

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)
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COUNTY OF STOKES)
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OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS
STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT
DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA
JANUARY 13, 2014

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met for regular session in the Commissioners' Chambers of the Ronald Wilson Reagan Memorial Building (Administration Building) located in Danbury, North Carolina on Monday, January 13, 2014 at 1:30 pm with the following members present:

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

County Personnel in Attendance:
County Manager Richard D. Morris
Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins
Finance Director Julia Edwards
Tax Administrator Jake Oakley
County Attorney Tyrone Browder

Chairman James Booth called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.

Commissioner Lankford delivered the invocation.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT-GOVERNING BODY-PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Booth opened the meeting by inviting everyone in attendance to join the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Booth entertained a motion to approve or amend the January 13, 2014 Agenda.

Vice Chairman Jones moved to approve the January 13th Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Lankford seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS - Manager/Commissioners

Chairman Booth opened the floor for comments from the County Manager and the Board of Commissioners.

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following comments:

- Operation Medicine Drop
 - Wanted to let the BOCC know the latest collection totals for Operation Medicine Drop
 - Total collection for 2013 = 144,997.5 doses
 - Total collection since program started in 2010 = 367,853.5 doses
 - EMS Training Officer Brian Booe is very instrumental in this very useful program which prevents unused medicine from going into the sewer system, ground water, etc.
- Emergency Medical Services
 - Read information from EMS Director Greg Collins regarding a recent article in the Stokes News
 - The article is about Miss Natalie Eaves, a precious young girl that has been through more than most of us can imagine (provided BOCC with a copy of the article)
 - Through the efforts put forth by our county agencies and the quick actions of her mother, last month EMS and her family were able to celebrate this girl's life
 - As you read the article in the Stokes News, CPR was performed by the mother, aided by Brandi Knight, of the 911 Center, who helped provide CPR instructions, and the rapid response and treatment of the Walnut Cove Vol. Fire Department and the Stokes County Emergency Medical Services proved to be outstanding
 - While many of our cardiac arrest patients do not have the same outcome, EMS continues to have an exceptionally high Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC) or pulses
 - Last year, Stokes County responded to 64 patients in cardiac arrest
 - Of those 64 patients, 29 had a return of pulses for at least twenty minutes and were transported to a tertiary hospital for intensive treatment
 - This is a 45% return of pulses for last year's cardiac arrest patients
 - The American Heart Association reports in 2012 that the North Carolina average was 24% and the National average was 31% for ROSC
 - It is through the efforts of each of our agencies that this high level of success is obtained
 - It is community education of hands on CPR training and 83 automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) deployed by local fire/rescue departments, businesses, and churches that has helped increase the chance of survival
 - The men and women of the Stokes County Emergency Services System (which included both professional and volunteer responders) in this county has maintained a 45% ROSC for greater than two (2) years

- EMS encourages each citizen in Stokes County who has not had CPR training, to contact the office to set up a training date
- Director Collins would like to commend those responders on this particular call and commend the personnel who do that same job every day
- The County would also like to commend the personnel who do these jobs every day to try to help Stokes County citizens
- One thing to take from this article is how important CPR training is and that it can make a difference; very important to get CPR training
- Camp Sertoma/Moores Springs Update
 - Per the request of the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, a proposal was developed and sent to NC State University regarding Camp Sertoma and the Moores Springs Properties
 - A Request for Information (RFI) was developed and released with wide public dissemination throughout the County via internet; the RFI was advertised in the Stokes News and placed on the County website
 - The RFI was basically to solicit anyone who would be interested in operating the properties
 - Deadline for the RFI is Wednesday, January 15, 2014 – 5:00 pm
 - At this point, the County has not received any response regarding the RFI
 - As far as the proposal that was sent to NC State, I spoke to Senator Shirley Randleman today and she has spoken to NC State staff
 - Senator Randleman noted that NC Staff has reviewed the proposal and are suppose to contact the County sometime this week with a few questions they have regarding the proposal
 - Will be scheduling a meeting once NC State contacts the County to hopefully discuss the proposal
 - The process is underway

Chairman Booth expressed appreciation to Manager Morris regarding the Camp Sertoma update and commended all those involved regarding the emergency situation. Chairman Booth commended EMS for the excellent ROSC average (45%) which is above the North Carolina average of 24% and the National average of 31%.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- At sometime, would like an update on the Forsyth Technical Community College Project
- Always like to hear good news; one of the reassuring things for me with our county is not receiving complaints on certain departments that have a lot of interaction with our citizens, EMS certainly being one of those departments
- Can't remember the last citizen concern I received involving EMS for example
- When an unit is dispatched, we always know there is a preference for it to get to the scene as quick as possible

- Very reassuring to have departments that interact with our citizens to the degree that EMS, Sheriff's Departments, and Fire Departments do and not receive citizen concerns
- Know there is always a chance of things happening that we don't know about, but all in all, very pleased with our departments doing their jobs very well
- County is very blessed with the quality of workers that are employed by the County and the quality services provided to our citizens
- Very happy to hear the good news regarding the young girl

Vice Chairman Jones commented:

- Happy New Year to everyone
- Very nice to see some new faces at today's meeting
- Had the privilege to see the pictures from the last wedding held at Camp Sertoma near Christmas time, very beautiful, but a very sad thing
- Hope the County can reverse that decision as soon as possible
- Attended a PART meeting last week, would like to let everyone know that PART is operating in the "black"
- Spent the day in training at the School of Government in Chapel Hill learning about high performing boards
- Have a Child Fatality/Protection Meeting tomorrow
- Trying to learn more about the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the ways it will work with the Farm Bill (1,600 pages) and Farmers' Markets
- Some very interesting information about the SNAP Program
- Will be attending an Environmental Steering Committee Meeting next week in Raleigh and a Professional Board Meeting next week
- Incandescent light bulbs are now illegal; there will be several US businesses going out of business because the bulbs are being phased out in 2014
- As an Environmentalist, I try to strive for balance; there are a lot of dark sides to civilization and this is one of those cases that I don't agree with because there are some applications that only an incandescent light bulb will work for example: "keeping those pipes from freezing"
- Once they are off the shelves, they are gone
- Looking forward to the Business Extravaganza on Thursday, January 16th and the League of Governments in Walnut Cove on Thursday, January 23rd

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Great to see people out and interested in the county; welcome to everyone regardless of what you are here for
- Great to see people get involved in things that the county is involved in
- Appreciate the County Manager sharing that great human interest story with the Board; the County has great departments and great personnel who help to deliver a very high quality service to our citizens which is always the Board's goal
- Will be in Raleigh on Wednesday for a NCACC Board of Directors' meeting

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Hope everyone had a great New Years, always glad to bring in the New Year
- Feel like the Board of Commissioners have a great deal on their plate for 2014
- Just want to continue to keep things going in the right direction as we work together and try to do our very best to keep things going
- Would like to share three things that I call "Ethics of Life"
 - Before you pray, believe
 - Before you speak, listen
 - Before you spend, earn
- Hope everyone can gain some ground by doing those things

Chairman Booth commented:

- Agree with Commissioner Lankford's "Ethics of Life"
- Wish everyone a Happy New Year

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Booth noted the following:

- The Board will hear Public Comments, but will not respond to Public Comments
- Each individual will have three (3) minutes to speak

The following spoke during public comments:

Buddy Timm

PO Box 573

Walnut Cove, NC 27053

Re: **Our Country**

Mr. Timm read the following:

"My concern is about the direction of our country."

"Our flags did not fly at half mast, nor did our President go to the funeral of Ariel Sharon, the former Prime Minister of Israel, our friend."

"As you well know, last month, from December 5th to the 9th's sunset, our President ordered flags to be flown at half mast, to honor the death of Mandela, the former President, of the communist country of South Africa. Now there is a movie about him. I hope the show the pictures of him standing with his Communist thugs, fists raised in the air, in front of a big red, hammer and sickle Communist flag. It was his organization, the African National Congress that went around burning fellow blacks alive with gas filled tires to secure a following. His wife, Winnie, was noted for promoting that. Besides, Mandela was on our terrorists watch list until 2008. A Bible Proverb advises: that a man is known by the kind of friends he keeps. That is what alarms me; our government cannot be that ignorant of the heinous tortures that went on and is going on."

“Mandela sang with clinched fist and now many South Africans and the new President sing the lyrics to kill the white farmers, desirous to take over their land. Gun control has been enacted and Dr. Stanton, of Genocide Watch, warned them to never give up their guns, or there will be genocide.”

“International Communists have much in common: politically correct speech, affirmative action, reverse discrimination, gun control, and the elimination of opposition to centralized totalitarian control.”

“Our President has enacted three new gun control laws by Executive Orders, which should be used only for supporting or explaining existing law; not legislative power to create new law.”

“Please remember your oath is to the words of the Constitution and not to the assumed powers of the Federal Government.”

“It is Thomas Jefferson who wrote in his KY Resolutions: “that it would be dangerous delusion were a confidence in the men of our choice to silence our fears for the safety of our rights, that confidence is everywhere the parent of despotism – free government is founded in jealousy, and not in confidence; it is jealousy and not confidence which prescribes limited constitutions, to bind down those whom we are obliged to trust with power; that our Constitution has accordingly fixed the limits to which, and no further, our confidence may go.... Whensoever the general government assumes undelegated powers, its acts are unauthoritative, void, and of no force; that to this compact each State acceded as a State.”

“Our trust is in you, who have taken an oath to the words of the constitution and not to centralized unlimited power.”

Chairman Booth thanked those for their comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Minutes

- Minutes of December 23, 2013 – Regular Meeting

Vehicle Maintenance/Contingency/Capital Reserve Fund - Budget Amendment #42

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #42.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
Vehicle Maintenance				
100.4250.325	Maint. & Repairs – Buildings	\$00.00	\$15,874.00	\$15,874.00
100.4250.511	Equipment – Non Capitalized	\$2,910.00	\$4,648.00	\$7,558.00
100.4250.510	Equipment	\$00.00	\$17,210.00	\$17,210.00
100.4250.260	Departmental Supplies	\$810.00	\$2,037.00	2,847.00
100.4250.350	Maint. & Repairs-Equipment	\$2,300.00	\$1,257.00	\$3,557.00
Contingency				
100.9910.502	Autumn Square Contingency	<u>\$75,000.00</u>	<u>\$(2,970.00)</u>	<u>\$72,030.00</u>
	Totals	\$81,020.00	\$38,056.00	\$119,076.00
Capital Reserve Fund				
201.4250.006	Vehicle Maintenance	\$101,147.00	\$(38,056.00)	\$63,091.00
201.9810.000	Transfer to General Fund	<u>\$96,603.00</u>	<u>\$38,056.00</u>	<u>\$134,659.00</u>
	Totals	\$197,750.00	\$00.00	\$197,750.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To appropriate and transfer funds for the relocation of the County Garage to the Autumn Square Building.

This will result in a net increase of **\$38,056.00** in the expenditures and other financial use to the County's annual budget. To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will increase. These revenues have already been received or are verified they will be received this fiscal year.

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
100.3982.960	Transfer from Capital Res Fund	<u>\$96,603.00</u>	<u>\$38,056.00</u>	<u>\$134,659.00</u>
	Totals	\$96,603.00	\$38,056.00	\$134,659.00

Sheriff's Department - Budget Amendment #43

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #43.

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				
100.4310.260	Departmental Supplies	<u>\$36,869.00</u>	<u>\$689.00</u>	<u>\$37,558.00</u>
	Totals	\$36,869.00	\$689.00	\$37,558.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To appropriate funding to purchase investigative and special operations equipment. No County Funding.

This will result in a net increase of **\$689.00** 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	Current Budgeted Amount	As Amended
100.3301.411	Federal Fines & Forfeitures	<u>\$1,424.00</u>	<u>\$689.00</u>	<u>\$2,113.00</u>
	Totals	\$1,424.00	\$689.00	\$2,113.00

Commissioner Lankford moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Inman seconded the motion.

Commissioner Walker requested discussion regarding Budget Amendment #42.

Commissioner Walker questioned Manager Morris what the \$38,056.00 was used for?

Manager Morris responded:

- Lifts
- Air compressor
- Safety items
- Code compliance issues
- Replacement of one door and the addition of another door
- Moving expenses – electrical, internet, etc.
- Had allocated in the current F/Y 2013-14 budget \$75,000 for possible renovations
- Currently only used \$2,970 of the \$75,000 due to \$35,086 being in Capital Reserve for a new facility
- Majority of what was allocated in the F/Y 2013-14 has not been spent, but there are some possible big items coming such as the inspections of all the county owned tanks, possibly changing the fuel system to the new location, etc.
- Will be keeping the remainder of the funds available for any unknowns

Commissioner Walker questioned if the County is finding that the new facility is meeting our expectations?

County Manager Morris responded:

- New facility is working very well
- Very efficient
- Very good investment for the County

Chairman Booth responded to Commissioner Walker's question:

- Have visited the new facility several times
- Employees love the new facility
- Very efficient
- Can be working on five (5) vehicles at one time if needed
- Office space being rented out by the County is paying the debt service and if everything keeps going, there will be no county funds used to pay off the debt

Commissioner Lankford also responded to Commissioner Walker's question:

- Hearing the same positive comments from employees
- Now have a lift to change tires
- Efficiency is very good
- Employees are very pleased with the new location

County Manager Morris noted that there were still two vacant offices for rent.

The motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – INFORMATION AGENDA

Chairman Booth noted that Health/LTC Systems Coordinator Casey Conner from the Piedmont Triad Regional Council (PTRC) was at today's meeting to present a PowerPoint presentation updating the Board with Aging Demographics in Stokes County. (Director Blair Barton-Percival, PTRC, was also in attendance for the presentation)

Ms. Susie Grabs, Chairperson for the Stokes County Senior Services, expressed appreciation to the Board of Commissioners for their continued support for the older adults in Stokes County.

Ms. Grabs introduced Ms. Casey Conner (Aging Services Planner for Stokes County and Ms. Jennifer Harriss, (Long Term Care Ombudsman), PTRC, who presented the demographics.

Ms. Conner expressed appreciation to all those attending the meeting today who were involved with the senior population.

Ms. Conner presented the following information:

- The United States as well as North Carolina is aging
- Presented statistical data for 1900 population for North Carolina
 - Oldest residents were the fewest with youngest the most
- Presented statistical data for 2010 population for North Carolina
 - Single largest group is 75 and over
- Presented projected data for 2020 population for North Carolina

- Elderly population (75 and older) is merging
- Presented projected data for 2030 population for North Carolina
 - Population landscape is changing with 75 and over still being the largest group
- Presented statistical/projected data for Stokes County population growth from 1990 to 2030
 - Stokes County's population is not expected to grow in the next 15 to 20 years
 - Had double digit growth of 20% from 1990 to 2000
 - A 6% growth from 2000 to 2010
 - From 2010 to 2020, the population is actually predicted to decline by 4% with another 2% decline from 2020 to 2030
 - Age group from birth to 19 actually is predicted to decrease from 28% to 21% by 2030
 - Age group from 20 to 59 peaked around 2000 and is actually predicted to decline to 47% of the population by 2030
 - Age group 60 and over continues to grow
 - In 1990, the age group 60 and over comprised 16% of the population
 - By 2030, that age group is predicted to be 32% of the population
 - That is 143% growth from 1990 to 2030
- Increases in Age 60+
 - Age 60 + population is expected to grow
 - Age group 60-64 is predicted to peak around 2020 (baby boomers are entering their seventies)
 - Age group 65-74 experienced it greatest growth from 2000 to 2010 as the first wave of baby boomers turned sixty
 - Age group 75-84 is predicted to grow 175% between 1990 and 2030
 - Age group 85+ has an even higher predicted growth rate at 206% over the forty years (most fragile population that is in need of long term services and support)
- 2013-14 Funding Allocations (appreciate the County's continued match)

	Allocations		
	from Block	County	Total
	Grant	Match	Funding
Service			
Caregiver Support	\$ 12,721.00	non-match	\$ 12,721.00
In-Home Aide	\$ 54,008.00	\$ 6,001.00	\$ 60,009.00
Nutrition	\$167,561.00	\$18,618.00	\$186,179.00
Senior Ctr Operations	\$ 53,070.00	\$10,223.00	\$ 63,293.00
Transportation	\$ 62,180.00	\$ 6,909.00	\$ 69,089.00
	\$349,540.00	\$41,751.00	\$391,291.00

- 2013-2014 Funding Percentage
 - Caregiver Support = 4%
 - In-Home Aide = 15%
 - Nutrition = 48%
 - Senior Center Operations = 15%
 - Transportation = 18%

- Supply and Demand Trends
 - Aging population continues to grow
 - Funding levels have been decreasing since 2000
 - Public contributions are down
 - Foundations and corporations have also lowered their contributions
 - Without changes, funding levels are predicted to continue to decrease
 - Decreasing cuts in funding puts pressure on the amount of services that can be provided
 - Current approach to funding the elderly pumps far more money into the institutional setting (nursing homes and assisted living) than it does to home and community based services (approximately 25% more)
- Cuts in Funding for Aging Services in Fiscal Years 2012/13 and 2013/14
 - Caregiver Support = 15.4%
 - In-Home Aide = 4.7%
 - Nutrition = 2.3%
 - Senior Center Operations = 0.2%
 - Transportation = 12.6%
- Availability of Caregivers and Nursing Home Beds
 - Generations after the baby boomers are not projected to have as many children
 - Fewer children mean fewer people available as caregivers both in terms of family relations and employed caregivers
 - In 1990, for every one person age 85, there were twenty (20) possible caregivers
 - In 2030, it is predicted that for every one person age 85, there will be only nine (9) possible caregivers
- Long Term Care in Stokes County
 - Although many want to age at home, many will reach the point that an institution is their only option
 - In 1990, for everyone over 75, there was one nursing home bed for every three persons
 - In 2030, it is predicted that for everyone over 75, there will be one nursing home bed for every eight persons

Ms. Jennifer Harriss – Long Term Care Ombudsman presented the following information:

- Upholding Residents' Rights in Long-Term Care Facilities
 - Over 600 beds for long term care in Stokes County
 - Work with two committees to make sure residents are being treated with dignity and respect
 - Susie Grabs – Chairperson, Nursing Home Committee
 - Carolyn Manuel – Chairperson, Adult Care Home Committee
 - Work with eleven (11) volunteers in Stokes County
 - Serve 5 Adult Care Home Facilities with capacity for up to 247 residents
 - Graceland I and II
 - Priddy Manor
 - Walnut Ridge
 - Rose Terra

- Serve 4 Skilled Nursing Facilities with capacity for up to 377 residents
 - Universal Health Care of King
 - Village Care of King
 - Pioneer Community Hospital of Stokes
 - Walnut Cove
- Upholding Residents' Rights
 - Volunteer highlights
 - Combine, the 11 Nursing Home and Adult Care Home volunteers drove over 1,300 miles in 2013
 - Volunteers completed over 55 hours of training in 2013
 - Dedicated over 126 hours visiting the 605+ residents of Stokes County residents who reside in long-term care
 - Very pleased and fortunate to have caring volunteers who make sure the 605+ residents are treated with respect and dignity

Ms. Conner continued the presentation:

- Have lots more data that can be provided to the County at a later date
- Filling the Gaps of Services
 - Must continue to find ways to fill the gaps of services
 - Must be creative to find ways to increase resources so that older adults can stay at home; cost less and seniors are much happier
 - Home and community services are a network that already exist that serve thousands of adults in our region
 - Must alter the way we think about aging, consider possibly allowing employees to provide community services such as "meals on wheels" delivery or other services during work hours
- At-home Services to Age in Place
 - Increase resources for:
 - Transportation
 - Home-Delivered Meals
 - In-Home Aide Services
 - Caregiver Respite
- Would be happy to provide additional data at any time
- Appreciate the time given today for the presentation

Chairman Booth opened the floor for discussion.

- Expressed appreciation for today's presentation
- Would like to commend Chairperson Grabs and Chairperson Manuel and their committees for all their dedication and hard work serving our seniors in Stokes County

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Have sold long term care insurance for many years and have been aware of what was coming
- People with long term care insurance are going to be very well positioned in the years to come compared to those who don't have insurance

- Concerned about the crisis I see pending for our County with these numbers that have been projected
- The four economic models that I am aware of:
 - Residential with no growth
 - Residential with growth
 - Residential with some business
 - Business with some residential
- Residential with no growth is the one that creates the most tax burden and that is where the County seems to be headed
- Not only does that put extra pressure on all our citizens, but impacts the funding levels more
- Getting the message that this is a pivotal time for the County
- Don't need to ignore data like this
- This is a reality check
- This is a warning and right now is the time that the County needs to be making decisions because we can see what is coming
- If the County doesn't start to prepare in some way when the data is there very plainly to see, not sure the Board is being totally responsible
- Appreciate the information presented to the Board today and all those in attendance for the presentation
- This is an important message and not one that needs to be ignored
- Need to plan, prepare, and act on this information

Ms. Conner responded:

- Would love to partner with the County

Vice Chairman Jones commented:

- Knew we were in trouble about ten years ago when a similar study was done
- Have mentioned several times about the need to come up with ways to keep the youth from leaving our county
- There has been a lot done – community college will be here soon
- Even as a community, need to open our minds and think about entrepreneurship and encourage that
- Be open minded on industries wanting to come to Stokes County
- Must be responsible to the big picture, be open minded
- See such opposition sometimes – example Walmart in King
- Personally not a Walmart fan, but economically have got to get the pressure off the property owner
- Property owners are getting older and just can't keep going back to them wanting more
- Have to find the balance
- Asked all of the older generation that has so much wisdom that when you come across people that want to oppose everything, ask them to think beyond their personal feelings sometimes and how it could impact the county long term
- Taxpayers can't continue to keep the county up
- Understand the projections presented today

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Great information presented today
- Must continue to bring business and industry to Stokes County
- Must take the burden off the Ad Valorem taxpayer
- Can't sustain the same level of services with the same tax rate along with decreasing funding
- County is striving toward bringing business and industry to the County, one example is the community college in the Meadows area
- To answer Commissioner Walker's question regarding the community college, as far as I know, everything is on target with the community college

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Appreciate the volunteers who are dedicated to provide beneficial services to our citizens
- It is very good to partner with the PTRC
- PTRC is doing a fine job
- Appreciate the information provided today and hopefully the partnership can continue to make things happen

Chairman Booth expressed the Board's appreciation for the presentation and the continued service provided to the County from the PTRC and the volunteers.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – DISCUSSION AGENDA

Tax Administration Report – December 2013

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following informational data for the

December Report:

Fiscal Year 2013-14	Budget Amt	Collected Amt	Over Budget	Under Budget
County Regular & Motor Vehicles	\$20,480,675.00	\$14,369,549.98		\$6,111,125.02
New Schools F-Tech Fund	\$1,365,378.00	\$959,387.94		\$405,990.06
Prior Taxes				
1998-2012 Tax Years				
County Regular & Motor Vehicles	\$750,000.00	\$480,834.17		\$269,165.83
EMS Current Collections				
Total Collected				
(12-01-13/12-31-13)		\$125,760.95		
Total Collected				
(07-01-13/06-30-14)		\$747,747.05		

**Delinquent EMS Collection
Report**

Total Collected

(12-1-13/12-31-13) \$20,634.13
(07-01-13/06-30-14) \$90,015.16

**Business and Personal Property Discovery
Report**

Audit Dates	# of Accts	Total Value	Taxes Due
(12-01-13/12-31-13)	15	\$136,595.00	\$1,194.89
(07-01-13/06-30-14)	1,291	\$8,578.964.00	\$71,339.55

Motor Vehicle Release Report Audit Dates	Accounts	Total Value
(12-01-13/12-31-13)	40	\$1,325.78
Motor Vehicle Refund Report Audit Dates	Accounts	Total Value
(12-01-13/12-31-13)	9	\$554.77

Garnishment Totals

Month	Total Accounts	Original Levy Amt	Collected Amt
(12-1-13/12-31-13)	123	\$52,669.26	\$14,139.79
F/Year 2013-14			
(07-1-13/6-30-14)	928	\$335,009.75	\$205,311.03

Monthly Delinquent Tax Collection Report

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Monthly Delinquent Tax Collection Report for December 2013:

<u>County</u> Year	<u>Real/Personal</u> Beginning Balance	<u>Property</u> Releases	<u>December</u> Refunds	<u>2013</u> Debits/ Credits	Writeoffs	Payments	Ending Balance
2012	\$ 80,9463.06	\$(38.26)			\$(0.30)	\$(20,951.17)	\$ 359,956.33
2011	\$ 176,391.75	\$(37.30)			\$(0.57)	\$(6,882.35)	\$ 169,471.53
2010	\$ 97,105.87	\$(37.30)				\$(2,029.54)	\$ 95,039.03
2009	\$ 59,225.13	\$(123.50)				\$(746.66)	\$ 58,354.97
2008	\$ 36,533.19					\$(279.59)	\$ 36,253.60
2007	\$ 23,805.19					\$(11.15)	\$ 23,794.04
2006	\$ 16,186.11					\$(31.83)	\$ 16,154.28
2005	\$ 11,747.16					\$(119.35)	\$ 11,627.81
2004	\$ 11,334.91					\$(40.27)	\$ 11,294.64
2003	\$ 9,096.42					\$(15.48)	\$ 9,080.94
2002	\$ 1,518.75						\$ 1,518.75
2001	\$ 102.54						\$ 102.54

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2000	\$	362.74		\$	362.74
1999	\$	391.72		\$	391.72
1998	\$	359.67		\$	359.67

<u>County</u>	<u>Motor</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>2013</u>			
Year	Beginning Balance	Releases	Refunds	Debits/ Credits	Writeoffs	Payments	Ending Balance
2012	\$ 87,992.56	\$(173.58)	\$29.12		\$(3.19)	\$(13,248.04)	\$ 74,596.87
2011	\$ 29,185.65				\$(3.31)	\$(801.23)	\$ 28,381.11
2010	\$ 27,729.38				\$(1.13)	\$(510.57)	\$ 27,217.68
2009	\$ 21,292.43				\$(2.69)	\$(203.92)	\$ 21,085.82
2008	\$ 20,955.34					\$(137.52)	\$ 20,817.82
2007	\$ 18,277.07					\$(48.52)	\$ 18,228.55
2006	\$ 12,839.65			\$(14.05)		\$(12.66)	\$ 12,812.94
2005	\$ 15,677.47					\$(99.08)	\$ 15,578.39
2004	\$ 14,036.15					\$(6.88)	\$ 14,029.27
2003	\$ 14,049.78					\$(18.00)	\$ 14,031.78
2002							
2001							
2000							
1999							
1998							

<u>New</u>	<u>Schools</u>	<u>Forsyth</u>	<u>Tech</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>2013</u>	
Year	Beginning Balance	Releases	Refunds	Debits/ Credits	Writeoffs	Payments	Ending Balance
2012	\$33,194.76	\$(14.12)	\$1.94		\$ (0.23)	\$ (2,268.06)	\$ 30,914.29
2011	\$12,534.36	\$(2.49)			\$ (0.18)	\$ (482.81)	\$ 12,048.88

<u>Interstate Collection Report</u>	<u>Collection</u>	<u>Total Collected</u>
December 2013		
Cumulative Total Collected to Date	NC Debt Setoff	\$154,551.23
Cumulative Total Collected (to date)	Motor Vehicles	\$103,507.51
Cumulative Total Collected (to date)	Property Taxes	\$34,679.38
Cumulative Total Collected (to date)	EMS	\$168,049.49
Collected (to date)	All Categories	\$306,236.38

Collection of New and Old Motor Vehicle Bills

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following new report for the combination of County/State reporting of the collection of Motor Vehicles:

- Graph shows each month's collection per taxing codes:

September-13 Old Tax System	May Renewals			
Tax Code	Tax	Levy	Cost to	Net
Jurisdiction	Rate	Billed	Collect	Collected
City of King	\$0.422	\$ 15,462.00	\$ 134.00	\$ 13,400.00
King Car Fee	\$5.00	\$ 2,370.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 1,965.00
Walnut Cove Town	\$0.400	\$ 2,772.00	\$ 19.00	\$ 1,904.00
Danbury Town	\$0.270	\$ 242.00		\$ 37.00
School Tax	\$0.040	\$ 12,638.00		\$ 9,456.00
King Fire	\$0.065	\$ 3,265.00		\$ 2,360.00
Rural Hall Fire	\$0.065	\$ 625.00		\$ 531.00
Walnut Cove Fire	\$0.065	\$ 1,757.00		\$ 1,245.00
General County	\$0.600	\$167,715.00	\$2,132.00	\$141,243.00
Service Fire	\$0.065	\$ 11,404.00		\$ 8,317.00
Total Collected		\$218,250.00	\$2,305.00	\$180,458.00

September-13 New VTS State	Sept. Renewals			
Tax Code	Tax	Levy	Cost to	Net
Jurisdiction	Rate	Billed	Collect	Collected
City of King	\$0.422	\$ 7,933.00		\$ 7,933.00
King Car Fee	\$5.00	\$ 1,370.00		\$ 1,370.00
Walnut Cove Town	\$0.400	\$ 1,414.00		\$ 1,414.00
Danbury Town	\$0.270	\$ 1,035.00		\$ 1,035.00
School Tax	\$0.040	\$ 5,781.00		\$ 5,781.00
King Fire	\$0.065	\$ 1,625.00		\$ 1,625.00
Rural Hall Fire	\$0.065	\$ 281.00		\$ 281.00
Walnut Cove Fire	\$0.065	\$ 829.00		\$ 829.00
General County	\$0.600	\$ 86,715.00		\$ 86,715.00
Service Fire	\$0.065	\$ 4,995.00		\$ 4,995.00
Total Collected		\$111,978.000	\$0.000	\$111,978.000

October 13 Old Tax System	June Renewals			
Tax Code	Tax	Levy	Cost to	Net
Jurisdiction	Rate	Billed	Collect	Collected
City of King	\$0.422	\$ 18,904.00	\$ 144.00	\$ 14,357.00
King Car Fee	\$5.00	\$ 2,440.00	\$ 21.00	\$ 2,143.00
Walnut Cove Town	\$0.400	\$ 2,507.00	\$ 22.00	\$ 2,226.00
Danbury Town	\$0.270	\$ 206.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 214.00
School Tax	\$0.040	\$ 12,222.00		\$ 10,888.00
King Fire	\$0.065	\$ 3,144.00		\$ 2,883.00
Rural Hall Fire	\$0.065	\$ 661.00		\$ 506.00
Walnut Cove Fire	\$0.065	\$ 2,057.00		\$ 1,408.00

General County	\$0.600	\$ 183,334.00	\$2,190.00	\$ 162,436.00
Service Fire	\$0.065	\$ 10,641.00		\$ 9,809.00
Total Collected		\$236,116.00	\$2,379.00	\$206,870.00

October-13 New VTS State		October Renewals		
Tax Code	Tax	Levy	Cost to	Net
Jurisdiction	Rate	Billed	Collect	Collected
City of King	\$0.422	\$ 12,579.00	\$778	\$ 10,843.00
King Car Fee	\$5.00	\$ 1,885.00	\$65	\$ 1,829.00
Walnut Cove Town	\$0.400	\$ 1,650.00	\$93	\$ 1,571.00
Danbury Town	\$0.270	\$ 1,770.00	\$100	\$ 1,672.00
School Tax	\$0.040	\$ 8,213.00	\$471	\$ 7,780.00
King Fire	\$0.065	\$ 2,128.00	\$122	\$ 2,015.00
Rural Hall Fire	\$0.065	\$ 383.00	\$22	\$ 364.00
Walnut Cove Fire	\$0.065	\$ 1,271.00	\$71	\$ 1,205.00
General County	\$0.600	\$ 123,194.00	\$7,054	\$ 117,898.00
Service Fire	\$0.065	\$ 7,183.00	\$410	\$ 6,807.00
Total Collected		\$160,256.000	\$9,186.00	\$152,984.00

November 13 Old Tax System		July Renewals		
Tax Code	Tax	Levy	Cost to	Net
Jurisdiction	Rate	Billed	Collect	Collected
City of King	\$0.422	\$ 18,904.00	\$ 142.00	\$ 14,244.00
King Car Fee	\$5.00	\$ 2,440.00	\$ 18.00	\$ 1,824.00
Walnut Cove Town	\$0.400	\$ 2,507.00	\$ 24.00	\$ 2,442.00
Danbury Town	\$0.270	\$ 206.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 326.00
School Tax	\$0.040	\$ 12,222.00		\$ 9,086.00
King Fire	\$0.065	\$ 3,144.00		\$ 2,386.00
Rural Hall Fire	\$0.065	\$ 661.00		\$ 595.00
Walnut Cove Fire	\$0.065	\$ 2,057.00		\$ 1,369.00
General County	\$0.600	\$ 183,334.00	\$2,219.00	\$ 136,291.00
Service Fire	\$0.065	\$ 10,641.00		\$ 7,728.00
Total Collected		\$236,116.00	\$2,406.00	\$176,291.00

November-13 New VTS State		Nov. Renewals		
Tax Code	Tax	Levy	Cost to	Net
Jurisdiction	Rate	Billed	Collect	Collected
City of King	\$0.422	\$ 10,978.00	\$337.00	\$ 10,699.00
King Car Fee	\$5.00	\$ 1,685.00	\$0.00	\$ 1,696.00
Walnut Cove Town	\$0.400	\$ 1,123.00	\$29.00	\$ 1,099.00

Danbury Town	\$0.270	\$ 1,504.00	\$39.00	\$ 1,468.00
School Tax	\$0.040	\$ 7,493.00	\$197.00	\$ 7,336.00
King Fire	\$0.065	\$ 1,910.00	\$50.00	\$ 1,870.00
Rural Hall Fire	\$0.065	\$ 369.00	\$10.00	\$ 361.00
Walnut Cove Fire	\$0.065	\$ 1,110.00	\$29.00	\$ 1,088.00
General County	\$0.600	\$ 112,395.00	\$2,959.00	\$ 110,035.00
Service Fire	\$0.065	\$ 6,901.00	\$181.00	\$ 6,755.00
Total Collected		\$145,468.00	\$3,831.00	\$142,407.00

December-13 Old Tax System		August Renewals		
Tax Code	Tax	Levy	Cost to	Net
Jurisdiction	Rate	Billed	Collect	Collected
City of King	\$0.422	\$ 18,784.00	\$ 155.00	\$ 15,393.00
King Car Fee	\$5.00	\$ 2,415.00	\$ 18.00	\$ 1,775.00
Walnut Cove Town	\$0.400	\$ 3,118.00	\$ 19.00	\$ 1,866.00
Danbury Town	\$0.270	\$ 215.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 301.00
School Tax	\$0.040	\$ 12,903.00		\$ 9,576.00
King Fire	\$0.065	\$ 3,067.00		\$ 2,444.00
Rural Hall Fire	\$0.065	\$ 611.00		\$ 508.00
Walnut Cove Fire	\$0.065	\$ 2,155.00		\$ 1,370.00
General County	\$0.600	\$ 193,548.00	\$2,300.00	\$ 141,337.00
Service Fire	\$0.065	\$ 11,715.00		\$ 8,443.00
Total Collected		\$248,531.00	\$2,495.00	\$183,013.00

December-13 New VTS State		Dec. Renewals		
Tax Code	Tax	Levy	Cost to	Net
Jurisdiction	Rate	Billed	Collect	Collected
City of King	\$0.422	\$ 12,991.00		\$ 12,991.00
King Car Fee	\$5.00	\$ 1,922.00		\$ 1,922.00
Walnut Cove Town	\$0.400	\$ 1,769.00		\$ 1,769.00
Danbury Town	\$0.270	\$ 2,113.00		\$ 2,113.00
School Tax	\$0.040	\$ 8,966.00		\$ 8,966.00
King Fire	\$0.065	\$ 2,251.00		\$ 2,251.00
Rural Hall Fire	\$0.065	\$ 396.00		\$ 396.00
Walnut Cove Fire	\$0.065	\$ 1,600.00		\$ 1,600.00
General County	\$0.600	\$ 134,493.00		\$ 134,493.00
Service Fire	\$0.065	\$ 8,030.00		\$ 8,030.00
Total Collected		\$174,531.00	\$00.00	\$174,531.00

- Total Cumulative Collected by both systems for September = \$292,436.00
- Total Cumulative Collected by both systems for October = \$359,764.00
- Total Cumulative Collected by both systems for November = \$318,698.00
- Total Cumulative Collected by both systems for December = \$357,544.00
- Total Cumulative Collected to date (NCVTS) System = \$581,900.00
- Total Cumulative Collected to date (Old Tax) System = \$746,542.00
- Total Cumulative Collected to date (NCVTS, Old Tax) Systems = \$1,328,442.00

Commissioner Inman confirmed with Tax Administrator Oakley that the current collection percentage for Ad Valorem taxes is approximately 78% of the budgeted amount before utilities.

Proposed 2014 Board of Equalization and Review Dates

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following proposed 2014 Board of Equalization and Review meeting dates for the Board's review and consideration:

- April 7, 2014 - Monday - 1:00 pm
- May 5, 2014 - Monday - 5:00 pm

Chairman Booth opened the floor for discussion.

The Board had no issues with the proposed 2014 Equalization and Review dates.

Chairman Booth, with full consensus of the Board, directed Tax Administrator Oakley to schedule the following dates for 2014 Equalization and Review Meetings:

- April 7, 2014 – Monday - 1:00 pm
- May 5, 2014 – Monday – 5:00 pm

GIS and Land Records – Licensing and Certification Requirements for Staff

Tax Administrator Oakley presented the following information regarding Licensing and Certification Requirements for staff:

- Recent legislative changes to the General Statutes now require employees who work on a daily basis in GIS/Mapping be licensed and certified as surveyors in their performance of duties, assuring correctness in the handling of all County Land Records information
- Over the past forty (40) years, Land Records (Mapping) and County Tax Departments have become almost exclusively “document driven”, meaning any changes in the records of ownership or boundaries of parcels of land must be based upon written documents

- The Tax Office, specifically Land Records, reviews each of the documents for content, in regards to establishing an accurate record of real property ownership, including a metes and bounds description of each tract of land in the County
- The State of North Carolina recognizes that the ability to interpret and manage this information necessitates a high degree of knowledge and skill level to accurately perform these tasks on a daily basis in the County Land Records environment
- In my opinion, NC General Statutes 89C-3 and 89C-13 will require County Mapping employees in the future to operate under the rules of the State Board of Engineers and Surveyors
- The costly alternative to the licensing of County GIS employees would involve Stokes County contracting with a local state certified surveyor to supervise all land record transactions
- General Statutes will allow GIS practitioners to attain certification, foregoing State Board examinations, through the submission, prior to July 1, 2014 of specific project work documentation
- In order to avoid a costly alternative, based upon approval of the State Board of Surveyors, the Stokes County Tax Office will be moving forward with the submission of employee work documentation to attain the required certification for our GIS/Mapping employees
- No action is need, information for the Board

Chairman Booth opened the floor for discussion.

Vice Chairman Jones commented:

- Concerned with the amount of stress this could be on current staff

Tax Administrator Oakley responded:

- Employees will have to be certified under the law that allows them to be grandfathered by June 30, 2014
- Staff is worried about losing their jobs because they are not surveyors
- If staff can't obtain the certification, county will have to contract with a surveyor who will have to review the work being done by staff
- Only need one staff member certified
- Four staff members, including myself, will be trying to be certified
- Once certified, will have to complete continuing education credits to maintain certification
- Have questioned the State Board who was unable to explain why this change is being implemented; their advice was to apply for certification for staff members

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Questioned Tax Administrator Oakley where the employees were now and what they need to be certified?
- What hurdles must they jump to get certified?

Tax Administrator Oakley responded:

- Feel staff will be able to get certified in every area, but each employee must have three (3) registered land surveyors that are currently practicing surveying to sign off on a recommendation that the employee be certified
- This will probably be the hardest part
- Surveyors are not happy with the recent changes; these are people who have taken four (4) years of college and gone to Raleigh and taken this very hard surveying exam that is eight (8) hours long
- Now all of a sudden, mapping employees are able to apply under a grandfather clause that they are Professional Land Surveyors (PLS)
- The Code of Ethic Laws for conducting business in the State of North Carolina states that these employees will be prohibited from surveying land
- A surveyor can only sign off on what he or she is qualified to do
- Lot of red tape
- Feel we can have at least one certified if three (3) surveyors will sign off on the certification

Commissioner Lankford questioned Tax Administrator Oakley if the certification dealt with what mapping staff is currently doing which is entering data from a land surveyor's map?

Tax Administrator Oakley responded:

- Confirmed that Commissioner Lankford was correct, but in my opinion, the State wants to get control of each GIS Department in each county to govern it
- In my opinion, this is also being done to make sure what is being prepared is done according to state statutes as far as mapping, GIS, photographing, etc.
- Have already done this with the photogrammetrists
- Mapping Department has turned into a document driven department
- Feels the bottom line is the State being in control
- Sunset Law became effective July 1, 2013, which gives employees one year to apply for certification
- Approved this past session in Raleigh

Commissioner Lankford continued:

- Appears the Board needs to do some fact finding on why this was approved

Tax Administrator Oakley commented:

- Thought at first, it was done because someone tried to get their surveying license and was turned down
- Hearing now that the State of North Carolina is wanting to be able to say that GIS/Mapping Departments across the state are in compliance of making sure the boundary mapping, elevation, etc. is done in a manner set by state standards
- This is the first step, next will come the state regulations

Commissioner Lankford suggested the Board get information from state representatives before July 1, 2014.

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Referenced the disclaimer that the Mapping Department currently uses regarding the accuracy and validity of documents
- Feels this certification could open the County up to a whole new arena
- Have some real concerns about this
- Did not see this coming
- Agree with Commissioner Lankford that there needs to be some research done on this before July 1, 2014
- Don't see any issue using the current GIS/Mapping documents that all have the disclaimer on them
- Don't understand why an employee in Mapping all of a sudden has to be a surveyor and make a representation on something they have never put their feet on
- Reiterated that could open up the County for some liability
- Feel we are asking our staff to make decisions that are normally made by surveyors who walk the land and certify that the acreage is correct
- See some possible issues coming with this
- Have concerns regarding this
- Would like for the County Attorney to review the General Statutes and provide the Board with a legal interpretation

Chairman Booth commented:

- Understand the concerns expressed by the Board
- Confirmed with Tax Administrator Oakley that staff is currently compiling information for the certification application
- Directed Tax Administrator Oakley to keep the Board updated
- Directed County Attorney Browder to review the General Statutes for a legal opinion

Releases less than \$100 – Real and Personal Property

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

Releases less than

\$100 - Real/Personal

Property

December 2013

Name

Bill Number

Amount

Debbie R. Knight

13A695403023768

\$2.12

Javan M Chatman, Jr.

13A156026379.02.1

\$46.64

12A156026379.02.1

\$44.96

11A156026379.02

\$43.83

	10A156026379.02	\$41.34
	09A156026379.02	\$41.08
	09A156026379.02.1	\$95.80
Edward J. Hopkins	13A5412.01	\$6.00
Edward C. Byers	13A57216.06.1	<u>\$9.89</u>
	Total Amount	\$331.66

Refunds more than \$100 – Real and Personal Property

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Refunds more than \$100 -- Real and Personal Property (December 2013) for the Board's review and consideration at the January 27th meeting:

Refunds more than \$100 - Real/Personal Property

	December 2013	
Name	Bill Number	Amount
James A. Garr	13VZYH1903	\$172.64
Overlap Billings		
Kristel H. Hurst	13VCAS8610	\$113.42
Vehicle sold		
David Lee Smith	9820877	\$103.07
Vehicle sold		
George G. Smith	9086409	\$119.05
Vehicle sold		
Robert Griffin, Jr.	12A694204645853	<u>\$116.33</u>
Vehicle sold		
	Total Amount	\$624.51

Chairman Booth opened the floor for discussion.

The BOCC had no issues with the Releases less than \$100 and Refunds more than \$100 for Real/Personal Property.

Tax Administrator Oakley requested to place the Refunds more than \$100 for Real/Personal Property on the January 27th Consent Agenda:

Personal Property Schedules of Values and Depreciation Schedules for 2014

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following information regarding the Personal

Property Schedule of Values and Depreciation Schedules for 2014 which were provided to the Board for review and approval at the January 27 meeting:

- The following must be approved by the Board of Commissioners:
 - 2014 Department of Revenue Cost Index and Depreciation Schedules for Business Personal Property (corrected information was provided by Administrator Oakley (index – page 4) that was received after the agenda package was provided to the Board)
 - 2014 Pricing Guidelines for Personal Property
 - 2014 Single Wide Mobile Home Pricing Guidelines (Schedules Developed from Marshall and Swift)
- Present to the Board of Commissioners these three items each year for approval
- These schedules are used in pricing personal and business/personal property
- These schedules, which are given to the County by the State of North Carolina, are the same schedules of depreciation

Chairman Booth opened the floor for discussion.

The Board had no issues with the proposed schedules.

It was the consensus of the Board to place the item on the January 27th Consent Agenda.

Appeal of 2% Interest Charge

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following appeal:

- Jeremy S. and Amy B. Parker are appealing the 2% interest charge that has accrued on Parcel #698404629750 (interest charges = \$30.48)
- Bill Number #13A698404629750
- Market Value = \$216,200
- Base Amount 2013 Tax Bill = \$1,524.21
- Current Amount owed on 2013 Tax Bill including interest = \$1,554.69
- The 2013 annual tax bill was not sent to Mr. & Mrs. Parker, as this information was requested by their escrow company, Wells Fargo
- Wells Fargo did not pay the bill in July 2013 because the Parkers refinanced their home with another loan company which does not process escrow accounts
- Most likely the escrow amount was paid back to the Parkers or applied to their existing loan
- The Parkers were unaware of the outstanding tax bill until it was past due and interest charges had already been accrued
- The Tax Administration is sympathetic to the Parker's dilemma, but to remain consistent and fair to all taxpayers, the Tax Administration recommends that the Board of Commissioners deny the Parker's request to remove the interest charges from the tax bill
- It is the taxpayer's responsibility to make sure their taxes are paid

- Tax Administrator Oakley requested to place the Appeal on the January 27th Consent Agenda

Chairman Booth opened the floor for discussion.

The Board had no issues with information provided by the Tax Administrator Oakley and placing the item on the January 27th Consent Agenda.

Chairman Booth, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the following items on the January 27th Consent Agenda:

- Real and Personal Refunds more than \$100.00
- Appeal of 2% Interest Charge
- Personal Property Schedule of Values and Depreciation Schedules for 2014

Social Services Monthly Report

County Manager Rick Morris (DSS Director Stacey Elmes in training at Chapel Hill) presented the following Monthly Report for the Board's review:

- Services Report
 - Social Work Services
 - Family Support Services
 - Administration
- NCFAST Update
 - Number of FFM Applications/Number of Applicants on FFM Applicants
 - Hard Launch (Go-Live) Schedule
- Medicaid
 - Frequently Asked Questions regarding the Medicaid Cards that were incorrectly Mailed to Receipts

Manager Morris noted the following regarding the Number of FFM Applications:

- FFM stands for Federal Facilitated Marketplace
- County has received 94 FFM applications which are a result of the Affordable Health Care Act (since October 2013)
- Lot of people are applying for Medicaid instead of the Marketplace
- These 94 applications must be processed to determine if eligible for Medicaid
- Additional workload for DSS Staff
- North Carolina has received 18,226 additional Medicaid applications
- NCFAST really has a lot of problems:
 - Screens don't respond fast enough
 - Can't get their work done due to software issues

- County is scheduled to implement Medicaid into the NCFast on February 1, 2014
- DSS workers now have to understand policy for both Medicaid and Food/Nutrition
- Article in Winston Salem Journal noted the Democrat Party is calling for the resignation of HHS Director over NCFast
- Everyone recognizes that NCFast is not getting the job done
- No application deadlines are being changed
- More work for county staff

Manager Morris noted the following regarding Incorrect Medicaid Cards:

- Large number of incorrect Medicaid cards were mailed to clients last week
- Stokes County had a very small number of clients receiving incorrect Medicaid cards

Chairman Booth opened the floor for discussion or comments.

Chairman Booth noted this sounds like another unfunded mandate passed down to the counties in order to get NCFast implemented.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Confirmed with Manager Morris that the additional 94 applications must be handled like any other application which ultimately increases the workload for staff
- Sad to see DSS taking so many hits
- NCFast started while I was serving on the DSS Board
- NCFast has never been a smooth process
- Would like to know how much longer will it take to fully implement NCFast
- NCFast is impacting budgets, services being delivered to our citizens in a timely manner, increased workloads for staff, along with additional stress for staff having to learn additional policies while learning NCFast
- Suggest checking with state representatives to see where the problems are and what can be done about NCFast
- Would like to get this fixed

Vice Chairman Jones commented:

- Was blown away to find out that this has been brewing since the nineties
- It has changed names, it has changed forms, yet it still doesn't function

Chairman Booth expressed appreciation to Manager Morris for the report and comments.

Social Services – Request for Temporary Positions – NCFast Implementation

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding the request from DSS Director Stacey Elmes for temporary positions and payment of compensatory time for NCFast implementation:

- Brief summary of NCFast:
 - NCFast went live in Stokes County for Food/Nutrition benefits in January of 2013
 - NCFast has been a huge change for workers as well as a new process for clients to adjust to
 - In July 2013, everything slowed down tremendously due to a program upgrade at the state
 - Working through that, employees have been trying to become universal in nature knowing that Medicaid was coming on board
 - Food/Nutrition workers have been trying to learn Medicaid policy and Medicaid workers have been trying to learn Food/Nutrition policy along with having to learn how to navigate the NCFast system that some days works well and others, not so well
 - This is far from over with workers having a long way to go learning additional policy and still learning NCFast
 - Workers are using work around and job aids to get things completed and benefits released, but this takes more than normal processing time
- Stokes County is expected to go live in February with the Medicaid program in NCFast
 - State has made it known that once this happens, the workload will double
 - State has also made it known that counties must continue to meet deadlines even though productivity is low
 - DSS will not be able to successfully implement this new facet of NCFast without additional staff and overtime from current staff
- DSS is still waiting on the State to send an “Over the Shoulder Support” person who will be here every day to assist workers with NCFast
 - This person will have received abbreviated NCFast training from the State and should be here through June
 - DSS has been told this person will be available mid January if all works out
 - The State will hire and pay this individual with “no cost to the county”
- DSS is requesting the following in order to ensure the next implementation phase of NCFast goes smoothly:
 - Hire six (6) temporary Income Maintenance Caseworker I contract employees at a Grade 61 -1A - \$11.19 per hour
 - Will work from February to June = 21 weeks
 - $21 \text{ weeks} \times 37.5 \text{ hours per week} = 787.5 \text{ hours} @ \$11.19/\text{hr} = \$8,812.13$
 - $\$8,812.13 \times 75\% \text{ (state share)} = \$6,609.90$
 - $\$8,812.13 \times 25\% \text{ (county share)} = \$2,203.03$
 - Pay current designated employees for overtime on specific days/times for specific tasks
 - DSS would pay overtime up to \$20,000 total for time worked
 - $\$20,000 \times 75\% \text{ (state share)} = \$15,000$
 - $\$20,000 \times 25\% \text{ (county share)} = \$5,000$
 - DSS lapsed salaries will cover the estimated county share of \$18,218.18 for both requests
 - State share will be \$54,654.54

- DSS respectfully requests that action be taken at the January 13th meeting as there is an urgent need to post positions, hire positions, get current workers the needed help, and provide the benefits to the citizens of Stokes County in a timely manner
- Has had one person retire due to NCFast

Chairman Booth opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Questioned if the County should contact a temporary agency for the positions?
- Questioned if individuals would receive any benefits?
- Questioned if there is room at DSS for this additional staff?

Manager Morris responded:

- Will be more costly with a temp agency, but might have to go that route if no applications are received
- Workers will be contract and receive no benefits
- Director Elmes is looking into placing an IT hub in the library that will allow several workers to work from the hub
- Workers will be doing administrative work

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Confirmed with Manager Morris that the “over the shoulder support” person will be a technical person who will assist employees with NCFast issues
- In my opinion, the unfortunate reality is that this is an unfunded mandate that the State is passing to the counties because of their ineptitude
- That department is a travesty
- Every time you ask in Raleigh, the answer is always “it is fine”
- This is an example of what is happening –passing the burden down to the counties
- Have to help fix this problem, have no choice
- People are depending on this system for food
- On board with the Director’s recommendation
- Need to be lobbying our legislators to get the “mess” fixed

Vice Chairman Jones commented:

- Agree with Commissioner Inman
- Makes me mad every time I think about it

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Confirmed with Manager Morris that he agrees with Director Elmes’ recommendation
- Believe Commissioner Inman and I are saying the same thing regarding contacting our state legislators to get this fix
- Think everyone on this Board has said this at one time or the other – “we try to do our jobs here in the county and do them right, have good dedicated staff doing their jobs, and don’t need mess-ups like this causing havoc for one of our departments”

- Bottom line – impacting a very vulnerable segment of the County’s population that just don’t need these kind of things to put up with – delays, confusion, frustration, etc.
- Something has really gotten off track with this NCFast Program and someone needs to be held accountable for it
- Needs to be fixed

County Manager commented:

- One thing to keep in mind –lapsed salaries can cover until the end of this fiscal year, but next year there might be additional funding needed – more county dollars
- Has to be fixed

Commissioner Walker requested updates be provided to the Board at each meeting from DSS Director regarding the NCFast Program.

Chairman Booth commented:

- Have been talking about NCFast over a year
- Encourage each commissioner to contact our state legislators regarding NCFast letting them know what this is costing Stokes County and the State just for the temporary positions
- What would it cost if the County had to continue this for the next budget year?
- Need to know what is happening in Raleigh with NCFast
- Been hearing the “over the shoulder person” was coming several months ago and there still is no one here

Vice Chairman Jones commented:

- Need to make sure legislators know how NCFast has impacted the employee morale
- Concerned beyond the temporary positions and overtime there still might be trained employees leaving for a job with less stress
- The question then becomes “What will we do then?”
- Agree someone does need to be held accountable – not the county
- Legislators need to know what could happen
- Small counties can’t compete with larger counties who pay more

Chairman Booth commended DSS Director Elmes for the recommendation.

Commissioner Walker confirmed with Manager Morris that with this recommendation, the Board of Commissioner is doing everything they can reasonably do to help alleviate some of the problems for the DSS staff.

Chairman Booth, with full consensus from the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on today’s Action Agenda.

Social Services – External Posting

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following regarding a request for External Posting from DSS Director Stacey Elmes:

- DSS Director Elmes originally requested to externally post one vacant Processing Assistant III position and one vacant Income Maintenance Caseworker II position
- DSS did receive a qualified applicant for the Income Maintenance Caseworker II position since the Agenda package was sent out
- The applicant for the Income Maintenance Caseworker II position will vacate a Processing Assistant III position
- This will leave two vacant Processing Assistant III positions
- With the struggles facing DSS with NCFast, the department needs to have as many people on board to answer phones, point citizens in the right direction, etc.
- Respectfully request to move this item to today's Action Agenda, so that it can be advertised with the temporary positions, if approved

Chairman Booth opened the floor for discussion.

The Board had no issues with the request.

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

Proposed Bids – Purchase of EMS Ambulance

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding the proposed bids for the purchase of an EMS Ambulance:

- Invitation for bids was advertised in the Stokes News and placed on the County's website
- RFPs were emailed to the following:
 - FESCO Emergency Sales - Manufacture Horton Emergency Vehicles
 - Excellance - Manufacture Excellance
 - Northwestern Emergency Vehicles - Manufacture AEV Emergency Vehicles
 - Southeastern Specialty Vehicles – Manufacture Braun
- Two (2) bids were received in response to the RFP
- These two (2) were publicly opened and read aloud at 2:00 pm on Monday, January 6, 2014 for the purchase of a Type III ambulance
- **FESCO Emergency Sales - Elk Ridge, MD**
 - \$161,897 Horton 553C modular body/2014 Chevrolet G4500 chassis
 - \$5,999.00 Optional Stryker Cot
 - Delivery Timeframe – 190-225 calendar days after contract awarded

- Warranties
 - Non-structural – 2 years/24,000 miles
 - Structural – 30 years
 - Electrical Systems (wiring) – 10 years
 - Intelliplex Electrical System – 7 years/100,000 miles
- **Southeastern Specialty Vehicles** – West Jefferson, NC
 - \$164,949 Braun Chief XL modular body/2014 Chevrolet G4500 chassis
 - \$4,978.82 Optional Stryker Cot
 - Delivery Timeframe – 180 calendar days after contract awarded
 - Warranties
 - Non-structural – 2 years/30,000 miles
 - Structural – Lifetime of unit
 - Electrical Systems (wiring) – 5 years/75,000 miles
 - MasterTech Electrical System – 7 years/84,000 miles
- EMS Director Greg Collins and Purchasing Agent Danny Stovall recommend moving forward with purchasing one (1) Horton 553C Ambulance at the cost of \$161,897 from the low bidder FESCO Emergency Sales
- Request the item be moved to today's Agenda if possible in order to get the ambulance on order

Chairman Booth opened the floor for discussion.

Vice Chairman Jones confirmed with Manager Morris that the additional timing to receive the ambulance from the low bidder will not be a problem.

Commissioner Walker confirmed with Manager Morris that this is the “big box” and that the County will only purchase those type boxes from here out.

Chairman Booth, with full consensus from the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the January 27th Consent Agenda.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – ACTION AGENDA

Seven Island Bridge – Discussion of Ownership

Chairman Booth entertained a motion regarding ownership of Seven Island Bridge which was presented at the December 23rd meeting.

Vice Chairman Jones moved to authorize the county manager to send a letter to the Town of Danbury informing them that Stokes County will not take ownership of the Seven Island Bridge.

Commissioner Inman seconded the motion.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- My position has been all along and still is that the County try to help the people
- After about a year, the County is closing the door on an opportunity
- Afraid by doing this, the County is sending a message to the folks supporting the bridge in the County, Mountain to Sea Trail and citizens in the county that we don't have enough vision or whatever it takes to be willing to incur a small risk to help some people
- My position is what it has been all along
- I think it is sad to spend all this time and find ourselves in the situation we are in now regarding what I see could have been an opportunity

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Certainly agree with Commissioner Walker that there is a potential opportunity, but in my opinion, the risks and liability exceed that opportunity right now
- If I remember correctly and would ask the Clerk to reflect in the record that this item was on our Agenda at least three times and maybe even four times
- Have had numerous discussions, hours of discussion on this particular issue
- Part of the bridge is not even attached to the main section of the bridge, it is supposed to be located at another location (Second Chance Ranch)
- Record reflects that the recommendation from the County's insurance carrier was that it was not a good risk for the County to take on
- Also received a finding from the County Attorney at that time that it was a liability
- See no reason to put the citizens of Stokes County at the risk of liability for potential lawsuits; the bridge also has lead based paint on it
- The cost to do this project would be phenomenal
- It is a great concept, but just don't see how it could be placed across the Dan River
- Talking about such an incredible large amount of money
- Record reflects that this Board instructed the County Manager to meet with staff from the Mountain to Sea Trail to see if there was any sort of plan in the making
- I have the upmost respect for the Mountain to Sea Trail, tremendous asset in Stokes County, but my understanding is that staff from the Mountain to Sea Trail have not contacted the manager after their meeting
- Confirmed with Manager Morris that he had not had any further contact with staff from the Mountain to Sea Trail after their initial meeting
- Unfortunately, a plan is just not there
- My understanding is that the bridge will stay in Stokes County; an entity will take the bridge, move the bridge, reconstruct the bridge and allow it to be enjoyed by people in the County
- The Board of Commissioners will not be liable nor will this Board put the citizens at risk for liability for this bridge

Commissioner Walker responded:

- Know Commissioner Inman is speaking from a very valid perspective
- Everything this County has or does has liability

- County has a \$40 million budget
- All these people were asking for is for the County to use some of our leverage, because the County is the only one in a position to do this and they felt that they could come to the County for help and expect to get some kind of help
- County has so much liability anyway, what is a little more?
- I am sorry, but the County has parks, all kinds of equipment, property, all kinds of attractive hazards, what is adding a little bit more?
- What would you expect your insurance company to say? They are not going to say “give us a little bit more liability”; they don’t operate that way
- As far as the entity that was interested, the last time I spoke with them, they had lost their interest and were not interested anymore
- This bridge could very well be headed to the scrap heap
- Commissioner Inman mentioned four meetings, my position has not changed one bit in any of the meetings

Commissioner Inman responded:

- Did not indicate your position had changed
- Nor has mine
- You are entitled to your position and respect that

Commissioner Walker continued:

- It was very solid in the beginning
- Don’t think that my position has ever altered at all

Commissioner Inman responded:

- When you talk about liability, there is a difference in having exposure, but you don’t deliberately put exposure out there if you know that you have exposure
- You are going to have liability, but you do your best to minimize your exposure in the insurance risks
- I am sure the insurance company would take the risk, they are just saying it is not a good risk; they will just raise your premiums
- So we want to raise our insurance premiums, let the citizens of Stokes County be responsible for that, put them at risk for what? Not me
- Last point, this County hires a County Attorney to advise, that is what they are paid for; so this Board is going to ignore the advice of the County Attorney?

Commissioner Walker responded:

- Feel this is very good discussion
- This is how I understand how the governmental process is supposed to work; it is open, it is transparent

Commissioner Inman responded:

- It is transparent and I want to keep it transparent; I am not hiding that risk from the citizens
- Would like the minutes to reflect that Commissioner Walker is ignoring the advice of the counsel

Commissioner Walker responded:

- Mr. Commissioner, please, what by any stretch of the imagination or whatever else gives you any indication that I am ignoring the advice of counsel?

Commissioner Inman responded:

- Because you said it

Commissioner Walker responded:

- You take the advice of the counsel and information from any other source
- If we are always going to take the advice of the counsel and not put our own thought or effort into it, just let the counsel come up here and make our decisions for us
- We take that input and use it along with citizen input, along with good common sense, good judgment, whatever else it takes in making a decision; we all try to make the best decision we can make with all the information we have at our access
- Counsel information is one component, one element of it
- You tend to put a high value on it, I put a value on it
- That is fine, that is why there are five of us on this Board

Chairman Booth called for the vote.

The motion carried (4-1) with Commissioner Walker voting against the motion.

Social Services – Request for Temporary Positions – NCFast Implementation

Chairman Booth entertained a motion regarding the DSS Request for Temporary Positions/Payment for Overtime for NCFast Implementation which was presented and discussed at today's meeting.

Commissioner Inman moved to approve the recommendation from DSS Director Stacey Elmes and County Manager Morris to hire six (6) temporary Income Maintenance Caseworker I positions at an hourly rate of \$11.19 and to pay for overtime for current workers for specific days/times for the NCFast Implementation.

Commissioner Lankford seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Social Services – External Posting

Chairman Booth entertained a motion regarding the external posting for two (2) Processing Assistant III positions which were presented and discussed at today's meeting.

Commissioner Lankford moved to post externally two (2) vacant DSS Processing Assistant III positions. Commissioner Inman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

Chairman Booth 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 prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to the law of this State or of the United States, or not considered a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1)
- To consider the initial employment or appointment of an individual to any office or position, other than a vacancy in the Board of County Commissioners or any other public body, or to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, and fitness of any public officer or employee, other than a member of the Board of Commissioners or of some other public body pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(6)

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 prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to the law of this State or of the United States, or not considered a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1)
- To consider the initial employment or appointment of an individual to any office or position, other than a vacancy in the Board of County Commissioners or any other public body, or to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, and fitness of any public officer or employee, other than a member of the Board of Commissioners or of some other public body pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(6)

Commissioner Lankford seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The Board returned to the regular session of the January 13th meeting.

E911 – Restructure for Supervisor Positions

Chairman Booth entertained a motion.

Commissioner Inman moved that the Board of Commissioners authorize the restructure of E911 Supervisor positions to be mirrored to the EMS Shift Supervisor positions to allow a 24/48 schedule.

Vice Chairman Jones seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

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

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

Darlene M. Bullins
Clerk to the Board

James D. Booth
Chairman