

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 12, 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, February 12, 2007 at 1:30 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
 Tax Administrator Wren Carmichael

Chairman Leon Inman called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Lankford 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 February 12th meeting.

Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins requested to delete Item B- (Discussion Agenda) “Proposed Resolution – Support of Local Fees for Food and Lodging” due to Health Director Don Moore unable to attend the meeting due to sickness. Commissioner Carroll requested to add “Discussion of the District System” under the Discussion Agenda. The Board discussed adding the “Discussion of the District System” to the agenda.

Commissioner Carroll moved to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was unanimous.

PUBLIC HEARING – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT HOUSING REHABILITATION PROJECT

Chairman Inman opened the Public Hearing for the Community Development Block Grant Housing Rehabilitation Project. There were no public comments.

Chairman Inman closed the Public Hearing for the Community Development Block Grant Housing Rehabilitation Project.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Minutes of January 6, 2007
- Minutes of January 20, 2007
- Minutes of January 22, 2007

- Budget Ordinance Amendments #49 and #50 which were discussed at the January 22nd meeting

Senior Services & YVEDDI -Budget Ordinance Amendment #51

Finance Director Julia Edwards requested the approval of Budget Ordinance Amendment #51, which is necessary to amend the General Fund to appropriate additional funds for elderly and handicapped transportation and rural general public transportation. The appropriations are to be as follows:

Account Number	EXPENDITURES	Decrease	Increase
	Senior Services		
	Misc. Contractual Services		
100.5860.441	EDTAP		\$16,245.00
	Special Appropriations		
100.4520.490	YVEDDI	_____	<u>\$15,000.00</u>
			<u>\$31,245.00</u>

This will result in a net increase of \$31,245.00 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
	Elderly & Handicapped		
100.3301.263	Transportation		<u>\$31,245.00</u>
			<u>\$31,245.00</u>

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

- Additional funding of fiscal year 2007 Rural Operating Assistance Program

Budget Ordinance Amendment #51 was adopted by the Board of Commissioners on February 12, 2007.

Public Assistance-Budget Ordinance Amendment #52

Finance Director Julia Edwards requested the approval of Budget Ordinance Amendment #52, which is necessary to amend the General Fund to appropriate additional funding for Crisis-Federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Funds and Smart Start Day

Care Funding. The appropriations are to be as follows:

Account Number	EXPENDITURES	Decrease	Increase
	Public Assistance		
100.5480.000	Crisis Intervention		\$14,509.00
	Day Care		
100.5850.003	Smart Start		\$10,321.00
		<hr/>	<hr/>
			\$24,830.00

This will result in a net increase of \$24,830.00 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
100.3301.202	DSS-Federal		\$14,509.00
100.3301.208	Smart Start		\$10,321.00
			<hr/>
			\$24,830.00

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

- Department of Social Services received authorization of additional federal funding for crisis and additional state funding for smart start day care

Budget Ordinance Amendment #52 was adopted by the Board of Commissioners on February 12, 2007.

Resolution – Widening of Highway #8

**RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR THE SUPPORT OF WIDENING OF HIGHWAY #8 FROM LAWSONVILLE
POST OFFICE TO INTERSECTION OF HIGHWAY #704**

WHEREAS, the **Board of Commissioners** of the **County of Stokes** has been made aware of the urgent need for the widening of Highway #8 from Lawsonville Post Office to Intersection of Highway #704 by the residents of the area; and

WHEREAS, Highway #8 is heavily traveled which creates a constant maintenance problem for NCDOT as well as a public safety issue; and

WHEREAS, Highway #8 is heavily traveled daily in excess of 100 tractor trailers and tandem axle trucks for delivery and pickup to local businesses; and

WHEREAS, Highway #8 along this section of the highway is only 20 ft wide whereas normally Highways carrying this volume and type of traffic are 24 ft wide; and

WHEREAS, The Highway #8 traffic of tractor trailers is expected to increase dramatically with the expansion of a local business; and

WHEREAS, Highway #8 is included in the Stokes County School's Transportation Route; and

WHEREAS, Tractor trailers, fire trucks, and logging trucks have been involved in several accidents along this stretch of highway over the past few years; and,

WHEREAS, The widening of Highway #8 would enhance public safety and increase the prospects for development.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the **Stokes County Board of Commissioners** supports the widening of Highway #8 from Lawsonville Post Office to the Intersection of Highway #704 and this Resolution be forwarded to District Engineer Pat Ivey – North Carolina Department of Transportation.

Adopted this the **12th** day of **February 2007**.

J. Leon Inman - Chairman

Jimmy Walker - Vice Chairman

Ron Carroll - Commissioner

Ernest Lankford - Commissioner

Stanley Smith - Commissioner

Attest:

Darlene M. Bullins – Clerk to the Board

Scattered Site Housing Rehabilitation – Committee Selection

- Steve Mabe – Walnut Cove area
- Wayne Pyrtle – Lawsonville area
- Billy Sisk – Pinnacle area
- Christine Hopkins – Walnut Cove/Danbury area
- Roscoe Boles – King area
- Ronald Shelton – Sandy Ridge area
- Ted Hairston – Pine Hall area

Local Government Commission – Audit Reply

February 6, 2007

February 12, 2007

Ms. Sharon G. Edmundson, CPA
Director-Fiscal Management Section
325 North Salisbury Street
Raleigh, NC 27603

Re: Stokes County Fiscal Year 2005/06 Audit

Dear Ms. Edmundson:

The information provided below is in response to your letter dated January 3, 2007 to Stokes County, which addressed the County's General Fund Balance being at 8.74% for fiscal year ending June 30, 2006.

As noted in your letter, the County is continuing to increase its fund balance, which was a 0.84% increase over fiscal year 2004-05. The Board does share your concerns with the County being at 8.74% at the end of fiscal year 2006.

The County continues to have quarterly expenditure and revenue reviews to monitor all spending and collections, a practice that has been a valuable tool since 2004. During these reviews, the County reverts any unspent available funding back to the General Fund Balance. The County also had no allocation from undesignated fund balance in the FY 2006/07 budget and \$303,680.14 of the County's Hold Harmless funding was not budgeted in the FY 2006/07 budget, thereby going into fund balance.

The Board of Commissioners has already held two planning sessions in January 2007, which established increasing the fund balance as a top priority. The Board is scheduled to meet on February 19th to establish goals and strategies to achieve this objective.

I hope the above information reflects the dedicated commitment that Stokes County has to increase its fund balance. If you have further questions or would like additional information, please don't hesitate to contact us.

In addition, please update your records to reflect that Darlene M. Bullins is serving as Interim County Manager.

Sincerely yours,

J. Leon Inman
Chairman

cc: Interim County Manager Darlene Bullins
Finance Director Julia Edwards

Commissioner Carroll noted the following amendments to the minutes of January 6th,

January 20th and the proposed Resolution for Highway #8:

January 6th

- Change Tax Collection status as of Friday, January 5th to **\$14,305,086.87**-page 2
- Change courteous to **courtesy** under User Friendly Departments –page 4

January 20th

- Change financial advisory to financial **advisor** under Schools, School Facilities-page 4
- Resolution – Highway #8**
- Change is 24 ft wide to **are** 24 ft wide

Commissioner Lankford moved to approve the consent agenda with the noted amendments. The motion was unanimous.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY - INFORMATION AGENDA

King Public Library

Ms. Kay McGee Phillips, Chairman-King Library Board, (Board members Bonnie Crouch, Virginia Southern, Branch Librarian Rikki Ashburn, Area Supervisor Joan Sherif-Northwest Regional Library System were also present) presented the following information regarding the King Public Library and proposed expansion project:

- Current heating bills continue to escalate
- Fuel budget is running out of funds in the current budget
- Major repairs are needed on the building's HVAC system which includes replacing a cracked boiler, replacing the computerized control system, replacing a deteriorating compressor, activating the humidifiers, and converting the system from propane to natural gas
- Bids are currently being sought for the computer control system for the HVAC system
- Library which was opened in 1996 has outgrown its current facility
- Second largest library in circulation in the regional system
- Library currently has an average of 1100 patrons a week
- Shelton Room (which is approximately 1200 sq ft) located in the Library is the only meeting room of that size in King that is available for public use
- In January 2005, the Library Board voted to hold fund raisers to add to the book collection before proceeding with the expansion project
- King Library Board paid an architect to prepare preliminary drawings for the needed expansion project to include the following:
 - Enlarging the children's area
 - Adding to the meeting space
 - Replacing the aging carpet, upholstered furniture
 - Making repairs throughout the building

- Making repairs to the bathrooms and kitchen
- August 2006, Colon Moore presented the proposal to the King City Council regarding the needed expansion
- The City Council requested that before allocating \$86,000 for construction drawings, the Library Board should go to the Stokes County Board of Commissioners to ask them for a show of support for the project
- The construction drawings are needed to be able to estimate costs
- It is the understanding of the Library Board that with a favorable response from the Board of Commissioners for financial support, the City Council will consider allocating the funds for construction drawings in order to proceed with the project and to be able to inform the City and the County the estimated cost of the proposed project
- The Library Board decided to wait until the Walnut Cove Library Expansion Project funding was resolved before bringing this item to the Board
- Library Statistics Fiscal Year 2006
 - Circulation = 81,253
 - Internet Use = 15,296
 - Registered Users = 11,171
 - Programs = 325
 - Program Attendance = 7,123
 - Patron Attendance for the year = 55,116
 - Shelton Room Use (August 2004 – August 2006) = 7,200
- Estimated Cost Summary for Proposed Library Expansion/Renovations
 - Expand Children's Area – 1723 sq ft @\$144/sq ft = \$248,000
 - Expand Conference Area – 2173 sq ft @136/sq ft = \$295,000
 - Interior Renovations = \$30,000
 - Outside Sign = \$12,000
 - Furnishings = \$45,000
 - Design = \$70,000
 - Contingency = \$60,000
- Total Proposed Expansion Project Cost = \$760,000
- Current facility is 12,189 sq ft
- King Library is committed to help raise funding for the expansion project and already has an anonymous donation

Chairman Phillips stated her understanding is that the City of King is requesting the Board of Commissioners split the cost of the proposed expansion project estimated at \$760,000. (Stokes County = \$380,000 and City of King = \$380,000)

The Board discussed the proposed expansion project, the need for the project, and future library needs for the County.

Chairman Inman expressed the Board's appreciation to Chairman Phillips for the

presentation.

Tax Administration Report

Tax Administrator Wren Carmichael presented the following information regarding recent releases and refunds already approved by the Tax Administrator:

- Releases - Personal property in the amount of \$33.64
 - Linda R. Tilley = \$33.64
- Refunds – Motor Vehicle in the amount of \$443.49
 - Carolina Signs and Lighting = \$21.26
 - Carolina Signs and Lighting = \$4.68
 - Jeffrey Lee Mabe = \$13.72
 - Zachariah Sterling Ore = \$36.81
 - Christopher Ray Palmer = \$167.05
 - John H Reid = \$44.41
 - William Kane Shelton = \$4.67
 - William Kane Shelton = \$8.96
 - Robert Craig Smith and Barbara W Smith = \$86.84
 - Joseph Owen Stanley Jr. = \$55.09
- Releases – Motor Vehicle in the amount of \$3,533.65
 - Charles Mitchell Allen = \$28.00
 - Curtis J. Amos = \$9.83
 - Lonnie Dean Baker = \$19.92
 - Jerry Wyatt Beasley = \$9.74
 - Brady Flanary HVAC Inc. = \$8.52
 - David A. and Dora Bragg = \$64.35
 - Gail Gordon Bumgarner = \$19.26
 - Kyle Steven and Dena Donaldson Carroll = \$66.06
 - Robert D. Chamberlain = \$7.69
 - Stephen Ray and Jamie Hundley Chaney = \$40.73
 - Irvin Gregory and Tenia Creson = \$20.15
 - Mark Donald Crum = \$15.03
 - Michael Eugene and Ann Marie Davis = \$24.00
 - Rex Allen Decker = \$82.88
 - Rex Allen Decker = \$83.98
 - Gary Lynn Derrenbacher = \$32.24
 - Danny Ray Douglas and Leonard R. Partridge = \$189.36
 - Elbert Arthur Elvis Jr. and Jo Lynn Elvis = \$5.19
 - Lynne E. Fortin = \$5.29
 - Jennifer S. Gause = \$16.11
 - Amberly Inex Goins = \$31.10
 - Merle L. Gunter = \$31.05
 - Steven Alfred Hall = \$32.72
 - Martha Brown Hartley = \$10.88

- Paul Joseph Hilgefurd Jr. and David Lewis Flythe = \$1.95
- Paul Joseph Hilgefure Jr. and David Lewis Flythe = \$66.95
- Paul Joseph Hilgefure Jr. and Shelia Stringfield Hilgefurd = \$50.66
- Robert Lincoln Hodge = \$25.15
- George S. and Susan M. Hodges = \$9.56
- William Thomas and Linda Horton Jones = \$16.63
- Anthony Boyd Joyce = \$55.84
- Cheryl Blackmon Joyce = \$18.08
- Rodney Andrew and Tonya Beck Lankford = \$60.00
- Jeffrey D. Long = \$41.04
- James Lloyd Mabe = \$3.28
- Erin Covington Merritt and Nathan Michael Merritt = \$18.24
- Davie Edwin Mills = \$99.93
- Thomas Larry Mitchell = \$7.70
- Sheryl Lee Montross = \$6.19
- William S. Morgan = \$7.60
- Richard E. and Bonita M. Newsome = \$252.09
- Richard E. and Bonita M. Newsome = \$252.09
- Richard E. and Bonita M. Newsome = \$382.20
- Richard E. and Bonita M. Newsome = \$382.20
- Nova Concrete Company = \$216.58
- Katie Taylor Padgett = \$15.22
- Thomas Francis Parese = \$7.29
- Christopher Craig and Joyce Smith Sames = \$39.35
- Glenn A. Shelton-Glenn A. Shelton Construction Co DBA = \$48.17
- Anthony Linwood Slate = \$6.99
- David Smith = \$64.00
- Derek B. Smith = \$45.99
- Scotty Joe and Karen Michell Smith = \$27.86
- Willie Gary Smith Sr. = \$3.50
- William Jeffrey Spainhour = \$72.05
- Beverly Hill Stephens = \$108.14
- Connie Sheppard Stephens = \$13.10
- Charlie H Styers = \$13.23
- Denise Wall Synder = \$17.41
- Lee and Melissa W. Truskowski = \$68.93
- Billy J. Turner = \$6.11
- Richard Wayne Watson = \$74.11
- Robert O. and Ella Louise Welch = \$21.98
- Dale Williams Yarbrough = \$52.18

Tax Administrator Carmichael reiterated that the County could not tax vehicles that are leased by the hour or day until the County imposes an occupancy tax.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – DISCUSSION AGENDA

Reclassification of Social Services Position

DSS Director Jan Spencer requested permission to reclassify the Income Maintenance Supervisor I position to an Income Maintenance Caseworker III (Lead Worker) position. Director Spencer noted the following:

- Due to the high caseloads, this position will begin to carry a reduced caseload in addition to the lead worker duties
- Both classifications are on Grade 65 – thus will be no difference in the salary ranges
- Currently, this unit (Food Stamps) is the fastest growing unit in the department
- Two other (IMC III) lead workers in the agency – Adult Medicaid and Family/Children’s Medicaid
- DSS Board approved the reclassification on January 31st

The Board discussed the reclassification request.

The reclassification can be considered at the February 26th meeting.

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 Transportation Program Manager Charlie Walker, YVEDDI- a meeting between YVEDDI and NCDOT will be set for the week of February 12th
- Per Mr. Walker, there will be at least a 60-day lead time after the confirmation from NCDOT for bidding out the project and obtaining the necessary permits
- Support Services Supervisor Danny Stovall is in the process of obtaining bids for the project cost for the relocation of the Helipad which will be presented at the February 26th meeting
- Mr. Charlie Walker was unable to attend today’s meeting due to a prior appointment

The Board discussed the relocation of the Helipad, the status of the NCDOT project, the urgent need to get this project off the ground, and the need for the County to proceed with

getting cost estimates for the relocation of the Helipad.

The Board directed Interim County Manager Darlene Bullins to set up a meeting if possible for the upcoming Board Retreat –Continuation already scheduled for Monday, February 19th at 4:00 pm with Charlie Walker and YVEDDI Executive Director Jo Ann Larkins.

Appointments and Re-Appointments

Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins informed the Board of the following appointments:

- Legislative Liaison to the NCACC
- Northwest Piedmont Job Training Consortium Workforce Development Board
- Town of Walnut Cove – ETJ

Chairman Inman nominated Vice Chairman Walker to serve on the Legislative Liaison to the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners.

Commissioner Smith nominated Commissioner Lankford to serve on the Northwest Piedmont Job Training Consortium Workforce Development Board.

Clerk to the Board Bullins informed the Board that there had been no applications for the Walnut Cove Planning Board/Board of Adjustments for the ETJ position other than Kevin Webb – member and Diane Coffill-alternate.

Commissioner Carroll nominated Kevin Webb to serve as the ETJ member and Diane Coffill as the ETJ alternate for the Walnut Cove Planning Board/Board of Adjustments.

Surplus Property – Mobile Units – Old Prison Camp Location

Support Services Supervisor Danny Stovall presented the following information regarding the mobile units at the old prison camp location:

- The Board of Commissioners approved to sell the vacant two mobile units located at the old prison camp location for \$52.50 to A V Marshall

- Mr. Marshall informed Mr. Stovall on January 23, 2007 that he was no longer interested in purchasing these units due to health reasons

Mr. Stovall noted the following Board's options:

- Rescind the previous award to A.V. Marshall and re-advertise in the paper for upset bids for the sale of the mobile units
- G.S. 160A-266(d) which allows the County to discard any personal property that: (i) is determined to have no value; (ii) remains unsold or unclaimed after the County has exhausted efforts to sell the property using any applicable procedure under this Article; or (iii) poses a potential threat to the public health or safety

Commissioner Carroll suggested the possibility of allowing the Volunteer Fire Department in the area to burn the units for fire training.

Mr. Stovall recommended that the Board of Commissioners reject Mr. Marshall's bid and requested direction from the Board regarding the removal of the units.

The Board discussed the possible options of removing the units at no cost to the County.

Surplus Property – Cat Cages – Animal Shelter

Support Services Supervisor Danny Stovall (at the request of Chief Animal Control Officer Sarah Shumate) requested that the County approve the donation of seven (7) old cat cages to the Animal Rescue of Stokes County. The cages are eighteen (18) years old and are in poor condition, are in need of repair, and do not meet new State standards set for our facility. Officer Shumate noted in her memo that Animal Rescue of Stokes County would be able to increase their intake of homeless animals for placement if they had these old cages and that this non-profit organization has often helped in placement of animals, donation of food and other needed items at our facility.

Mr. Stovall noted that this request can be fulfilled, if the Board wishes to do so by

following guidelines as set forth in North Carolina General Statutes 153A-176, 160A-266, and 160A-267.

The Board discussed the possible options and directed Mr. Stovall to proceed with disposing of the old cat cages by G.S. 160A-267.

Stokes County Work First Plan – Re-Designation of County Status- Continuation

DSS Director Jan Spencer presented the following information regarding the Re-Designation of County Status for the Stokes County Work First Plan:

- A letter from Emily Wilkins-Work First Representative noted that “A County that desires to be re-designated shall submit a request in writing to the Department at least six months prior to the effective date of the next State Plan.

A County’s re-designation shall become effective on the effective date of the next State Plan following the re-designation. The effective date of the next State Plan is October 1, 2007, therefore, the last date of re-designation is April 1, 2007.

- Standard Counties were cut last year with the State not cutting the electing counties due to being in the middle of the two year cycle
- If re-designation to Standard is approved by the Board, the Standard Work First Plan can be posted on the County Website, placed at the Public Libraries, placed at County Administrative Office, and placed at the DSS Office to allow for a comment period for citizens
- State representatives suggested that staying as an “Electing” County is “high risk”
- Possibly hold a public hearing on February 26th
- Approval for the Work First Plan on March 12th

The Board discussed the pros and cons for changing back to a Standard County, savings associated with an Electing County, and the Board re-designating to be an “Electing County”.

Proposed District System for Stokes County

Commissioner Carroll requested to discuss adopting a plan to move forward with regards to a District System for Stokes County.

Vice Chairman Walker requested to discuss the issue at another work session before

moving forward with a plan. Vice Chairman Walker requested to discuss issues such as what kind of committee, is this something Stokes County wants to deal with right now, and are there more important issues to work on before starting with this issue. Commissioner Walker stated he wants what is the best for the County and that is too important of an issue to rush.

Commissioner Carroll noted that this discussion was not to approve a district plan, but to set up a process to study the district plan. Commissioner Carroll stated that if the Board chooses to proceed with a plan to study the district system, a committee would be appointed by the Board. The committee would study the issue and receive input from citizens throughout the County. Representatives on this committee would include members from both political parties including the unaffiliated which would represent all areas of the County, no governmental employees as members and would hold public hearings hopefully in each precinct. This committee would come back to this Board with a recommendation to help this Board make a decision regarding the District System.

Commissioner Smith would support the appointment of a Blue Ribbon Committee to study the District System. Commissioner Smith stated that the Board would make the decision whether to place the item on the ballot, and the voters would decide whether Stokes County would have a District System.

Commissioner Lankford also supports the appointment of a Blue Ribbon Committee to study the District System. Commissioner Lankford requested additional time before setting up the guidelines of how the committee would be appointed due to the item not being a scheduled agenda item.

Chairman Inman also supports the appointment of a Blue Ribbon Committee to study

the District System and that a public hearing should be held in every precinct. Chairman Inman suggested further discussing the method of appointing a committee at the scheduled February 19th Board Retreat.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – ACTION AGENDA

Stokes County Work First Plan – Re-Designation of County Status

Commissioner Lankford moved to change the County’s position from “Electing” to “Standard” for the Work First Plan for 2007-2009. The motion was unanimous.

Vice Chairman Walker moved to schedule a public hearing for citizen input regarding the Work First Plan on Monday, February 26th - 6:05 pm. The motion was unanimous.

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:

- Reviewed the status of the project
- Met with Mayor Jane Priddy-Charleville on January 26, 2007 along with Public Works Director Jay Kinney and discussed the scope of the work being proposed for installing the concrete ramps
- Reiterated to Mayor Priddy-Charleville that the proposed project would change the appearance of the side lawn area and that there were no guarantees that parking would be as is
- Possibility of eliminating one parking space
- Mayor Priddy-Charleville expressed no reservations toward this option
- Met with local contractors – James Brown, Clarence Wilson, and Nathan Southern concerning cost of the proposed project
- Bid from C-TUC = \$14,238.00 (Nathan Southern)
- Bid from Fletcher Brothers = \$14,850.00
- No bid received from James Brown or Clarence Wilson
- Proposed project could possibly take 2-3 weeks

Mr. Stovall presented a sketch of the proposed project for the Board’s review.

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

Chairman Inman spoke with Mayor Priddy-Charleville and confirmed that she was satisfied with this option and understood that the Town could possibly lose one parking space.

Mr. Stovall noted that the Board would need to rescind the previous motion awarding the project to Edwards Products if the Board desires to use concrete instead of aluminum.

Chairman Inman entertained a motion to rescind the motion approved on December 28, 2006 awarding the project to Edwards Products.

Vice Chairman Walker moved to rescind the motion which, was approved on December 28, 2006, which awarded the project to Edwards Products. The motion was unanimous.

Commissioner Smith moved to accept the bid submitted by C-TUC (Nathan Southern) in the amount of \$14,238 for the replacement of the handicap ramps at the Old Courthouse. The motion was unanimous.

Departmental Staff Meeting

The following department heads were present for the departmental staff meeting with the Board of Commissioners:

- Interim County Manager Darlene Bullins
- Support Services Supervisor Danny Stovall
- Director Vicki East – Walnut Cove Senior Center
- Arts Council Director Eddy McGee
- Chief Animal Control Officer Sarah Shumate
- Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor Elwood Mabe
- Program Director Lynn Martens – Senior Services
- Public Works Director Jay Kinney
- Information Systems Director Dianna Fulp
- Administrative Officer Wanda Hicks for Health Director Don Moore
- Fire Marshal Brad Cheek
- DSS Director Jan Spencer
- E911 Director Del Hall

- EMS Director Monty Stevens
- DRC Director Tony Hill
- Register of Deeds Kathy Young
- Sheriff Mike Joyce
- James Booth –Natural Resources
- Tax Administrator Wren Carmichael
- Elections Director Olivia Robbins
- Economic Development Director Ron Morgan
- Director Ann Watts – Forsyth Tech Community College
- Director Jack Loudermilk – Cooperative Extension
- Planning Director David Sudderth
- GIS/Mapping Administrator Jake Oakley
- Sergeant Jeff Whitaker for Captain Al Tuttle
- Finance Director Julia Edwards

Chairman Inman expressed his appreciation to the Department Heads for attending today's meeting, the services each one provides to the citizens of Stokes County, and the importance of each department.

Chairman Inman noted that each member of the Board feels strongly that the image of Stokes County should be a very positive image and that the people of this County that we serve should see us as "public servants". The image that each one projects should be a positive image and everyone should always remember that "we" serve the people of this County and that we should always do it with dignity and respect.

Chairman Inman concluded that the Board of Commissioners wants to make sure that everyone knows the expectations of this Board - a good, positive image and that everyone will deal with the public in that manner.

Commissioner Carroll noted that the purpose of this meeting is not to call anyone on the carpet, but to make sure everyone knows the Board's expectations. Commissioner Carroll also noted that we need to polish the image of the County and the responsibility of that starts in this room, first with the Board of Commissioners, secondly the Department Heads

and their department. Commissioner Carroll reiterated the need to be “public servants” and expressed his appreciation for the dedication of each Stokes County employee.

Commissioner Lankford expressed his appreciation for the services provided by all departments to the citizens of Stokes County and that the Board is going to be open, fair, friendly, and build a positive image for Stokes County.

Vice Chairman Walker noted that each department affects the daily lives of every citizen in Stokes County and that the concept of “user friendly government” strikes a very important note with him. Vice Chairman Walker wants every request or need to be treated promptly, courteously, professionally, respectfully, and always give the citizen a chance to explain his/her side of the story. Vice Chairman Walker concluded the need to always end the conversation in a positive way.

Commissioner Smith expressed his appreciation not only as a Commissioner, but also as a citizen for serving the citizens of Stokes County. Commissioner Smith noted that this meeting is a “pep rally” and that you have a five member board that wants what is best for the people of Stokes County and what is best for the employees of Stokes County. Just remember that every citizen’s issue is an important issue to that citizen.

Interim Manager Darlene Bullins expressed the County’s appreciation to Cooperative Extension Director Jack Loudermilk who will be retiring February 28, 2007.

The Board expressed their appreciation to Director Loudermilk for his dedication and service to Stokes County.

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 consult with the county attorney or another attorney employed or retained by the county in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege pursuant to GS 143-318.11(a)(3).
- 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 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 consult with the county attorney or another attorney employed or retained by the county in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege pursuant to GS 143-318.11(a)(3).
- 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 February 12, 2007.

Chairman Inman entertained a motion to schedule special sessions for February 22, 2007 and February 27, 2007 at 1:00 pm.

Commissioner Lankford moved to schedule February 22nd and February 27th at 1:00 pm for special sessions. The motion was unanimous.

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

Commissioner Lankford moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimous.

Darlene M. Bullins
Clerk to the Board

J. Leon Inman
Chairman