

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF STOKES)
)

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS
STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT
DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA
APRIL 10, 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 Tuesday, April 10, 2012 at 1:30 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
Tax Administrator Jake Oakley

Chairman Ernest Lankford called the meeting to order.

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

- "A stone is heavy, and the sand weighty; but a fool's wrath is heavier than them both"

Commissioner Walker 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 in the Pledge of Allegiance.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Lankford entertained a motion to approve or amend the April 10, 2012 Agenda.

Commissioner Jones moved to approve the April 10th Agenda as submitted.

Vice Chairman Inman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING – ABANDONMENT OF THE RIGHT OF WAY FOR A PORTION OF SR#1915 – PIPE PLANT ROAD

Chairman Lankford called the Public Hearing for the abandonment of the right of way for a portion of SR#1915 – Pipe Plant Road to order.

There were no public comments.

Chairman Lankford closed the Public Hearing.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following spoke during Public Comments:

Ms. Ramona Timm

PO Box 573

Walnut Cove, NC 27052

Re: **Marriage Amendment**

Ms. Ramona Timm presented the following comments regarding the marriage amendment which is up for a vote in the May primary:

- For eight (8) years, North Carolina concerned citizens have wanted this to happen
- Citizens have lobbied state legislators
- Citizens have had rallies at the malls
- The time has come for the people of North Carolina to have an opportunity to vote their conscience and beliefs
- Would like for the Board to consider the Resolution in Support of the NC Marriage Protection Amendment
- Marriage is good for children, couples, and has been verified over the years that marriage is good for society and businesses
- There are several more reasons why the Amendment should be supported
- Amendment will put the State's historic definition of marriage into the Constitution where it will be protected from activist judges
- Amendment will preserve the heritage that can be passed down to our children
- Would request the BOCC support the proposed Resolution and act on the proposed Resolution before the May 8th primary
- Appreciate the Board's time and consideration

Ms. Timm presented the following sample resolution in support of the NC Marriage Protection Amendment along with a facts sheet: (Vote FOR Marriage NC – NC Marriage Protection Amendment)

Resolution in Support of the NC Marriage Protection Amendment

WHEREAS, marriage as the union of one man and one woman has served as the foundation of our society since before North Carolina was a state; and

WHEREAS, marriage, is not merely a private contract, but a social institution of great public value and concern, benefitting the married couple, their children, our economy, and the State as a whole; and

WHEREAS, attempts by politicians and a lawsuit to redefine marriage are currently underway in NC which might result in the re-definition of marriage to make it genderless; and

WHEREAS, the NC Marriage Protection Amendment simply allows voters to protect our state's current definition of marriage as the union of one man and one woman by putting it into the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina is the only state in the South that has not protected marriage in its constitution, even though every state that has allowed the people to vote, 30 in all, has protected marriage in the state constitutions as the union of one man and one woman; and

WHEREAS, the Marriage Protection Amendment reads, "marriage between one man and one woman is the only domestic legal union that shall be valid or recognized in this State. This section does not prohibit a private party from entering into contracts with another private party; nor does this section prohibit courts from adjudicating the rights of private parties pursuant to such contracts"; and

WHEREAS, the Stokes County Board of Commissioners encourages the people of Stokes County and North Carolina to voice their opinion by exercising their right to vote to protect marriage on May 8, 2012.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Stokes County Board of Commissioners endorses the Marriage Protection Amendment to the North Carolina Constitution which states that the only domestic legal union that is valid and recognized in North Carolina is marriage between one man and one woman; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Stokes County Board of Commissioners encourages voter participation on this important issue to be voted upon on May 8, 2012.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2012.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Minutes

- Minutes of March 26, 2012
- Minutes of March 28, 2012

Public Buildings - Budget Amendment #88

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #88.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
Public Buildings				
100.4190.352	Maint. & Repair-Buildings	\$43,500.00	\$(6,400.00)	\$37,100.00
100.4190.590	Improvements	<u>\$78,458.00</u>	<u>\$6,400.00</u>	<u>\$84,858.00</u>
	Totals	\$121,958.00	\$00.00	\$121,958.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To transfer funds to replace the roof at the Community Services Building.

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.

Debt Service - Budget Amendment #89

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #89.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
Debt Service				
100.9100.725	QSCB - Principal	\$00.00	\$956,995.00	\$956,995.00
100.9100.726	QZAB - Principal	\$00.00	\$158,824.00	\$158,824.00
100.9100.746	QSCB - Interest	\$81,345.00	\$509,786.00	\$591,131.00

100.9100.747	QZAB- Interest	<u>\$67,500.00</u>	<u>\$30,605.00</u>	<u>\$98,105.00</u>
	Totals	\$148,845.00	\$1,656,210.00	\$1,805,055.00
	Capital Projects Fund			
400.9810.100	Transfer to General Fund	<u>\$00.00</u>	<u>\$769,611.00</u>	<u>\$769,611.00</u>
	Totals	\$00.00	\$769,611.00	\$769,611.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To appropriate funds for the debt payment of the Qualified School Construction Bonds (QSCB) and Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZAB) for the construction of Poplar Springs Elementary School and the renovation/construction at Southeastern Stokes Middle School.

This will result in a net increase of \$2,425,821.00 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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
	General Fund			
100.3301.379	IRS-Interest Refund from QSCB and QZAB	\$00.00	\$609,029.00	\$609,029.00
100.9820.992	Transfer from School/F. Tech Fund	\$962,514.00	\$277,570.00	\$1,240,084.00
100.3982.961	Transfer from Capital Projects	<u>\$00.00</u>	<u>\$769,611.00</u>	<u>\$769,611.00</u>
	Totals	\$962,514.00	\$1,656,210.00	\$2,618,724.00
	Capital Projects Fund			
400.3814.000	Lottery Funds	<u>\$00.00</u>	<u>\$769,611.00</u>	<u>\$769,611.00</u>
	Totals	\$00.00	\$769,611.00	\$769,611.00

Jail - Budget Amendment #90

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #90.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
	Jail			
100.4320.510	Equipment	<u>\$00.00</u>	<u>\$6,200.00</u>	<u>\$6,200.00</u>
	Totals	\$00.00	\$6,200.00	\$6,200.00
	Capital Reserve Fund			
201.4320.012	Jail	\$7,077.00	\$(6,200.00)	\$877.00
201.9810.000	Transfer to General Fund	<u>\$24,400.00</u>	<u>\$6,200.00</u>	<u>\$30,600.00</u>
	Totals	\$31,477.00	\$00.00	\$31,477.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To transfer funds from Capital Reserve Fund for the purchase of a commercial stove. These funds were SCAAP Funds received in the prior year for Jail projects.

This will result in a net increase of \$6,200.00 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
100.3982.960	Transfer from Capital Reserve	<u>\$24,400.00</u>	<u>\$6,200.00</u>	<u>\$30,600.00</u>
	Totals	\$24,400.00	\$6,200.00	\$30,600.00

Emergency Medical Services - Budget Amendment #91

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #91.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
	Emergency Medical Services			
100.4370.351	Maint. & Repairs- Auto	<u>\$61,700.00</u>	<u>\$1,554.00</u>	<u>\$63,254.00</u>
	Totals	\$61,700.00	\$1,554.00	\$63,254.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To appropriate funds from insurance claim for damage to vehicle.

This will result in a net increase of \$1,554.00 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
100.3839.850	Insurance Claims	<u>\$4,635.00</u>	<u>\$1,554.00</u>	<u>\$6,189.00</u>
	Totals	\$4,635.00	\$1,554.00	\$6,189.00

Vehicle Maintenance Department - Budget Amendment #92

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #92.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
Vehicle Maintenance				
100.4250.511	Equipment-Non Capitalized	<u>\$900.00</u>	<u>\$400.00</u>	<u>\$1,300.00</u>
	Totals	\$900.00	\$400.00	\$1,300.00
Capital Reserve Fund				
201.4250.006	Vehicle Maintenance	\$102,547.00	\$(400.00)	\$102,147.00
201.9810.000	Transfer to General Fund	<u>\$30,600.00</u>	<u>\$400.00</u>	<u>\$31,000.00</u>
	Totals	\$133,147.00	\$00.00	\$133,147.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To transfer additional funds from Capital Reserve Fund for the purchase of a parts washer.

This will result in a net increase of \$400.00 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
100.3985.960	Transfer from Capital Reserve	<u>\$30,600.00</u>	<u>\$400.00</u>	<u>\$31,000.00</u>
	Totals	\$30,600.00	\$400.00	\$31,000.00

Health Department – Public Health Nurse Supervisor – External Posting

Manager Rick Morris presented a request from Health Director Scott Lenhart to externally post the Public Health Nurse Supervisor's position at the March 28th meeting with a request for approval at the April 10th meeting.

Proposed Proclamation – Child Abuse Prevention Month - April 2012

Clerk Darlene Bullins presented the following proposed Proclamation – Child Abuse Prevention Month – April 2012 for the Board's consideration and approval:

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Proclamation

WHEREAS, child maltreatment is a community problem and finding solutions depends on involvement among people throughout the community; and

WHEREAS, child maltreatment occurs when parents find themselves in stressful situations without community resources and unable to cope; and

WHEREAS, 735 children were reported as allegedly abused and neglected in Stokes County in 2011; and

WHEREAS, 141 children were found in need of services or substantiated as abused or neglected in Stokes County in 2011; and

WHEREAS, the majority of child maltreatment cases stem from situations and conditions that are preventable in an engaged and supportive community; and

WHEREAS, the effects of child maltreatment are felt by whole communities, and need to be addressed by the entire community;

WHEREAS, effective child maltreatment prevention programs succeed because of partnerships created among social service agencies, schools, faith communities, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community.

THEREFORE, we, the **Commissioners of Stokes County**, North Carolina do hereby proclaim **April** as **Child Abuse Prevention Month in Stokes County** and call upon all citizens, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities, and businesses to increase their participation in our efforts to prevent child maltreatment and strengthen the communities in which we live.

Adopted this 10th day of **April 2012**.

Chairman Ernest Lankford

Vice Chairman J. Leon Inman

Commissioner Jimmy Walker

Commissioner Ronda Jones

Commissioner James D. Booth

Attest:

Darlene M. Bullins
Clerk to the Board

Proposed Proclamation – National Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day – May 9, 2012

Clerk Darlene Bullins presented the following proposed Proclamation – National Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day – May 9, 2012 for the Board’s consideration and approval:

National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day

Proclamation

WHEREAS, addressing the complex mental health needs of children, youth, and families today is fundamental to the future of Stokes County; and

WHEREAS, the need for comprehensive, coordinated mental health services for children, youth, and families places upon our community a critical responsibility; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that a day should be set apart each year for the direction of our thoughts toward our children's mental health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, CenterPoint Human Services, through its unique approach to serving children and adolescents, is effectively caring for the mental health needs of children, youth, and families in our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the **Stokes County Board of Commissioners** do hereby proclaim **May 9, 2012**, to be **National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day** and urge our citizens and all agencies and organizations interested in meeting every child's mental health needs to unite on that day in the observance of such exercises as will acquaint the people of Stokes County with the fundamental necessity of a year-round program for children and youth with mental health needs and their families.

Adopted this 10th day of **April, 2012**.

Ernest Lankford – Chairman

J. Leon Inman – Vice Chairman

Jimmy Walker – Commissioner

Ronda Jones – Commissioner

James D. Booth – Commissioner

Attest:

Darlene M. Bullins – Clerk of the Board

Commissioner Booth moved to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted. Commissioner Jones seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – INFORMATION AGENDA

Comments – Board of Commissioners

Chairman Lankford opened the floor for comments from the Board of Commissioners and County Manager:

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following notification regarding a JAG Grant:

- The Stokes County Sheriff's Department intends to apply for Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Act (JAG) Funding which will be used for purchase of a full service fingerprint machine terminal. For further information, contact Captain Eric Cone at 336-593-2466.

Submitted by Sheriff Mike Marshall

Commissioner Booth noted the following:

- Reminder – Farmer Appreciation Dinner – Friday, April 13th – 6:00 to 9:00 pm at North Stokes High School
- Farmer Appreciation Dinner is totally funded by businesses in Stokes County – no County funding
- Good food and entertainment

Commissioner Walker noted the following:

- Appreciate the information provided by Ms. Timm regarding the marriage protection amendment
- Seeing several signs in Stokes County encouraging people to vote for the marriage protection amendment
- Encourage citizens to attend the Farmer Appreciation Dinner – great event

Chairman Lankford noted the following:

- Referenced information provided to the Board regarding the decision made by the King City Council to not annex the new Poplar Springs Elementary School
- Would like to have more information regarding the Council's decision to deny the request for annexation
- Sure this new elementary school is going to be an asset for the county and for the City of King - possibly bringing additional businesses to Stokes County

Vice Chairman Inman noted the following:

- Concur with Chairman Lankford regarding the decision made by the King City Council denying the annexation request

- Just a bit flabbergasted by the decision
- Agrees that the new elementary school will be a great addition to the City of King and the County
- Do not quite understand the comment by the City Council that the new elementary school is of no financial interest to the City for the annexation
- Anyone moving into the County and especially businesses always look at schools first before making a decision
- Would like further information and discussion regarding the Council's decision
- Would like to thank Ms. Timm and others who are actively working for Amendment One
- Feels it is extremely important to get the word out – several have asked whether to vote for or against Amendment One
- The fact that the marriage between one man and one woman is not protected in the State Constitution should be of grave concern to everyone
- Do not have any issues with adopting a Resolution supporting Amendment One

Commissioner Jones noted the following:

- Very concerned and disappointed with the decision made by the King City Council to deny the annexation request
- Spent this morning at Farm Animal Week at the fairgrounds in King – second graders visiting farm animals
- Piedmont Local Foods will have a booth at the Farmer Appreciation Dinner
- Stokes Future will have a booth at the Farmer Appreciation Dinner

Commissioner Booth noted the following:

- Expressed concerns regarding the City's decision to deny the annexation request
- New elementary school will replace 20+ old modular units
- Can't understand why the City of King feels there is no financial benefit
- Only benefit to the county would be to receive inside city limits water and sewer rates which saves county dollars that can be used inside the classroom to teach the children

Commissioner Walker noted the following:

- Also expressed concerns with the King City Council's vote
- Served on the City Council and as mayor, pretty sure my vote would have been different
- Always much to be gained when everyone works together
- Know how hard this Board worked for this new school
- Hope if the time wasn't right now for consideration of this request, there might be some further consideration in the near future
- Very important for everyone to work together

- Look at what needs to be done, that is what this Board did when they made the decision to fund the new elementary school in that area which will replace 25+ modular units and alleviate overcrowding in the other elementary schools
- The new elementary school will be an asset to the area
- Agree there should be further discussion by this Board

Introduction – Cooperative Extension Director Debbie Cox

County Manager Rick Morris noted the following:

- District Extension Director Jim Cowden will do the formal introduction for Debbie Cox – new Stokes County Cooperative Extension Director
- Would like to first recognize Surry County Extension Director Bryan Cave for doing an outstanding job filling in as the “Acting Director”
- Appreciate the support Director Cave provided Stokes County
- County has already received an email today noting the quick response from the new director
- Look forward to working with Debbie

Director Jim Cowden introduced Debbie Cox as the new Extension Director for Stokes

County. Director Cowden noted the following:

- Appreciate the Board’s support for Cooperative Extension
- Have known Debbie during most of my career in Cooperative Extension
- Debbie was the Family Consumer Science Agent for 13 years in Caldwell County along with two years in Catawba County
- Will be the Director as well as Family Consumer Science Agent in Stokes County
- Debbie has already done a remarkable job by cleaning 30 years of old materials from the offices during the first week
- Feels Debbie will be a good fit for Stokes County
- Would also like to thank Bryan Cave for filling in as director and doing an exceptional job
- Would like to also thank the staff as well as Bryan for keeping the Cooperative Extension Office running during the absence of the director

Debbie Cox noted the following:

- Thrilled to be in Stokes County
- Have already contacted Stokes News and will be putting regular articles in the paper
- Would like to thank Bryan Cave who welcomed me to Stokes County
- Looking forward to working with the people and staff of Stokes County

Chairman Lankford, on behalf of the Board, expressed appreciation to Director Cowden and Director Cave for their support given to Stokes County.

The Board welcomed Director Cox to Stokes County.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – DISCUSSION AGENDA

Tax Administration Report – March 2012

Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following informational data for the March report:

Fiscal Year 2011-12	Budget Amt	Collected Amt	Over Budget	Under Budget
County Regular & Motor Vehicles	\$(20,825,493.00)	\$20,086,820.80		\$738,672.20
New Schools F-Tech Fund	\$479,154.00	\$1,300,587.77	\$821,433.27	
Prior Taxes 1993-2010 Tax Years County Regular & Motor Vehicles	\$600,000.00	\$625,541.60	\$25,541.60	

EMS Collections

Total Collected
(03-01-12/03-31-12) \$19,285.09

Total Collected
(07-01-11/06-30-12) \$140,358.39

Delinquent accounts received from EMS - 181 accounts = \$70,286.43 on 03-20-12 and 177 accounts -\$73,383.76 on 03-27-12

Personal Property Discovery Report Audit Dates	# of Accts	Total Value	Taxes Due
03-01-12/03-31-12	9	\$171,947.00	\$1,613.49
07-01-11/06-30-12	358	\$3,195,626.00	\$28,832.58
Business Personal Property Discovery Report Audit Dates	# of Accts	Total Value	Taxes Due
03-01-12/03-31-12	0	\$00.00	\$00.00
07-01-11/06-30-12	7	\$117,192.00	\$1,323.42

Motor Vehicle Release Report Audit Dates	Accounts	Total Value
03-01-12/03-31-12	47	\$1,715.80

Motor Vehicle Refund Report Audit Dates	Accounts	Total Value
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03-01-12/03-31-12	10	\$323.09
Number billed for		
March 2012	3438	

Garnishment Totals

Month	Total Accounts	Original Levy Amt	Collected Amt
03-01-12/03-31-12	109	\$15,403.58	\$34,037.40
F/Year 2011-12			
(7-1-11/6-30-12)	1366	\$356,541.23	\$303,034.14

Interstate Collection Report	Collection	Total Collected
Total Collected for March 2012		
Cumulative Total Collected	NC Debt Setoff	\$110,675.85
Cumulative Total Collected (to date)	Motor Vehicles	\$77,667.23
Cumulative Total Collected (to date)	Property Taxes	\$18,462.33
Cumulative Total Collected (to date)	EMS	<u>\$101,517.18</u>
Cumulative Total Collected (to date)	All Categories	\$197,646.74

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Real and Personal Property Releases

(March 2012) which are less than \$100 for the Board's review:

Releases (Real and Personal Property)

Less than \$100—March 2012-Per NCGS 105-381 (b)

Russell Lynch	11A598700934828	\$49.35
Nancy Christopher	11A156026502.06	\$24.87
	11A156026502.06.1	\$28.26
Hubert Price	97A1997000847	\$6.84
Todd & Anita Palmer	99A1999027298	\$6.94
Robert Lee Searcy	00A2000035339	\$7.79
Cheryl A Simmons	99A1999026637	\$11.23
Robert Kenneth Lee	95A1995000330	\$42.96
Theodore R Willard Jr.	99A1999011374	\$1.56
Nina Barber	99A1999026994	\$1.67
Betty Nance Lester	96A19963000090	<u>\$44.55</u>
	Total Amount	\$226.02

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Real and Personal Property Refunds

(March 2012) which are less than \$100 for the Board's review:

Refunds (Real and Personal Property)

Less than \$100—March 2012-Per NCGS 105-381 (b)

Russell Lynch	10A598700934828	\$46.55
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	09A598700934828	\$46.55
	08A598700934828	\$46.55
	07A598700934828	\$46.55
Tony Ray Dixon Heirs	11A5989.03	\$32.98
	10A5989.03	\$31.11
	09A5989.03	\$31.06
Thomas Lawson	11A56253.06	\$46.14
	10A56253.06	\$43.96
	09A56253.06	\$54.27
	08A56253.06	<u>\$62.54</u>
	Total Amount	\$488.26

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Real and Personal Property Releases (March 2012) which are more than \$100 for the Board's consideration:

Releases (Real and Personal Property)
More than \$100–March 2012–Per NCGS 105-381 (b)

Catherine Terroni	99A1999000020	\$114.85	REL Per NCGS 105-378A
Rickey Lee Martin	95A1995000112	<u>\$110.55</u>	REL Per NCGS 105-378.A
	Total Amount	\$225.40	

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

Taxpayer	Parcels	Acreage	Reason
Jon Lagergren	605100269388	24.55	Sheep Farm – owned the land for 12 years
Rachel Lagergren			
Daniel Barham	698402984884	36.50	Land has been under a Forestry Management Plan since June 2011

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Write Offs for the Board's consideration:

Account	Bill #	Amount	Reason
54860	99A1999023903	\$275.12	DWHM (leasehold) no longer
	00A2000025493	\$324.96	owns parcel -ownership transferred
55824	97A1997000883	\$230.66	DWHM (leasehold) no longer
			owns parcel -ownership transferred

15389	07A694700168298	\$7.97	Advertising fee balance
155922483	04A2004054211	\$178.06	SWMH repossessed
14703	96A1996000035	\$38.63	Per Property -Owner deceased
	95A1995000200	\$38.13	
155892912	00A2000034694	\$130.46	SWMH-Ownership transferred
	99A1999055011	\$140.85	
156022601	10A690404908242	\$3.73	Advertising fee balance
54246	97A1997000781	\$4.98	Over 10 yrs old (NCGS 105-378)
8866	96A1996000373	\$3.30	Over 10 yrs old (NCGS 105-378)
156012453	08A607000995012	\$1.96	Advertising fee balance
69864	99A1999029961	\$2.47	Advertising fee balance
73542	10A698900731004	\$2.38	Advertising fee balance
155888656	04A2004001912	\$357.36	DWMH (Leasehold) Repossessed
	03A2003031038	\$357.36	
	02A2002001879	\$327.87	
	01A2001001792	\$326.86	
155892585	10A697500639443	\$1.89	Advertising fee balance
155928848	10A695600828945	\$4.64	Fee balance
1916	94A1994000920	\$246.10	Over 10 yrs old (NCGS 105-378)
30742	95A1995000462	\$86.73	Over 10 yrs old (NCGS 105-378)
15589707	02A2002025446	\$122.90	SWMH-Ownership transferred
	01A2001024274	\$133.00	
	00A5000035364	\$139.86	

Tax Administrator Oakley noted the following:

- Currently at 96.5% collection rate for the F/Y 2011-12 budgeted revenue
- If you take away the discount given for early payments in August and the reduction in the Duke Power rate, would be at 98.76% collection rate

- Working diligently on delinquent accounts, will be happy to talk to anyone to set up payment arrangements if unable to pay the entire amount

Tax Administrator Oakley presented the following information regarding the Discount for Early Payments of Annual Tax Bills:

- For many years, the County has offered a 2% discount for payment of annual tax bills (Real and Personal) prior to September 1st of each year per NCGS 105-360(c)
- Unless the BOCC chooses to alter the current policy, the Tax Department's annual tax bills will continue to reflect the offering of the early payment discount
- The BOCC will not need to take any action to continue the existing policy
- If any amendment is made to the existing resolution, it must be approved by the Governing Body by May 1st of each year in order for the new and revised schedules to be submitted to the Property Tax Division for approval and then published once in a newspaper
- Approximately \$277,000 was discounted in August 2011
- If taxes are paid by escrow, they must make the payment in August to get the early discount
- If there was no discount, escrow would wait until January 5th to pay taxes which is about \$5-\$6 million
- Discount very important to the Senior population
- Last August, the Tax Department took in over \$9 million
- Recommend keeping the 2% discount as is

The Board discussed the continuation of the 2% discount for early payment and had no issues.

Commissioner Jones questioned if the number of write offs would be consistent each year, or could they be less next year.

Tax Administrator Oakley responded:

- Could be larger due to the state taking over the collection of vehicle taxes
- Will probably increase over the next 2-3 years with the State taking over the collections July 2013
- Working hard to try to clean up the motor vehicle bills before July 2013
- Working hard on the out-of-state property owners

Chairman Lankford noted the reduction in the delinquent accounts since Tax Administrator Oakley was named as the Tax Administrator.

Tax Administrator Oakley noted that the Tax Department would do everything possible to try to collect the bills before bringing them to the Board for write offs.

Tax Administrator Oakley also noted that the department had already met budget for Prior Taxes for this fiscal year.

Chairman Lankford, on behalf of the Board, expressed appreciation to Tax Administrator Oakley and staff for their dedication and hard work to collect the taxes.

Tax Administrator Oakley commended the hard work of the entire Tax Department staff and citizens who paid their taxes

Chairman Lankford, with full consensus of the Board, directed Tax Administrator Jake Oakley to proceed with the current 2% discount for August 2012

Tax Administrator Oakley recommended the following be placed on the April 23rd Consent Agenda for approval:

- Real and Personal Releases more than \$100.00
- Present-Use Value Late Applications
- Write off Requests

Chairman Lankford, with consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the following on the April 23rd Consent Agenda:

- Real and Personal Releases more than \$100.00
- Present-Use Value Late Applications
- Write off Requests

Proposed Order – Abandonment of the Right of Way for a Portion of SR#1915 – Pipe Plant Road

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following proposed Order for the abandonment of the right of way for a portion of SR#1915 – Pipe Plant Road:

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF STOKES)

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS
STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT
DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA

April 10, 2012

ORDER

CLOSING A PORTION OF SR #1915 – PIPE PLANT ROAD

The Stokes County Board of County Commissioners, after notice and public hearing pursuant to N.C.G.S. 153A-241, makes the following findings and conclusions:

1. The State of North Carolina abandoned the road outlined in purple on the attached map of SR#1915- Pipe Plant Road and will not maintain that portion of the road;
2. The requesting property owner is the sole property owner along the portion of the road to be closed;
3. Closing the public road is not contrary to the public interest and no individual owning property in the vicinity of the road would be deprived of reasonable means of ingress and egress to this property;
4. The Board of County Commissioners concludes that closing of the portion of the road pursuant to N.C.G.S. 153A-241 is in the best interests of the sole property owner and the citizens of the County of Stokes.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Stokes that since the State will not maintain the abandoned portion of SR#1915 – Pipe Plant Road, the abandoned portion of SR#1915 – Pipe Plant Road be closed pursuant to N.C.G.S. 153A-241.

CERTIFICATE

The foregoing **Order** was duly adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes at a meeting on the 23rd day of **April, 2012**, and appears on the minutes of the said Commission. A certified copy of the order shall be filed in the office of the Register of Deeds of the County.

WITNESS, my hand and official seal this the 23rd day of **April, 2012**.

Ernest Lankford - Chairman

J. Leon Inman - Vice Chairman

Jimmy Walker - Commissioner

Ronda Jones - Commissioner

James D. Booth - Commissioner

Attest:

Darlene M. Bullins – Clerk to the Board

Manager Morris noted the following regarding the proposed Order:

- All statutory requirements have been met

- Proposed Order is the last step in the process
- Recommend the proposed Order be placed on the April 23rd Action Agenda for approval

The Board had no issues with the proposed Order.

Chairman Lankford, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the proposed Order on the April 23rd Action Agenda.

Scheduling Budget Work Sessions for Fiscal Year 2012-13

Chairman Ernest Lankford opened the floor for possible dates for the upcoming Budget Work Sessions/Public Hearing regarding the upcoming Fiscal Year 2012-13.

The Board discussed possible dates.

County Manager Rick Morris noted that the proposed budget will be presented to the Board at the Tuesday, May 29th meeting.

The Board unanimously agreed on the following dates:

- Thursday, May 31, 2012 – Work Session - starting at 10:00 am
- Tuesday, June 5, 2012 – Work Session - starting at 3:00 pm
- Thursday, June 7, 2012 – Public Hearing - starting at 7:00 pm
- Tuesday, June 12, 2012 – Work Session – starting at 10:00 am
- Friday, June 15, 2012 – Work Session – starting at 10:00 am
- Tuesday, June 19, 2012 – Work Session –starting at 10:00 am

Chairman Lankford directed the Manager to contact the school superintendent to inquire if the Board of Education would like a joint meeting on June 15th.

The Board agreed to hold the work sessions in third floor conference room.

Chairman Lankford, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to post and advertise the work sessions and public hearing.

Proposed License Agreement with Property Owners Associated with Sauratown Trails

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following proposed license agreement with property owners associated with Sauratown Trails:

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

LICENSE AGREEMENT

COUNTY OF STOKES

THIS LICENSE AGREEMENT ("Agreement"), made and entered into as of the last date set forth in the notary acknowledgments below, by and between _____, hereinafter referred to as "Licensor", and the County of Stokes, a body politic and corporate, hereinafter referred to as "Licensee";

WITNESSETH:

THAT WHEREAS Licensee maintains hiking and horseback riding trails located in Stokes County for the use by the general public;

AND WHEREAS, Licensor is the owner of a tract of land located in Stokes County and identified by the Stokes County Tax Office as PID No. _____;

AND WHEREAS, for many years, the public has used portions of the property of Licensor for hiking and horseback riding purposes, all of which said use has been by and with the permission and consent of Licensor;

AND WHEREAS, Licensor and Licensee desire to enter into an agreement to confirm the consent and permission of the Licensor for the public to continue to use the above-described property of Licensor for hiking and horseback riding purposes and the conditions attached to said use;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and premises contained herein, the parties do hereby agree as follows:

1. That Licensor grants to Licensee a license for Licensee, its employees, agents and visitors, to use the property of the Licensor identified as PID No. _____ for hiking and horseback riding purposes along the existing trail located on said property. This license shall exist and continue beginning with the date of this Agreement from month to month until either party gives the other party thirty (30) days written notice of termination.

2. That Licensee, through a designated agent, shall have the right to maintain and repair said trail and erect informational or safety signs upon the premises which are subject to this Agreement. Licensee currently contracts with Sauratown Trails Association as its designated agent; however, Licensee reserves the right to change its designated agent at any time during the existence of this Agreement.

3. It is specifically understood that Licensor makes no warranty or representation that the premises are safe or otherwise suitable for the purpose for which they are permitted to be used under the terms of this Agreement.

4. The Licensor's liability under this Agreement is limited to that specified in N.C.G.S. 113A-95, which limits liability to the same duty of care owed to a trespasser. Licensee carries insurance that would cover a claim for personal injury on the trail up to the level of care owed to a trespasser. Additionally, should Licensor experience any property damage caused by a user of the trail, Licensee would pay up to \$1,000.00 toward the deductible amount on Licensor's property insurance coverage.

5. This Agreement confirms the use by Licensee, its employees, agents and visitors to the above-described premises of Licensor is by the permission and consent of Licensor; nothing in this Agreement shall be construed or interpreted as the granting of a permanent easement upon the property of Licensor.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, this Agreement has been executed by the parties hereto as of the dates set forth in the notary acknowledgements below:

LICENSOR:

_____(SEAL)

_____(SEAL)

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF STOKES

I, _____, a Notary Public of the County and State aforesaid,
certify that _____ personally appeared before me this day
and acknowledged the due execution of the foregoing License Agreement.

WITNESS my hand and official seal, this _____ day of _____, 2012.
(NOTARY SEAL)

NOTARY PUBLIC

My commission expires: _____

LICENSEE:

(SEAL)

COUNTY OF STOKES

BY: _____

CHAIRMAN OF THE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:

CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

COUNTY ATTORNEY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF STOKES

I, _____, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, do
hereby certify that _____ personally came before me this day and acknowledged that
he is the Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Stokes, a body politic and corporate organized
and existing under the laws of the State of North Carolina and acting through its Board of Commissioners, by authority
duly given and as the act of said County, the foregoing License Agreement was signed in its name by its Chairman of
the Board of County Commissioners, sealed with its seal and attested by himself as its Clerk.

WITNESS my hand and notarial seal, this _____ day of _____, 2012.

NOTARY PUBLIC

My commission expires: _____

County Manager Rick Morris noted the following:

- Been diligently working to try to get some resolution for the Sauratown Trails
- Trail Association is working with Attorney Ty Browder and also working with the state to see if there is some standard language can be developed from the Attorney General's office
- Proposed license agreement has been approved by County Attorney Edward Powell and Attorney Ty Browder
- Proposed license would be a temporary arrangement until hopefully there is some language worked out in Raleigh
- Attorney Browder incorporated item #2 regarding the maintenance of the trail
- If no issues with the proposed agreement, recommend placing the item on the Action Agenda for the April 23rd

The Board had no issues with the proposed license.

Chairman Lankford, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the proposed license agreement on the April 23rd Action Agenda.

Appointments – Northwestern Regional Library Board – Board of Trustees

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following appointment:

- Robert Allen is the current Northwestern Regional Library Board of Trustees representative from the Walnut Cove Library Board
- Mr. Allen will have completed one full term on the Regional Board on June 30, 2012
- Walnut Cove Library Board recommends Mr. Allen to serve a second term
- Will not advertise the appointment due to the member must be from the Walnut Cove Library Board

Commissioner Booth nominated Robert Allen to serve on the Northwestern Regional Library Board of Trustees – Walnut Cove Representative.

Chairman Lankford entertained a motion to close the nominations.

Vice Chairman Inman moved to close the nominations. Commissioner Booth seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Lankford, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the appointment on the April 23rd Action Agenda.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – ACTION AGENDA

Proposed Agreement – Stokes County Movie Tour Book

County Manager Rick Morris presented additional information regarding the proposed agreement – Stokes County Movie Tour Book:

- Presented and discussed at the March 26th meeting
- In response to Commissioner Walker's question about undesirable companies being placed on the county's website: Policy of CGI Communications/e-Local Link is to not solicit or otherwise provide sponsorship opportunities to any business or organization that may be perceived as offensive
- These types of establishments include, but are not limited to, adult bookstores/entertainment, pawnshops, and tattoo/piercing parlors
- The participating community may advise CGI of specific businesses to be disallowed as sponsors
- In response to Vice Chairman Inman's question regarding the cost of the advertising: generally from \$1 to \$6,000 per year based on what is provided by CGI (several options)
- County Attorney Ed Powell approved the proposed agreement
- ED Director Alan Wood and Director of the Arts Eddy McGee made a few calls and received positive comments, no negative

Commissioner Jones confirmed with Manager Morris that the three year contract would automatically renew unless notice is received from either party.

Commissioner Jones noted the need to make sure the contract is reviewed before the term ends.

The Board had no further issues with the proposed agreement.

Chairman Lankford entertained a motion.

Commissioner Booth moved to approve the proposed agreement with CGI.

Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.

Chairman Lankford confirmed with Manager Morris that this would be offered to only businesses in Stokes County.

Commissioner Walker confirmed with Manager Morris that it would be his recommendation to enter into the agreement.

The motion carried unanimously.

Proposed Resolution – In Support of the NC Marriage Protection Amendment

Chairman Lankford questioned whether the Board would like the proposed Resolution In Support of the NC Marriage Protection on the April 23rd Action Agenda?

The Board unanimously agreed to place a proposed Resolution in Support of the NC Marriage Protection on the April 23rd Action Agenda.

City of King – Annexation

The Board discussed placing the King City Council's decision regarding the annexation of Poplar Springs Elementary School on the next agenda.

Chairman Lankford suggested having the county manager look into the issues before placing the item on an Agenda.

The Board had no issues with allowing Manager Morris to get further information regarding the issue.

League of Government Meeting

Clerk Darlene Bullins noted the upcoming League of Governments meeting:

- Thursday, April 19th – Town of Danbury, 6:30 pm – Artists Way Creations

Volunteer Reception

Clerk Darlene Bullins noted the upcoming Volunteer Reception:

- Tuesday, April 17th – South Stokes High School – 5:30 pm

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 Booth seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Darlene M. Bullins
Clerk to the Board

Ernest Lankford
Chairman