

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)
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COUNTY OF STOKES)
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OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS
STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT
DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA
FEBRUARY 8, 2011

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met for a Goals Planning Session in the Commissioners' Chambers of the Ronald Wilson Reagan Memorial Building (Administration Building) located in Danbury, North Carolina on Tuesday, February 8, 2011 at 9:00 am with the following members present:

Chairman Ernest Lankford
Vice Chairman J. Leon Inman
Commissioner Jimmy Walker
Commissioner Ronda Jones
Commissioner James D. Booth

County Personnel in Attendance:
Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins
Finance Director Julia Edwards

Chairman Ernest Lankford called the Goals Planning Session to order.

Commissioner Booth delivered the invocation.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT-GOVERNING BODY-PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Chairman Lankford noted the following regarding today's meeting:

- Closed Session for personnel
- Continued discussion regarding goals
- General discussion regarding the proposals received for Stokes Reynolds Memorial Hospital, Inc.

Chairman Lankford requested to add a closed session to today's meeting.

The Board had no issues with the Agenda presented by Chairman Lankford including a Closed Session.

CLOSED SESSION

Chairman Lankford entertained a motion to enter Closed Session for the following:

- To consider the initial employment or appointment of an individual to any office or position, other than a vacancy in the Board of County Commissioners or any other public body, or to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, and fitness of any public officer or employee, other than a member of the Board of Commissioners or of some other public body pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6).

Commissioner Walker moved to approve the Agenda presented by Chairman Lankford and to enter Closed Session for the following:

- To consider the initial employment or appointment of an individual to any office or position, other than a vacancy in the Board of County Commissioners or any other public body, or to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, and fitness of any public officer or employee, other than a member of the Board of Commissioners or of some other public body pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6).

Commissioner Jones seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The Board re-entered the regular session of the February 8th meeting.

Goals Planning Session

Chairman Lankford directed the Board to review the following 2010 goals along with goals submitted by Board members at the February 2nd Goals Planning Session presented by Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins and be ready for further discussion at the February 11th Goals Planning Session:

2010 Goals

The Board agreed either unanimously or by a majority to the following as high priority Goals for 2010:

- **Schools (majority of the Board)**
 - Begin the next Board of Education's priority school construction project in 2010
- **Community College (majority of the Board)**
 - Hire an architect in 2010 with construction in 2011

- **Stokes Reynolds Memorial Hospital (unanimous)**
 - Make a decision regarding Stokes Reynolds Memorial Hospital by the end of 2010
- **Survival (unanimous)**
 - Use the following adopted 2009 Goals
 - Make sure the County has a safety net in place for the most vulnerable citizens in the County (first and foremost priority as far as programs)
 - Provide services to the citizens of Stokes County as cost effective as possible (Quality Cost Effective services)
 - Continue expenditures and revenues review
 - Minimize mileage on county vehicles (place mileage sheet in all county vehicles)
 - Assess county vehicles being driven home by county employees
 - Employee sharing in all departments, especially those departments associated with the current economic status
 - Meet with Department Heads for suggestions for cutting cost
 - Hiring freeze/selective hiring (any hiring must be approved by the BOCC)
 - Control Comp. Time in all departments
 - Look into imaging process to make departments more efficient
 - Focus on eliminating any unnecessary spending, spending will be the key this year and next year just as the County has done during the past two years
 - No funding being borrowed for recurring expenses, just capital needs
 - Identify salary options
 - First, look at eliminating only the bonus with salary schedule still intact
 - Second, eliminate longevity increases
 - Third, impose a salary freeze
 - Fourth, reduce work hours
 - Evaluate staffing levels
 - Reminder of deep recession
 - Evaluate the county's ability to bridge the gap for services with State revenue cuts
- **Grants (unanimous)**
 - Place a higher priority and more attention regarding acquiring grants by implementing the following procedures:
 - Department heads research and identify grants for their individual departments
 - County manager and department head evaluate the pros and cons of each grant
 - County manager submits the proposed grant to the Board of Commissioners for their authority to proceed with the application and appropriate funding if match is required
- **Parks and Recreation (unanimous)**
 - Evaluate options during the budget process

- **Economic Development – Job Creation (unanimous)**
 - Encourage job creation by providing support and encouragement to the Economic Development Commission as they follow their strategic plan

Goals from the February 2nd meeting:

Commissioner Jones

Continuation of the 2010 Goals as adopted by the Board
 Stokes Reynolds Memorial Hospital
 Continuation of School Capital Needs
 Economic Development

Vice Chairman Inman

Stokes Reynolds Memorial Hospital
 Schools – Capital Projects
 Economic Development
 Land Use Plan
 Safety net for the most vulnerable citizens in the county

Commissioner Booth

Stokes Reynolds Memorial Hospital
 Maintain services to the citizens of Stokes County
 Balanced Budget for Fiscal Year 2011-12
 Economic Development

Commissioner Walker

Economic Development
 Community College/Early College
 School Construction
 Stokes Reynolds Memorial Hospital
 Promote buying local
 Parks and Recreation
 Plan for the county – “where the county is headed”
 Assistance for small farmers
 Long term – conversation about reducing taxes

Chairman Lankford

Creation of Jobs (Economic Development Commission)
 Keep Stokes County employment at the 2009-10 level
 Hiring freeze
 Travel freeze unless travel pertains to job training or mandatory new job certifications
 Maintaining a safe environment for county employees
 Completion of the Danbury Water System Project
 Obtain grants and special appropriations for capital projects
 Continue to review policies and procedures for clarity
 Keep the same tax rate this fiscal year
 Improve Fund Balance from 19% to 22%

Increase the tax revenue assessed value by \$5 million dollars
Economic Development – retain and promote growth for all current businesses/industries (at least to create 25 new jobs)
Completion of cell tower in the northern part of the county
Stokes Reynolds Memorial Hospital, Inc.

Stokes Reynolds Memorial Hospital – RFPs and Proposals

Chairman Lankford noted the following regarding RFP's sent out for Stokes Reynolds Memorial Hospital:

- County sent out RFPs to sell, lease, or convey Stokes Reynolds Memorial Hospital, Inc. the latter part of December 2010
- RFPs had to be submitted by 5:00 pm on January 31, 2011
- The County received the following proposals:
 - Pioneer Health Services
 - Novant - Forsyth Medical Center – a letter was sent which stated Novant would like to discuss option pertaining to Stokes Reynolds
- The County also received a letter from HealthTech Management Services which stated they would be interested in managing the present hospital as it is

Chairman Lankford requested from each member what direction they would like to follow regarding the proposals received.

The Board discussed what format the Board wished to use to review the proposals.

Commissioner Walker noted:

- The Board of Commissioners needs to meet individually with those who submitted a proposal
- Look at all proposals
- Disappointed that we did not receive a proposal from HMC
- Need to do the most we can with what we have to work with
- Need to move quickly to begin some dialogue with Pioneer and Novant
- Don't rule out anything at this point

Vice Chairman Inman noted:

- The Board of Commissioners needs to look at every potential option
- Do not want to rush the issue, but time is of the essence
- Needs to make sure every option is considered

Commissioner Booth noted:

- Agreed with Vice Chairman Inman
- Need to meet individually
- Need to get further information regarding each proposal

Commissioner Jones noted:

- Concur with Vice Chairman Inman
- Feel a real sense of urgency to get this matter under control

Chairman Lankford stated that he agreed with the Board's comments.

The Board discussed scheduling Special Meetings with Pioneer and Novant.

Commissioner Walker noted that he had spoken with representatives from Novant regarding a possible meeting with Chairman Lankford and himself on either February 22nd or February 28th.

The Board agreed to direct the Clerk to contact representatives from Novant and Pioneer for possible dates and bring back to the Board on February 11th.

The Board discussed items that needed to be included in the Agenda for the upcoming hospital's Board of Trustee meeting – software issue and HMC Management Agreement.

Commissioner Walker noted that there could be a possibility that if the proposals received don't work, there could a partnership between more than one provider.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Lankford entertained a motion to adjourn the Goals Planning Session.

Commissioner Booth moved to adjourn the Goals Planning Session. Commissioner Jones seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Darlene M. Bullins
Clerk to the Board

Ernest Lankford
Chairman