the landing pad, landscaping and site preparations for the site, and lighting

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- \$2,224 balance in the capital outlay contingency with remaining funding to be taken from regular contingency or fund balance
- Relocation could be done after YVEDDI receives approval from the State for the proposed NCDOT garage project

The Board discussed the proposed relocation of the Medical Helicopter Helipad, the possible use of the existing pad for the new facility, the need for relocation of the Helipad so that the project will not be held up, and the completion of the project estimated June 30, 2007.

Vice Chairman Walker noted the suggestion from Public Works Director Jay Kinney regarding the unused basketball court located at the Old Prison Camp site for possible use for the Helipad site.

Interim Manager Bullins noted the possibility using the Old Prison Camp Site contingent upon the approval by NC Baptist Hospital, the removal of structures and fencing which would interfere with the landing of Air Care, and the Board's future plans for the Old Prison Camp Site.

The Board discussed the time schedule for the NCDOT project, the removal schedule for the mobile units that have been sold located on the site, using the site at the Old Prison Camp for the relocation of the Helipad, and the existing Helipad location being located near the hospital.

Chairman Inman directed the Clerk to place the item on the action agenda for the February 12th meeting with quotes for relocation.

Stokes County Work First Cash Allocation

DSS Director Jan Spencer informed the Board the following information regarding the Work First Cash Allocation:

- Informed on Friday, January 12, 2007 by Judy Hopkins-Local Business Liaison that the Work First Cash Allocation for Stokes County had been reduced from \$505,524 to \$349,446
- All counties received funding cuts -very significant cuts to "electing" counties
- Information presented to Board regarding a memo dated 09-20-04 which indicated a reduction in the Work First Family Assistance Federal Funds for the State Fiscal year 2005-06 which was never implemented – this recent reduction could be the 2005-06 reduction that was never implemented
- Reduction to be effective July 1, 2007
- Historically spending since fiscal year 2004 has averaged \$468,404 per year
- Electing county means that Stokes County will need to make up the difference with County Funding
- With estimated cuts, Stokes County may be responsible for approximately \$118,959 in county (funds per fiscal year) should spending remain stable (figure approximates what Stokes County may have to spend for the next two fiscal years)
- Work First Consultant Emily Wilkins stated Stokes County could still designate itself to be a standard county, if paperwork can be submitted by April 1, 2007. Counties must designate their status six months prior to the beginning of the federal fiscal year.
- As a standard county, the state will pick up any overage in spending- not the county
- Possible reduction in the clients' check – a family of three receives \$272 per month (Work First Family Assistance requirement). To account for the full amount reduced to Stokes County- the family check would have to be

reduced to \$188, to reduce the family check by 25% which represents the County's estimated spending, the family check would have to be reduced to \$204. In order to accomplish either reduction, Stokes County's Finance Department would have to start processing the payments which would be approximately 125 checks per month. State guidelines require that any change made in the Work First Family Assistance's payment to the client mandates the issuing of payments by the County. The Finance Director informed DSS Director Spencer that she did not have the staff for processing the increased amount of checks

- County funding in the Work First Program is applied to the Maintenance of Effort which is required to pull down federal dollars

Ms. Christine Hopkins, DSS Board Chair, stated that it seems that the State is trying to make the existing 11 counties who are "electing" become "standard" which would give the State more control. A "standard" county must follow all state guidelines, with "electing" counties designing parts of their own plan. Chair Hopkins noted the Stokes County Work First Plan is working great.

The Board discussed the reduction of the allocation, changing from an "electing" to a "standard" county, eligibility rules must be followed by state guidelines with county incentives being allowed in the "standard" plan, pros and cons of the "standard" versus the "electing" county, and the DSS Board vote of 4-1 to return to being an "standard" county due to the financial risk of being an "electing" county.

The Board agreed to proceed with changing from "electing" to "standard" status for the Work First Program. Chairman Inman directed DSS Director Spencer to verify the timeframe for changing to a standard county status and directed the Clerk to place the item on the action agenda for the February 12th meeting.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – DISCUSSION AGENDA

Scattered Site Housing Rehabilitation – Committee Selection

Mr. Gary Wilson, Benchmark Inc, presented the following information regarding the required Selection Committee for the 2006 Scattered Site Housing Grant:

- Committee to be appointed by the Board of Commissioners
- Committee's role is to review the ranking system that will be developed by Benchmark, which will consider among other things- highest priority to very low income (30% of median) households, elderly households, handicapped households; lower priority to low income (50% of median) households, single parent households, and large family households; and the suitability of the unit for rehabilitation
- Ranking of the applicants by Benchmark will be forwarded to the Committee for review, approval, and final recommendation to the Board of Commissioners
- The committee will involve approximately two meetings
- Possible five member committee with two representatives from Social Services, Council on Aging, Meals on Wheels, etc. and the remainder of the individuals who have a record of serving the community
- The application with the designated homes must be submitted by March 30, 2007.

Mr. Wilson noted that an advertisement with a toll free telephone number was placed in the Stokes News and that Interim Manager Bullins had emailed the advertisement to
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all county departments, Town of Walnut Cove, Town of Danbury, City of King, and various outreach organizations. Also, an urgent repair grant in the amount of \$75,000 (can not be used with the Single Family Rehabilitation Program) has been submitted on behalf of the County to do smaller projects such as roofs, heating/cooling systems, etc. Another grant available -Duke Power Loan Program (\$7500 to \$10,000 additional) for energy related improvements (must be used with the Single Family Rehabilitation Grant) could also be available, this grant is different from the Single Family Rehabilitation with the amount of funding used from the Duke Power grant being attached to the house indefinitely- the loan is never forgiven as with the Single Family Rehabilitation Grant.

The first required public hearing for the Scattered Site Housing Grant is scheduled for February 12th with the second public hearing scheduled for March 12th.

Interim County Manager Darlene Bullins noted that nominations could be presented at the February 6th meeting with appointment at the February 12th meeting.

Handicap Ramps – Old Courthouse – Continuation

Support Services Supervisor Danny Stovall presented the following additional information regarding the replacement of the Handicap Ramps at the Old Courthouse:

- Original bid: Edwards Products = \$14,050 and Redd Ream \$14,094
- Additional cost: Anodize coating - \$4,375.00 with lead time of 3-4 weeks
- Additional cost: Powder coating - \$3,985.00 with lead time of 4-5- weeks
- Per Pat Dean from Edwards Products- Anodizing will last longer and eventually the Powder coating may chip or even crack with the lead time on the powder coating also being longer
- Power pole on the back side of the walk, Duke Power quoted that the pole could be moved toward the building about 5-6 feet at a minimum cost of \$2,000
- Met with Mark Fletcher on Friday – January 19th to determine the cost associated with constructing the ramp out of concrete as requested by the Town of Danbury
- Estimated cost of replacement of ramp out of concrete = \$14,850
- In talking with Planning, before approving the project, measurements will have to be set with a transit
- Water and Sewer lines will also have to be located before any removal of soil
- Possibility of contacting local vendors for quotes

The Board discussed the new option of replacing the ramp with concrete instead of using a metal ramp.

Chairman Inman directed Support Services Supervisor Stovall to discuss the proposed concrete option with the Town of Danbury, obtain local quotes if proposed project is agreeable with the Town of Danbury, and directed the Clerk to place the item on the February 12th action agenda.

Sheriff's Department-Budget Ordinance Amendment #49

Finance Director Julia Edwards requested the approval of Budget Ordinance Amendment #49, which is necessary to amend the General Fund to appropriate funds from Wal-Mart grant, SAMS grant, and calendar funds to purchase (8) Digital Camera, (8) Re-chargeable camera batteries, (8) camera memory cards and (8) camera carry pouches. The appropriations are to be as follows:

Account Number	EXPENDITURES	Decrease	Increase
	Sheriff's Department		
100.4310.511	Equipment-Non Capitalized	<u> </u>	<u> \$1,864.00</u>
			\$1,864.00

This will result in a net increase of \$1,864.00 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
100.3839.001	Sheriff's Dept-Misc		<u> \$1,864.00</u>
			\$1,864.00

Finance Director Edwards noted that the following justification of the budget ordinance amendment for fiscal year 2006-07:

- Purchase of (8) digital cameras and accessories from Wal Mart grant, SAMS grant and calendar funds

Budget Ordinance Amendment #49 can be considered at the February 12th meeting.

Social Services- Public Assistance-Special Adoption-Budget Ordinance Amendment #50

Finance Director Julia Edwards requested the approval of Budget Ordinance Amendment #50, which is necessary to amend the General Fund to appropriate special adoption funding to be used to enhance the adoption services program. The appropriations are to be as follows:

Account Number	EXPENDITURES	Decrease	Increase
	Public Assistance		
100.5470.003	Special Adoption	<u> </u>	<u> \$9,000.00</u>
			\$9,000.00

This will result in a net increase of \$9,000.00 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
100.3301.216	Special Adoption		<u> \$9,000.00</u>
			\$9,000.00

Finance Director Edwards noted that the following justification of the budget ordinance amendment for fiscal year 2006-07:

- Special adoption funding from the State

Budget Ordinance Amendment #50 can be considered at the February 12th meeting.

Proposed Resolution – Widening of HWY #8 from HWY 704 to Lawsonville Post Office

Commissioner Smith requested that the Board of Commissioners draft a Resolution in Support of Widening Highway #8 from Highway 704 (Virginia Line) to the Lawsonville Post Office.

Commissioner Smith noted the following issues regarding the widening of Highway

704:

- Recent rezoning of property for addition to an existing business which will create a larger number of tractor trailers using the road
- Tractor trailers and tandem axle trucks for Livestock and Logging businesses use the portion of that highway daily in an excess of 100 vehicles a day on most business days
- Highway standard for this type of traffic is usually 24 ft with the portion of Highway 8 being only 20ft
- Several accidents have incurred on this portion of Highway #8 which included a Fire Truck, logging truck with one fatality
- Road also has hills and valleys that have bus stops which also causes issues
- Need for signage at businesses which indicate trucks entering highway

Chairman Inman directed Interim Manager Bullins to draft a Resolution for the February 12th action agenda.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – ACTION AGENDA

Chairman Inman entertained a motion to approve the 2007 Cost Index and Depreciation Schedules for Tax Administration, which was discussed at the January 22nd meeting.

Vice Chairman Walker moved to approve the 2007 Cost Index and Depreciation Schedules for Tax Administration, which was discussed at the January 22nd meeting. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

(a copy of the approved 2007 Cost Index and Depreciation Schedules for Tax Administration will be retained by the Tax Department and Clerk to the Board)

CLOSED SESSION

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

- 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(6)

Commissioner Lankford moved to enter into closed session for the following:

- 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(6)

The motion was unanimous.

The Board returned to the regular meeting of January 22, 2007.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Inman entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Vice Chairman Walker moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimous.

Darlene M. Bullins
Clerk to the Board

J. Leon Inman
Chairman