

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF STOKES)
)

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS
STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT
DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA
MAY 13, 2013

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met for regular session in the Commissioners' Chambers of the Ronald Wilson Reagan Memorial Building (Administration Building) located in Danbury, North Carolina on Monday, May 13, 2013 at 1:30 pm with the following members present:

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

County Personnel in Attendance:
County Manager Richard D. Morris
Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins
County Attorney Edward Powell
Finance Director Julia Edwards
DSS Director Kristy Preston
Health Director Scott Lenhart
Tax Administrator Jake Oakley

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

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

- "But thou shall remember the Lord thy God, for it is He that giveth the power to get wealth "

Commissioner Inman 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 May 13, 2013
May 13, 2013

Agenda.

Vice Chairman Booth moved to approve the May 13th Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Jones seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS - Manager/Commissioners

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

Manager Rick Morris presented the following updates:

- Autumn Square Building – Application for the purchase has been submitted to the Local Government Commission (LGC) for their approval in June 2013
 - Closings can be done ten days following the approval of the application by LGC
- Measles Update - Health Department had another exposure to measles last week which now starts the 42 day timeframe over; there must be 42 days without a diagnosed case of measles before the State CDC declares there is no longer a measles outbreak
- Pringle Road Cell Tower - Tower in Lawsonville is now operational, have heard from several that it either gave them coverage or increased their coverage
- CDBG Grant (Housing Rehabilitation Grant)
 - As required by the CDBG Funding, the monthly Performance Report (April 2013) was provided to each member of the Board

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Attended the Environmental Steering Committee last Friday
 - Dr. Laura Taylor and Jim Womack (Lee County Commissioner/Mining Commission) spoke at the meeting
 - Explained that we as a nation are energy independent, but not for transportation independence – do not import electricity – very interesting to learn
 - Many leases for fracking are going for as little as a dollar – not a very good thing for landowners
 - Takes approximately 800+ acres for a site and around 10 acres for a well
 - Takes 2 to 5 million gallons of water for these wells to be dug – three million gallons being the average
 - Currently looking at other states that have already done fracking
 - Feel like the State is trying to meet a “middle ground” to try to get rid of some of the problems with fracking
 - The intention, when drilling a well, is to have a lined holding pond in order to recycle the water
 - All chemicals will have to be listed, the “real recipe” will not have to be listed due to trade secrets

- At the end of the day, still support the Board's resolution for no other reason than the dam at Belews Creek that has a hazardous condition which concerns me greatly

Commissioner Inman commented:

- CenterPoint Human Services Board met and added another Board member from Stokes County for a specific position by prescription (hospital administrator)
 - Pam Tillman has agreed to serve on the Board of Directors
 - Gives Stokes County three seats
 - May not be but only one or two MCOs statewide when everything is done
- Representative Bryan Holloway has filed a bill to restore Article 44 "Hold Harmless" – has good support in the House, but hitting a brick wall in the Senate
 - Asking for support from the Board of Commissioners to contact Senate members for their support
 - \$2.2 million is huge amount of revenue for Stokes County
 - Senator Shirley Randleman supports the bill
 - Need to try to get this bill passed

Chairman Lankford commented:

- Have been talking to other commissioners in Rockingham and other counties and have placed a resolution on today's Discussion Agenda in support of Article 44

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- Attended the John Burwell EMS Award ceremony along with Chairman Lankford, Commissioners Jones and Inman
 - Training Officer Brian Booe was the recipient; Brian was very deserving of the award
 - Very proud to have Brian representing Stokes County

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Health Director Scott Lenhart presented some very informative information regarding the measles outbreak at the League of Governments meeting last week – very interesting to find out that individuals born before 1957 have a natural immunity
- Anyone who has questions regarding the measles can contact Director Lenhart
- Glad to hear about the new tower in Lawsonville, increasing cell phone coverage and internet access across the county has been a goal of the current board and previous boards; need to continue to get those unserved areas served and those underserved areas better coverage
- Representatives from the City of King mentioned at the League of Governments meeting that there is some attention from a major box store for a possible location in Stokes County; county would get the sales tax (point of sale) which would really be a benefit for Stokes County
- Confirmed with Vice Chairman Booth that the Soil and Water Banquet is next Thursday, May 24th

- Confirmed with Finance Director Julia Edwards that there was no further information regarding the QAZBonds and QSCBonds

Chairman Lankford commented:

- Since the County started the goal to increase cell phone coverage approximately six years ago, there has been seven new towers placed in Stokes County
- Still working on other areas in the county
- Understand that Verizon may be interested in another location within the county

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 12, 2013 – Goals/Budget Guidance Work Session
- Minutes of April 22, 2013 – Regular Meeting

Finance - Budget Amendment #88

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #88.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
General Fund				
100.9820.985	Transfer to Senior Center Fund	\$2,000.00	\$(2,000.00)	\$00.00
100.9820.989	Transfer to Health Title XIX	\$962,896.00	\$2,000.00	\$964,896.00
100.9820.962	Transfer to Danbury Water	\$230.00	\$(230.00)	\$00.00
100.9820.988	Transfer to Water/Sewer Auth.	\$184.00	\$(184.00)	\$00.00
100.9820.990	Transfer to Regional Sewer	\$162.00	\$(162.00)	\$00.00
100.9910.000	Contingency	<u>\$146,897.00</u>	<u>\$576.00</u>	<u>\$147,473.00</u>
	Totals	\$1,112,369.00	\$00.00	\$1,112,369.00
Capital Reserve Fund				
201.5700.000	Stokes Reynolds Hospital	<u>\$100,050.00</u>	<u>\$10,000.00</u>	<u>\$110,050.00</u>
	Totals	\$100,050.00	\$10,000.00	\$110,050.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To correct technical error transferring funds to Enterprise Funds and appropriate funds to Capital Reserve Fund from Stokes Reynolds Memorial Hospital Fund per lease agreement.

This will result in a net increase of \$10,000.00 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
Capital Reserve Fund				
201.3981.002	Transfer from SRHM	<u>\$00.00</u>	<u>\$10,000.00</u>	<u>\$10,000.00</u>
	Totals	\$00.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Danbury Water Fund				
502.3982.100	Transfer From General Fund	\$230.00	\$(230.00)	\$00.00
502.3991.000	Fund Balance	<u>\$1,359.00</u>	<u>\$230.00</u>	<u>\$1,589.00</u>
	Totals	\$1,589.00	\$00.00	\$1,589.00
Regional Sewer Fund				
501.3982.100	Transfer From General Fund	\$162.00	\$(162.00)	\$00.00
501.3991.000	Fund Balance	<u>\$133,794.00</u>	<u>\$162.00</u>	<u>\$133,956.00</u>
	Totals	\$133,956.00	\$00.00	\$133,956.00
Water/Sewer Authority				
210.3981.000	Transfer from General Fund	\$184.00	\$(184.00)	\$00.00
210.3991.000	Fund Balance	<u>\$00.00</u>	<u>\$184.00</u>	<u>\$184.00</u>
	Totals	\$184.00	\$00.00	\$184.00

Sheriff's Department - Budget Amendment #89

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #89.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
Sheriff's Department				
100.4310.351	Maint. & Repairs - Auto	<u>\$85,945.00</u>	<u>\$1,830.00</u>	<u>\$87,775.00</u>
	Totals	\$85,945.00	\$1,830.00	\$87,775.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To appropriate insurance claim funds due to a vehicle hitting a Sheriff Department's vehicle.

This will result in a net increase of \$1,830.00 in the expenditures and other financial use to the County's annual budget. To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will increase. These revenues have already been received or are verified they will be received this fiscal year.

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
100.3839.850	Insurance Claims	<u>\$36,669.00</u>	<u>\$1,830.00</u>	<u>\$38,499.00</u>
	Totals	\$36,669.00	\$1,830.00	\$38,499.00

Debt Service - Budget Amendment #90

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #90.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
	Debt Service			
	Venable Building			
100.9100.800	Principle	<u>\$00.00</u>	<u>\$200,000.00</u>	<u>\$200,000.00</u>
	Totals	\$00.00	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To appropriate Hold Harmless Funds for the payment on the Venable Building at closing.

This will result in a net increase of \$200,000.00 in the expenditures and other financial use to the County's annual budget. To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will increase. These revenues have already been received or are verified they will be received this fiscal year.

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
100.3327.100	State Hold Harmless	<u>\$848,476.00</u>	<u>\$200,000.00</u>	<u>\$1,048,476.00</u>
	Totals	\$848,476.00	\$200,000.00	\$1,048,476.00

Senior Services - Budget Amendment #91

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #91.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
Senior Services				
100.5860.220	Food and Provisions	\$182,000.00	\$(2,205.00)	\$179,795.00
100.5860.312	Transportation	\$47,500.00	\$397.00	\$47,897.00
Social Services				
100.5310.184	Prof Services – HCCBG	<u>\$57,354.00</u>	<u>\$3,640.00</u>	<u>\$60,994.00</u>
Totals		\$286,854.00	\$1,832.00	\$288,686.00

To appropriate and reduce funding from Home and Community Care Block Grant for Senior Services and Social Services Departments.

This will result in a net decrease of \$1,832.00 in the expenditures and other financial use to the County's annual budget. To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will increase. These revenues have already been received or are verified they will be received this fiscal year.

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
100.3301.369	PTRC – Transportation	\$71,183.00	\$397.00	\$71,580.00
100.3301.370	PTRC – Congregate	\$64,281.00	\$(1,652.00)	\$62,629.00
100.3301.371	PTRCC Home Delivered Meals	\$137,145.00	\$(553.00)	\$136,592.00
100.3301.373	PTRC- HCCBG	\$66,648.00	\$(11,753.00)	\$54,895.00
100.3839.000	Miscellaneous Revenue	<u>\$333,826.00</u>	<u>\$11,729.00</u>	<u>\$345,555.00</u>
Totals		\$673,083.00	\$(1,832.00)	\$671,251.00

Proposed Proclamation – Older Americans Month – May 2013

DSS Director Kristy Preston presented the following proposed Proclamation for the Board's review and consideration for approval at the May 13th meeting:

Older Americans Month 2013 A Proclamation

Whereas, Stokes County includes 10,715 citizens ages 60 and older (from 2010 US Census); and

Whereas, Stokes County is committed to valuing all individuals and recognizing their ongoing life achievements; and

Whereas, the older adults in Stokes County play an important role by continuing to contribute experience, knowledge, wisdom, and accomplishments; and

Whereas, our older adults are active community members involved in volunteering, mentorship, arts and culture, and civic engagement; and

Whereas, recognizing the success of community elders encourages their ongoing participation and further accomplishments; and

Whereas, our community can provide opportunities to allow older citizens to continue to flourish by:

- Emphasizing the importance of elders and their leadership by publicly recognizing their continued achievements
- Presenting opportunities for older Americans to share their wisdom, experience, and skills
- Recognizing older adults as a valuable asset in strengthening American communities

Now therefore, we, the Commissioners of Stokes County North Carolina do hereby proclaim May 2013 to be Older Americans Month. We urge every citizen to take time this month to recognize older adults and the people who serve and support them as powerful and vital citizens who greatly contribute to the community.

Adopted this 13th day of May, 2013

Ernest Lankford – Chairman

James D. Booth – Vice Chairman

J. Leon Inman – Commissioner

Jimmy Walker – Commissioner

Ronda Jones – Commissioner

Attest:

Darlene M. Bullins – Clerk of the Board

Proposed Resolution – Retiring Law Enforcement Officer

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following proposed Resolution Authorizing Sale of County Issued Service Side Arm for Jeffrey C. Lemons, who will be retiring May 31, 2013, for the Board's review and consideration for approval at the May 13th meeting:

**Resolution authorizing sale of County issued service side arm:
(North Carolina General Statute 20-187.2.A)**

WHEREAS, Major Jeffrey C. Lemons is retiring from the Stokes County Sheriff's Department on May 31, 2013; and

May 13, 2013

WHEREAS, Major Jeffrey C. Lemons has been a dedicated fulltime law enforcement officer to the citizens of Stokes County for 30+ years; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute 20-187.2 (a), permits Stokes County to donate the badge worn at no cost, and to the sell service issued side arm to retiring law enforcement officers, at a price determined by the Board of Commissioners; and

THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF STOKES COUNTY RESOLVES THAT:

1. The Sheriff of Stokes County is authorized to present to Major Jeffrey C. Lemons his Stokes County Sheriff's Department issued badge at no cost.
2. The Sheriff of Stokes County is also authorized to sell a Sig Sauer P232, 380 caliber semi-auto handgun, serial number S244264 and holster at a set price of \$1.00 to Major Jeffrey C. Lemons after securing a permit as required by North Carolina General Statute 14-402 or 14-409.

Adopted this the 13th day of May 2013.

Ernest Lankford- Chairman

James D. Booth – Vice Chairman

J. Leon Walker - Commissioner

Jimmy Walker - Commissioner

Ronda Jones - Commissioner

Attest

Darlene Bullins – Clerk to the Board

Proposed Resolution – The Plane Crash of 1944

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following proposed Resolution To Honor Those Who Gave Their Lives for Their Country (as directed by the BOCC at the April 22nd meeting) for the Board's review and consideration for approval at the May 13th meeting:

COUNTY OF STOKES

RESOLUTION TO HONOR THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR THEIR COUNTRY

WHEREAS, Five World War II Army Airmen perished on September 7, 1944 in a fiery crash and explosion of a B-25 bomber in Stokes County; and

WHEREAS, this crash has become an important part of Stokes County's history; and

WHEREAS, there is an effort to place an historical marker on Highway #8, approximately 5 miles south of Danbury, to honor the five World War II Army Airmen that were killed in the crash.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Stokes County Board of Commissioners does hereby support the efforts to place an historical marker on Highway #8 to honor those who gave their lives for their country; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Stokes County Board of Commissioners request Congress to provide the funding to place an historical marker on Highway #8 to honor those five Army Airmen and to preserve Stokes County history.

Adopted this the 13th day of May, 2013.

Ernest Lankford - Chairman

James D. Booth - Vice Chairman

J. Leon Inman - Commissioner

Jimmy Walker - Commissioner

Ronda Jones - Commissioner

Attest

Darlene M. Bullins
Clerk to the Board

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

Commissioner Jones seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – INFORMATION AGENDA

2013 Single Family Rehabilitation Grant

County Manager Rick Morris introduced Piedmont Triad Regional Council (PTRC)

Housing Director Michael Blair.

Housing Director Blair presented the following information regarding the 2013 Single Family Rehabilitation Grant:

- Single Family Rehabilitation Grant can be applied for by a county, non-profit or regional council
- Stokes County agreed for the PTRC to apply for the Single Family Rehabilitation Grant on behalf of Stokes County
- PTRC was awarded \$170,000 Rehabilitation Grant on April 12th for Stokes County
- The grant is aimed at elderly and disabled homeowners
- Have already started receiving calls from Stokes County residents

- Will attend an implementation meeting in Raleigh in June
- Will then start advertising for contractors and applicants
- Generally speaking, usually need at least 15 to 20 applicants to get three to four qualified participants
- Homeowners must qualify based on income; house has to be rehabbed with less than \$45,000 and must be brought up to the NC Financing Agency's housing standards
- PTRC Director Matthew Dolge sent his apologies for not being able to attend today's meeting
- PTRC is the direct recipient which means that Stokes County can't be held liable for the program

Chairman Lankford opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Walker confirmed with Housing Director Blair that the PTRC is not a contractor or administrator for these funds but a direct recipient for the funding and that all counties in this cycle received the same funding, \$170,000.

Director Blair commented:

- All functions of the grant will be handled by the PTRC
- Direct recipient for Surry County in 2013; actually had opportunity to apply for additional grant funding due to completing the projects ahead of schedule
- PTRC being the direct recipient leaves the county with no risks
- Usually do 3-4 houses, can possibly do 6-7 houses if additional funding is granted

County Manager Morris commented:

- PTRC has kept up to date on the Grant
- Doing a very good job
- Very pleased with the job being done by PTRC

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

Stokes County Community Child Protection/Child Fatality Prevention Annual Team Report for 2012

County Manager Rick Morris noted that DSS Director Kristy Preston and Health Director Scott Lenhart were in attendance for today's meeting to answer any questions pertaining to the Stokes County Community Child Protection/Child Fatality Prevention 2012 Annual Team Report.

DSS Director Kristy Preston presented the following comments:

- In accordance with NC General Statutes, the 2012 Annual Report was provided in the Agenda packet for the Board's review
- First report since the Community Child Protection Team and the Child Fatality Prevention Team merged to form one Team in November 2011
- Considered this year to be very successful
- Attendance was very good during 2012
- Retained all the same team members
- The team met quarterly in King
- Recommendations for the Board of County Commissioners:
 - Continue to support efforts by service providers to make resources such as transportation and mental health treatment available to Stokes County citizens
 - Formally appoint the individuals listed on the attached sheets to serve on the team as required by NCGS 7B-1407
- Community Child Protection and Child Fatality Prevention Team remain focused on the task of identifying system deficiencies in Stokes County as they relate to child abuse and neglect
- Very satisfied with the merger of the two teams and are confident that our joint efforts will make an even greater impact on our ability to enhance child safety in our community

Health Director Scott Lenhart commented:

- Agree the combination of the two teams was a very good idea

Chairman Lankford noted the following two vacant team members:

- Child Care Representative
- Parent of a child who has died before reaching their 18th birthday

Director Preston responded:

- Parent of a child who has died before reaching their 18th birthday is a very difficult position to fill (county commissioner appointment)
- Child Care representative may be easier to fill due to now having the meetings at night (DSS Director appointment)
- Will start recruiting for both vacancies

Chairman Lankford expressed the Board's appreciation for the Annual Report.

Chairman Lankford directed the Clerk to place the appointments for the Community Child

Protection/Child Fatality Prevention Team on the May 28th Discussion Agenda.

NCACC – LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Clerk Darlene Bullins noted that the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners requested that a video regarding legislative updates be played during a board meeting in May.

The video noted the following:

- Presenter – NCACC Executive Director David Thompson
- This year's session of the General Assembly has been very challenging thus far
- There has been a significant amount of change in the legislature in recent years
- There are 56 members serving in their first term in the General Assembly
- There are 44 members serving in their second term in the General Assembly
- Of the 170 legislators, 100 have less than three years experience
- Need the Board of Commissioners to continue to help educate the new members of the General Assembly about the unique partnership between counties and the State of North Carolina
- Most of the new members have not served in county government before being elected to the General Assembly
- More than 1700 bills have been introduced so far with 20% directly impacting county government
- NCACC is continuing to try to achieve the 60 legislative goals adopted by the membership along with responding to those bills that do something either good or bad for the counties
- One of the counties' biggest priorities is lottery funding for school construction
- Legislature has reduced the county's share of lottery proceeds for each of the last three years and has taken all the ADM Funding from counties for the past four years
- Altogether, counties have lost approximately a half billion dollars of funds for school construction needs
- Need commissioners to let legislators know how this has impacted counties and stress the importance of receiving the full share of lottery proceeds
- Another NCACC Legislative Goal is to help counties better manage costs for providing medical care for inmates in county jails
- Proposed legislation will give counties the same ability as the state to cap the rates that a hospital can charge for inmate medical expenses
- Urge the Board of Commissioners to call Senators to make sure they know the counties support SB321
- Urge the Board of Commissioners to review SB612 which prohibits a county from adopting any environmental ordinance that is stronger than any existing state or federal law
- Bills have been filed to extend the Homestead Exemption and to make it easier for farms to qualify for present use value; both of these ideas would negatively impact the county property tax base
- Believe county commissioners know what is best for their communities
- SB287 allows some counties (ten counties) the option to provide public notices on their websites instead of purchasing ads in local papers (bill passed the Senate on April 23rd) – need support of this first step of achieving the NCACC Legislative Goal on a statewide basis
- Heading into this session, tax reform was considered a major issue
- Several bills have been introduced suggesting some level of tax reform, but no comprehensive reform package has seen legislative action

- Have been assured from senate leadership that county property taxes will not be a part of the tax reform discussion, keeping a close eye on local sales taxes and other locally levied taxes; need commissioners to remind legislators that county revenues must be protected in tax reform
- A lot going on in Raleigh that could negatively or positively impact the services provided to the citizens of a county
- Philosophy is simple and remains unchanged – the best advocates for county government are the locally elected county commissioners speaking to locally elected state representatives
- Hope to see everyone in Raleigh on County Assembly Day on May 22nd

Chairman Lankford noted that the County is very proud to have Commissioner Inman serving on the NCACC Board of Directors.

Commissioner Inman noted the recent appointment of Commissioner Jones to the NCACC Environmental Steering Committee.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – DISCUSSION AGENDA

Surry County Housing Consortium Contract Renewal

County Manager Rick Morris noted that the county has received a request from PTRC Housing Director Michael Blair as to the county's desire to continue to hold membership in the Surry County Housing Consortium.

Manager Morris noted:

- Local governments hold membership in the Consortium through a three year, auto-renewing agreement
- It is time to simply confirm this agreement if that is the desire of the Board
- Need consensus from the Board by May 15, 2013
- Feels the County needs to continue membership in the Consortium in order to allow additional housing funding for county residents

Chairman Lankford opened the floor for discussion.

Housing Director Blair commented:

- Reiterated it is a three year, auto-renewing agreement
- Counties have the opportunity to get out of the program if desired
- Do not need to take action if the County wishes to remain in the Consortium
- Would like to allocate part of the funding this year for rehabs in Stokes and Surry Counties to compliment the SFRGrant for Stokes and the CDBGrant for Surry

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Consortium has been a great thing for Stokes County
 - Offers Stokes County residents the opportunity for more affordable, improved housing

Chairman Lankford, with full consensus of the Board, informed Director Blair that Stokes County desires to continue its membership in the Surry County Housing Consortium.

Tax Administration Report – April 2013

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

Fiscal Year 2012-13	Budget Amt	Collected Amt	Over Budget	Under Budget
County Regular & Motor Vehicles	\$20,861,260.00	\$20,668,371.72		\$192,888.28
New Schools F-Tech Fund	\$1,390,751.00	\$1,380,938.36		\$9,812.64

Prior Taxes

1993-2011 Tax Years

County Regular & Motor Vehicles	\$675,000.00	\$774,447.62	\$99,447.62
---------------------------------	--------------	--------------	-------------

EMS Current Collections

Total Collected

(04-01-13/04-30-13)	\$242,677.94
---------------------	--------------

Total Collected

(07-01-12/06-30-13)	\$1,146,988.41
---------------------	----------------

Delinquent EMS Collection

Report

Total Collected

(04-01-13/04-30-13)	\$11,117.13
(07-01-12/06-30-13)	\$142,295.62

Personal Property Discovery Report

Audit Dates

	# of Accts	Total	Taxes Due
04-01-13/04-30-13	12	\$33,983.00	\$294.85
07-01-12/06-30-13	1,527	\$11,011,889.00	\$96,201.10

Business Personal Property Discovery

Report

Audit Dates

	# of Accts	Total Value	Taxes Due
04-01-13/04-30-13	0	\$00.00	\$00.00
07-01-12/06-30-13	0	\$00.00	\$00.00

**Motor Vehicle Release
Report****Audit Dates**

04-01-13/04-30-13

Accounts

59

Total Value

\$2,545.60

**Motor Vehicle Refund
Report****Audit Dates**

04-01-13/04-30-13

Accounts

16

Total Value

\$713.33

Number billed for**April 2013**

4140

Garnishment Totals

Month	Total Accounts	Original Levy Amt	Collected Amt
04-01-13/04-30-13	145	\$44,137.20	\$21,454.89
F/Year 2012-13			
(07-1-12/6-30-13)	1246	\$344,232.39	\$280,242.17

Interstate Collection Report

April 2013

Collection**Total Collected**

Cumulative Total Collected to Date

NC Debt Setoff

\$146,439.16

Cumulative Total Collected (to date)

Motor Vehicles

\$91,193.21

Cumulative Total Collected (to date)

Property Taxes

\$24,126.19

Cumulative Total Collected (to date)

EMS

\$149,772.71

Collected (to date)

All Categories

\$265,092.11**Monthly Delinquent Tax Collection Report**

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Monthly Delinquent Tax Collection

Report for April 2013:

County	Real/Personal	Property	April	2013			
Year	Beginning	Releases	Refunds	Debits/ Credits	Writeoffs	Payments	Ending Balance
	Balance						
2011	\$ 284,043.96	\$(44.12)			\$ (0.78)	\$(31,659.93)	\$ 252,339.13
2010	\$ 138,414.08	\$(30.98)				\$(10,442.18)	\$ 127,940.92
2009	\$ 86,303.13	\$(49.29)				\$ (5,618.26)	\$ 80,635.58
2009	\$ 45,744.74	\$(30.69)				\$ (2,147.86)	\$ 43,566.19
2007	\$ 26,892.43					\$ (756.07)	\$ 26,136.36
2006	\$ 18,247.22					\$ (260.32)	\$ 17,986.90
2005	\$ 13,258.77					\$ (466.70)	\$ 12,792.07
2004	\$ 13,487.83					\$ (416.55)	\$ 13,071.28
2003	\$ 9,885.52					\$ (62.83)	\$ 9,822.69
2002	\$ 8,104.76					\$ (53.54)	\$ 8,051.22

May 13, 2013

16

2001	\$	5,808.66		\$	5,808.66
2000	\$	7,570.11		\$	7,570.11
1999	\$	7,962.76		\$	7,962.76
1998	\$	585.50		\$	585.50

<u>County</u>	<u>Motor</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>2013</u>			
Year	Beginning Balance	Releases	Refunds	Debits/ Credits	Writeoffs	Payments	Ending Balance
2011	\$ 46,671.64	\$(84.05)			\$ (1.28)	\$(5,975.740)	\$ 40,610.57
2010	\$ 32,734.90					\$ (613.33)	\$ 32,121.57
2009	\$ 23,939.20					\$ (366.18)	\$ 23,573.02
2008	\$ 21,833.47					\$ (300.76)	\$ 21,532.71
2007	\$ 18,610.99					\$ (61.74)	\$ 18,549.25
2006	\$ 13,184.76					\$ (12.78)	\$ 13,171.98
2005	\$ 15,971.64					\$ (73.39)	\$ 15,898.25
2004	\$ 14,257.54					\$ (2.12)	\$ 14,255.42
2003	\$ 14,289.82					\$ (22.39)	\$ 14,267.43
2002	\$ 17,039.90					\$ (1.90)	\$ 17,038.00
2001	\$ 14,671.41					\$ (139.25)	\$ 14,532.16
2000	\$ 18,592.98						\$ 18,592.98
1999	\$ 16,458.35					\$ (24.80)	\$ 16,433.55
1998	\$ 16,540.23					\$ (46.40)	\$ 16,493.83

<u>New</u>	<u>Schools</u>	<u>Forsyth</u>	<u>Tech</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>2013</u>	
Year	Beginning Balance	Releases	Refunds	Debits/ Credits	Writeoffs	Payments	Ending Balance
2011	\$ 20,440.50	\$ (7.25)			\$ (0.10)	\$(2,394.98)	\$ 18,038.17

Releases less than \$100 – Real and Personal Property

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Releases less than \$100 – Real and Personal Property (April 2013) for the Board's review:

Release less than
\$100 - Real/Personal
Property

April 2013

Name	Bill Number	Amount
Todd Wishon	12A62475.07.1	\$16.36
	11A62475.07	\$21.43
	09A62475.07	\$30.91
Ruth Ware	12A29612.08.1	<u>\$41.05</u>
	Total Amount	\$109.75

Refunds Less than \$100 – Real and Personal Property

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Refunds less than \$100 – Real and Personal Property (April 2013) for the Board's review:

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

April 2013

Name	Bill Number	Amount
Paul M. Rumley	12A698403326780	\$83.19
Ruth Ware	11A29612.08	\$36.41
	10A29612.08	\$34.34
	09A29612.08	\$34.07
	08A29612.08	<u>\$34.01</u>
	Total Amount	\$222.02

Releases more than \$100 – Real and Personal Property

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Releases more than \$100 – Real and Personal Property (April 2013) for the Board's consideration for approval at the May 28, 2013 meeting:

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

April 2013

Name	Bill Number	Amount	Reason
Kevin/Tina Hooker	12A598600856559	\$330.65	Correction of Appraisal
Wanda Simmons	12A696214343426	<u>\$424.32</u>	Correction of Appraisal
	Total Amount	\$ 754.97	

Refund more than \$100 – Real and Personal Property

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Refund more than \$100 – Real and Personal Property (April 2013) for the Board's consideration at the May 28, 2013 meeting:

Refunds more than
\$100 - Real/Personal
Property

April 2013

Name	Bill Number	Amount	Reason
Ann C Martin	12A604101375032	\$ 296.81	Correction of Use Value Deferment
	11A604101375032	\$ 296.81	Correction of Use Value Deferment
	10A604101375032	\$ 279.97	Correction of Use Value Deferment
	09A604101375032	\$ <u>160.27</u>	Correction of Use Value Deferment
Total Amount		\$ 1,033.86	

EMS Write Off Request

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following EMS Billing Write Off Request:

Call Number	Date	Charge Amount	Reason
1206884	11/7/2012	\$ 358.00	Inmate - No insurance
1207093	11/17/2012	\$ 358.00	Inmate - No insurance
1207110	11/18/2012	\$ 491.00	Inmate - No insurance
1207185	11/21/2012	\$ 483.00	Inmate - No insurance
1207241	11/23/2012	\$ 358.80	Inmate - No insurance
1207794	12/15/2013	\$ 483.00	Inmate - No insurance
1300138	1/6/2013	\$ 358.80	Inmate - No insurance
1300911	2/7/2013	\$ <u>483.00</u>	Inmate - No insurance

\$3,373.60

Tax Administrator Oakley noted:

- Based on information furnished to the Tax Department from the Stokes County Jail; there is no further recourse of collection for the Write Off Request
- Request approval at the May 28th meeting (Consent Agenda)

The Board had no questions or concerns with the EMS Billing Write Off Request.

1998 Delinquent Personal Property Bills Write Off Request

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following 1998 Delinquent Personal Property

Bills Write Off Requests:

May 13, 2013

- No further recourse of collection on the listed personal property billings from tax year 1998
- Four accounts totaling \$225.83
- Request Write Offs be placed on the May 28th Consent Agenda

The Board had no questions or concerns with the 1998 Delinquent Personal Property Bills Write off Request.

1998 Delinquent Vehicle Bills Write Off Request

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following 1998 Delinquent Motor Vehicle Bills Write Off Request:

- No further recourse of collection on the listed motor vehicle billings from tax year 1998
- 739 accounts totaling \$16,493.83
- Request Write Off be placed on the May 28th Consent Agenda

The Board had no questions or concerns with 1998 Delinquent Motor Vehicle Bills Write Off Request.

Chairman Lankford, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the following on the May 28th Consent Agenda:

- Real and Personal Releases more than \$100.00
- Real and Personal Refunds more than \$100.00
- Write Off Request
 - EMS Write Off Request
 - 1998 Personal Property Bills Write Off Request
 - 1998 Motor Vehicle Bills Write Off Request

Chairman Lankford questioned Tax Administrator Oakley if this caught up all write offs up to 1998?

Tax Administrator Oakley responded:

- This cleans up all the bills thru 1998, excluding land
- There is no collection being received
- Collection agency is not receiving any payments at all from these delinquent accounts
- State law does not allow the county to bill inmates for EMS Services

- Will start bringing more motor vehicles write offs since the state will soon be taking over the billing
- Have not brought a lot to write off in an attempt to try to collect as much as possible
- Using debt set off and collection agency to try to collect those not collected by the county
- Will be bringing 1999 to 2002 most likely during FY 2013-14, those years can't be enforced by the tax collector for collection
- If someone comes in to pay another bill, the uncollected bill is brought to their attention
- Some will pay while others will not, can't be enforced by the Tax Collector for collection

Chairman Lankford commended the Tax Department for trying to collect as much as possible and keeping the records up to date; there have been past years when several hundred thousand dollars had to be written off.

Tax Administrator Oakley noted the Tax Department staff tries to do the best job possible, always trying to collect as much as possible.

Commissioner Inman noted the fantastic job being done with the current fiscal year's collection, not far from meeting budget with two months left in the fiscal year.

Tax Administrator Oakley noted that the current collection rate (excluding discounts) is 99% which means the FY 2012-13 budget for Ad Valorem Taxes has already been collected at the 95.5% collection rate.

Appointment – Tax Administrator Serving as Tax Collector/Tax Assessor

Tax Administrator Oakley presented the following information regarding the appointment of the Tax Administrator:

- NCGS 105-294(a) requires the Board of Commissioners to appoint a county assessor to serve a term of not less than two years nor more than four years
- NCGS 105-349 requires the Board of Commissioners to appoint a county collector to serve a term of not less than two years nor more than four years
- NCGS 105-294(c) requires that the tax assessor must be certified as a county assessor in the State of North Carolina
- Four year appointment as Tax Administrator serving as Tax Collector/Tax Assessor was effective 07-01-2009

- Current term will expire June 20, 2013
- All certifications are up to date
- Request the Board of Commissioners reappoint me as the Tax Administrator of Stokes County to serve as Tax Assessor and Tax Collector for a period of four (4) years, effective July 1, 2013
- Been a pleasure serving the Board of Commissioners and the taxpaying citizens of Stokes County

Chairman Lankford opened the floor for discussion.

The Board had no issues with the appointment.

Chairman Lankford, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the May 28th Consent Agenda.

Proposed Resolution – Providing Delegating the Power to Compromise Discovered Property to the Board of Equalization and Review as provided under NC 105-312-(k)(i)

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following proposed Resolution Providing Delegating the Power to Compromise Discovered Property to the Board of Equalization and Review as provided under NC 105-312-(k)(i) for the Board's review and consideration:

**COUNTY OF STOKES
RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR DELEGATING THE POWER TO
COMPROMISE DISCOVERED PROPERTY TO THE BOARD OF
EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW AS PROVIDED UNDER
NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL STATUTE 105-312(k)(i)**

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute § 105-312(k)(i) authorizes a County Board of Commissioners by Resolution to delegates the power to compromise discovered property to the Board of Equalization and Review.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Stokes County Board of Commissioners does hereby delegates to the Stokes County Board of Equalization and Review the power to compromise discovered property as provided under North Carolina General Statute 105-312(k)(i); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Stokes County Board of Commissioners declare this resolution be effective for all tax years after its adoption unless rescinded by the Stokes County Board of Commissioners.

Adopted this the ____ day of May, 2013.

Ernest Lankford - Chairman

James D. Booth - Vice Chairman

May 13, 2013

22

J. Leon Inman - Commissioner

Jimmy Walker - Commissioner

Ronda Jones - Commissioner

Attest

Darlene M. Bullins
Clerk to the Board

Tax Administrator Oakley commented:

- This proposed resolution delegates the power to compromise discovered property to the Board of Equalization and Review
- This will free up the Board of Commissioners' Agenda and allow appeals to be heard by the Board of Equalization
- Board of Equalization already hears the appeals of values
- This would be an appeal from business/personal property owners who listed property late or failed to list property; State of North Carolina requires the Tax Office to assess a penalty
- This proposed resolution would allow the Board of Equalization and Review to handle these issues
- Section (k) covers counties and Section (i) covers towns/cities
- Request to place the item on the May 28th Consent Agenda

Chairman Lankford opened the floor for discussion.

The Board had no issues with the request.

Chairman Lankford, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the May 28th Consent Agenda.

Insurance Renewals – Worker's Compensation, General Liability and Automotive for Fiscal Year 2013-2014

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding the insurance renewals for Workers' Compensation, General Liability, and Automotive for Fiscal Year 2013-14:

- Costs for insurance renewals from the NCACC Insurance Pool:
 - Workers' Compensation = \$367,898 increase of \$10,663 from FY 2012-13
 - Liability, Property, and Auto = \$223,939 decrease of \$2,213 from FY 2012-13
 - Multi-Pool Discounts = \$10,430 – same as FY 2012-13
- Deductible Amounts:
 - \$1,000 deductible:
 - Property loss claims
 - Crime

- Boiler/machinery
 - Auto Physical damage
 - \$5,000 deductible:
 - Law enforcement
 - Public officials
 - Employment practices
 - No deductible:
 - Auto Liability
 - General Liability
- The Workers' Compensation increase is driven primarily by claims experience, salary increases, number of employees, etc.
- Request approval to continue coverage with the NCACC Risk Management Insurance Pool for FY 2013-14

Chairman Lankford opened the floor for discussion.

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- Noted the only increase being in workers' compensation

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Look for comfort level from county staff
- Wonder if the manager has any comments

County Manager Morris responded:

- Feels the increase for this year was driven by claims experience
- The multi-pool discount of \$10,430 by having Workers' Compensation, General Liability and Automotive insurance in the same pool

Clerk Bullins responded:

- Increase can also be driven by salary increases, number of employees, etc.
- Audit is done each year

Commissioner Jones commented:

- No issues

Commissioner Inman commented:

- No issues
- Glad to have the opportunity to participate in the NCACC pool
- Noted Chairman Lankford serves on the Board of Directors for the insurance pool

Chairman Lankford commented:

- Trustees voted this year to not have a rate increase
- Reiterated that the increase is due to other factors such as claims experience and not a rate increase

Chairman Lankford, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place

the item on the May 28th Action Agenda.

Commissioner Walker questioned Chairman Lankford what was the current strength of the pool reserves?

Chairman Lankford responded:

- Workers' Compensation pool is around \$30+ million – very strong
- General Liability pool is around \$15 to \$20 million – also very strong

Commissioner Inman responded:

- Know it was not a very good thing to happen to Stokes County when the Health and Dental Insurance Pools dissolved, but the current pools are extremely strong today because the pool decided to get out of the health insurance business
- Would have unfortunately caused many issues for the all pools

Chairman Lankford responded:

- At the end of June, the Association will completely be out of the health care business; there was a mandatory waiting period once the pool dissolved

Vice Chairman Booth responded:

- Was disappointed when pool had to dissolve the health care coverage, but very thankful the League of Municipalities has opened the doors for counties
- Hope the League of Municipalities continues to grow; numbers make a big difference

Records Retention and Disposition Schedule

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding the Records

Retention and Disposition Schedule for County Management:

- County recently received the latest revision of the Records Retention and Disposition Schedule for County Management (revised April 2013) from the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
- Board of Commissioners must approve this schedule for departments to be able to utilize it for disposition of records
- Request to place the item on the May 28th Action Agenda

Chairman Lankford opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Walker questioned how imaged and electronic records relate to this disposition schedule?

County Manager Morris responded:

- Public records, including electronic records, not listed in this schedule are not authorized to be destroyed – electronic records are treated the same as paper records

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Seem to be making some progress with imaging

County Manager Morris responded:

- DSS and the Sheriff's Department are both currently doing a lot with the imaging of records in their departments
- Would like to get more departments on board, but there is a substantial investment that would have to be made to get the entire county on the program

The Board had no issues with the request.

Chairman Lankford, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the May 28th Action Agenda.

Proposed Fire Contracts – Fire Service District and Walnut Cove Vol. Fire Department

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding the proposed fire contracts for the Fire Service District and Walnut Cove Vol. Fire Department:

- Once again time to renew the fire contracts for the Fire Service District and Walnut Cove Vol. Fire Department
- Fire Marshal Frankie Burcham was contacted by the State Fire Marshal's Office pertaining to Section #9
 - Original sentence read: In the time of need, the AGENCY agrees to provide automatic and mutual aid to other Fire and Rescue Districts in the COUNTY upon request
 - Revised sentence should read: In the time of need, the AGENCY agrees to provide automatic and mutual aid to other Fire and Rescue Districts in the COUNTY
 - "Upon request" was deleted from the sentence
 - Fire contracts will have a two-year term
- King Vol. Fire Department and Rural Hall Vol. Fire Department automatically renews each year
- Staff will contact King and Rural Hall to amend their contracts accordingly if the same language is in their contracts

Chairman Lankford opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Questioned what effect does the elimination of “upon request” have on the contract?

County Manager Morris responded:

- Feels the elimination of “upon request” requires the department to respond even if there is no formal request
- Simplifies things

Chairman Lankford commented:

- Protocol already determines who is called for backup when there is a fire

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- Have heard fire departments comment that they are not allowed in another district unless requested
- This would allow fire departments to go in time of need, automatic
- Feels this can be a good thing

Commissioner Walker confirmed with Manager Morris that this was a request from the State Fire Marshal’s Office.

Chairman Lankford, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the May 28th Action Agenda.

Poplar Springs Elementary School Property – Encroachment Issue

Manager Morris presented the following information regarding the Poplar Springs Elementary School Property Encroachment Issue:

- Issue has been on previous agendas
- Both the Board of Education and Board of Commissioners have approved to sell these “slivers” of property to the Welches and Loves due to the placement of buildings already being on the property purchased for the Poplar Springs Elementary School; this would eliminate the movement of the buildings
- Staff was directed by the Board of Commissioners to have a survey done regarding the areas involved with the encroachment issue; the survey has been completed
- Staff was also directed by the Board of Commissioners to incorporate the original cost of the property per acre along with survey, deed preparation, and advertisement cost and return to the Board with an actual purchase price for the property in question
- Total cost for Welch: (.0405 acres)

- Land = \$808.88
- Survey = \$931.67
- Deed preparation = \$100.00
- Advertisement = \$81.00 - verbal quote from Attorney DeHart
- Total cost = \$1,921.55 – cost based on last advertisement
- Total cost for Love: (.2184 acres)
 - Land = \$4,361.95
 - Survey = \$1,863.33
 - Deed preparation = \$100.00 - verbal quote from Attorney DeHart
 - Advertisement = \$81.00 - cost based on last advertisement
 - Total cost = \$6,406.28
- After the Board of Commissioners accept offers from the Welches and Loves and a 5% bid deposit of the approved cost has been given to the county, staff will place an ad in the Stokes News and on the County website detailing the upset bid process
- Request approval of the land costs in order to proceed with the upset bid process

Chairman Lankford opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Hopefully this will allow the issue to be resolved
- Unfortunate this has happened, but glad there could be a solution to the issue
- Confirmed with Manager Morris that this follows the General Statutes requirement

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Seems the formula used to calculate the price of each section of land was as fair as it could be
- No loss for the county
- Allows the landowners to keep the property and not have to move the buildings

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Seems the survey cost is quite high for the amount of land surveyed
- Premium parcel of land
- Don't know of any fairer way to calculate the price of the land
- Recovering the cost of the land paid by the county

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- Agree with Commissioner Walker regarding the survey cost
- Glad there was a solution to the issue
- Agree the calculation seems to be the fairest way possible

Chairman Lankford commented:

- Feels the price is fair; most of the time, a small allotment of land, based on the price paid for the land, is usually higher per acre
- Feels it is a fair transaction

Chairman Lankford, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place

the item on the May 28th Action Agenda.

DSS/Health – House Bill #438

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following comments received from DSS and Health Department employees regarding House Bill #438:

Department of Social Services

- Why change the current structure that is working well, “if it’s not broke don’t fix it”
- Concerned about BOCC members getting involved and overruling decisions on individual DSS cases
- Concerned about BOCC making uninformed decisions on programs and issues due to their lack of personal involvement and knowledge of DSS operations
 - Example given was when a previous Board eliminated fraud investigation unit to save money and it did not save funds as expected
- Concerned about responsiveness of the BOCC to deal with “real time” emergencies associated with child protective services and medical emergencies associated with children under custody of the DSS
- Concerned about what future Boards might do and whether future Boards might change the structure again

Health Department

- Why change the current structure that is working well, “if it’s not broke don’t fix it”; also uncertainty about the change
- Gap of knowledge between Health Board and BOCC; will BOCC complete required training to keep accreditation?
- Concerned about current or future Board using the Yadkin County model which they think is bad
- Concerned about what future Boards might do and whether future Boards might change the structure again
- Did not like the Yadkin County model because of demotions and reducing the Health Department to a health clinic
- Concern that Health Board members will not stay if placed on advisory board

In summary, both organizations would like to keep the current boards and authorities. No one supported the change. Both organizations were also concerned that it was taking so long to make a decision on this issue.

Manager Morris noted:

- Item is a continuation from earlier meetings
- Directed by the Board to meet with DSS/Health Department employees in an “all hands” meeting
- Majority of employees were in attendance
- Summarized the comments from the employees
- Told each group, in my opinion, there were two options on table:
 - Leave it as it is
 - Both departments would be placed under the county manager, but employees would remain under State Personnel
 - Felt the Human Services Agency option was not on the table
- Would be glad to address any of the employees’ comments
- Both departments heads were in attendance for the meeting and are here today if the Board has any further questions for them

Chairman Lankford opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Started the process several months ago
- Held a public hearing in October 2012
- Do not remember any supporting a change
- Do not see any employees’ comments that support any type of change
- Confirmed with Manager Morris and Clerk Bullins that there had been no comments or input received supporting a change
- Several spoke at the public hearing in opposition of any change

Manager Morris responded:

- Have received no comments (positive or negative) regarding a change since the public hearing other than those presented today from DSS and Health Department employees

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- Appreciate the manager providing the comments from DSS and Health Department employees
- Noted this was a NCACC Legislative Goal last year
- NCACC lobbied to give counties the opportunity to change things or leave it as it is

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Have reviewed the comments submitted by Manager Morris
- Can assure all the DSS and Health Department employees that I personally have no interest in getting involved and have no intention of having anything to do with overruling any decision regarding DSS cases; don’t think that is a valid concern
- The only thing I see happening is a consolidation here
- I have heard from other counties that it has worked extremely well – consolidation
- I know change is difficult sometimes and the mere word “change” puts fear in people
- The fact being that the County is not going to follow the Yadkin County model

- Going to make sure all employees are going to stay under the State Personnel Act which quite frankly still gives the employees (Health and DSS) an advantage over all other county employees; State Personnel Act employees have an appeal process
- No other employee working for Stokes County has that same appeal process
- Responsiveness of the BOCC to deal with “real time” emergencies associated with Child Protective Services is not going to be this Board member; people who are employed by DSS will still be the ones to deal with those issues
- Quite frankly, don’t see anything changing other than a consolidation of the two departments
- Board of Commissioners is charged with the budgetary appropriations for all the Stokes County departments
- Been on the Board for ten years, voted against the elimination of the fraud investigation position
- As an elected member of the Board, charged with serving all the citizens of Stokes County, am always going to be concerned about budget issues
- Have great employees in DSS and Health Department; they do a tremendous job
- Leon Inman will not be “micromanaging” any of the positions in DSS and the Health Department
- Think the key thing here is that employees will stay under the State Personnel Act
- There will be no demotions
- Hopefully the concerns that have been addressed are just a fear of change
- Two directors will stay intact, if voted today to change, the two directors would wake up tomorrow and still be in charge of running their respective department

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Don’t want to parrot too much of what Commissioner Inman just stated, was going to say a lot of the same things
- Feels part of the problem is the last statement “it was taking so long to make a decision on this issue”
- Prolonging the issue generates more fear as time goes on, uncertainties
- Have said all along that there was no intention on my part to undermine either department
- Want nothing more to do with it except help the county in merging this
- County has been given an opportunity for another way to manage things
- In our case, it seems the State is always trying to take everything from the counties
- Everyone will stay under the State Personnel Act
- Don’t see real changes
- Don’t really understand some of the comments; some of those things happened long ago
- Feel that fear is a big factor
- It can always be reverted back by this Board or another Board of Commissioners
- Nice to know the County has the opportunity to try it for a year to see if it is working better
- Don’t see dismissing it and not giving it a try, it could be better
- Won’t know until it is tried

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Appreciate what the NCACC did in having this as a priority
- What it did do was put another arrow in the quiver as far as for the county that was having a problem with either their DSS or Health Departments; this gave the county an option that they could possibly use to bring some remedy or resolution to a problem
- Wonder how many counties across the state, that there doesn't appear to be necessarily a problem, will change things just for the sake of changing something
- When you take two departments that have special circumstances and you fold them in with everyone else and they keep those special circumstances, there may be a question regarding the Board taking that kind of step
- Basically where I am, if there is a problem or when there is a problem, then this would be an option to consider to fix it; right now I am not sure there is sufficient cause to take this step
- Sometimes just having a problem can bring some benefit
- Have had the chance to talk to some folks in other counties that have taken these steps and have had to say the least some very interesting feedback – the impact they are currently having and some of the effects can't be fixed by just converting back; this is going to be something that the departments will have to deal with in certain ways for years
- It has taken some time; there are always situations and issues where caution is needed
- This is a big step
- The question that I have is "is this a necessary step at this time?"
- Not completely sure that it is

Chairman Lankford noted:

- The Board has two options:
 - Put on the Discussion or Action Agenda for the next meeting
 - Table the issue at this point
- Feels the Board has put the time in to make the considerations, done the research, talked to the people, tried to get employees to understand what the intent (if it happens) would be
- Feels Commissioner Inman explained the Board's intent very well
- If it does take place, don't see changes whatsoever
- Have been approached by several employees requesting to have a Board like DSS and the Health Department; can't answer that question

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- Appreciated Commissioner Inman addressing all the issues
- Feel Commissioner Inman addressed the issues well
- As stated by both organizations, the concern of it taking so long to make a decision
- Feels the Board needs to place the issue on the Action Agenda for the next meeting and decide one way or the other

Commissioner Inman commented:

- This passed both Houses of the State Legislature with a big majority
- There was a lot lobbying done regarding this issue
- Been done in larger counties forever, Mecklenburg and Guilford Counties
- Not interested in rushing the issue
- Will be glad to bring additional information to this Board
- Board needs to decide if this is something the Board wants to do
- Did not bring this back personally from Raleigh and say this needs to be done
- Do not want it said that Stokes County did this because it was a high priority of the NCACC
- NCACC made sure there was one word in the language “option”
- Don’t have to do anything, the Board can leave things like they are

Commissioner Walker commented:

- As far as putting the item on the Action Agenda, feels the County does not need to do anything right now, so it does not need to be placed on the Action Agenda

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Can have members from two counties who have implemented the change at the next meeting
- Can have NCACC representatives here to explain the priority at the next meeting
- Will be willing to get any additional information that the Board desires

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Feels the Board needs to come up with a timeline that is concrete
- Understand the feelings that employees have with not knowing
- Would like for Commissioner Walker to let the other members of the Board know what bad things he has heard from other counties about changing
- Can’t make a decision if all the facts are not presented
- Not fair to any of the other Board members if there are things related to changing that could also impact Stokes County
- Have not heard or seen anything bad
- Not fair to keep dragging this out

Commissioner Walker responded:

- Commissioner Jones, I have done my research, maybe you need to do yours

Commissioner Jones responded:

- Have done research and have not heard any negative responses; if had received any negative responses ,would have provided them to the rest of the Board

Commissioner Walker responded:

- Might want to talk to someone in Yadkin County

Commissioner Jones responded:

- Not going with the same model that Yadkin County did

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Not saying that change would be a bad move, it could be the right move
- Not sure any change is warranted because “where is the problem”

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Remember there were concerns regarding Environmental Health
- Remember special legislation for a bologna sandwich, because there was a problem

Commissioner Walker responded:

- Would have done it then
- If something like that happens again, it would be justification to take another look at the issue

Commissioner Jones responded:

- Why not be proactive?

Commissioner Walker responded:

- A lot of things to consider
- Can see where the views on this Board are currently

Commissioner Inman responded:

- This is not a personal thing
- County has two great directors
- County has great employees
- Do not feel that anyone on this Board is on a “power binge”
- Do not feel that anyone on this Board is interesting in taking over the departments
- If the Board is not ready to vote, table the issue
- Would like more information; have talked to every Yadkin County Commissioner and they are not regretting anything; they are delighted they made the change

Chairman Lankford questioned the Board if there was any additional information needed?

Chairman Lankford questioned the Board regarding placing the item on the Action Agenda for the next Board meeting.

Vice Chairman Booth responded:

- Stand by my previous statement – Action Agenda for the next meeting

Commissioner Jones responded:

- This issue has been going on too long
- Agree with Vice Chairman Booth – Action Agenda for the next meeting

Commissioner Inman responded:

- Discussion Agenda for the next meeting
- Don't want any employee to feel that this Board is trying to "ram something down their throats"

Chairman Lankford requested DSS Director Kristy Preston to provide any insight on comments made from DSS employees.

DSS Director Kristy Preston commented:

- One of the problems is that no one is entirely sure which model the BOCC is leaning toward
- The School of Government has three models to consider
- I feel the model that I think the BOCC is considering is taking over the departments, getting rid of the Health and DSS Boards and appointing a Health Advisory Board which is not consolidation – that is just doing away with the Boards
- This is the first time today that I have heard any mention of consolidation
- There is only one county that has done what I think this Board is considering and that is Columbus County
- Have not had a chance to talk to anyone in Columbus County to see what the background was
- My employees, not speaking for the Health Department, don't really understand which model of the three the BOCC is leaning toward
- It feels like the model you are considering is a "hybrid" of the three models
- Feel the confusion is that there has not been any plan for employees to review to see what the BOCC is considering
- No plan to let them know what the BOCC is actually considering
- They feel the BOCC will make a decision to do away with both Boards and then work out the details – frightening place for the employees
- Feel if there was a plan for them to see, it would take some of the fear out of it
- Rockingham County has been studying consolidation for more than a year to make sure everything is right before any change is made; they have a committee
- Buncombe County did the same thing, put together a team to study what was the best plan for Buncombe County
- Feels employees don't think they have the full story, just have a vague outline
- Nothing has been in an Agenda that employees could review
- Feels that is the reason for some of the comments Manager Morris received

Manager Morris responded:

- Didn't feel the explanations were vague

DSS Director Preston continued:

- Employees don't understand what will change
- DSS Board's only real power is hiring and firing the director
- The other duties are to look out for the social welfare concerns in the county and approve policies

- Unanswered questions: “Who will take over hiring and firing of the director?” “Would the director continue to have sole responsibility in all personnel decisions?”
- Has been up in the air on really what the Board of Commissioners would do

Manager Morris responded:

- Not the way it was explained to staff
- Explained the Board of Commissioners would likely do away with the DSS Board
- Would have an Advisory Health Board per statutes
- The Commissioners would likely appoint members with a “DSS flavor” to the “at large” positions on the advisory board; this would allow some mix of DSS and Health
- Hiring and firing of both the DSS and Health Directors would be the responsibility of the manager
- Thought it was a clear model

DSS Director Preston responded:

- The key word in your presentation was “likely”; this left uncertainty with employees
- Have heard the Board is considering keeping employees under State Personnel, but nothing has been put in writing
- Feedback from employees is the “unknown”

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Need to put a plan in writing for employees to be able to review before any vote is taken
- Good feedback received today

Chairman Lankford commented:

- Agree with Commissioner Inman, need a plan in writing of what will happen, if the BOCC decides to change anything

DSS Director Preston continued:

- I think in Yadkin County, the DSS Director and Health Director actually were involved in the planning stages

Health Director Lenhart commented:

- Echo most of everything Director Preston stated
- When it comes to the Board of Health duties, there are a lot more than the duties of the DSS Board
- General Statutes dictate that DSS and Health must have Boards and who must serve on the Boards
- Board of Health members must take accreditation training; this will also be a requirement of the Board of Commissioners
- My staff’s concerns are “What did we do wrong?” “What aren’t we doing right?”
- Concerned with old issues that previous Boards got involved with – Title X Funding
- Employees fear about keeping their jobs
- Employees feel that consolidation means less jobs

- Personally feel that keeping employees under the State Personnel would be one of the best decisions to make if there is change
- My staff would also like to see a written plan
- Employees have a lot of doubt in their minds
- A plan could take some of the fear out of the issue

Chairman Lankford commented:

- Feel both directors are saying the same thing – the need for a plan that everyone can review

Director Lenhart responded:

- Was at the Public Hearing in Yadkin County, a vote was taken directly after the Public Hearing; no comments from the Public Hearing were taken into consideration
- Have seen other counties doing the same as Yadkin
- Have seen other counties take a long time to study the issue (Gaston, Union, Rockingham) trying to take the time needed to make the right decision

Commissioner Inman responded:

- Requested both directors to make sure employees understood that the fact that this Board had a Public Hearing and did not make a fast decision meant that this Board is very interested in getting feedback and most important – doing it right
- Do not want to make a mess
- Like Commissioner Walker stated “if you can’t improve the situation – why do it?”

Director Lenhart continued:

- Have told Health Department employees that they probably won’t see any changes
- Might just be the directors reporting to the manager and a new Board
- Employees do have a lot of doubts

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Appreciate the feedback from both directors
- Both directors need to be involved with putting the plan together
- Put a plan in writing so that employees can see what is being considered
- Would like continued discussion regarding the issue
- Would like to see information on what some of the other counties are doing
- Very important issue

Commissioner Walker commented:

- One concern that I have is the fact that the legislature completely did away with the DSS Board
- Advisory Board for the Health Department in the new legislation, but nothing for the Social Services Department
- Can’t put the pieces together to understand why only one board

- One thing that I am interested in having more information on how this Board is expected to deal with DSS and Health Department issues when they deal with a \$40+ million budget, 25+ departments, entire county to run, major projects to oversee
- The current situation has two separate, designated Boards who deal only with one department, who deal with specific issues dealing with that specific department, etc.
- Would like to know how these other counties who are farther along than Stokes is in the process deal with all these issues

Chairman Lankford directed Manager Morris to develop a proposed model that would be the best for Stokes County and the best for these two departments for the Board to review.

Chairman Lankford directed Manager Morris to involve both directors in the process.

Proposed Resolution - Concerning the Loss of Transitional Hold Harmless Reimbursement Funds

Chairman Lankford presented the following proposed Resolution concerning the Loss of Hold Harmless Reimbursement Funds:

**RESOLUTION OF THE STOKES COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CONCERNING THE LOSS OF TRANSITIONAL HOLD HARMLESS
REIMBURSEMENT FUNDS**

WHEREAS, the 2004 Appropriations Act (H. 1414) amended G.S. 105-521 by guaranteeing hold harmless payments through 2012; and

WHEREAS, these Article 44 hold harmless funds were set up as a means to make local governments be "held harmless" as a result of the repeal of inventory tax reimbursement in 2002; and

WHEREAS, the original purpose of the hold harmless funds was to "fill the gap" between the new Article 44 half-cent sales tax and the old inventory tax reimbursement; and

WHEREAS, the legislators in office at the time thought that over the course of ten years, the new sales tax would increase to the point that, by the end of the ten-year period, the hold harmless funds would not be needed because of new revenues; and

WHEREAS, for at least 122 municipalities and 17 counties, the amount of inventory tax lost to the state was not replaced in the amount projected by the new sales tax proceeds and those municipalities and counties have relied upon transitional hold harmless payments to minimize this negative impact; and

WHEREAS, these Article 44 Sales Tax Hold Harmless funds will end in 2012 unless an extension is passed; and

WHEREAS, the local governments affected by the loss of Article 44 Sales Tax Hold Harmless funds generally serve economically disadvantaged communities; and

WHEREAS, the growth in sales tax over the ten year period of reimbursement has been less than projected, resulting in continuing losses to local governments receiving transitional hold harmless payments unless the payments are extended; and

WHEREAS, Stokes County will lose approximately \$2.27 million in its 2013-2014 budget year if the General Assembly fails to extend transitional hold harmless payments for a reasonable period of time to allow sales tax revenue to grow to replace the transitional hold harmless payments; and

WHEREAS, if the General Assembly fails to extend the hold harmless payments, the burden of the shortfall produced as a result will shift to the citizens of Stokes County and its taxpayers.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STOKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS THAT:

The North Carolina General Assembly is urged to restore transitional hold harmless payments to local governments for a reasonable period of time to allow growth in sales tax revenue to replace transitional hold harmless payments, as envisioned in 2002 when inventory tax reimbursements to local governments were repealed; and

The Stokes County legislative delegation to the General Assembly is urged to support restoration of transitional hold harmless payments to local governments for a reasonable period of time.

Adopted by the Stokes County Board of Commissioners this 13th day of May 2013.

Ernest Lankford – Chairman

James D. Booth – Vice Chairman

J. Leon Inman – Commissioner

Jimmy Walker – Commissioner

Ronda Jones – Commissioner

Attest:

May 13, 2013

39

Darlene M. Bullins – Clerk of the Board

County Manager Rick Morris commented:

- Rockingham County has already approved a similar resolution
- Struggling with the upcoming budget with the loss of Hold Harmless revenue
- Needs to be placed on today's Action Agenda and forwarded to the General Assembly immediately

Chairman Lankford opened the floor for discussion.

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- Common sense resolution – move to Action Agenda today

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Made calls to other counties regarding the loss of Hold Harmless revenue
- Must remember when the State kept the Hold Harmless funding (2002)
- This revenue is not a gift from the State, this funding is for intangibles that were kept in Stokes County
- Representative Holloway doesn't believe it is not a matter of money
- In the big scheme of things, this is only about \$30 million for the State
- In an \$18 billion budget, this amount is very small
- The State this year is not facing a \$2-\$3 billion shortfall, according to all indications, it is going to have a sizable surplus
- Need to lobby hard for this revenue
- Representative Holloway has worked very hard for Stokes County but needs some help
- Bill to restore the Hold Harmless has hit a brick wall in the Senate
- Senator Berger has stated that "it is not going to go this year"
- Senator Brunstetter has stated "no way this year"
- Can't understand why these county representatives are voting against something that benefits their own county

Commissioner Walker confirmed with Chairman Lankford that there is still tobacco being stored at Brookcove.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Agreed with Commissioner Inman – this money is due to Stokes County

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- Common sense legislators in Raleigh now are the reason why there is a surplus

Chairman Lankford commented:

- Noted the information presented by the NCACC that county commissioners make the best legislators due to knowing what the counties need

- Have legislators now that don't have that county commissioner experience; that seems to be part of the problem with some of the ones fighting against restoring the Hold Harmless revenue

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

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – ACTION AGENDA

Proposed Contract – Telecommunication Analysis

Chairman Lankford entertained a motion regarding the proposed contract with SpyGlass for a Telecommunication Cost Analysis which was presented and discussed at the April 22nd meeting.

Commissioner Jones moved to approve the contract with SpyGlass for a Telecommunication Cost Analysis. Vice Chairman Booth seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Appointments – Stokes County Animal Control Advisory Council

Chairman Lankford noted the following were nominated at the April 22nd meeting:

- Dr. Debbie Cowan – licensed veterinarian
- Ted Kitzmiller – private citizen
- Candis Loy – Animal Advocacy Organization
- Leslie Staples – Private citizen
- Shannon Gammons – representative for the Sheriff's Department

There were no other nominations.

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 polled the Board:

Commissioner Jones: Dr. Debbie Cowan, Ted Kitzmiller, Candis Loy, Leslie Staples, Shannon Gammons

Commissioner Inman: Dr. Debbie Cowan, Ted Kitzmiller, Candis Loy, Leslie Staples, Shannon Gammons

Chairman Lankford: Dr. Debbie Cowan, Ted Kitzmiller, Candis Loy, Leslie Staples, Shannon Gammons

Vice Chairman Booth: Dr. Debbie Cowan, Ted Kitzmiller, Candis Loy, Leslie Staples, Shannon Gammons

Commissioner Walker: Dr. Debbie Cowan, Ted Kitzmiller, Candis Loy, Leslie Staples, Shannon Gammons

Chairman Lankford noted Dr. Debbie Cowan, Ted Kitzmiller, Candis Loy, Leslie Staples, and Shannon Gammons were unanimously appointed to serve on the Animal Control Advisory Council.

Proposed Resolution - Concerning the Loss of Transitional Hold Harmless Reimbursement Funds

Chairman Lankford entertained a motion to approve the proposed Resolution Concerning The Loss of Transitional Hold Harmless Reimbursements Funds presented at today's meeting.

Commissioner Inman moved to approve the Resolution Concerning the Loss of Transitional Hold Harmless Reimbursements Funds presented at today's meeting. Commissioner Jones seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

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

- To consider and take action with respect to the position to be taken by the county in negotiating the price or other material terms of an agreement for the acquisition or lease of real property pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5)
- To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3)
- To consider and take action with respect to the position to be taken by the county in negotiating the amount of compensation or other material terms of an employment contract pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5)

Commissioner Inman moved to enter closed session for the following:

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

- To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3)
- To consider and take action with respect to the position to be taken by the county in negotiating the amount of compensation or other material terms of an employment contract 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 May 13th meeting.

Board of Education – Acquisition of Land

Chairman Lankford entertained a motion.

Vice Chairman Booth moved to approve the request from the Stokes County Board of Education to purchase 1.35 acres from the Lawson property adjacent to Piney Grove Middle School for \$4,000. Commissioner Jones seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

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

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

Darlene M. Bullins
Clerk to the Board

Ernest Lankford
Chairman