

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  
JUNE 5, 2014

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met for a Budget Work Session in the Third Floor Conference Room of the Ronald Wilson Reagan Memorial Building (Administration Building) located in Danbury, North Carolina on Thursday, June 5, 2014, at 10:00 am 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 M. Bullins  
Finance Director Julia Edwards

Chairman James Booth called the Budget Work Session to order and welcomed those in attendance.

Chairman Booth delivered the invocation.

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

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

**Budget Work Session**

Chairman Booth turned the Budget Work Session over to County Manager Rick Morris.

**F/Y 2014-15 Revenue Summary**

County Manager Morris noted that staff would be providing answers to yesterday's

questions at the next budget work session.

County Manager Morris presented and discussed the following Fiscal Year 2014-15

Revenue Summary:

**Overview**

- Revenue projections are conservative due to slow economy and other unknowns
- Projections for FY2014/15 are based primarily on actual collections this year compared to budgeted amounts from last year.
- Largest revenue problem is expiration of “Hold Harmless” funds this year, followed by Revaluation
- Holding a strong County fund balance is critical to reducing financial risk for the County and also for the borrowing of funding for the community college
- County and School System sales tax revenues are up slightly but lower than earlier years

**Fiscal Year 2014-15 Project Revenue Summary**

Ad Valorem Taxes	49.56%
Fund Balance Appropriated	6.48%
Other Revenues	9.38%
Sales and Services	7.09%
Permits and Fees	0.75%
Restricted Intergovernmental Revenues	17.42%
Unrestricted Intergovernmental Revenues	1.29%
Other Taxes and Licenses	8.03%
	100.00%

County Manager Morris commented:

- As you look at the projected Revenue Summary, think about ways that these revenues could possibly be increased as you think about next year’s budget

**Ad Valorem Taxes**

- FY 14/15 county tax value is \$3,306,024,124, which eliminates motor vehicles
  - General Fund-Estimated Ad valorem revenue is \$19,042,699 using a 60 cent tax rate at 96% collection rate
  - New School /F. Tech Fund-Estimated Ad valorem revenue is \$1,269,513 using a 4 cent tax rate at 96% collection rate
- For comparison FY13/14 tax value was \$3,555,672,667, which included motor vehicles.
  - General Fund-The same collection rate of 96% was used, which produced \$20,480,675 in Ad valorem revenue
  - New School/F. Tech Fund-The same collection rate of 96% was used, which produced \$1,365,378

- The FY14/15 tax value decreased \$249,648,543 from 2013/14, because of motor vehicle changes
  - Motor Vehicle Taxes are collected by the State through the new “Tag and Tax” system; therefore, the Motor Vehicle only tax value estimate of \$298,500,000 was removed from the tax value figure
- General Fund Ad Valorem revenue decreased \$1,437,976 from 2013/14.
  - New revenue line has been added for the State collected Motor Vehicle taxes in the amount of \$1,761,586. The collection of these taxes was estimated on the last four months of collections, which is around 99% collected.
  - Adding the Ad Valorem tax of \$19,042,699 and \$1,761,586 Motor Vehicle Tax, the total is \$20,804,285, which is an increase of **\$323,610**.
- New School/F. Tech Fund Ad Valorem revenue decreased \$95,865 from 2013/14 (also eliminates motor vehicle tax value)
  - New revenue line has been added for the State collected Motor Vehicle taxes in the amount of \$117,437. The collection of these taxes was estimated on the last four months of collections, which is approximately 99% collected.
  - Adding the Ad Valorem tax of \$1,269,513 and \$117,437 Motor Vehicle, Tax the total is \$1,386,950, which is an increase of **\$21,572**.

County Manager Morris commented:

- Comparisons are to explain the revenue from Ad Valorem Taxes
- Last year, Ad Valorem Taxes included motor vehicles taxes
- This year, Ad Valorem Taxes does not include motor vehicles taxes
- Net effect for the 60 cent tax is an increase of \$323,610 from the increase of property values
- Net effect for the 4 cent tax is an increase of \$21,572 from the increase of property values
- There are two line items in the proposed FY 2014-15 budget, the usual Ad Valorem Taxed and a new line item for State Collected Motor Vehicle Taxes

Commissioner Inman confirmed with Finance Director Edwards that the projected increases do not include the fees being charged by the State.

Finance Director Edwards noted that the collection of these taxes was estimated using the last four months of collection which is approximately 99% collected.

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Could not have an increase once the fees are taken away from the projected increases

Chairman Booth commented:

- Per Tax Administrator Jake Oakley, it could be a “break even” with no increase in revenue due to the fees being charged by the State

Finance Director Edwards commented:

- State is looking at some changes in the legislature regarding online fees that should have not been charged to the counties; will have wait and see what the legislature does
- Do not know how this will impact the county

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Confirmed with Manager Morris that the total increase of Ad Valorem revenue from property values increasing was \$345,182

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Confirmed with Manager Morris that the decrease from the last revaluation was approximately \$500,000
- Confirmed with Manager Morris that there has been an increase in property values of \$323,610 for the 60 cent tax and \$21,572 for the 4 cent tax

County Manager Morris commented:

- The larger message is that the County is not gaining a lot of increase in property values in the County

Commissioner Walker commented:

- The best part of the message is that the County did gain some
- Confirmed there are two more years with the current revaluation

### **Fiscal Year 2014-15 Sales Taxes**

- Sales taxes are currently \$65,802 ahead compared to last year as of March 2014
- Sales tax revenue estimates for 30 June 2014 are:
  - Article #39 - \$1,537,825(budgeted amount \$1,425,000)
  - Article #40 - \$1,639,375(budgeted amount \$1,575,000)
  - Article #42 - \$403,198 (budgeted amount \$375,000)
- Projected gain this year in combined sales tax revenue is \$89,642 compared to last year

### **Fiscal Year 2014-15 Sales Tax Estimates**

- Recommended FY14/15 budget has no change to sales tax estimates as shown below
  - Article #39 from \$1,425,000
  - Article #40 from \$1,575,000
  - Article #42 from \$375,000
- These are conservative estimates based on actual collections experienced during this budget year

### **Other Revenue Items of Interest**

- Minimal Home Health fees due to sale of license.
- Recommended budget uses projections from the State of N.C. for Health Dept and DSS

- The FY2014/15 Budget reflects no Hold Harmless funds.
- IRS interest refund for QZAB / QSCB was budgeted based on receiving the full reimbursement. At this time, we do not know if this refund will be available from the Federal Government as promised in future years.
- Investment income is the same as FY2013-14, these rates are controlled by the FEDs and until unemployment goes down it's not likely they will raise rates on investments.
- Proceeds from Financing includes: (1) new ambulance \$162,000, (6) cars and (1) SUV for Sheriff's Department \$196,000 and (24) computers for various departments \$70,000 totaling \$428,000 county financing. Tax office software \$420,000 financed by software vendor at no interest for 10 years.
- Ambulance Fees are budgeted at the same level as FY 2013-14.
  - Will take a hard look at all fees with the FY 2014-15 budget
- Health Department Title XIX Medicaid Fund has spent the fund balance total down during the last two fiscal years; therefore, General Fund appropriation is needed to fund programs.
- Budget recommendation appropriates \$2,841,932 from General Fund balance
- Recommendation appropriates \$400,000 of Lottery proceeds for payment of school debt. This appropriation is based on what we receive yearly from lottery funds. We have spent down the reserve that we had accumulated over the past few years in the lottery fund.
- Transfer from New School/F Tech Fund appropriation has increased due to the use of lottery funds for new school debt. The total transfer amount of \$1,955,643 consists of \$1,752,978 for Early College and schools debt payment, \$104,565 Early College operating expenses, and \$98,100 for Poplar Springs Elementary School operating expenses
- Health Department Title XIX Medicaid Fund includes an addition of the prenatal program.
- Increase in the penalties associated with the Noise Ordinance enforced by the Sheriff and the Nuisance Ordinance enforced by Animal Control and the Sheriff to prevent dogs and other animals from occupying and damaging private property.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Confirmed with Manager Morris that ambulance fees do not cover all the expenses of the EMS Budget
- Noted Crown Vics were much cheaper than the vehicles being purchased today and equipment could be transferred

Chairman Booth commented:

- County has no choice since the Crown Vic is no longer manufactured

County Manager Morris commented:

- There are some advantages with the new vehicles
  - Better fuel mileage
  - Do not have to buy snow tires
  - Handles better

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Spoke to Representative Holloway who noted that Tillis and Berger were fighting him on the Senate lottery bill
- Doesn't seem the lottery will change this year

- Senate budget is recommending the \$100,000
- The House budget will not recommend less than the \$100,000 per Representative Holloway
- There is a lot of talk about the lottery in Raleigh, not sure where it is going
- Ten years ago, Representative Holloway stated that he would not support the lottery because eventually the funding from the lottery would simply be used to supplant other education dollars that are already being appropriated

Commissioner Walker commented:

- It is like a shell game, just moving money around
- Very insightful on Representative Holloway's part to make that observation before the lottery was approved

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Feels the proposed nuisance ordinance will help with some issues of individuals' animals going on the neighbors' property and destroying property

### **Medicaid Hold Harmless Background**

- When the Medicaid relief swap was enacted in 2007, counties ceded ½ cents in sales tax (Article 44) – roughly \$500 million, to the state to offset its costs of assuming the county share of Medicaid – roughly \$500 million. The counties also were required to hold their cities harmless of the loss of their sales taxes. Since some counties lost more in sales taxes than savings due to Medicaid relief, the 2007 General Assembly created a hold harmless formula to make sure all counties benefited from the trade. Further, knowing that hold harmless formulas were estimates at best, to ensure that all counties gained from Medicaid relief, the General Assembly set the hold harmless formula to guarantee at least a \$500,000 net benefit for each county.
- The Article 44 sales tax for Stokes County was approximately \$1,452,214.22 and Medicaid expenses were approximately \$2,644,993.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- The \$500,000 guarantee benefits small rural counties like Stokes County

### **Medicaid Hold Harmless Unfunded Mandate**

- This benefit, not the hold harmless itself, would be phased out in the Senate's plans, by \$125,000 each year over four years.
- Stokes County budgeted \$675,000 for fiscal year 2013-14 and recommended \$675,000 for fiscal year 2014-15 for the Medicaid Hold Harmless based on what we have received in past year. Amounts received during previous years are below:
  - 2008-09 \$0.00
  - 2009-10 \$0.00
  - 2010-11 \$801,081.93
  - 2011-12 \$965,458.47
  - 2012-13 \$863,201.29

- 2013-14 \$776,881.16 (will get a payment in August towards this amount)

Commissioner Walker questioned the impact of the Senate's plans by phasing out \$125,000 over the next four years?

Finance Director Edwards responded:

- Proposed \$125,000 is to be taken away from Stokes County each year for the next four years
- Have budgeted \$675,000 based on history
- Should be fine to not deduct the \$125,000 this year
- Will have to reduce the projection by \$125,000 in the FY 2015-16 budget
- Very complicated formula used by the State

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Questioned Finance Director Edwards how the county will be "held harmless" when in five years, the county will lose \$500,000?
- Spoke with Kevin Leonard, NCACC, who stated that NCACC has been assured that the counties will be "held harmless"

Finance Director Edwards responded:

- Not exactly sure how the County can be "held harmless"
- The County was mandate to hold the towns and cities harmless from the sales tax loss which amounts to approximately \$22,000 per month

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Afraid this is just another unfunded mandate coming down to the counties

Vice Chairman Jones commented:

- Feels it is very important to let Legislators know how this kind of mandate impacts small counties
- Need to let them know how we feel about things like this

### **Revenue Adjustments**

- Below are areas where revenue projections could be increased by BOCC
  - Ad valorem collection rate and/or tax rate
  - Increase fees for services (ex: EMS, Animal Control, Environmental Health, Planning, Solid Waste and Etc.
- Recommendation is to not increase any of these revenue projections and to use any excess revenues that occur to offset other revenue shortfalls, or to increase the County's General Fund Balance

Commissioner Inman commented:

- In the last revaluation, the County lost approximately 5% of the assessed valuation which amounted to approximately \$500,000 in revenue

- At the very best, in my opinion, if the current real estate market continues (lot of foreclosures are cycling out) for the next two years with the momentum it has now with existing homes sales going up, the best the County could hope for would be to regain the 5% that was lost
- Don't think there will be any increase in value, will be lucky to get the 5% back
- Land sales are just flat
- Residential was impacted the most
- Don't expect it to go over the 5%, hope to get the 5% back
- Just being realistic

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Learned several years in an economic development seminar that there are four (4) economic models:
  - Residential with no growth
  - Residential with growth
  - Residential with some business
  - Business and residential
- Only two of these models sustain a low tax rate
  - With residential, you provide services which cost
- If we are not doing economic development, then you are just digging a bigger hole over time for this county
- Citizens are starting to pick on that
- Questioned the candidates this year what they were hearing from the citizens
- A few of them got pretty close, citizens want jobs and economic development
- There is a reason for that, without it, we are sinking deeper into a hole
- The question this Board is going to have to start facing is "how deep do you want to go?"
- The recommended budget does have a tax increase even though the tax rate is not changing
- The question is "when is the tax increase going to be implemented?"
- You can't take \$2-3 million out of Fund Balance each year and say that you don't have a tax increase in the budget

County Manager Morris responded:

- The recommended budget does not have a tax increase this year, it has a deficit

Commissioner Walker responded:

- This recommended budget has a deficit that is going to drive a tax increase, but putting it off until next year
- Without economic development, how high do we want our taxes to go?

Vice Chairman Jones responded:

- It is not the Board's fault that economic development is not coming into the county
- The Board is doing everything it can to bring economic development to the county
- It is an ongoing process



Commissioner Walker responded:

- Economic Development Director does not even have an assistant, he spends his time do administrative work instead of out recruiting businesses
- The sooner we can get the community college in place, the better
- Quality of life also impacts new businesses coming to the county
- Personally, would give the County a 20 to 30% effort in economic development
- Look at every other county around and they are doing more than Stokes County

Vice Chairman Jones responded:

- You are “preaching to the choir”

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- There are reasons why other counties are doing more than Stokes County
- Situations are different

Vice Chairman Jones responded:

- Situations are different
- Demographics are different
- Geographic is different
- Highways are different
- Population is different
- A lot of things are different

Commissioner Walker responded:

- County has six miles of interstate highway
- Have an area in the county that has very piece of infrastructure you want – natural gas, high speed internet, etc.
- Have a beautiful area in the county for tourism
- Have the assets, just the manner of bringing them all together to work

Vice Chairman Jones commented:

- Reiterated that all that is in the works, it is an ongoing process

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Confirmed with Finance Director Edwards that the County’s Fund Balance was a little over \$11 million on June 30, 2013 – non restrictive
- Taking almost \$3 million out to balance this fiscal year’s proposed budget
- What % is being taken out to balance this recommended budget?

County Manager Morris responded:

- Very hard to calculate without knowing how much will go back into the Fund Balance at the end of FY 2013-14
- The net effect will be around 20% if the recommended budget is approved – possibly a little above 20%

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Remember the manager telling this Board last year “the train is coming”
- Also mentioned the need for a tax increase last year
- Will have to do a combination of things next year
- There is no “fat” in these departmental budgets
- You will have to look at across the Board cuts, possible sales tax, possible tax increase to create \$3 million and then hope the State does not send any more unfunded mandates
- There are so many properties selling in Stokes County today that are not bringing tax value yet on the open market
- There are still a lot foreclosures
- Lot of foreclosures are being held to not flood the market

County Manager Morris commented:

- Will have to look at more than next year’s budget
- The loss of Hold Harmless impacts the revenue
- Everything is going up – supplies, utilities, fuel, etc.
- Have no economy helping

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Reviewed some old budget messages
- In FY 2009-10, there were two budgets presented – one with Hold Harmless and one without Hold Harmless
- The Budget Message in FY 2009-10 stated the County had to start making some cuts or plans for more revenue
- Even back five years ago, it was known that something was coming

County Manager Morris commented:

- Starting next year, it will not be a year that you should do something, it is going to be the year that you will have to do something
- Next year, there will be approximately \$2 million available from Fund Balance to help balance the budget
- After next year, it is predicted that there will be no Fund Balance available unless the Fund Balance drops below 20% (FY 2016-17)
- When you start looking at cuts, you are possibly looking at cutting whole departments; these cuts will be felt in the community and will impact the citizens’ quality of life
- Will have to look at mandates

Chairman Booth commented:

- Noted the personnel cuts done in 2010-11
- Have not used Hold Harmless for recurring expenditures for several years

Vice Chairman Jones commented:

- Must keep in mind the increasing cost of everything – benefits for employees, fuel, utilities, etc.
- Know that raising taxes is coming next year, would request the Board be realistic
- Don't raise a small amount and then have to come back the next year and raise taxes again
- Need to just do it right the first time

Commissioner Walker commented:

- My philosophy, violated it once and probably the worst mistake made as a commissioner, is set the tax rate to sustain the county and provide the reasonable services the citizens expect and keep it in place
  - Lowered it two cents after a revaluation
- Don't lower it on a good revaluation or raise it on a bad revaluation
- Find a tax rate that is sustainable for the County
- Had a lot of pressure to lower the taxes the first budget I worked on
- Have learned over the years that "taxes are never low enough and schools are never good enough" no matter what the situation is
- If the taxes had not been lower that two cents after a revaluation, the County would probably be in a better situation right now
- Received comments from those who wanted the taxes lower, "if that is all you were going to do, why did you even do it?"

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Also on the Board when the taxes were lower two cents
- Did not receive any thanks for lowering the taxes two cents
- It did start one thing, taking a conservative stance to increase the Fund Balance, pulling excessive funds from departments and placing back into the Fund Balance during the fiscal year by doing quarterly reviews

Commissioner Walker commented:

- In our defense, that 60 cent rate has been working
- Agree with Vice Chairman Jones, find a tax rate and stick with it

Commissioner Inman commented:

- You have heard me say many times that a County that depends solely on Ad Valorem Tax for its budget is not a sustainable model
- You have to continue to raise taxes because you have an automatic increase each year

Commissioner Walker commented:

- As taxes increase, you lose the selling point as far as real estate
- People coming into the county look at tax rates

Chairman Booth commented:

- There are new businesses coming into the County

- Sheetz in King
- Possible Walmart in King
- These businesses bring sales tax, jobs, property taxes
- Projected \$2 million next year in Fund Balance to help balance the budget and still maintain 20% Fund Balance

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Not being critical of any past Boards, just stating a fact
- Stokes County was definitely broke in 2002 with a Fund Balance of 3.5%
- The Commissioners adopted a budget that year with Hold Harmless revenue appropriated
- That year, the County did not receive Hold Harmless
- Lot of cuts had to be made
- The loss of Hold Harmless is approximately 5% of the county's revenue
- Now it is definitely gone
- Things could be a lot worse
- In 2005, could not even get approval from Local Government Commission to do a \$600,000 Library renovation project

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Hold Harmless was replacing dollars lost from RJReynolds at Brookcove
- Have lost other businesses in the county also
- Has come to some very challenging times
- Want to give the King City Council credit for pushing to see that the Walmart was located in Stokes County, give credit for looking out for the county not just the city

Chairman Booth commented:

- Must remember the \$35 million that has been financed for school construction
- The 4 cent tax increase does not take care of the debt service for all the school construction
- Have accomplished a lot regarding school construction
- The debt service payments increase the budget each year

Commissioner Inman commented:

- The Fund Balance was built by excess tax dollars
- Basically, we are using excessive tax dollars to balance the budget

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Used Hold Harmless to build up the Fund Balance
- Had a couple of really strong revaluations that helped build up the Fund Balance

Chairman Booth commented:

- Remember the financial model was figured on \$800,000 from the lottery, currently the County receives \$400,000 each year
- That is another amount that had to be made up

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Must remember Chairman Booth's suggestion of using QZCB and QZAB which is saving the County thousands and thousands of dollars in interest

Chairman Booth commented:

- Over the course of the loan, it will save the county approximately \$10 million in interest unless the Federal Government decreases the reimbursement
- There has been a small decrease in the reimbursement (\$30,000 last fiscal year)

### **Items That Have Surfaced Since the Submission of the Recommended Budget**

County Manager Morris provided the following information regarding items that have surfaced since the submission of the recommended budget:

#### **Sparrow House – Yadkin County**

- County was approached by a group of individuals from Yadkin County requesting a \$30,000 appropriation for the operation of the Sparrow House
- The plan for the Sparrow House is to house women who have been involved in domestic violence
- Yadkin County was considering the purchase of a house to establish the Sparrow House
- Received information from YVEDDI, who sponsors a domestic violence program, that they had some issues with the concept and planned to do further investigation
- Had received no further information about the proposed program until last week
- Received information that Yadkin County may have purchased a house
- Feel the County needs to get more information before considering an appropriation to the proposed plan

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Will be attending, along with Commissioner Lankford, who both serve on the YVEDDI Board, a meeting tonight that will have discussion regarding the proposed Sparrow House
- Should have more information after tonight's meeting
- There are grants available for this type of operation; YVEDDI has gotten several grants for their domestic violence program

#### **Quick Response Vehicle for EMS**

- EMS Director Collins has requested the County reconsider the purchase of a new Quick Response Vehicle (fully loaded vehicle with medical supplies that responses to calls)
- The transmission is completely gone
- The vehicle has over 320,000 miles
- Department has two of these vehicles that both have over 300,000 miles

- Unless advised by the Board, will put in a new transmission
- Just wanted the Board to know, it will be back on the equipment list next fiscal year

### Use of Propane for County Vehicles

- Previously discussed converting some of the Sheriff's vehicles to propane in our November 2013 Work Session
- Decided at that time not to pursue the conversion due to a spike in propane rates
- Sheriff Marshall and I met with Hall Propane this past week
- The spike has decreased and price is back to where it normally is
- Would like to do a pilot program on two of the Sheriff's vehicle during the FY 2014-15
- Hall Propane will be putting in a pump station early fall
- Very simple conversion process on the vehicles
- This could be a big savings in fuel expenditures
- The vehicle would still maintain its gas system with a propane tank being placed in the trunk of the vehicle
- Can run the vehicle on either gas or propane
- Potential savings could be very big considering the amount of fuel used by the county each year
- County purchases a tanker of gasoline every three weeks
- Conversion for a V8 is \$6,000
- Conversion for a V6 is \$5,500
- Conversion for a V4 is \$5,000
- County would be converting two V6 vehicles
- Conversion kit can be transferred to another vehicle
- Vehicle could go 800 to 900 miles before refueling
- Even if propane rates go up, would probably still be equal to the price of a gallon of gas
- Hall Propane has 7 trucks converted to propane and has had no problems with the vehicles
- Don't see a downside to doing a pilot program with two vehicles this upcoming fiscal year

Vice Chairman Jones confirmed with Manager Morris there were no safety issues with using two types of fuel (gas and propane).

Chairman Booth commented:

- Can see the advantages of having two types of fuel on each vehicle

Manager Morris requested the Board be thinking about the concept and let him know if there are any questions or concerns, will probably look into doing this once Hall Propane has their pumping system installed.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Suggested Manager Morris seek others who have already converted vehicles to find out what issues have come up
- YVEDDI has just converted some of their vehicles

Manager Morris commented:

- UPS is starting to convert their vehicles

Commissioner Walker responded:

- When an organization like UPS starts converting their vehicles, that is a good indication that there is big savings

The Board had no issues with a pilot program converting two vehicles to propane usage.

### **School Nurses**

- Will need to watch what the Legislature does with funding for school nurses, could lose 2.5 positions in Stokes County
- May be another unfunded mandate

### **Legislative Short Session**

- Need to be attentive to anything else that pops up during this short session

Vice Chairman Jones commented:

- Need to get the word to Raleigh that counties do not want or need any more unfunded mandates

Commissioner Inman commented:

- One thing to keep watch is the Senate's proposal of an 11% increase for teachers
- Education will lose that amount from other funding
- Not sure how that will impact Stokes County if approved, but can be sure if approved, there will be some type of impact to Stokes County

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Confirmed the cost for the transmission for the Quick Response Vehicle will be between \$1 to \$2 thousand
- Wondering if this is a band aid fix?
- Should the County look at putting that \$2,000 toward the purchase of a new unit?
- Questioned if the vehicle, with a new transmission, will be dependable?

Commissioner Inman responded:

- The cost of a replacement unit is approximately \$50,000

County Manager Morris commented:

- Vehicle Maintenance may be able to rebuild the transmission and save dollars

Chairman Booth responded:

- Have a great vehicle maintenance staff in a great new facility
- Feel they will be able to repair the transmission

Chairman Booth noted the following schedule for next week:

- Public Hearing – Tuesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm
- Work Session – Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am
- Work Session and Joint Meeting with the Board of Education – Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.

### **Adjournment**

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

Commissioner Inman moved to adjourn the Budget Work Session. Commissioner Lankford seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

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

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**James D. Booth**  
**Chairman**