

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA )  
 )  
COUNTY OF STOKES )  
 )

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS  
STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA  
JANUARY 14, 2013

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met for regular session in the Commissioners' Chambers of the Ronald Wilson Reagan Memorial Building (Administration Building) located in Danbury, North Carolina on Monday, January 14, 2013 at 1:30 pm with the following members present:

Chairman Ernest Lankford  
Vice Chairman James D. Booth  
Commissioner J. Leon Inman  
Commissioner Jimmy Walker  
Commissioner Ronda Jones

County Personnel in Attendance:  
County Manager Richard D. Morris  
Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins  
County Attorney Edward Powell  
Finance Director Julia Edwards  
DSS Director Kristy Preston  
Jail Captain Eric Cone, Sheriff's Department  
Tax Administrator Jake Oakley

Chairman Ernest Lankford called the meeting to order.

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

- "Whatever you do, do it enthusiastically, as something done for the Lord and not for men"

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 January 14, 2013 Agenda.

Commissioner Jones moved to approve the January 14<sup>th</sup> Agenda as presented.

Vice Chairman Booth seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

## **PUBLIC HEARING – NCDOT – Secondary Construction Program for F/Y 2012-2013**

Chairman Lankford called the Public Hearing for the NCDOT - Secondary Construction Program for F/Y 2012-2013 to order.

There were no public comments.

Chairman Lankford closed the Public Hearing.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chairman Lankford noted that the Board of Commissioners will not respond to Public Comments, but at some point, may place an item of concern on an Agenda.

The following spoke during Public Comments:

### **Russel Slate**

1871 North Stokes School Road  
Lawsonville, NC 27022

**RE: Economic Development Commission (EDC)**

Mr. Slate presented the following comments:

- Six years ago, was asked to be a part of an advisory group known as the Stokes County Economic Development Commission Board
- This was to be an advisory board to the Board of Commissioners as to economic opportunities that may help the prosperity of our county
- This Board consists of seven members – 6 county citizens and one county commissioner
- I, as a member of this Board was appointed, not elected nor am I paid
- This Wednesday, January 16, 2013 will be my last meeting as a member of this Board
- I was not to be up for consideration for reappointment for another year
- At this time, I feel my time as a volunteer can be better served in other areas
- I thank you for the opportunity you have given me to serve these six years

- Me serving has not always been by unanimous consent, but as they said, it only takes three of the five to be approved
- Since I am leaving early, I feel I owe an explanation as to why
- I now speak for Russel Slate and him alone
- I feel we are no longer an advisory board, but are now a listening board
- Our county, since I came on, has hired an Economic Development Director and this Board has become more of a director's board than a commissioners' board
- I am not saying that this is a bad thing, just a fact
- The Board is a board that is open to the public and is to follow Robert Rules of Order
- Anyone can attend our meetings, just as I can attend yours
- But the time that I can speak my piece to this Board is during Public Comments
- I can't take part in your discussion or sit at your table for I am not a member of your Board
- The EDC Board has people who are not members that take part in our meeting and also sit at our table
- This adds to the time of our meeting and disrupts our Agenda
- As I said before, I speak for Russel and no other member
- Thank you for your time and the opportunity you have given me to some way serve our wonderful county

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

### **Minutes**

- Minutes of December 26, 2012 – Regular Meeting

### **Social Services - Budget Amendment #49**

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #49.

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>Social Services</b>			
100.5480.001	LIEAP	<u>\$63,706.00</u>	<u>\$35,175.00</u>	<u>\$98,881.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$63,706.00</b>	<b>\$35,175.00</b>	<b>\$98,881.00</b>

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To appropriate funding for the LIEAP Program to be administered at the county – 100% Federal Funding. The budget request was for \$63,706.00 – the first funding authorization received was for \$58,876.00 and the second funding authorization was for \$40,005.00 for a total of \$98,881.00.

This will result in a net increase of \$35,175.00 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
100.3301.202	DSS- Federal	<u>\$1,827,423.00</u>	<u>\$35,175.00</u>	<u>\$1,862,598.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$1,827,423.00</b>	<b>\$35,175.00</b>	<b>\$1,862,598.00</b>

#### **Social Services - Budget Amendment #50**

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #50.

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>Social Services</b>			
100.5480.000	Crisis Intervention	<u>\$133,291.00</u>	<u>\$90,567.00</u>	<u>\$223,858.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$133,291.00</b>	<b>\$90,567.00</b>	<b>\$223,858.00</b>

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To appropriate additional funding for Crisis Intervention which is 100% Federal Funding.

This will result in a net increase of \$90,567.00 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
100.3301.202	Crisis Intervention	<u>\$1,862,598.00</u>	<u>\$90,567.00</u>	<u>\$1,953,165.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$1,862,598.00</b>	<b>\$90,567.00</b>	<b>\$1,953,165.00</b>

#### **Social Services - Budget Amendment #51**

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #51.

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>Social Services</b>				
100.5410.001	TANF County Initiated	\$30,000.00	\$(20,000.00)	\$10,000.00
100.5850.001	TANF Day Care	<u>\$7,000.00</u>	<u>\$20,000.00</u>	<u>\$27,000.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$37,000.00</b>	<b>\$00.00</b>	<b>\$37,000.00</b>

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To appropriate funding from the TANF County Initiated line item to the TANF Day Care line item which will be used for payment of day care assistance for TANF Clients. This is 100% Federal Funding.

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.

#### **Governing Body - Budget Amendment #52**

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #52.

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>Governing Body</b>				
100.4110.450	Insurance and Bonds	\$590,568.00	\$5,000.00	\$595,568.00
<b>Contingency</b>				
100.9910.100	Contingency	<u>\$101,897.00</u>	<u>\$(5,000.00)</u>	<u>\$96,897.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$692,465.00</b>	<b>\$00.00</b>	<b>\$692,465.00</b>

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To transfer funds from Contingency for insurance deductible.

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 #53**

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #53.

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>				
100.5100.000	Salaries	\$518,493.00	\$(20,000.00)	\$498,493.00
100.5100.090	Social Security Tax	\$32,649.00	\$(620.00)	\$32,029.00
100.5100.091	Medicare Tax	\$7,845.00	\$(145.00)	\$7,700.00
100.5100.100	Retirement	\$38,710.00	\$(699.00)	\$38,011.00
100.5100.101	BB&T 401(k)	\$2,157.00	\$(100.00)	\$2,057.00
100.5100.110	Group Insurance	\$72,398.00	\$(900.00)	\$71,498.00
100.5100.111	Dental Insurance	\$5,614.00	\$(70.00)	\$5,544.00
100.5100.180	Professional Services	<u>\$38,690.00</u>	<u>\$22,534.00</u>	<u>\$61,224.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$716,556.00</b>	<b>\$00.00</b>	<b>\$716,556.00</b>

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To transfer funds that were originally allocated to Salaries and Fringes to be used for contract positions in the WIC Program (Nutritionist and Breastfeeding Peer Counselor).

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 #54**

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #54.

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>				
110.5103.000	Salaries and Wages	\$182,704.00	\$(6,160.00)	\$176,544.00
100.5103.180	Professional Services	<u>\$54,310.00</u>	<u>\$(5,000.00)</u>	<u>\$49,310.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$237,014.00</b>	<b>\$(11,160.00)</b>	<b>\$225,854.00</b>

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

The State DHHS has reduced funding in the Family Planning Program due to budget cuts.

This will result in a net decrease of \$11,160.00 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
110.3301.004	Family Planning Title X	<u>\$116,242.00</u>	<u>\$(11,160.00)</u>	<u>\$105,082.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$116,242.00</b>	<b>\$(11,160.00)</b>	<b>\$105,082.00</b>

#### **Health Department - Budget Amendment #55**

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #55.

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>Health Department</b>			
100.5100.000	Salaries and Wages	<u>\$518,493.00</u>	<u>\$2,121.00</u>	<u>\$530,614.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$518,493.00</b>	<b>\$2,121.00</b>	<b>\$520,614.00</b>

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

State Funding was originally projected for the Bioterrorism Program at \$40,000.00. According to the most recent State Contract Addendum received, the Health Department will receive a total of \$42,121 for the Bioterrorism Program. The additional funding will be used for Salaries and Wages for the Program Coordinator.

This will result in a net increase of \$2,121.00 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
100.3301.255	Bioterrorism	<u>\$40,000.00</u>	<u>\$2,121.00</u>	<u>\$42,121.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$40,000.00</b>	<b>\$2,121.00</b>	<b>\$42,121.00</b>

#### **Health Department - Budget Amendment #56**

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #56.

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>Health Department</b>			
100.5100.000	Salaries and Wages	<u>\$518,493.00</u>	<u>\$3,199.00</u>	<u>\$521,692.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$518,493.00</b>	<b>\$3,199.00</b>	<b>\$521,692.00</b>

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

State Funding was originally projected for the Health Promotion Program at \$6,000.00. According to the most recent State Contract Addendum received, the Health Department will receive a total of \$9,199 for the Health Promotion Program. The additional funding will be used for Salaries and Wages for the Program Coordinator which is currently vacant.

This will result in a net increase of \$3,199.00 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
100.3301.237	Health Promotion	<u>\$6,000.00</u>	<u>\$3,199.00</u>	<u>\$9,199.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$6,000.00</b>	<b>\$3,199.00</b>	<b>\$9,199.00</b>

#### **Health Department - Budget Amendment #57**

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #57.

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>Health Department</b>			
110.5102.230	Medical Supplies	\$10,000.00	\$10,649.00	\$20,649.00
110.5102.370	Advertising	<u>\$00.00</u>	<u>\$1,000.00</u>	<u>\$1,000.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>	<b>\$11,649.00</b>	<b>\$21,649.00</b>

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

There have not been any funds from the State allocated to the Child Health Program other than Fatality Funds for the Child Fatality Prevention Team. These are one time funds, hoping that they will continue into the next fiscal year. Funds will be used for needed medical supplies for this program and also for a chance to advertise the program to build up the client base of patients.



This will result in a net increase of \$11,649.00 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>
110.3301.003	Child Health	<u>\$511.00</u>	<u>\$11,649.00</u>	<u>\$12,160.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$511.00</b>	<b>\$11,649.00</b>	<b>\$12,160.00</b>

Vice Chairman Booth moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.

Commissioner Walker confirmed with Finance Director Julia Edwards that the Budget Amendments for DSS and Health are Federal and State Funding (flow through funding for programs) and even though there were several budget amendments this time, there was not a lot of budget impact on the County's current Fiscal Year Budget.

The motion carried unanimously.

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

### **Update – Manager and Board of Commissioners**

Chairman Lankford opened the floor for updates from the Board and the County Manager.

Manager Rick Morris commented:

- Medicine Drop Program, which is a program EMS Training Officer Brian Booe is heavily involved with that picks up unused prescription medicine, released the following statistical information:
  - For calendar year 2012, a total of 23,959 doses were collected
  - Since the program started in 2010, 228,856 doses have been collected
  - Program helps to prevent abuse and keeps unused medicine from being harmful to the environment
  - Brian Booe, who is a spark plug for this program, should be commended for his efforts in the program
- Hanging Rock State Park
  - The Park was selected as the North Carolina 2012 Park of the Year by the NC Division of Parks and Recreation

- Recognized for initiatives in environmental education, volunteerism and sustainability
- The Park is a great resource to Stokes County

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Actually spent the day at Hanging Rock yesterday, hiking
- Attended Governor McCorry's Inaugural Ball and did my best to represent Stokes County as best as I could, very good experience

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Will be attending the Legislative Goals Conference in Raleigh next Thursday and Friday
- Commissioner Jones will also be attending the Goals Conference

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- Attended the Annual Soil and Water Meeting last week in Durham
- Agricultural Commissioner Steve Troxler, Speaker of the North Carolina House Thom Tillis, and Stokes County's House of Representative Bryan Holloway attended the meeting
- Very good meeting

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Hanging Rock State Park was also on my list to comment on today, well deserved recognition
- Looking forward to see Stokes County get recognition for recreation, tourism, preservation of historical buildings, etc.
- Very concerned about the loss of hours at the Danbury Post Office
- Several including Chairman Lankford, Manager Morris, Finance Director Edwards, Clerk Bullins and myself attended a meeting this month regarding the operational hours of the post office
- Tone of the meeting was that the decision was basically already made and this was more of an informative meeting
- Danbury Post Office will decrease operational hours to six hours per day
- Need to use the post office more to increase the operational hours in the future
- Danbury is the county seat; Government Center, Board of Education, Court System, Register of Deeds, attorneys, hospital, etc. are located in Danbury – lots of reasons why we need a strong post office facility in Danbury
- Mr. Hairston spoke during Public Comments at the December 26<sup>th</sup> meeting requesting funding for the East Walnut Cove Park
- Reiterated Chairman Lankford's comments that the Board doesn't generally respond to Public Comments at the time it is given, but could have the opportunity at a later time
- Mr. Hairston's modest request of \$2,000 is a very small amount
- Funding would be used to maintain and provide services at a park in our county
- Even though this is a small amount compared to the county's budget, seemed very important to Mr. Hairston and people in that community
- Would like for this Board to give some consideration to his request at some point

- Very strong supporter of recreation, of wholesome activities for young people, families, Senior Services; Parks are an important part of that process
- Blessed to have Hanging Rock State Park which is an asset in the county
- Do have parks in the county that are very important to our citizens
- Feels it is very important to help strengthen those parks and help to provide recreational opportunities
- Feel the request is worth considering

Chairman Lankford responded:

- Rev. Hairston's request was to consider the \$2,000 in the upcoming budget

Commissioner Walker responded:

- My request is the same as Mr. Hairston's request to consider the item during the Fiscal Year 2013-14 budget

### **Jail Inspection Report – December 2012**

Jail Captain Eric Cone presented the following information regarding the December 5<sup>th</sup>

Jail inspection by Jail Inspector Garrick Starch, NC Department of Health and Human Services:

- Jail received an extremely clean bill of health
- Only a few minor water leaks noted that have all been corrected
- No regulatory violations
- Correspondence has already been sent to inform the State that all leaks have been fixed
- Inspector had no other complaints and was very pleased with the facility

Chairman Lankford expressed the Board's appreciation to Jail Captain Cone and his staff for an exceptional inspection report.

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

### **NCDOT – Secondary Construction Program for Fiscal Year 2012-2013**

County Manager Rick Morris introduced District Engineer John Rhyne who presented the following Secondary Construction Program for Fiscal Year 2012-2013: (Stokes County Maintenance Engineer Daniel Horne was also in attendance for the presentation)

#### **STOKES COUNTY SECONDARY CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM**

Estimated SRCF Allocation

(GS 136-44.5 b,c)

\$322,653.59

**Estimated Trust Fund Allocation**

(GS 136-44 c)	<u>\$428,063.46</u>
Total SRCG & TF Allocation	<b>\$750,717.05</b>

**Paving of Unpaved roads**

<b>Programmed Paving Goal</b>	<b>.31 miles</b>
-------------------------------	------------------

**Rural Roads**

#1994 - Big Oak Road

Grade, Base, and Pave	\$100,000.00
-----------------------	--------------

**Subdivision Roads**

no roads in county on subdivision list

**GENERAL SECONDARY****ROAD IMPROVEMENTS**

#1105 Meadowbrook Road	.80 miles	Widen road and reshape typical	\$140,000.00
#1966 Slate Road	4 miles	Strengthen pavement	\$335,000.00
#1717 Tuttle Road	4 miles	Widen road 2' and reshape typical - partial funding	\$100,000.00
#1670 Pleasant View Church Road	2.8	Widen road 4' and reshape typical - partial funding	<u>\$ 75,717.05</u>
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$650,717.05</b>

**Unpaved Road Spot Improvements  
Spot stabilization of various unpaved  
Roads**

none programmed at this time

**Trust Fund Safety Improvements**

none programmed at this time

**Funds reserved for Surveying, Right of  
Way Acquisition, Road Additions,  
Paving Fire Department Driveways,  
and POPs**

None programmed at this time

<b>Total</b>	<b>\$750,717.05</b>
--------------	---------------------

Note: In the event that right-of-way is not available on any of the projects in this program, NCDOT will then proceed to the next road on the priority list, road addition or property owners' participation, whichever is appropriate

Program subject to availability of funding, right-of-way and environmental review.

Any additional available funds will be used for additional safety, property owners' participation paving, widening, bridge replacement, road additions, industrial access projects and fire station drives

Engineer Rhyne discussed the following with the Board of Commissioners:

- Per House Bill 950, Section 24.15: For Fiscal Year 2012-2013, the Department of Transportation shall expend funds allocated to the paving of unpaved secondary roads for the paving of unpaved secondary roads based on a statewide prioritization
- House Bill 950, Section 24.15 was written only for Fiscal Year 2012-13
- If legislators do not amend the bill to include fiscal years beyond 2012-13, the paving of unpaved roads next fiscal year will be done by the county's priority list (House Bill 950 was a one-year bill)
- Priority list for the county is updated every four years
- This year, due to the change in the law, Stokes County was not allocated any funding for the paving of unpaved roads
- Big Oak Road was allowed to be paved only due to the fact that the road was presented several years ago with right-of-way issues
- All right-of-way issues regarding Big Oak Road have been resolved and funding will be allowed to be used to pave the road

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Questioned if there is any news regarding the widening of Highway #8?

Engineer Rhyne responded:

- Will be attending a "scoping meeting" regarding Highway #8 this month (January 2013)
- Widening of Highway #8 is currently listed as R3801 on the State's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) (NC65 in Germanton to Virginia State Line)
- Currently listed as an unfunded project, but has made its way up to the "scoping meeting"
- At the "scoping meeting", there will be discussion on the project itself, the cost, etc.
- This is the first step in getting Highway #8 widened
- Estimated cost for right-of-ways is \$5.3 million
- Estimated cost for construction is \$43,800,000
- Construction date for the project is 2030
- Hope to have more news next year

Commissioner Walker commented:

- There has always been a desire in our county to have an east/west connector
- Is there anything on the radar concerning this issue?

Engineer Rhyne responded:

- Haven't heard any talk of it lately, used to be called the Danbury Bypass
- If this is something the county wants to pursue, would encourage you to take it to the ROP and have them push it forward as a TIP Project
- Unfortunately, it has to compete with all the other projects in the area
- Hope there will be more details regarding the widening of Highway #8 after the "scoping meeting"

Commissioner Walker responded:

- Feel an east/west connector would require some planning on the county's part

- Encouraging news about the widening of Highway #8

Chairman Lankford expressed the Board's appreciation to Engineer Rhyne for today's presentation.

Chairman Lankford, with full consensus of the Board, directed the clerk to place the item on the January 28<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda.

### **Stokes County (Danbury) Library Parking Lot Repair Estimate - NCDOT**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following Danbury Library Parking Lot Repair estimates/options submitted by NCDOT:

#### **Option One**

Remove broken asphalt from entrance to carport	\$ 2,000.00
Seal all cracks	\$ 2,000.00
Compact base (add rock) & full depth patch at front door	\$ 10,000.00
Overlay with 1.5" asphalt (entire parking lot)	<u>\$ 9,000.00</u>
<b>Option One Total</b>	<b>\$ 23,000.00</b>

#### **Option Two- Binder @ Entrance**

Remove broken asphalt from entrance to carport and full depth patch potholes by front door	\$ 2,000.00
Seal all cracks	\$ 2,000.00
Place 2.5" binder @ entrance and 1.5" overlay entire P. Lot	\$ 12,000.00
Binder (Material)	\$ 4,000.00
Surface (Material)	\$ 9,000.00
<b>Option Two Total</b>	<b>\$ 29,000.00</b>

#### **Option Three - Only Fix Entrance**

	<b>With ABC</b>	<b>With Binder</b>
Remove broken asphalt from entrance to carport	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Compact base and full depth patch by front door	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 9,000.00
Optional (binder)		\$ 4,000.00
Optional (seal of cracks)	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Surface (material)	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00
<b>Option Three Total</b>	<b>\$ 17,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 20,500.00</b>

Manager Morris presented the following comments regarding the Agenda item:

- One topic discussed during the Fiscal Year 2012-13 budget work sessions was the Danbury Library parking lot which is probably in the worse condition of any of our asphalt areas

- Requested NCDOT County Maintenance Engineer Daniel Horne to provide the County with an estimate for the Danbury Library parking lot only – included in your Agenda today
- The parking lot would need to stay closed for approximately three days which leads me to an additional topic which is not included in today's Agenda
- Had Public Works Director Mark Delehant look at the possibility of making a connection path from the Government Center Complex upper parking lot to the Danbury Library parking lot
- The upper parking lot could serve for overflow parking when the Library has special events/meetings and also be used during the paving project so that the Library does not have to be closed
- The estimate for the connection path with staff doing the project would be approximately \$5,000
- The connection path would run along the wooded area and would need to include a small bridge across the creek to the Library parking lot
- If the Board desires to pursue the paving of the parking lot, it would probably be best to complete the connection path first
- NCDOT –Estimates:
  - First and third options are short-term fixes – probably will not last very long
  - Option two, which cost more, would be a long-term fix
  - Option two includes placing a binder material, replaces using rock but serves the same function as putting down a lot rock, at the entrance and an overlay over the entire parking lot
- Would recommend option two which would be a long-term fix
- Engineer Horne, due to the condition of the parking lot, also recommends option two

Chairman Lankford opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Inman confirmed with Manager Morris that there was sufficient funding in Capital Reserve, approximately \$50,000 allocated for paving and painting Public Works' vehicles.

Commissioner Inman agreed it needs to be repaired.

Commissioner Jones confirmed with Manager Morris that the connection path to the Library would be used for overflow parking, not just to repair the parking lot.

Chairman Lankford noted that the Library constantly has meetings that the present parking lot can't accommodate the traffic. There have been times when vehicles parked on the side of Highway #89 which is a safety issue.

Vice Chairman Booth questioned how the NCDOT estimate compared to a private company estimate?

Manager Morris responded that it had not been competed against private companies and requested Engineer Horne to address that issue.

Engineer Horne responded:

- It should be less
- NCDOT is not looking for profit
- Municipal agreement would need to be signed between NCDOT and the County
- If the actual job comes in lower than \$29,000, the county would pay the lower price – straight cost
- If the actual job came in higher, the County would still pay only \$29,000
- Would be very interested to see if a private company could beat the \$29,000 estimate and have no issues if the County bids the project out
- Feel confident that the NCDOT estimate will be lower
- Meadows unit has the only asphalt paving crew in the five-county district – travels to the other four counties for small jobs
- Department would be happy to work with the county if possible

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Appreciate the information from Engineer Horne
- Know there are other paving needs in the County
- Realize the Danbury Library parking lot is an urgent need, it isn't going away
- County has other ongoing areas such as the greenbox sites that need pavement repairs
- Confirmed with Engineer Horne that each area would need to be estimated

County Manager Morris confirmed with Engineer Horne that it would probably be around the beginning of March before any paving could be done due to the availability of asphalt.

Chairman Lankford expressed the Board's appreciation to Engineer Horne for his attendance at today's meeting.

Chairman Lankford, with full consensus of the Board, directed the clerk to place the items on the January 28<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda.

### **Tax Administration Report – December 2012**

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following informational data for the December Report:

Fiscal Year 2012-13	Budget Amt	Collected Amt	Over Budget	Under Budget
County Regular & Motor Vehicles	\$20,861,260.00	\$15,007,694.72		\$5,853,565.28
January 14, 2013				16



<b>New Schools F-Tech Fund</b>	\$1,390,751.00	\$1,001,040.37	\$389,710.63
--------------------------------	----------------	----------------	--------------

**Prior Taxes**

**1994-2011 Tax Years**

County Regular & Motor Vehicles	\$675,000.00	\$560,761.71	\$114,238.29
---------------------------------	--------------	--------------	--------------

**EMS Collections**

**Total Collected**

(12-01-12/12-31-12)	\$134,728.39
---------------------	--------------

**Total Collected**

(07-01-12/06-30-13)	\$390,266.35
---------------------	--------------

**Delinquent EMS Collection**

**Report**

**Total Collected**

(12-01-12/12-31-12)	\$12,208.69
---------------------	-------------

(07-01-12/06-30-13)	\$74,619.50
---------------------	-------------

**Personal Property Discovery Report**

**Audit Dates**

12-01-12/12-31-12	# of Accts	Total	Taxes Due
	1	\$4,470.00	\$41.27

07-01-12/06-30-13	1,477	\$10,782,659.00	\$94,027.02
-------------------	-------	-----------------	-------------

**Business Personal Property Discovery**

**Report**

**Audit Dates**

12-01-12/12-31-12	# of Accts	Total Value	Taxes Due
	0	\$00.00	\$00.00

07-01-12/06-30-13	0	\$00.00	\$00.00
-------------------	---	---------	---------

**Motor Vehicle Release**

**Report**

**Audit Dates**

12-01-12/12-31-12	Accounts	Total Value
	38	\$2,016.06

**Motor Vehicle Refund**

**Report**

**Audit Dates**

12-01-12/12-31-12	Accounts	Total Value
	5	\$189.81

**Number billed for**

December 2012	4086
---------------	------

**Garnishment Totals**

Month	Total Accounts	Original Levy Amt	Collected Amt
-------	----------------	-------------------	---------------

12-01-12/12-31-12	83	\$21,985.47	\$21,864.42
-------------------	----	-------------	-------------

**F/Year 2012-13**

(07-1-12/6-30-13)	739	\$213,026.78	\$195,936.63
-------------------	-----	--------------	--------------

**Interstate Collection Report**

**December 2012**

Cumulative Total Collected to Date	Collection	Total Collected
	NC Debt Setoff	\$121,580.36

Cumulative Total Collected (to date)	Motor Vehicles	\$86,256.97
--------------------------------------	----------------	-------------

Cumulative Total Collected (to date)	Property Taxes	\$22,109.72
--------------------------------------	----------------	-------------

Cumulative Total Collected (to date)  
Collected (to date)

EMS  
All Categories

\$122,132.31  
**\$230,499.00**

### Monthly Delinquent Tax Collection Report

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Monthly Delinquent Tax Collection Report for December 2012:

<u>County</u> Year	<u>Real/Personal</u> Beginning Balance	<u>Property</u> Releases	<u>Dec.</u> Refunds	<u>2012</u> Debits/ Credits	Writeoffs	Payments	Ending Balance
2011	\$ 378,402.78	\$(298.20)			\$ (1.07)	\$(31,590.04)	\$ 346,513.47
2010	\$ 174,470.92				\$ (.97)	\$(13,281.28)	\$ 161,188.67
2009	\$ 106,116.49				\$ (.22)	\$ (3,375.67)	\$ 99,740.67
2009	\$ 54,058.45					\$ (1,410.29)	\$ 52,648.16
2007	\$ 30,184.03					\$ (722.86)	\$ 29,461.17
2006	\$ 19,098.03					\$ (53.20)	\$ 19,044.83
2005	\$ 14,202.72					\$ (112.33)	\$ 14,090.39
2004	\$ 13,667.02					\$ (4.96)	\$ 13,662.02
2003	\$ 9,890.48					\$ (4.96)	\$ 9,885.52
2002	\$ 8,109.72					\$ (4.96)	\$ 8,104.76
2001	\$ 5,813.62					\$ (4.96)	\$ 5,808.66
2000	\$ 7,575.07					\$ (4.96)	\$ 7,570.11
1999	\$ 7,967.72					\$ (4.96)	\$ 7,962.76
1998	\$ 590.06					\$ (4.56)	\$ 585.50

<u>County</u> Year	<u>Motor</u> Beginning Balance	<u>Vehicles</u> Releases	<u>Dec.</u> Refunds	<u>2012</u> Debits/ Credits	Writeoffs	Payments	Ending Balance
2011	\$ 98,342.19	\$(117.34)	\$27.40		\$ (3.21)	\$(11,609.21)	\$ 86,639.83
2010	\$ 35,915.73				\$ (0.43)	\$ (610.30)	\$ 35,305.00
2009	\$ 24,751.01				\$ (0.01)	\$ (150.31)	\$ 24,600.69
2008	\$ 23,259.07				\$ (0.18)	\$ (148.52)	\$ 23,110.37
2007	\$ 18,935.49					\$ (11.39)	\$ 18,924.10
2006	\$ 13,501.61					\$ (63.78)	\$ 13,437.83
2005	\$ 16,466.60					\$ (4.95)	\$ 16,461.65
2004	\$ 14,524.36				\$ (0.26)	\$ (32.93)	\$ 14,491.17
2003	\$ 14,487.10					\$ (24.58)	\$ 14,462.52
2002	\$ 17,253.50					\$ (80.03)	\$ 17,173.47
2001	\$ 14,816.41						\$ 14,816.41
2000	\$ 18,692.12						\$ 18,692.12

1999	\$ 16,485.26	\$ (2.11)	\$ 16,483.15
1998	\$ 16,540.23		\$ 16,540.23

<u>New</u>	<u>Schools</u>	<u>Forsyth</u>	<u>Tech</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>2012</u>	
Year	Beginning	Releases	Refunds	Debits/ Credits	Writeoffs	Payments	Ending Balance
2011	\$ 29,849.88	\$ (24.43)	\$1.82		\$ (0.24)	\$(2,811.58)	\$ 27,015.45

### **Releases less than \$100 – Real and Personal Property**

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Releases less than \$100

(December 2012) – Real and Personal Property for the Board’s review:

Releases less than  
\$100 - Real/Personal  
Property

December, 2012

Name	Bill Number	Amount
Robert & Odessa Brady	12A690900532011	\$31.02
Julie & Brent Hole	12A2975.05.1	<u>5.39</u>
	<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>\$36.41</b>

### **Refund Less than \$100 – Real and Personal Property**

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Refunds less than \$100

(December 2012) – Real and Personal Property for the Board’s review:

Refunds more than  
\$100 - Real/Personal  
Property

December, 2012

Name	Bill Number	Amount
Robert & Misty Sheppard	10A606100425155	\$ 97.76
	09A606100425155	\$ 97.76
	08A606100425155	<u>\$ 75.15</u>
	<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>\$270.67</b>

### **Releases more than \$100 – Real and Personal Property**

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Releases more than \$100

(December 2012) – Real and Personal Property for the Board’s consideration at the January 28<sup>th</sup>

meeting:

**Releases more than  
\$100 - Real/Personal  
Property**

**December, 2012**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Bill Number</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Reason</b>
<b>Mickey &amp; Mabel Mitchell</b>	12A695201273431.1	\$244.71	Use value to continue
	12A695201273431.2	\$244.71	Use value to continue
	12A695201273431.3	\$259.77	Use value to continue
	12A695201273431.4	\$259.77	Use value to continue
<b>Robert &amp; Misty Sheppard</b>	12A606100425155	<u>\$103.64</u>	Corrected acreage
	<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>\$1,112.60</b>	

Tax Administrator Oakley requested the Real and Personal Releases more than \$100 be placed on the January 28<sup>th</sup> Consent Agent.

**Refund more than \$100 – Real and Personal Property**

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Refund more than \$100 (December 2012) – Real and Personal Property for the Board's consideration at the January 28<sup>th</sup> meeting:

**Refund more than  
\$100 - Real/Personal  
Property**

**December, 2012**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Bill Number</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Reason</b>
<b>Robert &amp; Misty Sheppard</b>	11A606100425155	<u>\$103.64</u>	Corrected average
	<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>\$103.64</b>	

Tax Administrator Oakley requested the Real and Personal Refund more than \$100 be placed on the January 28<sup>th</sup> Consent Agent.

**Write Off Request**

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Write-off Request for the Board's consideration at the January 28<sup>th</sup> meeting:

- Tax Office has determined that there is no further recourse in the collection of the following tax bill:
  - Account = 2938
  - Bill Number = 00V2000554674
  - Amount = \$167.71
  - Reason = Over 10 years old (NCGS 105-378)
- Request this amount be written off

Tax Administrator Oakley requested the Write-off for Tax Bill 00V2000554674 be placed on the January 28<sup>th</sup> Consent Agent.

#### **Tax Office/EMS Billings – Write off Requests**

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley submitted the following EMS Bills with a request to write off the amounts based on information from the Stokes County Jail that there isn't any further recourse of collection on the below listed billings for inmates and is requesting that these amounts be written off:

Call Number	Date of Call	Total Charges	Reason
1203292	6/4/2012	\$ 358.00	Inmate - no insurance
1203529	6/14/2012	\$ 358.80	Inmate - no insurance
1203946	7/1/2012	\$ 486.80	Inmate - no insurance
1203952	7/1/2012	\$ 470.80	Inmate - no insurance
1205741	9/16/2012	\$ 483.00	Inmate - no insurance
1205770	9/17/2012	\$ 731.00	Inmate - no insurance
1205842	9/20/2011	\$ <u>358.80</u>	Inmate - no insurance
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 3,247.20</b>	

The Board had no issues with the December monthly report.

Chairman Lankford, with full consensus of the Board, directed the clerk to place the following items on the January 28<sup>th</sup> Consent Agenda:

- Releases for Real and Personal more than \$100
- Refund for Real and Personal more than \$100
- Write-off Request
- Tax Office/EMS Billings – Write-off Requests

## **2013 Revaluation Update**

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following information regarding the upcoming 2013 Revaluation:

- Information provided was compiled as of December 27, 2012 and is subject to change - have already seen a further decrease in a neighborhood within the Town of Danbury
- Value adjustments are neighborhood specific and will vary among the different sections of the County and among the various classes of real property
- Figures are not final and are subject to adjustment because of appeals, use-value applications, and elderly/disabled applications
- Revaluation Department has analyzed over 1,000 Qualified Arms Length sales that occurred between 01-01-09 and 12-31-12 (this figure is about ½ of what a typical revaluation cycle yields)
- This limited number of sales makes it very difficult to establish trends and patterns
- To help counter the lower amount of Qualified Sales, the Revaluation Department started analyzing current Realtor listings
- Revaluation Department has analyzed approximately 350 Realtor Listings of property that are currently for sale
- The major question on the taxpayers' mind is: "How much is my property value going to decrease?" Our answer is, "It depends"
- There will be neighborhood specific decreases based on sales within particular subdivisions
- Example: Wellington Subdivision: vacant lot values are decreasing from \$45,000 to \$31,500 based upon recent sales
- One vacant lot sold in June 2012 for \$31,500, which is a 30% reduction in lot values
- Some improved properties in Wellington are only receiving a 15% reduction
  - A specific parcel in Wellington sold for \$260,000 in September 2012, the current 2009 market value is \$305,000, while the projected 2013 value is \$261,300
- Improved parcels, in general, will receive a decrease, specific to neighborhood market trends
  - Example: property sold in 2012 for \$250,500, current 2009 value is \$272,800, projected value is \$251,400 (decrease of 7.84%)
  - Example: property sold in 2012 for \$151,500, current 2009 value is \$157,100, projected 2013 value is \$151,600 (decrease of 3.63%)
  - Example: a house and 1 acre of land may reflect a total decrease of 5% on average, but the same house and 20 acres of land will not receive as much total reduction due to the Market Land Value being constant
- Through the analysis, in general, land market values will remain unchanged
- Vacant Land, under the Present Use-Value Program, will see an increase in the assessed value which is due to the assigned value per acre increasing from \$430 to \$485 for Agriculture Land, \$340 to \$415 for Forestry Land, \$618 to \$685 for Horticulture Land as stated in the 2013 Schedule of Values

- Example: a specific parcel sold for \$182,000 in April 2012; the current 2009 Market Value is \$174,800 with a 2009 assessed value of \$21,100; the projected 2013 Market Value is \$174,800 with a 2013 assessed value of \$25,100 ( the use-value will increase the assessed value \$4,000 while the Market Value remains unchanged)
- Based on our internal Sales Ratio figure for 2013 (sales that occurred during 2012), our current ratio stands at 99.64%, using the new Revaluation figures. The same Sales Ratio Report, using current values, shows the ratio at 104.75%
- It is impossible to give a set percentage of change in value, it is very encouraging that our new revaluation figures yield a 99.64% ratio
- 2013 Revaluation Notices will be mailed in early February 2013
- Potential revenue loss by tax codes:

<b>Tax Codes</b>		<b>Potential Revenue Loss</b>
County	G01	\$683,994
Education	E01	\$45,600
City of King	C01	\$98,052
Town of Walnut Cove	C03	\$11,162
Town of Danbury	C04	\$1,654
King Fire	F01	\$12,587
Rural Hall Fire	F02	\$2,173
Walnut Cove Fire	F03	\$5,774
Service District Fire	S01	\$34,086

- Keep in mind that these figures are subject to change, based on appeals, new use-value, and elderly/disabled exemptions
- Potential revenue loss is calculated using (2012/2013) tax rates

<b>Township</b>		<b>Value Change</b>	<b>% of Change</b>
Beaver Island	01	\$6,363,800	3.54%
Big Creek	02	\$5,229,500	3.84%
Danbury	03	\$2,229,300	2.89%
Meadows	04	\$12,175,136	4.02%
Peters Creek	05	\$3,900,900	3.31%
Quaker Gap	06	\$5,798,200	3.54%
Sauratown	07	\$12,183,909	3.79%
Snow Creek	08	\$5,074,100	3.29%
Yadkin	09	\$61,044,155	4.71%
Countywide		\$113,999,000	4.15%

**Municipalities**

City of King	C01	\$24,519,199	5.28%
Town of Walnut Cove	C03	\$2,790,477	3.21%
Town of Danbury	C04	\$612,600	7.38%

- City of King is 5.28% because the majority of the parcels are house and lot which these type parcels received more reduction than house and acreage
- Town of Walnut Cove is 3.21% is due to older commercial buildings that were already depreciated to the max
- Town of Danbury is 7.38% due to the direct result of a \$29,000 per lot reduction for the Retreat at Hanging Rock subdivision
- Don't see a lot of change in the next four years
- One positive note, feels public utilities will remain the same, utilities increased this past year – approximately \$68 million increase in value

Chairman Lankford confirmed with Tax Administrator Oakley that the projected revenue loss for each year (four years) will be approximately \$730,000, not including those who may appeal their values, in the general tax rate of \$.60 and the education tax rate of \$.04 (total \$.64 tax rate).

Tax Administrator Oakley noted:

- One cent at the current value produces \$363,000 in revenue
- With the projected values, it would take approximately 2.5 cents added to the current tax rate for revenue neutral
- Will be providing accurate value information for the upcoming budget

Vice Chairman Booth confirmed with Tax Administrator Oakley that the County is looking at an overall county average of 4.15% decrease in property values with the upcoming Revaluation for the next four years.

Tax Administrator Oakley noted that any growth could offset the amount of loss revenue.

Chairman Lankford expressed the Board's appreciation to Tax Administrator Oakley for the information regarding the upcoming Revaluation.

**Personal Property Schedule of Values and Depreciation of Schedules for 2013**

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following documents for the Board's review and approval at the January 28<sup>th</sup> meeting:

- 2013 Department of Revenue Cost Index and Depreciation Schedules (Business Personal Property)
- 2013 Pricing Guidelines for Personal Property



- 2013 Single Wide Mobile Home Pricing Guidelines (Schedules from Marshall and Swift)

Tax Administrator Oakley noted the following:

- Same as the last several years
- Recommended by the State of North Carolina
- No changes
- Will start pricing the personal property once the schedules are approved by the Board and the listing period is over (January 31, 2013)

Tax Administrator Oakley requested the following be placed on the January 28<sup>th</sup> Consent

Agenda:

- 2013 Department of Revenue Cost Index and Depreciation Schedules (Business Personal Property)
- 2013 Pricing Guidelines for Personal Property
- 2013 Single Wide Mobile Home Pricing Guidelines (Schedules from Marshall and Swift)

The Board had no issues with the documents provided by Tax Administrator Oakley.

Chairman Lankford, with full consensus of the Board, directed the clerk to place the following items on the January 28<sup>th</sup> Consent Agenda:

- 2013 Department of Revenue Cost Index and Depreciation Schedules (Business Personal Property)
- 2013 Pricing Guidelines for Personal Property
- 2013 Single Wide Mobile Home Pricing Guidelines (Schedules from Marshall and Swift)

#### **Donation of Linescan 210 ESCAN X-Ray Machine from Mecklenburg County**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following proposed Resolution for the Board's consideration:

#### **A RESOLUTION BY THE STOKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVING THE DONATION OF EQUIPMENT FROM MECKLENBURG COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners approved a Resolution on January 2, 2013 to allow the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office to donate a Linescan 210 ESCAN X-Ray Machine to Stokes County; and

**WHEREAS**, NCGS 160A-280 allows one North Carolina local government to donate obsolete or unused personal property to another North Carolina local government; and

**WHEREAS**, this machine will be used by the Stokes County Sheriff's Office to provide security at the Stokes County Courthouse.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the **Stokes County Board of Commissioners**, does hereby accept the Linescan 210 ESCAN X-Ray Machine from Mecklenburg County and extends its appreciation to Mecklenburg County for their generous donation.

Adopted this 14<sup>th</sup> day of **January, 2013**.

Ernest Lankford – Chairman

James D. Booth – Vice Chairman

J. Leon Inman – Commissioner

Jimmy Walker – Commissioner

Ronda Jones – Commissioner

Attest:

Darlene M. Bullins – Clerk of the Board

Manager Morris noted the following:

- Mecklenburg County is donating a Linescan 210 Escan X-Ray Machine to Stokes County
- Sheriff's Department needs for security purposes
- Request the item to be moved to today's Action Agenda in order for Sheriff Marshall to start the process to move the machine to Stokes County

The Board had no issues with accepting the free equipment from Mecklenburg County.

Chairman Lankford, with full consensus of the Board, directed the clerk to place the item on today's Action Agenda.

#### **Appointment – Economic Development Commission**

County Manager Rick Morris noted the following regarding appointments to the Economic Development Commission (EDC):

- The Stokes County EDC currently has three members whose term expires in February
  - Jane Priddy-Charleville
  - Bruce Younts
  - J. Leon Inman (commissioner appointee)

- Russel Slate requested the Board of Commissioners seek a replacement to finish his term
- Member vacancies will be advertised in the Stokes News and placed on the county website

Chairman Lankford opened the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Walker nominated the following for re-appointment:

- Jane Priddy-Charleville
- Bruce Younts
- J. Leon Inman for commissioner appointee

Chairman Lankford entertained a motion to close the nominations.

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

Chairman Lankford, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the January 28<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda.

#### **DSS- Request for Additional Child Care Subsidy Funds**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding a request from Social Services Director Kristy Preston for additional Child Care Subsidy Funds:

- Information provided by DSS Director Kristy Preston:
  - At its regular Board meeting on December 19, 2012, the DSS Board voted to send a request for additional Child Care Subsidy Funds to the county in the amount of \$50,000
  - This request was precipitated by a reduction in state funding to the Child Care Subsidy Program
  - Budget estimates prepared by the State for Fiscal Year 2012-13 indicated that Stokes county would receive \$1,150,213 in subsidy funding
  - After the start of the fiscal year, DSS was notified that the funding would actually be \$1,002,502 which was a \$147,711 decrease
  - As a results of the decrease in funding, the following actions were taken:
    - DSS Board voted to implement a waiting list for the Child Care Program
    - Business plan was developed with assistance from staff at North Carolina Division of Child Development and Early Education to bring our spending in line with our actual budget
    - Identified Work First and Foster Care Funds to assist in paying for child care for recipients of these programs
    - Additional funds were requested from Stokes Partnership for Children (waiting for a response to this request)

- Formal request was made to the State for additional funding (waiting for an official response to this request; however, have been told that it is unlikely that additional funds will be granted to the program due to shortfalls in other counties)
- Ten, eleven, and twelve year old children are in the process of being terminated from the program
- Anticipate a \$50,000 shortfall unless additional funds are received from the state or the county
- If additional funding is not available, anticipate a second round of terminations
- The Child Care Subsidy Program serves working families and enables them to secure quality child care services
- Families receiving subsidy are required to pay a parent fee for this service which helps to offset the cost of care
- Funds are paid directly to child care providers, many of whom are small businesses in the county
- DSS noted that the program is beneficial to both the working clients served by DSS and to the local economy

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Very familiar with the program
- State has chosen for the past several years to cut the Child Care Subsidy appropriation
- The end result is working mothers are forced to leave employment and seek assistance from DSS, very vicious cycle
- Would like the following questions answered before the next meeting:
  - The response from Stokes Partnership for Children, if there are any additional funds available?
  - STAR Program – is the program still being implemented and centers with four or five stars are receiving additional funding?
  - How many working mothers are currently receiving subsidy?
  - How many Work First participants does the County have?
  - How much Work First Care dollars were received?
  - Has the County received a response from the State?
  - How many people are on the waiting list?
  - What is the comparison to last year's appropriation?
- Too many unanswered questions to make a decision today
- Concerned that some centers may be receiving additional funding under the STAR Program with citizens on a waiting list and receiving no funding

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Would like to know if a second round of terminations is done, what will be the age of the children being terminated?
- Have personally experienced the dilemma of being a working parent and faced with day care issues
- Valuable needed service
- Would also like to know the answers to Commissioner Inman's questions

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- Another funding issue passed down from the State to the County
- This request is not a onetime allocation – it is on going
- An addition to the current budget and future budgets
- Agree there are too many unanswered questions
- Questioned if a percentage could be cut from each family that is receiving subsidy which would allow services to continue; families would have to pay more but would still have the services, wouldn't have to be terminated from the program
- Understand a cut across the board could be a burden to the families, but it seems better than being completely terminated from the program
- There are families out there without this service and it takes everything they make to make ends meet

Commissioner Walker requested the Board allow DSS Director Preston to make a comment.

The Board agreed to allow DSS Director Preston to speak to the Board.

DSS Preston commented:

- Would like to share one brief comment
- Will have all questions answered for the next meeting
- Was able to close out December's payment last week, after this request was made, which revealed only a \$35,000 shortfall
- Twenty-six children came off the program in December
- If additional funding is received from Partnership for Children and the State, the shortfall would be less than \$35,000
- Day Care is a moving target, hard to determine what the shortfall would be before the month is closed out

Chairman Lankford, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the January 28<sup>th</sup> Discussion Agenda since there are several unanswered questions.

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

### **Proposed Danbury Water/Sewer Rate Increase**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information as requested at the December 26<sup>th</sup> meeting:

- During the previous seven-month period:
  - Pioneer Community Hospital of Stokes would have seen a \$4,007.75 increase
  - Stokes County Government would have seen a \$6,462.75 increase
- Four years since the last increase was done
- Spent over \$100,000 to refurbish to the Waste Water Treatment Plant
- Spent over \$30,000 for the "Ice Piggying" for the Danbury Water System
- Very small customer base

- Have to make sure rates are enough to keep the systems self sustaining

Chairman Lankford entertained a motion.

Commissioner Jones moved to approve the Danbury Water/Sewer Rate Increase presented to the Board at the January 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Commissioner Inman seconded the motion.

Commissioner Walker commented the following:

- Still very concerned about the amount of these increases at this time
- Thought the \$750,000 grant would have postponed any need for a rate increase, system would be receiving long overdue improvements being done by grant funds
- Understand there has to be rate increases, but surprised at having to do this one at this time
- Questioned if all other options have been exhausted, are there any options that could soften the increase?
- Questioned Manager Morris if all the numbers had been checked to make sure the amount of the increase is needed at this time

Manager Morris responded:

- No other options
- The Waste Water Treatment Plant did not receive any grant funding
- The cost of the cleaning the Danbury Water System must come from the revenue of the water system
- Reiterated the small customer base

Commissioner Walker continued:

- Over the years from attending workshops, have learned that small water systems are notorious for being expensive to operate
- Residential costs in King are much more expensive
- Unfortunately, never supported, those outside the city limits paid much more than the residents inside the city limits; the King System was suppose to have been a community water system
- Confirmed with Manager Morris that there were no other options, must do
- Will **Reluctantly** support the rate increases, do not like rate increases

Commissioner Jones commented:

- No one likes rate increases, it is something that must be done

Commissioner Inman agreed that no one likes rate increases.

The motion carried unanimously.

### **Appointment - CenterPoint Human Services**

Chairman Lankford noted the following was nominated at the December 26<sup>th</sup> meeting to fill

two prescriptive appointments to the CenterPoint Human Services Board:

- Social Services appointment = Jan Spencer (two-year term)
- Commissioner appointment = J. Leon Inman (one-year term)

Chairman Lankford entertained a motion to close the nominations.

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

Commissioner Walker confirmed with Commissioner Inman that anyone who meets the criteria can join the Consumer Family Advocacy Council (CFAC).

Commissioner Inman noted that if Stokes has membership on the CFAC, they can be nominated for the CenterPoint Human Services Board of Directors by the CFAC members.

Chairman Lankford polled the Board:

- Commissioner Jones: Jan Spencer and Commissioner Inman
- Commissioner Inman: Jan Spencer and Commissioner Inman
- Chairman Lankford: Jan Spencer and Commissioner Inman
- Vice Chairman Booth: Jan Spencer and Commissioner Inman
- Commissioner Walker: Jan Spencer and Commissioner Inman

Chairman Lankford noted that Jan Spencer would serve as the Social Services appointee and Commissioner Inman would serve as the commissioner appointee.

#### **Appointment – Stokes County Fire Commission**

Chairman Lankford noted the following regarding the appointment of Arzell Montgomery to serve on the Stokes County Fire Commission at the December 26<sup>th</sup> meeting:

- It was determined that Mr. Montgomery did not reside in a location served by a Fire Service District Agency as required by the Policy for Fire Commission and Use of Service District Funds (III-B-3)
- Mr. Montgomery resides in the Walnut Cove ETJ which is served by the Walnut Cove Fire District
- With this information, Mr. Montgomery does not meet the requirements to serve on the Fire Commission which makes his appointment invalid

Chairman Lankford opened the floor for nominations.

Chairman Lankford nominated Billy Joe Joyce.

Chairman Lankford entertained a motion to close the nominations.

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

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Questioned if there was an urgency in the appointment?

Chairman Lankford noted that the Fire Commission is beginning the process of the Fire Commission Budget Recommendation for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2013-14 Budget.

Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins noted that once it was discovered that Mr. Montgomery did not meet the requirements of the appointment, the vacancy was left on the Stokes County website and there had been no other applications for appointment received by the County.

The motion to close the nominations carried unanimously.

Chairman Lankford polled the Board:

Commissioner Jones: Billy Joe Joyce  
Commissioner Inman: Billy Joe Joyce  
Chairman Lankford: Billy Joe Joyce  
Vice Chairman Booth: Billy Joe Joyce  
Commissioner Walker: Billy Joe Joyce

Chairman Lankford noted the Board unanimously appointed Billy Joe Joyce to serve on the Stokes County Fire Commission.

#### **Donation of Linescan 210 ESCAN X-Ray Machine from Mecklenburg County**

Chairman Lankford entertained a motion regarding the proposed Resolution to accept the donation of a Linescan 210 ESCAN X-Ray Machine from Mecklenburg County presented at today's meeting.

Vice Chairman Booth moved to approve the Resolution Accepting of a Linescan 210 ESCAN X-Ray Machine from Mecklenburg County. Commissioner Jones seconded and the motion carried unanimously.



## **CLOSED SESSION**

Chairman Lankford entertained a motion to enter closed session for the following reason:

- 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 moved to enter closed session for the following:

- 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)

Vice Chairman Booth seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The Board returned to the regular session of the January 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **Adjournment**

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

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

---

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

---

**Ernest Lankford**  
Chairman