

Community College

- Take steps necessary to have a community college in Stokes County as soon as reasonably possible
- Completion of the second POD at the community college location by the end of calendar year 2011

Noted Discussion

- Commissioner Walker noted that at a recent Forsyth Tech. Advisory Meeting, Dr. Gary Green acknowledged that grant funding for Stokes County had been used in the past in Forsyth County for FTCC that could have been used in Stokes; but now that is not the case – Stokes County will be considered
- Continue to seek possible special appropriations from Legislature
- Need to add infrastructure by seeking grants
- Commissioner Walker noted the need to look at all options regarding water and sewer, possibly look at sewer connection with Walnut Cove, possibly use the well on the Meadows site, etc.
- Vice Chairman Inman noted the need to look at those businesses between Danbury and the Meadows area that are currently having water issues
- Chairman Lankford noted that the State Environmental Health and Stokes County Environmental Health both approved a system yesterday of 248 additional capacity which would be the smaller sewer system (approximately \$40,000 cost) along with the addition of 200 students at night

Stokes Reynolds Memorial Hospital

- Make a decision regarding Stokes Reynolds Memorial Hospital, Inc. by the end of 2011

Noted Discussion

- Would like to have the decision made as soon as possible, by the end of the fiscal year if possible

Survival

- Eliminate the survival goals adopted in 2010 as these are strategies that are used by the county manager in day to day operations and for preparing the fiscal year budget

Grants

- 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

- Working with the Economic Development Director

Noted Discussion

- Seek Rural Center Grants for infrastructure, economic development, etc.
- Commissioner Walker noted the need to make the goals as clear as possible in order for the manager to know exactly what this Board wants
- Commissioner Jones noted the need to watch grants that drive up operating costs and then have to be taken over by the county or eliminated
- Be selective when applying and accepting grants
- Current fiscal year budget has a line item that has funding for grant matches

Economic Development

- Continue to support and encourage the Economic Development Commission and Economic Director and the EDC Strategic Plan
- Infrastructure – Water and Sewer

Noted Discussion

- Need to look at camping ordinances with so many visitors coming into the county for camping
- Retain current businesses along with promoting growth
- Vice Chairman Inman noted that the EDC will be meeting on March 16th to discuss, revise, and adopt the 2011 Strategic Plan

Vice Chairman Inman wanted to add the following goals:

- Continue to provide essential services to the citizens of Stokes County in a difficult economy

The Board continued discussion regarding the Goals submitted by each Commissioner at the February 2, 2011 meeting.

Commissioner Booth suggested adding the following to the goals previously discussed by the Board:

- Continue to budget conservatively in a challenging economy

Commissioner Walker discussed the following ideas/thoughts:

- Looking for ways to continue to improve the predisposition toward harmony and working together in the county for the betterment of the county
- Looking for ways to get things accomplished being creative with limited resources
- Look for results and not excuses
- Continue controlling waste and excessive spending
- Take a good common sense, conservative approach regarding spending funding short term if a realistic saving can be produced

- Finalizing the activity started by the previous manager regarding activity between NCDOT and the county at the former prison camp location

Chairman Lankford noted that the road to be graded by NCDOT starting at the former prison camp location to the new community college site has already been done.

Commissioner Walker requested Interim Manager Morris to verify that the land being used for the road was deeded to Stokes County from NCDOT.

Vice Chairman Inman requested the interim manager to update the Board regarding the Brownfield Cleanup at the former prison camp.

Interim Manager Morris stated that he would update the Board on the requested issues.

Chairman Lankford discussed the following items from his goals' list that have not been added:

- Implementation of a hiring freeze
- Travel freeze unless travel pertains to job training or mandatory new job certifications
- Completion of Danbury Water System Project in 2011
- Keep same tax rate this year, will have to wait until the budget process regarding the upcoming tax rate
- Increasing the Fund Balance
- Need for a two year budget with Hold Harmless scheduled to sunset next fiscal year
- Promoting Broadband

Commissioner Walker requested discussion regarding the travel freeze mentioned by Chairman Lankford. Commissioner Walker stated that some departments had special situations like Economic Development where a part of the job is getting out and promoting Stokes County.

Interim Manager Morris noted that he had not denied any travel requested from the Economic Development Director.

Interim Manager Morris noted that he had not approved any travel since he came unless it was mandatory, for training, for certifications or normal duties of the job within the county.

Interim Manager Morris also noted that he was looking at each travel request on a case to case basis and trying to be very consistent.

Commissioner Jones noted that training must be mandatory or be for certifications.

Interim Manager Morris requested guidance from the Board regarding travel requests.

Interim Manager Morris noted the following travel requests that he had turned down:

- Tar Heel Delegate – Conference in Raleigh
- Veteran Services – Conference being paid by employee
- Conferences that were not mandated
- Conference that did not have needed training for continuing education credits

The Board discussed travel requests.

Commissioner Walker noted the need for the Economic Development Director to be able to be out in the county visiting businesses and promoting Stokes County.

Interim Manager Morris reiterated that he was looking at all travel on a case by case basis. Interim Manager Morris noted that he was extremely concerned about the upcoming fiscal year budget and that Finance Director Edwards noted that she feels this is probably going to be “as tough of budget as there has ever been”.

Commissioner Jones wants to look at everything in the budget trying to eliminate as much as possible before having to look at essential items and the need to be as frugal as possible.

The Board discussed the cell tower in the Northern part of the county that has not been completed. Interim Manager Morris noted that he would get an update from Planning Director David Sudderth regarding the proposed tower on Pringle Road in Lawsonville.

Commissioner Booth noted the new technology that is coming out that will not even need a cell tower.

Chairman Lankford requested the Interim Manager to investigate the status of the cell tower in the northern part of the county (Lawsonville area).

Interim Manager Morris requested information regarding the tax rate for the upcoming year.

The Board discussed the upcoming tax rate for fiscal year 2011-12 remaining the same if possible, but noted unknowns such as funding for the school construction projects, potential reduction of lottery funding, decrease in sales tax revenue, state budget shortfalls, etc.

Chairman Lankford requested the Clerk to summarize the goals discussed by the Board:

2011 Goals

***Schools**

- Continue the school construction projects in 2011

***Community College**

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***Stokes Reynolds Memorial Hospital**

- Make a decision regarding Stokes Reynolds Memorial Hospital, Inc. by the end of 2011

***Grants**

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 - Working with the Economic Development Director

***Economic Development**

- Continue to support and encourage the Economic Development Commission and Economic Director and the EDC Strategic Plan
- Infrastructure – Water and Sewer

***Parks and Recreation**

- Evaluate options during the budget process

***Continue** to provide essential services to the citizens of Stokes County

***Continue** to budget conservatively in a challenging economy

***Looking** for ways to continue to improve the predisposition toward harmony and working together in the county for the betterment of the county

***Completion** of the Danbury Water Project in 2011

***To continue** to improve the technology presence in Stokes County by extending Broadband to un-served/underserved areas

The Board agreed the following should be strategies instead of goals:

- Looking for ways to get things accomplished being creative with limited resources
- Look for results and not excuses

Chairman Lankford entertained a motion.

Commissioner Walker moved to approve the following 2011 Goals:

***Schools**

- Continue school construction projects in 2011

***Community College**

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***Economic Development**

- Continue to support and encourage the Economic Development Commission and Economic Director and the EDC Strategic Plan
- Infrastructure – Water and Sewer

***Parks and Recreation**

- **Evaluate options during the budget process**

***Continue** to provide essential services to the citizens of Stokes County

***Continue** to budget conservatively in a challenging economy

***Looking** for ways to continue to improve the predisposition toward harmony and working together in the county for the betterment of the county

***Completion** of the Danbury Water Project in 2011

***To continue** to improve the technology presence in Stokes County by extending Broadband to un-served/underserved areas

Vice Chairman Inman seconded the motion.

Commissioner Walker noted that he would like to see "User Friendly" added to the 2011 Goals. The Board did not have any issues with adding "User Friendly".

Chairman Lankford noted that Parks and Recreation should be deleted and evaluated during the budget processes. The Board did not have any issues with deleting Parks and Recreation.

Interim Manager Morris confirmed that all goals have equal priority.

The Board discussed the importance of "User Friendly Departments" being friendly, courteous, and professional.

Commissioner Jones noted that all employees need to remember that their paychecks are contributions by taxpayers.

Commissioner Walker amended his motion to add "User Friendly" and eliminate "Parks and Recreation". Vice Chairman Inman amended his second.

The Board unanimously agreed to amend the motion.

The amended motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

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

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

Darlene M. Bullins
Clerk to the Board

Ernest Lankford
Chairman