

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA )  
 )  
COUNTY OF STOKES )  
 )

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS  
STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA  
NOVEMBER 26, 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, November 26, 2007 at 6:00 pm with the following members present:

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

County Personnel in Attendance:  
County Manager K. Bryan Steen  
Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins  
County Attorney Edward Powell  
Finance Director Julia Edwards  
Jail Captain Al Tuttle

Chairman Leon Inman called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Carroll 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.

**PUBLIC HEARING – Proposed Regional Sewer Rate Increase**

Chairman Inman opened the Public Hearing regarding the proposed Regional Sewer Rate Increase.

There were no public comments.

Chairman Inman closed the Public Hearing.

## **GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chairman Inman entertained a motion to approve or amend the November 26, 2007 agenda.

Commissioner Carroll requested to moved Consent Agenda Item D – “Tax Administration Report- October 2007” to the Action Agenda in order to vote on each item separately.

The Board had no issues with moving Item D – “Tax Administration Report- October 2007” to the Action Agenda.

Vice Chairman Walker requested information regarding the Forsyth Tech – Satellite Campus (environmental study) being an agenda item.

Chairman Inman noted that Dr. Green (FTCC) was in Washington and that he would be getting in touch with him when he returned from his trip concerning the environmental study at the old prison camp location.

Commissioner Lankford moved to approve the consent agenda with the modifications. Vice Chairman Walker seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The following spoke during public comments:

### **Mr. Steven Vienneau**

9054 Mibeck Road  
Belews Creek, NC 27009

### **Re: Proposed C&D Landfill – Highway #311**

Mr. Vienneau spoke to the Board regarding the proposed C&D Landfill – Highway #311 and questioned the Board’s position on the violation by the City of Winston Salem regarding the purchase of land in Stokes County – G.S 153A-15. Mr. Vienneau referenced a letter dated

November 11, 2007, which stated that the City of Winston Salem is working with Stokes County to ratify the purchase and be in compliance with G.S. 153A-15.

**Mr. Gary Alley**

1009 Pack Road

Walnut Cove, NC 27052

**Re: Proposed C&D Landfill – Highway #311**

Mr. Alley spoke to the Board regarding the proposed C&D Landfill- Highway #311.

Mr. Alley commented on the City of Winston Salem putting their waste in the country and the violation committed by the City of Winston Salem – G.S. 153A-15. He presented Board members with a copy of the oath taken by each Commissioner and noted “According to the law so help me God” referring to the General Statute 153A-15 as the “law”. Mr. Alley noted that the Towns of Walnut Cove and Walkertown have already stated that they do not want the proposed C&D landfill. Mr. Alley also commented on the letter received from the City of Winston Salem and reminded Board members that what those officials had done was a crime. Mr. Alley concluded that politics are not to be excluded from the law.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of June 19, 2007
- Minutes of June 20, 2007
- Minutes of June 21, 2007
- Minutes of November 14, 2007

Commissioner Carroll noted the following corrections:

### June 19<sup>th</sup> minutes

Page #2 - Change the spelling – Neeves...to **Neaves**

Page #7 – Change the wording – have calculated...have **been** calculated

Omit the word in – budget taking in **in** the

### November 14<sup>th</sup> minutes

Page #3 – Change the spelling – NCAACP...**NAACP**

Page #18 – Change the word – Elementary has... to Elementary **have**

Page #35 – Omit for – for **for** medical first response

## **Sheriff's Department- Budget Amendment #36**

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Ordinance Amendment #36.

To amend the General Fund, the expenditures are to be changed as follows:

<b>Account Number</b>	<b>Account Description</b>	<b>Current Budgeted Amount</b>	<b>Increase (Decrease)</b>	<b>As Amended</b>
	<b>Sheriff's Department</b>			
100.4310.260	Departmental Supplies	\$23,818.00	\$600.00	\$24,418.00
	Totals	\$23,818.00	\$600.00	\$24,418.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows: To purchase Stokes County Sheriff Department pens with logo.

This will result in a net increase of \$600.00 in the expenditures and other financial use to the County's annual budget. To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will increase. These revenues have already been received or are verified they will be received in this fiscal year.

<b>Account Number</b>	<b>Account Description</b>	<b>Current Budgeted Amount</b>	<b>Increase (Decrease)</b>	<b>As Amended</b>
100.3301.413	State Fines/Forfeitures	\$5,805.00	\$600.00	\$6,405.00
	Totals	\$5,805.00	\$600.00	\$6,405.00

**Sheriff's Department – Budget Amendment #37**

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Ordinance Amendment #37.

To amend the General Fund, the expenditures are to be changed as follows:

<b>Account Number</b>	<b>Account Description</b>	<b>Current Budgeted Amount</b>	<b>Increase (Decrease)</b>	<b>As Amended</b>
	<b>Sheriff's Department</b>			
100.4310.260	Departmental Supplies	\$23,818.00	\$500.00	\$24,318.00
	Totals	\$23,818.00	\$500.00	\$24,318.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:  
To purchase community watch signs.

This will result in a net increase of \$500.00 in the expenditures and other financial use to the County's annual budget. To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will increase. These revenues have already been received or are verified they will be received in this fiscal year.

<b>Account Number</b>	<b>Account Description</b>	<b>Current Budgeted Amount</b>	<b>Increase (Decrease)</b>	<b>As Amended</b>
100.3301.413	State Fines/Forfeitures	\$5,805.00	\$500.00	\$6,305.00
	Totals	\$5,805.00	\$500.00	\$6,305.00

## **Acceptance of the Fiscal Year 2006-07 Stokes County Audit**

The 2006-07 Stokes County Audit was presented at the November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting with the Board's consideration of acceptance to be at the November 26<sup>th</sup> meeting – Consent Agenda.

## **Tax Administration Report – October 2007**

Consensus of the Board to move to the Action Agenda.

## **GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – INFORMATION AGENDA**

### **Golder Associates Inc. - Feasibility Study Update**

Project Hydrogeologist Charles “Chuck” Pippin presented the following update regarding the Feasibility Study:

- Water Resource Evaluation Project has three phases
- Phase I - Preliminary Water Supply Needs Assessment of Stokes County has been completed which provides information that can be used for long term water supply planning and provides justification for applying for a surface water withdrawal permit from the Dan River
- Phase II – Groundwater Resource Evaluation has been completed which identifies favorable locations for development of groundwater resources based on analysis of various hydrogeologic attributes
- Phase III – Detailed Groundwater Exploration Program has not been completed, but will include conducting detailed groundwater exploration studies at selected favorable sites recommended in our groundwater study and that are accessible to the County
- Based on understanding of Stokes County's short term and long term goals of securing water sources and expanding its water service area, Golder recommends that the County move forward with development of groundwater supply wells. This will allow the Stokes County Water & Sewer Authority to reduce the amount of water it purchases from Winston Salem and expand its service area between Germanton and Walnut Cove
- Golder also recommends that the County initiate the permitting process to secure a withdrawal from the Dan River to meet the future water supply needs.
- Phase III will require cooperation from Stokes County to gain property access with the landowners. Phase III had been put on hold due to vacancy of the Public Works Director position; communication has already been established with the new Public Works Director Mark Delehant
- Recommendations for continued work – Short term goals for proposed service area – Well Drilling and Testing Program

- Initial long term goal for Proposed Service Area – apply for permit for a water supply intake on the Dan River and apply for funding to conduct a Preliminary Engineering Report/Environmental Review to evaluate the feasibility of withdrawing water from the Dan River
- Possible February 2008 completion date for Phase III
- Complete Report submitted to the Board

The Board discussed Phase III, available grants, applying for a surface water withdrawal permit from the Dan River, locations of possible future wells, and possible grants with Mr. Pippin.

Mr. Pippin noted that he is currently working with Public Works Director Delehant regarding a pre-application (due November 30<sup>th</sup>) to the Rural Center for grant funding for preliminary engineering and environmental assessments (grant application due December 17<sup>th</sup>).

Chairman Inman noted that Phase III should be placed on the Discussion Agenda after its completion for further discussion.

### **Presentation of the NC State Fair 2007- “Sweet Potato Award”**

Mr. Russell Slate presented the Board with the NC State Fair 2007 “Sweet Potato Award”. Mr. Slate discussed the following:

- Overview of the history of the Stokes County’s “Stokes Purple” sweet potato
- Stokes County has the best soil to grow the “Stokes Purple”
- Slate Family received 49.1% of all awards given at the Fair regarding sweet potatoes
- Stokes County cannot compete with the quantity of sweet potatoes produced in the eastern part of the state
- Eastern part of the state cannot compete with the quality of sweet potatoes produced in Stokes County
- Presented a summary on the “Stokes Purple” which received a patent with the US Patent Office by Russell Slate, Mike Sizemore, & David Priddy. Mike and David have formed a company called Saura Pride Sweet Potatoes and are working on Value-Added products with the “Stokes Purple”.

The Board expressed their appreciation to Mr. Slate for bringing the first place banner back to Stokes County.

## **Stokes Recreation Advisory Committee – Recreation Survey Results**

Executive Director Jude Dooley – Stokes Family YMCA presented the following information regarding the recent survey:

- Survey conducted over a three-week period
- Total of 98 surveys were collected
- Surveys were distributed at Stokes Family YMCA, Recreation Department Program Center in Danbury, Stokes County employees, families who participate in youth basketball (Sandy Ridge, Francisco, Lawsonville, Nancy Reynolds, Germanton, and Walnut Cove)
- Current activities being offered and activities/events that should be offered in the county that are not currently being offered
- Scale of 1-10 –how the communities’ recreational needs are being met currently (average 6.9)
- The results of the survey along with the current recreational activities being conducted by the YMCA were presented to Board members
- Current gaps –determining what should be the goals to focus on since the survey revealed several areas of interest and getting communication to all areas in the county
- Need to continue to assess the survey to provide as many activities as possible to the citizens of Stokes County

The Board discussed the survey with Mr. Dooley.

Chairman Inman suggested that the Board review the survey results for further discussion at a later date.

Mr. Dooley noted that the YMCA would be constantly monitoring the survey results in order to improve services provided by the YMCA and hopes to be able to offer more services requested by the citizens of Stokes County.

### **Comments – Manager and Board of Commissioners**

County Manager Bryan Steen presented the following updates:

- The need to move the Discussion Agenda – Item D – “Regional Tourism Initiative proposed Resolution for Grant Application to EDA” to the Action Agenda if possible due to a deadline date

- The need (if possible) to move discussion items to the Action Agenda if there was consensus of the Board in order to reduce the number of items on the agenda

Vice Chairman Walker requested that the Board review the agenda process at a later date to possibly “fine tune” the process.

The Board had no issues in moving Item D- “Regional Tourism Initiative proposed Resolution for Grant Application to EDA” to the Action Agenda.

Commissioner Smith noted that the Regional Tourism Initiative is making progress.

Commissioner Smith also noted that Senator Elizabeth Dole would be at the Sauratown Vol. Fire Department for a FEMA Grant Presentation on Saturday, December 1, 2007 at 5:30 pm.

Commissioner Carroll noted that the Board of Health has hired an Interim Health Director who will start on December 3, 2007. There has been a recent resignation from the Board of Health that has not been discussed due to other pressing issues.

Chairman Inman noted that members from the County along with Chairman Sonya Cox-Board of Education will be meeting with Local Government Commission (LGC) on Thursday to discuss the possibility of a bond referendum.

## **GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – DISCUSSION AGENDA**

### **Jail Inspection Report**

Jail Captain Al Tuttle presented the findings from the recent jail inspection of October 31, 2007.

Captain Tuttle noted the following three findings and the correction action:

**Keys and Locks Color Coded and Marked For Identification by Touch**

**Keys are not for touch as prescribed in 10A NCAC 14j .. 0405 (4)**

**Correction Action:** Exit doors now have the appropriate markings to match the specific keys for touch.



**Section .0500 Security (rule .0501) Secure Confinement or Rule  
Kitchen tools must be inventoried. There is currently no tool control  
system in the kitchen and inmates do work in this area.**

**Correction Action:** Jail personnel have re-marked and re-labeled the entire tool board to accommodate all kitchen tools to be in compliance with Section .0500 Security - Rule .0501. Jail Administrator has reiterated with outside food services contractor that all tools will be placed on the updated tool board appropriately and inventoried daily.

**Adequate Storage Areas - Inmate property room must remain locked per 10A NCAC 14j .1210 (d)**

**Correction Action:** Jail Administrator has consulted a locksmith for possible options and is currently working with the Public Works Director, Building Maintenance Supervisor, and representative from the lock manufacturer for the most cost effective solution that will bring the issue into compliance.

The Board expressed their appreciation to the jail staff for their continued dedication and hard work.

**Fire Service District Policy Committee**

Commissioner Carroll noted the need to start the process of establishing the Fire Service District Policy Committee as previously discussed by the Board. Commissioner Carroll also noted that the Board had discussed possible membership being commissioners, representatives of the service district agencies, representatives from the Fire Commission, and from the general public.

Commissioner Carroll offered the following suggestion: Before actually designating the committee, the Board of Commissioners should request each department that has signed the agreement to nominate a potential member for the committee who would represent their department. These nominees from each department that has signed their agreement would meet with the entire Board of Commissioners to discuss all issues that need to be addressed, which will allow all departments who have signed the agreement to have input from the very beginning. Those attending this work session could be considered for appointment to the committee which will revise the guidelines for the service district. The number of

committee members and appointments to the committee would be decided by the Board at a later date.

The Board discussed meeting with representatives from each department that has signed the agreement before appointing the committee.

The Board agreed to meet with one representative from each department that has signed the agreement to discuss issues before appointing members to the committee.

The Board requested Commissioner Carroll and County Manager Steen draft a letter to the fire chiefs requesting a nomination from their department to meet with the Board of Commissioners if their agreement has been signed.

#### **Christmas Luncheon – Request for Funding**

Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins requested direction from the Board regarding the 2007 Christmas Luncheon. Clerk Bullins noted that the Board had approved last year that the revenue from the vending machines be used to fund the meal at the 2006 Christmas Luncheon for county employees. Clerk Bullins stated that projected revenue from the vending machines for fiscal year 2007-08 should cover the expenses, with a tentative date of Friday, December 21, 2007 -12:00 noon.

Commissioner Smith moved to allocate the revenue from the vending machines to fund the 2007 Christmas Luncheon scheduled for Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. Vice Chairman Walker seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

#### **Support of 2008 Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation Preservation Fund – Walnut Cove Colored School, Inc.**

Dr. Dana Dalton –Vice Chair of Walnut Cove Colored School, Inc. requested a letter of support from the Board of Commissioners which would be included in an application to the

2008 Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation Preservation Fund. Dr. Dalton noted that the facility, which is a vital resource in the community and very well received by the citizens, is in need of extensive painting, repair to the wood floors, and storm windows to reduce heat and cooling costs.

Dr. Dalton concluded that grants range up to \$50,000 with approximately 10 to 20 grants being funded across the 14-state region.

The Board discussed the request from Dr. Dalton and expressed appreciation to the Board of Directors for their continued dedication.

Chairman Inman read the following support letter:

November 26, 2007

Lowe's Charitable/Educational Foundation  
Preservation Fund

**Re: Application for Funding- Rehabilitation and Restoration of Rosenwald Schools  
Walnut Cove Colored School, Inc**

Dear Sir:

The Stokes County Board of Commissioners supports the application to the Lowe's Charitable and Education Foundation and Preservation Fund submitted by the Walnut Cove Colored School, Inc. Board of Directors.

The Walnut Cove Colored School facility, which was constructed in 1921 as a five-teacher school, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The facility was restored as a community center to serve all residents of Stokes County. The facility was recognized by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as one of the sixteen best restorations in 2000, which brought recognition to the Rosenwald Fund.

The Stokes County Board of Commissioners recognized the Philanthropy of Julius Rosenwald in 2002 by proclaiming October 26<sup>th</sup> as Julius Rosenwald Day in Stokes County.

The facility is utilized Monday-Friday (8:30 am-5:00pm) and evenings by the Walnut Cove Senior Center, which offers various programs along with a lunch meal site for seniors. The Walnut Cove Board of Commissioners also holds their regular monthly Commissioners' meetings at the facility.

November 26, 2007

Due to the heavy use of the facility, the facility now needs extensive repairs such as painting, refinishing of wood floors, etc.

The Board of Commissioners respectfully requests funding for the continuation of maintenance for the facility.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours.

J. Leon Inman  
Chairman

Chairman Inman entertained a motion to approve the letter of support for a grant application for Walnut Cove Colored School, Inc. due November 20<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Lankford moved to approve the letter of support as read by Chairman Inman. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**Proposed Resolution – Support of Grant Applications for Danbury Water System**

Mayor Jane Priddy-Charleville, Town of Danbury, presented the following information regarding the support of grant applications for the Danbury Water System:

- Town has stopped the grant application process based on new job creations (needed 10 jobs and only had 3 jobs)
- Town Administrator Bryon Ellis has been aggressively seeking all options for grant applications for funding for the Danbury Water System
- Seeking grant from Rural Center – due December 17<sup>th</sup>
- Rural Center Grant would need funding from the Town of Danbury and Stokes County
- Need for approval of Resolution for Support of Grant Applications for Danbury Water System
- Intent to Apply must be completed by November 30, 2007
- Intent to Apply must provide statistical information as to where the match would come from

Mayor Priddy- Charleville presented and discussed the following proposed project \$560,260:

Priority	Item	Phase I	Phase II
1	Water Distributions Piping Replacement	\$185,000.00	
2	Pressure Reducing Valves	\$16,000.00	
	Motor Upgrades & Alarm		
3	Instrumentation	\$ 12,000.00	
4	New Storage Tank and Booster Station	\$ 50,000.00	
5	Service Meters Expansions	\$ 35,000.00	
6	Well Property	\$ 7,000.00	
1	Looking Dead End Distribution Lines		\$ 40,000.00
2	Cut-off and Blow-off Valves Replaced		\$ 42,000.00
3	Hydrant Replacement		\$ 70,000.00
4	Well Property Expansion		\$ 4,200.00
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$305,000.00</b>	<b>\$156,200.00</b>
	Engineering and Construction		
	Observation	\$ 38,500.00	\$ 20,000.00
	Contingency @5%	\$ 15,250.00	\$ 7,810.00
	Contract Administration	\$ 11,500.00	\$ 6,000.00
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 65,250.00</b>	<b>\$ 33,810.00</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$370,250.00</b>	<b>\$190,010.00</b>
	<b>Total Phase I and Phase II</b>	<b>\$560,260.00</b>	

Mayor Priddy-Charleville also presented and discussed the following Scenarios:

**Scenario One**

Project Estimate	\$560,260.00
Grant (NC Rural Center)	(\$280,130.00)
Need (match)	<b>\$280,130.00</b>

**Sources for Funds**

Loans from USDA	\$230,130.00
Stokes County	\$ 25,000.00
Town of Danbury	\$ 25,000.00
Match	\$280,130.00

Loan Payment (month)	\$ 1,034.58
Raise Danbury Water Rates	\$ (300.00)
\$1 Stokes County Sewer Rate Increase	\$ (79.00)

Need: **\$ 655.58**

\*40 years, 4.5% interest

**Scenario Two**

Project Estimate	\$560,260.00
Grant (NC Rural Center)	\$280,130.00
Need (match)	\$280,130.00

**Sources for Funds**

Loans from USDA	\$130,130.00
Stokes County	\$125,000.00
Town of Danbury	\$ 25,000.00
Match	\$280,130.00

Loan Payment (month)	\$ 585.02
Raise Danbury Water Rates	\$ (300.00)
\$1 Stokes County Sewer Rate Increase	\$ (79.00)

Need: **\$ 206.02**

Mayor Priddy-Charleville noted that scenario one would have higher loan payments with less County match while scenario two would have a higher County match and less loan payments.

Mayor Priddy-Charleville stated the following: Based on the median household income, the water rates will need to be raised as well as the sewer rates. The minimum water rate would increase from \$20.00 to \$23.00 per month for residential and institutional.

The Board discussed the proposed water rate, scenarios 1&2, and the needed repairs for the system.

Mayor Priddy-Charleville requested the Board consider the following proposed Resolution – Support of Grant Application for the Danbury Water System.

**Support of Grant Applications for the Danbury Water System**

**WHEREAS**, In the summer of 2007, the North Carolina General Assembly included a \$100 million appropriation to the North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center in the FY2007-2009 state budget, for the purpose of making grants to rural communities in need of water and wastewater infrastructure improvements; and

**WHEREAS**, The County of Stokes and the Town of Danbury has need for and intends to construct or rehabilitate a publicly-owned treatment works or an alternate wastewater system, for wastewater collection systems or for water supply and distribution systems, project described as Danbury Water System Improvements; and

**WHEREAS**, The County of Stokes and The Town of Danbury intends to request grant assistance from the Supplemental Grants Program for the project;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE STOKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:**

That Stokes County and the Town of Danbury will arrange financing for all remaining costs of the project, if approved for a grant.

That Stokes County and the Town of Danbury will provide for efficient operation and maintenance of the project on completion of construction thereof.

That Chairman J. Leon Inman, Stokes County and Mayor Jane Priddy Charleville, Town of Danbury, is hereby authorized to execute and file an application on behalf of the County of Stokes and the Town of Danbury with the NCREDC (Rural Center) for a grant to assist in the construction of the project described above.

That Chairman J. Leon Inman, Stokes County and Mayor Jane Priddy Charleville, Town of Danbury, is hereby authorized and directed to furnish such information as the Rural Center may request in connection with such application or the project; to make the assurances as contained above; and to execute such other documents as may be required in connection with the application.

That the County of Stokes and the Town of Danbury has substantially complied or will substantially comply with all Federal, State, and local laws, rules, regulations, and ordinances applicable to the project and to the grants pertaining thereto.

Adopted this the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2007 at Danbury, North Carolina.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**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**

Mayor Priddy-Charleville stated the need for the funding in order to make the system right, with the possibility of turning the water system back over to the County. Mayor Priddy-Charleville discussed the obstacles being incurred by a small town trying to keep the system up and running and indicated the best solution would be to turn the system back over to the County.

The Board discussed the scenarios submitted by Mayor Priddy-Charleville, proposed water rate increase, need for a public hearing, county/regional water/sewer systems, possible need for a county engineer, median household income being used by USDA, and possible transfer of water system back to the County.

The Board agreed to pursue the transfer of the water system back to the County.

Mayor Jane Priddy-Charleville reiterated that even though the Town managed the system, all grants needed the County's participation due to the County owning the system.

The Board continued discussion of transfer of the water system back to the County with a possible implementation date of July 1, 2008.

The Board agreed to direct County Manager Steen and Public Works Director Delehant to work with Danbury Town Administrator Ellis to complete the pre-application to the Rural Center by November 30, 2007.

Chairman Inman directed the Clerk to place the Proposed Resolution and water rate increase on the December 10<sup>th</sup> action agenda.

### **Proposed Regional Sewer Rate Increase Request**

The Board discussed the proposed \$1.00 minimum regional sewer rate for residential and industrial customers.



Chairman Inman directed the Clerk to place the Proposed Regional Sewer Rate Increase request on the December 10<sup>th</sup> agenda action.

## **GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – ACTION AGENDA**

### **Proposed CenterPoint Performance Agreement – Fiscal Year 2007-08**

Chairman Inman presented the following proposed CenterPoint Agreement for Fiscal Year 2007-08, which was presented and discussed at the November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting for the Board's consideration:

#### **2007 – 2008 Performance Agreement Between Stokes County And CenterPoint Human Services**

This is an agreement between Stokes County (County) and CenterPoint Human Services (CenterPoint). The purpose of the agreement is to ensure that County funds are used during the fiscal year 2007 – 2008 in accordance with the priorities expressed in the State certified local business plan and consistent with the needs of County citizens as described in this agreement. This agreement shall also serve as a performance contract between the County and CenterPoint. As such, the agreement provides not only responsibilities of the parties, but also specific performance requirements, monitoring and reporting requirements, provisions for corrective actions and sanctions regarding those requirements.

#### **Nature and Term of Agreement**

The agreement will be effective July 1, 2007 and will remain in effect through June 30, 2008. If a new agreement has not been reached between the parties by July 1, 2008, the FY2007-2008 agreement will remain in force, unless it has been terminated in accordance with the provisions of this agreement.

The terms of this agreement will cover all resources provided by the County during the fiscal year. CenterPoint's performance will extend to all services that it provides or manages within the County on behalf of County residents.

#### **County Responsibilities**

The County agrees to:

1. Assure the appointment of County residents to serve on the area authority board in accordance with the North Carolina General Statutes and the joint resolution of Stokes, Davie and Forsyth Counties that established CenterPoint Human Services as a multi-county area authority with responsibility to serve Stokes County.
2. Review and approve amendments to the certified Local Business Plan and subsequent Local Business Plan(s).
3. Allocate available funds to CenterPoint to support its activities as the Local Management Entity in accordance with the certified Local Business Plan.
4. Allocate available funds to CenterPoint to support mental health, developmental disabilities and substance abuse services for County residents in accordance with service priorities established by the Division of MH/DD/SA Services of the NC Dept. of Health & Human Services, CenterPoint Board of Directors and the Board of Commissioners.
5. Provide County facilities and support services as negotiated with CenterPoint.
6. Negotiate an annual performance agreement with CenterPoint to establish funding levels and clear expectations for the quality and quantity of services covered by this agreement.
7. Receive, review and approve reports on the performance of CenterPoint as the manager and/or provider of services as well as any plans for corrective action.
8. Establish a plan for quarterly consultation between the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, Sheriff, County Manager and CenterPoint's CEO regarding this agreement and emerging community issues. Meetings will occur on the second Tuesdays of February, May, August and November at 2:00 PM in the County Manager's office.
9. Require biannual presentations by CenterPoint's CEO, Sheriff and County Manager to the Board of Commissioners in March and September.

### **CenterPoint Responsibilities**

CenterPoint agrees to:

1. Carry out the responsibilities of a multi-county Local Management Entity as required by North Carolina General Statutes and the joint resolution of Stokes, Davie and Forsyth Counties that established CenterPoint Human Services as the area authority with responsibility to serve Stokes County.
2. Serve as the Local Management Entity for the County in accordance with the certified Local Business Plan and make regular quarterly reports to the County on the implementation of the Plan including the re-organization and contracting of services.
3. Conduct community planning and submit proposed amendments of the certified Local Business Plan to the Board of Commissioners for approval.

4. Develop and present a complete annual budget to support its activities as a Local Management Entity and make requests for funding to the County following prescribed guidelines.
5. Develop and present a complete annual budget to support mental health, developmental disabilities and substance abuse services for County residents in accordance with service priorities established by the Board of Directors and make requests for funding to the County following prescribed guidelines.
6. Negotiate an annual performance agreement with the County to establish funding levels and clear expectations for the quality and quantity of services covered by this agreement.
7. Submit regular reports on its performance as the manager and/or provider of services including plans of correction for any area in which its performance does not meet the established expectations.
8. Assure that the CEO meets regularly with County officials as required under County responsibilities #8 to review CenterPoint's performance under this agreement and to discuss emerging community issues.
9. Make biannual presentations to the Board of Commissioners in March and September.

#### **Specific Performance Expectations**

In addition to the general responsibilities outlined above, CenterPoint agrees to the following specific performance expectations:

1. Outpatient services - Maintain the current continuum of services for mental health, developmental disabilities and substance abuse services including the operation of clinics in both Danbury and King to the maximum extent possible within financial constraints.
2. Stokes Opportunity Center - Maintain the current level of vocational services for individuals with mental illness and/or developmental disabilities; pursue other funding sources for these services; and explore alternatives that maintain current levels of service at less cost.
3. After Hours & Hospital follow-up - require quarterly reports from provider(s) that document(s) appropriate follow-up with all clients/families who become involved in an after hours service or hospitalization.
4. Provide annual reports to the County that describe:
  - a. The providers serving Stokes County residents during the period, the services provided, and the location(s) of the provision of such services;
  - b. The number and demographics of different Stokes County Residents served during the period;
  - c. The volume and type of services provided to these residents;
  - d. Data analysis tracking the effectiveness of services provided including complaints and outcomes;
  - e. Clients' level of satisfaction with services; and
  - f. Families' level of satisfaction with services.

5. Sheriff's Department Relationship –
  - a. Maintain the 1<sup>st</sup> Opinion Waiver Pilot Program at site(s) specified by the County Manager, CenterPoint, and the provider to ensure that behavioral health staff conduct assessments of Stokes County residents in less than two (2) hours of arrival in the custody of the Stokes County Sheriff's Department at the designated site. Services are to be rendered at the jail to the maximum extent possible.
  - b. Contract with providers including Forsyth Medical Center to provide timely response within four (4) hours of the arrival of a Stokes County resident in the custody of the Stokes County Sheriff's Department.
  - c. Monitoring activities:
    - Sheriff's Department will track all transports for psychiatric emergencies including original destination (1<sup>st</sup> Opinion), disposition and time involved;
    - Sheriff's Department will report each instance when the time to complete the 1<sup>st</sup> Opinion exceeds four (4) hours;
    - Sheriff's Department will report every case that exceeds eight (8) hours;
    - CenterPoint will review each case reported by the Sheriff's Department and will meet with the Sheriff's Department on any such case at the Sheriff's request;
    - CenterPoint will review any case and meet with the Sheriff's Department on any case that either party concludes has extenuating circumstances, regardless of the time involved.
    - CenterPoint and the Sheriff's Department and other County officials will meet at least four times a year as required in County Responsibilities #8 to establish baseline data, determine outcome goals and to review the overall effort to meet these outcomes.
6. Financial Goals - Pursue all reasonable means to increase revenues from non-county budget sources to assist the County in providing services responsive to the behavioral health needs of Stokes County residents.

### **Corrective Actions / Sanctions for Non-Performance**

It is in the best interest of the citizens of Stokes County, and especially of those receiving services from CenterPoint or its contractors, that every effort be made to achieve the levels of performance required in this agreement. If CenterPoint does not meet the performance expectations outlined in this agreement, it will recommend a Plan of Correction to the County Manager. The Plan of Correction will include the name of the individual who is responsible to act, the activity or task to be undertaken, the outcome expected and the date by which the action should be completed. The CEO will make progress reports to the County Manager and the Board of Commissioners as required.

If corrective action does not result in an improvement in CenterPoint's performance to the level expected, the County may withhold payment for all or any portion of the payments remaining under this agreement. Prior to withholding payment for unacceptable performance, the County will notify CenterPoint's Board of Directors, in writing, of its intended action including an explanation. If the County withholds funding and CenterPoint's performance subsequently improves to the expected level, the County may reinstate all or any part of the withheld payments.

### **Amendments**

This agreement may be amended by mutual consent of the County and CenterPoint.

### **Termination**

This agreement may be terminated, in whole or in part, by mutual consent of the County and CenterPoint. Either the County or CenterPoint may terminate this agreement for cause with 90 days notice to the other. In the event of termination of a part of this agreement, the County and CenterPoint agree to continue all the activities and responsibilities not terminated. In the event of termination of this agreement prior to its expiration date, the County will pay CenterPoint for any services provided up to the date of termination.

Adopted this 26<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2007.

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

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

Chairman Inman entertained a motion.

Commissioner Lankford moved to approve the CenterPoint Agreement for Fiscal Year 2007-08 as submitted. Commissioner Carroll seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Proposed Salary Pay Schedule and Proposed Salary Computation Plan**

Chairman Inman presented the following Proposed Salary Pay Schedule and Proposed Salary Computation Plan which was discussed at the November 26<sup>th</sup> meeting for the Board's consideration:

- Proposed Stokes County Revised Salary Schedule
- Proposed Stokes County Salary Computation Plan
- Proposed Personnel Policy
- Proposed Bonus for Permanent County Employees

## **Introduction**

The Salary Committee composed of Commissioner Ron Carroll, Commissioner Ernest Lankford, Personnel Officer Darlene Bullins, and Finance Director Julia Edwards was charged with the responsibility to recommend fair and equitable guidelines for determining wages for permanent County employees (present and future). The committee would develop guidelines for new hires and current employees' salaries based on education, relevant outside work experience, and years of service with Stokes County. Current employees' salaries would be calculated with minor adjustments. Recommendations would be presented to the Board of Commissioners for their consideration. The Committee reviewed past history relevant to the current county salary policies in effect since the 2000 independent salary/classification study.

The Committee started with the latest salary study, which was performed in 2000 by an outside independent consultant, and evaluated several options taking into consideration all changes made to the salary classification plan since 2000. The Committee requested all permanent position employees to complete a questionnaire, which requested all relevant work history and education. This information was taken into consideration for the salary computations. The 2000 salary schedule was revised to include 50 steps in order to accommodate all county employees. Normally, a salary schedule does not include that many steps, but was needed to allow placement of current employees. There were no changes made to the classification of any job as to where it is currently placed on the present plan.

### **A. Guidelines for Proposed Salary Computation for Current Permanent Position Employees Hired Before 2000**

The proposed salary computation for current permanent employees did not take into account education and work history before the 2000 salary study. This could not be included due to the different salary schedules that were in effect before 2000 and prior work experience and education should have been given at the time of employment. The employee was given additional steps at the end of the salary computation, which is explained below to offset this factor.

Since 2000, each permanent employee received the following steps for years of service:

- One (1) Step for every year of service to Stokes County after 2000
- One (1) Additional step was given on years 4, 6, 8, if applicable
- Two (2) Additional steps were given on years 10, 15, 20, 25 if applicable

If the employee was given a promotion, grade change, or a job reclassification, the employee was given a 4% increase to their current salary and moved to the next highest step closest

salary computation on the new salary grade or minimum of the new grade whichever was higher.

If the employee transferred to a lower grade (involuntary due to reorganization), the employee was frozen at the current salary and placed on the lower grade at the same step until the employee's experience catches up with his/her current salary.

If the employee voluntarily transferred to a lower grade or was demoted to a lower grade, the employee was placed at the same step in the lower grade.

If the employee was in a work against, the employee was placed at the minimum one grade below the appropriate grade of the position or the step closest to their 2000 salary on that grade. Once the employee qualified for the appropriate grade, the employee was placed at the minimum of the appropriate grade. For example, if the employee was hired for a position on grade 66, the employee was placed on grade 65 at the minimum; once the employee qualified for the position on grade 66, the employee was placed on grade 66 at the minimum.

The following was used to calculate each employee's salary who was already employed when the 2000 study was completed:

- The employee was placed on the new salary schedule at the appropriate grade they were on in 2000 (for example – grade 57) at the step closest to their salary at the time of the 2000 study
- The employee's work history since 2000 was then calculated according to the guidelines listed above
- If the employee acquired education not required by the job description, but relevant to the job after 2000, the employee was given the following:
  - One (1) additional step for an Associate Degree over High School diploma
  - Two (2) additional steps for Bachelor Degree over Associate Degree
  - Two (2) additional steps for Masters Degree over Bachelor Degree
- Due to the fact the employee was not given credit for work history and years of service prior to the 2000 study, the employee received the following additional credit:
  - If the employee was hired during 1990 to 1996, the employee received one (1) additional step
  - If the employee was hired during 1983 to 1989, the employee received two (2) additional steps
  - If the employee was hired prior to 1982, the employee received three (3) additional steps

The employee's calculated salary was then compared to the employee's current salary as of 10-26-07 pay date to determine if the employee should receive a salary adjustment. If the employee is currently making more than the calculated salary, the employee will remain at the current salary until the employee's service time, promotion, reclassification, etc. moves the employee to a higher step or grade.

## **Guidelines for Proposed Salary Computation for Permanent Position Employees Hired After 2000 and For Permanent Position Employees Hired After Implementation of the Revised Pay Scale and Guidelines**

The proposed salary computation for permanent position employees hired after 2000 and beyond takes into account education and relevant work experience.

### Work Experience

One (1) step for every two years of relevant outside work experience

One (1) step for every year of prior Stokes County experience

### Education – Beyond job description requirements relevant to the job

One (1) step for Associate Degree over High School Diploma

Two (2) steps for Bachelor Degree over Associate Degree

Two (2) steps for Masters Degree over Bachelor Degree

### Credit for Service Time with Stokes County

- One (1) Step will be given at the end of 6 months
- One (1) Step will be given for every year of service
- One (1) Additional step will be given on years 4, 6, 8,
- Two (2) Additional steps will be given on years 10, 15, 20, 25

### Promotion, Reclassification, or Grade Change

The employee will receive 4% added to the current salary and moved to the next highest step on the new salary grade or minimum of the new grade, whichever is higher

### Involuntary Transfer

The employee was/will be frozen at the current salary and placed on the lower grade at the same step until the employee's experience catches up with his/her current salary

### Voluntary Transfer and Demotion

The employee was/will be placed at the same step in the lower grade that the employee is currently on.

### Work Against

If the employee was/is in a work against, the employee will be placed at the minimum one grade below the appropriate grade. Once the employee qualifies for the appropriate grade, the employee was/will be placed at the minimum of the appropriate grade. For example if the employee was hired for a Social Worker II (grade 66), the employee would be placed on grade 65 at the minimum; once the employee qualified for the Social Worker II position, the employee was placed on grade 66 at the minimum. All departments who participate in the work against program will be treated the same.



## **B. Personnel Policy**

The Committee requests the following personnel policy be added to the county's personnel policy:

- Once the Department Head has selected a candidate for employment, the Department Head will calculate the salary and present the salary recommendation along with supporting documentation to the Personnel Officer for review
- The Personnel Officer will review the salary recommendation with the Finance Director
- Once the salary recommendation has been verified by the Personnel Officer and Finance Director, the candidate if applicable and salary recommendation will be present to the County Manager for final approval
- Once the County Manager has approved the candidate if applicable along with the salary recommendation, the Personnel Officer will forward this information to the Department Head
- All exceptions to the hiring salary for an employee must be approved by the Board of Commissioners
- Once the Department Head has received approval notification from the Personnel Officer, the Department Head will send the candidate an offer of employment letter for confirmation
- The candidate will not be allowed to start employment with Stokes County until the offer of employment letter has been signed by the candidate and returned to the Department Head

## **C. Projection Cost and Implementation Date for Revised Salary Schedule**

The following is a projected cost for adjustments for permanent current employees:

- Projected annual cost including fringe benefits = \$164,425.18
- Projected cost at implementation of salary adjustments including fringe benefits = \$82,212.59
- Projected cost for the remainder of the fiscal year 2007-08 including fringe benefits = \$8,459.80
- Projected total cost for fiscal year 2007-08 = \$90,672.39

The following is a recommended implementation date for the salary adjustments:

- Pay period beginning December 14, 2007 after 5:00 pm
- Any initial salary adjustments will be paid with the January 18, 2008 pay date

## **D. One Time Bonus County Employees**

The Board of Commissioners had allocated \$250,000 for the personnel

contingency in the fiscal year 2007-08 budget. With this salary adjustment only projecting to cost \$90,672.39, the committee recommends a one-time bonus as follows:

- Employees in a permanent position hired as of July 1, 2007 will receive a one-time \$450 bonus; employees in a permanent part time position will be pro-rated according to their percentage of work schedule
- Employees in a permanent position hired as of October 1, 2007 will receive one-time \$250 bonus; employees in a permanent part time position will be pro-rated according to their percentage of work schedule
- Employees in a permanent position hired as of December 1, 2007 will receive a one-time \$100 bonus; employees in a permanent part time position will be pro-rated according to their percentage of work schedule
- Temporary employees who work a fixed schedule will receive a one-time \$100 bonus
- One-time bonus will be paid with the December 21, 2007 pay date

This bonus will be not be added the annual salary.

#### **E. Conclusion**

The Committee did not look at individual departments or individual employees in the development of the new proposed guidelines; the guidelines were developed to create a fair and equitable pay scale for all current permanent Stokes County employees (present and future). With the implementation of the new salary schedule/salary computation plan, the following incentives programs shall sunset immediately:

- Current Development Program
- Midpoint increases
- Incentives for additional training
- 15 Year Longevity Plan

Projected salary computations for each employee will be reviewed with the Department Heads for accuracy. This will give Department Heads explanation of the salary computations for their current employees as well as training of the new plan.

The Committee feels the proposed pay scale and salary computation plan gives current employees a fair and equitable pay plan as possible with all new employees being treated equally according to education and relevant work experience.

Vice Chairman Walker moved to approve the one time bonus as outlined in the proposed plan and continue to work further on the proposed Salary Pay Schedule and Salary Computation Plan. Vice Chairman Walker expressed concerns with the longevity portion of

the plan and the need for a merit plan for county employees.

The motion died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Carroll explained the concept of the revised Salary Pay Schedule and Proposed Salary Computation Plan and reiterated that the committee proposed a schedule, but in reality nothing is automatic; it depends on funding by the Board of Commissioners each year.

Vice Chairman Walker reiterated his desire to give the county employees the bonus, but to further work on the computation plan. Vice Chairman Walker expressed concerns that the plan did not build in merit increases for hard working employees with exceptional performance.

Commissioner Lankford move to implement the revised Salary Pay Schedule and Salary Computation Plan as recommended by the Salary Committee to be a fair and equitable plan for all employees, to be effective December 14, 2007, along with the one time bonus to be paid on December 21, 2007. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion.

Vice Chairman Walker noted his motion to pay the one time bonus to county employees, continue to work on the salary pay schedule and computation plan, and the need to include a merit program within the plan.

Commissioner Smith reiterated the Board charged the Committee to produce a fair and equitable plan for all employees. Commissioner Smith also stated that the Finance Director had indicated that normal growth will more than cover the cost of the plan each year as to not have to have a tax increase to cover the cost.

Commissioner Carroll noted that the plan is not perfect; there is no such plan, but the revised plan takes a set of rules and a pay schedule and applies those rules consistently to

everyone.

Vice Chairman Walker noted that he could not vote for a plan doesn't allow for the exemplary superior employees to be awarded.

Chairman Inman reiterated that this plan depends on funding by the Board of Commissioners each year and the cost of the plan would not cause a tax increase.

Chairman Inman called the vote.

The motion carried (4-1) with Vice Chairman Walker voting against the motion.

### **Appointments**

#### **Stokes County Water and Sewer Authority**

Chairman Inman noted the vacancy on the Stokes County Water and Sewer Authority.

Chairman Inman noted the following had been nominated at the November 14th meeting:

- Kevin Webb
- John Turpin
- Leroy Cain.

Chairman Inman noted that the County had received applications from the following:

- Richard Parks Bennett, PLS
- W. Scott Snow, PE

Vice Chairman Walker nominated Richard Bennett and W. Scott Snow.

The Board agreed to hold the appointment until the December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### **King Planning Board/Board of Adjustments- ETJ Positions**

Chairman Inman noted the vacancies on the City of King – Planning Board/Board of Adjustments –ETJ positions. (Norma Cox regular member and Dean Hartgrove-alternate member)

Chairman Inman noted the following were nominated at the November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting:

- Norma Cox

- Dean Hartgrove

Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins noted that information received from Dean Hartgrove that he did not wish to be considered for the regular member, but was willing to serve as the alternate.

The Board agreed to hold the appointment until the December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Region I Aging Advisory Council**

Chairman Inman noted the vacancies (two positions) on the Region I Aging Advisory Council.

Chairman Inman noted that Mr. Jim Carlin was nominated at the November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Commissioner Carroll moved to appoint Mr. Jim Carlin to serve on the Region I Aging Advisory Council. Vice Chairman Walker seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Inman noted that there remains one vacancy.

### **Danbury Vol. Fire Department Inc. - Tax Exempt Certification**

Chairman Inman presented the following proposed Tax Exempt Certification for the Danbury Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, Inc. for the Board's consideration:

#### **COUNTY APPROVAL**

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF STOKES**

#### **CERTIFICATE OF CLERK, APPROVAL OF TAX-EXEMPT LOAN TO VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT BY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

The undersigned, being the duly qualified Clerk of Stokes County, North Carolina, does hereby certify that the following is a true and accurate copy of a Resolution passed by the Board of Commissioners of Stokes County, North Carolina, at its regular meeting on the **26th** day of **November, 2007**, which

Resolution was duly introduced, seconded, and approved, and that said Resolution remains in full force and effect:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of Stokes County, North Carolina does hereby approve (within the scope of the qualifying language set forth below) a tax-exempt loan to the Danbury Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, Inc. (the "VFD") from NewBridge Bank in the principal amount of \$292,000.00, which loan is for the following purpose:

For the purchase of a fire truck for the VFD, which will be owned and operated by the VFD at the following address:

**Danbury Volunteer Fire Department  
PO Box 249  
102 Old Church Road  
Danbury, North Carolina 27016**

**RESOLVED, FURTHER**, that the approval of the loan to the VFD set forth above is given solely for purposes of the public approval requirements for tax-exempt financing applicable to the VFD because of Section 150 (e) (3) and Section 147 (f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and such approval does not obligate the County of Stokes or its Board of Commissioners in any way regarding repayment of the debt.

Duly certified by the execution hereof and the placing hereon of the seal of said County, this the 26<sup>th</sup> day of **November 2007**.

(SEAL)

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Clerk to the Board of Commissioners  
Stokes County, North Carolina**

County Manager Steen noted the Tax Exempt Certification approves the Danbury Vol. Fire Department for a tax-exempt loan from NewBridge Bank in the amount of \$292,000 for the purchase of a fire truck, which had approved at the October 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting by the Board of Commissioners. Manager Steen noted that the tax-exempt certification did not obligate the County or the Board of Commissioners in any way regarding repayment of the debt.

Chairman Inman entertained a motion.

Commissioner Lankford moved to approve the Tax Exempt Certificate as submitted for Danbury Vol. Fire Department.

Commissioner Carroll seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Fire Service Agreements**

Chairman Inman presented the following information for technical correction to the wording for Westfield Vol. Fire Department, Inc. and the Pilot Knob Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.:

- Westfield Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.  
Change the services provided to “Fire Protection and First Response”
- Pilot Knob Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.  
Change the services provided to “Fire Protection Services”

Commissioner Smith moved to approve the revised fire agreements of Westfield Vol. Fire Department Inc and Pilot Knob Rescue Squad Inc, nunc protunc July 1, 2007.

Clerk to the Board Bullins noted the Pilot Knob should be Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. instead of Rescue Squad, Inc. Commissioner Smith withdrew his motion.

Commissioner Smith moved to approve the revised fire agreements of Westfield Vol. Fire Department Inc. and Pilot Knob Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. nunc protunc July 1, 2007. Commissioner Lankford seconded and the motion carried (4-1) with Commissioner Carroll voting against the motion.

### **Tax Administration Report – October 2007**

Chairman Inman entertained a motion regarding the following Taxpayers’ Appeal Requests:

- Gay Jay and Terri Southern Carroll – Interest - \$159.03
- James M. Wilkes – Interest -\$13.49
- Michael Kent Embree – Interest - \$63.36

County Attorney Powell reiterated G.S. 105-380 does not allow the Board to forgive past taxes, interest, and penalties due, and commissioners could be personally responsible.

The Board discussed the taxpayers’ appeal requests.

Commissioner Carroll moved to deny the taxpayers' appeal requests from the following:

- Gay Jay and Terri Southern Carroll – Interest - \$159.03
- James M. Wilkes – Interest -\$13.49
- Michael Kent Embree – Interest - \$63.36

Commissioner Lankford seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Inman entertained a motion regarding the real and personal release requests:

- Property Tax Release – Melissa Louise Pruitt = \$111.31
- Property Tax Release – Ruby Shelton Kerns = \$162.96
- Property Tax Release – Richard Henry Mabe = \$360.00
- Property Tax Release – Robie and Nancy S. Tuttle = \$1,243.83
- Property Tax Release – Sara Browder Watts = \$493.76
- Property Tax Release – The Berry Patch –Anthony Boles & Others = \$216.15
- Property Tax Release – James T. Kiser & Others = \$208.20
- Property Tax Release – David Franklin Marion = \$811.97

Commissioner Lankford moved to approve the following real and personal property tax release requests:

- Property Tax Release – Melissa Louise Pruitt = \$111.31
- Property Tax Release – Ruby Shelton Kerns = \$162.96
- Property Tax Release – Richard Henry Mabe = \$360.00
- Property Tax Release – Robie and Nancy S. Tuttle = \$1,243.83
- Property Tax Release – Sara Browder Watts = \$493.76
- Property Tax Release – The Berry Patch –Anthony Boles & Others = \$216.15
- Property Tax Release – James T. Kiser & Others = \$208.20
- Property Tax Release – David Franklin Marion = \$811.97

Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Inman entertained a motion regarding the property tax refund requests:

- Property Tax Refund – James William Rogers = \$241.07
- Property Tax Refund – William Dennis Covington Estate = \$2,572.17

Commission Carroll moved to approve the following property tax refund requests:

- Property Tax Refund – James William Rogers = \$241.07



- Property Tax Refund – William Dennis Covington Estate = \$2,572.17

Commissioner Lankford seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**Regional Tourism Initiative – Proposed Resolution – Grant Application to EDA**

Chairman Inman entertained a motion to approve the following proposed

Resolution – Grant Application to EDA:

**Support for Funding Assistance from the U.S. Economic Development Administration**

**WHEREAS**, Stokes County, North Carolina, is a member of the Northwest North Carolina / Southwest Virginia Regional Tourism Initiative; and

**WHEREAS**, The Stokes County Board of Commissioners supports the economic development purposes of the Regional Tourism Initiative; and

**WHEREAS**, the Stokes County Commissioners has reviewed the *Pre-application for Funding Assistance from the U. S. Economic Development Administration, Executive Summary*, dated November 1, 2007; and

**WHEREAS**, EDA funding is essential to carrying out the Fiscal Year 2008 work program of the Regional Tourism Initiative;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** The Stokes County Board of Commissioners, by action taken on \_\_\_\_\_, hereby endorses the *Pre-application for Funding Assistance from the U.S. Economic Development Administration*.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 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**

Commissioner Lankford moved to approve the RTI - Resolution – Grant Application to EDA. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

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

- To consult with the Attorney employed or retained by the Public Body in Order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the Attorney and the Public Body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged, and to consider and give instructions to an attorney concerning the handling or settlement of a claim, judicial action, mediation, arbitration, or administrative procedure pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3).

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

- To consult with the Attorney employed or retained by the Public Body in Order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the Attorney and the Public Body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged, and to consider and give instructions to an attorney concerning the handling or settlement of a claim, judicial action, mediation, arbitration, or administrative procedure pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3).

Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The Board returned to open session of the November 26th meeting.

### **Danbury Water System – Proposed Water Rate Increase**

County Manager Steen requested direction from the Board to hold a public hearing regarding the proposed water rate increase for the Danbury Water System.

The Board unanimously agreed to hold a public hearing regarding the proposed water rate increase at the December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Adjournment**

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 carried unanimously.

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

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