

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF STOKES)
)

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS
STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT
DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA
APRIL 14, 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, April 14, 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
DSS Director Stacey Elmes
Social Work Supervisor II Allison Pinnix
Child Support Supervisor I Lynn Whitaker
Attorney Nicholas Overby

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

Commissioner Walker 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 April 14, 2014 Agenda.

Commissioner Lankford moved to approve the April 14th Agenda as presented.

Vice Chairman Jones seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING

Community Development Block Grant – County’s Application to Apply for Water/Sewer Funding from NC Department of Environmental and Natural Resources

Chairman Booth called the Public Hearing for the Community Development Block Grant – County’s Application to Apply for Water/Sewer Funding from NC Department of Environmental and Natural Resources to order.

Chairman Booth stated that the County had received notification from the NC Department of Commerce that the County was not eligible for the CDBG Funding; therefore, no application would be submitted by the County.

There were no public comments.

Chairman Booth adjourned the Public Hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING

Community Development Block Grant – County’s Application to Apply for Water/Sewer Funding from NC Department of Environmental and Natural Resources to be Used for Construction of Water and/or Sewer Lines to Serve CDBG Eligible Areas.

Chairman Booth called the Public Hearing for the Community Development Block Grant – County’s Application to Apply for Water/Sewer Funding from NC Department of Environmental and Natural Resources to be Used for Construction of Water and/or Sewer Lines to Serve CDBG Eligible Areas to order.

Chairman Booth stated that the County had received notification from the NC Department of Commerce that the County was not eligible for the CDBG Funding; therefore, no application would be submitted by the County.

There were no public comments.

Chairman Booth adjourned the Public Hearing.

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:

- **Camp Sertoma/Moore Springs Properties**
 - Received a message from Chief Financial Officer Charles Leffler, NC State, concerning Camp Sertoma/Moore Springs Properties
 - CFO Leffler stated that NC State staff had met last week with officials from the Park System
 - Once the analysis is reviewed, NC State officials will schedule another meeting with the Park System to discuss the analysis
 - Once that meeting is held, all stakeholders will meet to discuss possible options
- **Operation Medicine Drop**
 - Three (3) events were held in March in Stokes County with the assistance of the Stokes County Sheriff's Department and the King Police Department
 - In less than 6 hours (for all three events), 29,456 doses of unused medication were collected
 - One prescription dated back to 1990
 - To date, 404,369 doses of unused medication have been collected since 2010
 - Would like to commend the work being done by this organization
 - EMS Training Officer Brian Booe aggressively works with this organization
- **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)**
 - County has recently been approved to reopen the CDBG Rehabilitation Grant to assist one of the property owners whose home was rehabilitated this past fall (will be using unexhausted funding from the grant)
 - The County learned, after the grant was closed by Benchmark in December, of water issues that had not been resolved at this particular home
 - County is mandated to provide the Board of Commissioners with a monthly report until the grant is closed once more
 - Manager Morris provided the Board with a copy of the required April 2014 Report
 - The County has been approved an extension to May 31, 2014 to expense the unused funding
- **Blood Drive**
 - County held a mobile blood drive last week and collected 30 productive units
- **Meeting- Secretary Sharon Decker- NC Department of Commerce**
 - Met with NC Department of Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker, along with Representative Bryan Holloway in Raleigh, to further discuss potential funding (application was originally submitted to the Rural Center) for the Water and Sewer Project

- Will discuss the meeting with Secretary Decker later in today's Discussion Agenda- GAP Letter
- Refinancing Obligation Refunding Bonds (Debt Service)
 - Working with Finance Director Julia Edwards regarding refinancing some General Obligation Bonds
 - Will save approximately \$200,000 in interest fees
 - Will be placing the information on the Board's April 28th Agenda with a request for approval at that meeting in order to meet the submission deadline to Local Government Commission (LGC) in June

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Very sad to have missed the recent Farmer Appreciation Event, already had a scheduled YVEDDI Meeting – enjoy attending that event every year

Vice Chairman Jones commented:

- Spent a wonderful day on the beautiful Dan River yesterday
- Very happy to see everyone here today
- Attended the Northern Food Pantry opening in Francisco – very proud moment
- Attended a PARTS Meeting and have a PARTS Financing Meeting tomorrow
- Attended the Farmer Appreciation Event, manned the Stokes Future Booth
- Farmers' Market will be opening in the middle of May at Pioneer Community Hospital of Stokes
 - Opening a little later this year due to the weather conditions have not allowed the farmers to get their crops in the ground
- Will be attending the Child Protection Team Meeting tomorrow
- Will be attending the League of Governments Meeting this Thursday sponsored by the Town of Danbury

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Like Vice Chairman Jones stated, it is always great to see a lot of people attending the Board meetings and being interested in what is going on in the County
- Attended the CenterPoint Human Services Meeting (Board of Directors) at "The Commons", an initiative for the homeless
- CenterPoint continues to move towards transitioning to consolidation with the Smokey Mountain Mental Health Region (MCO)
 - Waiting to see what happens once there are only four (4) MCOs in the State
- Glad to hear the County Manager's report regarding the progress with Camp Sertoma
 - Have talked to a lot of people who feel the very best end results would be placing Camp Sertoma/Moore Springs Properties as part of the State Park System, it will be a great fit under the Park System
 - Have found no one who was anything except excited about that possibility
 - Representative Bryan Holloway is doing what he can to make sure it becomes part of the State Park System

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Ethics for Life
 - “Encouraging a friend or a co-worker opens an opportunity to share God’s love”
 - Very important to remember that when traveling through life’s journey
- Attended the NCACC District Meeting in Rockingham County last week, provided the group Stokes County’s priority goals
- Attended the opening of the Northern Food Pantry last Tuesday in Francisco
 - The Pantry provided approximately 600 lbs. of food that day to those in need
 - Very worthwhile project that will be able to help those in need
- Attended the Farmer Appreciation Event which was a huge success

Chairman Booth commented:

- Helped host the 16th Annual Farmer Appreciation Event
 - Been involved through Soil and Water for the past 15 years
 - The County of Stokes, the Stokes Soil & Water Conservation District, the Cooperative Extension, Farm Service Agency, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the NC Forest Service host the event each year to recognize the contributions of our farmers to Stokes County
 - The event does not cost the taxpayers anything; it was sponsored by 44 businesses in Stokes County
 - Between 550 to 600 people attended this year’s event
 - Entertainment was provided by Rain Jacket (Arts Council Director Eddy McGee is a member of the band)
 - Very good event for Stokes County
- Attended the opening of the Northern Food Pantry
 - Anyone can donate food, but monetary donations can purchase food for only 19 cents a pound, much better value for the organization
- Attended the CenterPoint Quarterly Meeting this past Tuesday, very good meeting

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Booth opened the floor for Public Comments.

Chairman Booth reminded those in attendance that the Board does not reply to Public Comments.

Chairman Booth also reminded those speaking that there was a three (3) minute time limit.

The following spoke during public comments:

Mr. Buddy Timm
PO Box 573
Walnut Cove, NC 27052
Re: Amendment

Mr. Timm read the following:

“My concern is over what will happen to the families, schools, businesses, and government in our County when our Amendment One, that defines Traditional Marriage as between one Man one Woman is found unconstitutional by an unelected, politically appointed, Federal Judge.

It is lawless for a judge to create law; that being, alleging Homosexual Unions are marriage, when it has no authenticity, nor provenance. That which is not, cannot truthfully be. That which is not equal, cannot be constitutionally equal. Besides, to rule against the will of the people, and The Laws of Nature’s God is Un-American and antithetical to the freedom of “We the People” who created the Federal Government.

The Creator of Life, Authored the Definition of marriage as the union between one man and one woman.

I have submitted the marriage Petition and Declaration to Governor Pat McCrory and others in the General Assembly, and I am requesting you consider doing the same.

Monday the 7th, the News reported: If Virginia’s definition of Traditional Marriage is ruled unconstitutional, North Carolina’s Amendment One will fall as well.

Wednesday the 9th and Thursday the 10th, the News reported the ACLU is out to take down North Carolina’s Amendment One soon.

We are about to be denied to stand for the Laws of Nature’s God – those Holy Scriptures, that America’s Declaration of Independence, declared Supreme. And I for one am not about to relinquish that true Heritage of America’s greatness.

Therefore, to represent We the People of Stokes County, I request you approve: “The Stokes County Declaration on Marriage” for the Historical Record, and the Promulgation of Truth to our posterity.

We only pass this way but once, and may we live for Truth. For what else is there: Fraud, Fiction and Error?

Mr. Timm noted that Ramona Timm would read the Declaration.

Mr. Timm provided the Clerk a copy of his comments for the record.

Ms. Ramona Timm
PO Box 573
Walnut Cove, NC 27052
Re: The Stokes County Declaration on Marriage

Ms. Timm presented the following comments:

Ms. Timm requested the following be approved by the Board of Commissioners: (Ms. Timm read the following :)

The Stokes County Declaration on Marriage

“We hold these Truths to be self-evident that all behavior is not equal. That, we are endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable Natural Rights according the Laws of Nature and Nature’s God, which are defined in *Blackstone’s Commentaries* as the Natural Law and the Revealed Law from the *Bible’s Holy Scriptures*; which cause everything to work properly. There is no securer foundation for law than our Creator’s Laws, otherwise, we are left foundation-less to the chaos of arbitrary law.

There are many passions that effect behavior and they are not equal, nor should equality be the only standard for law, void of moral distinctions. If there are no moral absolutes, anything goes; there is no Right nor Wrong.

Our Creator created all and impressed governing laws upon that matter, from the universe to mankind’s conscience. His Natural Laws complement His designs.

Our Creator ‘s complementary purpose for marriage is procreation, with its availing joy of rearing one’s children; which is in the interest of Stokes County’s future, moral order, and wholesomeness.

Therefore, by Natural Law and Design, a man and a woman united by lawful authority, alone meets the Stokes County’s definition of marriage. It is an equal opportunity for all men and all women.

The only Truths we hold is Truth, that conforms to reality, is unchangeable, not created by feelings or culture, nor can it be contradictory, destroying itself, nor fraud. Just Courts of Law demand it; likeness, Law, and Stokes County.”

“Submitted for approval, the Fourteenth Day of April in the Year of our Lord Two Thousand and Fourteen, to the Stokes County Commissioners for the Historical Record and the Promulgation of Truth to our posterity.

Ms. Timm presented the Clerk with copies of the above information with 68 signatures gathered in only a few short days for the record.

Chairman Booth expressed the Board’s appreciation to those who spoke today during Public Comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Minutes

- Minutes of March 21, 2014 – Special Meeting – Legislative Delegation
- Minutes of March 24, 2014 – Regular Meeting

Special Appropriation and Social Services - Budget Amendment #67

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #67.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
	Special Appropriations			
100.4520.490	YVEDDI	\$166,236.00	\$18,729.00	\$184,965.00
	Social Services			
100.5310.316	NCDOT – Work First	<u>\$5,000.00</u>	<u>\$(5,000.00)</u>	<u>\$00.00</u>
	Total	\$171,236.00	\$13,729.00	\$184,965.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To appropriate and transfer RGP and NCDOT Transportation funding for Fiscal Year 2013-14.

This will result in a **net increase** of **\$13,729.00** 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
100.3301.263	RGP Funds	\$127,209.00	\$16,784.00	\$143,993.00
100.3301.367	NCDOT Funds	<u>\$16,307.00</u>	<u>\$(3,055.00)</u>	<u>\$13,252.00</u>
	Totals	\$143,516.00	\$13,729.00	\$157,245.00

Social Services - Budget Amendment #68

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #68.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
	Social Services			
100.5480.000	Crisis Intervention	<u>\$144,139.00</u>	<u>\$8,719.00</u>	<u>\$152,858.00</u>
	Totals	\$144,139.00	\$8,719.00	\$152,858.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To appropriate additional funding for Crisis Intervention. This is 100% Federal Funding.

This will result in a **net increase** of **\$8,719.00** 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
100.3301.202	Crisis Intervention	<u>\$2,050,829.00</u>	<u>\$8,719.00</u>	<u>\$2,059,548.00</u>
	Totals	\$2,050,829.00	\$8,719.00	\$2,059,548.00

Sheriff's Department - Budget Amendment #69

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #69.

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			
100.4310.311	Training	<u>\$6,601.00</u>	<u>\$1,688.00</u>	<u>\$8,289.00</u>
	Totals	\$6,601.00	\$1,688.00	\$8,289.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To appropriate funding for Narcotics Detectives to attend the NCNEOA Conference to obtain information and updates on illegal narcotics and dangerous drugs.

This will result in a **net increase** of **\$1,688.00** 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>\$4,805.00</u>	<u>\$1,688.00</u>	<u>\$6,493.00</u>
	Totals	\$4,805.00	\$1,688.00	\$6,493.00

Sheriff's Department and Fire Marshal - Budget Amendment #70

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #70.

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/Fire Marshal			
100.4310.020	SCSO Salaries & Wages-P/T	\$208,000.00	\$3,500.00	\$211,500.00
100.4340.000	Fire Marshal Salaries/Wages	<u>\$113,936.00</u>	<u>\$(3,500.00)</u>	<u>\$110,436.00</u>
	Totals	\$321,936.00	\$00.00	\$321,936.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To transfer funds from Fire Marshal's Salaries and Wages to the Sheriff's Office Part Time Salaries and Wages to cover the wages for a part time Assistant Fire Marshal.

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

Proposed Proclamation – Child Abuse Prevention Month

Clerk Darlene Bullins, on behalf of DSS Director Stacey Elmes, presented the following proposed Proclamation – Child Abuse Prevention Month for the Board's consideration and approval:

Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation

Whereas, children are vital to our state's future success, prosperity, and quality of life as well as being our most vulnerable assets;

Whereas, all children deserve to have safe, stable, nurturing, and healthy homes and communities that foster their well-being;

Whereas, child abuse and neglect is a public responsibility affecting both the current and future quality of life of a state;

Whereas, parents need support and resources to cope with stress and nurture their children to grow to their full potential;

Whereas, effective child abuse prevention strategies succeed because of partnerships created among citizens, human service agencies, schools, faith communities, health care providers, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community;

Therefore, we, the Commissioners of Stokes County do hereby proclaim April 2014 as **Child Abuse Prevention Month** and call upon all citizens, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities, elected leaders and businesses to increase their participation in our efforts to support families, thereby preventing child abuse and strengthening the communities in which we live.

Dated this 14th day of April, 2014

By the Stokes County Commissioners:

Chairman James D. Booth

Vice-Chairman Ronda Jones

Commissioner J. Leon Inman

Commissioner Jimmy Walker

Commissioner Ernest Lankford

Clerk to the Board Darlene M. Bullins

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

Commissioner Lankford seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – INFORMATION AGENDA

Chairman Booth noted there were no items on today's Information Agenda.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – DISCUSSION AGENDA

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) – Proposed Legislative Allocation Applications for Fiscal Year 2014-15:

County Manager Rick Morris noted that Chief Court Counselor Rusty Slate and JCPC Chairman Kim Palmer were present at today's meeting to present the JCPC's recommendation for Applications for State Allocation Funding for Fiscal Year 2014-15.

Chairman Booth, who serves as the JCPC commissioner appointee, noted the following:

- JCPC is receiving the same state allocation as last year
- The recommendation from the JCPC was unanimous

Chief Court Counselor Rusty Slate presented the following JCPC recommendation for Application for State Legislative Allocation for Fiscal Year 2014-15:

	JCPC Legislative Allocation for F/Y 13-14	County Match	JCPC Recommendation For F/Y 2014-15	County Match
Stokes Friends of Youth	\$77,615	\$23,285	\$77,526	\$23,258
Stokes SCAN	\$21,737	\$6,521	\$21,940	\$6,582
Children's Center	\$11,084	\$3,325	\$11,084	\$3,325
Insight	\$25,549	\$7,665	\$25,460	\$7,638

Chief Court Counselor Slate noted the following:

- Program Managers from each organization who have been recommended to receive JCPC funding this year are at today's meeting to answer any questions
- Fiscal Year 2014-15 JCPC's allocation for Stokes County will be \$136,010, same as last with a few minor dollar amounts changing between organizations
- Request for Proposals were advertised in January 2014
- Proposals were presented at the March 11, 2014 JCPC Meeting
- Stokes Friends of Youth provides counseling, community service and restitution programs
- Stokes Scan provides Parents and Teens Program
- Children's Center of Surry, Inc. provides respite care which is quite a cost savings when you look at \$244 to place a child in a detention center as opposed to \$110 a day when placed at the Children's Center
- Partnership for A Drug Free NC, Inc (Insight Human Services) provides prevention and treatment for substance abuse issues with our youth
- Respectfully submit the JCPC Recommendation which was approved unanimously by JCPC for consideration and approval by the Board of Commissioners

Chairman Booth opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Questioned Counselor Slate what triggers dollar shifts within the budgets?

Counselor Slate responded:

- Travel costs, equipment needs, staffing patterns, and fringe benefits can always change from year to year
- Program Managers could possibly provide a more specific answer

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Don't consider myself an expert on budgeting
- When I hear shifting of dollar amounts between organizations such as this, one thing that comes to mind, are the needs for the various agencies changing and are the needs being met?

Counselor Slate responded:

- Personally feel the needs across the board are changing
- Juvenile Crime across North Carolina is actually down
- Stokes County's numbers are a little down, but we are working with a different type of kid; therefore, these agencies are constantly having to change their programs to address these needs
- Could use three times the amount of funding that is provided by the State
- The shifting of the dollar amounts in this year's budget are not a reflection of the client changing, more administrative

SCAN Program Manager Tamara Veit commented:

- Dollars shifted in our budget are due to combining office space which resulted in a decrease, meanwhile transportation was being overspent in order to be able to assist clients across Stokes County

Commissioner Walker continued:

- Looking at the list offered, I see the services are very beneficial to Stokes County residents
- I can see that the money that is spent on these services can possibly produce a very good return being proactive instead of being reactive
- Very realistic recommendation

Counselor Slate responded:

- Our recidivism rate for our programs is approximately 20%
- Only two (2) out of ten (10) kids are coming back into the system
- Feel we are getting a very good return

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Feel there is a very good return on investment with the county match
- How does the recidivism rate compare with other counties?

Counselor Slate responded:

- The County's rate is much better
- Have looked at similar county sizes along with urban versus rural
- With the amount of dollars received in Stokes County, compared to some of these urban counties, recidivism rate is really good

Commissioner Inman continued:

- See some of those budgets across the state and compared to the amount being received, the organizations serving Stokes County do an exceptional job with the amount of funding that is actually received in Stokes County
- Appreciate the services being provided to our residents

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Would like to commend the group for the well prepared applications
- Very good information
- Appreciate the services being provided to our citizens

Chairman Booth commented:

- Appreciate the services being provided and the dedication from these organizations who continue to try to meet the daily needs for our youth

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Wondering about a previous statement by Counselor Slate that has some validity that there is a need for more funding than is received each year, yet your budget stays about the same each year?

- Would like to know what the direction of thinking is by keeping pretty much the same budget versus requesting more funding?

Counselor Slate responded:

- The only way the budget can change is if the county's population changes
- That percentage is decided by the Department based on the youth population from ten (10) to seventeen (17)
- Have requested the formula be revised since it is approximately fifteen (15) years old
- We are also very aggressive looking for other grant opportunities for funding sources such as the Governor's Crime Prevention
- Go after every available dollar there is

Chairman Booth, with full consensus from the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the April 28th Action Agenda.

Tax Administration Report – March 2014

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following informational data for the

March Report:

Fiscal Year 2013-14	Budget Amt	Collected Amt	Over Budget	Under Budget
County Regular & Motor Vehicles	\$20,480,675.00	\$19,485,179.34		\$995,495.66
New Schools F-Tech Fund (Includes Prior 98-2012 Taxes)	\$1,365,378.00	\$1,340,479.80		\$24,898.20
Prior Taxes 1998-2012 Tax Years County Regular & Motor Vehicles	\$750,000.00	\$611,020.56		\$138,979.44

Collection Percentage
As of March 30 2014
County Regular & Motor Vehicles = .9514%

New School F-Tech Fund
Fund = .9818%

Prior 1998-2012 Tax Years (Reg and MV) = .8147%

EMS Current Collections
Total Collected
(03-01-14/03-31-14)
\$181,621.87
Total Collected
(07-01-13/06-30-14)
\$1,160,881.55

Percentage of Collection =
.7739%
Balance to collect =\$339,118.45

**Delinquent EMS Collection
Report - Total Collected**
(03-01-14/03-31-14)
\$22,809.59
(07-01-13/06-30-14)
\$165,036.86

Percentage of Collection = 103.15%
Collected over budget =\$5,036.86

**Business and Personal Property Discovery
Report**

Audit Dates	Accts	Total Value	Taxes Due
(03-01-14/03-31-14)	12	\$199,329.00	\$2,005.28
(07-01-13/06-30-14)	1,329	\$8,891,859.00	\$74,445.88

Motor Vehicle Release Report Audit Dates	Accounts	Total Value
(03-01-14/03-31-14)	30	\$754.04

Motor Vehicle Refund Report Audit Dates	Accounts	Total Value
(03-01-14/03-31-14)	9	\$292.32

Garnishment Totals

Month	Total Accounts	Original Levy Amt	Collected Amt
(03-01-14/3-31-14)	205	\$37,740.68	\$28,874.78
F/Year 2013-14			
(07-1-13/6-30-14)	1374	\$426,393.45	\$2763,829.66

Monthly Delinquent Tax Collection Report

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Monthly Delinquent Tax Collection Report for March 2014:

<u>County</u> Year	<u>Real/Personal</u> Beginning Balance	<u>Property</u> Releases	<u>February</u> Refunds	<u>2014</u> Debits/ Credits	Writeoffs	Payments	Ending Balance
2012	\$ 333,583.11				\$(0.13)	\$(18,323.87)	\$ 315,259.11
2011	\$ 160,254.57				\$(0.58)	\$(5,567.29)	\$ 154,686.70
2010	\$ 90,162.90				\$(0.46)	\$(3,08.50)	\$ 87,080.94
2009	\$ 55,115.71					\$(1,780.10)	\$ 53,335.61

2008	\$	35,683.39				\$(320.35)	\$	35,363.04
2007	\$	23,530.86				\$(940.98)	\$	22,589.88
2006	\$	15,541.72				\$(2.61)	\$	15,539.11
2005	\$	11,511.12				\$(0.83)	\$	11,510.29
2004	\$	11,114.96				\$(3.73)	\$	11,111.23
2003	\$	9,080.94					\$	9,080.94
2002	\$	1,518.75					\$	1,518.75
2001	\$	102.54					\$	102.54
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>March</u>	<u>2014</u>				
Year	Beginning Balance	Releases	Refunds	Debits/ Credits	Writeoffs	Payments	Ending Balance	
2012	\$ 43,268.19	\$(85.28)	\$42.93		\$(1.49)	\$(15,287.81)	\$ 27,936.54	
2011	\$ 26,190.02				\$(0.48)	\$(1,396.66)	\$ 24,792.88	
2010	\$ 26,092.65				\$(1.66)	\$(836.82)	\$ 25,254.17	
2009	\$ 20,294.03				\$(0.64)	\$(353.06)	\$ 19,940.33	
2008	\$ 20,343.48				\$(0.29)	\$(405.25)	\$ 19,937.94	
2007	\$ 17,863.75		\$68.46	\$(68.46)		\$(342.37)	\$ 17,521.38	
2006	\$ 12,464.93					\$(130.98)	\$ 12,333.95	
2005	\$ 15,489.99					\$(53.41)	\$ 15,436.58	
2004	\$ 14,016.19					\$(32.98)	\$ 13,983.21	
2003	\$ 13,915.70					\$(279.39)	\$ 13,636.31	
2002								
2001								
2000								
1999								
1998								

<u>New</u>	<u>Schools</u>	<u>Forsyth</u>	<u>Tech</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>2014</u>		
Year	Beginning Balance	Releases	Refunds	Debits/ Credits	Writeoffs	Payments	Ending Balance	
2012	\$27,141.41	\$(5.69)	\$2.86		\$(0.12)	\$(2,215.07)	\$ 24,923.39	
2011	\$11362.60				\$(0.07)	\$(410.45)	\$ 10,952.08	

<u>Interstate Collection Report</u>	<u>Collection</u>	<u>Total Collected</u>
March 2014		
Cumulative Total Collected to Date	NC Debt Setoff	\$196,672.73
Cumulative Total Collected (to date)	Motor Vehicles	\$115,412.76
Cumulative Total Collected (to date)	Property Taxes	\$39,555.04
Cumulative Total Collected (to date)	EMS	<u>\$210,230.07</u>
Collected (to date)	All Categories	\$365,197.87

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:

February 2014 Old Tax System	February Renewals			
Tax Code	Levy	Interest	Cost	Net
Jurisdiction	Billed	Paid	Adjust.	Collected
City of King	\$ 12,991.00	\$ 131.00	\$383.00	\$112,739.00
King Car Fee	\$ 1,890.00	\$ 22.00		\$ 1,912.00
Walnut Cove Town	\$ 2,519.00	\$ 21.00	\$58.00	\$ 2,482.00
Danbury Town	\$ 2,492.00	\$ 19.00	\$58.00	\$ 2,453.00
School Tax	\$ 10,020.00	\$ 98.00	\$242.00	\$ 9,876.00
King Fire	\$ 2,514.00	\$ 29.00	\$61.00	\$ 2,482.00
Rural Hall Fire	\$ 475.00	\$ 2.00	\$11.00	\$ 466.00
Walnut Cove Fire	\$ 1,682.00	\$ 15.00	\$39.00	\$ 1,658.00
General County	\$150,300.00	\$1474.00	\$3,627.00	\$148,147.00
Service Fire	\$ 9,202.00	\$ 90.00	\$221.00	\$9,071.00
Total Collected	\$194,085.00	\$1,901.00	\$(4,700.00)	\$191,286.00

March 14 New VTS State	March Renewals			
Tax Code	Levy	Interest	Cost	Net
Jurisdiction	Billed	Paid	Adjust	Collected
City of King	\$ 16,824.00	\$ 136.00		\$ 16,960.00
King Car Fee	\$ 2,445.00	\$ 18.00		\$ 2,463.00
Walnut Cove Town	\$ 2,461.00	\$ 33.00		\$ 2,494.00
Danbury Town	\$ 685.00	\$ 11.00		\$ 696.00
School Tax	\$ 11,573.00	\$ 95.00		\$ 11,668.00
King Fire	\$ 3,243.00	\$ 21.00		\$ 3,264.00
Rural Hall Fire	\$ 585.00	\$ 4.00		\$ 589.00
Walnut Cove Fire	\$ 1,856.00	\$ 16.00		\$ 1,872.00
General County	\$173,580.00	\$ 1,428.00		\$ 175,008.00
Service Fire	\$ 10,130.00	\$ 87.00		\$ 10,217.00
Total Collected	\$223,382.00	\$1,849.00	\$0.000	\$225,231.00

- Cost in the New VTS System is calculated in all areas of billing (staffing, contracting, postage, DMV, software, etc.) by the NC Department of Revenue and prorated on each taxing district per bill
- Cost in car fees for the City of King is calculated in the Vehicle Tax bill for the City of King

City of King/Car fee

Total Cumulative Collected to date (NCVTS) system		\$81,733.00
Total Vehicles Billed Per Tax Code 2,215	Total Expenses	<u>\$(3,399.49)</u>
Average Cost per Bill = \$1.67	Total Net Collected	\$78,033.51
Total Cumulative Collected to date (NCVTS) system	Town of Walnut Cove	\$10,419.12
Total Vehicles Billed Per Tax Code 446	Total Expenses	<u>\$(444.87)</u>
Average Cost per Bill = \$1.00	Total Net Collected	\$9,974.25
Total Cumulative Collected to date (NCVTS) system	Town of Danbury	\$10,488.85
Total Vehicles Billed Per Tax Code 626	Total Expenses	<u>\$(657.68)</u>
Average Cost per Bill = \$1.10	Total Net Collected	\$9,831.17
Total Cumulative Collected to date (NCVTS) system	F Tech/School Fund	\$50,392.00
Total Vehicles Billed Per Tax Code 20,225	Total Expenses	<u>\$(2,217.72)</u>
Average Cost per Bill = \$0.11	Total Net Collected	\$48,174.28
Total Cumulative Collected to date (NCVTS) system	King Fire District	\$13,018.00
Total Vehicles Billed Per Tax Code 3,041	Total Expenses	<u>\$(562.86)</u>
Average Cost per Bill = \$0.19	Total Net Collected	\$12,455.14
Total Cumulative Collected to date (NCVTS) system	Rural Hall Fire District	\$2,378.00
Total Vehicles Billed Per Tax Code 579	Total Expenses	<u>\$(100.81)</u>
Average Cost per Bill = \$0.17	Total Net Collected	\$2,277.79
Total Cumulative Collected to date (NCVTS) system	Walnut Cove Fire Dist	\$8,082.12
Total Vehicles Billed Per Tax Code 2,200	Total Expenses	<u>\$(369.01)</u>
Average Cost per Bill = \$0.17	Total Net Collected	\$7,713.11
Total Cumulative Collected to date (NCVTS) system	General County	\$755,871.44
Total Vehicles Billed Per Tax Code 20,225	Total Expenses	<u>\$(33,269.12)</u>
Average Cost per Bill = \$1.65	Total Net Collected	\$722,602.32
Total Cumulative Collected to date (NCVTS) system	Service Fire District	\$45,293.16
Total Vehicles Billed Per Tax Code 11,744	Total Expenses	<u>\$(1,992.18)</u>
Average Cost per Bill = \$0.17	Total Net Collected	\$43,300.98
Total Cumulative Collected NCVTS through February (all tax districts)	\$	977,676.29
Total Expenses for NCVTS through February (all tax districts)	\$	(43,313.74)
Total net collected for NCVTS through February (all tax districts)	\$	934,362.55
Average cost per total billings through February		\$2.14 per bill

Lowest cost billed = \$1.93 (County, School Fund, Service Fire based on 20,225 cars)

Highest cost billed = \$3.43(County, School Fund, King City based on 2,215 cars)

Releases Less than \$100 – Real and Personal Property

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Releases less than \$100 –
Real and Personal Property (March 2014) for the Board's review:

**Releases less than
\$100 - Real/Personal**

Property Name	March 2014 Bill Number	Amount
David A Bragg	13A2734.07.1	\$1.94
Steven Dale Watts	13A155911492.01.1	\$13.32
Jerry Jenkins	13A155892070.09.1	\$23.27
Timothy & Gloria Goolsby	99A1999021667	\$38.19
	00A2000013185	\$40.19
	01A2001009396	\$59.93
	02A2002009834	\$55.93
	03A2003009829	\$87.93
	04A2004009878	\$56.93
	05A2005009906	\$76.93
	06A699305088022	\$76.93
	07A699305088022	\$77.99
	08A699305088022	\$70.49
County of Stokes	09A699305388022	\$76.65
	10A699305088022	\$73.15
	11A699305088022	\$81.05
	12A699305088022	\$77.55
	13A699305088022	\$77.55
Carlos Reynolds	96A1996000312	\$16.82
	97A1997000066	\$36.58
	98A1998020993	\$39.08
	99A1999015901	\$41.53
	00A2000023804	\$41.53
	01A2001021486	\$46.53
	02A2002022492	\$42.53
	03A2003022476	\$39.53

	04A2004022548	\$43.53
	05A2005022613	\$53.35
	06A699305089642	\$53.35
	07A699305089642	\$46.55
County of Stokes	08A699305089642	\$46.55
	09A699305089642	\$50.05
	10A699305989642	\$46.55
	11A699305089642	\$52.85
	12A699305089642	\$49.35
	13A699305089642	<u>\$49.35</u>
	Total Amount	\$1,861.53

Chairman Booth opened the floor for discussion.

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

Present Use Value Late Applications

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following information regarding the Present-Use Value Late Applications (March 2014) for the Board's review and consideration at the April 28th meeting:

- **Taxpayers: Barney Joyce, Dane Joyce, and Tony Joyce**
- Address: 6167 NC 704 HWY E, Sandy Ridge, NC 27046
- Parcel: 697904820779
- Acreage: 35
- Reason: Has been in the family for many years; tract is covered by a Forestry Management Plan
- Tax Office is recommending approval

- **Taxpayers: Joseph Ayers Jr. and Kathy Ayers**
- Address: 1667 Flat Rock Road, Pinnacle, NC 27043
- Parcel: 599600555272
- Acreage: 21
- Reason: This parcel has been owned by the current owners since 1990
- Tax Office is recommending approval

- **Taxpayer: Iva Bowman**
- Address: 3008 Flat Shoals Road, Germanton, NC 27019
- Parcel: 692500723890
- Acreage: 50.65
- Reason: This parcel has been in the family for many years as a farm

- Tax Office is recommending approval

Chairman Booth opened the floor for discussion.

The BOCC had no issues with the Present-Use Value Late Applications.

Tax Administrator Oakley requested to place the Present-Use Value Late Applications on the April 28th Consent Agenda.

Tax Foreclosures

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following information regarding the use of Meadows and Aderhold Attorneys:

- Recently, the County approved County Attorney Tyrone Browder to handle tax foreclosures proceedings (based upon non payments of Real Property Taxes)
- In the event that during the handling of our tax foreclosure proceedings, Attorney Browder is faced with a “client conflict of interest”, the Tax Administration is requesting approval to use Meadows and Aderhold (previous foreclosure law firm) to conduct those particular proceedings
- Do not see any issues with this request from County Attorney Browder

Chairman Booth opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Questioned Administrator Oakley if he had received any complaints regarding the long lines when obtaining license tags?
- Questioned Administrator Oakley regarding the current status of collection rates?

Tax Administrator Oakley responded:

- Have not heard any other complaints regarding long lines
- Could be the collection of taxes is slowing up the lines
- On schedule and maybe a little ahead as far as collections
- Motor vehicles are not included in the percentage rate provided to the Board, if they were included, would probably be 100% collected of the budgeted 96%

Chairman Booth, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the following items on the April 28th Consent Agenda:

- Present-Use Value Late Application
- Tax Foreclosures – Meadows and Aderhold Law Firm

Social Services Monthly Report

DSS Director Stacey Elmes presented the following Monthly Report for the Board's review:

- Services Report
 - Social Work Services
 - Family Support Services
 - Administration
- Miscellaneous Information
 - Food & Nutrition Services Quality Control Case Reports
 - Child Support Program Representative Visit Letter

DSS Director Elmes presented a short video regarding child abuse and foster care with this being Child Prevention Month which is very fitting for this month.

Chairman Booth expressed appreciation to Director Elmes for her report.

Social Services – Proposed New Program Integrity Policy

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following comments:

- The video certainly reinforces the importance of the services being provided by the Department of Social Services
- When there are substantive policy changes or new policies that need to be approved by the Board, those will not be included in the monthly Social Services Report
- They will be separate items on the Agenda, with two being on today's Discussion Agenda
- These policies are very important as they impact the lives of others
- Would note the Revised Adoption Policy has some fee increases proposed
- Director Elmes will be bringing other policies as needed

DSS Director Stacey Elmes presented the following proposed New Program Integrity Policy for the Board review and consideration for approval at the April 28th meeting:

Stokes County Department of Social Services Program Integrity Policy Standards for Prosecution Selection – Public Assistance Fraud

In Stokes County, two methods of handling suspected intentional program violations are utilized:

1. Administrative disqualification hearings held within the agency and;
2. Court prosecutions through District or Criminal Court.

For either method, the necessity for reviewing the case is based on:

1. Evidence of an offense,
2. Investigative findings, and
3. Compliance with State and Federal regulations.

A case is never chosen for these proceedings based on sex, creed, or national origin; nor is the case selected based on the defendant's ability or inability to make restitution.

In order for a case to be referred for prosecution for Public Assistance Fraud, the Stokes County Department of Social Services Director has determined that there is evidence of willful intent to commit fraud; over-issuance of benefits or services exceeds \$400 or one of the following conditions must be met:

1. The client had at least two contacts with the appropriate agency unit during the over-issuance timeframe; or
2. The client failed to respond to at least two notifications for an appointment with the Income Maintenance Investigator, one of which was by registered mail; or
3. The client is found to have committed fraud, either through court action or through an Administrative Disqualification Hearing, any subsequent instances of alleged fraud will be referred for court action automatically, regardless of whether or not the above criteria is met, unless the case had unusual mitigating circumstances which cause the agency to determine that prosecution is not in the best interest of the department or the client.

If a case meets the criteria, DSS then considers if:

1. All program regulations were implemented properly by the Agency.
2. All verifications were inconclusive.
3. There were prior offenses or over-issuances for the same reason.
4. There was a lengthy over-issuance period before detection.

The County also considers an important part of our investigation to be the examination of the personal circumstances of the client and/or household to determine:

1. Client competency and the ability to understand rights and responsibilities.
2. Whether the household had an opportunity to clarify information or report changes during the over-issuance period.
3. Whether there were multiple applicants within a single household providing information.
4. The age and physical/mental condition of the client.

The Income Maintenance Investigator carries the responsibility of screening the cases and making a recommendation for possible prosecution. If the Investigator recommends an Administrative Disqualification Hearing instead of a Court proceeding, he/she shares reasons with the Supervisor. If the Supervisor agrees with the Investigator, a date will be set for the Administrative Disqualification Hearing. The Administrative Disqualification Hearing is conducted by the Hearing Officer within the agency.

If Court action seems warranted through clear and convincing evidence to both the Income Maintenance Investigator and the Supervisor, the case is referred for prosecution. If there is any question about the case, the final decision to take Court action is reviewed with the County Attorney and/or the District Attorney to evaluate for prosecution.

The Director of the Department will make the County Manager aware of any case that could lead to court action.

Program Integrity Policy was adopted by the Stokes County Board of Commissioners on the 28th day of April, 2014.

James D. Booth, Chairman
Stokes County Board of Commissioners

DSS Director Elmes noted the following:

- This is a new policy (Program Integrity Policy) which mirrors the current work provided by Social Services
- Recommendation was made by our Program Representative, Division of Social Services to have a written policy in place
- The proposed policy has been forwarded to the County Attorney for legal review

Chairman Booth opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Serving on the DSS Board, know that there are ongoing situations and challenges as presented in the video
- To me, for us as a County to not do what is adequate and appropriate to the best of our means to prevent these situations, if we are not doing what we can, we are just enabling, just allowing it to happen because we did not do enough
- Very fortunate to have you and other DSS employees who take their jobs very seriously and care about our citizens
- Feel workers go far above and beyond to try to do the best they can to prevent situations as featured in the video
- Confirmed with DSS Director Elmes that the new Program Integrity Policy was recommended by the State Consultant
- Interested in how this new policy will improve things by having this policy in place?

DSS Director Elmes responded:

- Don't know how it will improve things because this is basically what is being followed by the DSS workers anyway; it just simply puts everything in writing

Commissioner Walker confirmed with DSS Director Elmes that there was no downside to implementing this new policy.

Vice Chairman Jones commented:

- These situations are in my heart, anything we can do to assist you in making these policies have some "teeth", I am all for it
- Can relate to some of those things in the video, did not have some of these policies when I was young and very happy to see these things are now in place
- You have my support, very happy to do anything I can do to help children

Commissioner Inman commented:

- As mentioned by DSS Director Elmes, DSS is not just starting Program Integrity, it is just establishing a written policy
- Very important to note that DSS has one full time Program Integrity staff person
- Great idea to have a written policy in place for proceedings in a court of law for someone who willfully commits Public Assistance Fraud

DSS Director Elmes responded:

- Would like to note how beneficial it is for DSS to have Detective Kelly Craine, Sheriff's Department, located in the DSS Building, very quick access

Commissioner Inman continued:

- Very important to make sure that tax dollars get to those who are in need and not to someone who is "playing" the system
- Appreciate this being brought to the BOCC

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Appears the policy is an outline to what is and will be performed by DSS staff and gives the County a roadmap that details what must be done to be in compliance with State and Federal regulations
- Very good policy

Chairman Booth commented:

- Always good to have policies in writing with detailed procedures
- Confirmed with Manager Morris that this policy and the revised Adoption Policy have been forwarded to the County Attorney for legal review

Chairman Booth, with full consensus from the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the April 28th Action Agenda.

Social Services – Proposed Revised Adoption Policy

DSS Director Stacey Elmes presented the following proposed Revised Adoption Policy for the Board review and consideration for approval at the April 28th meeting:

Stokes County Department of Social Services Adoption Policy

Philosophy and Purpose

The Stokes County Department of Social Services operates as a licensed adoption agency according to guidelines established by North Carolina General Statutes and the Social Services Division of the North Carolina Department of Human Resources. Local policies set forth by the agency are intended as a guide for establishment of uniform practices in regard to the provision of adoption services to adoptive applicants. The agency's adoption program is geared to the needs of children in its care. The Stokes County Department of Social Services strives to deliver, in partnership with our community, adoption services which are culturally competent, child centered and family focused.

The primary purpose of adoption is to help a child, whose birth parents are incapable of assuming or continuing parental responsibilities, to become part of a new family. It is the goal of the Stokes

County Department of Social Services to identify those children in need of adoption services and to meet their needs through adoptive placement.

Another purpose is to provide services to individuals who desire to parent a child or children who may be unable to become biological parents or wish to increase their family through adoption. The adoption process also includes the protection of natural parents to prevent the release of their child through hasty decisions made under stress and anxiety.

The majority of the children in North Carolina who are freed for adoption are considered special needs children. Special needs is defined as children who are physically, mentally or emotionally handicapped; victims of early childhood maltreatment; a member of a sibling group; a child over the age of 6; or a child from a minority group. Priority will be given to those applicants who believe they can accept and meet the needs of these children. The emphasis of the adoption worker's efforts will be the recruitment and study of homes for the placement of these children up to age 18.

The rights of individuals to apply for adoption services through the Stokes County Department of Social Services are recognized by this agency. To ensure a clear understanding of the agency's responsibility in providing services to adoptive applicants and children in need of this service, the following guidelines have been adopted as county policy by the Stokes County Board of Commissioners.

Intake

Potential adoptive applicants will be given information about the types of children for whom the agency is currently seeking adoptive parents. The availability of Adoption Assistance for children in the custody of a Department of Social Services will also be explained.

Potential adoptive applicants who are not interested in licensing as foster parents will also be given a list of child placing agencies that could serve as a resource for an applicant. Applicants not interested in licensing as foster parents will have the option of requesting the agency to complete a Pre-placement Assessment. The Assessment, if approved, will be shared with only those counties who have children identified as available for adoption.

All applicants will be asked to complete personal information forms. Once this information is received applicants will be placed on a waiting list, if one exists at the time of application. The waiting list will be prioritized based on the needs of available children. Applicants seeking to adopt special needs children or any child in the custody of a Department of Social Services will have their assessment completed first. Other applicants will be moved to the assessment phase as the following guidelines are met and staff is available to provide the service.

Guidelines

1. The applicant(s) must be residents of Stokes County, or within a 30 mile radius.
2. Age: North Carolina law specifies that a petitioner for adoption must be at least eighteen (18) years of age. All applicants; however, will be considered on an individual basis to determine if their age is appropriate for the age of the child.
3. Marital Status: If an applicant is married, the spouse must join in the application and the couple must have been married for at least two years prior to an application for adoption and must demonstrate a secure and responsible living environment. Single individuals may

- apply for adoption and must demonstrate a stable living environment for a minimum of two years. Exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
4. Marital Status: Adoptive applicants must have a current physical examination. Each applicant must be able to demonstrate they are physically and mentally able to parent a child.
 5. Income: Adoptive applicants must have sufficient income to maintain an adequate standard of living. They must demonstrate the ability to manage their finances so as to provide reasonable economic security in the home for a child or children. It is expected that at the time of placement one of the adoptive parents will take a leave from employment to ease the child's placement to the new home environment. The age and needs of the child and the employment of the adoptive couple will be taken into consideration when establishing the amount of leave time required. It is the agency's responsibility to explore fully during the home study all factors concerning an adoptive applicant's feelings and plans about a leave from employment during the initial adjustment period. In situations where both parents are employed there must be an understanding that the decision as to when employment will resume will be a joint determination between the adoptive applicant and the agency. Factors to be considered are the progress of the child's adjustment and integration into the family and the adequacy and appropriateness of the child care plan. The emphasis throughout should be on a cooperative approach and joint decisions as to what constitutes the best interest of the child.
 6. If marital or psychological problems are indicated, the agency may request an evaluation by a psychologist, psychiatrist or mental health professional at the cost of the applicant. The home evaluation will not be completed until said evaluation is completed and the recommendations shared with the agency.
 7. Fingerprinting will be done and criminal records will be checked on each applicant as mandated by the Adoption and Safe Families Act.
 8. Applicants will be accepted without regard to race, creed, national origin or religious affiliation.
 9. "In county" placements of children into adoptive homes will be made after careful deliberation and study of all factors. The decision will be made only on the basis of the best interest of a child.
 10. The agency has the authority, until the Decree of Adoption is issued, to recommend that the adoption be dismissed and the child removed from the home.
 11. The agency fully understands the requirements of the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act and will fully comply with its mandates.
 12. Time Limits: If an applicant(s) is approved by the Adoption Committee, the agency will conduct a search for an appropriate child both locally and by circulating the assessment with other agencies in North Carolina who may have children available for adoption. The assessment will be circulated for up to eighteen months and if the family has not been selected for the placement of a child, the family can ask that the summary be updated. If an update is completed the assessment will be circulated for up to eighteen additional months. At the end of this time, if the family has not been selected, the case will be closed.
 13. Training Requirements: All adoptive applicants who are seeking to adopt a special needs child or a child in the custody of a Department of Social Services will be required to complete MAPP/GPS (Model Approach for Partnership in Parenting/Group Preparation and Selection), or other such training as approved by the North Carolina Division of Social

- Services. Completion of at least half the classes is required before the adoptive assessment will be started and is also dependent on staff availability.
14. Before initiation of an assessment can begin the applicant(s) will read and agree to the Stokes County Fee Policies and Schedules for Adoptive Services. The Adoption Fee Agreement must be signed prior to the start of an assessment.
 15. Adoptive applicants moving into the county whose status is that of a currently approved adoptive home in their previous county and who have already completed MAPP classes may be accepted as an approved home in this county, provided requirements of the prior county are comparable to those of this agency. For these families an updated pre-placement assessment will be completed.
 16. A family or individual who has previously adopted a child will be required to wait a minimum of one year after the granting of the Decree of Adoption before they can again be considered as adoptive applicants. Exceptions to this will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
 17. Approval or Denial: All assessments will be presented to the Adoption Committee for approval or denial. Copies of the pre-placement assessment will be provided to families or individuals who are the subject of the assessment and notice will be provided in writing to applicants as to approval or denial of their application within 30 days of the completion of the assessment.
 18. Adoption Assistance is available to help children who might otherwise not be able to be placed in an adoptive home by removing a financial barrier. Eligibility for adoption assistance will be determined related to criteria relating to the child's circumstance and not those of the potential adoptive parents. Information regarding a child's eligibility for adoption assistance will be shared with prospective adoptive parents prior to the child's adoptive placement.
 19. As provided for in G.S.48-3-304(a) and G.S.48-2-504(a), the Stokes County Department of Social Services has set fees for the preparation of the Pre-Placement Assessments and Reports to the Court for adoption services. Fees as charged are detailed on the attached fee schedule. However, no fee shall be charged when the head of household for the prospective adoptive family is a Work First or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipient, the family unit's income is below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level or when the prospective adoptive family or individual plans to adopt a child who is in the custody and placement of the Department of Social Services.
 20. The Adoption Committee may recommend an exception to guidelines found within this policy. All exceptions must be approved by the Director.

Children

Children cleared for adoption, either through termination of parental rights, release by the parent(s) or by other court action, will have their special needs assessed in order to secure an appropriate match with an adoptive family. In situations where the agency does not have approved adoptive applicants available for a particular child, the agency will prepare an adoptive profile for the child, which will be circulated as appropriate to seek the most appropriate family. Other means of securing a home for these children may be employed, such as listing the child with NC Kids or any other available means.

Children in the custody of the Department of Social Services may be placed outside the county in an adoptive home. Family relationships and family ties that would be disruptive to a placement would be a major factor in considering the location of the best placement.

Foster Parents

If a foster child becomes available for adoptive placement, the foster parents with whom the child has resided for at least six months and with whom bonding has occurred will have first opportunity to apply to adopt that child along with any other applicants.

The agency will inform the foster parents that a child may be available for adoption when adoption is sanctioned by the court as the permanent plan for a child in agency custody. If the foster parents are interested in adoption of the child, an adoptive assessment will be completed by the agency. The agency's Adoption Committee will make the decision regarding whether other adoptive applicants will be considered.

Foster parents will not be placed on a waiting list in order to have their assessments completed.

Foster parents wishing to adopt will be considered along the same established adoption guidelines as all other applicants. The agency will have the sole authority to place the child with the adoptive parents that the agency deems most appropriate.

Service to Agency Employees, Board Members, Others

If an employee of the Stokes County Department of Social Services, a member of the Agency Board or any other individual(s) with whom there may be a conflict of interest (as determined by the Director) wishes to apply for the adoption of a child, the agency shall abide by the following policy:

The Stokes County Department of Social Services will request another county Department of Social Services to provide the adoption service. The pre-placement assessment, approval or denial of the applicant(s) for adoption and the follow-up services needed will be the responsibility of the other agency.

Legal Risk Placements

The goal of the Stokes County Department of Social Services is for every child to have a permanent family as soon as possible. In some situations it is possible to place a child in what is termed by the Agency as a "legal risk placement." A legal risk placement is the placement of a child who is not legally cleared for adoption at the time placement occurs. The family selected for the placement of a child in legal risk placements should have completed the adoptive home study process and be found suitable to meet the child's needs.

Before placement, the family will be fully informed of the child's legal status and of the potential for removal of the child from their home should legal clearance not be accomplished for some reason. The family shall be given adequate time and encouragement to carefully consider all aspects of a legal risk placement. The purpose of a legal risk placement is to move a child into a permanent home as soon as possible without jeopardizing the legal or social well-being of the child.

In a legal risk placement, the agency does not yet have the legal authority to make an adoptive placement or to consent to the adoption. The home in which the child is to be placed must be licensed as a foster home.

Legal risk placements may be considered for a child in any one of the following circumstances:

1. Termination of parental rights has been granted and is under appeal.
2. Termination of parental rights has been established for one parent and termination for the other parent awaits only publication to notify the absent parent of the termination proceedings, and subsequent termination adjudication. Documentation of attempts to locate the absent parent must be available.
3. A petition for involuntary termination of parental rights has been filed but the Court has not yet entered its order, the Attorney General or the Agency's attorney has been consulted and stated that termination is likely and that the legal risk placement would not jeopardize the outcome of the termination hearing.

Adoption Committee

The Adoption Committee of the Stokes County Department of Social Services shall consist of the following individuals:

- Social Work Supervisor III – Child Welfare, Chairperson
- Agency Director, Vice-Chairperson
- Social Work Supervisor II – Foster Care
- Foster Care Licensing Social Worker
- Child's Foster Care Social Worker
- Guardian Ad Litem (to be determined on a case-by-case basis)
- Any other individual deemed appropriate by the Chairperson/Vice-Chairperson

Duties of the committee are as follows:

- Determine which Adoption Assistance Benefits a child is eligible to receive
- Approve/Disapprove a Pre-Placement Assessment
- Selection of an adoptive home for an available child

Duties of the Chairperson:

- Call meetings as needed
- Ensure minutes are maintained of all meetings
- Ensure committee members are provided materials a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting to allow adequate time for review
- Notify the Director of all meetings and the purpose of the meetings to determine if Director's attendance is needed

Disruptions

Adoption disruption is a term used to describe the interruption of an adoptive placement after the actual placement with an adoptive family but before the completion of the legal adoption process. This is a painful experience for all involved and the decision to stop the adoption process should be mutually arrived at between the parents and the social worker and the child (if appropriate). The

decision should be made slowly and carefully and only after all alternatives and resources have been exhausted.

To minimize the possibility of disruptions or to minimize the painful effects of a disruption, the department may take the following steps to assist a family and child:

- Respond to a family's request for assistance
- Maintain open communication with the family, discussing the situation in words a child can understand
- Assist the parent in discussing disruption issues openly with the child
- Negotiate a plan of action with the family and the child
- Discourage the family from blaming anyone
- Review with the family the progress the child has made since placement
- Recognize the family's efforts, concern and love for the child
- Help the family with their grief at the loss of their adoptive child and the child with the loss of a family
- Help the child recognize and cope with feelings and express them appropriately
- Educate families to the importance of their attitudes toward a child during this time
- Help the family understand the importance of their support and preparation of the child as the child moves to another family
- Assure the child of continued adult interest and caring
- Refer family and/or child to services as needed, including agencies that specialize in disruptions

The agency will strive to identify and select a new family for the child as soon as the child is determined ready for a new placement. The new family will receive information about the disruption.

Post Adoption Services

An agency social worker will supervise the placement of a child until the Decree of Adoption is entered. Post Adoption Services (after the Decree of Adoption) will be offered as an agency service to be provided as needed and may be requested by any of the parties involved in an adoption. Post adoption services may involve interviewing, counseling, consultation or referral to clinical services for the purpose of ensuring the permanence of the placement.

Adoptive families will also be notified of the availability of post adoptive services provided by outside agencies.

Termination of Services

Adoption Services will terminate upon:

- Legal completion of the adoption of children placed by the agency or for children for whom the agency is under court order to investigate the placements and report to the court
- A referral of families to community resources for post-adoption services
- Withdrawal of the applicant(s)' formal application to adopt

Adoption Policy

This policy was approved and adopted by the Stokes County Board of Commissioners on the _____ Day of _____.

Chairperson
Stokes County Board of Commissioners

Stokes County Department of Social Services Adoption Fee Policy

North Carolina General Statute 108-A authorizes local boards of social services to establish fee policies for some services rendered by a county Department of Social Services. In addition, N.C.G.S. 48-3-304(a) and N.C.G.S. 48-2-504(a) permit charges for the preparation of Pre-placement Assessments and Reports to the Court.

1. Any party requesting adoption services must sign a Stokes County Adoption Fee Agreement prior to the initiation of services. The fee for the service shall not be based on the outcome, either favorable or unfavorable, of the Assessment or the Report to the Court.
2. No fee shall be charged when one or more of the following circumstances exist:
 - The head of the household for the prospective adoptive family is a TANF or SSI recipient;
 - The family unit's income is below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level;
 - The family unit has identified an adoptee(s) that is in the custody and placement responsibility of a county Department of Social Services and provided that family continues to pursue the adoption of the identified child.
3. Adoption fees will be assessed for the following:
 - The adoptive applicants have identified an adoptee(s) that is not in the custody of a county Department of Social Services
 - The adoptive applicants do not desire to license as foster parents, and the agency is not aware of any children legally free for adoption at the time of the applicants request for services
 - To all other families requesting adoption services except as listed in item two (2) above
4. Required fees may be reduced or waived if it can be documented in the case record that the prospective adoptive family cannot pay the required fee, or if other reasons exist that would result in the fee becoming a barrier to the adoption. Unless reduced or waived, the entire fee shall be paid prior to the release of any assessments or reports. Only the Director of the Department of Social Services may reduce or waive the fee.

Fee Schedule for Adoption Services

Fees for the provision of services shall be as follows:

Pre-placement Assessment (This fee consists of an Assessment of the family's current functioning, gathering and assimilating a social history of the family, contacting references, a financial record check, court records check, consultation, counseling, supervision and support services following placement.)	\$1,000.00
Pre-placement Assessment Update	<u>\$350.00 (was \$200)</u>
Report to the Court (for children not in DSS custody) (step-parent, close relative adoptions, court ordered)	<u>\$200.00 (was \$150)</u>
Report to Court (for each additional child)	<u>\$50.00 (new fee)</u>
Services to Adult Adoptees – up to one hour	no charge
Services to Adult Adoptees – beyond one hour	<u>\$25.00 per hour (new fee)</u>
Post Adoption Services (for family and/or child)	<u>\$25.00 per hour (new fee)</u>

DSS Director Elmes noted the following:

- The original Adoption Policy was last amended in 2008, revisions are highlighted/underlined
- Revisions to the policy were made to bring our policy in line with statutory requirements, Adoption Assistance Guidelines and the MEPA (Multi-Ethnic Placement ACT) Guidelines
- Some fees have been increased to attempt to cover the amount of time that it takes to perform duties related to completing adoption casework (massive amount of paperwork that has to be completed by the Social Worker)
- The proposed policy has been forwarded to the County Attorney for legal review

Chairman Booth opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- One thing that really caught my eye with the policy, as well as the video shown today, the children in North Carolina are freed for adoption are considered special needs children

Social Work Supervisor Allison Pinnix responded:

- The term special needs children, as defined by the NC Legislature, has specific criteria
- It is not so much special needs as most people think of special needs
- There is certain eligibilities for children who have been abused or neglected and may have a lasting medical condition

- There is a State form that helps determine eligibility of special needs children

Commissioner Lankford continued:

- Confirmed with Supervisor Pinnix there was an increase in the number of children eligible for adoption in 2011, since that time, there has been a slight decline
 - Some of the laws have changed involving care plans for the foster children which impact the adoption process
- Personally don't see any issues with the proposed policies and the proposed fees, which are very minimal
- Can say that with due respect, as I am a proud grandparent of three adoptive children

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Have no issues with the proposed policies
- Hats off to the Department of Social Services for the services being provided
- With being in public education for 33 years and owning a daycare for 22 years, have seen the work of the agency up very close
- Hear and read the stories about foster children being put back into abusive situations in other places

Vice Chairman Jones commented:

- Confirmed with Social Work Supervisor Pinnix that when children age out of foster care at age 18, there is a federal program that mandates that all 50 states must have some type of independent living program for those who age out

Supervisor Pinnix responded:

- Stokes County offers a program called Links
- Once a child reaches age 14, they are allowed to enroll in Links which provides additional funding to provide things that can improve their quality of life that Social Services may not have the funds to provide
- Children, who age out at 18, have an extra amount of funding available for housing and basic needs
- Have 45 active Links children with 23 currently accessing services
- Funding is available up to \$3,500 for each child who ages out to ensure they have a safe and stable home, car repairs, etc.
- Social Workers keep contact with children in the Links Program until they are 21 years of age
- Links' children are provided Medicaid until age 25

Vice Chairman Jones continued:

- Appreciate the information
- Children now are not as mature as they were 50 years ago
- Very glad to know that there is a program like Links for children who aged out of Foster Care

Commissioner Walker commented:

- As questioned about the previous policy, what is the reason for revising the Adoption Policy?

Director Elmes responded:

- Statutes have changed, guidelines have changed and have been wanting to update the policy

Commissioner Walker continued:

- Confirmed with DSS Director Elmes and Supervisor Pinnix, the revisions will not make any difference in adopting a child
- Have seen people go to other countries to adopt children, is there any progress being made to keep people from having to go to such drastic measures who want to provide a good home for a foster child?

Supervisor Pinnix responded:

- Believe there are still challenges with statutes and guidelines along with the judicial system quite often if it is an agency adoption
- If it is a non agency adoption, which would encompass a step-parent, grandparent, or independent adoption referred by the Clerk's Office, this policy helps DSS streamline what is needed to be done to help those folks to adopt when there is no judge or order in place preventing or stalling the adoption

Commissioner Walker continued:

- Confirmed with Supervisor Pinnix that this revised policy will not make it harder or more of a challenge to adopt, if anything, it might smooth out the process
- Confirmed with Supervisor Pinnix that the revised policy allows fees to be waived when an adoptive family wishes to adopt one of the agency's foster child; don't want the cost of the adoption to prohibit a loving family from being able to adopt a foster child
- Like the tone of the Fee Policy
- Confirmed with DSS Director Elmes and Supervisor Pinnix that the revised policy will possibly streamline the process and will not lose any ground

Chairman Booth commented:

- Expressed appreciation for bringing the new policy and revised policy to the BOCC, sounds like both were needed
- Very glad the Adoption Policy is being revised to include all statutory and guideline requirements
- Also very appreciative for the monthly report that keeps the board up to date on DSS issues

Chairman Booth, with full consensus from the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the April 28th Action Agenda.

Social Services External Postings

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following request from DSS Director Stacey

Elmes:

- DSS recently posted two internal positions (Income Maintenance Caseworker II and Social Worker II-Foster Care) with no applications being received for either position
- With the struggles facing DSS with NC Fast, it is imperative that the Income Maintenance Caseworker II position be filled as soon as possible to assist in taking and processing applications and completing re-certifications to ensure the citizens are receiving their much needed benefits in a timely manner
- DSS is also struggling in the Foster Care Unit
 - The unit has had a Social Worker II vacancy since February 21, 2014 that will not be filled until May 5, 2014
 - This new vacancy will leave us with two brand new Social Workers in a unit that works with some of our most vulnerable children
 - At the present time, DSS has 63 children in Foster Care
- Both are very critical positions
- Respectfully request that both positions be moved to today's Action Agenda in order to expedite the hiring process

Chairman Booth opened the floor for discussion.

The Board had no issues with the request and no issues with moving the item to today's

Action Agenda.

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

Surplus Tax Foreclosed Property

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding Surplus

Tax Foreclosed Property:

- The County has received a bid from Ms. Debbie Vaden (dated April 4, 2014) to purchase the following tax foreclosed surplus parcel from the County:
 - Parcel 6927-02-85-4328
 - Deed/Page – 233/131
 - Acreage - .27 acres
 - Bid = \$1,657.84
- Bid amount is equal to the total outstanding taxes and legal fees as of April 4, 2014
- Request the Board of Commissioners give consensus approval to start the upset bid process “only” as outlined in NCGS 160A-269

- Advertisement will be placed in the Stokes News along with being posted on the County web page
- After the 10-day window of not receiving any upset bid, the item will be placed back on the Commissioners' Agenda

Chairman Booth opened the floor for discussion.

The Board had no issues with the request to start the upset bid process regarding parcel #6927-02-85-4328.

Chairman Booth, with full consensus from the Board, directed the Manager to proceed with the upset bid process.

Proposed Work Session Schedule for Fiscal Year 2014-15

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following proposed Work Session Schedule for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2014-15 Budget:

Proposed Work Session For Fiscal Year 2014-15 Budget	Date
Presentation of Proposed Budget	Tuesday, May 27, 2014
Work Session	Wednesday, June 4, 2014
Work Session	Thursday, June 5, 2014
Public Hearing	Tuesday, June 10, 2014
Work Session - (BOE)?	Wednesday, June 11, 2014
Work Session - (BOE)?	Thursday, June 12, 2014
Work Session	Tuesday, June 24, 2014
Work Session	Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Public Hearing will be at 7:00 pm
Times for Work Sessions will be
Determined by the BOCC

County Manager Rick Morris noted the following regarding the proposed schedule:

- The proposed schedule has no work sessions scheduled for the week of June 16th which Vice Chairman Jones is scheduled for continuing education

Chairman Booth opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Have one concern
- Currently, Chair the YVEDDI Executive Committee, two of the other commissioners were not able to be at the last meeting due to budget hearings
- Surry County was having their second work session (April 10th)
- Concerned that our first work session is scheduled for June 4th

Chairman Booth commented:

- The Board of Commissioners have already had three work sessions this fiscal year

Commissioner Walker continued:

- Believe those were more of goal settings, information for the manager
- Very concerned that we don't push the budget work sessions to be started earlier, only have one month to do the entire budget process
- Not comfortable with the proposed schedule

County Manager Morris reiterated that the Board of Education (by statute) has until May 15th each year to turn in their budget request.

Commissioner Walker continued:

- Have had this concern for the past three (3) years
- Pushing our budget adoption way too close to the line
- Not enough time for discussion, not enough interaction
- In my opinion, there is not a lot of time for debate or discussion by the Board
- Would like to see the first session moved back two (2) or three (3) weeks earlier

County Manager Morris reiterated the deadline for the school budget (statutorily) is May 15th.

Commissioner Walker noted if it is a lost cause for this year, would like it to be considered for next year.

Commissioner Walker requested the Clerk provide the Board with the start date for the budget process for the past eight (8) years.

The Board discussed the possible dates and times.

It was consensus of the Board for the following dates and times regarding the upcoming 2014-15 Budget:

Work Session	Date	Time
For Fiscal Year 2014-15 Budget		
Presentation of Proposed Budget	Tuesday, May 27, 2014	6:00 PM
Work Session	Wednesday, June 4, 2014	10:00 AM
Work Session	Thursday, June 5, 2014	10:00 AM
Public Hearing	Tuesday, June 10, 2014	7:00 PM
Work Session - (BOE)?	Wednesday, June 11, 2014	10:00 AM
Work Session - (BOE)?	Thursday, June 12, 2014	10:00 AM
Work Session	Tuesday, June 24, 2014	1:00 PM
Work Session	Wednesday, June 25, 2014	1:00 PM

Vice Chairman Jones confirmed that the budget sessions would be approximately two (2) hours except the June 4th work session being approximately three (3) hours.

Chairman Booth directed the Clerk to contact the Board of Education regarding the two possible dates for a joint meeting.

Appointments – Stokes County Animal Control Advisory Council

County Manager Rick Morris submitted the following request from the Animal Control Advisory Council:

- Member Shannon Gammons, who represented the Sheriff's Department, is no longer able to serve on the Council
- Debbie Tuttle as agreed to serve as the representative from the Sheriff's Department
- No advertising will be needed due to this is a mandatory appointment per the Council's Guidelines

Chairman Booth opened the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Lankford nominated Debbie Tuttle.

Chairman Booth entertained a motion to close the nominations.

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

Chairman Booth, with full consensus from the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the April 28th Action Agenda.

Appointments – Stokes County Adult Home Community Advisory Committee

County Manager Rick Morris submitted the following request from Stokes County Adult Home Community Advisory Committee:

- Member Carolyn Hicks is no longer able to serve on the Advisory Committee
- One vacancy
- Will be advertised in the Stokes News and placed on the County's website

Chairman Booth opened the floor for nominations.

There were no nominations.

Chairman Booth entertained a motion to close the nominations.

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

Chairman Booth, with full consensus from the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the April 28th Action Agenda.

Appointments – Northwest Piedmont Rural Planning Organization (RPO) – TAC Appointment

County Manager Rick Morris submitted the following request from the Northwest Piedmont Rural Planning Organization (RPO) regarding the County's TAC Appointment:

- Northwest Piedmont RPO is now requiring that Commissioner Ernest Lankford who serves as the TAC Appointment from the County be re-appointed each year
- Commissioner Lankford has agreed to continue to serve
- No advertising will be needed since this is a commissioner appointee

Chairman Booth opened the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Inman nominated Commissioner Ernest Lankford.

Chairman Booth entertained a motion to close the nominations.

Vice Chairman Jones moved to close the nominations. Commissioner Walker seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Booth, with full consensus from the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the April 28th Action Agenda.

GAP Funding Letter – Sewer Project

Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding the GAP Funding Letter for the current Sewer Project:

- Would like to provide the Board of Commissioners a few more comments regarding the meeting last week with NC Department of Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker:
 - Met in Representative Holloway's office for approximately one hour
 - Purpose was to further discuss the application for funding submitted to the Rural Center before it was transferred to the NC Department of Commerce
 - Secretary Decker is the top official in that organization that will have the final say so
 - Presented a presentation to Secretary Decker regarding the project (this is the 13th briefing done regarding the sewer and water project)
 - Secretary Decker was very interested in the project
 - Representative Holloway had to leave about thirty (30) minutes into the meeting for another scheduled meeting
 - Secretary Decker stayed the additional thirty (30) minutes to further discuss the project
 - Talked to Secretary Decker about the current grant process, possibly introducing some flexibility into the grant process, rural areas have to be looked at as well as the urban areas, guaranteed jobs for these grants
 - Secretary Decker had heard some similar comments and would be looking into grants being not determined solely on job creation, but project merits
 - Secretary Decker is reviewing some potential grant funding that has been left over from the grant cycle to see if there is any possibility for funding some or all of the request (\$519,000)
 - Very encouraged with the meeting
- This is the last grant needed to fully fund the sewer project without county dollars
- The BOCC previously approved a GAP Funding Letter that was required by ARC
- This letter made the County responsible for approximately \$133,000 or whatever the GAP is; the \$519,000 expected from the Rural Center amount was included in the GAP shortage calculation
- In speaking with Golden LEAF, there may be a need to approve another GAP Funding Letter if Commerce does not approve funding before any other funding is released by Golden LEAF
- These funding agencies need certainty that the project is fully funded
- Will have to wait to see what happens with the NC Commerce funding
- There is no action needed unless a new GAP letter is needed, if so, a new GAP Funding Letter will then be provided to the BOCC for their consideration and approval

Chairman Booth opened the floor for discussion.

Chairman Booth commented:

- County, along with our Representatives, have been working diligently to obtain funding for the Water and Sewer Project to the Meadows area (center of the county) where our Early College is already located and our new community college will be located which will serve the entire county
- This new infrastructure will coming from Danbury to the center part of our county for our Early College, new community college and possibly new economic development

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Wanted to thank the county manager for making that trip to Raleigh
- Have been working diligently over the past two years to obtain grant funding for the project
- Commissioner Lankford, Manager Morris and myself have made a few trips to Raleigh over the past two years seeking grant funding
- Representative Holloway has also been working diligently over the past two years
- Spoke to Representative Holloway who noted it was a very good meeting and very important that Manager Morris updated Secretary Decker about the project
- Confirmed with Manager Morris that he felt Secretary Decker genuinely listened to the County's concerns

Chairman Booth commented:

- The Sewer Project is approximately \$3.2 million that will hopefully be funded fully by grants, with no taxpayers' dollars

Commissioner Inman requested information from Manager Morris regarding the sewer bids?

Manager Morris responded:

- Bid proposals are due to the County by April 24th
- Ten (10) packages have been picked up regarding the proposed project
- Had three (3) contractors and one (1) subcontractor who attended the pre-bid meeting (optional meeting)
- Project will start as soon as the bid is awarded

Chairman Booth noted the goal for opening the community college is fall of 2015.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – ACTION AGENDA

Social Services – External Postings

Chairman Booth entertained a motion regarding the two external postings on today's

Discussion Agenda.

Commissioner Inman moved to approve the external posting for an Income Maintenance Caseworker II and a Social Worker III – Foster Care positions for DSS. Vice Chairman Jones seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

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

- 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 pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1)
- 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 GS 143-318.11(a)(3)

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

- 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 pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1)
- 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 GS 143-318.11(a)(3)

Commissioner Inman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The Board returned to the regular session of the April 14th meeting.

Adjournment

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

Commissioner Inman 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