

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 19, 2007

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met to continue the Board Retreat in the Commissioners' Chambers of the Ronald Wilson Reagan Memorial Building (Administrative Building) located in Danbury, North Carolina on Monday, February 19, 2007 at 4:00 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  
Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor Elwood Mabe

Others in Attendance:  
Executive Director JoAnn Larkins  
Charlie Walker – YVEDDI Transportation

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 – PROPOSED YVEDDI/COUNTY GARAGE FACILITY**

Executive Director JoAnn Larkins and Charlie Walker – YVEDDI met with the Board to discuss the proposed YVEDDI/County Garage Facility. Interim County Manager Darlene Bullins, Support Services Supervisor Danny Stovall and Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor Elwood Mabe (Stokes County) who have worked with Charlie Walker on the proposed project were also in attendance for the discussion regarding the proposed facility.

Chairman Inman reiterated the need to make sure all aspects of the proposed project were covered in order to get the project started as soon as possible.

Mr. Walker-YVEDDI noted the following regarding the proposed project:

- Spoke with NCDOT engineers today who will be approving the scope of the project
- Reiterated to NCDOT the need for approval in order to move an existing helipad and to get the project started as soon as possible
- Approval is expected to be received by YVEDDI within the next two weeks from NCDOT Public Transportation
- Proposed facility is 40x140 with a 16ft IE, metal structure with a brick or rock front, 3 (30 ft) bays
- Funding will be available for site preparation and paving
- Maintenance on the YVEDDI vehicles will be performed by Stokes County such as changing brakes, hoses, oil changes, general maintenance etc. on 16 vehicles
- YVEDDI will fund the salary for a part time employee who will work under the supervisor of the county
- Major repairs such as transmission problems will not be performed by the County
- Need to work on the amp service to the building
- Any item in question will be discussed between YVEDDI and the County before bids are released
- Formal bids will be released after approval from the State
- Permits will be obtained after approval from the State
- Need to get the project started before June 30, 2007
- NCDOT in Raleigh has 4 bids for review

Commissioner Lankford noted the following regarding the proposed facility:

- Reiterated that the helipad would not hold the proposed project up

- Expressed the County's desire to see the proposed project start as soon as possible
- County will help in anyway possible to get the project started as soon as possible

Vice Chairman Walker noted the following regarding the proposed facility:

- Need to plan for the future
- Concern for the need of a fourth bay
- Advantages of having a fourth bay

Commissioner Carroll noted that there would be office space available in the Community Services Building when YVEDDI moved into the new facility.

Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor Elwood Mabe noted the following regarding the proposed facility:

- Fourth bay would be very valuable for the county
- Funding available in capital reserve for lifts
- Existing equipment can be transferred to the new facility

Support Services Supervisor Danny Stovall noted the following regarding the proposed facility:

- Need for garage door openers
- Need for county staff to review the bid proposal to ensure items are included needed by the county

The Board discussed the pros and cons of adding a fourth bay at the time of construction, desire to get the project started, proposed schedule for the proposed project and the need to start the project before June 30, 2007.

Commissioner Lankford confirmed with Charlie Walker that the proposed project is ready and just waiting for NCDOT's approval. Charlie Walker confirmed that YVEDDI was only waiting for NCDOT's approval to start the proposed project.

Chairman Inman reiterated to Charlie Walker the County's commitment to get the project started as soon as possible and informed the Interim County Manager to assist

YVEDDI if the County could be of any further assistance.

## **GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – BOARD RETREAT- CONTINUATION**

### **The Board continued the Board Retreat.**

#### **User Friendly**

The Board continued discussion regarding User Friendly Departments.

Commissioner Carroll noted that expectations had been set by the Board regarding User Friendly Departments and questioned if the Board needed to make training available to Department Heads and/or employees to accomplish this expectation.

The Board discussed the need to make sure that training was available if needed by employees. The Board continued discussion regarding expectations of departments to treat citizens with dignity, respect, and courtesy. Commissioner Lankford noted the need to revise county's personnel policy manual to include user-friendly expectations.

The Board directed Interim County Manager Bullins to poll the department heads regarding the following:

- What each department is currently doing to be user friendly?
- What plans are the departments making to meet the Board's expectations of User Friendly?
- What can each department do to make their department more user-friendly?
- Does any department need training to achieve the Board's expectation?

Interim County Manager Bullins noted that plans are being considered to provide departments with a workshop at a staff meeting regarding "user friendly".

#### **Goals**

Chairman Inman requested Board members to present their top goals.

Commissioner Carroll noted the following goals:

- District System
- Community College present in the County
- School Facilities
- Economic Development and Infrastructure

Commissioner Lankford noted the following goals:

- Health Care Issues
- County Vision
- 2- 4 year County planning

Vice Chairman Walker noted the following goals:

- Economic Development Infrastructure
- Water and Sewer Authority
- I-74 Corridor
- Pinnacle Area – Development of Businesses
- Recreation
- Staffing of County Departments
- Privatizing EMS – Convalescent Care
- Schools
- Historical Preservation
- Tourism

Commissioner Smith noted the following goals:

- Reopening of King Clinic
- Health Department Services
- County owned facilities
- EMS- location at Sauratown Vol. Fire Department
- Salary Study

Chairman Inman noted the following goals:

- Reopening of King Clinic
- Old Prison Camp Facility – clean up
- FTCC – Stand alone facility
- Economic Development
- Infrastructure

### **King Clinic**

The Board discussed the following issues regarding the reopening of the King Clinic:

- Originally called the Southwestern Service Center for Stokes County
- Originally had services at the center provided by Social Services, Mental Health, Sheriff's Department, etc
- Staffing an issue with the Health Department – need to fill vacancies before opening the clinic per Health Director Don Moore

### **Other County Owned Facilities**

The Board discussed the following issues regarding the reopening of the Old Prison Camp located on Highway #89:

- Need to begin to clean up the area
- No longer a prison camp, need for it to look like a facility other than a prison camp

### **Vision Statement for Stokes County**

The Board suggested the following visions for consideration:

- Framing our future through Agriculture, utilities, businesses, education and tourism.
- Stokes County: North Carolina's best-kept secret.
- Stokes County the place to be.
- Stokes County is a good place to be, not just to be from.
- Stokes County is a beautiful place with good, honest, hard working people.
- Stokes County will be a great place to live, work, and play by preserving our natural aesthetic heritage and embracing the future.
- Stokes County to become the most outstanding County in the area.
- Stokes County is a natural wonder of the Sauratown Mountains.

The Board discussed the visions proposed by the Board members, the vision that will take Stokes County into the future, what makes Stokes County an outstanding place, capitalizing on the features that Stokes County has to offer, and the goals needed to get Stokes County where it needs to be.

Chairman Inman directed the Board members to review the vision statements submitted and for each member to have their vision statement for Stokes County ready for the next retreat meeting.

## **Goals**

The Board discussed goals for the future of Stokes County.

Commissioner Lankford noted the following short-term goals:

- Improve the fund balance this year by 3% to a total of 12% by the end of June 2008 – approximately \$1 million
- Review county departments – staffing
- Review legal needs – county attorney versus staff attorney

Vice Chairman Walker noted the following short term goals:

- County to try to obtain all grants possible for utilities, education, economic development, etc (example –Piedmont Partnership -\$15 million for training)
- Recreation – bring back to be a county department – to provide more recreational activities for the youth of the county
- Infrastructure other than water and sewer

The Board discussed the current recreational activities currently provided by the YMCA, the work being provided by volunteers in the County operating recreational programs, recreational opportunities for family activities, allocation funded each year by the County for recreation, and the recreational advisory committee set up by the County.

Commissioner Carroll noted the following short-term goals:

- Hire a County Manager
- Appoint a committee to study the District Committee

The Board discussed the following issues regarding appointing a committee to study the District Committee:

- Structure the committee with open-minded individuals who go out and receive input from the citizens of Stokes County and return to the Board with a recommendation

- Need for an objective committee
- Need for an objective study
- Need to place this item on the action agenda for the next meeting for further discussion and planning to authorize the appointment of a committee
- Possible selection criteria
  - Referrals from the executive committees of the Republican and Democrat Parties
  - Possible seven member Board
  - One from each quadrant of the County
  - 3 at large members
  - Possibly one member from each township of the county -9 members
  - Referral from Board members
  - Members from the Democrat, Republican, and Unaffiliated Parties
  - No stacking of the appointments
- Must truly be objective to give the citizens information about the District System
- Possible Town Hall Meetings
- Committee members must be educated regarding their purpose of serving on the committee
- Time needed to complete the study
- Possible Public Hearings at each precinct
- Need for advertisements to inform the citizens of the purpose of the committee, purpose of the meetings, the time and place of the meetings, etc.
- Major objective of the committee is to provide the Board with information regarding whether the citizens in Stokes County want a District System
- Number of members to be appointed to the Committee
- Whether to include the Board of Education in the study
- Need for a poll survey instead of a committee study
- Need to place the item on the upcoming action agenda to start the process
  - Action to establish a committee to study a District System
  - Number of appointees- design of the committee, 5, 7, or 9, etc.
  - Selection of the committee
  - Time frame for the study
  - Education of the committee
  - Consider a poll survey

Chairman Inman requested Board members to take all the goals listed during the planning sessions and prioritize them by short term and long term goals by the next planning session.



## **Agenda Structure**

Vice Chairman Walker requested that the Board discuss the agenda structure.

Vice Chairman Walker expressed concerns with the changes recently made to Agenda- Consent Agenda, Information Agenda, Discussion Agenda, and Action Agenda.

The Board discussed the following recent changes made to the agenda:

- The purpose of the Discussion Agenda which will allow members to have time before having to vote on the item
- Eliminates surprises to the agenda
- The opportunity to add or delete items from the agenda during the approval of the agenda
- The opportunity to move items on the Consent Agenda to the Discussion or Action Agenda if needed
- The opportunity to move items on the Discussion Agenda to the Action Agenda if needed
- Elimination of seconding the motion
- Extra time involved placing the item on more than one agenda

The Board unanimously agreed to continue with the current agenda format.

## **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)

Vice Chairman Walker seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The Board returned to the regular meeting of February 19, 2007.

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

Commissioner Smith moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Lankford seconded and the motion was unanimous.

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**Darlene M. Bullins**  
**Clerk to the Board**

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**J. Leon Inman**  
**Chairman**