

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  
JULY 28, 2014

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met for a regular session in the Commissioners' Chambers of the Ronald Wilson Reagan Memorial Building (Administration Building) located in Danbury, North Carolina on Monday, July 28, 2014, at 6:00 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 M. Bullins  
Finance Director Julia Edwards  
Public Works Director Mark Delehant  
Health Director Scott Lenhart

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

Commissioner Inman 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.

#### **GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chairman Booth entertained a motion to approve or amend the July 28, 2014 Agenda.

Vice Chairman Jones moved to approve the July 28<sup>th</sup> Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Lankford seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

## **COMMENTS**

### **Manager/Commissioners**

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

County Manager Rick Morris commented:

- Sheriffs Through History
  - Sheriff's Office has partnered with the Stokes County Historical Society to bring the "Sheriffs Through History" display (portraits of past and present Stokes County Sheriffs)
  - There will be a dedication ceremony on Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm in the lower lobby of the Government Center
- Rebecca Troutman – NCACC Intergovernmental Relations Director
  - Rebecca, who has been a very important NCACC contact for the counties, will be retiring at the end of the year
- Planning Meeting
  - There will be an August 5<sup>th</sup> Board of Commissioners' Planning Meeting
  - Agendas for that meeting were provided to the Board at tonight's meeting
- 2014 NC Rural Assembly
  - The North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center will be hosting the 2014 NC Rural Assembly on October 30<sup>th</sup> in Raleigh
  - Rural Center's signature event will return this October, with a new name, a new venue, and a new strategic action plan for addressing the future of rural economic development
  - Please let staff know if you would like to attend

Chairman Booth commented:

- Ronda Olsen, Sheriff's Department, will be retiring August 1<sup>st</sup>
- League of Governments met last week in King; very good informational meeting with officials attending from Stokes County, Town of Walnut Cove, Town of Danbury, and City of King

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Ethics for Life – "Like a city whose walls are broken down is a man who lacks self-control" (Proverbs)

Commissioner Inman had no comments.

Vice Chairman Jones commented

- Stokes Future had a very good turnover this past week at the Farmer's Market– had tents and a grill with food samples
  - Not WIC Certified yet, but working on it
  - Will have a massage therapist at the next Farmer's Market
- Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation (PART)

- Attended the recent meeting
- Very impressed with the new management
- Feel the PART Program is on the right direction
- Child Fatality/Child Protection Team
  - Attended the recent meeting
  - Major frustration is trying to keep children safe and out of abusive situations versus the personal rights that people think they have

Commissioner Walker questioned if anyone had an update regarding the adoption of the state budget?

Commissioner Inman responded:

- Still pending approval
- Getting closer – supposedly both House and Senate agree in principle

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Attended the recent event sponsored by the YMCA at Camp Hanes
- Camp Hanes
  - Very nice facility
  - A great asset in Stokes County
  - Consists of approximately 400 acres
  - Some of the things that they are doing are very neat
  - Have so many positive activities for the folks who attend camp
  - Good conference center setting
  - Very blessed to have this center in our county
  - The director was stating that the center compares very well to other YMCA facilities, but this is a premier facility when compared to other comparable sites across the country - compares very, very well

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chairman Booth opened the floor for Public Comments.

There was no one signed up to speak during the Public Comments.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

### **Minutes**

- Minutes of June 10, 2014 – Public Hearing
- Minutes of July 14, 2014 – Regular Meeting

### **Sheriff's Department - Budget Amendment #3**

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #3.

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

<b>Account Number</b>	<b>Account Description</b>	<b>Current Budgeted Amount</b>	<b>Increase (Decrease)</b>	<b>As Amended</b>
	<b>Sheriff's Department</b>			
100.4310.260	Departmental Supplies	<u>\$35,435.00</u>	<u>\$300.00</u>	<u>\$35,735.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$35,435.00</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>	<b>\$35,735.00</b>

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To appropriate funding for the purchase of a desk and attachments. No County Funding.

This will result in a **net increase** of **\$300.00** 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.

<b>Account Number</b>	<b>Account Description</b>	<b>Budgeted Amount</b>	<b>Increase (Decrease)</b>	<b>As Amended</b>
100.3301.413	State Fines & Forfeitures	<u>\$00.00</u>	<u>\$300.00</u>	<u>\$300.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$00.00</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>

### **Animal Control - Budget Amendment #4**

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #4.

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

<b>Account Number</b>	<b>Account Description</b>	<b>Current Budgeted Amount</b>	<b>Increase (Decrease)</b>	<b>As Amended</b>
	<b>Animal Control</b>			
100.4380.320	Telephone	\$2,647.00	\$2,735.00	\$5,382.00
100.4380.440	Misc. Contractual Services	\$3,500.00	\$5,485.00	\$8,985.00
100.4380.511	Equipment – Non Capitalized	<u>\$00.00</u>	<u>\$3,645.00</u>	<u>\$3,645.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$6,147.00</b>	<b>\$11,865.00</b>	<b>\$18,012.00</b>

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To appropriate fundraising funds to purchase computers and software for Animal Control.

This will result in a **net increase** of **\$11,865.00** 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.

<b>Account Number</b>	<b>Account Description</b>	<b>Budgeted Amount</b>	<b>Increase (Decrease)</b>	<b>As Amended</b>
100.3839.003	Animal Control Miscellaneous	<u>\$300.00</u>	<u>\$11,865.00</u>	<u>\$12,165.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>	<b>\$11,865.00</b>	<b>\$12,165.00</b>

### **Tax Administration Report – June 2014**

#### **Real and Personal Release more than \$100**

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Real and Personal Release more than \$100 (June 2014) at the July 14<sup>th</sup> meeting with a request for approval at the July 28<sup>th</sup> meeting:

#### **Release more than \$100 - Real/Personal**

<b>Property Name</b>	<b>June 2014 Bill Number</b>	<b>Amount</b>	
John Charles Neas, III	12VADY3025	\$151.37	Military Exemption
	13VADY3025	<u>\$161.24</u>	Military Exemption
	<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>\$312.61</b>	

#### **Real and Personal Refund more than \$100**

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Real and Personal Refund more than \$100 (June 2014) at the July 14<sup>th</sup> meeting with a request for approval at the July 28<sup>th</sup> meeting:

#### **Refund more than \$100 - Real/Personal**

<b>Property Name</b>	<b>June 2014 Bill Number</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Sarah G. Smith	16509058	<u>\$119.22</u>
(vehicle sold)	<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>\$119.22</b>

### **Present-Use Value Late Applications**

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Present-Use Value Late Applications (June 2014) at the July 14<sup>th</sup> meeting with a request for approval at the July 28<sup>th</sup> meeting:

**Taxpayers: Ollie Bennett and Terri Bennett**

- Parcel: 6925-00-47-0205
- Acreage: 34.85
- Reason: Farm has been in family for many years
- Tax Office is recommending approval

**Taxpayer: Phillip Priddy and Patricia Priddy**

- Parcel: 6030-00-68-9115
- Acreage: 24.59
- Reason: Farm has been in family for many years
- Tax Office is recommending approval

Commissioner Inman moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Vice Chairman Jones seconded the motion.

Commissioner Walker questioned why there were already budget amendments being done so early in the budget year with the budget being adopted only a few weeks ago?

Finance Director Julia Edwards responded:

- Sheriff has complete discretion when appropriating State Fines & Forfeitures Funding
- The decision for what type of software/computers for Animal Control to buy was just decided and funding had to be transferred from miscellaneous donations into proper line items in the Animal Control budget

County Manager Rick Morris responded:

- Animal Control staff has been meeting with Information Systems to determine which software was best for our Animal Control Department and have just come to a final decision

The motion carried unanimously.

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

### **NCACC Annual Conference Youth Summit – YouthVoice 2014**

County Manager Rick Morris introduced Elijah Evans who will be serving as the 4-H representative for the NCACC Youth Summit (YouthVoice 2014) to be held in August.

Manager Morris commented:

- Youth Summit will once again be at the 107<sup>th</sup> NCACC Annual Conference in Buncombe County
- The Summit will provide county commissioners an opportunity to connect with the next generation of leaders
- The Summit will bring together Youth Delegates from 4-H Youth Development Clubs, Boys and Girls Clubs of NC and NC FFA
- The Summit offers sessions that help youth gain a better understanding of what county governments do and the role of commissioners as the governing body for counties
- Elijah has a very interesting description of what he has already accomplished

Chairman Booth invited Elijah to comment.

Elijah Evans commented:

- Expressed his sincere appreciation to the commissioners for the opportunity to attend the Summit at the NCACC Conference
- Looking forward to attending the conference and being a part of the Youth Summit
- Getting near the end of his 4-H career
- President of the 4-H Club in my community
- President of the County Council in 4-H
- Have been a District Officer in the past
- Plan on running for 4-H State President next year
- Feel this experience will help me in becoming a better leader for our county and state

Chairman Booth opened the floor for comments from the Board of Commissioners:

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Congratulated Elijah on all his achievements

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Very outstanding candidate

Vice Chairman Jones commented:

- Very proud of Elijah
- Have been watching Elijah from afar over the years

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Elijah has been an outstanding 4-H'er for many years who has the experience and talent

Chairman Booth, on behalf of the Board, congratulated Elijah on being selected to attend the NCACC Youth Summit representing Stokes County.

### **NC FAST Update**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following NC FAST Update from Social Services Director Stacey Elmes:

- Stage One of the Medicaid "Hard Launch" will begin August 1<sup>st</sup>
  - During this stage, all new applications will have to be entered in NC FAST
- Stokes County is currently scheduled to begin Stage Two on November 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - When Stage Two begins, there will no longer be an Eligibility Information System (EIS) which was the system being used prior to NC FAST
  - Department received an email from the State on Friday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, asking if Stokes County DSS would consider an earlier launch because "based upon the latest reports, it appears that you are one of the best positioned counties currently scheduled for the November launch"
  - State is requesting that Stokes DSS begin Stage Two on October 20<sup>th</sup>
- Statewide Medicaid Untimely Application Processing Status
  - As of July 23<sup>rd</sup> = -63% (under target)
- Stokes Medicaid Untimely Application Processing Status
  - As of July 23<sup>rd</sup> = 77% (over target)
- Director Elmes commended the work being done by Social Worker Diane Hayden who has really caught on to the NC FAST Transition; other counties have contacted Diane for guidance regarding NC FAST
- Applications/Re-certifications in all Income Maintenance Programs as of 07-27-2014:
  - Food and Nutrition Services - no late applications
  - Family and Children's Medicaid - no late applications
  - Adult Medicaid (LTC/SAA/CAP)- three late applications
  - Applications in EIS/NCFAST
    - As of July 2014
      - Percentage in EIS = 44%
      - Percentage in NC FAST = 56%
    - State is looking for the NC FAST percentage to increase up to 100%
- Total number of applications from all programs in July 2013 = 369
- Total number of applications from all programs in June 2014 = 532
- This increase of applications tells us that the economy is not fixed and we still have a lot of folks who need assistance; hope to see that number decrease



Chairman Booth opened the floor for any questions or comments.

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Sounds like Stokes County DSS can truly be called NC FAST
- Very impressive to see that DSS was 6% under target in June and are currently 77 over target in July
- DSS needs to be commended for the hard work and dedication during this NC FAST implementation

County Manager Morris commented:

- The combination of the temporary staff approved by the Board and the effort by the entire DSS staff have Stokes in the current position

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Along with Commissioner Inman's comment, we are very fortunate to have a Social Services Department and a Health Department operating at the level they are currently operating at
- Citizens are well served
- Staff does a very good job to whatever extent they can filling the needs of the county residents

County Manager Morris responded:

- But they have their challenges everyday
- Since being involved with DSS and Health Departments, especially with DSS, have learned about the integral parts – Income Maintenance, Adoption, Foster Care, Child Protection, Adult Protection; a lot in one department to keep up with

Vice Chairman Jones commented:

- People in these departments are really engaged and invested in their jobs to make things happen – serving the citizens of the County
- Have so many good things going on in the County that are not heard about, wish more people could hear about the good things that happen in the County

### **Water/Sewer Task Force Update**

Chairman Booth noted the Water/Sewer Task Force met prior to tonight's Board of Commissioners' meeting.

Chairman Booth noted that Commissioners Inman and Lankford along with County Manager Morris serve on the Task Force.

Chairman Booth requested Manager Morris provide the Board with an update from

today's meeting.

County Manager Morris commented:

- Discussed the pre-construction meeting that was held with the local residents living along the proposed sewer line
  - Meeting went very well
  - Was able to answer all the questions and concerns of those attending the meeting
- Contractor is on schedule to start the sewer construction on August 4<sup>th</sup>
- Contractor is already staging equipment for the project
- Contractor is scheduled to complete the project around June 30, 2015
- By August 15, 2015, all grants should be closed out
- Sewer will definitely be in place in time for the needs of the new community college
- At the Forsyth Tech Council Meeting, Dr. Green mentioned that the campus may be ready for some classes in the Summer of 2016
- Final water design, which was funded in Phase I, is almost finished
- Still need to do some sampling and boring at the South Stokes Vol. Fire Department where the water tank is projected to be placed
- All work concerning the water design should be done by the end of calendar year (2014)
- At that time, the County will have a complete water design package that can be used for grant applications and to install the system when funding is available
- Once the water design is completely finished, the County will need to do another contract with either Pilot View or someone else to take that water design package to seek additional funding, locate wells, and complete the water part of the project
- The amount needed for the water project will not be known until the water design is completed by the end of the calendar year (2014)
- The new contract will also have to have a construction phase included
- The Board of Commissioners will have to determine the timeframe for the water project – start or delay depending on the circumstances
- Without the additional water, the County will have enough water to serve the Early College, the community college site and NCDOT
- The County will not have enough water to do any economic development in the Meadows area (near the intersection) until the water project is completed
- Once the County receives the water design, the Board can meet to discuss the options

Chairman Booth opened the floor for questions or comments.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Questioned what is the specific function of the Water/Sewer Task Force?

Chairman Booth responded:

- Commissioners Inman and Lankford have served on the Water/Sewer Task Force for the past 2 years

- The Task Force, which includes commissioners, county staff, engineers, staff from Pilot View, and grant providers, monitor the project to try to keep the project on schedule

County Manager Rick Morris responded:

- Commissioners Inman and Lankford serve as liaisons to the Board of Commissioners keeping them informed of the project, grant funding, etc. or to get input from fellow Board members regarding any decisions to be made regarding the projects

Commissioner Walker continued:

- Originally, I seemed to recall the concept was for using no county dollars for the construction phase for the sewer project

County Manager Morris responded:

- No county dollars will be needed if all the grant funding is received
- There is a “gap letter” that has been approved by the Board of Commissioners to cover any grant funding not received

Commissioner Inman responded:

- The “gap letter” had to be done in order to receive the Golden LEAF Funding

Commissioner Walker continued:

- Thought the “gap letter” was to cover the intervals of time or gaps between when the funding was received by the County

County Manager Morris responded:

- The “gap letter” goes much further than that
- The “gap letter” states that the County will fill the gaps if funding is not received for the sewer project

Commissioner Walker confirmed with Manager Morris that the “gap letter” is only for the sewer construction and does not include the water part.

Commissioner Walker continued:

- It seemed at one time, the County had enough grant funding secured for the sewer construction phase

Commissioner Lankford responded:

- Hoping that will be the case if all grant funding comes thru

County Manager Morris commented:

- County continues to work with Pilot View and House Representative Brian Holloway regarding grant funding from the state, which if received, should complete the funding

Commissioner Walker confirmed with Manager Morris that Pilot View is aggressively continuing to work the availability of grant funding.

Commissioner Inman commented:

- The gap transpired when the County thought there would be \$519,000 available from the Rural Center
- Governor McCrory reconfigured NC Rural Center to be part of NC Department of Commerce
- Continuing to work on the state funding

Commissioner Walker confirmed with Commissioner Inman that the County was in pretty good shape with sewer funding, but had somewhat of a challenge ahead with funding for the water project.

Commissioner Inman commented:

- The projects were divided in order not to hold up the sewer project needed for the community college

Commissioner Walker confirmed with Manager Morris that the current plans were to use the existing well for water for the community college.

Chairman Booth commented:

- Reiterated the water design, when finished, has already been paid for

County Manager Morris commented:

- The water design, once completed, will be ready to use in future grant applications

Commissioner Walker confirmed with Manager Morris it was very beneficial to have the water design completed, even though, grant funding was currently not available.

Chairman Booth expressed his appreciation for the update from the Task Force.

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

### **Potential Sewer Tap Incentive Fee**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding a potential Sewer Tap Incentive Fee:

- As the County approaches the start of the construction phase of the Sewer Project to the Meadows community and community college site, the Board of Commissioners

must decide if an incentive will be offered to residential/institutional customers who decide to connect during the construction phase

- Public Works Director Mark Delehant is available for questions
- Golden LEAF requires the County to have some type of incentive, but realistically speaking, the folks who need the system will sign up whether there is an incentive or not
- The County has not historically had incentives for those signing up to the Danbury System and would not in the future, for example, the new pharmacy that is going across from the Government Center Complex will not receive any incentive
- Would recommend, in order to meet Golden LEAF's requirement, the County incentivize potential customers to tap into the system during the construction phase with the cost to be the actual cost of the tap
- This cost will vary individually due to the placement of the tap such as whether it is on the same side of the road as the sewer line
- The current fee is \$1,500 for a 4" gravity type tap
- The customer could end up with less than \$1,500 or more than \$1,500
- The current fee schedule also states that any tap that exceeds the tap fee, the charge will be based on actual cost plus 20%
- Would also recommend if the citizens don't sign up during construction, the cost would follow the current fee schedule
- Feel the recommendation to charge the actual cost of the tap during the construction phase would meet the Golden LEAF requirement without having to use sewer fees that are needed in the sewer fund; sewer system is an enterprise fund which must be self-maintaining

Chairman Booth opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Inman requested Director Delehant to elaborate what could cost the tap fee to be different.

Director Mark Delehant responded:

- Typically cost exceeds the \$1,500 if the tap is not on the same side of the sewer line – road bore could be very costly
- Hitting rock is another issue that usually increases the cost

Chairman Booth confirmed with Director Delehant that he had seen the manager's recommended tap fee in other places.

Director Delehant commented:

- Basically just want to gain a customer and break even
- Can't see having to subsidize the cost of the tap by paying the contractor more than the customer is charged
- The incentive would be giving the customer a break during construction phase by charging actual cost

Chairman Booth confirmed with Director Delehant that the customer would not be paying the 20% over actual cost if the tap is installed during the construction phase.

County Manager Rick Morris commented:

- Director Delehant will be going with a representative from Ramey to each potential customer to try to determine the best cost for the resident

Vice Chairman Jones commented:

- Questioned how much leeway will the customer have for paying for the tap, will there be any financing options or payment options?
- This is no small amount for most people

Director Delehant responded:

- That would be something the County would have to decide
- County could bill the customer a certain amount on their bill, possibly allowing the customer to pay the amount over one year
- Feel that would be a good idea to help the customer out

County Manager Morris responded:

- Would not charge interest on the payments, it would be very difficult to keep up with, county is not a bank

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Confirmed with Director Delehant that if someone hooked on the current system the standard 4" Tap would be \$1,500 or where the County's cost exceeds these tap fees, the charge is based on the actual cost plus 20%
- Confirmed with Director Delehant that if someone hooks on during the construction phase, they will save the 20% and pay the actual cost of installation which could be below the \$1,500 fee
- Confirmed with Director Delehant that the customers already on the system will see no change in their monthly rates
- Confirmed with Director Delehant that even with more customers, there will be additional processing fees, which will result in probably "a wash"

County Manager Morris commented:

- The current rate is one half of what is needed in order to secure grant funding

Director Mark Delehant responded:

- Manager Morris is correct, the sewer rates are low compared to normal rates, but the water rates are average with the neighboring communities (Walnut Cove, King, Rockingham County, Town of Dobson, Town of Pilot Mountain, etc.)

Director Delehant commented:

- May get 15 to 20 hookups during construction phase

- Will be able to provide good customer service to those hooking up as well as our current customers

County Manager Morris noted that staff would provide a written rate sheet for the Board's consideration at the next meeting.

Chairman Booth, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on August 11<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda.

**Proposed Renewal and Re-Statement of Solid Waste Disposal Agreement – City of Winston Salem**

Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding the proposed Renewal and Re-Instatement of Solid Waste Disposal Agreement with the City of Winston Salem:

- Renewal of Solid Waste Disposal Agreement
- This agreement covers the delivery of waste to the Hanes Mill Landfill
- There is a \$1.00 per ton increase with this 20-year renewal; first increase in several years
- Current rate of receiving at the Hanes Mill Landfill will take their capacity 20 years out (2034)
- Only option the County currently has
- Request approval at the August 11<sup>th</sup> meeting

Chairman Booth opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Feel this a necessary step to get this agreement locked in
- Questioned if the County had any option to get out of the agreement if something else came along better, did not see one in the proposed agreement?

Director Delehant responded:

- There is no out clause, actually there is a penalty if the County breaches the renewal agreement
- Even if there were a better price, most likely the drive would be longer than Winston Salem which would increase the transportation cost for the county
- Do not see any coming closer than Winston Salem, unless one was built in Stokes County and don't see that happening

Commissioner Walker responded:

- Tend to agree with what Director Delehant has said, but must keep in mind that 20 years is a long time
- Feel this is a good opportunity and need to go ahead and get this agreement locked in

County Manager Morris responded:

- Director Delehant and I met with Solid Waste Administrator Jan McHargue and terminating the agreement early is not negotiable nor is the time of 20 years
- Have a good history with the City of Winston Salem and Hanes Mills Landfill

Chairman Booth, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on August 11<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda.

#### **New Access Point for Federally Qualified Health Care Center**

County Manager Morris requested to move the item to later in the meeting due to County Attorney Browder and CEO Pam Tillman, Pioneer Community Hospital of Stokes had not arrived yet.

The Board had no issues moving the item to later in the meeting.

#### **External Posting -- Health Department**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following request from Health Director Scott Lenhart:

- Respectfully request to externally advertise a Physician Extender II (mid-level provider)
- Must be either a Family Nurse Practitioner or Physician Assistant
- The vacant position was formerly filled by a physician
- Because of a funding reduction from our Health Care Access Grant, Stokes County needs to fill this position with a mid-level provider
- With the current changes that all Health Departments are seeing throughout NC, it was recommended during our practice management program that all Health Departments need to consider hiring only mid-level providers (FNP/PA)
- Stokes County currently has one full time mid-level provider with this vacant position approved in the FY 2014-15 budget
- Director Lenhart respectfully requests a hiring range of \$66,183.13 to \$70,956.99 in order to try to fill the position, have a very hard time attracting candidates without a hiring range higher than the starting pay of \$58,152.77
- Need to get the position filled in order to produce revenue
- Request to move the item to tonight's Action Agenda in order to expedite the filling of this position to bring in revenue

Chairman Booth opened the floor for discussion.

Chairman Booth confirmed with Director Lenhart that there could be a 50% savings from



last year's budget regarding this position.

Director Lenhart commented:

- Loss of funding from the HealthNet Grant, went from \$125,000 to \$49,000 which helps pay for primary care services
- Stokes County got cut in order to provide other areas in the State some of the funding
- The State is currently reformatting the formula, have the potential of getting more revenue
- New formula should start in November
- With the new formula, the position should be self-supporting
- For seeing the patient, enrolling them, and placing the patient in a special program, the Health Department receives \$150
- Currently, the Health Department is receiving 1/12 of \$49,000 to help pay for primary care services for the next twelve months
- Currently, only have one mid-level provider who is seeing the patient load of two mid-level providers
- Will use the HealthNet Grant for the mid-level provider

Commissioner Lankford confirmed that the current vacant position was approved in the FY 2014-15 budget and has been vacant since June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Vice Chairman Jones commented:

- Feel Director Lenhart always does his due diligence to figure out exactly where we stand financially
- Appreciate Director Lenhart having a solution to the problem when he appears before the Board

Director Lenhart responded:

- It is on the top of my priority list to try to save county funding by increasing revenues from other sources while still providing the best services possible to the citizens of Stokes County
- Trying to increase revenue as Medicaid reimbursements keep going down along with cost settlements decreasing
- State is recommending the Practice Management Program which challenges the director to look at all positions
- With the new Practice Management Program, Health Departments should have no physicians; they should all be mid-level providers

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Sorry the department has lost their physician, seems like the game is always changing once you get things settled
- Through the Health Services Alliance, the option of Federally Qualified Healthcare Centers (FQHC) has been discussed

- Questioned while Pioneer is becoming more up and running with a very wide array of services, will the Health Department be competing, supplementing, or some of both regarding the services offered by Pioneer?

Director Lenhart responded:

- Do not feel the Health Department (without a FQHC) is competing because they are a for profit hospital
- But with Affordable Care Act, a lot more people have Medicaid with the option they can go wherever they want to
- With a FQHC, there could be some competing for the same patients
- With our payer mix, there is a very large mix of people who do not pay, have no insurance, or pay on a sliding scale fee
- If the hospital took the Health Department's large payer fee base, that would make them lose a lot of money which is not conducive to a business model for a for profit organization
- Health Departments cater to the underinsured and uninsured
- With a FQHC, the Health Department could actually compete for Medicare patients which could take patients away from the hospital
- Can also compete for insurance patients
- Currently, the Health Department gets a very small amount of insurance patients
- Payer mix is 90% Medicaid and self-pay with the 10% being all the other insurances such as Blue Cross Blue Shield, CIGNA, Medcost, etc.
- Biggest two payers are Medicaid and self-pay

Chairman Booth noted that the Board would be discussing FQHCs later in the meeting.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Reason for mentioning it now was not just for the FQHC item, but in general, would like to know if the Health Department is competing with the hospital
- Feel Director Lenhart answered the question

Director Lenhart reiterated that he felt the Health Department is not currently competing with the hospital with such services as the OB Services and Family Planning.

Director Lenhart noted that some of the services provided by the Health Department are free services offered by the State.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Still not operating the clinic at the Southwest Service Center
- Most people have forgotten about that
- Fact is, it is just sitting there not in operation
- One reason that I understood why it is not operating was because the people could go to all the other general practitioners and get the same services with general practitioners accepting Medicaid

Director Lenhart responded:

- That is correct
- On that side of the County, there is a large population of physicians who accept Medicaid for services
- The Health Department still has a large number of patients that come to the Health Department from the King zip code area for their services such as WIC, Family Planning, etc.
- A large number from the King zip code area come to the Health Department for adult services that do not have insurance
- Research last year indicated approximately 14% the population of 6,000 are seen by the Health Department that come from the King zip code area

Commissioner Walker responded:

- In that quadrant of the county, it is just shy of ½ of the population of the county

Director Lenhart commented:

- Have not forgotten about the King clinic
- Currently, trying to hire another Nutritionist to provide more WIC Services at the Southeast Service Center
- Currently, service WIC clients two days a week at the Center, but want to have a Nutritionist there five days a week
- Until another Nutritionist is hired, services have to be split between Southeast Service Center and Danbury

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

Action Agenda.

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

### **Proposed Home/Community Care Block Grant Agreement**

Manager Morris presented the proposed Home/Community Care Block Grant Agreement for Fiscal Year 2014-15 for the Board's consideration.

Manager Morris commented:

- The proposed agreement is based on the current county allocation of Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG) for FY 2014-15
- It is inclusive of federal Older Americans Act funds, Social Services Block Grant funds and state contributions
- Plan has been approved by the County's Aging Services Planning Committee
- Services applicable to the proposed agreement include the following:

- Stokes County Senior Services
  - Congregate Meals
  - Home Delivered Meals
  - Transportation (General and Medical)
  - Senior Center Operation
- Stokes County Department of Social Services
  - In-Home Aide Level II, III
- City of King
  - Senior Center Operation
- The proposed agreement for Provision of County-Based Aging Services is between the County of Stokes and the Piedmont Triad Regional Council Area Aging Agency on Aging
- County Attorney Ty Browder has reviewed and approved the proposed agreement
- County approves an agreement each year
- Request approval at the August 11<sup>th</sup> meeting

Chairman Booth opened the floor for discussion.

The Board had no issues with the proposed agreement.

Chairman Booth, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on August 11<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda.

#### **Surplus Tax Foreclosed Property**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding Surplus Tax Foreclosed Property Parcel #6947-00-16-1099:

- Parcel #6947-00-16-1099 is Lot A5 Hanging Rock Terrace located on Gentry Road
- County has received a bid from Richard Brim in the amount of \$2,306.06
- The bid amount is equal to the total outstanding taxes and legal fees as of 07-21-14
- Request the Board of Commissioners to give consensus 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 required 10-day window of not receiving any upset bid, the item will be placed on the Agenda for consideration and approval
- Request consensus from the Board to direct staff to start the upset bid process

Chairman Booth opened the floor for discussion.

The Board had no issues with directing county staff to start the upset bid process.

Chairman Booth, with full consensus of the Board, directed Manager Morris to direct

staff to start the upset bid process.

### **NCACC Legislative Goals – Development Process**

County Manager Rick Morris requested Clerk Darlene Bullins discuss the schedule for the upcoming NCACC Legislative Goals.

Clerk Bullins noted the following:

- Noted the following Legislative Goals Development Timeline
  - September 19, 2014 – Goals submission deadline
  - September – October 2014 – Steering committees review goals
  - November 2014 – Legislative Goals Committee meets
  - December 2014 – Board of Directors reviews and finalizes recommendations
  - January 15-16, 2015 – Legislative Goals Conference, membership approval of goals
- Noted the following Legislative Goals were adopted by Stokes County Board of Commissioners:
  - Elimination of state and federal unfunded mandates
  - Change the calculation of sales tax revenue back to per capita/point of delivery
  - Create jobs thru less regulations
  - Reinstate lottery funding for construction of schools, per General Statute 18C-164(c)(2), to be 40% of the 50% education share of the lottery revenue
  - Reinstate Hold Harmless revenue to counties who were receiving Hold Harmless for five additional years to compensate for funding shortfalls (inventory tax, senior citizen exemption and intangible tax)
  - Continue to oppose the shift of state transportation responsibilities to the counties
  - Lobby against specific legislation that weakens local government control and centralizes government on the state level
  - Keep DHHS funding at the current level for mental health
- Noted the Top Five Goals for 2013-14
  - Oppose shift of state transportation responsibilities to counties
  - Reinstate ADM and lottery funds for school construction
  - Oppose unfunded mandates and shifts of state responsibilities to counties
  - Ensure adequate mental health funding
  - Preserve the existing local revenue base
- Included for the Board's review a copy of the Legislative Goals Handbook

Chairman Booth opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Inman commented:

- These Legislative Goals are very important
- Would like to see each Board member get started on their list so that the Board has ample time to discuss each goal

- Would like to possibly get started at the next meeting
- Reiterated that these goals need to be submitted by September 19<sup>th</sup> which leaves three meetings

Chairman Booth questioned which of the goals submitted by the County have been accomplished and need to be taken off the list?

Commissioner Inman responded:

- Several of the goals such as “no more unfunded mandates” is ongoing

Vice Chairman Jones responded:

- Agree with Commissioner Inman that several of the goals will be ongoing
- Can always add to those goals that are ongoing

Chairman Booth requested each member of the Board to start working on the goals that they would like to be submitted to the State.

Chairman Booth, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on August 11<sup>th</sup> Discussion Agenda.

#### **Appointments – Town of Walnut Cove Planning Board/Board of Adjustments – ETJ Positions**

County Manager Rick Morris noted the following information regarding the Town of Walnut Cove Planning Board – ETJ Positions:

- Arzell Montgomery notified the County that he officially resigned from the Town of Walnut Cove Planning Board/Board of Adjustments – ETJ Appointment
- When notifying the Town of Walnut Cove, it was noted by Interim Manager Stevens that there was also a vacant alternate member
- Interim Manager Stevens requested both positions be filled
- Will be advertised in the Stokes News and placed on the County’s website

Chairman Booth noted there were no nominations.

Chairman Booth, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the August 11<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda.

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

### **Proposed Social Media Policy – Amendment to the Technology/Internet Policy**

Chairman Booth entertained a motion to approve the following proposed Social Media Policy presented at the July 14<sup>th</sup> meeting:

#### **Definitions of social media /terms for the use of this policy**

- Social Networking sites.... Facebook, MySpace, LinkedIn and any similar sites now existing or established in the future
- Blogs and Micro blogs..... Twitter and any similar blog site now existing or established in the future
- Video Sharing sites...YouTube and IReport and any similar sites now existing or established in the future
- PhotoSharing sites...TwitPic, Flickr and Instagram and any similar sites now existing or established in the future
- Chat Rooms
- Uploading Content
- Comments on Websites or Blogs

Stokes County employees are allowed to have personal social network sites subject to the rules and conditions set forth in this policy. These sites must remain personal in nature and be used to share personal, non-work related information, unless the information is clearly positive in nature. Employees should also be mindful that they represent the County of Stokes when using social media, even during their off-time from work; and that no information should be posted that could create a negative perception of the County of Stokes.

Under the County's Personnel Policy, reports of inappropriate use of social media related to the work place will be investigated, and possible disciplinary action taken, when the policy is violated. Employees should never use their government e-mail account or employee contact information in conjunction with personal social networking sites. The reason is that problems can arise when a personal posting identifies or appears to be associated with the County of Stokes.

Based on the information above, the County of Stokes reminds its employees that they must ensure a distinct separation between personal and work-related use of social media. Use of social media in any manner, is strictly prohibited while an employee is on the job, unless the social media is being used in an official capacity, which has been approved in writing by the Department Head and Stokes County IT Director. The use of social media on county owned devices is strictly prohibited at all times unless specifically authorized as set forth above.

An employee who chooses, while off duty, to maintain social media sites, to participate in social media, or to participate in social networking platforms, (1) shall conduct himself/herself in a manner that will not reflect negatively upon the County; and (2) shall have the right to comment on issues of general or public concern so long as the comments do not disrupt the workplace, interfere

with employee relationships with other employees, hinder productivity, or harm public confidence in his/her department or County government.

Commissioner Inman moved to approve the Social Media Policy – Amendment to the Technology/Interment Policy. Commissioner Lankford seconded the motion.

Chairman Booth opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- The item that I had concerns about in the proposed policy is still there
- It concerned the employee participating in social media on their own time
- Creating a negative perception of the County, we can do that ourselves
- What the Board does, can create a negative perception, if a particular person does not like what this Board does
- Can't support the proposed policy with that wording in the policy, can support it without those items
- This is hitting toward the "gag"
- It is infringing on the First Amendment
- I am very big on personal rights
- People have died creating freedoms and defending freedoms in this country, I don't want to see them taken away

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

### **Tax Administration**

### **Proposed Settlement Resolution for Fiscal Year 2013-14**

Chairman Booth entertained a motion regarding the following proposed Settlement Resolution for Fiscal Year 2013-14 presented at the July 14<sup>th</sup> meeting:

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA	)	
	)	
COUNTY OF STOKES	)	RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, Section 105-373 of the North Carolina General Statutes provides for an annual settlement of the property taxes charged to the Tax Collector; and

**WHEREAS**, that, in keeping with this requirement, the attached settlement summary was provided to the Stokes County Board of Commissioners by the Stokes County Tax Administrator, Jake M. Oakley;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the Stokes County Board of Commissioners:

- (1) Orders the insolvent amount for 2013 be entered into the minutes as the accepted insolvent amount, and further, that said insolvent amount be credited to the Stokes County Tax Administrator in his settlement. And;



- (2) Orders the tax liens for 2013 property taxes for the purpose of collection to be recharged to the Stokes County Tax Administrator. And further;
- (3) Orders that the settlement for delinquent (prior years taxes) be entered into the minutes, and that the uncollected balance of said taxes be recharged to the Stokes County Tax Administrator for the purpose of collection. And finally;
- (4) Orders that the 2013 property tax settlement by the Stokes County Tax Administrator be accepted in accordance with Section 105-373(e) of the North Carolina General Statutes.

Adopted this the \_\_\_ day of July 2014.

\_\_\_\_\_  
James D. Booth – Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ronda Jones – Vice Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
J. Leon Inman – Commissioner

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ernest Lankford – Commissioner

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Darlene Bullins – Clerk to the Board

Commissioner Lankford moved to approve the proposed Settlement Resolution for Fiscal Year 2013-14. Vice Chairman Jones seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

#### **Proposed Order for Collection of Fiscal Year 2014-15**

Chairman Booth entertained a motion regarding the following proposed Collection of Fiscal Year 2014-15 presented at the July 14<sup>th</sup> meeting:

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA    ) ORDER OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
  ) IN ACCORDANCE WITH G.S.105-321(b) FOR THE  
COUNTY OF STOKES            ) COLLECTION OF FY 2014-2054 PROPERTY TAXES

TO :   THE STOKES COUNTY TAX ADMINISTRATOR

You are hereby authorized, empowered, and commanded to collect the taxes set forth in the 2014 tax records filed in the Office of the Stokes County Tax Administration, and in the tax bills herewith delivered to you, in the amounts and from the taxpayers likewise set forth. You are further authorized, empowered, and commanded to collect the 2014 taxes charged and assessed as provided by law for adjustments, changes, and additions to the tax records and tax bills delivered to you which are made in accordance with law per G.S. 105-321(B). Such taxes are hereby declared to be a first lien on real property of the respective taxpayers in Stokes County.

You are hereby authorized, empowered, and commanded to collect the taxes of Special Districts (King Fire District, Rural Hall Fire District, Walnut Cove Fire District, Stokes County Service District, the Town of Walnut Cove, Town of Danbury, and the City of King) per G.S. 105-354.

This order shall be full and sufficient authority to direct, require, and enable you to garnish wages, to attach rents, cash receipts, checking accounts, and savings accounts; levy on and sell any real or personal property of such taxpayers, for and on account thereof, in accordance with law.

Witness my hand and official seal this \_\_\_ day of July 2014.

July 28, 2014

James D. Booth – Chairman

Ronda Jones – Vice Chairman

J. Leon Inman – Commissioner

Jimmy Walker – Commissioner

Ernest Lankford – Commissioner

Attest:

Darlene Bullins – Clerk to the Board

Commissioner Lankford moved to approve the proposed Collection of Fiscal Year 2014-15.

Vice Chairman Jones seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**Proposed CenterPoint Human Services Performance Agreement – Fiscal Year 2014-15**

Chairman Booth entertained a motion regarding the proposed CenterPoint Human Services Performance Agreement for Fiscal Year 2014-15 presented at the July 14<sup>th</sup> meeting:

**PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT  
FY 2014-2015  
STOKES COUNTY  
AND  
CENTERPOINT HUMAN SERVICES**

This Performance Agreement **FY 2014-2015** (Agreement) between Stokes County (County) and CenterPoint Human Services (CenterP4int) (collectively the Parties) defines the operational relationship, expectations and responsibilities of the Parties. CenterPoint is the Local Management Entity – Managed Care Organization (LME-MCO) that is designated for the management of mental health, intellectual/developmental disability and substance abuse services for the residents of Stokes County and is subject to all requirements under GS §122C and the requirements of the Medicaid 1915 b/c Waiver for recipients whose county of Medicaid eligibility is Stokes County.

**Nature and Term of Agreement**

The Agreement shall be effective **July 1, 2014** and shall remain in effect through **June 30, 2015**. If a new agreement has not been reached between the parties by **July 1, 2015** the **FY 2014-15** Agreement shall remain in force, unless it has been terminated in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.

**County Responsibilities**

The County agrees to:

1. Assure the appointment of County residents to serve on the LME-MCO Board in accordance with GS §122C 118.1 and the CenterPoint Bylaws.

2. Allocate available funds to CenterPoint to support mental health, intellectual/developmental disabilities and substance abuse services for County residents in accordance with service priorities established by the Division of MH/DD/SA Services of the NC Dept. of Health & Human Services, CenterPoint Board of Directors and the Stokes County Board of Commissioners.
3. Encourage and support the completion of Crisis Intervention Team training for Sheriff's Department officers.
4. Provide County facilities and support services as negotiated with CenterPoint.
5. Negotiate an annual performance agreement with CenterPoint to establish funding levels and clear expectations for the quality and quantity of services covered by this Agreement.
6. Receive, review and approve reports on the performance of CenterPoint as the manager of services.
7. Establish a plan for quarterly consultation between the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, Sheriff, County Manager and CenterPoint's CEO and/or a designee regarding this Agreement and emerging community issues. Meetings will occur on the second Tuesdays of October, January, April, and July at 2:00 pm in the third floor conference room of the Administrative Building.
8. Require biannual presentations by CenterPoint's CEO, Sheriff and County Manager to the Stokes County Board of Commissioners in March and September.

### **CenterPoint Responsibilities**

CenterPoint agrees to:

1. Carry out the functions, responsibilities and duties of a multi-county LME-MCO as required by GS §122C – 115.4 & 117 for the benefit of the residents of the County and by the Medicaid 1915 b/c Waiver for recipients whose county of Medicaid eligibility is Stokes County.
2. Serve as the LME-MCO for the County and make regular quarterly reports to the County on the implementation of the Strategic Plan including the re-organization and contracting of services.
3. Conduct needs assessments, seek stakeholder input and support community planning to identify and address needs.
4. Develop and submit a complete annual budget (Budget Ordinance and Budget) to support activities as the LME-MCO and make requests for funding to the County following prescribed guidelines.
5. Provide its annual audit to the County.

6. Assure that the CEO and/or a designee meets regularly with County officials as required under County responsibilities #8 to review CenterPoint's performance under this Agreement and to discuss emerging community issues.
7. Make bi-annual presentations (as detailed below under Specific Performance Expectations #4) to the Board of Commissioners in March and September.

### **Specific Performance Expectations**

In addition to the general responsibilities outlined above, CenterPoint agrees to the following specific performance expectations.

#### **1. Outpatient Services**

Maintain the current continuum of services for mental health, intellectual/developmental disabilities and substance abuse services including the operation of clinics in both Walnut Cove and King to the maximum extent possible within financial constraints and licensed staff availability.

#### **2. Stokes Opportunity Center**

Maintain the current level of vocational services and/or other appropriate services for individuals with mental illness and/or intellectual/developmental disabilities to the maximum extent possible within financial constraints; pursue other funding sources for these services; and, explore alternatives that maintain current levels of service at less cost.

#### **3. Continuity of Care**

Provide biannual reports on the continuity of care for all residents receiving inpatient or after-hours services.

#### **4. Biannual Reports**

Provide biannual reports to the County in March and September that describe:

- a. The providers serving Stokes County residents during the period, the services provided and the location(s) of the provision of such services;
- b. The number and demographics of different County residents served during the period;
- c. The volume and type of services provided to these residents;
- d. Analysis tracking the effectiveness of services provided including complaints and outcomes;
- e. Continuity of care report (see#3 above);
- f. Consumers' level of satisfaction with services; and
- g. Families' level of satisfaction with services.

#### **5. Support of Sheriff's Department**

Develop a service system that supports the Sheriff's Department including:

- a. Maintain the 1<sup>st</sup> Opinion Waiver Pilot Program at site(s) specified by the County Manager, CenterPoint, and the provider to ensure that behavioral health staff conduct assessments of County residents who the Sheriff's Department believes exhibit significant mental health and/or substance abuse issues in less than two (2) hours of arrival or as soon as feasible given current system constraints in the custody of the Sheriff's Department at the designated site. Services are to be rendered at the jail to the maximum extent possible.
- b. Provide Crisis Intervention Team Training to Sheriff's Department officers to enable officers most effectively to deescalate and manage crisis situations.
- c. Maintain and strengthen a crisis service system to decrease reliance on Involuntary Commitment and Emergency Department reliance and to provide timely response within four (4) hours of the arrival of a County resident at an Emergency Department exhibiting significant mental health and/or substance abuse issues in the custody of the Stokes County Sheriff's Department.
  - Sheriff's Department will track all transports for psychiatric emergencies including original destination (1<sup>st</sup> Opinion), disposition and time involved;
  - Sheriff's Department will report each instance when the time to complete the 1<sup>st</sup> Opinion exceeds four (4) hours'
  - Sheriff's Department will report every case that exceeds eight (8) hours;
  - CenterPoint will review each case reported by the Sheriff's Department and will meet with the Sheriff's Department on any such case at the Sheriff's request
  - CenterPoint will review any case and meet with the Sheriff's Department on any case that either party concludes has extenuating circumstances, regardless of the time involved.

## **6. Financial Goals**

Pursue all reasonable means to increase revenues from non-county budget sources to assist the County in providing services responsive to the behavioral health needs of County residents.

## **7. Corrective Actions/Sanctions for Non-Performance**

It is in the best interest of the citizens of Stokes County, and especially of those receiving services from CenterPoint or its contractors, that every effort be made to achieve the levels of performance required in this Agreement. If CenterPoint does not meet the performance expectations outlined in this agreement, it will recommend a Plan of Correction to the County Manager. The Plan of Correction will include the name of the individual who is responsible to act, the activity or task to be undertaken, the outcome expected and the date by which the action should be completed. The CEO will make progress reports to the County Manager and the Board of Commissioners as required.

## **Amendments**

This Agreement may be amended upon the mutual consent in writing of the County and CenterPoint.

### Termination

This Agreement may be terminated in compliance with GS §122C, in whole or in part, by mutual consent of the County and CenterPoint

Adopted this \_\_ day of July, 2014.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Betty P. Taylor, Esq.  
CEO/Area Director, CenterPoint Human Services

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
**James D. Booth**  
Chairman of Board of County Commissioners Stokes County

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Darlene Bullins  
Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners Stokes County

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

This Instrument has been pre-audited in the Manner as required by the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Julia Edwards  
Finance Director, Stokes County

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tyrone Browder  
Attorney, Stokes County

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Commissioner Inman moved to approve the CenterPoint Human Services Performance Agreement - Fiscal Year 2014-15. Commissioner Lankford seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Proposed YMCA Contract – Fiscal Year 2014-15**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the proposed YMCA Contract for Fiscal Year 2014-15 that was presented at the July 14<sup>th</sup> meeting along a second proposed YMCA Contract for Fiscal Year 2014-15 with the following changed as requested by the Board at the July 14<sup>th</sup> meeting:

The County shall provide a facility to serve as a Program Center to the YMCA in Danbury, North Carolina **or other strategically placed locations** at the County's sole expense except for long distance telephone calls. The County shall maintain ownership of said facility and shall provide maintenance and repair services up to and including road maintenance, grounds maintenance, facility maintenance, insurance and utility costs.

Chairman Booth entertained a motion regarding the YMCA Contract for Fiscal Year 2014-15 presented at the July 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Commissioner Lankford moved to the approve the following version of the YMCA Contract for Fiscal Year 2014-15 that was presented at the July 14<sup>th</sup> meeting:

## **County of Stokes & Stokes Family YMCA**

### **RECREATION CONTRACT**

This contract for Recreation Services (herein the "Contract") is made by and between the Stokes Family YMCA herein known at the "YMCA", and the County of Stokes, herein know as the "County". For and in consideration of the mutual promises and covenants set forth herein, the parties agree as follows:

#### **Responsibilities of the YMCA**

The YMCA agrees to provide the following minimum services:

1. The YMCA shall administer and coordinate all current recreation and wellness programming to include Stokes County **Sports Programming**, Summer Day Camp, Stokes County Easter Egg Hunt, other seasonal family special events, 5k event, Fitness Center operation and wellness services.
2. A Summer Youth Program shall be provided to the youth of Stokes County. This program shall be for the length of time specified each year in the Annual Budget (as herein defined). This program shall utilize school sites as well as YMCA and County facilities.
3. The YMCA shall provide recreation, wellness and social programs at a County facility, at the County's sole expense except for long distance telephone calls, in Danbury, North Carolina. The YMCA shall maintain regular office hours and Fitness Center hours of operation in said facility.
4. Stokes County **Sports Programming** League shall be provided to the youth of Stokes County. The **programming** shall last a minimum of seven weeks.
5. The YMCA shall host an annual 5k event.
6. New Programs shall be offered based on need and availability, such as additional summer camps, sports, recreation and wellness programs and social events.
7. The YMCA shall assume all liability insurance coverage for all YMCA staff and program offerings.

8. The YMCA shall administer the scheduling of shelter usage and special events to be held at Moratock Park, located in Danbury, North Carolina.
9. The YMCA shall collect all fees as set by the Stokes County Board of Commissioners for use of Moratock Park facilities and remit those funds back to the County as requested by the County.
10. The YMCA shall retain all revenues generated by program offerings, except those fees generated from Moratock Park shelter usage.
11. The YMCA shall provide a Stokes County Recreation Department Committee under the authorization of the Stokes Family YMCA volunteer Board of Management. The Committee shall consist of Stokes Family YMCA volunteers, Stokes County citizens and a designated representative of the Stokes County Board of Commissioners.

### **Responsibilities of the County of Stokes**

The County of Stokes agrees to the following responsibilities:

1. The County shall maintain ownership of Moratock Park located in Danbury, North Carolina. Further, the County shall provide maintenance and repair services for Moratock Park up to and including grounds maintenance, facility maintenance, insurance and utility costs.
2. The County shall provide a facility to serve as a Program Center to the YMCA in Danbury, North Carolina at the County's sole expense except for long distance telephone calls. The County shall maintain ownership of said facility and shall provide maintenance and repair services up to and including road maintenance, grounds maintenance, facility maintenance, insurance and utility costs.
3. The County shall provide, at its sole cost and expense, the YMCA staff in Stokes County with one (1) vehicle for travel solely within Stokes County in maintaining programs based in Stokes County and offered to Stokes County citizens.
4. The County shall allow the YMCA staff to purchase fuel at the Stokes County fueling facilities for use in the vehicle provided by the County.

### **Cost**

The County hereby agrees to pay to the YMCA an amount equal to one hundred seventeen thousand and four hundred and eighty-four dollars (\$117,484) for the contract year. This contract sum shall be paid in two (2) equal installments with the first payment due on July 31<sup>st</sup> and the second due on January 31<sup>st</sup> of the contract term.



### **Term**

The term of this contract shall be for a period of one year. This contract may be extended for additional periods upon the expressed written consent of both parties.

The Agreement shall be effective July 1, 2014 and shall remain in effect through June 30, 2015. If a new agreement has not been reached between the parties by July 1, 2015, the FY 2014-15 Agreement shall remain in force, unless it has been terminated in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.

### **Contract Termination**

Either party wishing to terminate this contract may do so upon one-hundred and eighty days written notice to the other party.

### **Hold Harmless Provision**

The YMCA hereby agrees to indemnify and hold the County harmless from all liability arising out of the provision of recreational programs and services as set forth herein.

The County agrees to indemnify and hold the YMCA harmless from all liability arising out of the provision of County maintenance and facilities.

### **Contract Date and Signatures**

This contract for services shall commence as of July 1, 2014 and terminate on June 30, 2015. Contract term extensions are provided in the section of this contract titled "Term".

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Curtis Hazelbaker**  
**President/CEO**  
**YMCA of Northwest North Carolina**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**James D. Booth**  
**Chairman**  
**Stokes County Board of Commissioners**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Attest**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Attest**

This Instrument has been pre-audited in the Manner as required by the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Julia Edwards, Finance Director**

Approved as to Form and Legal Sufficiency

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Tyrone Browder, Stokes County Attorney**

Vice Chairman Jones seconded the motion.

Chairman Booth opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Do not understand why the emphasis is on Danbury
- Like Danbury as much as anyone, but seems selfish and a little restrictive to narrow it down
- It handcuffs the YMCA and handcuffs the County

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- There was no discussion during the budget work session to change the contract that has been used year after year
- The budget was adopted with no mention of changes to the contract
- Do not know why we need to change it now

Commissioner Walker responded:

- Because it makes sense

Commissioner Lankford responded:

- A lot of things make sense, it can be amended next year

Commissioner Walker responded:

- I have spoken to some key people at the YMCA and they want the new wording in the contract

Commissioner Lankford responded:

- If the YMCA comes up with a new location, all they have to do is come back to the Board of Commissioners for discussion

Chairman Booth commented:

- It can be placed on the Agenda anytime during the year

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Amazing
- Do what you want to do, you are going to do it anyway

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

**NCDOT – Request for Addition – Fred Merritt Road – Extension of SR #1337 – Secondary Road System**

Chairman Booth entertained a motion regarding the addition of Fred Merritt Road – Extension of ST #1337 to the North Carolina Secondary Road System which was presented at the July 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Vice Chairman Jones moved to approve the addition of Fred Merritt Road – Extension of ST

#1337 to the North Carolina Secondary Road System. Commissioner Walker seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**Requested for Surplus Vehicle – Danbury Vol. Fire Department and Rescue Squad Inc.**

Chairman Booth entertained a motion regarding a request from the Danbury Vol. Fire Department and Rescue Squad Inc. for a surplus vehicle (Crown Vic) presented at the July 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Commissioner Lankford moved to approve the request from the Danbury Vol. Fire Department and Rescue Squad for a surplus vehicle (Crown Vic). Commissioner Walker seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**Appointment – Workforce Development Board**

Chairman Booth opened the floor for nominations for the Private Business Sector for the Workforce Development Board.

Commissioner Inman commented:

- The 8:30 am meeting time is making it very difficult to find someone who can make those early morning meetings

Commissioner Walker nominated Mark Badgett.

Chairman Booth entertained a motion to close the nominations.

Commissioner Inman moved to close the nominations. Commissioner Lankford seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Booth directed the Clerk to place the item on the August 11<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda.

**Proposed Social Media Policy – Amendment to the Technology/Internet Policy**

Vice Chairman Jones noted the following regarding the Proposed Social Media Policy which had just been adopted:

- Know I voted for the policy, but could not put my finger on what was bothering me about the policy until just now

- Wondering if the policy could be more gentle and still get our point across by inserting “respectfully ask” instead of “shall” in the last paragraph
- Saying it in a nicer, gentle manner, I feel it would go over a lot better
- It would be more tasteful
- It just came to me and could get it out before the vote was taken
- To me, this would not sound so dominating on personal rights
- Trying to come up with a little bit better wording

Commissioner Walker responded:

- Like the tone of what Vice Chairman Jones suggested
- Think that would be an improvement over the current wording

Commissioner Inman questioned County Attorney Browder if he saw any infringement on personal rights with the current Social Media Policy just adopted by the Board?

County Attorney Browder responded:

- Had quite a bit of discussion on the policy before placing it on the Agenda for Board’s consideration
- Fine line between personal rights and the infringement on personal rights
- You don’t want to infringe on the employee’s personal rights, but you don’t want your employees posting things on social media that are going to impact other employees

Vice Chairman Jones commented:

- Feel that “respectfully request” is so much better than “shall”

County Attorney Browder responded:

- Understand the wording suggested by Vice Chairman Jones and have no problem with that, but “shall” is much more forceful than “request”
- Do not have a problem with either one, it is the Board’s preference

Commissioner Walker questioned County Attorney Browder how this policy could be enforced?

Commissioner Walker questioned if an employee posted something on the internet and it stated that he/she did not like something that the commissioners’ did at their meeting (it was done on their personal computer and personal time) where are their citizen’s rights?

County Attorney Browder responded:

- It would be difficult to enforce
- Feel the purpose is to be a deterrent

- If employees knew that there was a policy, they would be less likely to engage in that type of conduct if they knew there could be possible action against them

Commissioner Walker commented:

- I would feel diminished, as an employee, if I had that restriction

Chairman Booth commented:

- In respect to Vice Chairman Jones, allowed her to speak regarding the adopted Social Media policy
- The policy has been adopted

Commissioner Walker commented:

- It can be brought up at the next meeting

### **Appointment – Workforce Development Board**

Commissioner Walker questioned Clerk Bullins if the poll for the vacancy had been taken for the Workforce Development Board – Private Business Section?

Clerk Bullins responded:

- No

Commissioner Walker commented:

- It has been on the Agenda at least two other meetings
- Questioned Clerk Bullins if the item could be voted on at this meeting?

Clerk Bullins responded:

- If so desired by the Board of Commissioners

Commissioner Walker commented:

- I would like to poll
- Hopefully, this choice would be adequate/acceptable, if not, the Board would need to keep looking

Vice Chairman Jones responded:

- Only have one to poll

Commissioner Walker responded:

- One more than we have had in months

Chairman Booth questioned what was the pleasure of the Board regarding the polling of Mark Badgett?

Commissioner Lankford responded:

- Doesn't matter to me unless someone else might come up with another nominee

Commissioner Inman responded:

- Good with voting tonight

Chairman Booth, with full consensus of the Board, polled the Board:

Commissioner Lankford: Mark Badgett

Commissioner Inman: Mark Badgett

Chairman Booth: Not voting for Mark Badgett

Vice Chairman Jones: Mark Badgett

Commissioner Walker: Mark Badgett

The polling for Mark Badgett to serve on the Workforce Development Board carried (4-1) with Chairman Booth voting against Mark Badgett for the appointment.

### **External Posting – Health Department**

Chairman Booth entertained a motion regarding the external posting of a vacant mid-level provider position for the Health Department presented at tonight's meeting.

Commissioner Lankford moved to approve the external posting of a vacant mid-level provider position with a hiring rate of \$66,183.13 to \$70,956.99. Commissioner Inman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

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

### **New Access Point for Federally Qualified Health Care Center**

Chairman Booth noted this item had been postponed due to the arrival of County Attorney Ty Browder and CEO Pam Tillman, Pioneer Community Hospital of Stokes.

County Manager Morris presented the following information regarding the New Access Point for Federally Qualified Health Care Center (FQHC):

- Health Director Scott Lenhart and myself met with the CEO of Southside United Health Center (Southside) last week
- Director Lenhart looked into the idea as a way to reduce county funding needed for the Health Department budget

- Southside United Health Center is potentially interested in doing a new Access Point at the Health Department
- Southside has a Board of Directors would be make the final determination regarding a new Access Point at the Health Department
- Have asked CEO Pam Tillman to attend tonight's meeting to provide the Board with a hospital perspective of the FQHC concept
- Health Director Lenhart has done some additional research on FQHCs
- Would like to have Director Lenhart provide the Board with an overview of FQHC and then allow CEO Tillman to do the same if she desires

Health Director Scott Lenhart provided the Board with the following information for review:

### **Access Point for Federally Qualified Health Care Center**

#### **What is a FQHC:**

A health center that is community based and patient directed which provides comprehensive, culturally competent, quality primary health care services to medically underserved communities and vulnerable populations that have limited access to health care. These centers are considered Safety Nets for rural areas and are located in medically underserved populations or underserved physicians' area.

The main purpose of the FQHC Program is to enhance the provision of primary care services in underserved rural communities. FQHCs qualify for enhanced reimbursement from Medicare and Medicaid, as well as other benefits.

#### **Benefits**

- Increase of reimbursement rates from Medicaid and Medicare. Cost base reimbursement under Medicare
- Able to see Medicare patients. Currently, we can only accept Medicare patients for influenza vaccines
- Potential increase of revenue with the acceptance of Medicare Patients
- Reduce county funds for operating cost of primary care clinic and some public health programs
- Medical malpractice coverage offered through this program, which could reduce our health department malpractice insurance with Snowden Insurance group
- Expansion of our 340b drug program. This program provides low cost medications to treat our patients. Currently, we have 340b program for STD drugs and family planning.
- Decrease of patients using more expensive medical care such as seeking medical care at the emergency room. Medical care offered sooner which will reduce medical cost over all. Historically, many patients without insurance will wait to see a medical provider because they cannot afford health care. When these individuals do seek care, often their conditions are out of control requiring more extensive care or hospitalizations.
- Automatic designation as a Health Professional Shortage Area. This designation will allow us to apply to receive National Health Service Corps (NHSC) personnel.

**Disadvantages:**

- Increase of administrative work to meet federal requirements
- Increase of tracking of time studies
- Increase of administrative work concerning billing of supplies, equipment and staff time
- New Policies
- Larger board or another board will need to be formed
- Sharing of staff and who will be responsible for staff
- Another branch to the organizational chart
- May have an impact on Pioneer Hospital, especially with Medicare patients.

Please note, as Health Director, I do not anticipate a large impact on Pioneer hospital since they are for profit. I see really no change to our patient population other than maybe an increase of Medicare patients. If we are accepted as a new access point Stokes County Health Department will still be serving the same population as before, only different the cost of operating will be shared with another agency which will help reduce the counties share.

Health Director Scott Lenhart

Health Director Scott Lenhart provided the following additional information:

- This came about because of our prenatal clinic
- A lot of the physicians who provide services to the prenatal clinic work at the Southside FQHC
- They approached the Health Department about becoming a new Access Point
- Under the Health Resources & Service Administration (HRSA) Guidelines, this is probably one of the last opportunities for new Access Points for a FQHC
- A couple of years, understand a former Health Director was trying to do the complete FQHC which is very difficult and a lot of red tape
- This would only be a New Access Point for Southside which could benefit the Health Department in some ways
- Have done additional research today and now I am “straddling the fence”
- Think we need to really talk through this concept with additional research before proceeding
- Provided the Board with a handout detailing services offered by the Southside United Health Center
- Health Department actually saw more patients last year than Southside
- Will probably deliver more babies this year (2014) than Southside
- Discussed the benefits of the New Access Point
  - If the Health Department decides to become a New Access Point for Southside; Southside automatically receives \$650,000 for the Health Department becoming a New Access Point which would be used to offset the use of county funding
  - The \$650,000 will be provided each year until the Government ceases the program; some FQHCs have been in existence for more than 25 years



- Health Department will receive increased reimbursement rates for seeing Medicaid and Medicare patients
- Current reimbursement rate for a sick visit is approximately \$68
- That amount will increase to \$110 per sick visit as a New Access Point (approximately a 30% increase in reimbursement rates)
- Currently, the Health Department can only see Medicare patients for influenza vaccines
- Health Department will be able to see Medicare patients for all services available at the Health Department
- Potential increase in revenues
- Reducing county funding for operating costs
- Malpractice insurance will be paid by the federal government – saving county dollars
- Expansion of 340 (b) drug, more medications will be able to be purchased at a cheaper cost – can be ordered through the federal government
- Hopefully there will be a decrease in patients seeking more expensive care such as the emergency room; Health Department already has the required sliding scale (payer mix is approximately 90% Medicaid/self-pay and 10% other insurances)
- Designation as a Health Professional Shortage Area; this designation will allow us to apply to receive National Health Service Corps (NHSC) personnel
- Since becoming Health Director, every mid-level provider and physician has been associated with the HRSA Program for loan repayment; this brings an opportunity for physicians
- Discussed the disadvantages of the New Access Point
  - Increase of administrative work to meet federal requirements
    - Talked to a gentlemen from the High Country Community Health Center
    - Bryan Belcher establishes a New Access Point at the High Country Community Health Center
      - Mr. Belcher noted it has a lot of paperwork
      - Most of the time when funding is lost, it is due to incompleteness of paperwork
  - Increase of tracking of time studies
    - Have to keep track of who is working in each specific area
    - Has to be a distinct separation between the New Access Point and the regular Health Department
    - There is absolutely no supplanting of federal funding into the Health Department
  - Increase of administrative work concerning billing of supplies, equipment and staff time
  - New Policies will be required for New Access Point
    - Will have to have new, separate policies
  - Larger board or another board will need to be formed

- New board or members of existing board will have to be on the Southside board
- Negative impact to hospitals is that both would be competing for the same patients
  - Personally, as the Health Director, felt with the Affordable Care Act, the Health Department would be seeing more Medicaid patients, that is not necessarily the case
  - Not actually sure if it would impact the hospital
- Health Department has a very good layout for keeping patients separated between Health Department and New Access Point
- Southside came to the Health Department to see if there was any interest
- Must have a letter of intent to the federal government by August 26<sup>th</sup>
- Have been trying to get in touch with the CEO at Southside with no luck, have more questions about the entire process
- Thought at first it was a great opportunity to decrease county funding for the operation of the Health Department
- Check with Gaston County who has three FQHCs running out of their Health Department since 1990 (all are operating very well)
  - The model in Gaston County has expanded into Iredell County
  - Has no direct competition with the hospital
  - Received very positive comments from Gaston County staff at the Health Department
- Spoke with High Country Community Health Center
  - They have started two – one in Ashe County and one in Watauga County out of the Health Departments
  - Ashe County flourished and Watauga County closed last year due to problems with who was getting the funding and what services would be offered
  - Have opened another one in Boone that is thriving, but is not associated with the Health Department
- Reiterated that personally do not feel that the New Access Point will be competing with the hospital
- May lose a few patients to the hospital, but may gain a few patients from the hospital
- Have been advised to take “baby steps”
- First thing needed- is to determine how much of the \$650,000 the Health Department will receive
- Lot of questions need to be answered
- Health Department saw 6,000 patients last year
- Southside saw 4,000 patients last year
- Our patient load will help Southside out greatly
- Health Department had over 12,000 WIC encounters last year
- Have had 35 births since January 2014; Southside only had 59 births in 2013
- On track to see more births this year than Southside

- OB-GYN would be one that Southside would want, there is no funding for OB-GYN except Medicaid reimbursement which does pay well
- Have been questioned about expansion
  - No room at current location
  - Southside rejected the Westfield Clinic which is now closed
  - Could possibly look at other avenues such as the Petree property
- Any programs turned over to the FQHC will lose state funding for the Health Department along with the cost settlement funding
- That is a lot of reimbursement to lose and needs to be evaluated carefully
- Hospital will have to be involved (possibly reduce some of their rates) if a New Access Point is designated at the Health Department; Health Department has no x-ray equipment
- Other services at the hospital may be needed such as ultrasounds
- Lot of issues that would need to be worked out
- Really need to evaluate this New Access Point
- Time is of the essence since the letter of intent is due August 26<sup>th</sup>
- Have been told that the Health Department would most likely be designated as a New Access Point if the county chose to proceed
- Reiterated the need to look closely at the loss of state revenue and cost settlement funding
- Need to decide if the Health Department should remain the same and possibly look at working better with the hospital or explore this new opportunity
- Chief Operating Officer Bryan Belcher, High Country Community Health, is willing to come to Stokes County and discuss the pros and cons of establishing a New Access Point
- COO Belcher has been through a success and a failure
- Feel staff could learn from COO Belcher

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Noted that Director Lenhart is obviously doing his homework with this New Access Point, probably have some to do myself
- CEO Tillman was a member of the Health Services Alliance several years ago and very active; Health Services Alliance was looking at this same concept
- Thought at that time, it was a goal to look into this concept and see if it could work
- Did not think at that time of combining efforts with an existing established FQHC
- Will be interesting from a Health Department perspective
- Will also be interested in any information that CEO Tillman has to share from Pioneer's perspective
- Interested in what is best for the county
- Take the names off it, take the geography off it and see what is best for the county
- Want to make the best decision possible for Stokes County
- As Health Director, would be very interested in a recommendation and what is the recommendation based on (yes or no)

Director Lenhart responded:

- Need for more research and meetings before I could make a recommendation
- This is a new field for me
- State says if you can do a new FQHC, go for it
- I understand now why the state would encourage that, saves state funding
- Could hurt the county - a lot of unknowns right now
- Other option to possibly look – Public Health Authority – but that comes with risks
- Only one Public Health Authority (Hertford County) in the state which has a lot of financial problems
- Reiterated that time is of the essence

Commissioner Walker questioned Director Lenhart what particular elements are riding the timing of this?

Health Director Lenhart responded:

- August 26<sup>th</sup> letter of intent to the federal government
- If the Health Department is accepted for a New Access Point, a grant must be written and submitted by the end of November
- The determination will be awarded December or January
- Will be talking to the CEO at Southside to see when they would have to know if the County is interested in proceeding

Commissioner Walker continued:

- Got my attention when you stated that this would save the county money and the fact that it offers other service options to our citizens
- It doesn't take away, but adds too

Health Director Lenhart responded:

- One thing that needs to be done is talk to Chief Operating Officer for the NC Division of Public Health, Danny Staley, to get his input on public health departments being Access Points for FQHCs

Chairman Booth requested comments from CEO Pam Tillman, Pioneer Community Hospital of Stokes.

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Do not feel that I know enough about New Access Point to discuss it intelligently
- Need the additional information that Director Lenhart is researching

Chairman Booth agreed with Commissioner Inman regarding the discussion of the New Access Point.

CEO Pam Tillman commented:

- Agree with Commissioner Inman and Chairman Booth, need a lot more information to be able to discuss the concept
- Have been working on the Home Health transfer and have not had enough time to research the concept
- Also received a call (like the one Director Lenhart received) from Southside explaining their intentions
- While serving on the Health Services Alliance in collaboration with Surry and Yadkin Counties, found that the rules and regulations did require hospitals who participated had to reduce rates for services or provide free services to make the FQHCs work even with the funding from the federal government
- Was very interested to meet with them to see what they had to say
- My concern was when they first came it, there was no discussion on collaboration with the hospital, it was that they wanted to come out to expand to get the Medicaid, Medicare, and private insurance patients due to seeing so many uninsured patients in Winston Salem
- That would be direct competition with the hospital
- Discussed the Westfield Clinic, they were not interested in the Westfield Clinic - too small, but did like the size of the health department
- I was concerned from those comments, they did not seem interested in any other area but the health department
- Very concerned that the Westfield Clinic is now closed, an area that is definitely unserved
- Don't know if there is any collaboration that could be done with the hospital at this point, need more information
- Pioneer/CEO President Joe McNulty and Vice President of Hospital Operations Steve Fontaine both stated that in most of the areas where the FQHCs have been in close proximity to hospitals, it has been more of a competition versus collaboration
- There is one hospital in Georgia that they actually work together, but do not know exactly what the benefits are for each
- Would be interested in talking more about the concept
- President McNulty is not in favor of FQHCs because of the areas where things were not collaborative as we had heard that they could be
- From my perspective, was a little taken back that they just came in and openly stated that they wanted to come to this area to get out business and were not looking for the underinsured

Health Director Lenhart commented:

- Very interested in the underinsured and the uninsured
- Have always worked well with Pioneer
- Not interested in going after the insurance market even though it pays better, interested in those underserved and unserved patients and areas – large population out there that is either underinsured or noninsured
- If I had to take my “gut feeling” right now, it would be “if it is not broken, don't fix it”
- Do think we owe it to look into the opportunity

- Feel there needs to be a committee to evaluate to include possibly commissioners, manager, hospital staff, etc.
- Thought it was going to be good, but right now, need to do more homework
- I know they can work, but can they work in Stokes County – that is the question?
- Want to see the hospital, who is doing great things, continue to succeed

Vice Chairman Jones commented:

- Very thankful that you have made more discoveries because when I read the material in the Agenda packet, thought it could be good for the county
- Do not get that “warm, fuzzy feeling” right now after having listened to the additional information
- Seems that they may be a little pushing, encroaching on our county to do their thing without any collaboration, don’t like that feeling

Director Lenhart responded:

- Did not even know what they had told Pam until Pam told me about them wanting to come into the county to get the Medicaid, Medicare and private insurance patients
- Did not get most of the additional information until about 4:00 pm today

Vice Chairman Jones continued:

- Willing to talk to them – open minded to listen to hear what they have to say
- Not getting good vibes from this at all
- Appreciate the additional information provided at tonight’s meeting

Manager Morris requested CEO Tillman to speak about the “J-1 VISA Program”.

CEO Tillman responded:

- FQHCs have the J-1 VISA Program with the Nation Health Services Corps
- Program works with physicians who are trying to come into the country to become citizens to practice
- Physicians have various levels of training depending upon where they come from
- Lot of complexity to the program
- Would like to know what type of providers are coming into the area
- Will definitely follow up to see if there is any chance of collaboration, can’t just give them a blanket letter of support right now

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Confirmed with Director Lenhart that the area served by Southside is considered an underserved population
- Baptist and Novant Hospitals are located within 2 miles of the area served by Southside, doesn’t make a lot of sense

Health Director Lenhart responded:

- The area may not have a physician shortage, but may have a shortage of individuals who can afford appropriate health care

Commissioner Lankford continued:

- One thing that caught my interest is the potential of having to make model changes to operate state business versus the federal business, that is critical to me

Health Director Lenhart responded:

- Agree with Commissioner Lankford's comments
- It would basically be two separate entities working out of the same facility using the same staff
- Think you are on the right course to obtain additional information
- Need more information and evaluation before I could make a decision

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Have always had the upmost admiration and respect for CEO Tillman for her abilities and for her
- With Pam being involved, that is a comfort factor for me,
- Look at Joe a little different, he is president of a for profit company, that is a different role
- Pam is a medical person
- Feel you will be looking at this from a different perspective
- You have your corporate hat on, but feel you will look at this to see what is best for all the potential users
- For example, Westfield, don't think Pioneer is interested there, not a strong market but could be some help for citizens through this FQHC
- There are underserved areas in all parts of the County
- There are people who drive from King to the Health Department in Danbury
- There are people in King that don't go to the local doctors
- At one time, have not validated this, but heard it was producing \$180,000 in revenue at one time
- My objection is for competition
- Any corporation that can't stand competition to me has lost its focus
- It is how you use competition for the best interests of the citizens
- Can't diminish competition, it is not fair to the citizens
- Would like to see it refocused from "is this competition against the hospital" to "what is in the ultimate best interests to the citizens of the county"
- Pioneer is doing well and I am glad
- Hope they continue and do better
- We have an obligation and Director Lenhart is very aware of this, to look at what is best for our citizens on a continual basis
- Like some of the other commissioners, the more adequate, valid, and appropriate information that is given to the Board, the easier the decision is to make
- Is it going to help or is it going to tie our hands in ways that don't need to happen?
- Questioned Director Lenhart when additional information could be obtained to help clear the fog?

Director Lenhart responded:

- Need to get the all parties at the table
- Both hospital and health department are busy tying up the loose ends for the Home Health transfer
- Suggested scheduling a meeting this week or next to have more information available at the first Board meeting in August
- Need staff from Southside, Manager Morris, commissioners, CEO Tillman, COO Bryan Belcher who has had a success and a failure with FQHCs (could be an unbiased party)
- Need to find additional information about cost settlements, funding attached to the contract addendums, where the \$650,000 goes; could possibly not know all the answers until after the first year
- There also has to be a name change which is mandatory

Commissioner Walker commented:

- One question to ask is “how much of a puppet are we on their string”?

Director Lenhart responded:

- Agree with Commissioner Walker, Southside would be the primary agent
- Also would like to know how much control the director would have; could have things that I don’t like, but have no control over

Commissioner Walker continued:

- Always have to remind myself that Pioneer is serving King in some capacity and this part of the county well
- County has approximately four other hospitals that are serving citizens in Stokes County in various capacities
- Think sometime that an abundance of focus is on Pioneer and that is just part of the picture
- Last figure I heard, 22% of Novant’s patients came from Stokes County – 13 providers in the County

CEO Tillman responded:

- Just wanted to let the Board know that Pioneer is continuing to work with those entities

Commissioner Walker continued:

- I commend and applaud Pioneer for that, knowing and working with Pam, would not expect anything less than that
- You have that vision, I applaud you for that, it is much bigger than just Pioneer, it is what is best for the citizens of the County

The Board discussed the need for more information.

The Board discussed Chairman Booth and Vice Chairman Jones representing the Board at



the meeting to be scheduled by Health Director Lenhart.

It was the consensus of the Board to have Chairman Booth and Vice Chairman Jones at the meeting along with Manager Morris.

Health Director Lenhart noted he would set up the meeting as soon as possible.

Chairman Booth, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on August 11<sup>th</sup> Discussion Agenda.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

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

- To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged pursuant to GS 143-318.11(a)(3)

Commissioner Walker moved to enter closed session for the following:

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

Commissioner Inman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The Board returned to the regular session of the July 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Adjournment**

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

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

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

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