

President of Neurosciences/Orthopedics, Robin Voss, Forsyth Medical Center/Novant Health,
Dr. Scott Volger, Mountainview Medical and Chief Operating Officer Pam Tillman, Stokes
Reynolds Memorial Hospital, Inc.

Chairman Lankford expressed the Board's appreciation to those in attendance.

Chief Operating Officer/President Jeff Lindsay provided the following comments:

- Appreciate the time provided by the Board allowing Forsyth Medical/Novant to come to discuss the future of health care services in Stokes County
- Very honored to have so many people from Stokes County who look to Forsyth Medical to provide health care services
- Very great physicians in this area
- Relationship between Forsyth Medical and Stokes County is very important to Forsyth Medical Center
- Forsyth Medical Center's mission is to improve the health of the communities that we serve one person at a time
- Forsyth Medical Center is happy to discuss what are some ways that we can explore together as we go forward to meet the health care needs of Stokes County
- Did not come with any answers, came to hear what is important to the Board of Commissioners regarding health care across the county
- Came to see what we can do to work together to provide the best health care services available to the citizens of Stokes County
- Strengthen what is already here, make changes if needed, but all with the goal of doing right by the community, provide the highest level of health care that the residents of Stokes County expect and deserve

Vice President Robin Voss noted the following comments:

- Would like to clarify an article in the Stokes News which indicated that Forsyth Medical had responded to the RFP as it was
- Forsyth Medical declined to response to the RFP as it was, but submitted a letter as an invitation to begin discussions to help ensure that high quality critical and urgent care resources are accessible to all county citizens
- The work of Mountainview Medical and other things done within the community such as involvement with the school system, behavioral health, and work with the Health Alliance will continue to be provided no matter what comes from the discussion today
- Trying to bring the best health care to Stokes County
- Very proud to be a lifelong citizen of Stokes County
- Rural Health is very important to me
- Mountainview Medical helps us to figure out what is best for the community
- Have tried to be as supportive as possible to Stokes Reynolds Memorial Hospital and its staff to help them in this transition period

- Forsyth Medical Center and Novant are very committed to this community

Dr. Scott Vogler noted the following comments:

- Mountainview Medical provides primary care in Stokes County and northern Forsyth County
- Stokes County has seen a change in primary care in the last 2-5 years
- Who (physicians) is going to be providing health care to the citizens of Stokes County is going to be very important to the conversation today
- Recruiting physicians and staff is very important and very relevant to today's conversation

Chief Operating Officer Lindsay noted that one of things that Forsyth Medical wants to see achieved by the end of today's meeting, is to see if both parties can get to an agreement regarding working together as partners over the next 60-90 days to come up with different ideas, ways, or options to provide the best health care services available to the citizens of Stokes County.

Chief Operating Officer Lindsay stated that Forsyth Medical is willing to put a strong team together to try to find the best possible solution and would like to hear from the Board of Commissioners regarding their thoughts of what they want as leaders of the County.

Chairman Lankford noted the following:

- Stokes Reynolds Memorial Hospital, Inc. consisted of three entities: Stokes Reynolds Hospital, JRJones Center, and Long Term Skill Nursing Facility
- It is the Board's wishes to continue all of the three entities with whomever
- There must be a plan that can make it functional and work for the citizens and Stokes Reynolds Memorial Hospital
- Possibly a larger entity such as Forsyth Medical could help to make it work

Vice Chairman Inman noted the following:

- Appreciate Forsyth Medical for coming to the table for discussion
- Feels everyone at the table has the same goal – “the best health care possible for all the citizens of Stokes County”
- Stokes County is a very unique county with a mountain that divides the county
- Regardless of what side of the mountain that someone lives on, everyone needs health care services
- Commissioners have the charge to provide health care to all citizens of Stokes County, from the most populated area to the small rural area, everyone must have the same access to health care

- At the Public Hearing, everyone who spoke wanted health care services for all citizens in Stokes County
- The question is – “how do we make it happen”
- Must have urgent care in the northern part of the county
- Running a hospital is usually not the responsibility of a commissioner
- Ready to talk to those who have had a part in providing health care services to county residents and that certainly would be Forsyth Medical/Novant
- Reiterated that health care services must be provided for the whole county, not just the populated areas

Commissioner Jones noted the following:

- Echoed Vice Chairman Inman’s comments
- Citizens became very concerned when Baptist terminated the lease to operate the hospital
- Citizens were very concerned that the hospital was going to be closed leaving the area with no physicians and a loss of jobs
- No matter what happens today, would appreciate you making sure that you let anyone who ask know that the Board of Commissioners is not planning on closing the hospital
- The Board of Commissioners truly wants to do what is best for the community and citizens, but must look at the budgetary impact
- Do not want to sever ties with Forsyth Medical/Novant or anyone else who has a part in providing health care services to the County residents
- We need everyone to work together
- Want to make sure that everyone knows the Board of Commissioners is working for the citizens of the County

Commissioner Booth noted the following:

- Echoed Vice Chairman Inman’s comments and Commissioners Jones’ comments
- Very concerned about the number of jobs that could be lost, currently there are approximately 250+ employees at Stokes Reynolds Hospital facilities
- Would like to see someone take over the operation of the health care in Stokes County and grow it, bring better facilities and better health care services to Stokes County

Chief Operating Officer Lindsay spoke briefly regarding how he came to Forsyth Medical

Center and noted the following comments:

- Been Chief Operating Officer at Forsyth Medical Center approximately 7 months
- Wants to be a part of delivering the best health care services available to any community
- Novant will open a full service community hospital (46-bed inpatient facility, 4-Intensive Care Unit with 4 operating rooms, and ER) in Kernersville next week

- Value the work that Mountainview Medical and Robin Voss have done for Stokes County
- Want to find ways to meet the county needs
- Want to be a partner with Stokes County
- Must make it work from a business perspective, it must be sustainable
- Feels there are creative ways to make it work
- Possibly engage a consultant to ensure all options have been explored
- Forsyth Medical/Novant is open to working with the current management of the hospital, HMC, who is an expert in operating critical care access hospitals
- Currently Forsyth Medical/Novant doesn't have the expertise in operating critical care access hospital
- Reiterated the need to find out first, what the county wants and needs to provide health care services to the citizens

Commissioner Walker noted the following:

- Have had ongoing support from Forsyth Medical Center
- County is in a transition phase regarding Stokes Reynolds Memorial Hospital
- County has a challenge, "where do we go from here?"
- Must do what is reasonable, fair, and consistent
- Have been hoping there would be a new small critical access hospital possibly close to the Stokes Reynolds, but no farther than the Meadows area
- Seems building a new critical care access hospital has been put on hold at the present time
- Current operating management, HMC, felt that a new critical access hospital could work in Stokes County
- HMC has currently put that on hold and needs more time
- Time is limited with tax dollars currently being appropriated to the operation of the hospital
- Forsyth Medical has a very good presence in Stokes County
- Current trend is to put the services where the needs are
- Would like to see everyone work together to see what benefits the citizens of Stokes County, but do understand that Forsyth Medical has a business model that must be followed

Interim County Manager Rick Morris confirmed with Chief Operating Officer Lindsay that no matter what solution the Board of Commissioners decide to go with regarding health care needs, Forsyth Medical/Novant will support that solution.

Chief Operating Officer Lindsay stated whatever solution is decided on, Forsyth Medical would still be asking how to be involved and partner with Stokes County to continue to meet the needed health care services in Stokes County.

Vice President Robin Voss confirmed that Stokes Medical Park was not included in the RFP, was not a part of the CON and that Stokes County does not own the facility.

Chief Operating Officer Pam Tillman, Stokes Reynolds Memorial Hospital, noted that Stokes Reynolds leases space at Stokes Medical Park and provides physical therapy, radiology, and specialty clinics and that the equipment is owned by Stokes Reynolds Hospital.

Closed Session

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

- To prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to the law of this State or of the United States, or not considered a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1)
- To discuss matters related to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the County pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4)
- To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged pursuant to G.S. 143-311.11(a)(3)

Commissioner Booth moved to enter Closed Session for the following:

- To prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to the law of this State or of the United States, or not considered a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1)
- To discuss matters related to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the County pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4)
- To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged pursuant to G.S. 143-311.11(a)(3)

Commissioner Jones seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The Board re-entered the regular session of the March 4th Special Meeting.

Goals Planning Session

Chairman Lankford requested direction from the Board regarding the Goals Planning Session scheduled to follow the Special Meeting.

The Board discussed postponing the Goal Planning Session due to the Webinar scheduled at 1:00 pm and the Special Meeting lasting longer than anticipated.

The Board unanimously agreed to recess the Goals Planning Session to Tuesday, March 8th at 9:00 am.

Adjournment

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

Commissioner Jones moved to recess today's meeting until Tuesday, March 8th at 9:00 am. Commissioner Walker seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Darlene M. Bullins
Clerk to the Board

Ernest Lankford
Chairman