

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  
JUNE 7, 2012

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met for a Public Hearing regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2012-13 County Budget in Courtroom "A" of the Governmental Center located in Danbury, North Carolina on Thursday, June 7, 2012 at 7:00 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

Chairman Ernest Lankford called the Public Hearing 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 in the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **Public Hearing – Proposed Fiscal Year 2012-13 Budget**

The following spoke regarding the propose Fiscal Year 2012-13 Budget:

**Lonnie Bowman**  
1145 Power House Road  
Walnut Cove, NC 27052  
Re: **CenterPoint**

June 7, 2012 – Public Hearing

[1]

Mr. Bowman expressed the following concerns:

- I usually try to put myself in the place of the people that I am talking to and say what would I do if I were in their job?
- There is one statistic that I couldn't sleep very well if I did not try to do something about it and that is the suicide rate in Stokes County
- We cannot continue year after year, decade after decade, to have the highest suicide rate in the state without asking ourselves, why?
- Why? There has to be an answer
- I am going to tell you what I think part of the answer is – CenterPoint
- The other statistic that would bother me very greatly is that of the 50 states in this great Nation and all the counties in those states, Stokes County receives the least amount of Federal dollars than any of the counties in all the 50 states, and has for several years
- The reason is that we have not ask
- There is a lot of college students who have been trained in grant writing that are looking for a job
- Would advise you to hire one of these bright, young grant writers and put he or she under the Economic Development Office
- Pay them enough to pay on their student loan and to be able to eat and live, but put them on a percentage basis; for example, if he or she brings in a \$100,000 grant, they would get 10% of it
- What have you lost?
- Guaranteed Washington gave millions of dollars away today and some of that could have come to Stokes County
- For 32 years, CenterPoint has been a totally useless organization
- This performance agreement expires pretty soon and no one is paying any attention to it
- The Sheriff has never signed off on the agreement
- If he is as smart as I think he is, he wouldn't touch it with a ten foot pole
- The agreement puts all the responsibility on the Sheriff's Department and all the liability on the County
- On page 4 (c) – talks about limiting the people who go into voluntary treatment and limits emergency room visits
- No one on the Board realizes the “animals” that our Sheriff and Deputies are picking up
- These people can buy the ingredients at the local store that they can take home and make something that makes LSD look like baby aspirin
- Some of these people are totally psychotic that the Sheriff's office must deal with
- They are totally out of their mind
- Know of a personal story of someone who was arrested for drugs and placed in the Stokes County Jail for 2.5 months and didn't know who he was, didn't know his wife or his children
- CenterPoint did not do anything
- He was doing things that suggested he needed a psychiatrist, did he ever see one while in Jail? No
- Was finally sent to Butner by the Judge and is now getting some needed help

- CenterPoint has not done their job
- CenterPoint has not done what their agreement says
- Suggest you take the money you are paying CenterPoint and give it to the people who are doing the job such as the Sheriff's Department
- The Sheriff's Department knows what to do
- CenterPoint is not doing the job
- Appreciate you listening to me
- These people who are psychotic are very dangerous, they can kill someone with a shoelace
- CenterPoint was supposed to train a response team, that hasn't been done
- Look at the suicide rate
- I know the budget is pretty well locked in, but you have grounds to go a different direction
- We rode this dead horse for 32 years and it hasn't gotten us anything
- There are no mental health offices in King, Walnut Cove, or Danbury
- Where is their presence in Stokes County? They have no presence in Stokes County.
- Have college credit hours in substance abuse treatment and worked for Step One for seven years, know a little something about mental illness
- Appreciate the Board listening to my comments

The Board expressed their appreciation to Mr. Bowman for his comments and stated that they would be following up on his comments.

### **Adjournment**

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

Commissioner Booth 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