

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
AUGUST 25, 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, August 25, 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

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

Commissioner Walker delivered the invocation.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT-GOVERNING BODY-PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Booth opened the meeting by inviting 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 August 25, 2014 Agenda.

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following items for the Board's direction to add to tonight's Agenda or to be placed on the September 8th Agenda:

Appointment – Economic Development Commission (EDC)

- EDC Member Bruce Younts has resigned from the EDC

- This item can be placed on tonight's Agenda to start the process or placed on the September 8th Agenda

Chairman Booth opened the floor for adding the item to tonight's Agenda.

It was the consensus of the Board to place the EDC appointment on the September 8th

Discussion Agenda.

Chairman Booth directed the Clerk to place the item on the September 8th Discussion

Agenda.

Autumn Square Building – Reduction in Rent

- Received a request (after the Agenda was delivered) from Ronnie Venable to reduce the rent on the space at the Autumn Square Building used for his ministry (request to reduce the monthly rent \$200 each month)
- Mr. Venable rents a couple of the bay units strictly for storage
- Does not use electricity unless getting items out of the storage unit – there is no heat and air conditioning used in the storage units
- Mr. Venable obtains all funding through fundraising efforts which is extremely difficult right now
- Mr. Venable has requested the rent be reduced from \$400 to \$200 each month
- Mr. Venable is also involved with a plumbing business that rents a space adjoining the County's garage; this was negotiated during the purchase of the building and is not associated with the upstairs offices
- Mr. Venable pays the County \$1,100 per month for that space which is very compatible with its location to the county's garage; not sure it would be easy to replace this business due to its location
- Authority was given to the manager by the Board of Commissioners to sign the leases for that facility, but did not feel comfortable reducing the rent without the Board's authorization
- Can be put on tonight's Discussion Agenda or the September 8th Discussion Agenda

Chairman Booth opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Walker questioned Manager Morris the urgency of the request?

County Manager Morris responded:

- Indicated to Mr. Venable that I would provide him with a status after the Monday's Board meeting
- Do not feel it will be a big deal if it is placed on the next Agenda for a decision
- If the Board has any questions before the next meeting, please don't hesitate to call or email me
- The request for the rent reduction is only for the storage units

Chairman Booth confirmed with Manager Morris the units in questioned are only used for storage and do not use heat and air conditioning.

It was the consensus of the Board to place the appointment on the September 8th Discussion Agenda.

Chairman Booth directed the Clerk to place the item on the September 8th Discussion Agenda.

Vice Chairman Jones moved to approve the August 25th 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:

- Proposed Release and Waiver of Liability – County Owned Parks Grant
 - Provided the Board with an updated copy of the proposed Release and Waiver of Liability that was provided with the Agenda packet last week – final version to be placed with the proposed County Owned Parks Grant Application
- Proposed Verizon Tower – Germanton Park
 - Received a call from a Verizon Representative who wishes to see if the Board would entertain a cell tower on the Germanton Park property
 - County ordinance requires any new cell tower be considered for county property first
 - Would like direction from the Board to continue due diligence by first contacting the Germanton Park Committee
 - Is it a sensitive item that needs to be stopped with no further consideration?
 - Already looked at the school bus garage property; school system is not interested
 - May look at private property if the County is not interested

Chairman Booth opened the floor for discussion.

Vice Chairman Jones commented:

- Do not feel it is fair to not do due diligence and learn more

- Very concerned about improving cell coverage across the county

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Would like to at least hear from the park committee and Germanton residents

Commissioner Inman commented:

- No harm doing due diligence

It was the consensus of the Board to direct Manager Morris to continue due diligence by contacting the park committee first and placing it on a future Discussion Agenda.

County Manager Rick Morris continued:

- Blood Drive
 - County will be hosting a mobile blood drive tomorrow, Tuesday, August 26th

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Attended the recent NCACC Conference
 - Very good conference with some very enlightening sessions; especially the one on history
 - One of the most popular breakout sessions was on economic development, in fact, the room was not large enough and had to be expanded into the room next door
 - Conference is a very good networking tool
 - Talked with several commissioners from other counties and the main issues in most all counties are jobs and the economy
 - Always learn things at the conference that can benefit the citizens of Stokes County; feel it is time well spent
- Missed the Ribbon Cutting at Lawsonville Elementary School, been having some health issues, possible kidney stone
 - Understand the community, staff and students are very pleased with the renovations
 - Very pleased the Board was able to provide funding for the project
- Attended a school tour with Stokes County School Superintendent Ronnie Mendenhall, Assistant School Superintendent Tony George, and Facilities Director David Burge last week to see the repair projects that have been completed this summer
 - Toured Pinnacle Elementary, Mount Olive Elementary, Walnut Cove Elementary, Pine Hall Elementary, and Sandy Ridge Elementary
 - Very pleasing and gratifying to see the impact those repairs had on the spirits in these schools
 - In talking with school staff, found out how delighted they all are to have this work done
 - My thought is --“If I have known it would have made this much difference to these folks, wish we could have done it sooner”

- They are really pleased, a boost to the morale and I am sure the students will be pleased when they return
- Putting that light colored tile on floor has made a world of difference
- It took what was some drab rooms and really liven them up

Vice Chairman Jones commented:

- Also attended the NCACC Conference
 - Was a very good conference
 - Did an extra session on Consolidation of DSS/Health Departments; this is the third session I have attended on this consolidation process
 - Very glad I attended this session
 - Talked with another female commissioner who has been in the medical industry for almost 30 years and she feels that consolidation in their county has turned out to be a very good thing
 - It affirmed to me that the County has done the right thing by placing DSS and Health Department under the County's control
 - Twenty-one counties have done some type of consolidation
 - Had breakfast with the County's youth representatives – Elijah Evans and Brandon Hartman
 - Both represented the County very well
 - Am sure that Brandon can be another Steve Troxler
- Commissioner Inman and I will be attending the school tour on September 15th
- Piedmont Authority Regional Transportation (PART) Annual Report shows that the PART is in the black – organization looking good

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Also attended the NCACC Conference
 - Great Conference in Asheville
 - Attend the NCACC Board of Directors Meeting on Wednesday before the conference
 - NCACC Executive Director David Thompson has tendered his resignation
 - NCACC will be searching for a new director; it will be some really tough shoes to fill
 - Also attended the breakfast with our youth representative – Elijah and Brandon
 - At the business session, three or four of the youth representatives were chosen to participate in a question/answer session
 - President Ronnie Beale asked each representative a question
 - Each youth representative had some great answers
 - Very impressed with Brandon Hartman's response; Brandon plans to go into Agricultural Science
- Requested the Clerk to copy the President's Economic Development Task Force Report and Recommendations "Cultivating Economic Growth" for the other commissioners
 - Very good information

- Report has a quote in the issue by Commissioner Inman “Stokes County leads North Carolina in the percentage of workforce that commutes out of the county to work” – not a good static to be proud
- As far as the business session:
 - Brenda Howerton was elected as the Second Vice President
 - Ronnie Beale was elected President
- Attended the Sheriff’s dedication of the “Sheriff’s Through History”; a very nice event - great history
- Attended the Lawsonville Ribbon Cutting
 - That is a great addition to that school
 - Very proud of how the renovation projects at Lawsonville and Southeastern Middle Schools turned out; both additions really fit into the schools, do not look like they are an add on
- Proud of this Board for their support of education – that completes Phase One

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Ethics for Life – “For the Lord giveth wisdom; out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding” (Proverbs)
- Attended the school tour with Chairman Booth
 - Very excited about all the floors that had been done, several rooms and a gym at Sandy Ridge Elementary School
 - Everyone is very proud of the improvements and the safety issues that were addressed
 - Lot of improvements done with the dollars appropriated in the last budget
 - Everyone is very appreciative of the improvements
- Attended the Piedmont Triad Regional Council (PTRC) meeting last week
 - Regional Economic Board’s Bylaws were approved
 - Will be called the Economic Development District with representatives from each county represented (33 Board members)
- Stokes Partnership for Children held its *BBQ for Books* fundraiser last Friday; very successful event
- Numbers at the Pioneer facilities in Danbury and King continue to increase; many people are using the services provided by Pioneer
 - Providing services for the community; services that are local that really benefit our elderly population
 - Positive health is being provided for all our citizens
 - Community health care is what it is all about

Chairman Booth commented:

- Just about everything has already been mentioned by my fellow commissioners
- Lawsonville Ribbon Cutting was a great ceremony; agree with Commissioner Inman, looks like a new campus
 - Agree everyone is really excited about the renovations
 - New parking lot blends right in
 - Have increased the parking area from 15 to 80 spaces
- Attended the school tour with Commissioner Lankford

- Very pleased with the improvements that have been made
- Everyone is very appreciative
- Feel everyone is taking more pride in their schools; wanting to improve the schools
- Attended the Sheriff's Through History Reception
 - Very nice display that everyone can look at and learn about Stokes County history

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 August 11, 2014 – Regular Meeting

Sheriff's Department - Budget Amendment #6

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #6.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
Sheriff's Department				
100.4310.351	Maintenance & Repairs-Auto	\$95,139.00	\$2,794.00	\$97,933.00
100.4310.511	Equipment – Non Capitalized	<u>\$14,706.00</u>	<u>\$4,500.00</u>	<u>\$19,206.00</u>
	Totals	\$109,845.00	\$7,294.00	\$117,139.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:
To appropriate insurance claim funds due to an accident.

This will result in a **net increase** of **\$7,294.00** in the expenditures and other financial use to the County's annual budget. To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will increase. These revenues have already been received or are verified they will be received this fiscal year.

Account Number	Account Description	Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
100.3839.850	Insurance Claims	<u>\$1,639.00</u>	<u>\$7,294.00</u>	<u>\$8,933.00</u>
	Totals	\$1,639.00	\$7,294.00	\$8,933.00

Health Department - Budget Amendment #7

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #7.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
	Animal Control			
	Health Department			
100.5100.000	Salaries	\$415,013.00	\$27,971.00	\$442,984.00
100.5100.511	Equipment- Non Capital	<u>\$00.00</u>	<u>\$8,650.00</u>	<u>\$8,650.00</u>
	Totals	\$415,013.00	\$36,621.00	\$451,634.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To appropriate per member per month funds in the Pregnancy Care Management and Child Care for Children's Programs that were deemed as reserves by the Northwest Community Care Network. The NCCN is requiring computer upgrades for the staff in these programs and also encryption software for each computer purchased. Reserve funds will be used to purchase 3 laptops with docking stations and encryption software licenses for each.

This will result in a **net increase** of **\$36,621.00** in the expenditures and other financial use to the County's annual budget. To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will increase. These revenues have already been received or are verified they will be received this fiscal year.

Account Number	Account Description	Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
100.3301.238	PCM Title XIX	\$73,185.00	\$11,421.00	\$84,606.00
100.3301.243	CC4C Title XIX	<u>\$72,460.00</u>	<u>\$25,200.00</u>	<u>\$97,660.00</u>
	Totals	\$145,645.00	\$36,621.00	\$182,266.00

Tax Administration Report – July 2014

Real and Personal Releases more than \$100

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Real and Personal Releases more than \$100 (July 2014) at the August 11th meeting with a request for approval at the

August 25th meeting:

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

Property Name	July 2014 Bill Number	Amount
Deborah King Reason: Clerical error-Use Value accidentally removed	14A692500267619	\$641.55
Marlene/Richard McCraw Reason: Corrected appraisal data	14A599304712667	\$225.14
BCM Commercial Services Reason: Business Sold	14A156041614.02	<u>\$221.79</u>
	Total	\$1,088.48

Tax Office (EMS Billing) Write-off Request

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following EMS Billing Write-Off Request (July 2014) at the August 11th meeting with a request for approval at the August 25th meeting:

Call number	Date	Charge Amount	Reason
E14-04178	6/13/2014	\$483.00	Inmate - No insurance
E14-02581	4/13/2014	\$358.00	Inmate - No insurance
E14-02129	3/25/2014	\$483.00	Inmate - No insurance
E14-01458	2/26/2014	\$358.00	Inmate - No insurance
E14-00249	1/10/2014	<u>\$358.00</u>	Inmate - No insurance
		\$2,040.00	

Late Applications for Elderly Exemption

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Late Applications for Elderly Exemption (July 2014) at the August 11th meeting with a request for approval at the August 25th meeting:

Taxpayer: Alton Toms Roberts

- Parcel Number: 6902-13-03-6656
- One acre of land and a dwelling located at 309 Dalton Rd, King, NC
- Assigned Tax Value of \$55,900
- Review of the application and accompanying documents indicate that he qualifies for the exemption

Taxpayers: Jeanette M. Taylor and Flora L. Marsh

- Parcel Number: 5993-17-10-9106
- One acre of land and a dwelling located at 111 Westridge Drive, King, NC
- Assigned Tax Value of \$94,200
- Review of the application and accompanying documents indicate that they qualify for the exemption

Taxpayer: Sandra Kaye Shelton

- Parcel Number: 6000-00-95-1551
- One acre of land and a dwelling located at 1021 Elmer Shelton Road, Westfield, NC
- Assigned Tax Value of \$113,600
- Review of the application and accompanying documents indicate that she qualifies for the exemption

Taxpayer: Mary Frances Jackson

- Parcel Number: 5987-03-34-0282
- One acre of land and a dwelling located at 1280 Pilot-Westfield Road, Pilot Mountain, NC
- Assigned Tax Value of \$84,500
- Review of the application and accompanying documents indicate that she qualifies for the exemption

Vice Chairman Jones noted the following correction on page 46 of the August 11th minutes:

- **Hill** stopper for me... should be **Deal** stopper for me...

Commissioner Inman moved to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Vice Chairman

Jones seconded the motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – INFORMATION AGENDA

NC FAST Update

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following NC FAST Update from Social

Services Director Stacey Elmes:

- Not a lot to update since the August 11th update provided by DSS Director Elmes
- Staff getting ready for the “Hard Launch” for Medicaid which is scheduled for October 20th
- Lot of activity getting ready for the “Hard Launch”
- Everything else is currently going okay

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – DISCUSSION AGENDA

NCDOT – Request for Addition – Oxford Lane in Dalton West Subdivision

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding a NCDOT

Request:

- Request for Addition – Oxford Lane in Dalton West Subdivision
- Road is classified as subdivision
- No state funds needed to improve the maintenance condition of this addition
- County staff has no issues with the request

Chairman Booth opened the floor for discussion.

The Board had no issues with the request.

Chairman Booth, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on September 8th Action Agenda.

NCDOT – Request to Abandon SR#1916 – Coon Joyce Road from the Secondary Road System

Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding a NCDOT

Request:

- Request for abandonment – SR#1916 – Coon Joyce Road from the Secondary Road System
- NCDOT has received a petition from the sole property owner requesting the abandonment of approximately 4,224' from the Secondary Road System
- Tax Administrator Jake Oakley, EMS Director Greg Collins, E911 Director Del Hall, and Planning Director David Sudderth have reviewed the request and see no issues
- Land is listed under two LLCs – DFC Stokes, LLC and Stokes 2 LLC
- Request consensus from the Board to proceed with the process

Chairman Booth opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Confirmed with Manager Morris that the entire road is being requested for abandonment

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Confirmed with Manager Morris that the entire road is owned by one sole property owner

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Questioned if there is anyone living on the road?

County Manager Morris responded:

- Do not have that information

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Understand there are some problems with some of the roads that have been abandoned and becoming private roads; school buses can't run private roads
- A lot of people don't understand that school buses can't run private roads
- Want to make sure that all of this has been taken into consideration
- Would want to make sure if there is anyone living on the road that is understood
- Will have that question on every abandonment request from NCDOT from this time forward
- It is becoming a major issue
- Understand there is an issue with the partial road abandonment in Collinstown
- There is an issue with the bus turnaround
- Feel we need to be more cautious when an abandonment is requested

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Agreed with Commissioner Lankford

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Always try to be as accommodating as possible with this type of request
- Appreciate the caution that I am hearing from Commissioner Lankford
- I agree with Commissioner Lankford's concerns
- Believe it is better to take our time and be sure that we are not getting ahead of ourselves and not creating a situation like Commissioner Lankford described in Collinstown
- I would support placing this back on the Discussion Agenda and checking to see if we can find the answers to Commissioner Lankford's questions

County Manager Morris confirmed with the Board that staff needs to make sure that the property owner and anyone living on the road that is being requested for abandonment understand that school buses do not run on private roads.

Commissioner Inman commented:

- One thing for sure is that once the abandonment is approved, the road will not be put back on by NCDOT
- Want to make sure all questions are answered before any action is taken

Commissioner Walker suggested staff possibly taking a look at the road to make sure the County is not missing anything.

Commissioner Walker questioned if anyone knows why the property owner is requesting the abandonment of the entire road?

Clerk Bullins explained the process regarding an abandonment request:

- Property owner/owners make a request for abandonment to NCDOT
- County receives the abandonment request from NCDOT
- County staff has no personal contact with the property owner/owners
- County staff determines that there are no issues with the request before placing on the Board's Agenda and that all property owners have signed the petition
- Once directed by the Board to proceed, the road is post along with an advertisement for a Public Hearing in the local paper for three weeks before any action by the Board of Commissioners

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- I am looking at the abandonment from the people's standpoint, not only for the property owner and NCDOT

Chairman Booth directed staff to contact the property owner and anyone living on the road regarding the Board's concerns before the next meeting if possible.

Chairman Booth, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on September 8th Discussion Agenda.

NCACC Legislative Goals – Development Process

County Manager Morris noted the clerk had provided the Board with comments from the August 11th meeting for further discussion.

County Manager Morris noted the September 19th deadline for submission to NCACC.

Chairman Booth opened the floor for further discussion.

Vice Chairman Jones commented:

- Attended a session at the NCACC Conference called NC Connect
- NC Connect is going about trying to get internet in rural areas as more of a regional thing
- Provided some really good ideas

- Feel the County should possibly look at going with the NCACC's initiatives to gain better internet services
- Feel the County should submit a goal regarding internet services in rural area; possibly looking at regionalization
- Not sure what the exact wording should be
- County has been looking at ways to bring internet to the unserved areas and underserved areas; feel some of these other counties may have a better way to get better internet service in the County – for example: Graham County

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Again continuing with one of the same themes, referencing the quote by Commissioner Inman in the “Cultivating Economic Growth” regarding Stokes County leading the state in the percentage of workers who must go outside the county for employment
- If you have not figured out what the risk is regarding that statistic, don't know when the light is going to go off

Commissioner Inman commented:

- The comment was made by me: I was a member of the Task Force

Commissioner Walker responded:

- You were justified in making that comment
- To my knowledge, that was a very accurate statement
- Don't know if that statement has changed

Commissioner Walker continued:

- Here are some of the statistics regarding basically a residential county:
 - The other counties are getting a tax benefit by providing the jobs
 - Here is what Stokes County is getting:
 - On the average, for every \$1.00 that comes into the county from residential, the county spends \$1.14
 - The more residential we have, the more it costs the County
 - I wish it would slow down
 - When I was on the King Board, I would drag my feet on what was called “affordable housing”; would keep asking what is enough of affordable housing
 - On the average, for every \$1.00 that comes into the county from commercial, the county spends \$.33
 - On the average, for every \$1.00 that comes into the county from agriculture, the county spends \$.58
- The County appropriated the equivalent of 9.5 cents from the County's Fund Balance this year to balance the FY 2014-15 budget
- That tells me where we are financially
- We keep doing this and the picture is not going to be pretty; don't think anyone debates that
- Why am I saying all this, is because of the Legislative Goals

- Would like to see a goal worded something along the lines of:
 - Let's give the counties, who need it the most, help with economic development
- Are we a County that needs economic development more than most other counties across the state? Appears that way
- Let's put in a request through the Legislative Goals – put economic development funding where the most need is – rural counties
- We are situated among Surry, Rockingham, and Forsyth Counties
- Have heard citizens going as far away as Charlotte to work
- Need to create jobs in Stokes County
- We have 6 miles of interstate, we have all the utilities you could ask for – natural gas, rail, water/sewer, high speed internet
- Put a Legislative Goal that says:
 - “please focus on counties that need economic development the most”
 - “make it a level playing field”
 - “offer more incentives for those counties”
- Stokes County is labeled as a “Tier Two” County because our citizens are making good money in another county
- Not exactly sure, but which Tier is it, one or three, that gets more funding?

County Manager Morris commented:

- Tier One counties receive more funding
- Rockingham and Surry Counties are both Tier One

Commissioner Walker continued:

- Want to see a Legislative Goal that addresses this issue
- Would like to see it remain a goal until we see some results
- There is no reason for us to be disadvantaged as far as economic development in our county because our people are making good money
- Some citizens are having to drive 80 miles (one way) a day to get that good money
- Several are driving at least 50 miles one way
- Appreciate the comment by Commissioner Inman, need to bring attention to where attention is needed
- Walmart is going help when they come to Stokes County, but it is not going to solve all our problems

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Feel Commissioner Walker comments regarding economic development are very valid because we know that we can't sustain Stokes County's needs through residential taxes
- It has been like that for years
- Agree with Vice Chairman Jones that a goal needs to be included regarding the expansion of internet services across the County
- We have small businesses and entrepreneurs who are currently working at home and need fast internet services; that need continues to grow

- There are several small businesses and entrepreneurs, who do not have DSL or roadrunner, who are having to pay costly fees for high speed internet through other companies
- Have had meetings with CenturyLink with no success

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Possibly include a goal to expand internet services to unserved and underserved areas in the County possibly with regionalization

Commissioner Inman stated he had no further goals to list at this time; feel the ones that have been placed on the table for consideration could be fine-tuned and prioritized.

Chairman Booth questioned the Board if there were any other goals to consider?

The Board agreed to finalize, prioritize, and approve at the next meeting.

Chairman Booth directed staff to combine the County's last adopted Legislative Goals with the Commissioners' suggestions for the next meeting for the Board to tweak, prioritize, and approve.

Clerk Darlene Bullins confirmed with the Board that the goals for consideration were as follow:

- The County's last adopted Legislative Goals with minor changes
- Add Commissioner Lankford's goal: "change back the collection of motor vehicle taxes to the counties"
- Add Commissioner Walker's goal: "appropriate funding to the counties who need it most for economic development"
- Add Vice Chairman Jones' goal: "improving broadband services across the County, possibly through regionalization"

Chairman Booth, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on September 8th Action Agenda.

Appointments – Stokes County Fire Commission

County Manager Rick Morris noted the following:

- Nominations at the August 11th meeting:
 - Fire Service Member – Wayne Barneycastle
 - Civilian Member – Billy Joe Joyce
- One vacant civilian member remains

Chairman Booth opened the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Lankford nominated Willard Nelson for the Civilian Member.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Heard the manager say at the past meeting that if someone worked in the Fire Marshal's Office, they would not be eligible for the appointment
- Do we know this for a fact?
- Have always thought Randy Williams would be good on the Fire Commission
- I have not checked with him to see if he would be willing to serve
- Has quite a history in the county with fire service
- Understand he has done some part time work with the Fire Marshal's Office, but don't know if that would exclude him

County Manager Morris stated he wasn't sure if that would eliminate him from being appointed.

Clerk Darlene Bullins read the following information regarding appointments to the Stokes County Fire Commission from the guidelines:

- Three appointed Civilian Members not Affiliated with a Service Agency
 - The Stokes County Board of Commissioners shall appoint three individuals who have no affiliation with a service district agency to serve on the Fire Commission

County Manager Morris noted that Randy Williams currently works some for the Fire Marshal's Office.

Chairman Booth entertained a motion to close the nominations.

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

Chairman Booth, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on September 8th Action Agenda.

Appointments Workforce Development Board

County Manager Rick Morris noted the Clerk was directed at the last meeting to place the Workforce Development Board Private Sector Vacancy on tonight's Agenda to restart the

nomination process.

Chairman Booth opened the floor for nominations.

Vice Chairman Jones nominated Von Robertson.

Vice Chairman Jones commented:

- Mr. Robertson is willing to serve on the Workforce Development Board
- Mr. Robertson also understands the 8:30 am meeting time

Commissioner Walker nominated Mark Badgett.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Had the privilege in talking with Ms. Althea Hairston at the Piedmont Triad Regional Council
- Had a call into Matthew Dolge who has tried to call me back twice, but have been unable to connect with him, thought I would wait until after the meeting
- Had a nice conversation with Ms. Hairston
- Explained to Ms. Hairston that I was very curious about this rule that states the appointment for the private sector has to be unanimous
- Ms. Hairston confirmed this rule is in the Bylaws and it has never been a problem
- Told Ms. Hairston there was a possible problem in our County
- Ms. Hairston stated: "leave it to Stokes County"
- Questioned Ms. Hairston what she meant by that particular statement?
- Ms. Hairston responded that she was from Stokes County and it is embarrassing to me that there is a problem in my own county
- Ms. Hairston continued to say that here are how things work, I have never known of an instance where someone is willing to serve and qualified and was denied the opportunity to serve on the Board
- Ms. Hairston stated that she had never known of a Board to not give someone a chance
- Explained to Ms. Hairston that there was a 4-1 vote
- Based on the history and spirit of these Bylaws, according to Ms. Hairston who serves as the director for the Workforce Development Board, this is unheard of, for someone who is qualified and willing to serve to be denied the opportunity to serve
- Mr. Badgett received his instructions the day following the action taken by this Board from the PTRC, telling him where and when to be there
- No one on this Board, that I can remember, considered any option except to kick him off, if they did, I am not aware of it
- It seemed like from the time it was mentioned, the attorney asked to prepare the motion, it seemed like it was going down a one-way path
- I told Ms. Hairston this, so don't be surprised, if this Board continues in the direction they set at our last meeting, I will vote no on whoever is nominated
- Ms. Hairston questioned if I would do that?
- My response was, "Yes, I will"

- Ms. Hairston stated that it means that Stokes County would not have anyone on the Board
- I said that if that is what it takes to bring attention to the kind of situation we seem to be dealing with on our Board, I am willing to do whatever it takes
- So whoever is nominated, you know how I will be voting

Vice Chairman Jones commented:

- I think it is sad when it boils down to being, "I did not get my way"
- We did not create the rule, but you are going to punish the citizens of the County to vote in a way that it could not be unanimous mostly because it did not go the way you wanted it to go
- I don't think it is fair to the people
- We are here to serve the people
- Holding back and not having representation is not fair
- We did not break any rules

Commissioner Walker responded:

- I am not breaking any rules either

Vice Chairman Jones commented:

- They told us what the Bylaws states and it is what it is
- To be fair, we had the perception of the history of what has gone on with Mr. Badgett, he might be a nice fellow, I think we would all like to give him a second chance, but there is a lot going on there that just does not meet the eye
- In fairness, you have to think about all of this, not just one portion of it
- Feel you are being unfair to the County by having that thought process of voting no on whoever is nominated, just because
- We need representation

Commissioner Walker responded:

- With all due respect, I think the same thing applies to you, Commissioner Jones and to the other commissioners
- I nominated a valid candidate
- He is not a criminal, not convicted of anything
- The charges that were brought against him initially were almost silly
- We had a very prominent person from the Republican Party dressed up in disguise, laying on the benches and other things going on at that time that I read about in the paper
- It all kind of got out of hand
- He might have very well got caught up in the political process down in Raleigh for not having the base down there as he needed
- Because at the time, the powers were in the other direction
- But how I am doing anything that you are not doing
- You offered a valid candidate, I am going to vote no on the person you mentioned

- I told you and I think others at the last meeting, I know I talked to Commissioner Lankford
- You made the motion to take Mr. Badgett off
- What is the difference between what you did with my nominee and what I am going to do with yours?

Vice Chairman Jones responded:

- There is a big difference
- We all voted, by majority, he was appointed
- We found out later, unknowing to us, that we did something that was not right according to their Bylaws
- You are asking Chairman Booth to change his vote after it was taken just to suit your needs or your purpose
- That is very different

Commissioner Walker responded:

- Is that not what you are asking me to do?

Vice Chairman Jones responded:

- No
- I am asking you to represent the County
- If you don't want the person, I don't want you to say yes, period
- But to say that you are not going to do it just because you did not get your person in, is not right
- That is not helping the County

Commissioner Walker responded:

- My vote is not against the person, or the next person, or the next person, or the next

Vice Chairman Jones responded:

- Then you are voting against the County

Commissioner Walker responded:

- I am voting on the process and to quote Ms. Hairston, "this is unheard of" "have never heard of a Board not allowing someone to serve who is qualified and willing"

Vice Chairman Jones responded:

- We did not make the Bylaws

Chairman Booth commented:

- Would suggest, if you would, read the transcripts and everything of all of the hearings of the North Carolina State Supreme Court's decisions on two and the Bar Association, it is public record
- You can read everything that happened
- Would ask you to read that information, if you would

Commissioner Walker responded:

- I have probably already read it

Chairman Booth responded:

- If you have, you have a different opinion than I have
- We can have different opinions

Commissioner Lankford nominated Gail Bennett – Bennett’s Baskets and Bows.

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Her qualifications is not only the owner and operator of the business, but worked for 11 years at DSS which actually has interaction with WorkForce
- She is willing to serve

Chairman Booth entertained a motion to close the nominations.

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

Commissioner Inman commented:

- I think we would be remiss if we sat here and retried Mr. Badgett
- The vote was 4 to 1
- As Vice Chairman Jones states, this Board did not make the Bylaws
- Think we have always respected everyone’s decision on this Board to vote as they choose to vote
- If it had been my son that Chairman Booth voted against for this same position, I would respected that vote, whatever the reason might be
- Feel we have always respected that
- I know the fact that Ms. Hairston is saying that this is unprecedented; it is kind of hard for me to believe that everybody that has been voted on has been unanimous
- Somewhere along the line, there could be more than one person to vote for

Commissioner Walker responded:

- There is another reason why I am going to vote no, another piece of information that I am very interested in
- Was talking to a commissioner from another county, very large county, that also has people on this Board
- They stated, to their knowledge, their votes have not been unanimous either, but no one has ever challenged it
- So if our person is not allowed, I think it is only fair, that the credentials of the other members be looked at and where this has occurred and the question being raised
- I need time to research that
- If you want to go ahead and vote this evening, you know how I am going to vote
- If you want to put it off a couple of weeks and let things settle down, let some more information surface, that would be fine too

Chairman Booth stated that he would be following procedures which places the item on the Action Agenda for the next meeting.

Commissioner Inman stated everyone may have another nomination at the next meeting.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Like both nominations, it is just a mess

The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Booth, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on September 8th Action Agenda.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – ACTION AGENDA

Proposed NCPTS Tax Software Contract – Farragut System Inc.

Chairman Booth entertained a motion to approve the following proposed NCPTS Tax Software Contract - Farragut System, Inc. presented at the August 11th meeting.

Commissioner Inman moved to approve the NCPTS Tax Software Contract - Farragut System, Inc. Vice Chairman Jones seconded the motion.

Chairman Booth opened the floor for any further discussion.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Based on the information provided by the Tax Administrator, I don't see that we have a lot of choice with this
- Other software is not as desirable for a number of reasons
- Actually do get some return on the investment with the next system
- Based on what I am hearing, it is time to move forward with the new system
- Is anyone hearing any information that would indicate otherwise?

Commissioner Lankford responded:

- Tax Administrator has stated that the new software is the direction that the County needs to take
- Lot of the counties are going this way

Commissioner Walker responded:

- Think Tax Administrator stated there were 11 counties going with the new software

Chairman Booth commented:

- Understood from Tax Administrator Oakley that the current software program is out of date and would need major upgrading
- Will be saving the County \$70,000 in the long run and possibly more

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Going to save money
- Tax Administrator Oakley has never steered me wrong yet
- He is very high on the new software
- Had the opportunity to meet the folks from Farragut and actually had dinner with the CEO and co-founder, Shail Jain
 - He is a native of India and a very intelligent man
- The exciting thing to me is that instead of being one of the last counties to get on board, we are one of the first counties to get on board
- Shail has promised me that by February 2015, we will be on the “cloud”
- Way ahead of the curve this time

The motion carried unanimously.

Draft Request for Information (RFI) Petree Facility

Chairman Booth entertained a motion regarding the Request for Information (RFI) for the Petree Facility which was presented at the August 11th meeting.

Commissioner Lankford moved to approve the Request for Information for the Petree Facility. Vice Chairman Jones seconded the motion.

County Manager Rick Morris noted:

- Going to try to get this sent out this week
- Have reviewed the RFI with Mr. Petree who has no issues
- Has been reviewed and approved by County Attorney Browder
- Have not heard any recommendations for changes from the Board
- Will get the conversations started
- Will delete draft and mail it out
- Intend on sending the RFI to:
 - Pioneer Community Hospital of Stokes
 - Baptist Medical Center
 - Novant Health Center
 - Western Rockingham Family Medicine
 - Moses Cone Hospital
- Will be advertised in the Stokes News and placed on the County’s website
- Will be glad to send to any facility, just let me know
- There is a suspense date of September 11th

- Once anyone calls, a meeting will be scheduled
- Do have a certified copy of the Power of Attorney for Mr. Petree's sister to record in Stokes County in order to do the land and funding transfer
- Will be scheduling a public meeting in the Pine Hall within the next two or three weeks

Commissioner Walker questioned about a doctor in private practice and how much time would the facility be opened?

County Manager Rick Morris responded:

- Can be sent to anyone, the organization/individual will not only be operating the medical facility, but will be operating the community center
- Will be open five days a week
- Will be happy to send to anyone
- Probably needs to be open a minimum of five days in order to be self-sustaining

Commissioner Walker questioned if this would be outside of the Health Department's range?

County Manager Rick Morris responded:

- Not sure, have not thought about it
- Thought the Board wanted to make it a non-county entity that would be self-sustaining
- Not sure the County wants to be back in the hospital operations
- Think a better approach would be to have someone else operate it and possibly have the Health Department provide some services there but not be in charge of it
- Have already talked to Scott about this possibility

The motion carried unanimously.

Proposed County Parks Grant Application Process

County Manager Rick Morris noted the following Release and Waiver of Liability prepared by County Attorney Ty Browder which was provided to the Board at the beginning of the meeting that will be included with the County Parks Grant Application:

Release and Waiver of Liability

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY! THIS IS A LEGAL DOCUMENT THAT AFFECTS YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS!

This Release and Waiver of Liability (the "Release") is executed on this _____ day of _____, _____ by _____ (the "Volunteer") in favor of County of Stokes, a North Carolina Body Politic, its directors, officers, employees, volunteers, and agents ("Stokes").

The Volunteer desires to work as a volunteer for Stokes on a Project at _____ Park owned by Stokes, and engage in the activities related to being a volunteer (the "Activities"). The Volunteer understands that the Activities may include manual labor and construction work.

The Volunteer hereby freely, voluntarily, and without duress executes this Release under the following terms:

Release and Waiver. Volunteer does hereby release and forever discharge and hold harmless Stokes and its successors and assigns from any and all liability, claims, and demands of whatever kind or nature, either in law or in equity, which arise or may hereafter arise from Volunteer's Activities.

Volunteer understands that this Release discharges Stokes from any liability or claim that the Volunteer may have against Stokes with respect to any bodily injury, personal injury, illness, death, or property damage that may result from Volunteer's Activities at the parks whether caused by the negligence of Stokes or its officers, directors, employees, or agents or otherwise. Volunteer also understands that Stokes does not assume any responsibility for or obligation to provide financial assistance or other assistance, including but not limited to medical, health, or disability insurance in the event of injury or illness.

Medical Treatment. Volunteer does hereby release and forever discharge Stokes from any claim whatsoever which arises or may hereafter arise on account of any first aid, treatment, or service rendered in connection with the Volunteer's Activities at the parks.

Assumption of the Risk. The Volunteer understands that the Activities may include work that may be hazardous to the Volunteer, including, but not limited to, construction, loading and unloading, and transportation to and from the work sites.

Volunteer hereby expressly and specifically assumes the risk of injury or harm in the Activities and releases Stokes from all liability for injury, illness, death, or property damage resulting from the Activities.

Insurance. The Volunteer understands that, in the event Volunteer is covered under any Workers Compensation Insurance carried by County, then Volunteer may file a claim under said insurance.

Each Volunteer is expected and encouraged to obtain his or her own medical or health insurance coverage.

Photographic Release. Volunteer does hereby grant and convey unto Stokes all right, title and interest in any and all photographic images and video or audio recordings made by Stokes during the Volunteer's Activities with Stokes, including, but not limited to, any royalties, proceeds, or other benefits derived from such photographs or recordings.

Other. Volunteer expressly agrees that this Release is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by the laws of the State of North Carolina, and that this Release shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of North Carolina. Volunteer agrees that in the event that any clause or provision of this Release shall be held to be invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity of such clause or provision shall not otherwise affect the remaining provisions of this Release which shall continue to be enforceable.

This RELEASE will remain valid for the duration of the Project.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Volunteer has executed this Release as of the day and year first above written.

Volunteer: _____

Date: _____

Witness: _____

Volunteer Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email _____

Chairman Booth opened the floor for questions or concerns regarding the Release and Waiver of Liability prepared by County Attorney Browder and presented to the Board at the beginning of the meeting.

There were no issues with the Release and Waiver Liability.

Chairman Booth entertained a motion regarding the County Parks Grant Application which includes the Release and Waiver of Liability.

Commissioner Lankford moved to approve the County Parks Grant Application which included the Release and Waiver of Liability. Chairman Jones seconded the motion.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Are all the key people involved with the parks aware of the new grant program to the point where they know how to complete the application?

County Manager Morris responded:

- Yes, if they followed the budget process
- Have not notified anyone individually
- Wanted to have the application process adopted by the BOCC first
- I am sure Stokes News will be letting the public know

Commissioner Walker responded:

- To the best of my memory, we only had one or two people at the budget sessions
- Doesn't do any good to have a program, if people do not know about it

The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

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

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

Darlene M. Bullins
Clerk to the Board

James D. Booth
Chairman