

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
NOVEMBER 23, 2009

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 (Administration Building) located in Danbury, North Carolina on Monday, November 23, 2009 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
Finance Director Julia Edwards
Support Services Supervisor Danny Stovall
Tax Administrator Jake Oakley

Chairman J. 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.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Inman entertained a motion to approve or amend the November 23, 2009 Agenda.

County Manager Bryan Steen requested to add the following:

- Job Vacancies: Vacant Telecommunicator – employee resigned today (11-23-09)

The Board had no issues adding the request from Manager Steen.

Commissioner Lankford moved to approve the November 23, 2009 Agenda as amended.

Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Minutes

- Minutes of November 9, 2009

Social Services - Budget Amendment #34

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #34.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
Social Services				
100.5310.391	Local General Assistance	\$2,000.00	\$(120.00)	\$1,880.00
100.5310.490	Dues & Subscriptions	\$1,000.00	\$120.00	\$1,120.00
	Totals	\$3,000.00	\$00.00	\$3,000.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To transfer funds for increase in dues and subscriptions.

This will result in a net increase of \$00.00 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 this fiscal year.

Social Services - Budget Amendment #35

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #35.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
Social Services				
100.5310.180	Professional Services	\$58,645.00	\$30,102.00	\$88,747.00
	Totals	\$58,645.00	\$30,102.00	\$88,747.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To allocate funding received from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for contract pay for Food and Nutrition Services.

This will result in a net increase of \$30,102.00 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 this fiscal year.

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
100.3301.202	SS County Federal	\$1,727,253.00	\$30,102.00	\$1,757,355.00
	Totals	\$1,727,253.00	\$30,102.00	\$1,757,355.00

Walnut Cove Senior Center - Budget Amendment #36

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #36.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
100.5830.696	Walnut Cove Senior Center	\$62,762.00	\$2,653.00	\$65,415.00
	Totals	\$62,762.00	\$2,653.00	\$65,415.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:
Increase in funding due to Certification of the Walnut Cove Senior Center.

This will result in a net increase of \$2,653.00 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 this fiscal year.

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
100.3301.376	NWPCOG- Senior Center General Purpose	\$10,000.00	\$2,653.00	\$12,653.00
	Totals	\$10,000.00	\$2,653.00	\$12,653.00

Finance - Budget Amendment #37

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #37.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
	Finance			
100.4130.180	Professional Services	\$56,900.00	\$(1,475.00)	\$55,425.00
100.4130.440	Misc. Contractual Services	\$47,500.00	\$(2,000.00)	\$45,500.00
100.4130.510	Equipment	\$39,660.00	\$9,475.00	\$49,135.00
	Contingency			
100.9910.000	Contingency	\$172,500.00	\$(6,000.00)	\$166,500.00
	Totals	\$316,560.00	\$00.00	\$316,560.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:
To transfer additional funds needed to purchase an additional processor and SQL software for the server to operate the Attendance Enterprise Software. Initially, the budget was for one processor and license for SQL Software. In the process of purchasing the server, we realized that we would need an additional processor and SQL Software.

This will result in a net increase of \$00.00 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 this fiscal year.

Tax Administration Report – October 2009

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Real and Personal Property Releases (October 2009) which are more than \$100 at the November 9th meeting with a request for approval at the November 23rd meeting: (Tax Administrator Oakley recommended approval of the Releases)

Real and Personal Property Releases More than \$100–October 09-Per NCGS 105-381 (b)

Name	Bill Number	Amount	Reason
Otelia Vaden	09A691800022616	\$356.44	APVD Late use – Value Ap
Gaither Sheff	09A690800675943	\$164.92	APVD Late use – Value Ap
Margaret Joyce	09A698600826981	\$544.64	APVD Late use – Value Ap

Mae Ola Lawson	09A598301496034	\$1,271.48	APVD Late use – Value Ap
Bobby Taylor	09A599800126428	\$832.58	APVD Late use – Value Ap
Don Wall/Kay Hoots	09A694402995314	\$498.75	APVD Late use – Value Ap
William & Kate Sands	09A695600426636	\$671.65	APVD Late use – Value Ap
	09A695600523504	\$162.26	APVD Late use – Value Ap
Brandy Hulbert	09A155910164.05	\$113.62	SWMH Double Listed
Leann Gallimore	09A597307691132	\$2,634.73	APVD Late use – Value Ap
Mary Helen Borman	09A599700099694	\$470.82	APVD Late use – Value Ap
Rose Wall Ivester	09A691201066105	<u>\$317.40</u>	APVD Elderly Exemption AP
	Total Amount	\$8,039.29	

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Real and Personal Property Refunds (October 2009) which are more than \$100 at the November 9th meeting with a request for approval at the November 23rd meeting: (Tax Administrator Oakley recommended approval of the Refunds)

Real and Personal Property Refunds More than \$100–October 2009-Per NCGS 105-381 (b)

Name	Bill Number	Amount	Reason
Shirley Greenwood	09A691900744215	\$803.99	APVD Late Use-Value AP
Billy Priddy and Eva Priddy	09A699900140688	\$523.36	APVD Late Use-Value AP
Clarice Morefield Coy Morefield	09A693800109306	\$517.37	APVD Late Use-Value AP
	Total Amount	\$1,844.72	

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Present-Use Value Application at the November 9th meeting with a request for approval at the November 23rd meeting:

(Tax Administrator Oakley recommended approval of the Present-Use Value Application)

Name	Parcel #	Acres	Reason
Terry M. Joyce	598703012001	11.65	Agriculture Has never applied for Agriculture Use Value App.

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Late Applications for Elderly Exemption, Disabled Exemption, and Disabled Veterans for 2009 at the November 9th meeting with a request for approval at the November 23rd meeting: (Tax Administrator Oakley recommended approval of Late Applications for Elderly Exemption, Disabled Exemption, and Disabled Veterans):

Name	Parcel Number	Acreage	Assigned Value
Winford Wilhite	6913-03-33-4540	Tract	\$68,000.00
Kenneth R Morton	6958-00-91-5060	Tract	\$68,800.00
Frankie S Flinchum	6964-00-89-9302	Tract	\$139,400.00

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Failure to List Penalties Appeals – Discovery Bills at the November 9th meeting with a request for approval at the November 23rd meeting: (Tax Administrator Oakley recommended to deny the appeal request)

- **John Wesley Flinchum, Jr.** in the amount of \$250.38 which is a component of Bill Number 09A16705.07.1 (\$806.78)

- **Paul Rumley** in the amount of \$145.86 which is a component for Bill Number 09A73259.07.1 (\$875.16)

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Discovery Bill – Release of Balance at the November 9th meeting with a request for approval at the November 23rd meeting:

(Tax Administrator Oakley recommended to approve the release of the balance)

- Balance for Paul Rumley in the amount of \$14.58

Proposed Commissioners’ Calendar - 2010

Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins presented the following proposed 2010 Commissioners’ Calendar for the Board’s approval:

2010 COMMISSIONERS’ MEETINGS SCHEDULE

The Stokes County Board of Commissioners will meet each month on the 2nd (Second) Monday at 1:30 pm and 4th (Fourth) Monday at 6:00pm

2nd MONDAY

January 11, 2010
 February 8, 2010
 March 8, 2010
 April 12, 2010
 May 10, 2010
 June 14, 2010
 July 12, 2010
 August 9, 2010
 September 13, 2010
 October 11, 2010
 November 8, 2010
 December 13, 2010

4th MONDAY

January 25, 2010
 February 22, 2010
 March 22, 2010
 April 26, 2010
 May 24, 2010
 June 28, 2010
 July 26, 2010
 August 23, 2010
 September 27, 2010
 October 25, 2010
 November 22, 2010
 December 28, 2010*

*December 27th Meeting changed to Tuesday, December 28th (Due to Holiday)

*The Board of Commissioners will conduct its regular meetings in the Commissioners’ Chambers at the Administrative Building in Danbury. The Board will consider invitations to meet at different locations throughout the County at the invitation of community groups that wish to host a meeting.

Commissioners’ Meeting (Planning) – First Tuesday of every other month 7:00 pm
 Planning meetings are held as needed- the meeting will be advertised prior to the dates listed below:
 Held in Commissioners’ Chambers

February 2, 2010 (as needed)
 April 6, 2010 (as needed)
 June 1, 2010 (as needed)
 August 3, 2010 (as needed)
 October 5, 2010 (as needed)
 December 7, 2010 (as needed)

Stokes County League of Governments – 6:30 pm
 Meeting with Town of Danbury, Town of Walnut Cove, City of King and Stokes County
 January 14, 2010 – Town of Walnut Cove
 April 15, 2010 – Town of Danbury
 July 15, 2010 - City of King
 October 21, 2010 – Stokes County

Any other change in Date, Time, or Place will be advertised and placed on the County Web Page – www.co.stokes.nc.us

Darlene Bullins
 Clerk to the Board

Support Letter – HealthNet Funding – NC Office of Rural Health

County Manager Bryan Steen presented the following support letter for HealthNet Funding from the NC Office of Rural Health for the Board’s approval:

Mr. John Price, Director
Office of Rural Health & Community Care
2009 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699

Dear Mr. Price:

The County Commissioners of Stokes County fully support the grant application being submitted by the Stokes Family Health Center, which is our county Health Department, for HealthNet funding. We are very committed to serving the health needs of the uninsured citizens of Stokes County and these grant funds will be an important resource to us in the expansion of our health care services to our uninsured population. This is wonderful opportunity for our county and we very much appreciate the support from the North Carolina Office of Rural Health.

We will certainly be diligent in our use of these funds and pledge our cooperation as we work with you and your staff in the implementation of these new services. We look forward to a continued relationship with your Office as we serve this vulnerable population.

Sincerely,

Chairman J. Leon Inman
Stokes County Board of Commissioners

cc: Josh Swift
Director of Stokes County Family Health Center

Jim Graham
Executive Director of Northwest Community Care Network

Stokes Family Health is working with Northwest Community Care Network to apply for a \$75,000 grant to serve the uninsured in Stokes County. There will be no county match.

Commissioner Lankford moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Vice Chairman Walker seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – INFORMATION AGENDA

Update – Manager and Board of Commissioners

County Manager Bryan Steen noted the following:

- Second ambulance remount will be picked up from West Jefferson tomorrow, will be put into service as soon as possible
- First ambulance remount overall is doing very well
- Economic Development Commission will be hosting a business meeting for all Stokes County businesses on January 21, 2010, Economic Development Director Alan Wood has obtained financial support for this event from NewBridge Bank
- New EMS Station Project moving along very well

Commissioner Smith noted the recent open house for the new expansion at Stokes Opportunity Center was a huge success.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – DISCUSSION AGENDA

Request for Land Purchase – Stokes County Board of Education

Operations Director David Burge presented the following information:

(Chairman Bill Hart, Stokes County Board of Education, was present for the meeting)

- Request from the Stokes County Board of Education to approve the purchase price of \$23,000 for approximately 1.15 acres which joins the land purchased for the new elementary school on Hobe Kiser Road
- The 1.15 acres divides approximately 8 acres of the site designated for a new elementary school along HWY #66 and Hobe Kiser Road
- Purchase of the parcel will allow better access and security by not having property in the middle of school property which the Board of Education has no control of
- Request from the Stokes County Board of Education to approve the purchase price of \$25,900 for approximately 1.75 acres along with a couple of tenths which both join Chestnut Grove School property for \$25,900
- Parcel that joins Chestnut Grove School property could be used to create additional parking and help with the traffic flow on Chestnut Grove Road
- School system was approached by property owners regarding the sale of both parcels of land
- Two parcels being requested = \$48,900
- Current ADM balance = approximately \$215,000
- Request to use \$36,675 ADM funding for purchase of land
- School system will provide the required 25% match (\$12,225) which will require no additional county funding

Director Burge noted that the Board of Education did not wish to pursue at this time the request to purchase property that joins Francisco Elementary School that was included in today's Agenda.

The Board discussed the requests presented by Director Burge and had no issues with the requests.

Director Burge requested the agenda item be moved to today's Action Agenda in order to move forward with the land purchase.

Chairman Inman, with full consent of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on today's Action Agenda.

Broadband Feasibility Study – Phase I

Economic Development Director Alan Wood introduced Mr. John Howell and Mr. Glenn Krauss who presented the Broadband Feasibility Study – Phase I.

Mr. Howell and Mr. Krauss discussed the following information with the Board regarding Phase I:

- Economic challenges faced by Stokes County are numerous
- Broadband access has proven to be one of the main catalysts for innovation
- Limiting Stokes County's progress is the lack of broadband access
- Early college program has started to provide laptops for students
- Many students live in rural areas of the county where broadband is either not available or not affordable which prevents them from taking advantage of these laptops

- Many students enrolled at area community colleges and those seeking to enroll at other institutions cannot take advantage of online course offerings without adequate broadband
- E-NC website reports that 70.91% of the citizens have access to broadband in Stokes County
- Primary stakeholders that were interviewed for information:
 - Public School System
 - EMS
 - GIS
 - City of King
 - Town of Walnut Cove
 - Cable Provider – Time Warner Cable
 - Local telephone companies – Embarq/CenturyLink, Surry Telephone, and Windstream
- Survey (vehicular ride) of the entire County was done to further validate the broadband coverage data
- All information collected during the survey has been downloaded into the County’s GIS/Mapping System
- Current estimated county population = 46,624
- 15% of households in Stokes County are not currently being served
- 11% of households in Stokes County have DSL only
- 21% of households in Stokes County have cable only
- 53% of households in Stokes County have DSL/Cable options
- 3% have marginal broadband
- 18% don’t have quality broadband service
- Estimated 7,000 residents can’t get broadband service
- Estimated 1,400 residents are underserved
- Estimated 22,000 residents have only one option for broadband service
- 82% have 3 mbps+ speed
- 15% have only 1.5 mbps speed
- 3% have dial up
- Stokes County School System recently migrated all of their broadband needs to a Time Warner fiber optic spoke and hub network which provides 100meg to every school
- The network connects the schools’ administrative central office to each of the schools with a direct fiber network which could be an excellent starting point
- Prior to this fiber optic network, the schools utilized a wireless point-to-point network which is still in place
- Schools System’s current and old network can play a huge part providing broadband to those un-served areas, but the County would have to develop a partnership with Time Warner due to restrictions within the schools’ contract
- One option for expanding broadband coverage would be to utilize the fiber optic network and install wireless transmitters at each of the schools to serve the areas surrounding the schools, this solution would require a partner to sell, install and maintain the wireless last mile portion of the network
- County can also look at using existing water tanks, fire departments, etc. to start the network
- Satellite service is available to 98% of the citizens in Stokes County
- The need for the County to continue to look for funding and partnering opportunities
- Phase II will provide a design and engineer network, sustainable business, and financial plan, along with information for a “shovel ready project”
- Phase III – will prepare and submit application for funding

Mr. Howell expressed appreciation to GIS Specialist Greg Hunsucker, GIS/Mapping Department, for his assistance.

Mr. Howell noted that Rockingham County (at their 11-23-09 meeting) has contracted with the Howell Group to do Phase II which will be similar to Stokes County’s Phase II.

Mr. Howell stated that the Howell Group recommends Stokes County continue with Phase II.

The Board discussed the following with Mr. Howell and Mr. Krauss:

- Need for service for those who are not being served as well as those who only have one option
- Available Stimulus Funding
- Phase II – must be done to apply for stimulus dollars
- Phase II – cost is approximately \$25,250 with completion being late December or early January 2010
- Funding available in Capital Reserve designated for Economic Development
- Application process for funding
- Extra band space available at the schools
- Dual problem regarding broadband – access and connection
- Needed infrastructure for economic development and student access
- Moving forward with Phase II

Chairman Inman directed the Clerk to place the item on the December 14th Action Agenda.

Windstream North Carolina, LLC – 2009 Late Listing Appeal

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following information regarding the 2009 Late Listing Appeal submitted by Windstream North Carolina, LLC:

- Windstream is a public service corporation subject to central appraisal by the Department of Revenue under NCGS 105-335
- Reports are due to the Department of Revenue by March 31st or by an extended due date
- Windstream failed to request an extension this year, subsequently filing their required reports in the month of May
- Based upon the information received from the North Carolina Department of Revenue, Stokes County processed bills in July of 2009 relating to the following assigned values, and included a 10% Late Listing Penalty as instructed by the State:

Jurisdiction	Value	Regular	
		Tax	Penalty
Stokes County	\$1,539,567.00	\$69,237.40	\$6,923.80
King Fire District	\$10,338,146.00	\$ 6,719.79	\$ 671.99
Rural Hall Fire Dist.	\$ 1,201,421.00	\$ 600.71	\$ 60.08

- Windstream is appealing the 10% Late Listing Penalty
- Tax Administrators in Forsyth, Surry, Rockingham, Caldwell & Wilkes counties have indicated that they are recommending the appeal be denied

Tax Administrator Oakley noted that in order to remain consistent and fair in the assignment of penalties, the Tax Administration recommends that the Board of Commissioners deny this appeal and uphold the above billing amounts. Tax Administrator Oakley stated to his knowledge there has been no exception regarding late listing penalties.

The Board discussed the appeal with Tax Administrator Oakley.

Tax Administrator Oakley requested the item be moved to today’s Action Agenda in order for Windstream to have the month of December to make an appeal to the Department of Revenue in Raleigh based on the Commissioners’ decision.

The Board had no issues with moving the agenda item to today's Action Agenda.

Chairman Inman, with full consent of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on today's Action Agenda.

Engineering Fees – Proposed Community College Site

Support Services Supervisor Danny Stovall presented the following revised design and engineering services/fees from Robbins Architecture for a modular campus for 248 students:

- Design Fees – Civil Engineer and Surveying
 - Topography Survey – approximately 28.55 acres – Fee: \$11,200.00
 - Site Plans - Civil – Fee: \$10,000.00
 - Well Water System Design for 600 students – Fee: \$8,900.00
 - Preliminary Soil Evaluation: under separate contract
 - Conventional Subsurface Sewer System- Fee: \$11,900.00
 - Construction Stake Out – Fee: \$8,400.00
 - Construction Supervision and Inspections – Fee: \$8,000.00
 - NCDENR on Site Water Protection System – Fee: \$14,000.00
 - Plumbing & Electrical Engineering – Fee: \$7,000.00
 - Architectural Design & Coordination – Fee: \$42,000.00
 - Total Fee: Civil Engineer, P, M & E & Architectural \$107,400.00 which does not include NCDENR on Site Water Protection System - \$14,000.00
 - Boundary survey and preliminary soil evaluation costs have been removed

Mr. Stovall also noted the following information submitted by Mr. Gary Robbins regarding deadlines for the project:

- Board should act as timely as possible as not to jeopardize the project completion date
- Timing to get our team in action is critical
- Need to get the schedule approved by the end of November in order to meet the deadline
- Recommend the Board approve bid package budget amounts so as to expedite the process of construction
- Delays in Board approval for each package could delay the project
- Recommend the topographic information required remain in the proposal package for the 25.55 acre plot, this work is critical to the engineering of the waste treatment and planning for the future

The Board discussed the need to assess the site for a community college not just the placement of the POD with Mr. Stovall. Mr. Stovall reiterated the need to approve bid package budget amounts in order keep the project moving to meet the August 2010 deadline. Mr. Stovall noted Mr. Robbins' desire to use his contractors for the topography survey which must be done by someone.

Commissioner Lankford confirmed with Operations Director David Burge, who has completed installation of three PODS, that the School System used Robbins Architecture and Creed & Associates. Mr. Stovall confirmed that both contractors, Robbins Architecture and Creed & Associates will both be working on this project.

Mr. Stovall requested the Board move the item to today's Action Agenda in order to keep the project moving forward.

The Board had no issues with moving the agenda item to today's Action Agenda.

Chairman Inman, with full consent of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on today's Action Agenda.

Underwriting- Certificates of Participation – Nancy Reynolds Renovation Project

Finance Director Julia Edwards and President Doug Carter, DEC Associates, presented the following information regarding the selection of an underwriter for the County in order to issue Certificates of Participation (COPS) for the Nancy Reynolds and Community College projects:

- DEC Associates submitted Request for Qualifications to select an underwriter for the upcoming issuance of COPS for the Nancy Reynolds and Community College projects
- Based upon DEC Associates' review and discussion with the County, the issuance of COPS is a more cost effective approach to raise the needed capital and offers the County the option to price the COPS in the early part of 2010
- Five institutions were provided with RFQs, three proposals were received from BB&T, R.W. Baird & Co. and Stephens, Inc.; with BofA and Wachovia(Wells Fargo) not responding
- Information requested:
 - Relevant experience in issuance of COPS in NC and US for the last three years
 - Financial plan and financing structure ideas
 - Marketing plan for the COPS
 - Bankers assigned to the County
 - Estimate of fees (fees will be negotiated at pricing of COPS, estimates reflect current potential fees)
- Based upon review of the proposals, each of the three proposals come from strong firms with capability to issue the COPS in a cost effective manner
- BB&T provided a compelling submittal based upon the experience with COPS issuance in NC, their past working experience with Stokes County staff and their estimated fees to issue:
 - Relevant experience in issuance of COPS in NC and US for the last three years –Strong experience (\$2.5 billion NC issuance)
 - Financial plan and financing structure ideas – Good discussion of ideas including potential use of BAB's (Buy American Bonds)
 - Marketing plan for the COPS – Strong emphasis on retail buyers and depth of BB&T retail
 - Bankers assigned to the County – Strong banking team with lead worker who worked with County in the past
 - Estimate of fees – (fees will be negotiated at pricing of COPS, estimates reflect current potential fees) \$5.25 per bond plus expenses
- Recommends that the County use BB&T as the underwriter with fees being incorporated into the financing
- In order to maintain the County's financial model, financing must be for 20 years
- COPS is the best alternative from a cost perspective

The Board discussed the agenda item with Mr. Carter.

Mr. Carter stated that the BB&T proposal is the more compelling and the timing for financing in January and February is really good. Finance Director Edwards noted that the County has always had a good working relationship with BB&T.

Finance Director Edwards requested the Board move the agenda item to today's Action Agenda due to the urgency of the matter.

The Board had no issues with moving the item to today's Action Agenda.

Chairman Inman, with full consent of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on today's Action Agenda.

Job Vacancies

County Manager Bryan Steen recommended the following job vacancies be filled:

- Health Department – Processing Assistant IV – vacant on 11-25-2009
- Telecommunicator – E911 – employee resigned today (11-23-09)

The Board discussed the vacancies with Manager Steen. Manager Steen noted the urgent need for the telecommunicator position, with E911 being a 24/7 operation and the Processing Assistant works with billing at the Health Department.

Chairman Inman directed the Clerk to place the agenda item on the December 14th Agenda.

Environmental Health – Job Vacancy

County Manager Bryan Steen recommended the following job vacancy not be filled at this time due to the time of the year and the workload:

- Environmental Health Specialist

Health Director Josh Swift noted the following information regarding the Environmental Health Specialist vacancy:

- Understand some hesitancy in filling this position due to the economic slowdown and the decreased volume of applications in the Environmental Health Section
- Filling the position would most likely take at least 2-3 months with 10-12 months to get the individual certified and fully functional in the field
- Lack of filling the position may lead to a backlog in the Environmental Health Section once building resumes in the Spring plus the ongoing responsibilities of inspecting food establishments and childcare facilities, which are not dependent on the economy
- Manpower study (done in April 2009) from Kac Arrington, Regional Environmental Health Specialist, with the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources reveals that the County needs 4 non-supervisory staff to properly perform environmental health functions (2 for on-site wastewater and wells; 2 for food, lodging, childcare, and institutions) plus one supervisor able to plan and conduct quality assurance and help support field staff if needed

The Board discussed the vacancy with Health Director Swift.

Commissioner Lankford recommended to follow the manager's recommendation to not fill the position at this time based on the economy, at least not until after the 6 months' budget review in January 2010.

Vice Chairman Walker agreed with Commissioner Lankford to follow the manager's recommendation not to fill the position at this time.

Commissioner Carroll agreed with Health Director Swift based on past history of taking several months to recruit a candidate and additional time to get the employee certified. Commissioner Carroll noted the potential to possibly hire a December graduate. Commissioner Carroll also noted the department could possibly be operating at 75% for several months in the early spring and summer due to employees on family medical leave.

Commissioner Smith agreed with Commissioner Carroll to fill the position.

Commissioner Carroll requested the agenda item be moved to today's Action Agenda since the item was discussed at the November 9th meeting.

There were no issues with moving the agenda item to today's Action Agenda.

Chairman Inman directed the Clerk to place the item on today's Action Agenda.

Appointments **Walnut Cove Senior Center Advisory Council**

Chairman Inman noted that Linda Hicks has recently resigned from the Walnut Cove Senior Center Advisory Council. Chairman Inman noted that Ms. Patricia Weitfeldt had applied for the Aging Advisory Council after the appointment had already been filled, but requested her application be kept on file for any similar appointment.

Commissioner Lankford nominated Patricia Weitfeldt to serve on the Walnut Cove Senior Center Advisory Council.

Chairman Inman noted that Ms. Weitfeldt can be considered at the December 14th meeting.

Stokes County Fire Commission

Chairman Inman noted the following vacancies on the Stokes County Fire Commission:

- Two (2) Fire Service Members
- One (1) civilian

Stokes County Fire & Rescue Association recommended the following for re-appointment: (all wish to be considered for re-appointments)

- Fire Service Members: Clifford Hall and Joe James
- Civilian: Mike Pell

Commissioner Smith nominated the following to serve on the Stokes County Fire & Rescue Association:

- Fire Service Members: Clifford Hall and Joe James
- Civilian: Mike Pell

Chairman Inman noted that the nominations can be considered at the December 14th meeting.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – ACTION AGENDA

Proposed Agreement – Collection of Ad Valorem Taxes – City of King

Chairman Inman entertained a motion regarding the proposed Agreement with the City of King for Collection of Ad Valorem Taxes submitted by Tax Administrator Jake Oakley at the November 9th meeting.

Commissioner Lankford moved to approve the Agreement with the City of King for Collection of Ad Valorem Taxes submitted by Tax Administrator Jake Oakley at the November 9th meeting. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Request for Land Purchase – Stokes County Board of Education

Chairman Inman entertained a motion regarding the request for land purchase submitted on behalf of the Stokes County Board of Education by Operations Director David Burge at today's meeting.

Commissioner Lankford moved to approve the Board of Education's request to purchase the following:

- Approximately 1.15 acres which joins the land purchased for the new elementary school on Hobe Kiser Road
- Approximately 1.75 acres along with a couple of tenths which joins Chestnut Grove School property

Commissioner Smith seconded the motion.

Commissioner Carroll noted the motion should also reflect the approval of the land purchase price and the use of ADM funding.

Commissioner Lankford amended his motion to include the use of ADM funding and the land purchase price. Commissioner Smith amended his second to include the use of ADM funding and the land purchase price.

The following amended motion carried unanimously:

- Purchase approximately 1.15 acres which joins the land purchased for the new elementary school on Hobe Kiser Road = \$23,000
- Purchase approximately 1.75 acres along with a couple of tenths which joins Chestnut Grove School property for = \$25,900
- Use of ADM funding for above land purchases

Windstream North Carolina, LLC – 2009 Late Listing Appeal

Chairman Inman entertained a motion to concur with the Tax Administration to deny the 2009 Late Listing Appeal requested by Windstream North Carolina, LLC. which was submitted at today's meeting by Tax Administrator Jake Oakley.

Commissioner Smith moved to concur with the Tax Administration to deny the 2009 Late Listing Appeal requested by Windstream, LLC. which was submitted at today's meeting by Tax Administrator Jake Oakley. Commissioner Lankford seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Engineering Fees – Proposed Community College Site

Chairman Inman entertained a motion to approve the engineering fees submitted by Robbins Architecture at today's meeting for the proposed Community College Site.

Vice Chairman Walker moved to approve the engineering fees submitted by Robbins Architecture at today's meeting for the proposed Community College Site.

Commissioner Lankford seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Underwriting- Certificates of Participation – Nancy Reynolds Renovation Project

Chairman Inman entertained a motion to approve BB&T as the Stokes County underwriter for the issuance of COPS for the Nancy Reynolds and Community College Projects which was discussed at today's meeting.

Commissioner Lankford moved to approve BB&T as the Stokes County underwriter for the issuance of COPS for the Nancy Reynolds and Community College Projects which was discussed at today's meeting. Commissioner Carroll seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Environmental Health Specialist – Vacancy

Chairman Inman entertained a motion regarding the Environmental Health Specialist.

Vice Chairman Walker moved to accept the county manager's recommendation to not fill the position as this time. Commissioner Lankford seconded the motion.

Commissioner Carroll stated the following:

- If the motion is approved, this will undo three years of work the Board has labored with improving county morale
- Point of information, every request for an exception of the hiring freeze that has come before this Board since the first of July has been approved
- Now all of sudden, this Board is going to single out one position which is responsible for public health
- This Board has filled custodian and maintenance positions and now the Board is considering turning down one position that responsible for public health

Chairman Inman noted if the motion is approved not to fill the position, the position needs to be reviewed each month.

Vice Chairman Walker reiterated Commissioner Lankford's suggestion to hold off on filling the position until after the 6-month budget review. Vice Chairman Walker also noted the Health Director's comments that the existing staff is cross trained to carry out the functions of the department.

Commissioner Smith reiterated the functions of Environmental Health such as restaurants, lodging, childcare, and institutions.

Commissioner Carroll questioned why this Board is singling out one position to hold off on filling.

Chairman Inman called the question.

The motion failed (2-3) with Commissioner Carroll, Commissioner Smith, and Chairman Inman voting against the motion.

The Board continued discussion regarding the vacancy.

Commissioner Carroll moved to approve the Health Director's recommendation to fill the Environmental Health Specialist position. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion.

The motion failed (2-3) with Vice Chairman Walker, Commissioner Lankford and Chairman Inman voting against the motion.

Commissioner Smith requested clarification on the direction of the Board regarding the vacant Environmental Health Specialist position.

Commissioner Carroll confirmed the substance of the first motion was in effect by default - position is not being approved to be filled. Commissioner Carroll also stated that currently the County has a hiring freeze and there is a vacancy that can only be filled by action from the Board of Commissioners and this Board has chosen not to act to fill the position; therefore, the position will remain vacant.

Chairman Inman reiterated the agenda item can be brought up at anytime.

Commissioner Carroll moved to adjourn the meeting.

Closed Session

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

- To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the County pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4).
- To 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(a)(6).

Commissioner Lankford moved to enter closed session for the following:

- To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the County pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4).

- To 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(a)(6).

Vice Chairman Walker seconded and the motion carried (4-1) with Commissioner Carroll voting against the motion.

The Board returned to the open session of the November 23rd meeting.

Stokes Reynolds Memorial Hospital – Lease

Chairman Inman questioned if there was any further business to come before this Board this evening.

Commissioner Smith moved to approve an amendment to the agreement with Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center relating to the county's owned facilities. Vice Chairman Walker seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman of the Board of Commissioners

Chairman Inman officially announced to the Board that he would not entertain a nomination for Chairman or Vice Chairman for the upcoming year. Chairman Inman stated that he appreciated the confidence that has been given to him by this Board while serving as Chairman.

Adjournment

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

Vice Chairman Walker moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Lankford seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Darlene M. Bullins
Clerk to the Board

J. Leon Inman
Chairman