

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA )  
 )  
COUNTY OF STOKES )  
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OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS  
STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA  
MARCH 26, 2012

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met for a regular session in the Commissioners' Chambers of the Ronald Wilson Reagan Memorial Building (Administration Building) located in Danbury, North Carolina on Monday, March 26, 2012 at 6:00 pm 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:  
County Manager Richard D. Morris  
Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins  
Finance Director Julia Edwards  
Economic Development Director Alan Wood

Chairman Ernest Lankford called the meeting to order.

Vice Chairman Inman delivered the invocation.

Chairman Lankford presented the following "Thought for the Day":

- "It is an honour for a man to cease from strife: but every fool will be meddling"

#### **GENERAL GOVERNMENT-GOVERNING BODY-PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

#### **GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chairman Lankford entertained a motion to approve or amend the March 26, 2012 Agenda.

Commissioner Jones moved to approve the March 26<sup>th</sup> Agenda as submitted.

Commissioner Booth seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The following spoke during Public Comments:

### **Russ Slate**

PO Box 122

Lawsonville, NC 27022

Re: **Fracking**

Mr. Slate provided the following information regarding “fracking”:

- Speaking tonight on behalf of the Economic Development Commission
- Do not have a preference on the issue, just wanted to provide the BOCC with information about possible fracking in North Carolina
- Stokes County happens to be in one of the regions that has natural gas
- Wanted to hear all sides of the issue
- Attended a meeting presented by the gas and oil group which is 100% for fracking
- Attended another meeting in Sanford to hear the report presented by DENR
- DENR presented a study and then allowed individuals to speak
- Was able to hear the pros and cons from the individuals who spoke
- A portion of Stokes County is in the Dan River Basin
- Most of the study was done in Lee County where Sanford is located
- Geologists believe a 40-year supply of natural gas exists in and around Lee County
- DENR is still studying the issue
- DENR states that fracking can be done safely provided the right precautions are in place
- Governor Bev Perdue states that fracking can be done safely in North Carolina
- Triassic Basin is located in Stokes County where the natural gas is
- Fracking uses high pressure water and sand to crack underground shale rock to release the natural gas
- They usually go down approximately 4000 feet and then turn
- One comment made that was very interesting: “Probably will not be able to do the fracking due to fracking has brought down the price of natural gas so low, it would not be economical to continue”
- Questioned why drilling for oil would not drive down the price of oil like fracking has driven down the price of natural gas
- Some say drilling should not be done because of all the environmental risks
- Comments have been made that the US would have more oil than the countries that we buy oil from, if drilling was allowed
- Wanted to make the Board of Commissioners aware of the possibility of fracking in Stokes County
- Approximately 6,000 acres have already been leased in Lee County from 60 different landowners

- Many of the leases were bought for one dollar per acre
- The going price for acreage where there is gas currently is \$2,000 per acre
- Recommend citizens consult an attorney in land/mineral rights to make sure they are not being taken advantage of
- Reiterated Stokes County is in the region where fracking may occur
- Reiterated that the information given was only to inform the Board, not a preference
- Feel the citizens in Stokes County need to know about possible fracking in order to protect their land
- Appreciate the time given to speak

Commissioner Walker confirmed with Mr. Slate that the supply in the Lee/Chatham/Durham counties is enough natural gas for the entire country for 40 years.

Chairman Lankford expressed the Board's appreciation to Mr. Slate for providing the information regarding "fracking".

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**Minutes**

- Minutes of March 2, 2012
- Minutes of March 8, 2012
- Minutes of March 12, 2012

**Finance - Budget Amendment #86**

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #86.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
	<b>Elections</b>			
100.4170.000	Salaries & Wages	\$70,530.00	\$1,703.00	\$72,233.00
	<b>Sheriff's Department</b>			
100.4310.000	Salaries & Wages	\$1,358,956.00	\$4,880.00	\$1,363,836.00
	<b>Jail</b>			
100.4320.000	Salaries & Wages	\$523,666.00	\$1,325.00	\$524,991.00

	<b>Emergency Medical Services</b>			
100.4370.000	Salaries & Wages	\$1,088,233.00	\$17,843.00	\$1,106,076.00
	<b>Health Department</b>			
100.5100.000	Salaries & Wages	\$989,731.00	\$4,326.00	\$994,057.00
	<b>Social Services</b>			
100.5310.000	Salaries & Wages	\$1,733,639.00	\$4,391.00	\$1,738,030.00
	<b>Contingency</b>			
100.9910.100	Leave Contingency	<u>\$72,067.00</u>	<u>\$(34,468.00)</u>	<u>\$37,599.00</u>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,836,822.00</b>	<b>\$00.00</b>	<b>\$5,836,822.00</b>

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To transfer funds for pay off for employees' unused vacation, holiday and compensatory time that either resigned, retired, or were dismissed. Totals are: unused vacation time = \$17,131; unused holiday time = \$15,517; and unused compensatory time = \$1,820.00

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.

**Health Department - Budget Amendment #87**

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #87.

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

<b>Account Number</b>	<b>Account Description</b>	<b>Current Budgeted Amount</b>	<b>Increase (Decrease)</b>	<b>As Amended</b>
	<b>Health Department</b>			
100.5100.261	Office Supplies	<u>\$21,810.00</u>	<u>\$5,253.00</u>	<u>\$27,063.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$21,810.00</b>	<b>\$5,253.00</b>	<b>\$27,063.00</b>

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To appropriate and transfer additional General Aid-to-County State Funds. These funds will be used to purchase office supplies needed to complete accreditation such as: signs, privacy screens, locking clip boards, locking carts for transporting records from the records room to the front office, keyless entries to the front office, handicap access door for the front of the building, and other needed items to be in compliance.

This will result in a net increase of \$5,253.00 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.

<b>Account Number</b>	<b>Account Description</b>	<b>Current Budgeted Amount</b>	<b>Increase (Decrease)</b>	<b>As Amended</b>
100.3301.225	Health – General	\$83,660.00	\$5,253.00	\$88,913.00
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$83,660.00</b>	<b>\$5,253.00</b>	<b>\$88,913.00</b>

Commissioner Walker confirmed with Finance Director Julia Edwards that Budget Amendment #87 allocates funding to purchase needed items for the Health Department's upcoming accreditation.

**Tax Administration Report – February 2012**

**Present Use Value Late Applications**

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Present Use Value Late Applications (February 2012) at the March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting with a request for approval at the March 26<sup>th</sup> meeting:

<b>Taxpayer</b>	<b>Parcels</b>	<b>Acreage</b>	<b>Reason</b>
<b>Andrew J. Miller</b>	602000112718	2	Parcels have been in agricultural production for many years
<b>Ellen Phipps</b>	602000000895	15.87	
	602000006870	25.46	
	602000102942	13.18	
	602000118686	13.68	
	602000124089	10.39	
	202000223321	1.25	
<b>Kenneth W. Lawson</b>	600100097498	43.51	Parcel has been in agricultural production for many years
<b>Leonard R. Gammons</b>	508100603450	50.5	Parcel has been in agricultural production for many years
<b>Gary Bullins</b> <b>Nancy Bullins</b>	603000961292	14.6	Cattle Farm which has been owned by current owners since 1994
<b>Mary C. Martin</b>	597203325185	63	Land has been under a Forestry management plan since 2009

<b>Michael Rothstein</b>	696800266838	18.26	Land has been owned more than 15 yrs and farm requirements have been met
<b>Mike Taylor</b>	691203027189	29.4	Agricultural/Forestry Land -
<b>David Taylor</b>	690204914882	24.89	inherited by current owners and
<b>Donna Beck</b>	691203342564	27	has been owned by the family
	691201468304	5.26	for many years
	691202664537	57	

**Health Department – Public Health Nurse II – External Posting**

Manager Rick Morris presented a request from Health Director Scott Lenhart at the March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting to advertise externally for a Public Health Nurse II with a request for approval at the March 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Vice Chairman Inman moved to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted.

Commissioner Jones seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – INFORMATION AGENDA**

**Update – Manager and Board of Commissioners**

Chairman Lankford opened the floor for comments:

County Manager Rick Morris noted:

- Soil and Water Department will have an intern from Appalachian State University for a couple of months during the summer – no charge to the County; will move forward if no issues from the Board of Commissioners
- Working with Charles Anderson, Pilot View RC&D, to send a letter to all property owners along the proposed route to the Early College to inform each one of the proposed water and sewer project
  - Will inform citizens that if they have any questions, they can call or meet with me to discuss the issues/concerns
  - Want to make sure and keep the citizens informed

Commissioner Jones noted:

- Moores Springs Campground has recently opened, but the “powers that be” did not open the river access to the public/community
- Very unhappy that the river access is not available for public use
- A lot of people will be very upset when they learn the campground is open again, but not the river access

Vice Chairman Inman noted:

- Appreciate the information given by Russ Slate
- NCACC is lobbying on behalf of fracking in the North Carolina – a very strong economic development tool

Chairman Lankford noted:

- NCACC Insurance Pool recently met and approved no rate increases in worker's compensation and personal/liability insurances for the upcoming year

Commissioner Walker noted:

- Confirmed with Commissioner Jones that the river access mentioned was used for many years by the public when the campground was opened, but was closed along with the campground about two years ago due to an incident and lack of funding
- YVEDDI recently received their audit which was very positive and improved over the past year, BOCC will be receiving a copy

Commissioner Booth noted:

- Farmer Appreciation Day – Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:00 pm at North Stokes High School
- Environmental Awareness Day for all Stokes County fifth grade students will be held at Hanging Rock State Park on April 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> starting at 8:30 am (event sponsored by the Soil and Water Department)
- Soil and Water Awards Banquet will be held at Mountainview Community Center on May 17<sup>th</sup>

## **GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – DISCUSSION AGENDA**

### **Health Department – Public Health Supervisor – External Posting**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding a request from Health Director Scott Lenhart:

- Request to post externally the Public Health Nurse Supervisor position
- Advertised internally with no applications received
- Position became vacant as a result of the Public Health Nurse Supervisor's termination
- Budgeted position for Fiscal Year 2011-12

The Board discussed the vacancy with County Manager Rick Morris who had no issues posting the position externally.

The Board had no issues with the request and unanimously agreed to place the item on the April 10<sup>th</sup> Consent Agenda.

## **Proposed Agreement – Stokes County Movie Tour Book Agreement**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding a proposed agreement with CGI Communications, Inc. (CGI) for highlight videos of Stokes County:

- CGI shall provide highlight videos of Stokes County at no charge
- CGI shall provide a welcome video from Stokes County (1 minute in duration)
- CGI shall provide up to three additional videos to showcase various aspects of the county (providing a total of seven (1) minute county highlight videos)
- Videographer will come to Stokes County to film videos
- Final draft of the all videos are subject to the County's approval
- Stokes County will assume no cost or liability for this project
- Three year agreement
- The County will receive additional five minutes of video per month if approved and signed by April 13<sup>th</sup>
- Stokes County will provide a letter of introduction for the program on County letterhead
- Video Tour Book will be placed on the county website and can be used on other sites as well
- Stokes County will agree to give eLocalLink the right to use organization's name in connection with the preparation, production, and marketing of the program
- CGI will be contacting the local business community to offer participation in the program, as well as, an opportunity to learn more about CGI's innovative new digital media products
- CGI will sell ads that will be placed around the video on any site Stokes County places the videos
- If CGI does not sell any ads, there will still be no cost to Stokes County
- Iredell, Brunswick, and Wilkes counties have participated in this program
- Manager provided a preview of the videos from Iredell and Wilkes Counties
- Virtual tour can be whatever Stokes County wants
- County website currently does not have any videos
- CGI has a very large customer base across the United States
- CGI is located in New York
- Economic Development Director Alan Wood, Director of the Arts Eddy McGee, and myself did a conference call with CGI last week and were very impressed with the information received
- Directors Wood and McGee see no issues with the proposal and both feel it is a very good opportunity for the County
- Director Wood contacted some of the other counties and received no negative comments
- Director Wood was told that CGI does not pressure the businesses to take out an ad
- Agree with Directors Wood and McGee that this is a very good opportunity for Stokes County



- IT Director Dianna Fulp sees no issues with the videos being placed on the county's website
- County Attorney Powell had a couple of questions regarding businesses being on the perimeter of the county's website and the letter of introduction on the county's letterhead
- County Attorney Powell is awaiting return calls from the Iredell County Attorney and from the School of Government
- County Attorney Powell feels there will be no issues, but does want to check these two areas
- Request the item be placed on the April 10<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda
- Feel there will no issues with so many others already involved in the program
- If approved, will bring ideas back to the Board of Commissioners for approval

The Board discussed the issue with Manager Morris.

Commissioner Booth noted:

- Would want to know the answers received by the County Attorney before making a decision
- If no issues, feels it would be a good opportunity to let people know what Stokes County is like
- Stokes County has a lot to offer – Dan River, Hanging Rock State Park, Moores Spring, Historic Courthouse, etc.

Commissioner Walker noted:

- Agree with Commissioner Booth regarding the legal issues – need to know the answers before any decision is made
- Wonder if any county that uses it, puts it on another website, not the county's main website
- Sounds like a good idea if there are no legal issues
- Questioned Economic Development Director Wood if it could be used on the Economic Development/Tourism Websites

Director Wood noted that the Tourism Website has a YouTube site that the videos could be used on.

Manager Morris noted that the agreement states that the videos must be used on the County's main website, but can be used on other websites and YouTube.

Vice Chairman Inman noted:

- Feels it is a very good idea
- Virtual tour concept enables someone to sit in their living room in the middle of winter in another state and see what Stokes County has to offer
- No issue with the concept if all the legal issues are worked out – great economic tool to attract visitors as well as possible businesses to Stokes County

Commissioner Jones noted:

- Video gives a feel of the County along with the views that still photos can't
- Agrees with the concept if there are no legal issues

Commissioner Walker confirmed with Manager Morris that all businesses will have an opportunity to participate if so desired.

Commissioner Walker questioned if the County would have any control if an undesirable type business wanted to place an ad?

Vice Chairman Inman questioned what would the cost be for a business to run an ad?

Manager Morris reiterated that all video that goes on the website would be approved by the County.

Manager Morris noted that he would provide the answers to questions from Commissioner Walker and Vice Chairman Inman at the next meeting.

Chairman Lankford noted:

- School system had a similar project with businesses advertising on the school's website which did not turn out positive
- Would like Manager Morris to check the negative aspects of the project done by the school system
- See no issues if all the legal questions and concerns are answered

Manager Morris noted that if anyone questioned the project, you could always argue that in return for the advertising on the website, the county received high quality videos to promote Stokes County.

Chairman Lankford, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the April 10<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda.

## **GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – ACTION AGENDA**

### **Stokes County Sheriff's Department Providing Law Enforcement Services to the City of King**

Chairman Lankford stated that the City of King took action last Wednesday regarding the request for the Stokes County Sheriff's Department to provide law enforcement services to the City

of King; therefore, no action is needed by the Stokes County Board of Commissioners.

**Closed Session**

Chairman Lankford entertained a motion 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).
- 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 GS 143-318.11(a)(3).
- The Board unanimously entered into closed session 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(6).
- 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)

Commissioner Booth moved to enter into 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).
- 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 GS 143-318.11(a)(3).
- The Board unanimously entered into closed session 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(6).
- 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)

Commissioner Walker seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The Board reentered the regular session of the March 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Cooperative Extension**

Chairman Lankford entertained a motion.

Commissioner Jones moved to increase the percentage paid by Stokes County for the Cooperative Extension Director' salary and benefits to 50% County and 50% State effective with hiring of the new Director – April 2, 2012. Commissioner Booth seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**Adjournment**

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

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

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**Darlene M. Bullins**  
**Clerk to the Board**

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**Ernest Lankford**  
**Chairman**