

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF STOKES)
)

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS
STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT
DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA
FEBRUARY 11, 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, February 11, 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
Tax Administrator Jake Oakley

Chairman Ernest Lankford called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.

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

- "Turn thee at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you"

Vice Chairman 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.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Lankford entertained a motion to approve or amend the February 11, 2013

Agenda.

Commissioner Jones moved to approve the February 11th Agenda as presented.

Vice Chairman Booth seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following spoke during Public Comments:

Justin Duncan

1015 Snow Loop Road
Walnut Cove, NC 27052

Re: Abandonment of a Portion of Snow Loop Road

Mr. Duncan presented the following comments regarding the abandonment of a portion of Snow Loop Road from the Secondary Road System and Right-of-Way:

- Expressed appreciation to the Board for being allowed to speak on the issue (provided pictures that capture some of the concerns presented today)
- Cars come off of Highway #8 at a straight shot, not sure of the exact speed, at an excessive speed, possibly 35-40 mph
- School buses also come off of Highway #8 at a straight shot into Snow Loop Road
- Expecting a child in April and have pets
- Neighbor also has small children
- Very concerned about the amount of traffic on the road
- Requesting to abandon the portion of Snow Loop Road from Highway #8 to Augusta Hicks Road
- The request would affect only two property owners (Justin Duncan and Troy Day)
- During family functions at the neighbors' house across Highway #8, there are cars parked up and down this section of Snow Loop Road which blocks the stop sign; drivers have issues of visibility entering Highway #8 safely
- Abandonment of this section of the road will not impede bus travel or emergency response
- Buses use the other entrance of Snow Loop Road to enter Augusta Hicks Road (side road off of Snow Loop Road)
- Believe abandonment of this section of the road would cut traffic down on the entire road
- If the abandonment was approved, my driveway could be extended to Highway #8 and Mr. Day's driveway could be extended to Highway #8 or the other end of Snow Loop Road

- Two school buses travel the road (#141 and #193)
- Bus #193 actually does a 3-point turn into Highway #8 (straight away) which is not the safest place to be doing a 3-point turn; bus actually enters my yard which causes issues during times of rain
- Abandonment of this section would not allow the bus to do a 3-point turn
- NCDOT does not have any issues with the abandonment request
- If approved, would give back two landowners road frontage, improve safety, save NCDOT funding, and limit the total amount of traffic on Snow Loop Road
- Hope the information that has been provided convinces you to approve the abandonment request

Troy Day

1025 Snow Loop Road
Walnut Cove, NC 27052

Re: Abandonment of a Portion of Snow Loop Road

Mr. Day presented the following comments regarding the abandonment of a portion of Snow Loop Road from the Secondary Road System and Right-of-Way:

- Justin Duncan has already addressed most of my concerns
- Snow Loop Road is very close to each house, closer to Mr. Duncan's home (approximately 5 ft)
- Request is a matter of safety, young children at my house and soon to be at Mr. Duncan's house
- Vehicles shoot straight off Highway #8 at high speeds
- Entrance is not very safe
- Have almost been struck twice while mowing my lawn
- Was unaware that abandonment could be requested
- Would like to request that the Board approve the abandonment of a portion of Snow Loop Road
- Appreciate the Board taking the time to listen to our comments today

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Consent Agenda:

Minutes

- Minutes of January 28, 2013 – Regular Meeting

Jail - Budget Amendment #60

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #60.

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				
100.4320.020	Salaries & Wages- Part Time	\$66,075.00	\$30,000.00	\$96,075.00
100.4320.220	Food and Provisions	\$185,492.00	\$(10,000.00)	\$175,492.00
100.4320.350	Maint. & Repairs-Equipment	<u>\$17,500.00</u>	<u>\$(6,600.00)</u>	<u>\$10,900.00</u>
	Totals	\$269,067.00	\$13,400.00	\$282,467.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To transfer and appropriate funding for part time salaries due to court bailiffs, transportation of inmates and family medical leave for employees.

This will result in a net increase of \$13,400.00 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
100.3301.412	State/Inmate Reimbursement	\$60,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$72,000.00
100.3839.009	Jail Commissary	<u>\$5,000.00</u>	<u>\$1,400.00</u>	<u>\$6,400.00</u>
	Totals	\$65,000.00	\$13,400.00	\$78,400.00

Social Services - Budget Amendment #61

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #61.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
Social Services				
100.5850.002	Regular Purchase of Care (Day Care)	<u>\$1,150,213.00</u>	<u>\$(134,143.00)</u>	<u>\$1,016,070.00</u>
	Totals	\$1,150,213.00	\$(134,143.00)	\$1,016,070.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To revise the total budget amount of the Day Care line item. The budget estimate was \$1,150,213.00; however, the funding authorization is only for \$1,016,070.00.

This will result in a net decrease of \$(134,143.00) 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
100.3301.208	SS-Day Care Reimbursement	<u>\$1,395,213.00</u>	<u>\$(134,143.00)</u>	<u>\$1,261,070.00</u>
	Totals	\$1,395,213.00	\$(134,143.00)	\$1,261,070.00

Public Buildings - Budget Amendment #62

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #62.

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			
100.4190.590	Improvements	<u>\$160,500.00</u>	<u>\$34,000.00</u>	<u>\$194,500.00</u>
		\$160,500.00	\$34,000.00	\$194,500.00
	Capital Reserve Fund			
201.4325.002	Emergency Communications	\$96,675.00	\$(34,000.00)	\$62,675.00
201.9810.000	Transfer to General Fund	<u>\$472,955.00</u>	<u>\$34,000.00</u>	<u>\$506,955.00</u>
	Totals	\$569,630.00	\$00.00	\$569,630.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To transfer funds from the Capital Reserve Fund for repairs/paving at the Danbury Library and construction of a pathway from the Government Center Upper Parking Lot to the Danbury Library.

This will result in a net increase of \$34,000.00 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 Fund	<u>\$472,955.00</u>	<u>\$34,000.00</u>	<u>\$506,955.00</u>
	Totals	\$472,955.00	\$34,000.00	\$506,955.00

Proposed Resolution – Support of Legislative Goals Adopted by the NCACC

The following proposed Resolution in Support of Legislative Goals Adopted by the NCACC was presented at the January 28th meeting, with a request by the Board to place the resolution on the February 11th Consent Agent for approval:

RESOLUTION

IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATIVE GOALS ADOPTED BY THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners was founded in 1908 as a membership organization to represent the interests of counties before the General Assembly;

WHEREAS, all 100 counties are voluntary members of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, making the NCACC the official voice of North Carolina counties;

WHEREAS, every two years, the membership of the NCACC develops and approves a package of legislative proposals designed to protect and enhance the interests of county governments and the citizens who live in our 100 counties;

WHEREAS, the process to generate this package of legislative goals is deliberate and inclusive and provides extensive opportunities for counties to be involved;

WHEREAS, Stokes County is an active participant within the NCACC and participated in the process to develop these legislative proposals;

WHEREAS, more than 200 county officials representing 88 counties gathered in Durham County on Jan. 24-25, 2013, and debated and ultimately approved 60 proposals submitted by counties to be included in the legislative goals package;

WHEREAS, the attached proposals represent the collective wishes of all 100 counties.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Stokes County Board of Commissioners adopts this resolution in support of the legislative proposals adopted by the NCACC membership at its 2013 Legislative Goals Conference;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the members of the General Assembly representing Stokes County to let them know of our support for these issues.

Adopted this the 11th day of February, 2013.

Ernest Lankford - Chairman

James D. Booth - Vice Chairman

J. Leon Inman - Commissioner

Jimmy Walker - Commissioner

Ronda Jones - Commissioner

Attest:

Darlene M. Bullins – Clerk to the Board

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

Commissioner Jones seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – INFORMATION AGENDA

Update – Manager and Board of Commissioners

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

Manager Rick Morris commented:

- Stokes Civitan Club
 - Spoke with Bob Snyder, District West Civitan Representative, regarding the startup of a Civitan Club in Stokes County
 - Mission of Civitan Club: To provide fellowship, community knowledge, personal development, and networking opportunities to its members and service to its community with an emphasis on helping people with development disabilities
 - Having weekly meetings in various locations in the county
 - Goal is to charter as an official Civitan Club in Stokes County in April with a minimum of 30 charter members
 - Organizational meetings are being held:
 - Monday, February 11th at the King Moravian Church
 - Tuesday, February 19th and 26th at the Walnut Cove Library
 - Meeting sites for Monday, March 4th, 11th, and 18th and April 1st and 8th will be announced
- Golden LEAF Foundation
 - County received notification last week of up to \$2 million Golden LEAF Grant to be used for the Water/Sewer Extension Project to the community college site and the Meadows area
 - This grant is one of several that will be needed to raise the total amount of approximately \$5.5 million for the Water/Sewer Extension Project
 - In the process of applying for other grants, another grant application has already been submitted
- Water/Sewer Work Session
 - Charles Anderson, Pilot View RC&D, has requested a Water/Sewer Work Session on Monday, March 4th at 10:00 am (third floor conference room)
 - The Work Session will be to update the Board on the Water/Sewer Project
 - Request consensus for March 4th at 10:00 am
- Social Services – Special Exception for External Postings for Income Maintenance
 - DSS Director Kristy Preston requested a special exception to exempt vacant Income Maintenance Caseworker positions from having to be placed on the Board's Agenda for approval to post externally due to the NCFASST Program
 - Unless the Board has concerns, would like to start placing any external posting for vacant positions on the Board's Consent Agenda instead of the Discussion Agenda

- This will eliminate requests from being moved from the Discussion Agenda to the Action Agenda the same day and still allow the Board to approve each posting
- This will streamline the process, eliminate moving items to the Action Agenda the same day and possibly save two weeks
- If Board members have any issue with a particular posting, it can always be moved to the Discussion Agenda
- Do not believe any external postings have been disapproved

The Board had no comments with Manager's Morris' request to place external postings on the Consent Agenda.

The Board had no issues with scheduling a Water/Sewer Work Session for Monday, March 4th at 10:00 am.

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Will be participating in the upcoming Danbury Vol. Fire Department's Donkey Basketball Game fundraiser on Saturday, February 22, 2013 at North Stokes High School
- Will be attending Essentials of Government in Winston Salem tomorrow (Water and Economically Viable Communities)
- Visited the Green Heron Cafe (new business) located on the Dan River, feels it will be a good asset for tourism
- Will be attending the 4-H Achievement Awards this Friday in King

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Will also be attending the Essentials of Government in Winston Salem (two-day event) along with Commissioner Walker
- Very excited about the news from Golden LEAF Foundation
- Feels the County is one step closer to making our stand alone community college in Stokes County a reality
- Appreciate everyone's hard work on the grant application

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- Also very excited about the \$2 million grant from Golden LEAF
- Would like to thank those involved with the grant application along with Representative Bryan Holloway
- Agree with Commissioner Inman that this is one step closer to building a community college in Stokes County
- Feels this amount could possibly put sewer to the community college if no other funding is available
- Would like to remind everyone of the upcoming Farmers' Appreciation Day sponsored by Stokes County Soil/Water District, NC Cooperative Extension, NC Forestry, Farm Service Agency, Natural Resource Conservation, and local Stokes

County businesses which will be held on Thursday, April 18th at South Stokes High School starting at 5:30 pm – no county dollars

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Looking forward to attending the Essentials of Government in Winston Salem, have attended the Essentials of Government each year; always receive very vital information at the sessions
- Sheriff Mike Marshall was featured in the Winston Salem Journal today regarding his stand on upholding the Constitution
 - Read the article with interest
 - One of many sheriffs in North Carolina who have taken a stand regarding some pressure it appears the Constitution is being brought under
 - Very interesting thing, we lived in, what I believe, is a Constitutional Republic
 - Our nation is designed to be governed by the Constitution and should be
 - Very pleased that Sheriff Marshall was willing to let it be known that he believes in the Constitution
 - Commend Sheriff Marshall for his stand and he certainly has my support
- Will also be attending the 4-H Achievement Awards
 - Believe in the 4-H, Boy Scouts and a few others that I feel are character builders
 - Kids have a lot of things these days, (email, texting, video games, etc.) but there is something about getting involved in real life situations and achieving things which helps build character
 - Believe 4-H builds character
 - Looking forward to the event

Chairman Lankford commented:

- Agree, it was very exciting to learn the news from the Golden LEAF Foundation; was the first time Stokes County has ever received funding from Golden LEAF
- Appreciate the award of \$2 million from the Golden LEAF Foundation

YVEDDI- Update

Chairman Jack Koontz, YVEDDI Board of Directors, presented the following comments:

- Introduced those in attendance today from YVEDDI:
 - Interim Director Kathy Payne
 - Director of Transportation Jeff Cockerham
 - Assistant Finance Director Josh Sparks
- Expressed appreciation for being allowed to speak at today's meeting
- Come today to assure the Board of Commissioners, in the absence of the Executive Director and Assistant Director, that business is going as usual at YVEDDI
- Not slowing up
- Kathy Payne was appointed Interim Director on December 10, 2012 and is doing an excellent job

Interim Director Kathy Payne presented the following comments:

- Expressed appreciation for the opportunity to speak at today's meeting
- Have been with YVEDDI as the Head Start Director for 27 years
 - Currently hold five star licensing in all 22 classrooms at 15 sites
 - Have achieved zero findings in a federal review which means the agency met all 2,000 regulations
 - Have become trainers locally and across the State of North Carolina and Virginia
 - Provide workshops to other programs and school systems on child screening and assessment, vision screening, family engagement, teamwork, partnerships and collaborations
 - In 2008, YVEDDI Head Start selected by the state office to host a team of five British practitioners who came to North Carolina to get a greater understanding of best practices and innovative strategies and partnering for blended services to young children
 - This success can be attributed to a systemic approach that incorporates standards, based service plans, ongoing program and physical monitoring and evaluation, and improvement plans that promote continuous improvements
- While Interim Executive Director, will be applying this same systemic approach and dedication and commitment to all programs at YVEDDI
- Have an open door policy and the agency will continue to reach out to our community partners to bring about greater services to our communities
- In the next few weeks, will be compiling county funding proposals with assistance from the Finance staff – Chris Campbell and Josh Sparks and input from program directors and Board of Directors
- YVEDDI is very fortunate to have a very dedicated and capable staff and Board of Directors
- Our mission to help others help themselves remains our focus and the services in those in need continue
- Expressed appreciation to the Board for allowing the update on the Agenda

YVEDDI Chairman Jack Koontz commented:

- YVEDDI is partnering with the Piedmont Triad Regional Council to search for a new director

Chairman Lankford commented:

- Commissioner Walker and himself serve on the YVEDDI Board of Directors

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Expressed appreciation to the YVEDDI staff for the update
- YVEDDI has done a lot of good things in Stokes County
- Stokes County has a very good, long-term relationship with YVEDDI
- One thing that swayed me to YVEDDI was one of my mentors, the late Ellis Boyles, a real leader in Stokes County, who served on the YVEDDI Board of Directors and was a strong supporter of YVEDDI
- Have served on the Board of Directors for many years and have enjoyed being a part of YVEDDI

Chairman Lankford expressed the Board's appreciation to those presenting the YVEDDI update.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – DISCUSSION AGENDA

Tax Administration Report – January 2013

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

Fiscal Year 2012-13	Budget Amt	Collected Amt	Over Budget	Under Budget
County Regular & Motor Vehicles	\$20,861,260.00	\$19,425,481.52		\$1,435,778.48
New Schools F-Tech Fund	\$1,390,751.00	\$1,295,893.25		\$94,857.75
Prior Taxes 1994-2011 Tax Years				
County Regular & Motor Vehicles	\$675,000.00	\$610,614.02		\$64,385.98
EMS Current Collections				
Total Collected				
(01-01-13/01-31-13)	\$144,197.97			
Total Collected				
(07-01-12/06-30-13)	\$534,464.32			
Delinquent EMS Collection Report				
Total Collected				
(01-01-13/01-31-13) \$12,155.77				
(07-01-12/06-30-13) \$86,775.27				
Personal Property Discovery Report		# of	Total	Taxes
Audit Dates		Accts		Due
01-01-13/01-31-13		0	\$00.00	\$00.00
07-01-12/06-30-13		1,477	\$10,782,659.00	\$94,027.02
Business Personal Property Discovery Report		# of	Total	Taxes
Audit Dates		Accts	Value	Due
01-01-13/01-31-13		0	\$00.00	\$00.00
07-01-12/06-30-13		0	\$00.00	\$00.00
Motor Vehicle Release Report	Accounts	Total Value		
Audit Dates				
01-01-13/01-31-13	50	\$1,666.92		

**Motor Vehicle Refund
Report**

Audit Dates

01-01-13/01-31-13

Number billed for

January 2013

Accounts

8

Total Value

\$251.90

3911

Garnishment Totals

Month	Total Accounts	Original Levy Amt	Collected Amt
01-01-13/01-31-13	98	\$27,543.32	\$17,949.07
F/Year 2012-13			
(07-1-12/6-30-13)	837	\$240,570.10	\$213,885.70

Interstate Collection Report

January 2013

Collection

Total Collected

Cumulative Total Collected to Date

NC Debt Setoff

\$121,580.36

Cumulative Total Collected (to date)

Motor Vehicles

\$86,421.06

Cumulative Total Collected (to date)

Property Taxes

\$22,109.72

Cumulative Total Collected (to date)

EMS

\$122,565.22

Collected (to date)

All Categories

\$231,096.00

Monthly Delinquent Tax Collection Report

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Monthly Delinquent Tax Collection

Report for January 2013:

<u>County</u>	<u>Real/Personal</u>	<u>Property</u>	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>2013</u>			
Year	Beginning Balance	Releases	Refunds	Debits/ Credits	Writeoffs	Payments	Ending Balance
2011	\$ 346,513.47	\$(96.46)			\$ (1.24)	\$(19,724.64)	\$ 326,691.13
2010	\$ 161,188.67	\$(129.51)			\$ (.09)	\$ (6,301.76)	\$ 154,757.31
2009	\$ 99,740.67	\$(134.65)				\$ (4,691.86)	\$ 94,914.16
2009	\$ 52,648.16	\$(124.22)			\$ (0.57)	\$ (3,216.61)	\$ 49,306.76
2007	\$ 29,461.17					\$ (1,322.76)	\$ 28,138.41
2006	\$ 19,044.83					\$ (194.46)	\$ 18,850.37
2005	\$ 14,090.39					\$ (8.87)	\$ 14,081.52
2004	\$ 13,662.06						\$ 13,662.06
2003	\$ 9,885.52						\$ 9,885.52
2002	\$ 8,104.76						\$ 8,104.76
2001	\$ 5,808.66						\$ 5,808.66
2000	\$ 7,570.11						\$ 7,570.11
1999	\$ 7,962.76						\$ 7,962.76
1998	\$ 585.50						\$ 585.50

<u>County</u>	<u>Motor</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>2012</u>			
Year	Beginning Balance	Releases	Refunds	Debits/ Credits	Writeoffs	Payments	Ending Balance
2011	\$ 86,639.83	\$(316.65)		\$(61.50)	\$ (5.59)	\$(12,648.96)	\$ 73,607.13
2010	\$ 35,305.00				\$ (1.27)	\$ (926.20)	\$ 34,377.53
2009	\$ 24,600.69	\$(4.14)			\$ (0.06)	\$ (246.05)	\$ 24,350.44
2008	\$ 23,110.37				\$ (0.07)	\$ (436.67)	\$ 22,673.63
2007	\$ 18,924.10					\$ (72.12)	\$ 18,851.98
2006	\$ 13,437.83					\$ (7.98)	\$ 13,429.85
2005	\$ 16,461.65					\$ (1.13)	\$ 16,460.52
2004	\$ 14,491.17					\$ (7.63)	\$ 14,483.54
2003	\$ 14,462.52					\$ (21.68)	\$ 14,440.84
2002	\$ 17,173.47					\$ (22.93)	\$ 17,150.54
2001	\$ 14,816.41						\$ 14,816.41
2000	\$ 18,692.12						\$ 18,692.12
1999	\$ 16,483.15						\$ 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 Balance	Releases	Refunds	Debits/ Credits	Writeoffs	Payments	Ending Balance
2011	\$ 27,015.45	\$ (22.08)		\$(4.09)	\$ (0.45)	\$(2,069.90)	\$ 24,918.93

Release less than \$100 – Real and Personal Property

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Releases less than \$100 – Real and Personal Property for the Board's review:

Release less than
\$100 - Real/Personal
Property

January, 2013

Name	Bill Number	Amount
Arena Williams Hayes	12A155889188.06	<u>\$1.65</u>
	Total Amount	\$1.65

Refunds Less than \$100 – Real and Personal Property

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Refunds less than \$100 – Real and Personal Property for the Board's review:

Releases more than
\$100 - Real/Personal
Property

January, 2013

Name	Bill Number	Amount
Arena Williams Hayes	12A155889188.06.1	\$ 5.92
Evertt Cummings	12A155899968.07	\$15.82
	11A155899968.07	\$16.84
	11A155899968.07.1	\$47.61
Bonnie Young	12A15458.09	\$43.82
	11A15458.09	\$44.49
	10A15458.09	\$45.79
	09A15458.09	\$51.48
	08A15458.09	<u>\$62.54</u>
	Total Amount	\$334.31

EMS Financial Reporting

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following information regarding EMS

Financial Reporting:

- The Tax office, in the future, will be presenting the Board of Commissioners with a concise, easily understandable report pertaining to the monthly status of EMS Billing and Collections
- In the process of designing a report by analyzing the current EMS software
- Estimating the report should be finalized by the beginning of the new fiscal year
- Since the consolidation of EMS Billing/Collections with Tax Collections, employees have worked very diligent to process invoices covering emergency services; very proud of the staff for striving to make this a smooth transition
- As of January 31, 2013, the office is in a "current" position on processing invoices as received from the transport units and will continue to maintain a "current" billing status of EMS services
- Also in the process of analyzing the amount of unpaid bills in the current EMS software and the uncollected delinquent invoices passed on to the Tax Office (prior to the merger of EMS Billing/Collections with Tax Collections) in regards to collectability according to the NC General Statutes governing this department
- The department will continue to strive to improve the billing, collections, and reporting procedures related to provided emergency services

Chairman Lankford opened the floor for discussion.

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- Feels the Board and the county manager made a very good decision to combine these departments

Manager Morris responded:

- Commended Tax Administrator Oakley for the idea to combine the departments

The Board all agreed it was a very good idea to combine the departments and commended

Tax Administrator Oakley for his initiative.

Advertisement of 2012 Delinquent Tax Bills

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following information regarding the upcoming

Advertisement of 2012 Delinquent Tax Bills:

- Per NCGS 105-369(a), the Tax Collector must report to the Governing Body a total amount of unpaid taxes for the current fiscal year (2012-13) that are liens on real property, including the county and municipalities
- Governing Body must order the Tax Collector to advertise these tax liens
- Per NCGS 105-369(b1), after the Governing Body orders the Tax Collector to advertise the tax liens, the Tax Collector must send a notice to the owner of record of each affected parcel
- Notice must be sent to the owner's last known address by first class mail at least 30 days before the date of advertisement is to be published
- Projected date for mailing of second notices is March 8, 2013
- As of 02-06-2013 (Delinquent 2012 Tax Bills):
 - General County/Education – 3,798 bills – principal due = \$1,803,237.93
 - City of King – 258 bills – principal due = \$292,749.30
 - Town of Danbury – 13 bills – principal due = \$8,724.34
 - Town of Walnut Cove – 83 bills – principal due = \$54,260.05
- Requesting the Governing Body order the Tax Office to advertise these accounts no earlier than thirty (30) days after the mailing of the past due notices (less any bills paid between the report date and the advertising date)
- Projected advertisement date for 2012 tax liens in the Stokes News is April 11, 2013
- Feels the general statute that requires the Governing Body to order the Tax Collector to advertise the tax liens and the publishing of unpaid tax liens in a local paper of circulation does not take into account today's current technology such as websites
- Tax bills on the county's websites are actually advertised 24/7
- Would like to be able to advertise in the local paper a notice that tax liens are being processed and direct the taxpayer to the website to view the delinquent tax bills
- This would save county taxpayers approximately \$10,000 a year (advertising costs)
- Would like for the Board to contact NCACC to lobby state representative to revise the general statutes to "the Governing Body **can** order the Tax Collector to advertise these tax liens" instead of **must** order
- This would allow each county to decide what is the best method of advertising for their county
- Feels this general statute is outdated and needs to be revised to address the current age of technology
- Reiterated the requirement of a 30-day notice would and should not be changed

Chairman Lankford opened the floor for discussions.

Chairman Lankford confirmed with Tax Administrator Oakley how the taxpayer who does not take the local paper or have internet would be notified 30 days before the date of advertisement that they have a delinquent account.

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Make a very valid point regarding the advertisement in the local paper (very costly)
- This year at the Legislative Goals Session in Raleigh, there was vigorous discussion about this topic
- NCACC Legislative Goals Committee did submit a goal making it at least optional how the counties might advertise – law still states the county must advertise, but has the option to advertise electronically
- Some of the far eastern counties had concerns due to not having hardly any internet access
- Concerned about the elderly population who may not have computer/internet access or the training to access the website
- Supported the goal that would give counties the option to advertise electronically
- Big goal of mine to try to get un-served and underserved areas internet access in Stokes County
- One of the first questions when people are considering relocating to Stokes County is the internet access – DSL, Roadrunner, etc.

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Agree with Tax Administrator Oakley's request
- Confirmed with Tax Administrator Oakley that the taxpayer will receive a 30-day notice regarding their delinquent account
- The notice would also explain the notification on the county's website
- Only change would be that everyone's name is not in the local paper
- Good idea to change "must" to "can"

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Commended Tax Administrator Oakley for bringing this to the Board's attention
- Very proactive

Commissioner Walker questioned Tax Administrator Oakley would there be any advantages or disadvantages to include in the notice that a hard copy of delinquent tax bills could be obtained from the Tax Administrator?

Tax Administrator Oakley responded:

- There would be no problem providing a copy of the delinquent tax bills – all the information is public record if requested

- Hard copies could actually be also posted on the county's bulletin board, tax office, courthouse, etc. for anyone who doesn't wish to pay for a copy

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- Feels this is a good idea, but reiterated that the County must follow General Statutes that require advertising in the local papers until General Statutes are amended

Commissioner Walker requested Tax Administrator Oakley to explain the term "tax liens" as it relates to the delinquent tax accounts.

Tax Administrator Oakley responded:

- General Statutes, approved several, several years ago, allow a lien on real property and provide the Governing Body authority to do what is necessary to collect the unpaid taxes
- This is not the same as placing a lien on the property
- Each year, as of January 5th, unpaid taxes become delinquent which constitutes a lien on that property that the tax bill was created on

Chairman Lankford, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the February 25th Consent Agenda.

Scheduling of Board of Equalization and Review Dates for 2013

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following proposed hearing dates for the 2013 Board of Equalization and Review (E&R):

- April 4, 2013 - Thursday - Beginning at 1:00 pm
- April 11, 2013 - Thursday - Beginning at 5:00 pm
- April 25, 2013 - Thursday - Beginning at 9:00 am
- May 9, 2013 - Thursday - Beginning at 5:00 pm

Tax Administrator Oakley noted that staff would try to take care of as many appeals as possible.

Chairman Lankford opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Walker suggested starting at least one of the hearings at 6:00 pm in order for those who work till 5:00 pm.

The Board agreed to place the following dates and times for E&R Hearings on the

February 25th Consent Agenda for approval:

- April 4, 2013 - Thursday - Beginning at 6:00 pm
- April 11, 2013 - Thursday - Beginning at 1:00 pm
- April 25, 2013 - Thursday - Beginning at 9:00 am
- May 9, 2013 - Thursday - Beginning at 5:00 pm

Chairman Lankford, with full consensus of the Board, directed the clerk to place the item on the February 25th Consent Agenda.

EMS Proposed Organizational Restructure

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding the EMS

Proposed Organizational Restructure:

- With the transition of a new EMS Director, I decided to review the organizational structure and operations of EMS before moving forward to fill the Assistant EMS Director position
- The Assistant EMS Director position became vacant when Greg Collins moved to the director's position
- Director Collins and I, along with the assistance of EMS Medical Director, Dr. Daryl Nelson, are assessing the need for the Assistant EMS Director's position and what other changes would be smart to incorporate if we do not fill the position
- This assessment will look at all the changes that have been made during the past two years and will also evaluate the cost of any new recommendations with the objective of not increasing the cost of the current EMS operations
- Provided the Board with a narrative with two options for discussion at the February 25th meeting:
 - Option One – freezes the Assistant EMS Director and removes shift supervisors from the units along with the hiring of two paramedics
 - Option Two – remains as is – post the Assistant EMS Director asap
- Narrative includes background information and a joint recommendation from EMS Director Collins, Medical Director Nelson and myself

Commissioner Walker confirmed with Manager Morris that Life One will remain in both options.

Manager Morris commented:

- At the time, the decision was made due to budgetary issues, to place the shift supervisors on the units for part of their shift resulting in the freezing of two paramedic positions
- Feels the decision made at that particular time was the right decision, have not had any serious repercussions from the decision

- Per direction of the Board, EMS was closely monitored over the past two budget years
- Reiterated the recommendation takes into consideration a lot of changes and turnover during the past years

Director Morris noted that Board members could submit questions before the next meeting.

The Board unanimously agreed to review the narrative submitted by Manager Morris and place the item on the February 25th Discussion Agenda.

Chairman Lankford, with full consensus of the Board, directed the clerk to place the item on the February 25th Discussion Agenda.

Health Department – Reclassification

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following request from Health Director Scott Lenhart regarding the reclassification of a Social Work Supervisor's position at the Health Department:

- Request to reclassify a Social Work Supervisor position to a Social Worker II position (no longer supervisory duties)
- The Northwest Community Care Network, who funds the position, has recommended the position be moved under the Child Health Program
- With this move, there is no need to have two supervisors
- Current job description has been modified to remove the supervisory duties and medical responsibility
- Office of State Personnel has approved the reclassification

Chairman Lankford opened the floor for discussion.

Vice Chairman Booth confirmed with Manager Morris that there would be no change in salary according to the county's current personnel policy.

The Board had no other issues with the request.

Chairman Lankford, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the February 25th Discussion Agenda.

Home Health – External Posting

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following request from Health Director Scott

Lenhart regarding the external posting for Home Health vacancies:

- Home Health currently has two open Public Health Nurse positions along with the Public Health Nurse Supervisor I
- No internal applications were received; one position has been vacant for over 20 months
- Request to post externally with the following hiring ranges:
 - Public Health Nurse II (\$37,098 to \$41,390) Grade 72 (Step 7A to 12B)
 - Public Health Nurse Supervisor I (\$40,125 to \$49,945) Grade 74 (Step 7A to 12B) (current salary for the last full time PHN Nursing Supervisor was \$49,945)
- Still very challenging to find Public Health Nurses
- Positions are revenue producing

Vice Chairman Booth confirmed with Manager Morris that the Health Director is requesting approval to hire within the request hiring range for the vacant Home Health positions.

Commissioner Inman confirmed with Manager Morris the requested hiring range is within the current grade on the County's classification plan.

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Understand that the County is often used as a training ground and employees move on to other counties for higher wages
- Would like to have an update on the status of Home Health in terms of an income producing department
- Have a great department, but may not be getting to those who need the services
- In reality, if the department is not being competitive and not an income producing department, should the county look differently at the department?
- Would like to see financial information regarding the last fiscal year and the current fiscal year

Vice Chairman Booth commented that the past two fiscal years have been in the "black".

Manager Morris noted that the current fiscal year for Home Health is approximately \$100,000 in the "red".

Commissioner Inman continued:

- With the department currently running the "red", the Board must look at that realistically
- Would like to hear from Health Director Lenhart regarding the department's future
- Feels the Board needs an update
- Would personally like to have Director Lenhart at the next meeting

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- The Board of Health is currently assessing the situation
- Revenues are currently in the “red” due to the loss of the Physical Therapist at the beginning of this fiscal year (approximately four months without a Therapist)
- Department currently has a Physical Therapist on contract
- Action has been taken by the Health Director to contract for nurses until the positions can be filled
- The past two years, which were in the “black”, were probably the only years that the department has been in the “black” (approximately \$200,000 in the black)
- Patient load has increased recently

Commissioner Inman questioned Vice Chairman Booth if the contract positions generate enough revenue to equate to the salary and a profit for Home Health?

Vice Chairman Booth responded:

- Can't determine that at this moment; however, contracting the billing services two years ago did help the department get into the black
- Staff at the Health Department will be trained to assist the billing for Home Health

Manager Morris noted that the contract cost for a Public Health Nurse is \$69 per hour.

Vice Chairman Booth responded:

- Will be looking to contract with local nurses to hopefully cut overhead costs

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Been in this vicious cycle with the high turnover rate, most of which is due to low wages
- Feels the health director knows his job and the hiring range he needs to get someone in the positions
- Feels the department is doing okay and this is a temporary situation
- With aging population, need to get this department moving forward
- Reiterated that the director knows what he needs to get this department back on track
- Will support the hiring ranges submitted by Director Lenhart

Commissioner Walker commented:

- If my memory is correct, have supported every request, intact, presented by the health director
- See something systemic to the situation that these requests never seem to end
- Also wonder what peripheral impact his staffing issues are regarding certain other parts of the department's operation; for example, reopening the King Clinic
- Was promised once the accreditation was completed, the reopening of the King Clinic would be a priority again
- Now that the accreditation has been completed and some time has passed, have not heard anything else regarding the reopening of the King Clinic
- One component I recall was that a study would be completed to see what services were needed

- Would like to know if there was a study done or is being done
- DSS sends staffing every week to King, they are flooded with appointments and could possibly expand hours, but are uncertain what the Health Department's intentions are for use of the facility
- Would like to have an update on the status of reopening the King Clinic at the next meeting
- Confirmed with Manager Morris that the \$100,000 that Home Health is in the "red", is all county dollars; another challenge for this year's budget
- Commend Commissioner Inman's thoughts regarding being realistic about the department
- Need to be looking at things we want and prefer compared to what we can afford in these hard economic times
- Feels there will be other difficult issues for the upcoming budget (2013-14)
- Feels the county is very fortunate to have Director Lenhart, but do have an ongoing challenge to see that Home Health is staff adequately and appropriately
- Looking forward to having some discussion to get a snapshot of how the pieces all fit together

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Follow up to Commissioner Walker's comments, would also like to have an update on the status of reopening the King Clinic
- Thought services were being offered one day a week, understand this is not true

Commissioner Walker responded:

- Very concerning to find those things out by accident, feels those need to be communicated to the Board

Chairman Lankford noted that Health Director Lenhart has provided information to the Board before that the King Clinic can't reopen unless additional staff is hired.

Commissioner Walker:

- That is one reason why some questions need to be answered at this time, it may all fit together
- If staffing is an issue, is it fair to run the Danbury Office five days and no days in King

Chairman Lankford, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the February 25th Discussion Agenda.

NCDOT – Request to Abandon a Portion of SR#2036 – Snow Loop Road from the Secondary Road System and Abandonment of Right of Way

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding the request to abandon a portion of SR#2036 – Snow Loop Road from the Secondary Road System and also the

February 11, 2013

Right-of-Way:

- County received a request from NCDOT to abandon a portion of SR 2036, Snow Loop Road, from the Secondary Road System along with a request from property owners Justin Duncan and William T. Day to abandon the right-of-way
- Received the following comments from staff regarding the request:
 - Emergency Communications Director Del Hall:
 - If Stokes County Emergency Communications Center receives a call from a resident living on the northern side of Snow Loop Road or from a resident living off Augusta Hicks Road requesting law enforcement or medical emergency from EMS or the Sheriff's Department, it could cause a delay in the emergency response to the residents that live on that portion of Snow Loop Road and Augusta Hicks Road
 - Could be a delay in Danbury Vol. Fire Department responding as a back up to South Stokes Vol. Fire Department
 - Road is historically known to Stokes County fire, medical and law enforcement responders as a loop road
 - Feel, if the request is approved, that abandonment could cause a delay in response time
 - Tax Administrator Jake Oakley:
 - William Day and Justin Duncan are the only two individuals that would be directly affected
 - Would not recommend approval of the request due to the road extension (Augusta Hicks Road) off of this portion of Snow Loop Road provides an access to five dwellings
 - Six vacant lots in this area with the potential for future development
 - Planning Director David Sudderth:
 - Appears to be 13 additional parcels located on Augusta Hicks Road that could be affected by this closure
 - Would be appropriate to eliminate "Loop" from the road name due to the road no longer being a loop road; would likely cause an address change to those currently having a "Snow Loop Road" address
- Request direction from Board whether to proceed with the normal process

Chairman Lankford opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Agree with the department heads' concerns, but feel the property owners do have some valid concerns; county should try to help alleviate some of the issues
- Could talk with NCDOT regarding speed limit signs, speed bumps, one way traffic, etc.
- Would help if Augusta Hicks Road could connect directly to Highway #8
- Can't land lock a property owner
- Not sure of the amount of traffic on the road

- Not sure if the distance would make the response time be much more, but do not want to be held accountable if we were 10 seconds late in saving someone's life or house

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Like Commissioner Jones' comments regarding the distance as it relates to response time
- Under extreme conditions, a few seconds could make a difference
- Would like to know how much the response time would increase if the request was approved
- Would also like to know what effect this would have on the two school buses currently traveling the road
- Trying to blend this all together, staff comments, property owners' comments
- Very tough situation
- Understand the citizens' concern, who spoke during Public Comments,
- Lending toward, unless there are very specific issues, considering the citizens' request to whatever extent possible
- Reiterated the need to know the increase to the emergency response time if the request was approved
- Confirmed with Manager Morris that NCDOT has no issues with the request
- Questioned if there were any other comments from other neighbors

Manager Morris noted it is approximately 1,000 feet from one end of the road to the other end of the road and those neighbors had not been notified of the request yet.

Commissioner Walker requested the timeline for this type of request.

Clerk Darlene Bullins responded:

- Once directed by the Board, the following events will occur:
 - Bring back a resolution for the Board's approval to start the process
 - Advertise a Public Hearing for three consecutive weeks regarding the request for abandonment
 - Post the road with information regarding the abandonment request
 - Sent certified letters to adjoining property owners
 - Hold the Public Hearing
 - Order for Abandonment prepared for Board's consideration

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- Lot of information to be considered
- Must take into consideration the property owners on Augusta Hicks Road
- Funding spent to recently pave the Snow Loop Road
- Understand the property owners' issues regarding safety
- Would like to have the other information for further discussion

Chairman Lankford commented:

- Concerned with the abandonment as it relates to vacant property on Augusta Hicks Road
- Would like to know the number of potential vacant lots

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Reiterated the need to know if there were any options that could possibly help Mr. Duncan and Mr. Day without abandoning the requested portion of the road – one way traffic, speed bumps, neighborhood postings, etc.
- Concerned with the bus doing a 3-point turn in the landowners' property

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Very familiar with the road
- Understand the concerns expressed in Public Comments from the property owners
- Had a similar situation – Clyde Amos Road
- Confirmed there were only two property owners that are directly affected
- This presents an unique challenge for the Board, typically roads that have been abandoned are usually at the end of a road and the request usually comes from one property owner
- Need to take a closer look at the request

Vice Chairman Booth questioned if the entrance could be change at an angle, similar to what was done on the Clyde Amos Road?

Commissioner Inman noted that there might not be enough property to change the entrance.

Manager Morris noted that he could contact NCDOT for clarification.

Chairman Lankford, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the February 25th Discussion Agenda.

Appointments – Stokes County Planning Board – Quaker Gap Township

Chairman Lankford noted the following vacancy on the Stokes County Planning Board – Quaker Gap Township:

- Vacancy due to the death of L.G. Tilley
- Term will expire June 30, 2014

Chairman Lankford opened the floor for nominations.

Vice Chairman Booth nominated Danny Sisk.

Chairman Lankford entertained a motion to close the nominations.

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

Chairman Lankford, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the February 25th Action Agenda.

Appointments – Stokes County Board of Adjustment

Chairman Lankford noted the following vacancies on the Stokes County Board of Adjustment:

- Don Lester – Term to expire March 1, 2013
- Larry Boles – Term to expire March 1, 2013
- Russel Slate – Term to expire March 1, 2013
- All wish to be considered for re-appointment
- Tim Flinchum will be relocating from Stokes County – Alternate position

Chairman Lankford opened the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Jones nominated the following:

- Don Lester
- Larry Boles
- Russel Slate
- Arzell Montgomery – Alternate position

Chairman Lankford entertained a motion to close the nominations.

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

Commissioner Walker discussed the residence of the existing members being heavy in the north.

Commissioner Jones noted that Arzell Montgomery resides in Walnut Cove with no members currently on the Board from Walnut Cove.

Chairman Lankford, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the February 25th Action Agenda.

Scheduling – Goals/Budget Guidance Work Sessions

Chairman Lankford opened the floor for possible dates for Goals/Budget Guidance Work Sessions.

Manager Morris noted department budgets are due to the manager by March 22, 2013.

The Board unanimously agreed to the following dates and times:

- Tuesday, March 5, 2013 - 10:00 am
- Tuesday, March 12, 2013 - 10:00 am
- Wednesday, March 13, 2013 - 1:00 pm
- Monday, March 18, 2013 – 1:00 pm
- Work Sessions will be held in the third floor conference

Chairman Lankford directed the Clerk to advertise these dates along with the Water/Sewer Work Session to save advertising costs.

Commissioner Jones noted that she had prior obligations on Monday, March 4th – Water/Sewer Work Session, but would try to rearrange her schedule.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – ACTION AGENDA

Appointments – Economic Development Commission

Chairman Lankford noted the following were nominated at the January 14th and January 28th meetings:

- Jane Priddy-Charleville
- Bruce Younts
- Michael Hylton
- Cindy Tuttle
- J. Leon Inman (commissioner appointee)

Chairman Lankford opened the floor for any further nominations.

Chairman Lankford nominated Phil Lawson from the Lawsonville area.

Commissioner Inman confirmed with Chairman Lankford that Mr. Lawson had previously served as the county's Veteran Services Officer.

Chairman Lankford noted that Mr. Lawson has done a lot of traveling and would be very experienced for the tourism component of Economic Development.

Commissioner Walker noted, if Mr. Lawson was appointed, this would be three members from the Lawsonville/Sandy Ridge area on a seven-member board.

Chairman Lankford noted that Mr. Lawson will be replacing a member who resided in the Lawsonville area.

Chairman Lankford entertained a motion to close the nominations.

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

Commissioner Walker noted that there was only one woman on this seven-member board; that is why I am supporting Cindy Tuttle (board will be much better proportion) and feel you can not find a better nominee for the appointment with someone with her experience.

The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Lankford polled the Board:

Commissioner Jones:

- Commissioner Leon Inman
- Jane Priddy-Charleville
- Bruce Younts
- Phil Lawson

Commissioner Inman:

- Commissioner Leon Inman
- Jane Priddy-Charleville
- Bruce Younts
- Phil Lawson

Chairman Lankford:

- Commissioner Leon Inman
- Jane Priddy-Charleville
- Bruce Younts
- Phil Lawson

Vice Chairman Booth:

- Commissioner Leon Inman
- Jane Priddy-Charleville
- Bruce Younts
- Phil Lawson

Commissioner Walker:

- Commissioner Leon Inman
- Jane Priddy-Charleville
- Bruce Younts
- Cindy Tuttle

Commissioner Walker reiterated that Cindy Tuttle would have been an excellent appointment for the EDC.

Appointments – Firemen Relief Fund

Chairman Lankford noted the following were nominated at the January 28th meeting:

Fireman's Relief Fund

Department

Station #39 - Danbury
Station #41 - Double Creek
Station #34 - Francisco
Station #32 - Lawsonville
Station #36 - Northeast Stokes
Station #31 - Pinnacle
Station #38 - Sauratown
Station #40 - South Stokes
Station #37 - Stokes Rockingham
Station #35 - Walnut Cove

Recommendation

Norman Scott
Tom Tilley
Atherton Jessup
Ronnie Mabe
Gary Wilkins
Travis Sink
Randall Smith
Bobby Boles
Libby Paris
James Teague

Chairman Lankford opened the floor for further discussion.

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 polled the Board:

Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Inman, Chairman Lankford, Vice Chairman Booth

and Commissioner Walker approved the following re-appointments:

Fireman's Relief Fund	
Department	Recommendation
Station #39 - Danbury	Norman Scott
Station #41 - Double Creek	Tom Tilley
Station #34 - Francisco	Atherton Jessup
Station #32 - Lawsonville	Ronnie Mabe
Station #36 - Northeast Stokes	Gary Wilkins
Station #31 - Pinnacle	Travis Sink
Station #38 - Sauratown	Randall Smith
Station #40 - South Stokes	Bobby Boles
Station #37 - Stokes Rockingham	Libby Paris
Station #35 - Walnut Cove	James Teague

Rules of Procedure

Chairman Lankford noted the Board, by consensus, directed the Clerk at the January 28th meeting to place the following options on the Action Agenda for the Board's consideration:

Option One:

Rule 11. Order of Business. At regular meetings, the board shall proceed to business in the following order:

1. Approval of the Agenda
2. Information Agenda
3. Scheduled Public Hearings
4. Public Comments
5. Consent Agenda
6. Discussion Agenda (amended on 01-25-2010)*
7. Action Agenda
8. Closed Session (if necessary)

Option Two:

Rule 11. Order of Business. At regular meetings, the board shall proceed to business in the following order:

1. Approval of the Agenda
2. Comments – Manager/Commissioners
3. Scheduled Public Hearings

4. Public Comments
5. Consent Agenda
6. Information Agenda
7. Discussion Agenda (amended on 01-25-2010)*
8. Action Agenda
9. Closed session (if necessary)

Chairman Lankford opened the floor for further discussion.

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Have looked at both options very carefully
- Open on both options

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- As suggested at the last meeting, feel option one would work

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Still a little surprised the Board is still discussing this item
- Really doesn't matter, can work with both options, will go with the preference of the other members

Commissioner Jones commented:

- After lengthy discussion, thought option two would make everyone happy including Commissioner Walker
- Am confused as to why the Action Agenda does not reflect the wordage regarding Resolutions not being adopted if the topic is on a ballot to be voted on by the people, thought it would have been placed on the Action Agenda for a vote
- Don't understand why that was skipped and not placed on the Action Agenda, it was discussed at the January 28th meeting

Chairman Lankford noted it was the consensus of the Board at the January 28th meeting that Resolutions would stay open.

Commissioner Jones responded:

- Could have been consensus, but still felt that it should have been placed on the Action Agenda for a vote, just like Rule #11

Vice Chairman Booth responded:

- Understood that it was consensus not to put any language regarding resolutions on the Action Agenda regarding the Rules of Procedure

Commissioner Jones responded:

- Seems bias to have one on the Action Agenda for a vote, but not the other, when both were discussed at the same meeting and at the same time

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- Don't understand why you would need Information on the agenda twice when comments by the manager and commissioners are also information

Manager Morris responded:

- The second information would be for items such as the YVEDDI Update; all about whether you want that type of information up front with comments from the manager and commissioners

Chairman Lankford questioned why updates such as YVEDDI could not be placed on the Discussion Agenda; the Board could then ask questions if needed.

Commissioner Walker responded:

- That would violate the Board's own protocol; the Board established and agreed previously that there would be Information, Discussion, and Action Agendas
- If we bypass the Information Agenda, the Board is going against its own procedures

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Will concur with Commissioner Walker on that part

Chairman Lankford entertained a motion.

Vice Chairman Booth moved to approve Option One. Chairman Lankford seconded and the motion failed (2-3) with Commissioner Inman, Commissioner Jones, and Commissioner Walker voting against the motion.

Chairman Lankford entertained a motion for Option Two.

Commissioner Inman moved to approve Option Two. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.

Chairman Lankford confirmed with Manager Morris that Item #2 would be comments from the manager and commissioners and Item #6 would be for any department or outside agency that has been approved to be on the Information Agenda.

Manager Morris confirmed with the Board that the Information Agenda should remain on each Agenda even if there were no updates, information, etc.

Vice Chairman Booth noted that if there was an item for the Information Agenda, it should be listed.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- As I look at the format, wonder if it would be a smoother flow to the Agenda to have Public Hearings as item #2, and Comments – manager/commissioners as item 3 and public comments as item #4; this would have all comments together
- Not really concerned which way
- Commissioner Jones, far as your need or wants to have consideration of a certain change, think you have every right to champion whatever you choose to and also if it isn't done now, according to procedure, you can bring it up at another time

Commissioner Jones responded:

- My only request is that it is given equal consideration on the Action Agenda just like this motion
- Feel it should have had the same consideration, that is all I am asking; that the vote on the Action Agenda is official and not just consensus

Commissioner Walker offered a suggestion:

- If you want an official position on this Board and you don't think it was clear enough on the previous occasion; after this motion is dispensed with, don't think it would be out of order to make a motion

Commissioner Jones responded:

- That will be fine
- I know what the vote will be, but there will be an actual action just like this one, it will be given the same consideration

Chairman Lankford noted the following:

- Even though Rule #10 speaks to the Informal Public Comments and it is understood, shouldn't there be clear understanding that the Board does not respond to Public Comments

Commissioner Walker responded:

- How could there be responses to Public Comments from Board, when the Board is speaking before Public Comments?

Chairman Lankford responded:

- Even though it is understood, it would be documented in the Board's Rules of Procedure

Commissioner Inman commented:

- See no issues with adding it, but feel it is very important that the Chairman announces at each meeting that this Board will not make any response to Public Comments before anyone speaks

Chairman Lankford responded:

- Adding this to the Rules of Procedure would also allow the Clerk to place this on the Agenda under Public Comments and on the signup sheet

Clerk Bullins noted that this would allow the wording to be placed on the Agenda and on the signup sheet allowing the citizens, before they sign up, to know that there will be no response from the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Walker noted that the current motion would need to be amended to include this motion or have a new motion.

Chairman Lankford noted any commissioner, if so desired, could make a new motion once this motion is voted on.

The motion to approve Option Two carried unanimously.

Chairman Lankford entertained a motion regarding Rule #10 – Informal Public Comments.

Commissioner Inman moved to add the following to Rule #10 – Informal Public Comments:

- The Board of Commissioners will hear Public Comments, but will not respond to Public Comments

Vice Chairman Booth seconded the motion.

Commissioner Walker responded:

- Feels the Board has been following this procedure all along and almost seems redundant that the Board has to state it, but have no problem with the citizens seeing this information when they sign up for public comments
- Questioned if that was Commissioner Inman's intentions in his motion?

Commissioner Inman responded:

- Yes, that was my intention
- Have had people comment to me before "why didn't the Board say anything as if we were not being transparent"
- Sometimes citizens state that they feel they were ignored

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Would encourage the Chairman to say it at each meeting before Public Comments, since everyone does not see the signup sheet

Chairman Lankford noted that he would definitely try to inform the public before Public Comments that the Board will not respond to anything said during Public Comments.

Clerk Bullins confirmed that it was the consensus of the Board that the statement be added under Public Comments on the Agenda and on the Public Comments signup sheet.

The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Lankford entertained any other motion.

Commissioner Jones moved to approve that no Resolutions will be made on any issues on any ballots before the votes are cast by the public and counted.

The motion dies for lack of second.

CLOSED SESSION

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

- To consider and take action with respect to the position to be taken by the county in negotiating the price or other material terms of an agreement for the acquisition or lease of real property pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5)
- To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the County pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4)
- 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. 143-318.11(a)(3)

Commissioner Inman moved to enter closed session for the following:

- To consider and take action with respect to the position to be taken by the county in negotiating the price or other material terms of an agreement for the acquisition or lease of real property pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5)
- To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the County pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4)

- 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. 143-318.11(a)(3)

Commissioner Jones seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The Board returned to the regular session of the February 11th meeting.

Adjournment

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

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

Darlene M. Bullins
Clerk to the Board

Ernest Lankford
Chairman