

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF STOKES**

**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS
STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT
DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA
DECEMBER 27, 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 Thursday, December 27, 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
Tax Administrator Jake Oakley
Support Services Supervisor Danny Stovall
Sheriff Mike Joyce

Chairman Leon Inman called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Smith delivered the invocation.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT-GOVERNING BODY-PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Inman opened the meeting by inviting the citizens in attendance to join the Board with the Pledge of Allegiance.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Inman entertained a motion to approve or amend the December 27, 2007 agenda.

Commissioner Lankford moved to approve the December 27th agenda. Commissioner Carroll seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following spoke during public comments:

Mr. Gary Alley
1069 Pack Road
Walnut Cove, NC 27052
Re: Landfill

Mr. Alley presented Board members with information regarding the history of the ownership of the land purchased by the City of Winston Salem (a copy of the documentation will be retained by the Clerk to the Board). Mr. Alley spoke briefly regarding the ownership of the property. Mr. Alley stated that the contract between the Utilities Commission and the property owners was scheduled to expire on 09-18-2006 and the sale of the property was on 09-15-2006 (300+ acres in Forsyth and 119+ acres in Stokes). Mr. Alley concluded that the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners still must vote on the issue.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Consent Agenda:

Minutes

- Minutes of December 4, 2007
- Minutes of December 10, 2007

Commissioner Carroll noted the following corrections:

Minutes of December 10, 2007

Page 7 – change the following- for with expansion... to for expansion...

Page 24 – correction in spelling - Mayor Priddy-Charleville

Tax Administration - Releases

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following releases at the December 10th meeting that were more than \$100 (real/personal property that must be approved by the Board of Commissioners:

Property Tax Release Request	Account	Total	Reasons
Andrew Mitchell	9509	\$ 233.63	Per NCGS105-378(a) (Bill is 16 years old
Wheels & Deals Inc.	155914273	\$ 120.51	Per NCGS105-375(34) (SWMH Inventory
Dennie Lynn Armstrong	35861	\$ 127.83	Per NCGS105-366(4 Estate Closed
Dennie Lynn Armstrong	35861	\$ 115.50	Per NCGS 105-366(4 Estate Closed
Dennie Lynn Armstrong	5861	\$ 128.76	Per NCGS 105-366(4 Estate Closed
Dennie Lynn Armstrong	35861	\$ 124.28	Per NCGS 105-366(4 Estate Closed
Joyce Elliott	59189	\$ 124.61	Per NCGS 105-366(4
Joyce Elliott	59189	\$ 115.69	Per NCGS 105-366(4
Joyce Elliott	59189	\$ 108.11	Per NCGS 105-366(4
Joyce Elliott	59189	\$ 104.55	Per NCGS 105-366(4
Janice Hulse Lunsford	34319	\$ 215.90	Per NCGS 105-366(4
Larry James Bledsoe	26285	\$ 334.11	Per NCGS 105-366(4
Jerry Wayne Heath	32663	\$ 110.25	Per NCGS 105-366(4
Henry Webster Johnson	61918	\$ 155.10	Per NCGS 105-366(4
Henry Webster Johnson	61918	\$ 155.67	Per NCGS 105-366(4
Total		\$ 2,274.50	

Northwest Piedmont Workforce Development Board - Appointment

The Northwest Piedmont Workforce Development Board recently notified the County that the Board of Commissioners needed to appoint a replacement for Economic Development Director Ron Morgan on the Workforce Development Board. Director Morgan retired on October 31, 2007. The appointee had to be someone from Economic Development with the same status as Director Morgan. Per approval of the Chair of Governance and Membership

Committee (WDB , the appointee can be the Interim Economic Development Director Bryan Steen.

Commissioner Carroll moved to approve the Consent Agenda as amended.

Commissioner Lankford seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – INFORMATION AGENDA

Comments – Manager and Board of Commissioners

County Manager Bryan Steen had no comments.

Commissioner Smith noted the RTI cancelled the Steering Committee meeting scheduled for December and should be rescheduled for January 08.

Vice Chairman Walker requested that an agenda item regarding the Water and Sewer Authority along with the Germanton Water Line be placed on a future agenda.

Vice Chairman Walker expressed concerns regarding the recently approved salary computation plan. Chairman Inman directed Vice Chairman Walker to contact County Manager Bryan Steen and Personnel Officer Darlene Bullins.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – DISCUSSION AGENDA

Appointments

King Planning Board/Board of Adjustments – ETJ

Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins noted that Mr. Dee Mabe who was nominated at the December 10th meeting did not reside in the ETJ. Clerk Bullins requested direction from the Board whether a public hearing would need to be held per NCGS 160A-362.

Commissioner Carroll noted according to NCGS 160A-362, that a public hearing was necessary only if there was an extension of the extraterritorial jurisdiction. County Attorney Powell confirmed after reviewing the statute that Commissioner Carroll was correct, no public hearing would be needed for this appointment.

Commissioner Carroll nominated Todd Martin.

The appointment will be placed on the January 14th - Action Agenda.

Local Firefighter's Relief Fund Board

Chairman Inman noted that the following individuals were temporarily appointed at the September 24th meeting to serve on the Local Firefighter's Relief Fund Board through December 31, 2007:

LOCAL FIREMEN'S RELIEF FUND TRUSTEES		
COUNTY COMMISSIONER APPOINTED		
FIRE DEPARTMENT	TRUSTEE NAME	TRUSTEE NAME
PINNACLE VFD	Mr. Travis Sink	Mr. Jeremy Bowman
LAWSONVILLE VFD	Mr. Ronnie Mabe	Mr. Arthur Glidewell
FRANCISCO VFD	Mr. Atherton Jessup	Ms. Ashley Pack
WALNUT COVE VFD	Mr. James Teague	Mr. Dwight Ball
NORTHEAST STOKES VFD	Mr. Jonathan Wall	Mr. Bobby Dunlap
STOKES ROCKINGHAM VFD	Ms. Kay Morris	Mr. Devin Rhodes
SAURATOWN VFD	Mr. Jim Walton	Mr. Randall Patterson
DANBURY VFD	Mr. John Booth	Mr. Elmer Manuel
SOUTH STOKES VFD	Mr. Bobby Boles	Ms. Jean Young
DOUBLE CREEK VFD	Mr. Tom Tilley	Mr. Donald Durham

Chairman Inman noted that one member would need to be appointed for a one-year term and one member appointed for a two-year term.

The Board discussed the appointments which would expire on December 31, 2007.

Commissioner Lankford requested to wait until the January 14th meeting for nominations.

Vice Chairman Walker moved to keep the current members in place until the Board approved new appointments. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried (4-1 with Commissioner Lankford voting against the motion.

The item will be placed on the January 14th - Discussion Agenda.

Stokes County Planning Board – Yadkin Township

Chairman Inman noted the vacancy for the Stokes County Planning Board-Yadkin Township.

Commissioner Lankford nominated Larry Snyder.

Commissioner Smith nominated Scott Barr.

The item will be placed on the January 14th - Action Agenda.

Inventory of County Property and Space Needs – Continuation

County Manager Bryan Steen presented the following relocation proposal:

Department	Current Location	Proposed Location
Fire Marshal	Lower level Gov. Center with EMS	Current Public Works Office Space
Economic Development	2nd Floor -Ronald Reagan Bldg	3rd Floor - Ronald Reagan Building
EMS	Lower level Gov. Center with FM	Current Environmental Health Offices
Elections	Lower level Government Center	Current EMS/FM Office Space
Environmental Health Planning/Building Inspections	Lower level Government Center	1st Floor -Ronald Reagan Building
Forsyth Tech.	Lower level Government Center	Additional New Classrooms using current large office of Elections and current Planning/Zoning Office

GIS Mapping	1st Floor-Ronald Reagan Bldg	3rd Floor - Ronald Reagan Building
Public Works	Lower level Government Center	3rd Floor - Ronald Reagan Building

County Manager Steen discussed the proposal. Manager Steen noted a one-stop permit process would be accessible on the first floor with the relocation of Environmental Health and Planning to the Ronald Reagan Building. Director Ann Watts –FTCC had indicated that FTCC would prefer to stay at their current location until a new facility is constructed if additional classrooms were made available in the Government Center. The Board discussed Manager Steen’s proposal. Manager Steen concluded that the judicial system has a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 9th to discuss space needs.

Manager Steen also presented the following information regarding current space which was included in the agenda packet:

Government Center – Departments’ Current Space

- Forsyth Technical Community College – Total square footage = 2,138
- Board of Elections – Total square footage = 1, 088
- Planning – Total square footage = 836
- Fire Marshal – Total square footage = 216

Ronald W. Reagan Building

- 3rd Floor – approximately 5600 square feet of unfinished space
 - 5600 square feet x \$45.00 = \$252, 000.00 – estimate
 - Planning Department will require architectural drawings for renovations
 - Per Planning Director Sudderth- restroom facilities will meet code requirements for occupancy rating up to 80, but a water fountain would need to be installed
 - Licensed commercial contractor will be required for all project phases where contract amount exceeds \$30,000

Community Services Building

- Vacant Space – Total Square footage = 564
 - Renovations needed – painting, new carpet, telephone/computer wiring
 - Office space is not easily accessible to walk in traffic

The Board noted the need to have the space needs from the judicial system before any option could be considered regarding relocations.

Chairman Inman requested the County Manager present the judicial system’s space needs at the January 14th meeting (following their January 9th meeting .

Tax Surplus Property – Upset Bid Process

Support Services Supervisor Danny Stovall presented the following bid information concerning Lots 1-3 Dan River:

6947-00-47-4709 Deed Book/Page 539/1548 Lots 1-3 Dan River

Michael Morehead	\$4,311.82	Upset Date 5:00 pm – December 3, 2007
Stanley Whitlow	\$4,058.87	Upset Date 5:00 pm – November 30, 2007
Michael Morehead	\$3,817.97	Upset Date 5:00 pm – November 14, 2007
Stanley Whitlow	\$3,588.54	Upset Date 5:00 pm – October 30, 2007
Michael Morehead	\$3,370.04	Upset Date 5:00 pm – October 19, 2007
Stanley Whitlow	\$3,161.94	Upset Date 5:00 pm – October 17, 2007
Michael Morehead	\$2,963.75	Upset Date 5:00 pm – October 4, 2007
Stanley Whitlow	\$2,775.00	Upset Date 5:00 pm – October 2, 2007
Waterworx Ltd	\$2,500.00	Upset Date 5:00 pm – September 20, 2007
Michael Morehead	\$1,677.50	Upset Date 5:00 pm – September 17, 2007
Waterworx Ltd	\$1,550.00	Upset Date 5:00 pm – September 11, 2007
Steven Rowe	\$1,415.00	Upset Date 5:00 pm – September 10, 2007
Michael Morehead	\$1,300.00	Upset Date 5:00 pm – August 28, 2007
William West	\$1,183.23	Upset Date 5:00 pm – August 15, 2007
Taxes/Interest	\$1,200.57	December 17, 2007

This sale was held in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 105-376, 153A-176 and 160A-269.

Mr. Stovall noted that no upset bid was received before the December 3rd deadline. Mr. Stovall concluded that the last bid was made by Mr. Michael Morehead for \$4,311.82 and the taxes and interest owed were \$1200.59. The Board of Commissioners can accept or reject Mr. Morehead's bid.

The Board discussed the final bid from Mr. Morehead for Lots 1-3 Dan River.

Commissioner Carroll moved to place the item on the Action Agenda. Vice Chairman Walker seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Surplus Vehicles – Bid Process

Support Services Supervisor Danny Stovall presented for the Board's review photos of burned/abandoned vehicles along with a few County owned vehicles that have had all usable parts removed. Mr. Stovall noted that these vehicles need to be disposed of and that the County had received several inquiries regarding the purchase of these vehicles. Insurance companies have been notified by Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor Elwood Mabe with no response.

Mr. Stovall requested the Board's direction regarding the type of sale for these vehicles – sealed bid, private sale, etc.

The Board discussed the type of sale for these vehicles and possibly recycling the vehicles.

The consensus of the Board directed Mr. Stovall to conduct a private sale.

Chairman Inman directed Mr. Stovall to place the resolution for a private sale on the January 14th – Action Agenda.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – ACTION AGENDA

Proposed FTCC –Environmental Study- Meadows Property

Support Services Supervisor Danny Stovall presented the following proposals for a Phase I Environmental Study for the Meadows Property as requested by the Board:
(Discussion Agenda – December 10th)

- Progress Environmental = \$1500 (written quote)
- ECS Carolinas = \$1700 (written quote)
- Pyramid Environmental = \$1700 (verbal quote)

Mr. Stovall noted that the Progress Environmental had performed services for the County with no issues.

The Board discussed the proposals.

Chairman Inman entertained a motion.

Commissioner Lankford moved to approve Progress Environmental to perform a Phase I Environmental Study (\$1500 at the Meadows Property. Vice Chairman Walker seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Proposed GIS Aerial Photo Project

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley requested approval to enter into negotiations with the following top (4 vendors that were selected through an RFQ Request:
(Discussion Agenda - December 10th meeting)

- 1) Surdex Corp
- 2) Fugro Earthdata, Inc
- 3) Sanborn Map Company
- 4) Geofiny Technologies

Administrator Oakley noted negotiations would be conducted with the top candidate first and progress accordingly to the (second, third, etc . candidate if negotiations failed with the first vendor.

Chairman Inman entertained a motion.

Commissioner Lankford moved to allow Tax Administrator Jake Oakley to enter into negotiations with the top (4 vendors regarding the proposed 2008 Digital Orthophoto Project. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Employer Support of National Guard and Reserve

Chairman Inman presented the following proposed Resolution – Employer Statement of Support of for the Guard and Reserve: (Discussion Agenda - December 10th meeting

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR THE GUARD AND RESERVE

We recognize the National Guard and Reserve are essential to the strength of our nation and the well-being of our communities.

In the highest American tradition, the patriotic men and women of the Guard and Reserve serve voluntarily in an honorable and vital profession. They train to respond to their community and their country in time of need. They deserve the support of every segment of our society.

If these volunteer forces are to continue to serve our nation, increased public understanding is required of the essential role of the Guard and Reserve in preserving our nation’s security.

Therefore, we join other employers in pledging that:

1. Employment will not be denied because of service in the Guard or Reserve;
2. Employee job and career opportunities will not be limited or reduced because of service in the Guard and Reserve;
3. Employees will be granted leaves of absence for military service in the Guard and Reserve, consistent with existing laws; and
4. This agreement and its resultant policies will be made known throughout our organization.

Approved this 27th day of December, 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

Chairman Inman entertained a motion.

Commissioner Lankford moved to approve the submitted Resolution – Employer Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserve. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

County Manager Bryan Steen presented the following information regarding Differential Pay – National Guard and Reserves as requested by the Board:

- **Chatham County** – allows 10 days with pay – does not have to use accrued leave
- **City of King** – allows 10 workdays with differential pay
- **Davie County** – allows employees 10 days – can use accrued leave or take without pay
- **Duplin County** –allows two weeks –can take accrued leave or take without pay
- **Forsyth County** –allows employee to use accrued leave or take without pay
- **Franklin County** –allows 15 days – can take accrued leave if desired
- **Guilford County** – allows up to 2 calendar weeks for training with pay
- **Rockingham County** – allows 12 workdays or 96 hours whichever is less with differential pay
- **Town of Walnut Cove** – allows 10 working days without being forced to use accrued leave
- **Surry County** – allows 15 scheduled workdays without being forced to use accrued leave
- Current county employees are making less than the amount received from the military during their two week training

Chairman Inman directed the Clerk to place the Differential Pay Information –National Guard/Reserves on the January 14th – Discussion Agenda.

Proposed Volunteer Mileage – Reimbursement – Home Delivered Meal Program

Chairman Inman entertained a motion regarding the request from Senior Services Program Director Lynn Martens to increase the mileage reimbursement rate for volunteer drivers for the Home Delivered Meals Program from 40 cents per mile to 45 cents per mile.

(Discussion Agenda – December 10th meeting

Commissioner Smith moved to approve Director Martens’ request to increase the mileage reimbursement for Home Delivered Meals from 40 cents per mile to 45 cents per mile for the remainder of this fiscal year. Vice Chairman Walker seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Separation Allowance – Retired Law Enforcement Officers - Resolution

Chairman Inman presented the following proposed Resolution –Changing Eligibility

Criteria for Special Separation Allowance for Law Enforcement Officers:
(Discussion Agenda – December 10th meeting

RESOLUTION CHANGING ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR SPECIAL SEPARATION ALLOWANCE FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

WHEREAS, Section 3 of G. S. 143-166.41 provides that, “payment to a retired officer under the provisions of this section shall cease at the first of: (1 The death of the officer; (2 The last day of the month in which the officer attains 62 years of age; or (3 The first day of reemployment by any State department, agency, or institution, except that this subdivision does not apply to an officer returning to State employment in a position exempt from the State Personnel Act in an agency other than the agency from which that officer retired.”; and

WHEREAS, G. S. 143-166.42 places the responsibility upon the governing body for each unit of local government of determining the eligibility and the applicability of G. S. 143- 166.41 to locally employed officers; and

WHEREAS, the Attorney General’s Office issued an opinion that a local law enforcement officer’s eligibility for the special separation allowance benefit is in all instances determined by the officer’s local government employer,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Stokes County Board of Commissioners that the eligibility criteria will be changed to allow such that an officer who retired under the provisions of G. S. 143-166.41 and who becomes reemployed as a law enforcement officer on a part-time, interim or temporary basis in such a manner that does not require membership in or terminate benefits from the Local Government Employees' Retirement System, shall not be deemed ineligible to receive the special separation allowance solely on the grounds of such reemployment.

Adopted this 27th day December 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

Chairman Inman requested Sheriff Mike Joyce's thoughts on adopting the Resolution which would allow Retired Law Enforcement Officers to work for the County.

Sheriff Joyce noted that the Department could use the services of the experienced officers, but would suggest the County Attorney prepare a waiver for retirees to sign regarding their responsibility dealing with wages and the retirement system. Sheriff Joyce also noted that some surrounding counties already allow officers to return to work who are entitled to separation allowance benefits.

The Board discussed the agenda item with Sheriff Joyce.

Chairman Inman entertained a motion.

Vice Chairman Walker moved to approve the Proposed Resolution - Changing Eligibility Criteria for Special Separation Allowance for Law Enforcement Officers.

Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Proposed Resolution – PART – Seamless Mobility Study- Resolution

Chairman Inman presented the following proposed Resolution submitted by Mr. Brent McKinney – PART: (Discussion Agenda – December 10th meeting

Resolution Approving a Seamless Mobility Study of the Urban Transit Systems, Complimentary ADA, PART Express and the Human Service Transportation Systems in the Triad Region

WHEREAS public transportation services are provided to the general public by the Cities of Greensboro, High Point and Winston-Salem and the Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation, and

WHEREAS human services transportation systems are provided by the Cities of Greensboro, High Point and Winston-Salem; the Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation and all ten counties in the PART territorial jurisdiction, and

WHEREAS the system providers operate on independently planned routes, schedules, fares and policies with limited federal, state and local funding resources, and

WHEREAS the PART Board of Trustees and the North Carolina Department of Transportation do propose to jointly and cooperatively undertake a Seamless Mobility Study of the urban fixed route, complimentary ADA, and human services transportation systems in the Triad Region to assess the effectiveness of services and to assess the efficient utilization of limited funds to maximize the services for the residents, visitors and guests of these counties, and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation – Public Transportation Division has agreed to provide technical, administrative and financial support.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Stokes County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve of a Seamless Mobility Study of all routes, schedules, administrative and operating policies within its service territory, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Steering Committee and a Technical Advisory Committee with appropriate representation be created to oversee and guide the study and the members and staff of Stokes County will cooperate fully and completely by providing all needed information in a timely manner for a successful completion of the study.

Motion made by _____ and seconded by _____ and approved on this being the ____ day of _____, 2007.

Commissioner Lankford moved to approve the submitted Resolution Approving a Seamless Mobility Study of the Urban Transit Systems, Complimentary ADA, PART Express and the Human Service Transportation Systems in the Triad Region. Vice Chairman Walker seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Tax Surplus Property – Upset Bid Process

Chairman Inman entertained a motion regarding the Tax Surplus Property – Lots 1-3 Dan River. (Discussion Agenda – December 27th meeting

Commissioner Smith moved to accept the bid in the amount of \$4,311.82 from Mr. Michael Morehead for Lots 1-3 Dan River. Vice Chairman Walker seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

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 open session of the December 27th meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Inman recessed the meeting to January 3, 2008 at 3:00 pm.

Darlene M. Bullins
Clerk to the Board

J. Leon Inman
Chairman