

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA )  
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COUNTY OF STOKES )  
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OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS  
STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA  
MARCH 22, 2013

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met for Special Called Meeting in the Third Floor Conference Room of the Ronald Wilson Reagan Memorial Building (Administration Building) located in Danbury, North Carolina on Friday, March 22, 2013 at 10:00 am with the following members present:

Chairman Ernest Lankford  
Commissioner J. Leon Inman  
Commissioner Jimmy Walker

Vice Chairman James D. Booth - absent  
Commissioner Ronda Jones - absent

County Personnel in Attendance:  
Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins

County Manager Richard D. Morris – absent

Legislative Delegation:  
House of Representative Bryan Holloway  
Senator Shirley Randleman

Others in attendance:  
Superior Clerk of Court Jason Tuttle  
Register of Deeds Kathy Young  
Sheriff Mike Marshall  
Chief Deputy Craig Carico

Chairman Ernest Lankford called the Special Called Meeting to order.

Chairman Lankford delivered the invocation.

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

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

Chairman Lankford welcomed those in attendance and expressed the Board's appreciation to the county's Legislative Delegation for taking time out of their busy schedules for this meeting.

Chairman Lankford noted that Vice Chairman Booth, Commissioner Jones, and Manager Rick Morris were unable to attend today's meeting due to prior obligations.

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

Chairman Lankford entertained a motion to approve or amend the March 22, 2013 Agenda.

Commissioner Inman moved to approve the March 22, 2013 Agenda as presented. Commissioner Walker seconded and the motion carried (3-0) with Vice Chairman Booth and Commissioner Jones absent.

Commissioner Inman commented:

- NCACC has had a long standing working relationship with the Legislators
- Very fortunate in Stokes County to have Legislators like Representative Holloway and Senator Randleman who take a strong interest in their counties
- Both delegates truly serve their constituents
- As a member of the NCACC Board of Directors, appreciate their continued support

Commissioner Inman noted that Representative Holloway has introduced House Bill 389 in an effort to restore Article 44 (Hold Harmless Revenue) which is a big deal for Stokes County and a lot of other rural counties.

Senator Randleman stated that there is also a Senate Bill to restore Hold Harmless.

Chairman Lankford noted that Commissioner Inman who serves on the NCACC Board of Directors and is very familiar with the goals will lead the discussion.

Commissioner Inman noted the following were the top five goals adopted by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners; there were actually 65 to 70 goals.

## 2013 Top Legislative Goals

### Oppose Shift of State Transportation to the Counties

Commissioner Inman opened the floor for discussion.

Senator Randleman commented:

- Good to see everyone today
- There has been a lot of talk about shifting transportation to the Counties
- Seems like it comes up every two years when the legislature is in session
- Have received emails regarding this issue
- Last session, the House passed a bill to cap the gas tax, when it went to the Senate, it wasn't taken up
- When you talk about changing the formula and the way taxes are collected to fund roads, any shift would impact other things
- Some states that have lower fuel taxes, have higher property taxes; in those states, the local entity provides maintenance to the roads
- Have continuously tried to stay away from shifting it back to the counties
- Do not think that most counties could afford to do the necessary maintenance on the roads and maintain the quality
- It disturbs me when I come to Danbury (northern area) that there is no access to a four lane road
- One thing that disturbs me more than road maintenance is Medicaid – Medicaid continues to grow and grow
- Hope it does not reach a point that the Medicaid cost has to be shifted back to the county
- Oppose shifting road maintenance back to the County

Representative Holloway commented:

- Have talked to the NCACC before about this issue
- As the full appropriations chair, continuously trying to figure out what we have to pay for and what we don't
- This is something that is not even a topic of discussion
- Truthfully, this idea was born when the Democratic Party was in the majority; they were toying with the idea of shifting this burden to the counties
- When they got into fiscal problems, they like to kick the "can" down the road to the counties
- Commitment that I have made to each of you is that I will not do that
- Last year, I told each of you that the education responsibility was not going to be kicked down to the counties
- Governor's budget kicked school buses, workman's compensation and a couple of other measures down to the county
- You will not see that in education
- You will not see that in transportation
- Feel you will continue to see a legislature that tries to take responsibility for what they are responsible for
- Stokes County does not have the revenue base if road maintenance was shifted

- In my opinion, you will not see a shifting of road maintenance back to the County
- Feel this one can be checked off the list

Commissioner Inman noted that this started with larger counties like Mecklenburg and Wake.

### **Reinstate ADM and Lottery Funds for School Construction**

Commissioner Inman opened the floor for discussion.

Representative Holloway commented:

- One thing to remember is that when the lottery was created in 2005, counties were receiving ADM funding for school construction and maintenance
- When the lottery was created, ADM funds were phased out
- What happened was the lottery was a “shell game”, counties got a little shell of lottery money, but sales tax reimbursement and ADM were pulled back by the State
- That is the main reason I voted against the lottery
- I saw it had a “shell game” and in my opinion, it wasn’t going to support education at the local level
- The lottery formula has changed every single session since it was created
- Probably will be more changes this session, not yet determined
- Only changes to the lottery that I would support would be to bring more money to the counties and put more money to education
- With the current economy today, revenues are going to come in really close
- This is going to happen because tough decisions were made last year
- Can we restore ADM and give it to the counties? The answer is probably “no”; the money is just not there
- Counties have been paying the LEA Discretionary Reversion which is a mad, mad way of budgeting; dates back to 2002
- Democrats put the idea in place
- Reversion is when the state gives you funding and then asks for it back
- Started out at \$33 million dollars
- When the Republicans inherited the budget, it had grown to over \$400 million
- Last year, successful at reducing it to \$376 million
- Trying our best to reduce that even more this year
- Governor’s budget did not reduce or increase it
- Decreasing it will help counties by having school systems reverting less money back to the state
- Will try our best to find ways to put more lottery funds into the counties
- When you take all the state appropriations that went to education last year, there was more state monies spent on education than the budget the Republicans started with that was left behind
- The pain the counties felt was because of the federal stimulus dollars that were one time dollars which have expired
- These dollars were used to fund salaries

- Never take one time funding for recurrent expenditures; that is what the previous folks did and left us in a horrible situation
- Can't control what goes on in Washington, DC
- Going to try to help counties get more lottery funding
- May be a day when the ADM funding can be returned to the counties

Chairman Lankford commented:

- Reversion has been killing the school's budget
- That would be a tremendous improvement to keep those dollars in the school's budget
- Read where the Governor's budget is still holding on to \$100 million from the lottery percentage

Representative Holloway continued:

- Governor has done an interesting thing with the lottery
- Either you are going to have a lottery or not, Governor has reduced advertising spending
- It makes for a wonderful speech when you can stand up and say that advertising will be cut in half
- The truth is that the lottery only spent .92% (\$14 million) on advertising
- If you are going to do a lottery, you need to advertise in order to take in as much as you can
- Reiterated that he did not vote for the lottery
- Feels it is a horrible way to raise money for schools, but if you are going to do it, do it
- If you don't want it, have the courage to come forth and repeal it
- You will not see it repealed
- Can assure you the way it is written in the Governor's budget, it will probably not be the end results
- Governor has yet to hire an educational advisor
- Not sure where it will end up
- Will only support something that helps the counties more

Commissioner Walker confirmed with Representative Holloway that the formula has changed each year.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Have been times when the formula did not favor a county like Stokes because we watch our tax rate
- When you look at the pending changes, does Stokes seem to have a fair distribution process?

Representative Holloway continued:

- The piece you are speaking about (property taxes) is no longer in the formula
- Probably will never get what the larger counties get
- Legislature is more urban than it has ever been, both our districts are good examples
- Feels that any changes made by the Legislature will be favorable to the counties

Senator Randleman commented:

- Stokes and Wilkes Counties have not always received full funding on lottery

- In 2009, there were several bills floating around trying to change the formula to keep counties such as Stokes from getting shortchanged
- Have signed on several bills trying to get the formula changed
- In 2011, the lottery sales were in excess of \$50 million from the projections
- In fiscal year 2011-12, all counties received 100% funding which made a big difference in funding
- In 2012, it was stated that more lottery tickets had been sold than ever before which told me it was more excess than the \$50 million in the year before
- In fiscal year 2012-13, all counties received 100% funding again
- Hoping sales continue
- Don't support the lottery either
- But if the lottery is going to be kept for education, advertising needs to be done so that sales continue which means more dollars for the counties for education
- Have been concerned that funding was going to be pulled from the lottery for digital learning which is something that the Governor has been talking about
- Learned yesterday that leftover administration funding from lottery will fund the digital learning
- Like Bryan, want to make sure our areas receive the prorated share that they are entitled
- Focus on trying to do what is necessary for our counties
- Have always worked well with Bryan

### **Oppose Unfunded Mandates and Shifts to Counties**

Commissioner Inman opened the floor for discussion.

Senator Randleman commented:

- Last year, implemented a new way to deal with inmates called "Justice Reinvestment"
- A misdemeanor confinement plan was created which allows an inmate who receives a 91 to 120 day sentence to stay at the local facility and be reimbursed by the state for his confinement
- At first, the inmates were going to be sent back with no reimbursement to the counties
- Fought hard to make sure counties received some type of compensation for housing these inmates
- Don't know how the counties could have taken on keeping that many inmates with no reimbursement
- Some magistrates have been taken from the Clerk of Courts, small counties like Stokes do not have funding to be able to provide additional staff to the Clerk of Court
- Governor's budget includes bringing counties that currently do not have four magistrates back to four; hope that stays
- Very hard to monitor all the bills that are introduced
- Try to monitor all the bills if possible
- Sometimes a legislator can't always determine the true impact to a county
- Expect local officials to contact us to make sure we know how it will impact their county
- Anytime someone feels that this will negatively impact their county, that is when you need to be calling us

- Takes a lot working behind the scenes to sometimes make things happen

Representative Holloway commented:

- Feels funding for putting counties back to four magistrates will probably stay in both the Senate and House budgets
- Lot of work to be done on the Governor's Budget
- Governor does not have the revenue picture that the House and Senate both have when he is putting together his budget
- Hope to have good April numbers in order to have more funding for the counties
- Easiest thing that a legislator can do is kick the "can" to someone else
- Could throw a number of things to the counties such as secondary roads, school buses, workman's compensation, etc.
- Could reduce the budget, but who suffers, the counties; that is not what this legislature is going to do
- Tough decisions had to be made when the Republicans took over since there was such a huge shortfall (approximately \$3 billion)
- Governor's temporary tax last year
  - Did not solve half the problems, cuts had to be made
  - When a temporary tax is put in, there are always projections of the revenue
  - Lots of time those projected revenues do not come in
- Been in Raleigh going on nine years, this is the first year that I can say that there is not a short fall
- Believe the "bleeding has finally stopped" with all the tough decisions made by the Legislature – had no choice
- Economy is slowly picking up
- Going to put some funding in the "rainy day fund" to cover things such as a slow economy
- Bottom line – Legislature is not looking to shift burdens and unfunded mandates to the counties
- Feel things will start coming back such as the magistrates

Senator Randleman commented:

- One of problems with rural counties is that they are not sitting in Raleigh
- Studies are shown that are supposed to determine what is needed, it is done, but it doesn't always work
- This is why the magistrates were cut, strictly on case loads
- Legislators from rural counties have to stand up to make sure other Legislators know what the rural counties need

Clerk of Court Jason Tuttle commented that the last time Stokes County had four magistrates was in 1973; population has increased and crime rate has definitely increased.

Senator Randleman continued:

- Data that Legislature is receiving now is that crime rate is down, incarcerations are down
- Data can be made to say what is needed

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Agree that those small things benefit the rural counties such as the misdemeanor confinement program
- Stokes budgeted \$50,000 revenue this fiscal year
- Appreciate everything that has or can be done to help the rural counties

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Very encouraged with what has been said by our Legislators
- Unfunded mandates are very alarming to local officials; never know what is going to be passed down from the state to the counties
- Budgets can be finalized and then another unfunded mandate comes down from the state
- Seems I am hearing that trend of passing it to the counties may be over
- Confirmed with Representative Holloway that the current trend to pass it down to the counties may be soon coming to an end

Representative Holloway responded:

- First thing to remember is that trend did not start with the Republicans
- Current mindset is to not pass it down to the counties
- Legislature had a lot of tough decisions to be made last year
- Largest shortfall ever in the state's history
- Believe it was even worse than it would have been in the Great Depression in the 1930's because the population was much smaller then
- Coming out of that and having the next year's budget hitting the "nail right on the head" with revenue demonstrates the right things were done
- Reiterated that the "bleeding has stopped"

Commissioner Walker noted that was very encouraging.

Senator Randleman commented:

- It still needs to be monitored constantly
- Legislators can't see everything
- It is up to local officials to let Legislators know what impacts a county could face if certain legislation is adopted

Representative Holloway responded:

- Counties do not need to be micromanaged
- Too many counties, towns, cities, schools try to do that
- Frankly, the state has tried to do that
- Good example is when the State took the Hold Harmless in the early 2000; now there is a statute that says that can't be done

Chairman Lankford commented:

- The recent federal mandate of the E911 Upgrade that cost Stokes County approximately \$2 million – absolutely no funding from the federal government
- Glad to hear the state is not doing that type of thing



- Appreciate the state taking that type of stand for the counties

Commissioner Inman commented:

- NCACC feels strongly that this Legislature has no intentions of passing unfunded mandates to the counties
- One concern – new freshman in the House – approximately 50; in the Senate – approximately 15-16

Representative Holloway commented:

- One caution – freshman are freshman
- I was one, Senator Randleman was one
- Starting out, very limited on what you can get done in the legislature
- This is my ninth year and Senator Randleman's fifth year, not freshmen anymore
- We are some of the folks making the decisions
- Can't control the flow of the bills
- If you see a bill that is going to impact Stokes County, call me
- I can see who is sponsoring the bill and determine if I feel the bill may go anywhere
- Lot of bills that are filed
- Some are worthwhile and some are just crazy
- In the biennial, there can be as many as 2,000 bills introduced
- House does have a ten bill per year limit
- You can have four primary sponsors on a bill in the House and three in the Senate
- Can only be the lead primary on ten
- Can be the second, third or fourth primary on as many as you want
- Limit controls the flow to some degree; there will be a couple of thousand bills introduced each session

Senator Randleman commented:

- Agree with Representative Holloway that by looking at the sponsor, you can quickly tell where the bill is possibly going
- In 2007-08, there were 3,500 bills introduced

Clerk of Superior Court Jason Tuttle questioned:

- Seeing a lot cases in Superior Court being dismissed
- My staff spends just as much time on a dismissed case with no fee collected
- Could there be some type of administrative fee for a case that is dismissed?
- 50Bs are a big issue; individuals are quick to take out a 50B, but may then come to court and want it dismissed – no fee collected

Senator Randleman responded:

- That was looked at in 2011 when fees were increased
- A dismissal fee was looked at, but was quickly told a dismissal fee could not be imposed
- A motion fee was developed and have received many complaints
- This will be looked at again this year, a bill has been introduced that will take discretion from the judges to dismiss a case

- Don't know how to control the 50Bs due to their nature

Representative Holloway responded:

- Concur with Senator Randleman
- Have told our JPS subcommittee to look at this to try to come up with something
- Effort is being made to help the Clerk's Office

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Confirmed with Representative Holloway and Senator Randleman that anyone can contact you if they see a bill that is disturbing to them

### **Ensure Adequate Mental Health Funding**

Chairman Lankford opened the floor for discussion.

Representative Holloway commented:

- Lot of problems in the State with mental health
- Be the first to admit that the HHS area of the budget is probably the least I know about
- Have been talking with Commissioner Inman and other NCACC members about this issue
- Feels this is the State's responsibility
- Need to provide an adequate amount of money for mental health needs
- Also know there are a lot of problems
- Have told our HHS subcommittees to keep looking at mental health issues to try to find a better solution
- Know that Sheriff Departments' Deputies are tied up with those type of cases
- Need to keep the conversation going
- Need to do our part with funding, but need to spend the dollars most effective
- Can't just continue to put funding out there without making sure it is in the right place and being spent the right way
- Health and Human Services budget (Medical-federal government) is probably the most complicated budget in Raleigh
- It is like a 10,000 piece puzzle
- Second toughest budget is Education
- My commitment is to try to put funding that is being requested and keep the conversation going to try to get the best mental health services available to our citizens

Senator Randleman commented:

- Everyone thinks we have had mental health reform, don't really believe that has happened
- Currently operating under laws written in 1973
- Some have been changed a little
- Did have a new plan that created LMEs which funding goes to
- Concerns that the funding is going to the LME and not going directly to the consumers
- Statewide, there may only 4-5 in the State
- LME manages a lot of money
- Funding is designated for the consumers; not to build a new facility

- Need to form a committee and look at rewriting 122C to make sure the funding is getting to the consumers
- Will not focus on that this year, will be focusing on child abuse
- Substance abuse is major in this state along with commitments
- Governor's budget gets Broughton Hospital up and running which will open new beds; ten were opened last session
- Thinks the funding is being allocated, but not getting to the consumers
- This is an area that I am very passionate about
- Bills in the House and Senate will look at criminal defendants who are found incapable to process; trying to keep them out of the jail
- Department of Corrections has some very good programs
- Need to be operating on new laws

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Have served on the CenterPoint Human Services Board of Directors for the past ten years
- In 2002, we took a program that needed fixing and completely broke it
- Agree very strongly that the dollars need to be put where they are needed – with the consumers who need them
- Believe we are on the right track with transitioning from a LME to a MCO who can do the Medicaid Waiver
- Even though, need to watch this very carefully
- Agree the answer may not be more funding
- It needs to be fixed from the inside to make sure the funding goes to the consumers
- Down to 11 MCOs across the state
- Reiterated the need to watch this new MCO concept

Senator Randleman noted that she had some of the same concerns mentioned by Commissioner Inman.

### **Preserve the Existing Local Revenue Base**

Chairman Lankford opened the floor for discussion.

Senator Randleman commented:

- Support this goal
- Local level knows what their needs are
- Do not think the Legislature needs to micro manage local entities from the State level
- Must continue to monitor each bill
- Reiterated the need for the local level to keep Legislators informed of proposed bills that may impact their counties

Representative Holloway commented:

- Effort being made in a proposed bill to extend the Hold Harmless revenue for a five-year phase out

- See the importance of trying to continue Hold Harmless for Stokes County which is \$2.2 million
- Feels the bill has a good chance in the House
- Already starting to see opposition in the Senate (not Senator Randleman)
- Don't understand Senator Berger from Rockingham County since Rockingham County gets a considerable amount of Hold Harmless funding as well
- If I were a gambling man (and definitely am not) and at the end of the day, I would bet you are going to get the Hold Harmless
- The number one thing that could impact your revenue is tax reform
- Of all the subjects on this Agenda, this scares me the most
- Tax plan has not be updated since the 1930's
- Also believe that you can't just flip it upside down on its head overnight because of the revenue projections
- If you take a system and completely turn it upside down on its head, will be the first State in the Union to do so
- It will be a nightmare trying to predict what revenue you have coming in the next year
- Two schools of thought floating around:
  - (1) To eliminate the income and corporate tax, eliminate corporate "loop holes", but then it would raise the sales taxes and implement services taxes
  - (2) Idea is to etch a couple of things down, take away some corporation "loop holes", make it revenue neutral and call it phase one and try to phase in tax reform over a number of years
- Personally think it would kill rural counties and current sales taxes would absolutely diminish with option one
- Personally think at best to etch down the taxes if determined to do it, eliminate some of the "loop holes" for corporations so that it maintains revenue neutral and doesn't impact the budget
- If our ambition is to put more money back in people's pockets, so they will spend more, I certainly support that, but need to do it in a way that it doesn't just eliminate one tax for the consumer and then adds another tax, not a wise system
- Possible it could be done at a federal level, but much more difficult at the state level to do that
- Spoke to Finance Chair Julia Howell last night about option #2, seems the most responsible way to go and that is what I support
- Need to keep your eye on tax reform

Senator Randleman commented:

- This week saw a piece come out on franchise tax that would have an impact on Stokes County
- Feels this came out premature
- This is a piece of the overall tax reform
- One of my greatest concern about the proposed tax reform is the lead person regarding the tax reform is coming from Charlotte
- Two things that concern me:
  - Drastic increase in sales tax – impacts everyone especially the elderly – fixed income
  - Land transfer tax – 1% tax – impact on real estate market

- Republicans have fought for years against a land transfer tax; not be the right thing to do
- Agree with Bryan regarding the original tax reform package
- Hope it doesn't impact the seniors or the economy

## **Other Topics**

### **State Budget**

Chairman Lankford opened the floor for discussion.

Representative Holloway commented:

- Governor's budget came out yesterday
- Gave it a B-
- Governor doesn't have the full revenue picture
- Have already spoke about education earlier today
- Will see a final budget that will try to take care of counties
- Will see a final budget that can be supported
- Budget is \$20 billion
- Never met a member of the General Assembly that likes everything that is in a budget, it is impossible
- There is always a lot of give and take
- Senate's budget will be out first
- House, Senate and Governor's budgets will be different, but at the end of the day, everyone has to come together to produce a negotiated budget
- Would describe last year's budget as responsible and a budget that tried to put the State on the road to recovery
- Feels this year's budget will be responsible and good for the state
- Feel the economy is starting to improve
- Think the Governor's Budget had a little less than 1% increase
- Will spend what we take in

Senator Randleman commented:

- Notice the Governor's budget left a lot of room to work with
- Subcommittees will advise where cuts need to be made
- No new taxes in the Governor's budget
- Do not expect any new taxes in the Senate budget
- Even with tax reform, it is revenue neutral
- Hoping the tax numbers on April 15<sup>th</sup> are suitable

Representative Holloway commented:

- Two things the Governor invested in his budget:
  - Repair and renovations – no new capital projects until repairs are made to older buildings
  - Investment in the "rainy day fund"

Senator Randleman commented:

- Governor's budget did cut the teacher assistants for the second grades, see the need for those assistants in second grades
- Did give the counties some flexibility

Representative Holloway commented:

- Superintendents have been using state funding for assistants for years for other things
- Basically there are no third grade assistants now, but the state allocates funding for third grade assistants
- Personally don't want to take away the \$90,000, will see the House side restore the \$90,000 for assistants
- Would like language in the budget that the funding has to be spent for assistants
- Would like to correct the LEA Reversion that is in the Governor's budget exactly the same, would like to shave more off of it this year

Commissioner Walker questioned when the County might know if Hold Harmless revenue would be coming?

Representative Holloway commented:

- The "11<sup>th</sup> hour"
- The reason for my answer is it might not be in the Senate
- Negotiations will probably have to be done, most likely in June
- It will be in the House budget
- Believe it will have to be negotiations between the House and Senate
- If it is in both budgets (House and Senate), there would be a very good possibility that Hold Harmless will be funded

Senator Randleman commented:

- Reiterated that there is a bill regarding Hold Harmless that I am supporting
- Last year, it was the "11<sup>th</sup> hour" when it was decided
- Julia Howell made it happen last year

### **Motor Vehicle Property Tax**

Chairman Lankford opened the floor for discussion.

Representative Holloway commented:

- Not sure if the repeal will go through

Senator Randleman commented:

- Been contacted by car dealers in Wilkes with many questions
- Called the DMV for the answer who did not have the answers
- DMV doesn't know what the process will be
- Hopefully DMV gets their act together so that they can inform the public
- Not sure if the repeal will go through

### **Inmate Medical Costs**

Chairman Lankford opened the floor for discussion.

Representative Holloway commented:

- Willing to try to help any in way possible
- Need more details of what you really need

Senator Randleman commented:

- Have dealt with this issue on the state level
- Started looking at Medicaid eligibility, contracts with doctors and hospitals, etc.

Commissioner Inman commented:

- NCACC goal is to limit the cost the providers can charge for inmate care at the same rate of the Department of Correction and to allow counties to bill Medicaid
- Will get you more information

Sheriff Mike Marshall noted that allowing inmates to be carried to Central Prison for major surgeries has helped tremendously.

### **Nonemergency Medicaid Transportation**

Chairman Lankford opened the floor for discussion.

Representative Holloway commented:

- Know there was a change from HHS last year that impacted the counties
- Will be meeting with Rockingham County representatives to discuss the impact of these changes
- Need more information what the counties need

Commissioner Walker confirmed with Commissioner Inman that this was not in the NCACC top ten goals.

Commissioner Inman noted that this involves around privatization of non emergency medical transportation and the attempt to drive down Medicaid costs and don't see it as a huge issue in Stokes.

Senator Randleman commented:

- Not talked about much in the General Assembly

### **E911 Communications Upgrade Project**

Chairman Lankford noted the need for ID numbers from the State to complete the project.

Representative Holloway commented:

- Governor has funded VIPER numbers in his budget
- House will do the same and feel the Senate will also include in their budget

Senator Randleman commented:

- Not sure there is enough funding, will need to look at that
- Stokes is in the top three in getting numbers
- Did hear that Wake County may be turning in possibly 1,000 numbers
- Counties are slow turning in the numbers
- Working everyday to get the counties their numbers

Sheriff Mike Marshall noted the county has an extension for completion of the project to June 30, 2013 and am not sure if another extension will be granted.

### **Open Discussion**

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Very glad to hear comments regarding no shift of road maintenance to the counties
- Gas tax was implemented to go directly to roads, questioned if that is true?

Representative Holloway commented:

- Gas Tax is capped
- Problem is that all the gas tax goes to the Highway Trust Fund
- In previous years, funding has been transferred from the Highway Trust Fund to the General Fund for various issues
- Last year, that was not done
- Funding was spent for roads only
- Do not micro manage NCDOT
- Road tax is higher than other states, but those states make counties take care of roads
- Could lower the tax if it was shifted to the counties
- Would like to see the tax comparable to Virginia, Tennessee, and South Carolina to keep people from going across the line to get cheaper gasoline
- No conversation is being done about eliminating the gasoline tax

Senator Randleman commented:

- Need to be careful when formulas are being considered to be changed, believe it will only hurt the small counties

Commissioner Inman commented:

- NCACC is trying to get back to the original amount appropriated from the lottery to counties (40%) for school construction/maintenance
- If it is an education lottery, then make it an educational lottery
- Appreciate the work being done on the LEA Reversion, last year's effort made a big difference
- Understand about ADM funding



Representative Holloway commented:

- Got to get that reversion down to zero

Chairman Lankford commented:

- Please keep House Bill 95 and Senate Bills 100 and 125 in mind – Stokes County supports those bills

The Board expressed appreciation to Representative Holloway and Senator Randleman for being at today's meeting and for continuing to work diligently for Stokes County.

Commissioner Inman extended appreciation on behalf of the NCACC for continuing to work with the Association.

Chairman Lankford added that Stokes County is very fortunate to have Representative Holloway and Senator Randleman as their Legislative Delegation.

### **Adjournment**

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

Commissioner Inman moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Walker seconded and the motion carried (3-0) with Vice Chairman Booth and Commissioner Jones absent.

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

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**Ernest Lankford**  
Chairman