

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
MARCH 8, 2010

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, March 8, 2010 at 1:30 pm with the following members present:

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

County Personnel in Attendance:
County Manager K. Bryan Steen
Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins
Finance Director Julia Edwards
DSS Director Jan Spencer
Economic Development Director Alan Wood
Support Services Supervisor Danny Stovall
Tax Administrator Jake Oakley

Chairman Jimmy Walker called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Inman delivered the invocation.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT-GOVERNING BODY-PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Walker 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 Walker entertained a motion to approve or amend the March 8, 2010 Agenda.

Commissioner Inman suggested moving "Request for Master Plan" from the Discussion Agenda to the Information Agenda. Vice Chairman Lankford agreed with Commissioner Inman.

The Board had no issues with Commissioner Inman's request to move "Request for Master Plan" from the Discussion Agenda to the Information Agenda.

Vice Chairman Lankford moved to approve the March 8, 2010 Agenda as amended. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Minutes

- Minutes of February 22, 2010

Cooperative Extension - Budget Amendment #64

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #64.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
Cooperative Extension				
100.4950.511	Equipment – Capital Outlay	\$00.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00
100.4950.440	Misc. Contractual Services	\$171,818.00	\$(1,800.00)	\$170,018.00
	Totals	\$171,818.00	\$00.00	\$171,818.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To transfer funds for the purchase of a replacement computer for the Cooperative Extension Director. The Director’s computer is 15 years old and has not worked for the past six months.

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.

Chairman Walker confirmed with Manager Bryan Steen that \$1,800 was normally the price the County paid for computers. Manager Steen noted that every computer purchase request was screened by the IT Department to make sure that employees have the right computer and software needed for their job and the best price available.

Sheriff’s Department - Budget Amendment #65

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #65.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
Sheriff’s Department				
100.4310.260	Departmental Supplies	\$23,700.00	\$370.00	\$24,070.00
	Totals	\$23,700.00	\$370.00	\$24,070.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To appropriate funding to purchase night vision helmet and mount connectors.

This will result in a net increase of \$370.00 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
100.3301.413	State Fines/Forfeitures	\$260.00	\$370.00	\$630.00
	Totals	\$260.00	\$370.00	\$630.00

Proposed Resolution – Farmer Appreciation Day

County Manager Bryan Steen submitted the following proposed Farmer Appreciation Day Resolution for the Board’s approval:

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING
FARMER APPRECIATION DAY IN
STOKES COUNTY**

Whereas, the County of Stokes, the Stokes Soil & Water Conservation District, the Cooperative Extension, Farm Service Agency, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the NC Forest Service desire to sponsor the Farmer Appreciation Day to recognize the contributions of our farmers to Stokes County; and

Whereas, the Board of Commissioners recognizes that the county's farmers contribute greatly to Stokes County's economic base; and

Whereas, the Board believes that all county citizens benefit from farming activities in some manner; and

Whereas, the Board agrees that a Farmer Appreciation Day would show our county's support for the existing farming community and honor past activities that have contributed so much to the culture and heritage of Stokes County; and

Whereas, the Board recognizes and supports a BBQ and Chicken Dinner along with live entertainment that will be held at North Stokes High School with all Stokes County citizens invited.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT

The Stokes County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims **Thursday, April 1, 2010** as **Farmer Appreciation Day** in Stokes County and extends its appreciation and gratitude to the county's farmers for their many contributions to Stokes County.

Adopted by the **Stokes County Board of Commissioners** this **8th day March, 2010**.

Chairman Jimmy Walker

Vice Chairman Ernest Lankford

Commissioner J. Leon Inman

Commissioner Ron Carroll

Commissioner Stanley Smith
Attest:

Darlene M. Bullins - Clerk to the Board

Commissioner Inman moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Vice Chairman Lankford 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:

- District Attorney’s offices are completed and staff moved in last week and very satisfied with their new location
- Information has been received reminding Commissioners to remind Stokes County citizens to complete and return their census forms which should be arriving within the next few weeks

Commissioner Smith requested the Board allow Economic Development Director Alan Wood to report on the RTI meeting held last week. (Commissioner Smith was unable to attend the meeting due to a prior engagement)

Vice Chairman Lankford noted that information received last week from the NCACC indicates the County could receive a small increase in health and dental premiums, but NCACC is committed to try to keep the increases as low as possible.

RTI Update

Economic Development Director Alan Wood presented the following RTI update:

- Meeting held in Elkin on March 5, 2010
- Tourism website moving forward which will include a lot of data
- Several seminars and webinars coming soon that local tourism providers can attend/view free of charge
- Tourism Summit in Galax, VA with a board meeting at 12:00 noon next month
- RTI is moving forward with plans to eliminate having to request funding from members (counties and cities)
- If proposal passes, the county's contribution this fiscal year will drop from \$7,500 to 5,000 with the difference being made up from private entities who will be allowed to join the RTI
- RTI's goal is to eventually be able to operate without county/city funding
- RTI is doing a series of videos that include places in Stokes County – Hanging Rock State Park, Sauratown Trails, Germanton Winery and Art Gallery, and Ziplines
- Videos are very good exposure for Stokes County

Request for Master Plan Funding

Economic Development Director Alan Wood presented the following regarding the Request for Master Plan Funding:

- Stokes County has an amazing treasury of natural resources
- Wonderful beauty of the mountain peaks and waterways provide a bounty of outdoor activities for our citizens and thousands of visitors to enjoy
- Stokes County ranks 83rd out of 100 counties in NC in tourism spending
- With 600,000 visitors each year to Hanging Rock State Park, Stokes County should not be as low as 83rd
- Much of being ranked at 83rd can be attributed to the lack of lodging and sales tax dollars that are brought in by overnight stays
- Other major deficiency in our efforts is the lack of a comprehensive development plan that would address the following:
 - Visions, goals, and objectives
 - Existing studies and plans already in existence
 - Reviewing and prioritizing of key tourism assets
 - Identifying key local, regional, and state partners
 - Identifying regional collaborations and connections
 - Profiling of the Dan River Corridor
 - Economic Impact Analysis of tourism efforts
 - Mapping of current assets within our county
 - Prioritizing recommendations for implementation of our proposed strategies
- Intend to be working on a parallel course to develop a master plan for the development of Moratock Park in anticipation of Stokes County seeking grant funds in the fall of 2010 and winter of 2011 and a Placed-Based Economic Development Master Plan
- Moratock Park Project which could include trails, land acquisition, improvement to the river landing, possible course for kayaking, etc.

- By working on a parallel course, the County can take advantage of the next cycle of grants in January 2011 to begin a project and develop a long range plan that can assist us in developing our tourism base over the coming decade
- Each of the studies/reports is anticipated to take 8 to 10 months to complete
- Without the studies, it will be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to acquire the state, local, and federal funds that are needed to leverage projects of this nature
- Surry County has leveraged between \$30 and \$40 million over the last decade to enhance their tourism and place-based economic development effort, while Stokes County's funding has been minimal
- Total estimated cost of these projects is \$45,000 to \$50,000, which includes \$6,000 for a survey needed for Moratock Park Project and \$8,000 for an Economic Impact Analysis for the proposed tourism efforts tied to this project
- Plans such as this can cost up to \$70,000
- PilotView RC&D wants to help Stokes County acquire grant funding
- PilotView RC&D states that funding is very hard to acquire without a specific plan and master plan
- The County has several different entities doing projects in the County, but groups don't seem to know about each other's projects
- A Master Plan would supply information where Stokes County is currently and where Stokes County wants to go
- A Master Plan would also identify who Stokes County's partners are

Director Wood submitted the following proposals for the Board to review:

- Proposal for Dan River Corridor Place-Based Economic Development Master Plan submitted by Helen Ruth Almond, Antaeus Consulting, LLC
- Proposal from Eric Woodridge – Site Specific Project

Helen Ruth Almond's proposal included the following:

- Will develop a master plan focusing on tourism-related place-based economic development opportunities along the Dan River Corridor
- Corridor Study will be in conjunction and coordination with the development of the Moratock Park Master Plan and an Economic Impact Study of the Dan River Corridor utilizing place-based economic development through nature-based tourism
- Plan will include the following components:
 - Vision, Goals, and Objectives
 - Review of Existing Studies and Plans to Identify Major Themes
 - Review and Prioritize Key Tourism Assets in the County
 - Identification of key local, regional and state partners
 - Identification of regional collaborations and connections
 - Profile of Dan River Corridor
 - Summary of Economic Impact Study of Dan River Corridor (to be completed by 3rd party vendor)
 - Asset Mapping of priority areas including Moratock Park and Dan River Corridor Planning Sections (to be completed by 3rd party vendor)
 - Prioritized recommendations for implementation
- Development and presentation of master plan will be approximately \$20,000 with additional associated costs including travel and any meeting expenses billed separately to Stokes EDC
- Preparation of final master plan document will include the assistance from a 3rd party graphic designer and is estimated to be up to but not exceeding \$500

Eric Woodridge's proposal included the following:

- Site Specific Project centered around Moratock Park with input regarding enhancements to the park, walking trails, current assets, etc.
- Moratock Park Master Plan will adhere to the PARTF guidelines for developing site-specific recreation plans which is a 50/50 match
- Applications without a master plan lose 20 points
- Plan will include the following phases:
 - Preliminary Mapping and Site Analysis

- Brainstorm Meeting – Project Oversight Group and Planning Team
- Site Plan Concept Development
- Public Meeting
- Draft Plan
- Final Plan
- Estimated cost = not to exceed \$9,500 (printing budget \$500)

Economic Development Director Alan Wood reiterated the need for a master plan in order to acquire grant funding for Stokes County, know where we are, where we want to go, and who are our partners.

Chairman Walker, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the March 22nd Discussion Agenda.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – DISCUSSION AGENDA

Early College Campus – Grading and Paving Bids

Support Services Supervisor Danny Stovall presented the following information:

- Grading and paving bids were opened on March 3, 2010 beginning at 2:30 pm
- Fourteen (14) grading companies and seven (7) paving companies were in attendance at the pre-bid meetings
- All contractors understand the \$500 per day penalty fee that will assessed if not completed by the deadline date

The following submitted bids for the grading:

- Doggett Construction Company, Inc = \$156,480.00
- Rick Mabe Grading, Inc. = \$181,726.00
- Stewart's Grading & Hauling = \$190,009.00
- Triangle Paving & Grading = \$192,804.45
- Jimmy R. Lynch & Sons, Inc. = \$213,027.00

Mr. Stovall noted Doggett Construction Co. Inc. came in with the lowest bid. Mr. Stovall noted the following additional items, if needed, that were not included in the bid proposal that would be billed separately:

- Blasting rock on site to sub-grade = \$35 per cubic foot
- Mass rock excavation & on-site disposal = \$12 per cubic foot
- Trench rock excavation & on-site disposal = \$35 per cubic foot
- Unsuitable soils removal & on-site disposal = \$4 per cubic foot
- General borrow backfill & compaction using offsite fill = \$15 per cubic foot
- General backfill & compaction using on-site fill = \$3.50 per cubic foot

Mr. Stovall also noted that he had spoken to Engineer Darren Creed who has worked with the Doggett Construction, Inc. and Mr. Creed has no issues with the company nor has heard any complaints against the company. Mr. Stovall also checked with Better Business Bureau where their rating is A+.

Vice Chairman Lankford inquired if the County contacted NCDOT regarding the bids.

Mr. Stovall noted the grading proposal includes grading, seeding, and erosion control per NCDEHR recommendations. NCDOT is only interested in the paving proposal. Manager Steen noted he is working with NCDOT officials regarding paving at the project site.

The Board discussed the grading bids with Mr. Stovall.

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

The following submitted bids for the paving which includes stone, pavement, curbing, guttering around parking lots, sidewalks, and dumpster pad:

- Larco Construction = \$293,492.00
- APAC Atlantic- Thompson Arthur = \$307,856.00
- Yadkin Valley Paving = \$357,119.29
- JC Joyce Trucking & Paving = \$358,689.00
- Jimmy R. Lynch & Sons, Inc. = \$377,293.00

Mr. Stovall noted the price for 10' stone overflow parking lot from Larco is \$24,738 which was also the lowest bid and would be billed separately if desired by the Board.

The Board discussed the paving bids with Mr. Stovall which can be placed on the March 22nd Action Agenda.

Vice Chairman Lankford confirmed with Manager Steen that information from NCDOT regarding the paving would be available at the next meeting.

Chairman Walker, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the grading bids on today's Action Agenda and the paving bids on the March 22nd Action Agenda.

Tax Administration Report – February 2010

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following informational data:

Fiscal Year 2009-10	Budget Amt	Collected Amt	Over Budget	Under Budget
County Regular & Motor Vehicles	\$(20,702,277.00)	\$19,549,187.82		\$1,153,089.18

Prior Taxes 93-08 Tax Years

County Regular & Motor Vehicles	\$ 600,000.00	\$ 549,977.35		\$50,022.65
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EMS Collections

Total Collected (02-01-10/02-28-10)	\$13,340.08
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Total Collected (07-01-09/6-30-10)	\$63,394.17
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Delinquent accounts received from EMS (February 2010)
101 accounts = \$39,575.97

Personal Property Discovery Report Audit Dates

	# of Accts	Total Value	Taxes Due
02-01-10/02-28-10	11	\$211,637	\$1,928.93

Business Personal Property Discovery Report Audit Dates

	# of Accts	Total Value	Taxes Due
02-01-10/02-28/10	0	\$00.00	\$00.00

Motor Vehicle Release Report	Accounts	Total Value
Audit Dates		
02-01-10/02-28-10	49	\$1,097.25

Motor Vehicle Refund Report	Accounts	Total Accounts
Audit Dates		
02-01-10/02-28-10	15	\$451.71
Number billed for Feb. 2010	3431	

Garnishment Totals			
	Total	Original Levy	Collected
Month	Accounts	Amt	Amt
F/Year 2009-10			
(July 1 – June 30)	1533	\$294,077.28	\$263,655.45
February-2010	67	\$30,889.03	\$26,804.05

Tax Administrator Oakley presented the following Real and Personal Property Releases

(February 2010) which are less than \$100 for the Board’s review:

**Releases (Real and Personal Property)
Less than \$100–February 2010-Per NCGS 105-381 (b)**

Name	Bill Number	Amount
Thurman Robertson	97A1997001510	\$52.72
	97A1997002310	\$31.62
	97A1997001045	\$34.12
Melissa Fleming	09A155921366.03	\$6.00
Richard Turner	09A75313.09	<u>\$45.42</u>
	Total Amount	\$169.88

Tax Administrator Oakley presented the following Real and Personal Property Releases

(February 2010) which are more than \$100 for the Board’s consideration:

**Releases (Real and Personal Property)
More than \$100– February 2010-Per NCGS 105-381 (b)**

Name	Bill Number	Amount
<u>Glenn Tuttle</u>	09A599302870420	\$166.25
(approved Elderly Exemption)		
<u>Marianne Northington</u>	09A696206393321	\$2,752.00
By court action on 12-10-09, the Town of Walnut Cove became the owner by eminent domain as of 05-02-08		
<u>Greg Anderson</u>	08A155912676.06	\$147.08
SWMH was reposed by Vanderbilt on 11-30-07		
<u>Anthony Sisk</u>	09A155925009.04.1	\$628.93
SWMH listed & taxed in Forsyth County		
<u>Anthony Sisk</u>	09A66975.04.1	\$320.00
SWMH listed & taxed in Forsyth County		
<u>Richard Turner</u>	09A75313.09.1	<u>\$153.09</u>
SWMH in Forsyth County		
	Total Amount	\$4,167.35

Tax Administrator Oakley presented the following Real and Personal Property Refund

(February 2010) which is more than \$100 for the Board’s consideration:

**Refund (Real and Personal Property)
More than \$100–February 2010–Per NCGS 105-381 (b)**

Name	Bill Number	Amount
<u>S and C Pools</u> Building destroyed in 2008	09A599111678061	<u>\$779.40</u>
	Total Amount	\$779.40

Tax Administrator Oakley presented the following Present-Use Late Applications for the Board's consideration:

Name	Parcel Number	Acreage
Bettie Sheff Heirs	690900429509	51.7 Forestry-land in family for many yrs
Allen & Carolyn Venable	691700365203	44.81 Forestry-owned the land since 2004
Polly Anna Stewart	597504518866	11.16 Agriculture-owned land for yrs-farming land
Kent & Pamela Fulp	690900347053	15.36 Agriculture-other property under the program
Jason & April Pendleton	603100904569	23.87 Agriculture-other property under the program
Robert & Judy Griffin	597415741486	13.0 Agriculture-owned land since 2003

Tax Administrator Oakley presented the following Motor Vehicle Appeal for the Board's consideration:

- **Jimmy Darrell Roach** – Mr. Roach appealed the tax value on his 1999 Tesh Trailer which was valued by the Tax Department at \$5,000
- Mr. Roach states he paid \$1,500 for the trailer
- Mr. Roach was mailed a letter requesting information about the trailer
- Mr. Roach states he never received the letter requesting information
- A minimum of \$5,000 is placed on trailers when no information is received from the taxpayer
- Mr. Roach is requesting the Board of Commissioners release the amount of \$23.28 leaving the taxpayer with the amount of \$9.97 to be paid based on the \$1,500 purchase price
- Per N.C.G.S (a)(b)(1) (taxpayer's remedies) – The Board may “determine whether the taxpayer has a valid defense to the tax imposed or any part thereof and shall either release or refund that portion of the amount that is determined to be in excess of the correct tax liability or notify the taxpayer in writing that no release or refund will be made”

Tax Administrator Oakley noted the Tax Office recommends that the value be changed to \$1,500 instead of \$5,000 and the amount of \$23.28 be released.

Tax Administrator Oakley presented the following Personal Property Tax Release for the Board's consideration:

- Bill #10A440.09.1 = \$212.45
- Discovery of a 12x60 mobile home for the years of 2005-2009
- Terry & Myrtle Allen purchased .73 acres of land and this mobile home in 2009
- Unknown to Mr. & Mrs. Allen, the single wide mobile home had never been listed by the former owners
- Mr. & Mrs. Allen listed the mobile home for the year 2010
- Discovery bill was processed in the name of Terry & Myrtle Allen
- Since the prior owners no longer own the home, no enforced collection could be implemented against them
- NCGS 105-312(k) (discovery property) gives the Board of Commissioners power to “compromise, settle, or adjust the county's claim for taxes arising therefrom”
- As a matter of fairness (considering the new owners listed the property for the year of 2010), the Tax Department is requesting under NCGS 105-312(k), that the bills covering 2005-2009 be removed from the tax scroll

Tax Administrator Oakley presented the following Leasehold Personal Property Tax Release for the Board's consideration:

- Bill #97A1997000244 = \$145.70
- Bill #96A1996000419 = \$147.92
- Bills for 1996 & 1997 most likely cover leasehold property than can't be identified or located
- Since the bills are over ten (10) years old, no enforcement of collection can be implemented
- Tax Department is requesting under NCGS 105-378 that the bills be removed from the tax scroll

Tax Administrator Oakley recommends approval of the following:

- Refund more than \$100 – Real & Personal Property
- Releases more than \$100 - Real & Personal Property
- Present-Use Value Late Applications
- Motor Vehicle Appeal
- Personal Property Tax Release
- Leasehold Personal Property Tax Release

The Board had no issues with the requests presented by Administrator Oakley.

Vice Chairman Lankford acknowledged the increase in the number of bills being referred to the Tax Department from EMS. Tax Administrator Oakley stated each department has a better understanding of each department's procedures and how they interact with each other.

Commissioner Inman expressed appreciation to Administrator Oakley and his staff for the continued hard work and dedication collecting taxes especially in a very challenging economic environment.

Chairman Walker, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the following items on the March 22nd Consent Agenda:

- Refund more than \$100 – Real & Personal Property
- Releases more than \$100 - Real & Personal Property
- Present-Use Value Late Applications
- Motor Vehicle Appeal
- Personal Property Tax Release
- Leasehold Personal Property Tax Release

Proposed Resolution – Broadband Access in Unserved/Underserved Areas within NC

Economic Development Director Alan Wood presented the following information regarding a request to support an application for a BTOP Grant by MCNC's "Middle Mile" Broadband

Technology Opportunities Program:

- Stokes County has received a request to support an application of a BTOP Grant Application by MCNC
- Feels it is very important for Stokes County to respond in a positive manner to this request for the following reasons:
 - Improving Broadband access to all of Stokes County is important to our long range economic vitality
 - MCNC was successful in applying for and receiving grant funding in Round #1 of the broadband stimulus funding

- MCNC's Round 2 grant application would help increase the "middle mile backbone" of Stokes County
- This "middle mile backbone" being proposed in this grant request will be an asset to Stokes County as we work to expand our "last mile" coverage by providing the County with a better fiber network to support out WiMax network when it is deployed
- It is possible, if approved, the MCNC application can provide greater bandwidth to local providers and reduce the wholesale cost of internet service to "last mile" providers, thus lowering the cost of internet service to our citizens
- This application will not affect the County's application
- Mr. Howell, who is preparing the County's application, has reviewed the request and urges the County to support the BTOP Grant Application
- Time sensitive due to deadline being Tuesday, March 9th
- Request approval of letter of support and /or proposed Resolution in support of the BTOP Grant Application which simply confirm that Stokes County will consider using the "middle mile service" if feasible
- A letter of support has been requested from MCNC to support Stokes County's application for stimulus funding

Director Wood requested the item, due to the March 9th deadline, be moved to today's Action Agenda.

The Board discussed the request with Director Wood.

Vice Chairman Lankford requested Director Wood verify the unemployment rate, his understanding was the rate was higher than 10.5%. The Board unanimously agreed to allow Director Wood to change the unemployment rate in the support letter if necessary.

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

Proposed Resolution – Guaranteed Energy Performance Savings Contract

County Manager Steen noted that the County had recently received a letter of request from Dr. Hobbs indicating that the School System was interested in pursuing the Guaranteed Energy Performance Savings Contract with Johnson Controls and requested the Board of Commissioners agree to pass a Resolution agreeing not to cut their capital funding due to the savings accrued. Manager Steen noted that general statute does not require the adoption of the Resolution, but Local Government Commission (LGC) does when submitting a loan application. Manager Steen concluded that the School Board does meet the requirements of G.S. 143-64.17C and G.S.160A-20 as amended.

Dr. Stewart Hobbs, Superintendent of Stokes County Schools, presented the following information regarding the Guaranteed Energy Performance Savings Contract:

- Stokes County Schools have been investigating the possibility of entering into a Guaranteed Energy Performance Savings Contract for 6-8 months
- This is a way to do capital improvements that deal with reducing energy costs without having the funding available

- School System will determine what projects will be done and to what extent and would like to focus on three areas lighting, HVAC, and controls
- RFPs were issued with two responding and Johnson Controls being selected
- School Board will agreed on the projects, Johnson Controls will do the work, school system will borrow the funding, and the utilities' savings should be enough to support the loan payment, if not, Johnson Controls will be obligated to pay the school system the difference
- Before Stokes County Schools proceeds any further, the Stokes County Board of Education wanted to present this process to the Stokes County Board of Commissioners in order that both parties were aware of the process and that the Stokes County Board of Commissioners were willing to pass a Resolution
- Guaranteed Energy Performance Savings Contract does not require the County to assume more debt; however, it does require the County Commissioners pass a Resolution stating that the Board will not cut the LEA's capital funding due to the savings since the savings must go to pay off the LEA's debt
- Guaranteed Energy Performance Savings Contract is an alternative funding source which allows the school system to use future energy and operational savings to upgrade facilities and reduce operating costs now without tax increases and without the county assuming more debt
- Vendor would implement self-funding energy savings measures, make facilities upgrades, and guarantee the result
- School System would borrow the funding upfront and the vendor will guarantee the savings will cover the debt or the vendor will write a check for the difference
- Johnson Controls has been involved with several school systems with this type of contract such as systems in Elkin City, Lexington City, Rockingham County, Madison County, Alleghany County and others
- Key to this process is the Guarantee
- Johnson Controls has a three part guarantee:
 - Price – Guarantee (there are no change orders)
 - Performance – Guarantee (the implemented solutions must work)
 - Financial – Guarantee (the project must be self-funded or Johnson Controls will write a check)
- Johnson Controls would be more than willing to present the concept of Guaranteed Energy Performance Savings Contract to the Stokes County Board of Commissioners if so desired

Chairman Sonya Cox, who was in attendance for the meeting, noted that this could be a way to do some work at Southeastern School now and not have to wait for the renovation project, plus reduce the renovation project total.

Dr. Hobbs, on behalf of the Stokes County School System and Stokes County Board of Education, requests that the Stokes County Board of Commissioners agree to pass a Resolution agreeing not to cut the schools' capital funding due to the savings accrued from the Guaranteed Energy Performance Savings Contract.

The Board discussed the request with Superintendent Hobbs and Chairman Cox.

Commissioner Carroll confirmed with Dr. Hobbs that there is a clear understanding with both Boards that the proposed Resolution does not say the Board of Commissioners will not cut your capital budget and does not lock the Board of Commissioners into a certain level of capital funding.

Vice Chairman Lankford stated that he was also concerned with both Boards understanding this proposed Resolution would not lock the Board of Commissioners into a certain level of capital funding for the school system.

Dr. Hobbs noted that the Board of Education wanted to make sure the Board of Commissioners did not have reservations about the program and would agree to sign the proposed Resolution before the School Board continued with the program. The Board of Education now has a project for every school, except Nancy Reynolds, but have not approved any specific projects and would like to have everything in place in order to possibly start in the summer while school is out.

The Board discussed placing the item on March 22nd Action Agenda.

Dr. Hobbs stated that the School System would not need the Resolution approved until the Board of Education decides what specific projects are going to be done, will need the proposed Resolution adopted when making an application to LGC.

The Board unanimously agreed to support the Board of Education with proceeding with the Guaranteed Energy Performance Savings Project and that the Board of Education's capital funding would not be cut due to the savings of the project.

Discussion – Scheduling Public Hearing Regarding Stokes-Reynolds Memorial Hospital, Inc.

Chairman Walker yielded the floor to Commissioner Carroll who had requested at an earlier meeting to begin discussion regarding a public hearing pertaining to the future of Stokes-Reynolds Memorial Hospital, Inc.

Commissioner Carroll noted that this Board has to make some decisions regarding the long-term future of Stokes-Reynolds Memorial Hospital. Commissioner Carroll stated that his position is and has been all along that before this Board considers any given options, a public hearing be held to inform the people of Stokes County that decisions must be made, what the options are, this is their hospital, and allow them to speak.

Commissioner Inman stated that he concurred with Commissioner Carroll and reminded the Board that the press release stated that the hospital belongs to the citizens of Stokes County and their voices would be heard.

Vice Chairman Lankford stated that he also agrees that a public hearing is absolutely necessary, but feels the Board needs to wait until HMC has had a few weeks managing the hospital in order to have as much information available as possible to share with the people.

Commissioner Smith concurred that a public hearing is necessary to inform the citizens of the County what options are available. Commissioner Smith stated that he had no problems waiting
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a couple of weeks, but doesn't want to put it off very long.

Chairman Walker concurred that he is also on board for a public hearing to hear public input from the citizens of Stokes County regarding Stokes-Reynolds Memorial Hospital.

Vice Chairman Lankford noted that the Board of Trustees will be hold their first meeting on March 22nd and feels that information from that meeting would be very beneficial to have before a public hearing.

Chairman Walker polled the Board regarding a date:

- Commissioner Carroll stated, "as soon as possible"
- Vice Chairman Lankford stated "not until statistical financial information is available from the new management company, which could be given at the March 22nd meeting"
- Commissioner Inman concurred with Commissioner Carroll
- Commissioner Smith stated he would put some urgency on the date, but not immediately

Commissioner Carroll stated that he disagreed somewhat with Vice Chairman Lankford in terms that he does not think the current management team is relevant to this Board's decision about the future of the hospital.

Chairman Walker stated that by moving the public hearing date out, it will allow the Board to get out and talk to the citizens regarding the future of the hospital.

The Board discussed possible dates such as the end of April or first of May for a public hearing.

Commissioner Inman noted the importance of getting the date and purpose of the public hearing out to the people. Commissioner Inman also noted that although he concurred with Commissioner Carroll with holding the public hearing as soon as possible, the citizens of the County may feel different about the decision of the hospital if another management entity can improve the losses at the hospital and thinks possibly one or two months of statistical financial information would provide that type of information.

Chairman Walker entertained a motion.

Vice Chairman Lankford moved to hold a public hearing regarding the hospital on May 10th.

Chairman Walker stated the motion dies for lack of second.

Commissioner Carroll noted the motion was out of order, the Board had not agreed to move the item to the Action Agenda.

Chairman Walker, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the March 22nd Action Agenda (possible May 6th, May 13th)

Proposed Amendment – Restated Articles of Incorporation of Stokes-Reynolds Memorial Hospital, Inc.

County Manager Bryan Steen noted that Commissioner Carroll had requested at the March 1st Special Meeting to delete the following sentence from Section #5 of the Reinstated Articles of Incorporation of Stokes-Reynolds Memorial Hospital, Inc:

- A Trustee may be removed from office by the County with or without cause

Commissioner Carroll recommended to also delete the following sentence:

- Vacancies on the Board of Trustees shall be filled by the County

The Board had no issues with removing the following last two sentences from Section #5:

- Vacancies on the Board of Trustees shall be filled by the County
- A Trustee may be removed from office by the County with or without cause

Chairman Walker, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the March 22nd Action Agenda.

Authorization for Grant Application for Day Care Facility

Chairman Walker noted that this item was on the February 22nd Discussion and Action Agendas and requested to be placed back on the March 8th Discussion Agenda by Vice Chairman Lankford. Chairman Walker turned the discussion over to Vice Chairman Lankford.

Vice Chairman Lankford noted the following regarding the Authorization for Grant Application for Day Care Facility:

- Vote failed at the February 22nd meeting to proceed with making two grant applications for funding to bring a county owned facility up to code
- It was noted that the members of the Board expressed concerns with not having enough time to thoroughly examine the issue before the March 1st deadline
- Deadline for second round of funding for the grants is May 1st giving the County almost two months to thoroughly examine the issue
- Still strongly feel, it is important to have a Stokes County owned facility brought up to code by grant funding – saving county dollars
- Have the opportunity to possibly create jobs in Stokes County
- Have the opportunity to provide a service that is very much needed in the northern part of the County

Vice Chairman Lankford concluded that he feels the County should pursue the grant opportunities and proceed with the application process for both grants in the second round.

Commissioner Carroll noted the following:

- No problem whatsoever trying to obtain grant funding to bring a county owned facility up to code
- First, must establish if the County has a need for the facility before considering looking elsewhere

- Look at all immediate and future needs of the County
- Make sure that other entrepreneurs or private providers/businesses are aware that the County has a facility that may be made available for a reasonable rent if they are willing to operate their business out of that facility rather than identifying one particular business and not giving anyone else the opportunity to at least express an interest

Commissioner Smith inquired if the owner of the business who supplied the business plan is still on board with renting the facility at a normal rental fee and reiterated that he also does not have any issues with applying for grant funding to bring a county owned facility up to code.

Vice Chairman Lankford noted the business plan has already been submitted to Economic Development Director Wood, the grant applications are ready to go, and the rental rate would be set by the Board at the time of occupancy and the provider would have the opportunity to decline or accept.

Commissioner Smith also inquired about the census of available day care slots within the County. Vice Chairman Lankford noted that he did not have the actual number of day care vacancies within the County – County has approximately 20 licensed day care providers.

Chairman Walker requested the County Manager to provide the Board with the following information:

- Confirm that if the County accepts the grants and the provider declines to rent the facility after repairs have been done, the county would have to repay back grant funding that had been spent on the repairs

Vice Chairman Lankford suggested that Manager Steen verify the conditions of both grants (Rural Center and ARC). Vice Chairman Lankford concluded that he had received several comments on the need a day care in this particular area.

Chairman Walker, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the Discussion Agenda for the first meeting in April.

Job Vacancies

County Manager Bryan Steen noted the following requests from DSS Director Jan Spencer who was in attendance for today's meeting:

- Request to fill vacant Processing Assistance III position
- Request to fill Director's position that will be vacated on July 30, 2010
- Request to use lapsed salaries for a contract position

The Board had no issues with DSS Director Spencer providing information to the Board regarding the requests.

DSS Director Jan Spencer discussed the following with the Board:

- Request to use lapsed salaries to extend the contract for a Food & Nutrition ARRA worker - funding will exhaust on March 13th unless additional funding is awarded

- Information has been received that the State has received additional funding to possibly extend the position for one year, but unsure about the amount of funding until documentation is provided by the State
- The position has been a tremendous help to the Food & Nutrition Unit
- The Food & Nutrition Unit is experiencing a big increase in caseload size and there is no end in sight at this time
- Request the item be moved to today's Action Agenda in order to be able to keep the worker on the job with hopes documentation will soon be provided from the State regarding the additional funding

The Board had no issues with Director Spencer's request and unanimously agreed to move the item to today's Action Agenda.

- Request to fill vacant Processing Assistant III position
 - Processing Assistant was promoted to an Accounting Tech I position thus leaving the Processing Assistant III vacant
 - Clerical unit has consistently had to work overtime to keep up with the work flow due to being understaffed and with one vacancy, comp. time is expected to increase
 - Will take approximately 4-6 weeks to fill the position
 - Request to move the item to today's Action Agenda in order to proceed with internal posting of the position

The Board had no issues with Director Spencer's request and unanimously agreed to move the item to today's Action Agenda.

- Request, on behalf of the DSS Board, to fill the Director of Social Services position which will become vacant on July 30, 2010
 - I submitted my letter of retirement to the DSS Board on Feb. 24th to be effective on August 1, 2010
 - DSS Board would like permission to begin the recruitment process as soon as possible in order to be able to hire a new director by that date
 - Would like to have adequate time to have a smooth transition period
 - Request to move the item to today's Action Agenda in order to proceed with the recruitment process

The Board had no issues with Director Spencer's request.

Commissioner Inman noted the need to move the item to today's Action Agenda in order to allow the DSS Board to have adequate time to replace Director Spencer and allow for a smooth transition.

The Board unanimously agreed to move the item to today's Action Agenda.

The Board expressed their appreciation to Director Spencer for her dedication to Stokes County and the Department of Social Services.

Appointments

Stokes County Community Child Protection Team

Chairman Walker noted the vacancy for the Stokes County Community Child Protection Team was announced at the February 22nd meeting with no nominations presented.

Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins noted the County had not received any appointment applications for the vacancy.

Commissioner Smith nominated Pam Hooker to serve on the Stokes County Community Child Protection Team.

Commissioner Smith requested the item be moved to today's Action Agenda due to the CCPT actually meets tomorrow.

The Board unanimously agreed to move the item to today's Action Agenda.

Stokes County Board of Health

Chairman Walker announced the following vacancies on the Stokes County Board of Health: (filling unexpired terms)

- Optometrist Representative (Dr. Kevin Walker)
- Professional Engineer Representative (Jerry Moorefield)

Commissioner Smith nominated Ms. Cheryl Ferguson to serve on the Board of Health.

Commissioner Carroll, who serves on the Board of Health, noted the open vacancies were for the following:

- Optometrist Representative
- Professional Engineer Representative

Commissioner Smith inquired about the Board of Health already having a member on the Board who qualifies as the Professional Engineer Representative.

Clerk Darlene Bullins confirmed that Jerry Mitchell, who serves as an at-large member, would qualify as a Professional Engineer Representative per Health Director Josh Swift.

Commissioner Carroll confirmed that Mr. Mitchell had no issues with being transferred to the Professional Engineer Representative and if the Board agreed to transfer Mr. Mitchell, there would definitely be an at-large vacancy.

Commissioner Smith nominated Jerry Mitchell for the vacant Professional Engineer Representative appointment.

Commissioner Carroll also noted the possibility of the optometrist appointment being changed to an at-large appointment if there were no other optometrists who reside in Stokes County.

Commissioner Carroll stated that he would verify that the optometrist appointment can be changed to an at-large appointment.

Chairman Walker requested the Clerk to have Director Swift verify if Dr. Kevin Walker can be reappointed and if Dr. Walker would be interested in being reappointed.

Chairman Walker directed the Clerk to place the Professional Engineer vacancy on the March 22nd Action Agenda and the optometrist vacancy with Commissioner Smith's nomination

for an at-large appointment on the March 22nd Discussion Agenda.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – ACTION AGENDA

NCDOT – Proposal for Community College Site

Chairman Walker entertained a motion.

Vice Chairman Lankford moved to approve the County Manager’s recommendation to proceed with the execution of agreement with NCDOT regarding the right-of-way easement for an access road to provide a connection from the Early College Site property to the County property (formerly known as the Department of Correction). Commissioner Inman seconded the motion.

Manager Steen noted the items of the agreement were presented at the February 22nd meeting and also included in the minutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

Use of Holiday Leave

County Manager Bryan Steen briefly discussed the information presented at the February 22nd meeting regarding the use of the “Floating Holiday” for all employees before any type of leave. Manager Steen noted the “Special Leave Policy” also presented at the February 22nd meeting and would appreciate the Board considering the adoption of that policy.

Chairman Walker entertained a motion.

Vice Chairman Lankford moved to continue the “Floating Holiday” as it was created with an effective date retroactive to January 1, 2010. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion.

The Board continued discussion regarding the “Floating Holiday Leave”.

Commissioner Carroll noted the point of confusion is over the issue of accrual and it was the intention of this Board that the Floating Holiday not be considered as holiday time that is accrued because a person is not allowed to take the time on the designated holiday.

The motion was read for clarification.

Commissioner Carroll noted it would be easier to take the County Manager’s recommendation and completely separate the Floating Holiday from accrued holiday time.

The motion carried (4-1) Commissioner Carroll voting against the motion.

Early College - Grading and Paving Bids

Chairman Walker entertained a motion.

Commissioner Inman moved to approve Doggett Construction Company Inc at a bid price

of \$156,480 for the grading for the Early College Project. Vice Chairman Lankford seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Proposed Resolution – Broadband Access in Unserved and Underserved Areas with North Carolina

Chairman Walker entertained a motion.

Vice Chairman Lankford moved to approve the letter of Support and Resolution submitted by Economic Development Alan Wood for the MCNC's Middle Mile Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP Grant Application). Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

DSS - Lapsed Salaries and Job Vacancies

Chairman Walker entertained a motion

Commissioner Smith moved to approve the DSS Director's request to use lapsed salaries to continue a contract position in Food & Nutrition and hire the Director's position that will be vacated on August 1, 2010 and a Processing Assistant III position that is already vacant.

Commissioner Inman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Stokes County Community Child Protection Team

Chairman Walker polled the Board regarding the nomination of Pamela Hooker to serve on the Stokes County Community Child Protection Team (CCPT).

Commissioner Smith voted yes for Pam Hooker to serve on the CCPT.

Commissioner Inman voted yes for Pam Hooker to serve on the CCPT.

Chairman Walker voted yes for Pam Hooker to serve on the CCPT.

Vice Chairman Lankford voted yes for Pam Hooker to serve on the CCPT.

Commissioner Carroll voted yes for Pam Hooker to serve on the CCPT.

Chairman Walker stated Pam Hooker was voted unanimously to serve on the CCPT.

Closed Session

Chairman Walker entertained a motion for the following:

- To consider and take action with respect to the position to be taken by the county in negotiating the price or other material terms of an agreement for the acquisition or lease of real property pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5)

Commissioner Inman moved to enter closed session for the following:

- To consider and take action with respect to the position to be taken by the county in negotiating the price or other material terms of an agreement for the acquisition or lease of real property pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5)

Vice Chairman Lankford seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The Board entered closed session.

The Board returned to the open session of the March 8th meeting.

Danbury Water Project – Land Purchase

Chairman Walker entertained a motion.

Commissioner Inman moved the County purchase two parcels of land from Charles M. Martin (.229 acre tract to be surveyed and .345 acre to be surveyed) concurrent with a 30 ft access from Sheep Rock Road at a cost of \$4,583 with one purchase being contingent on suitability of the parcel for a well. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

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

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

Darlene M. Bullins
Clerk to the Board

Jimmy Walker
Chairman