

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA )  
 )  
COUNTY OF STOKES )  
 )

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS  
STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA  
MARCH 25, 2013

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met for a regular session in the Commissioners' Chambers of the Ronald Wilson Reagan Memorial Building (Administration Building) located in Danbury, North Carolina on Monday, March 25, 2013 at 6:00 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  
Finance Director Julia Edwards  
County Attorney Edward Powell  
Health Director Scott Lenhart  
Support Services Supervisor Danny Stovall

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

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

"Whatever you do, do it with enthusiasm, as something done for the Lord and not for men"

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 March 25, 2013

## Agenda.

County Manager Rick Morris requested to add the following items to the Consent Agenda:

- Budget Amendment #74 which allocates \$30,000 of MOE funding for the purchase of computers and scanners (provided Board members with a copy of the amendment)
  - Funding must be spent and paid for by May 31, 2013
  - Funding can only be used for IT equipment for DSS
  - This funding allows the County to pass the replaced computers to other departments who have older computers
- External Posting – Forsyth Tech Early College - Custodian/Security Technician
  - Employee recently resigned
  - Job was posted and no internal applications were received
  - Need to get this position filled as soon as possible
  - County is mandated to provide custodial and security services to the Early College

The Board had no issues adding the items to tonight's Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Inman moved to approve the March 25<sup>th</sup> Agenda as amended.

Commissioner Jones seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

## **COMMENTS**

### **Manager/Commissioners**

Chairman Lankford opened the floor for comments.

Manager Morris commented:

- Staff completed a required work session today with a representative from the Golden LEAF Foundation for the \$2 million grant for the Water and Sewer Project
- Very informative session

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Will be the guest speaker for the Dare Program at Lawsonville Elementary School on April 8<sup>th</sup>
- Will be speaking at the Young Women's Business meeting in Forsyth County later that week
- Have been appointed to the NCACC Environmental Board
- Have submitted an application to serve on the State Geographical Information Systems Board

Commissioner Inman commented:

- No comments

Chairman Lankford commented:

- Attended the NCACC Insurance Pool meeting last week

- Received very good news regarding insurance premiums
- Worker's Compensation and Property/Liability insurance will have no increase this year

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- Noted the proposed Resolution on tonight's Consent Agenda declaring Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup> as Farmer Appreciation Day
- Hosted by:
  - Stokes Soil & Water Conservation District
  - Cooperative Extension
  - Farm Service Agency
  - Natural Resources Conservation Service
  - NC Forest Service
- Different businesses in Stokes County will cover the entire cost – no county dollars
- Event will be held at South Stokes High School starting at 5:30 pm

Commissioner Walker commented:

- County hosted a work session with Senator Shirley Randleman and Representative Bryan Holloway
- Very productive work session
- Could tell by the responses received from Senator Randleman and Representative Holloway how hard both are working for Stokes County in Raleigh
- Representative Holloway is in a strategic position in the House of Representatives serving as full Chair of the Appropriations Committee which is a very powerful position
- Both delegates are working very hard to get the Hold Harmless revenue restored for Stokes County (approximately \$2 million) and other counties; this will be the first fiscal year (2013-14) in several years that Stokes County has not received the Hold Harmless revenue
- Very encouraged by their responses and efforts as they represent our county in Raleigh

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chairman Lankford opened the floor for Public Comments

There were no public comments.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

## Minutes

- Minutes of March 11, 2013 – Regular Meeting
- Minutes of March 13, 2013 – Goals/Budget Guidance Session

### Sheriff's Department - Budget Amendment #72

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #72.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
<b>Sheriff's Department</b>				
100.4310.351	Maint. & Repairs	\$98,176.00	\$(12,231.00)	\$85,945.00
100.4310.510	Equipment	<u>\$211,375.00</u>	<u>\$12,231.00</u>	<u>\$223,606.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$309,551.00</b>	<b>\$00.00</b>	<b>\$309,551.00</b>

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To correct Budget Amendment #63 (02-25-2013), replacement vehicle purchase due to deer damage.

This will result in a net increase of \$00.00 in the expenditures and other financial use to the County's annual budget. To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will increase. These revenues have already been received or are verified they will be received this fiscal year.

### Finance Department - Budget Amendment #73

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #73.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
<b>Vehicle Maintenance</b>				
100.4250.000	Salaries & Wages	\$100,075.00	\$6,398.00	\$106,473.00
<b>Emergency Communications</b>				
100.4350.000	Salaries & Wages	\$339,115.00	\$1,045.00	\$340,160.00
<b>Sheriff's Department</b>				
100.4310.000	Salaries & Wages	\$1,414,431.00	\$239.00	\$1,414,670.00
<b>Emergency Management</b>				
100.4330.000	Salaries & Wages	\$56,565.00	\$9,974.00	\$66,539.00

	<b>Emergency Medical Services</b>			
100.4370.000	Salaries & Wages	\$1,114,276.00	\$1,415.00	\$1,115,691.00
	<b>Social Services</b>			
100.5310.000	Salaries & Wages	\$1,762,123.00	\$2,978.00	\$1,765,101.00
	<b>Senior Services</b>			
100.5860.000	Salaries & Wages	\$90,412.00	\$3,963.00	\$94,375.00
	<b>Transfers</b>			
100.5830.696	Walnut Cove Senior Center	\$49,225.00	\$867.00	\$50,092.00
	<b>Contingency</b>			
100.9910.100	Leave Cost	<u>\$98,791.00</u>	<u>\$(26,879.00)</u>	<u>\$71,912.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$5,024,013.00</b>	<b>\$00.00</b>	<b>\$5,024,013.00</b>
	<b>Walnut Cove Senior Center</b>			
204.5861.000	Salaries & Wages	<u>\$26,346.00</u>	<u>\$867.00</u>	<u>\$27,213.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$26,346.00</b>	<b>\$867.00</b>	<b>\$27,213.00</b>

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To transfers funds from Leave Contingency for the payoff of resigned, dismissed or retired employees. The pay is as follows: Vacation Leave \$23,659, Holiday Leave \$1,111, and Comp. Time \$2,109.

<b>Account Number</b>	<b>Account Description</b>	<b>Current Budgeted Amount</b>	<b>Increase (Decrease)</b>	<b>As Amended</b>
204.3982.100	Transfer from General Fund	<u>\$7,704.00</u>	<u>\$867.00</u>	<u>\$8,571.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$7,704.00</b>	<b>\$867.00</b>	<b>\$8,571.00</b>

#### **Social Services - Budget Amendment #74**

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #74.

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

<b>Account Number</b>	<b>Account Description</b>	<b>Current Budgeted Amount</b>	<b>Increase (Decrease)</b>	<b>As Amended</b>
	<b>Social Services</b>			
100.5310.511	Equipment	<u>\$6,500.00</u>	<u>\$30,000.00</u>	<u>\$36,500.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$6,500.00</b>	<b>\$30,000.00</b>	<b>\$36,500.00</b>

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To appropriate funding from the State for MOE Funding – Have been approved by the State for computer and printer equipment purchase.

This will result in a net increase of \$30,000.00 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
	<b>General Fund</b>			
100.3301.202	SS-County Federal	<u>\$1,935,165.00</u>	<u>\$30,000.00</u>	<u>\$1,983,165.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$1,953,165.00</b>	<b>\$30,000.00</b>	<b>\$1,983,165.00</b>

### Tax Administration Report – February 2013

#### Real and Personal Releases more than \$100

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Real and Personal Releases more than \$100 (February 2013) at the March 11<sup>th</sup> meeting with a request for approval at the March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting:

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

#### **February 2013**

Name	Bill Number	Amount	Reason
Ronnie Lee Amos	12A697902669840	\$ 151.58	Corrected Access
	11A697902669840	\$ 151.58	Corrected Access
Sondra Stanley	12A692500649634.1	\$ 299.92	Use Value Continues
	12A692500649634.2	\$ 299.92	Use Value Continues
	12A692500649634.3	\$ 317.96	Use Value Continues
	12A692500649634.4	\$ 317.96	Use Value Continues
	12A692500658150.1	\$ 297.92	Use Value Continues
	12A692500658150.2	\$ 297.92	Use Value Continues
	12A692500658150.3	\$ 315.84	Use Value Continues
	12A692500658150.4	\$ 315.84	Use Value Continues
	12A692500657537.1	\$ 133.00	Use Value Continues
	12A692500657537.2	\$ 133.00	Use Value Continues
	12A692500657537.3	\$ 141.00	Use Value Continues
	12A692500657537.4	<u>\$ 141.00</u>	Use Value Continues
	<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>\$ 3,314.44</b>	

#### Real and Personal Refunds more than \$100

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Real and Personal Refunds

more than \$100 (February 2013) at the March 11<sup>th</sup> meeting with a request for approval at the March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting:

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

**February 2013**

Name	Bill Number	Amount	Reason
Jerry/Theresa Lynch	12A597700436193	\$ 157.92	Located & Billed in Surry Co.
	11A597700436193	\$ 157.92	Located & Billed in Surry Co.
	10A597700436193	\$ 148.96	Located & Billed in Surry Co.
	09A597700436193	\$ 148.96	Located & Billed in Surry Co.
	08A597700436193	<u>\$ 150.29</u>	Located & Billed in Surry Co.
	<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>\$ 764.05</b>	
Linda Radford	12A55515.06.1	<u>\$486.44</u>	SWWH Double Listed
	<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>\$486.44*</b>	

\* Refund Amount will be apply to  
Account #11450

**Write-Off Request**

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Write off Request (February 2013) at the March 11<sup>th</sup> meeting with a request for approval at the March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting:

- Bill #10VZVB6155 (\$26.85)
- Account #156031500
- Taxpayer – Jessica Lynn Flippin
- Request \$17.90 be written off the amount due of \$26.85

**Proposed Resolution – Farmer Appreciation Day**

Clerk Darlene Bullins presented the following proposed Resolution Proclaiming Farmer Appreciation Day in Stokes County for the Board's consideration and approval:

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING  
FARMER APPRECIATION DAY  
IN STOKES COUNTY**

**Whereas**, the County of Stokes, the Stokes Soil & Water Conservation District, the Cooperative Extension, Farm Service Agency, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the NC Forest Service desire to sponsor the Farmer Appreciation Day to recognize the contributions of our farmers to Stokes County; and

**Whereas, the Board of Commissioners recognizes that the county's farmers contribute greatly to Stokes County's economic base; and**

**Whereas, the Board believes that all county citizens benefit from farming activities in some manner; and**

**Whereas the Board agrees that a Farmer Appreciation Day would show our county's support for the existing farming community and honor past activities that have contributed so much to the culture and heritage of Stokes County, and**

**Whereas, the Board recognizes and supports a BBQ and Chicken Dinner along with live entertainment that will be held at South Stokes High School with all Stokes County citizens invited.**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT**

The Stokes County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims **Thursday, April 18, 2013** as **Farmer Appreciation Day** in Stokes County and extends its appreciation and gratitude to the county's farmers for their many contributions to Stokes County.

Adopted by the Stokes County Board of Commissioners this 25<sup>th</sup> day March, 2013.

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**Ernest Lankford – Chairman**

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**James D. Booth – Vice Chairman**

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**J. Leon Inman – Commissioner**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Jimmy Walker – Commissioner**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Ronda Jones – Commissioner**

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Darlene M. Bullins – Clerk of the Board**

**External Posting – Social Services and Forsyth Tech. – Early College Location**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following vacant positions for the Board's consideration and approval to post external:

- Social Services – Income Maintenance Caseworker II
  - Family and Children's Medicaid Unit
  - Posted internally and was unable to fill the position with either of the two applicants who applied
  - Agency is in the middle of major programmatic changes in the Income Maintenance Programs due to the implementation of NC FAST
  - Very imperative that the position be filled as soon as possible
- Forsyth Tech. – Early College Location – Custodian/Security Technician
  - County is mandated to provide custodial and security services for the Early College
  - No internal applications received
  - Need to fill the position as soon as possible



Commissioner Inman moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Vice Chairman Booth seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

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

### **Seven Island Bridge Presentation**

Ms. Jane Priddy-Charleville presented the following information and comments regarding the Seven Island Bridge:

- Appreciate the Board allowing the time for the presentation regarding Seven Island Bridge
- On April 24<sup>th</sup>, the Danbury Town Council will be deciding the fate of the historic Seven Island Bridge
- Town of Danbury is the current owners of the bridge
- Town of Danbury only has two proposals on the table:
  - Mountain to Sea Trail Project – Bridge is being studied to cross over the Dan River which will connect Moratock Park to historic Danbury
  - An offer to dismantle the bridge and move the bridge to private property in King (the individuals who have made this offer are very supportive in the efforts being made by the community to see the Mountain to Sea Trail Project happen)
- The community, numerous citizens, and several organizations are very eager to see the bridge stay in public hands and to stay in its hometown of in and around Danbury
- The desire is to have the bridge stay in a prominent, public stage to honor the history of the bridge, as well as, always allowing it to be accessible to the public for future generations
- Brief history of the Seven Island Bridge:
  - Built in 1905
  - R. King, who lived in the county seat (Town of Danbury) and worked for the Virginia Bridge and Iron Company was the on-site supervising engineer when it was constructed
  - Historic sources say that this bridge was moved in 1926 from Pine Hall and made its home across the Dan River for approximately 80 years
  - Around 2000, NCDOT condemned the bridge for vehicular traffic
  - There were several meetings and public hearings held over several years regarding the replacement of the Seven Island Bridge
  - During the first public hearings, it was stated that the bridge would never be replaced across the Dan River for vehicular traffic
  - At that time, a former county commissioner, even stated that to the Town and the Danbury Vol. Fire Department not to get their hopes up; it was very null that the bridge would be replaced
  - The Town of Danbury and the Danbury Vol. Fire Department did not accept that answer
  - Both worked really hard to get a replacement bridge across the Dan River

- As much as a new bridge was needed for emergency responses to the area, route to and from Danbury, it was just as important to save the old bridge because of its history
  - The bridge is such a pivotal structure in Stokes County history
  - Personally tired of people coming and taking historical structures out of Stokes County and using for their personal benefit
- There is a bridge in Davie County that used to set across a creek in Stokes County
- Citizens of Stokes County were very determined to see the bridge saved
- Once the bridge was condemned by NCDOT, the Town of Danbury negotiated with the Alleghany Construction Company who had been awarded the bid and ownership of the bridge
- The real heroes was the Roger Mabe Family who allowed the bridge to be placed on their property
- The Mabe Family has allowed the bridge to remain on their private property for the past seven years waiting for a plan to come together
- This bridge is a very enduring piece of history of Stokes County, lots of memories
- Seven years have passed and I am sure the question is why has something not been done?
- There was an active campaign started by citizens, Town of Danbury, Stokes County Arts Council, and the Stokes County Historical Society once the bridge was moved to the Mabe property
- At the start of the campaign, another historical property was put up for sale with offers from Texas and California to dismantle Sheppard's Mill and move it from Stokes County
- Former Economic Development Director Ron Morgan approached the Town of Danbury to request the Town not compete with efforts being made to try to save Sheppard's Mill (Bridge had been moved and the Town of Danbury had a five- year contract with the Mabe Family)
- Stokes County Historical Society and the County had both allocated funding to try to save Sheppard's Mill
- To try to save that piece of history, Sheppard's Mill, the Town decided to hold off with the Seven Island Bridge campaign
- During my last years of being the Town's mayor, water problems and acquiring grants for the water system consumed most of my time
- Now there is a new council and mayor, the Town does not really have a plan for the bridge and more importantly, the lack of resources and finances
- The Town feels it is time to seek new ownership for the bridge
- On February 27<sup>th</sup>, the Town of Danbury held a Public Hearing for comments related to the bridge with several people speaking
- My proposal was a request to the Town to allow two more years to put a committee together (Mabe family has agreed to allow the bridge to remain on the property for two additional years)
- This bridge deserves a committee to come together and put a project together
- After the Public Hearing, several emails, telephones calls, etc. started occurring
- Mr. Jay Young, Board Member for the Mountain to Sea Trail, called very interested in the fate of the bridge

- Mountain to Sea Trail Board has approved a master plan to extend the trail from Hanging Rock State Park thru Danbury and beyond
- Went to the Town of Danbury and requested a 30-day extension and actually received a 45-day extension
- The Town of Danbury will be discussing the two proposals on April 24<sup>th</sup>
- During this short time, there has been one thing that has echoed consistently – everyone involved wants the opportunity to study and explore the possibility of connecting Moratock Park to historic Danbury (county, state, and community folks)
- With this project alone, where it would be positioned at, involves some really big players
- These players have continued to persevere with amazing support
- The following have come to the table wanting to help and to be a part of the project:
  - Friends of the Mountain to Sea Trail, Kate Dixon, Executive Director
  - State Trails Coordinator, Darrell McBain
  - Friends of the Sauratown Mountains
  - Stokes County Arts Council
  - Stokes County Economic Development Commission
  - Stokes County Historical Society
  - The Mabe Family
  - The Town of Danbury
  - Numerous citizens of Stokes County and neighboring counties
  - Fire Chief Jim Hicks, Danbury Vol. Fire Department
  - Former Historical Society Presidents Becky Boles and Charles Farlow
  - Dave Cook, Former Superintendent at Hanging Rock State Park, who now holds a regional superintendent position with the State of North Carolina Parks Division
- Would like to have the following speak during the presentation:
  - Jay Young, Mountain to Sea Trail
  - Arts Council Director Eddy McGee
  - Mr. David Mabe, Citizen
- Would like to follow with closing comments

Mr. Jay Young presented the following comments:

- Appreciate the opportunity to speak tonight
- Native of Stokes County
- Have been gone for several years, but still maintain the family farm near Priddy's Store
- President of the Friends of Sauratown Mountains, a nonprofit organized in 2010 to support both Hanging Rock and Pilot Mountain State Parks
- Member of the Mountain to Sea Trail Board of Directors
- Friends of the Sauratown Mountains fully support the project
- Friends of the Sauratown Mountains is a fairly new organization, but has funded a few projects in Hanging Rock and Pilot Mountain State Parks
- Just completed a 1.5 mile trail in Hanging Rock State Park

- The new, approved extension of the Mountain to Sea Trail will come down Sheep Rock Ridge into the Town of Danbury with hopes to start construction of that new extension in the next couple of years once funding is available
- Hope to mobilize our volunteer group to do the majority of that new extension which will save Hanging Rock State Park funding
- Continuing the trail from Danbury to Stokesdale to Summerfield to Greensboro is a focus of the Friends of the Mountain to Sea Trail
- Chairing the state routing committee this year for the Friends of the Mountain to Sea Trail which will focus on trying to find a route from Danbury to Stokesdale
- The bridge over the Dan River will be a key link in this trail
- Some of the benefits to the Town of Danbury and Stokes County
  - County does get a considerable number of hikers – mostly day hikers
  - Am a member of a hiking club in Greensboro
  - Lot of members from my hiking club love to come to Stokes County which helps tourism
  - Friends of the Mountain to Sea Trail has more resources than the Friends of Sauratown Mountains
  - Have engineers who have already agreed to work on the project
  - One engineer is planning to come to Danbury to do a feasibility study on the bridge
  - Another engineer is willing to work on the permitting process
  - Friends of the Mountain to Sea Trail is willing to serve as project manager to site the bridge over the Dan River if the County and the Town of Danbury are interested
  - Friends of the Mountain to Sea Trail has served as project managers on other bridge projects
- As NCDOT may have deemed that the bridge is not safe for vehicular traffic; all steel truss bridges like Seven Island Bridge were closed off several years
- Have seen other bridges like Seven Island Bridge repurposed across the State; they have a lot of life left to serve as a pedestrian bridge
- Hope the county will see fit to work with us and exhaust all possibilities to reuse this bridge and hopefully placed the Seven Island Bridge where the old bridge used to across the Dan River

Arts Council Director Eddy McGee presented the following comments:

- Arts Council supports the project
- From a personal standpoint, appreciate Jane's sentimental and historical value of the bridge, but from the Arts Council's standpoint, it is economics
- Need to alleviate parking issues at the Stokes Stomp
- The 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Stokes Stomp, which is the longest running Arts Council festival in the State of North Carolina, will be held in September 2013
- It has been the vision to expand the Stomp, but have no room with the softball field being used for parking
- For the Arts Council, it would mean expanded programs, possibly enlarging the Stokes Stomp Festival and alleviating traffic issues on Sheppard Mill Road
- It would be great to have a pedestrian walkway across the bridge

- There could be a recreational aspect to having the bridge used as a pedestrian walkway
- Definitely support the project (Ms. Priddy-Charleville presented the Board with a copy of a letter of support from the Arts Council to the Town of Danbury)

Ms. Jane Priddy-Charleville continued:

- Recently had a meeting with Kate Dixon, Executive Director-Friends of the Mountain to Sea Trail, who is very supportive of the project
- The feasibility study mentioned by Mr. Young, should determine if the bridge could be placed across the Dan River
- If it can't be placed across the Dan River, would like to see it associated with the Mountain to Sea Trail
- Reiterated Mr. Young's comments regarding the Friends of the Mountain to Sea Trail being the project manager
- Mr. Young did talk to Dave Cook who is supportive of the project as long as it is a part of the Mountain to Sea Trail
- The question is where does the County come in?

Mr. David Mabe presented the following comments:

- Been on that bridge all my life, the bridge means a lot to me
- Have had family members married on the bridge
- Bridge has always amazed me
- Would love for everyone's grandchildren and great grandchildren to be able to walk across the bridge, not just read about it in a book
- Stokes County needs more historical things for people to visit
- Love to see it moved to the park, it can be done
- Appreciate the opportunity to speak

Ms. Jane Priddy-Charleville continued:

- There are numerous of stories just like Mr. Mabe's
- Need for the Board to place the item on the Discussion Agenda and Action Agenda before the Town of Danbury's April 24<sup>th</sup> meeting
- There is no risk for the county
- Economic Development Commission voted unanimously to request the Board of Commissioners considers this project, because there is no risk
- County would need to sign a contract to take ownership and liability of the bridge and a contract with the Mabe's who have agreed to retain the bridge for two more years
- Risk Management has the bridge on the Town's insurance at no extra cost
- There have been no problems associated with the bridge
- The Board of Commissioners holds the key to giving the Mountain to Sea Trail the opportunity to explore and investigate what can be done in Stokes County to save a wonderful piece of history and not let leave

- This is an opportunity to do a phenomenal project that will touch several areas as far as economical development, tourism, history factor, and safety issues that fall within events at Moratock Park
- Know this Board desires to strengthen the economy of Stokes County
- All these people are willing to work on this project
- This would be a wonderful asset and attraction to Stokes County
- Envision this pedestrian walkway that will connect historic Danbury and the Moratock Park
- The project will open a large opportunity to the project that Director McGee is currently working on for downtown Danbury
- School children who visit the Historical Society's museum must be bused to Moratock Park, with this bridge, the children will be able to take a walk across the historic bridge
- Reiterated the Board of Commissioners holds the key
- The citizens of Stokes County, lovers of history, economic development, tourism, all need for the Board of Commissioners to take ownership of the Seven Island Bridge
- Request the Board consider the request to take ownership of the Seven Island Bridge

Chairman Lankford confirmed with Ms. Priddy-Charleville that the request is for the County to take ownership of the Seven Island Bridge.

Ms. Priddy-Charleville added that the request is for the County to take ownership of the Seven Island Bridge for the next two years and if the project comes to fruition, not sure who would then become the owner of the bridge.

Chairman Lankford, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the April 8<sup>th</sup> Discussion Agenda.

Chairman Lankford expressed the Board's appreciation to those who came in support of the Seven Island Bridge.

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

### **Conceptual Drawings for the Health Department Renovation Project**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding the conceptual drawings for the Health Department Renovation Project:

- Title XIX Funding (federal funding) was allocated in the 2012-13 budget for an expansion project at the Health Department

- Health Director Scott Lenhart, Support Services Supervisor Danny Stovall, Architect Perry Peterson, and myself have had several meetings to put together conceptual drawings for the best design to help support the Health Department
- The proposed drawings will add the needed office space, improve WIC patient flow, provide a patient check-in station, tie the new addition into the existing building, improve the current restroom situation and increase patient services being offered
- Architect Perry Peterson will be presenting a power point presentation detailing the new additions
- Would like to get the Board's approval on the conceptual drawings tonight in order to proceed with the project

Manager Morris noted the exceptional work done by Architect Peterson on the new E911 Center Project.

Architect Peterson expressed his appreciation for the compliments from Manager Morris, but stated the compliments needed to be given to Danny Stovall for his exceptional work which kept the project on schedule to meet deadline.

Architect Peterson presented a power point presentation and discussed the following information regarding the conceptual drawings for the new addition to the Health Department:

- Have had several meetings to make sure the design is the best fit for the Health Department
- Front entrance is in the same location but will have an opening that faces the parking lot
- Sign will be placed on the building that states "Stokes County Health Department"
- New addition
  - Will have a new lobby with a larger patient waiting area
  - Will have a new patient check-in station
  - New conference room with new technology for tele conferences
  - New storage areas
  - Four new staff offices
  - New Director's office
  - New Administrative Assistant's office
  - New break area
  - New staff restrooms
  - New addition is 3,388 sq ft
- Renovations to the current facility
  - Men's bathroom, which is currently not operable, will be returned for public use by shifting entrances for security issues
  - WIC Area
    - Will be adding a mother's room

- Will be adding a storage room for materials for public use
- New waiting area for WIC
- WIC area will now have patient flow
- Two new small offices
- Soundproofing between existing offices
- Masonry facility with a sloping tin or metal roof
- Covered area at the entrance of the building
- Most of the mechanical equipment will be in the attic of the new addition which will provide a cover for the equipment which will increase the longevity of the equipment
- Engineers are ready to go and would love to start construction in the summer
- Would appreciate any comments from the Board

Chairman Lankford opened the floor for discussion.

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- Like the design of the new addition and the renovations to the current facility
- Confirmed with Mr. Peterson that as of tonight, the design is within budget
- Will be great addition to the Health Department with no county dollars – using Title XIX Funding

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Congratulated Mr. Peterson and Danny Stovall on the recent completion of the E911 Project, a job well done
- Enjoyed the presentation detailing the new addition and renovations to the current facility
- Concur with Vice Chairman Booth's comments regarding the design of the facility
- Questioned Director Lenhart regarding the space needs of the Health Department, for example, Home Health is currently located in the DSS Building and other staff is housed in a POD located on the hospital grounds

Director Lenhart responded:

- Will meet the current needs for only the Health Department staff including the projected prenatal services
- There will be two offices in the new addition for staff currently located at the POD
- Can look at relocating Home Health to the POD if needed in the future
- Currently working with the management team to better utilize the space that will become vacant in the current facility
- One advantage to keeping Home Health in the DSS facility is that Home Health interacts with DSS staff on a daily basis; a lot of the Home Health referrals come from DSS
- Right now, it is a good fit for Home Health to be in the DSS facility, but can always reconsider



Commissioner Walker confirmed with Mr. Peterson the projected construction cost is approximately \$300,000.

Mr. Peterson noted that this project does not have a lot of site work to be done which saves cost.

Director Lenhart noted the projected cost for the entire project including equipment is approximately \$450,000.

Commissioner Walker confirmed with Director Lenhart that there was ample Title XIX Funding for the project.

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Most of his questions have already been answered
- Will be a great addition to the Health Department
- Appreciate the work done to get the most square footage for the dollar
- Very much on board

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Appreciate going with the metal A frame roof
- Have always wondered about the flat roofs
- Do like the new traffic flow
- Confirmed with Mr. Peterson completion is estimated to be in the Spring of 2014
- Very concerned about the type of outside lighting that will be placed on the facility, prefer low level lighting

Chairman Lankford commented:

- Very pleased with the concept
- Like the projected budget estimates with no county dollars
- Will add to our existing Health Department, will be a tremendous addition
- In the construction of the last schools, metal roofs were compared to architectural shingles, architectural shingles beat the cost of the metal roofs, just something to consider

Mr. Peterson noted that he felt the metal roof would be a better fit to the existing campus.

Manager Morris requested the item (conceptual drawings) be moved to tonight's Action Agenda in order to proceed with the project.

Chairman Lankford expressed the Board's appreciation to Mr. Peterson for the detailed power point presentation.

The Board had no issues moving the item to tonight's Action Agenda.

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

### **Animal Control Advisory Council – Long Term Strategy**

Dr. Debbie Cowan, Chairman of the Animal Control Advisory Council, presented the following information regarding the Animal Control Advisory Council's Long Term Strategy:

- Expressed appreciation for the County's recent allocation of 1.54 acres behind the current Animal Control facility for an addition Animal Control Shelter – perfect location
- Have sent 2,000 people a request for a \$20 donation to help get the new facility up and running
- Information regarding the current facility:
  - Cat Visitation Activity Room
    - Has been built with no cost to the County
    - Allows cats to play and interact with other cats and prospective new owners
    - Makes it a little less work intensive for staff
    - Mural recently done with no cost to the County is outstanding
  - Euthanasia Room
    - Is in the process of being walled-in, insulated, and electrical outlets and fixtures being put in
    - No cost to the County
    - Room will be used for both euthanasia and adoptions
    - Will allow prospective families to visit with the individual dog in a quieter atmosphere
    - 8x8 in size
    - May need to see if the county has a staff electrician to do the final wiring
  - Outdoor Chain Linked Kennels
    - Have been ordered at no cost to the county
    - Kennels were donated by individual citizens at a cost of \$243 each
    - In the process of trying to get cement pads to be able to construct the kennels
    - Working with staff to make kennels more accessible to the existing facility
- Information regarding the new proposed shelter:
  - Steel building will cost \$23,000 with no cost to the County

- Animal Control Advisory Council will be applying for grants and having fundraisers to pay for the new addition
- The rest of the necessities such as grading, septic, fencing, water, heat/air, etc. may be donated
- Estimated time for completion of the project is 2015 or sooner
- Reiterated no cost to the county taxpayers
- The new shelter will not be associated with the county, this will allow for possible grants
- Trying to make it a “no kill shelter”; there are more grants available for “no kill shelters”
- Animals from the shelter will be placed in a home
- If unsuccessful to place the animal, the animal could be traded to another “no kill shelter”; changing the location can usually get the animal adopted
- The current facility will be used as a controlled facility
- Animal Control Officers will be devoting their time to enforcing the animal control ordinance instead of having to clean, feed, etc.
- The County will be charged a boarding fee for each animal housed in the new shelter which will be less than what the county is now paying to house the animals
- The animals will then become wards of the new shelter and every effort will be made to find the animal a new home
- Feels this will be a great addition for Stokes County

Chairman Lankford expressed the Board’s appreciation for the information regarding the vision of the new shelter.

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Appreciate the outstanding work done by Dr. Cowan and the members of the Animal Control Advisory Council
- Have seen some great things done over the past few years
- Great opportunity to get an additional shelter at no cost to the County
- Will be happy to help
- Very outstanding project

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Support the work being done by this proactive group
- Wish all other boards would as proactive as this group
- Appreciate all the work being done

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Add appreciation to the comments already made by Commissioner Inman and Commissioner Jones
- County may have a windfall this year in receiving Hold Harmless revenue from the state
- Receiving the Hold Harmless revenue presents options that the county may would not otherwise have

- If there is some way to take a project like the one your council is doing and make it come to fruition, then the county needs to be involved, I am willing to have some county involvement
- My view for Stokes County has been and will always be a vision of excellence
- The County needs a good animal shelter
- Can't always afford the best, but the people in this county along with myself want to see things done well
- If we can make the progress as you have described, that fits my vision very well, which will help to have a better county
- Lot of work being done by your council
- Very proud of the progress made by the council
- Definitely have my full support

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- Thank the council for their vision on this project
- This project will be great for Stokes County
- Also appreciates the hard work and dedication being done by your volunteers

County Manager Rick Morris commented:

- One risk that bothers me a little, not very much, is sewer to the new facility
- Currently working with Environmental Health and the State on the sewer
- Council will be putting the down payment on the building
- Suggested Dr. Cowan go ahead with the septic permit to see where we stand regarding sewer to the new facility
- Would request the conceptual idea of the new shelter on the April 8<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda
- Once the shelter is up, will further discuss operational procedures with the Council

Chairman Lankford, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the April 8<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda.

#### **Proposed Resolution – “Stokes County Work Release Program”**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following proposed resolution regarding the “Stokes County Work Release Program:

#### **RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE STOKES COUNTY WORK RELEASE PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina General Statute 162-58 (Counties may work prisoners) states that the Board of Commissioners of the several counties may enact by resolution all necessary rules and regulations for work projects to benefit local units of State or local government by persons convicted of misdemeanors or felonies and imprisoned in the local confinement facility or satellite jail/work release units of their respective counties; and

**WHEREAS**, prisoners working under this law shall be supervised only by county employees or by the Sheriff; and

**WHEREAS**, this program will be known as the “Stokes County Work Release Program”; and

**WHEREAS**, the rules for the Stokes County Work Release Program must be approved by the Sheriff; and

**WHEREAS**, a prisoner who has faithfully performed the duties assigned to the prisoner under General Statute 162-60 is entitled to a reduction in the prisoner's sentence of four days for each 30 days of work performed; and

**WHEREAS**, gainful employment of prisoners is a means of saving tax dollars and of training prisoners to be productive members of the community.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the Board of Commissioners of Stokes County adopt the following rules regarding the Stokes County Work Release Program which have been approved by the Sheriff of Stokes County:

1. Categories of prisoners eligible to work:

- a. Only prisoners that are serving sentences for non-violent misdemeanor offenses may participate in the program. (No prisoner shall be allowed to work who is serving a current sentence for crimes of violence.)
- b. The Sheriff shall evaluate each prisoner who may be assigned work duties to assure himself that the prisoner is sufficiently trustworthy for work release and is physically able to carry out the assigned duties.

2. Supervision of prisoners:

- a. Prisoners who are allowed to work under the provisions of N.C.G.S. 162-58 shall be supervised only by Stokes County employees or by the Sheriff.
- b. County employees supervising Work Release participants must complete a training course provided by the Sheriff's Office.
- c. The Sheriff shall advise the employee of any restrictions to be placed on the prisoner and of a procedure to follow if the prisoner escapes or in other ways fails to carry out his/her duty assignment.
- d. The Sheriff has full authority to dismiss a county employee performing supervisory duties in the Work Release Program and remove any prisoner from the program.
- e. If a prisoner refuses a work assignment or is in any other way insubordinate; the supervisor shall return the prisoner to the custody of the Sheriff without delay.

3. Type of Work:

- a. The prisoners performing work pursuant to these regulations shall be limited to general maintenance and light construction work. The prisoners shall not use self-propelled equipment, chain saws or other dangerous power equipment while working, unless approved by the Sheriff. Participants may use a walk behind lawn mower and a weed eater.
- b. County employees supervising prisoners shall make reasonable efforts to protect the health and safety of the prisoner and shall not subject them to working conditions which expose them to hazards which would exceed those to which a paid employee would be exposed.

4. Feeding of Prisoners While Working:

- a. The county employee supervising prisoners participating in the "Stokes County Work Release Program" pursuant to these regulations shall ensure that the prisoner is fed either by a meal prepared by jail staff or returning the prisoner to the jail. Any food provided to the prisoner shall be provided only by jail staff.

5. Medical Care:

- a. Any prisoner injured while performing work pursuant to these regulations shall be given immediate basic first aid treatment for his injury. If the injury is of a nature which requires more than basic first aid treatment, the person who is supervising the prisoner shall immediately notify Stokes County Emergency Communications who shall dispatch the nearest medic truck or ambulance. If a medic truck or ambulance is dispatched, Emergency Communications shall notify the Sheriff immediately. Based on the examination of the paramedics at the scene, the prisoner shall immediately be transported to the nearest hospital. If the prisoner is transported to a hospital, then a deputy shall be dispatched to meet the ambulance at the hospital. All first aid treatment shall be documented on an incident report form.
- b. Any prisoner who becomes ill while performing work pursuant to these regulations shall be returned to the jail immediately without delay unless the illness is of a nature that requires immediate emergency attention; then the guidelines in Section A will be followed when calling Emergency Communications.

6. Transportation:

- a. Prisoners shall be transported from the jail to the work site by the county employee supervising the prisoner. The trip from the jail to the worksite shall be made without delay and without interruption.
- b. No prisoner shall be allowed to operate any motor vehicle while participating in the Work Release Program.

7. Compensation:

- a. The prisoners working pursuant to the work release regulations shall not be entitled to any pay, compensation, or other benefits for their work, other than the reduction in sentence as provided by law.

8. Female Prisoners:

- a. Female prisoners working pursuant to these regulations shall be supervised only by a female County employee.

9. Work Days:

- a. Prisoners shall be eligible to work Monday through Sunday with no more than eight hours per day.

10. Identification of County Employees:

- a. The Sheriff shall approve the list of County employees who may supervise the working of prisoners. The Sheriff's Office shall not surrender a prisoner to a County employee for work until the County employee exhibits an official County identification card and a driver's license to the deputy or jailer and Sheriff Department staff has verified the County employee is on the Sheriff's approved list.

11. Escape:

- a. Should the whereabouts of a prisoner working under the supervision of a County employee become unknown, the County employee supervising the prisoner shall immediately notify the Sheriff's Office and the County Manager.

Adopted this the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2013

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Ernest Lankford - Chairman**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**James D. Booth - Vice Chairman**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**J. Leon Inman - Commissioner**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Jimmy Walker - Commissioner**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Ronda Jones - Commissioner**

**Attest:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Darlene Bullins - Clerk to the Board**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Approved as to form and legal sufficiency  
Edward Powell- Stokes County Attorney**

Manager Morris presented the following information regarding the proposed “Stokes County Work Release Program” developed by Sheriff Mike Marshall:

- The Misdemeanor Program was approved last year by the State
- Sheriff Marshall wishes to allow only persons convicted of misdemeanors to participate in the “Stokes County Work Release Program”
- Sheriff’s Department has established proposals for the new program
- Gainful employment of prisoners is a means of saving tax dollars and of training prisoners to be more productive members of the community
- Participants in the program will only be allowed to work on the governmental campus
- Proposed Resolution must be approved before the Sheriff can implement the new program

Chairman Lankford opened the floor for discussion.

The Board had no issues with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Walker suggested placing the proposed resolution on the April 8<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda.

The Board had no issues placing the proposed resolution on the April 8<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda.

Chairman Lankford, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the April 8<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda.

#### **Proposed Bids – Emergency Management Grant – Prime Vehicle Mover**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding the Emergency Management Grant awarded to Stokes County for a prime vehicle mover:

- Stokes County was awarded a Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$44,256.07 on September 1, 2012 to purchase a prime mover to be located in Stokes County
- Agree with the recommendation from Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor Wesley Jones, EMS Director Greg Collins, and Support Services Supervisor Danny Stovall to purchase a demo 2013 Chevy CK31043 truck with 6,110 miles at a cost of \$35,241.99 from Modern Chevrolet
- Diesel truck was not an option due to cost
- Request the Board approve the bid from Modern Chevy

Commissioner Walker confirmed with Manager Morris that this prime mover could be



used to move the mobile trailer at the Health Department along with other uses.

The Board had no issues with the proposed bid.

Chairman Lankford, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the April 8<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda.

### **Proposed Contract – Telecommunication Cost Analysis**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding a proposed contract from Spy Glass to perform a telecommunication cost analysis for the County:

- Spy Glass will analyze the primary telecommunications services accounts (local voice, long distance voice, data and internet) to seek cost recovery, service elimination, and cost reduction recommendations
- Analysis will not include optional wireless services
- Fees:
  - County will pay Spy Glass 50% of any “cost recovery”
  - 12 times any “service elimination savings
  - 12 times any “cost reduction” savings
- No risk for the county
- Have a good record of finding overcharges that public and private entities are not able to find due to not having staff or expertise; company specializes in this type of service
- Provided the Board with additional information about Spy Glass along with references
- See no issues entering into contract for Spy Glass to perform a telecommunication cost analysis
- Company has a very good track record
- Historically, 50% of the analysis perform normally have accounts that have overcharges
- Have no issue with the item being placed on the April 8<sup>th</sup> Discussion Agenda

Chairman Lankford opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Like the concept
- Worth looking for any type of savings
- On board

Commissioner Inman commented:

- No other fees than cost recovery, service elimination and cost reduction savings
- Very large budget item for the county

- Have no issues, all for saving taxpayers' dollars

Chairman Lankford commented:

- Would like to place the item on the April 8<sup>th</sup> Discussion Agenda to allow members to review the additional information provided at tonight's meeting

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- Agree with Commissioner Inman's comments regarding saving taxpayers' dollars
- Confirmed with Manager Morris that there will be no additional fees

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Appreciate staff bringing this to the Board for consideration
- Also agree with saving taxpayers' dollars
- Confirmed with Manager Morris that fees for service elimination and cost reduction savings are due as a one-time payment within 10 days of verification of the cancellation or other activity resulting in the service elimination savings or cost reduction savings has been completed
- Not sure I like paying the full 12 month savings in one payment within the 10 days of verification of savings
- Confirmed with Manager Morris that service elimination savings and the cost reduction savings is only for one year
- Confirmed that the Manager recommends the Board review the additional information provided at tonight's meeting along with references on the website before making a decision

Chairman Lankford agreed with Manager Morris' recommendation to place the item back on the April 8<sup>th</sup> Discussion Agenda.

Manager Morris noted the Spy Glass sales representative cannot attend the April 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, but should be able to attend the last meeting in April.

Commissioner Walker noted that he had no issues with placing it on the Action Agenda since discussion could be done at that time, but will go with the majority of the Board.

The Board discussed placing the item on the Action Agenda.

Chairman Lankford noted the need to have more information before discussing the item.

Manager Morris noted that he thought it would be a good idea to have the representative here at one meeting to answer questions from the Board.

The Board agreed to place the item on the April 8<sup>th</sup> Discussion Agenda.

Chairman Lankford, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the April 8<sup>th</sup> Discussion Agenda.

**Proposed Bids – Refurbishment of the Wastewater Treatment Plant**

County Manager Rick Morris provided the following information regarding the proposed Bids for the refurbishment of the Wastewater Treatment Plant:

- This is a very important project as the new sewer line to Meadows will feed into this Wastewater Treatment Plant which needs refurbishment
- Will replace some parts with stainless steel parts to prevent rusting
- Originally the deadline for bids for the Wastewater Plant Rehabilitation Project was advertised as February 21<sup>st</sup>
- It was decided to extend that date to March 7<sup>th</sup> in an effort to solicit qualified companies to submit bids
- On March 7<sup>th</sup>, only one bid was received
- As required, the project was re-advertised for one week with a March 14<sup>th</sup> deadline
- On March 14<sup>th</sup>, a second bid was received and both bids were opened
- Although both bids were very close in cost, the lowest bidder was The Huffstetler Group, Inc at \$166,187.24
- Other bid was PF Plumbing Contractors, Inc. at \$171,475.00
- Approximately \$130,000 was budgeted for the project
- Recommend the County award the bid to The Huffstetler Group at \$166,187.25
- There is adequate funding in the Sewer Fund to absorb the extra cost
- Director Delehant is ready to get the project started and would be very pleased if the Board moved the item to tonight's Action Agenda

Chairman Lankford opened the floor for discussion.

Vice Chairman Booth confirmed with Manager Morris that there was adequate funding in the Enterprise Fund to cover the additional cost not budgeted.

Vice Chairman Booth confirmed with Manager Morris that the upgrade to the Wastewater System had not been included in any of the water and sewer grant applications; therefore, funding for the Sewer/Water Project could not be used for the upgrade and the refurbishment needs to be done now due to the corrosion on many of the main components of the plant.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Sounds like a very necessary step that needs to be taken care of soon

- Had the same question as Vice Chairman regarding the use of grant fund
- Encouraged to hear that the Enterprise Fund has adequate resources
- Confirmed with Manager Morris that approximately \$34,000 will be left in the fund after appropriation of the additional \$36,187.24
- Confirmed with Manager Morris that the project would be started immediately once the Board approves the bid
- Very pleased to see staff trying to secure more bids
- Feels this item fits the criteria of a “time sensitive item” that needs to be moved to tonight’s Action Agenda
- Don’t feel there would be any additional information if the item was placed on the next Action Agenda
- Comfortable with moving the item to tonight’s Action Agenda

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Have no questions
- Ready to go with the lowest bid

Commissioner Inman commented:

- See no issues
- Ready to move the item to tonight’s Action Agenda

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- Noted the information from NCDENR regarding the corrosion problem and failure to correct the problem will likely result in the loss of major treatment components
- Hope as much can be replaced with stainless steel parts as possible

Commissioner Walker confirmed with Manager Morris that the group has the engineering knowledge to know what is best for the project.

Chairman Lankford confirmed with Manager Morris that the project will fix everything that needs to be fixed, paint everything that needs to be painted, and replace as much as possible with stainless steel.

Finance Director Julia Edwards noted that Budget Amendment #75 could be approved when the bid is awarded to allocate the remaining funding.

The Board had no issues with placing the Agenda item and Budget Amendment #75 on tonight’s Action Agenda.

Chairman Lankford, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the items on tonight's Action Agenda.

### **Proposed Hiring Freeze Policy**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following proposed Temporary Hiring Freeze Policy for the Board's consideration:

- Recommend a temporary three-month hiring freeze to begin April 1, 2013 and end the day the 2013-2014 budget is adopted
- Under the proposed hiring freeze, the County Manager would be allowed to approve internal postings for positions determined to be critical during the hiring freeze
- Under the proposed hiring freeze, the BOCC would be required to approve external posting of any positions determined to be critical by the County Manager or BOCC during the hiring freeze
- Any position or positions already approved for internal or external posting will not be effected by the temporary hiring freeze policy

Manager Morris noted the following:

- A temporary hiring freeze was discussed in the previous Goals/Budget Guidance Work sessions to begin the first of April
- Same wordage as last year
- Manager will only be allowed to approved internal postings for critical positions
- Only critical positions will be brought to the Board for approval for external posting
- Temporary hiring freeze will expire once the 2013-14 budget is adopted
- Any position that is in the process of posting will be completed, any vacancies after April 1<sup>st</sup> will follow the hiring freeze policy
- Would need the Board to move the item to tonight's Action Agenda

Chairman Lankford opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Walker clarified with Manager Morris that critical positions would be addressed on an individual basis and not impair the function of any department or services offered by the county.

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

### **Appointments – Stokes County Board of Health**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following Board of Health appointment:

- Optometrist position
- Board of Health recommends reappointment of Cheryl Ferguson

Chairman Lankford opened the floor for nominations.

Vice Chairman Booth nominated Cheryl Ferguson for reappointment.

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 April 8<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda.

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

### **King Clinic – Health Director Recommendation**

Chairman Lankford entertained a motion.

Commissioner Walker moved, based on a discussion with the Health Director, to continue to allow this to be an open issue and the Health Director be allowed to look at the needs of all parts of the county without selectively curtailing any service in any particular part of the county, but continue to gather information and look at the services that need to be provided in all parts of county on a fair and balanced basis. Commissioner Inman seconded the motion for discussion.

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- Don't know of any further discussion that I need
- King is not an underserved district and the rest of the county is
- Know what Commissioner Walker is talking about regarding looking at other parts of the county
- Do know that other parts of the county have underserved areas which are actually already being looked at
- This has been discussed at Board of Health meetings and the Board of Health approved the Health Director's Option Two
- Looking at the King Clinic right now, DSS and WIC occupy most of the building
- WIC could be expanded

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Read the information provided by the Health Director very closely
- Have talked to the Health Director about the findings
- Do not want to close anything
- The facility does have added value for our county
- Health Director feels that expanding WIC Services would enhance that service
- Feel it is a vital facility
- Commissioner Walker makes a excellent point in continuing to look at viable options
- A year from now, the situation might be different, population may be different
- A lot of merit in the decision to continue to evaluate the situation
- To fully implement the King Clinic as quote a “Health Department facility”, there would be a considerable increase in salaries and there would have to be some updates to the facility itself to meet accreditation standards
- Understand that accreditation standards do not have to be met if WIC and DSS services are the only services being provided at the facility
- Will be okay as long as the county is utilizing a very valuable resource and facility that the county owns in the King area
- If the need and volume necessitate reconsidering the decision to open the facility in the next year, certainly hope that the county would be doing that

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Opting for Option Two
- The report and data were very clear to me as to what is needed
- Always open to other possibilities in the future, but as it stands right now with the accreditation, increase in salaries, staffing, and the fact that King is close to Highway #52, Option Two is the best decision
- King area already has at least 25 provides, something that the northern part of the county does not have
- Drive time from the outer most parts of the county to the Health Department in Danbury is about the same as coming from King
- So given the lack of profits indicated and the potential expense, it makes no sense to do anything further right now than Option Two by increasing WIC and possibly providing prenatal services in the future
- Think King is very fortunate with their placement in County that provides more options
- Don't feel the need to put that great expense on the entire tax base at this given time

Chairman Lankford commented:

- Thought the survey done by Director Lenhart and the information provided in his presentation explained everything very well
- Director Lenhart detailed exactly what had to be done to bring the building up to accreditation standards in order to provide medical services at the facility
- Can still keep the facility open and provide several needed services such as WIC and DSS without spending a lot of funding for upgrades

- Feel the recommendation from the Health Director (Option Two), which was also approved by the Board of Health, is the best direction to go right now
- But continue to keep an open mind so that if things change in the future, the issue can be revisited
- At this point in time, Option Two

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Made a call to two of my fellow commissioners to discuss this issue
- Do not recall the courtesy of a return phone call
- This was after a conversation with the Health Director after validating some information that I received
- Have had multiple conversations with the Health Director
- Health Director is currently having a study done by some interns and would like for him to explain the study being done by the interns to evaluate the needs and address the needs of all parts of the county, not just the King Clinic
- If we target just one particular part of the county, I am wondering what kind of decision making process we are dealing with
- Requested the Health Director to explain the survey and the target for the future
- Also request the Health Director to explain how Title XIX Funding could be used to upgrade a facility in King if it were needed

Health Director Lenhart responded:

- Have two interns – one from Appalachian State and one from North Stokes High School
- One of their projects is to determine what kind of medical providers are in Stokes County and what services do they actually provide; for example, there is a wide variety of physicians at MountainView Medical in King
- Interns are calling each practice to find out the following:
  - What type of patients is being seen at their practice?
  - Do they accept Medicaid, Medicare, and private insurance?
  - Find out if they have a sliding fee?
- Actually received the final report at 5:15 pm this afternoon
- Will be presenting the report to the Health Services Alliance tomorrow to review the data and discuss a plan to refocus the group
- As for Title XIX Funding, funding can be used to upgrade the facility, but if anyone else uses the facility, it will have to be on a cost share
- If other services are provided, Title XIX Funding can't be used for a total upgrade for the facility
- Just like WIC Funding, must be used for WIC services only
- If Title XIX Funding is used, there will have to be a lot of planning; the facility can't be upgraded with all Title XIX Funding and still allow DSS to remain in the facility
- One section could be renovated solely for the Health Department with Title XIX Funding, but no other agency could use the section without cost sharing
- Title XIX Funding can be used to increase services in that area



Commissioner Walker continued:

- Understood from the conversation with the Health Director (really felt good about the tone of our conversation) that he sees some advantages to continue to look at all parts of the county, not just say right now do this or don't do this
- Health Director is also continuing to gather more information, trying to make better use of what resources are available and is looking at the whole picture – all of Stokes County
- Vice Chairman Booth states that there are plenty of providers, if you are indigent, where are the providers?
- I think at a previous meeting the Health Director stated if you are indigent, you call an ambulance and go to the emergency room – that is a \$2,000 bill out of Pioneer's pocket
- There are a lot of unanswered questions
- Not ready to say the Board has done their due diligence, not ready to say that we have an answer
- If there is sufficient information and it says this is in the best interest for the citizens of Stokes County to take a particular action, I am willing to take that action
- But until the pieces fit together in a way to where it looks like and clearly is in the best interest of all the citizens in Stokes County, I am not willing to pull the "trigger" on this or any other part of the county's operation
- Do appreciate the Health Director's willingness to share the information with the Health Services Alliance
- Do feel there is renewed interest in looking at all parts of the county
- By my estimation, there has been approximately \$15 million spent to have a hospital in Danbury, with patient fees from people using the facility in King along with taxpayers' dollars
- That is a lot of money
- Don't sit here and say we can't afford the King Health Clinic unless we make a profit - \$15 million or more has already been spent
- There is more to any particular part of the county's operation than can it pay for itself
- When I think of someone who needs medical attention and a doctor won't see them (50% of the county's population is in one area of the county) and their only choice is to call an ambulance and be seen in the ER or come to the Health clinic in Danbury, it is very upsetting knowing that many of them do not have the means to get to Danbury
- There are still questions to be answered
- Do I believe there is a quick fix, I don't know that there is a quick fix, but it is the kind of thing that this Board needs to be working on
- Still think back at what one commissioner, who I supported at one time, said that the best thing to do with the King Clinic is to push it off the hill
- If that had been in another part of the county, would that answer have been the same? I don't know
- There were previous commissioners who were focused on closing the King Clinic, don't know why

- The meaningful application of resources here today is to be fair and realistic, look at the broad picture
- Have discussed Option Two with Director Lenhart, there is still some unanswered questions
- Reiterated that he did not receive a returned phone call to discuss those unanswered questions with fellow commissioners
- Still there are questions to be answered about the validity of the data
- Director Lenhart mentioned some of the reasons why some of data came out like it did
- Reiterated that there are still unanswered questions
- I want the best healthcare, if possible, for all the people in Stokes County, here in Danbury, Walnut Cove, Westfield, Sandy Ridge, Pine Hall, Pinnacle, etc.
- Have made some progress here tonight with the purchase of a vehicle that can now move the mobile unit that the Health Department acquired from part of the county to another
- Making progress, why do we want to say you can't do this or you have to stop this until we have gone further down the path looking for answers that make sense
- I don't know what is going on when it becomes so important to take one specific action at one specific time

Chairman Lankford questioned Commissioner Walker where the \$15 million dollars he mentioned was spent?

Commissioner Walker responded:

- Do the math, it was annually \$1 to 1.5 million from JRJones
- JRJones was established to help subsidize Stokes Reynolds Hospital
- No one has ever complained about that, never hear anyone complain from the part of the county I live in about the money coming from JRJones to Stokes Reynolds
- Have discussed this issue before with Chairman Lankford
- Pull the exact figures, we both know that there were millions of dollars put into JRJones and that is fine
- Still have the same objective and that is to provide medical care to the best of our ability to do so with the resources we have to work with for all the county

Chairman Lankford responded:

- Agreed the objective is to provide medical care to the best of our ability to do so with the resources we have to work with for all the county
- Where are all the other facilities going to be located?
- Don't see the county building clinics in Pine Hall, Walnut Cove, Sandy Ridge, Lawsonville, etc.
- Don't think believe the county has that kind of resources

Commissioner Walker responded:

- Maybe not, but here is what our Health Director stated (admire him for saying so) – “he will be looking at, reviewing, evaluating and gathering information for the future on the potential for all parts of the county”
- What fits Danbury is not the same as what fits King and what fits King may not fit Danbury, what fits Pine Hall may not fit Walnut Cove, etc.
- We have EMS, Stokes Reynolds facility in Danbury, JRJones facility in King, where are the gaps? Where are people falling through the cracks?
- That is what I feel the Health Director, the interns, and others are going to be looking at

Commissioner Jones responded:

- Commissioner Walker – did not return your call because I listened to your message, put it into my thought process along with the rest of the information
- If I felt like I needed more information, would have returned your call
- Was no disrespect, want to make that clear
- We are talking about today and where we are at today with the information that has been provided to us
- There is not anyone on this Board that says we can’t reevaluate this in 6 months or a year
- Getting ready to build an addition, just received accreditation, have a staff shortage, all these things going on, there is a time for everything
- Just because we go with Option Two doesn’t mean we won’t reestablish the King Clinic at some given time
- Right now, the numbers just don’t add up and they still have the most providers than any other place in the entire County
- Makes no sense to me logically to put that kind of money into that facility at this time, no matter whether Title XIX Funding can or can’t be used
- The question is what do we do now, this has been held off over a year,
- We need to make some kind of arrangement to get some kind of stability and then come back and reevaluate at a later date and do it a different way if needed
- Need to make a decision now
- No one is saying not keep it opened ended, just need to make some kind of movement now

Commissioner Walker responded:

- Why?

Commissioner Jones responded:

- Because it continues to make mass confusion for everyone when no one knows what we are doing, we just keep talking about it
- Look at all the people who could be served in the King area with WIC services, they need to be served

Commissioner Walker responded:

- Keep it opened ended, keep evaluating, keep looking at all options, keep looking at what makes the most sense and keep working toward it, that is my goal

Commissioner Jones responded:

- But, Option Two is okay for now
- At least, we can move forward

Commissioner Walker responded:

- Left you specific information in my message that there was a question about the data that Option Two was compiled with, but you were satisfied and did not feel like you needed to return my call even though that was part of the message

Chairman Lankford called the question due to the discussion not going anywhere.

Commissioner Walker stated he did not think the question could be called as long as there was discussion being done.

Commissioner Jones responded:

- It goes back to the same thing, they have the most providers per capita in the county and you are putting words in my mouth
- It is a fact that the area has the most providers, no matter what
- Those facts helped me make my decision at this given time

Commissioner Walker responded:

- You just heard our Health Director say he has new information, given to him at 5:15 pm today, how can you discount that?
- So we shouldn't pay any attention to what he said, just go ahead and do what we are going to do
- Think your mind is already made up

Commissioner Jones responded:

- Do not discount the information from the Health Director

Vice Chairman Booth responded:

- Commissioner Walker mentioned my name in one of his comments and would like to respond
- The decision was made two and a half years ago, before Director Lenhart came on board, then he looked at it again
- In discussions at the Health Board meeting, I stated the only way I would look at this issue again would be after the accreditation was over
- That has been done and we have received that information
- Using Title XIX Funding, it can only be used if the facility is used solely by the Health Department for health services

- Confirmed with Director Lenhart that his providers currently could not practice in King due to being under a HURSA Loan Repayment, King is not considered as an underserved area
- Confirmed with Director Lenhart that additional staffing would have to be hired to open the clinic five days a week and funding would have to come from fees, contract addendums and county dollars
- With increasing services in two areas, there would definitely have to be additional county dollars put in the budget
- There is about the same difference from other areas to Danbury as it is from King to Danbury, I am looking at all the areas- everyone is coming to a centrally located facility
- Confirmed with Director Lenhart that transportation from the outer areas of the county to Danbury is another issue which is a problem in rural North Carolina
- Want to make it clear that additional staffing will be a continuous budget item and Title XIX is not a continuous source of revenue
- Title XIX decreased \$150,000 from last year and who knows what will happen when Health Care Reform takes effect fully
- Confirmed with Director Lenhart that the goal is to take the Title XIX revenue to zero
- Looking for a fair service to all the citizens of Stokes County
- We currently have a central location to provide health services which is in Danbury
- Reiterated getting to the facility is a problem for many people
- The transportation issue needs to be looked at
- The current issue, as stated by Commissioner Jones, is what we have before us
- It is not that the issue has not been looked at, I have been hearing about this same issue since becoming a Commissioner in 2010
- Health Board voted unanimously to continue WIC Services in King, the building is being occupied by Health and DSS and in use

Commissioner Walker responded:

- Don't disagree with what Vice Chairman Booth is saying
- Don't disagree with what Commissioner Jones is saying to some extent
- You heard me say very clearly that once we are at a point to be able to make a decision, we go ahead and make that decision
- Whether it takes 1.5 or 10.5 years, make the right decision, don't just do something to say we have done it
- Look at what makes sense, do WIC if that is what makes sense
- You are not hearing me say that I am going to go ballistic if we don't have a clinic in King
- I am just saying not to handcuff our Health Director, let him and his staff continue to look and evaluate, not just the King Clinic but certainly is a part of it, and do as much as possible that makes sense for the entire county
- We are adding \$300,000 addition to the existing Health Department and there are other things that probably need to be done in the county that we need to be looking at
- We need for it to be fair, balanced, and I feel that is achievable

- Why takes it off the table now?
- It may need to be considered now
- Commissioner Jones states to do Option Two and it can be reopened at a future date
- Why not leave it opened ended?
- What is advantage of closing it? Not sure I see it

County Manager Morris noted that staff needed to know how to budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Commissioner Inman commented:

- If we leave it opened ended, there is no budgeting needed unless the Health Director comes back to let the Board know there is a tremendous need for the services

Chairman Lankford called the question.

The motion failed (2-3) with Commissioner Jones, Vice Chairman Booth, and Chairman Lankford voting against the motion.

Vice Chairman Booth moved to approve Option Two on the recommendation of the Health Director and also all options county wide are open to be studied for any need of the county. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.

Commissioner Walker requested clarification of the motion.

Vice Chairman Booth restated his motion and noted that should take care of his request to be able to study the needs of the county.

Commissioner Walker questioned if that took care of my request, why did you not vote for my motion?

Vice Chairman Booth responded that Commissioner Walker's motion did not include Option Two.

Commissioner Inman requested Health Director Lenhart to explain exactly what Option Two means.

Health Director Lenhart responded:

- WIC Services will remain open and be expanded in the current facility

- DSS will be able to remain in the facility
- Facility will be used as it is now
- There will be no closing of the facility

Commissioner Walker responded:

- Why chose an option?
- Why not let the Health Director use his discretion to determine what services are needed and can be provided in the area to meet the needs of the citizens and continue on an ongoing basis to evaluate?
- Will not support an Option 2, 3,4,6

The motion carried (3-2) with Commissioner Inman and Commissioner Walker voting against the motion.

### **Conceptual Drawings for the Health Department Renovation Project**

Chairman Lankford entertained a motion.

Commissioner Inman moved to approve the Conceptual Drawings for the Health Department Renovation Project presented by Architect Peterson at tonight's meeting. Vice Chairman Booth seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Proposed Bids – Refurbishment of the Wastewater Treatment Plant**

Chairman Lankford entertained a motion.

Commissioner Jones moved to award the bid to The Huffstetler Group, Inc. in the amount of \$166,187.25 and Budget Amendment #75:

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
<b>Sewer Fund</b>				
501.7140.510	Equipment	<u>\$130,000.00</u>	<u>\$36,188.00</u>	<u>\$166,188.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$130,000.00</b>	<b>\$36,188.00</b>	<b>\$166,188.00</b>

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To appropriate funding from Sewer's Fund Balance for the cost of the refurbishment of the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

This will result in a net increase of \$36,188.00 in the expenditures and other financial use to the County's annual budget. To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues

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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
	<b>Sewer Fund</b>			
501.3991.000	Fund Balance	<u>\$97,606.00</u>	<u>\$36,188.00</u>	<u>\$133,794.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$97,606.00</b>	<b>\$36,188.00</b>	<b>\$133,794.00</b>

Vice Chairman Booth seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Proposed Hiring Freeze Policy**

Chairman Lankford entertained a motion.

Commissioner Inman moved to approve the Hiring Freeze Policy presented by County Manager Morris at tonight's meeting effective April 1, 2013. Commissioner Jones seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

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

- To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged pursuant to G.S. 143-311.11(a)(3)
- 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 of real property pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5)

Vice Chairman Booth moved to enter closed session for the following:

- To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged pursuant to G.S. 143-311.11(a)(3)
- 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 of real property pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5)



Commissioner Jones seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The Board returned to the regular session of the March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Adjournment**

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

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

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

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**Ernest Lankford**  
**Chairman**