

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA )  
 )  
COUNTY OF STOKES )  
 )

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS  
STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA  
NOVEMBER 24, 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, November 24, 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  
Cooperative Extension Director Debbie Cox

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

Commissioner Lankford delivered the invocation.

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

Chairman Booth opened the meeting by inviting 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 November 24, 2014 Agenda.

Commissioner Inman moved to approve the November 24<sup>th</sup> Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Walker seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

## **Presentation to North Stokes State Champions**

The Board of Commissioners presented the following Resolutions to each member of the North Stokes Lady Vikings - 1-A Softball State Team Champions, North Stokes Men's - 1-A Track and Field State Team Champions, along with individual Resolutions to Moriah Boyette – 1A State Pole Vault Champion, Justin Kenard - 1A State 800 Meters Champion, and Laith Nickell – 1A/2A Indoor State Pole Vault Champion: (Resolutions were also presented to Coach Mike Williams and coaching staff, Coach Rodney King and coaching staff, County Athletic Director Annette Johnson and North Stokes Principal Nathan Rasey)

### **North Stokes Lady Vikings - 1-A Softball State Team Champions**

#### **RESOLUTION HONORING**

#### **NORTH STOKES HIGH SCHOOL**

#### **LADY VIKINGS SOFTBALL TEAM**

**WHEREAS**, the North Stokes High School Athletic Department is providing an equal opportunity for all students to participate in the sports program, with great emphasis being placed upon physical fitness, sportsmanship, and character; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Stokes High School Lady Vikings Softball and Coach Jeff Frye have obtained a high level of achievement through hard work and dedication; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2014 North Stokes High School Lady Vikings Softball Team completed the season with a 28–4 record; earned the Northwest 1-A Conference Championship, Regional Championship and ended the season as the North Carolina High School Athletic Association 1-A Softball State Team Champions, with members and coaching staff:

#### **Team Members:**

**Lindsay Brown, Sabrina Dodson, Emily Evans, Tana Frye, Chandly Garner, Tristan Hubbard, Hannah Mabe, Hannah McBride, Emily Myers, Heather Nall, Emma Petree, Ashley Smith, and Carson Watkins**

#### **Coaching Staff:**

**Coach Jeff Frye, Assistant Barry Dodson, Assistant Randy Shelton, and Assistant Rebecca Gunter**

**WHEREAS**, the success of this team has brought honor to North Stokes High School and Stokes County.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that a copy of this Resolution will be presented to Principal Nathan Rasey, County Athletic Director Annette Johnson, and Coach Jeff Frye and each member of the North Stokes Lady Vikings Softball Team as an expression of the Board's appreciation for their hard work and dedication.

Adopted this 13<sup>th</sup> day of October 2014.

James D. Booth - Chairman

Ronda Jones – Vice Chairman

J. Leon Inman - Commissioner

Jimmy Walker - Commissioner

Attest:

Ernest Lankford - Commissioner

Darlene M. Bullins - Clerk to the Board

**North Stokes Men's - 1-A Track and Field State Team Champions**

**RESOLUTION HONORING**

**NORTH STOKES HIGH SCHOOL VIKINGS**

**MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD TEAM**

**WHEREAS**, the North Stokes High School Athletic Department is providing an equal opportunity for all students to participate in the sports program, with great emphasis being placed upon physical fitness, sportsmanship, and character; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Stokes High School Vikings Men's Track and Field Team, Coach Mike Williams, and Coach Rodney King have obtained a high level of achievement through hard work and dedication; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2014 North Stokes High School Vikings Men's Track and Field Team completed the season with a 10-0 Conference Record; earned the Northwest 1-A Conference Championship, Regional Championship and ended the season as the North Carolina High School Athletic Association 1-A Men's Track and Field State Team Champions, with members and coaching staff:

**Team Members:**

**Colin Anderson, Austin Boyles, Brandon Boyles, Daniel Brown, Cameron Corns, Noah Dike, Dawson Durham, Junior Fulks, James Hammonds, Erin Heath, Justin Kenard, Andy Kopp, Andrew Lankford, Ross Lucia, Kaleb Marshall, Kenny Myers, Laith Nickell, Shepard Ottaway, Kevin Robertson, Jarrett Slate, Mark Tucker, Seth Tucker, Blake Williams, and Dakota Young**

**Coaching Staff:**

**Coach Mike Williams, Coach Rodney King, Assistant Coach Jimmy Dillard, Assistant Coach Ben Kelble, Assistant Breanna Largen, and Assistant Lisa Greeson**

**WHEREAS**, the success of this team has brought honor to North Stokes High School and Stokes County.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that a copy of this Resolution will be presented to Principal Nathan Rasey, County Athletic Director Annette Johnson, Coach Mike Williams, and Coach Rodney King and each member of the North Stokes Vikings Men's Track and Field Team as an expression of the Board's appreciation for their hard work and dedication.

Adopted this 13<sup>th</sup> day of October 2014.

James D. Booth - Chairman

Ronda Jones - Vice Chairman

J. Leon Inman - Commissioner

Jimmy Walker - Commissioner

Attest:

Ernest Lankford - Commissioner

Darlene M. Bullins - Clerk to the Board

November 24, 2014

**Moriah Boyette – 1A State Pole Vault Champion**

**RESOLUTION HONORING**

**LAITH NICKELL**

**1A/2A INDOOR STATE POLE VAULT CHAMPION**

**WHEREAS**, the North Stokes High School Athletic Department is providing an equal opportunity for all students to participate in the sports program, with great emphasis being placed upon physical fitness, sportsmanship, and character; and

**WHEREAS**, Laith Nickell has obtained a high level of achievement through hard work and dedication; and

**WHEREAS**, Laith Nickell completed the season as the North Carolina High School Athletic Association 1A/2A Indoor State Pole Vault Champion reaching a height of 12'00"; and

**WHEREAS**, Laith's success has brought honor to North Stokes High School and Stokes County.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that a copy of this Resolution will be presented to Laith Nickell, Principal Nathan Rasey, County Athletic Director Annette Johnson, Coach Mike Williams, and Coach Rodney King as an expression of the Board's appreciation for Laith's hard work and dedication.

Adopted this 13<sup>th</sup> day of October 2014.

\_\_\_\_\_  
James D. Booth - Chairman

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
J. Leon Inman - Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jimmy Walker - Commissioner

Attest:

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

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

**Justin Kenard - A1 State 800 Meters Champion**

**RESOLUTION HONORING**

**JUSTIN KENARD**

**1A STATE 800 METERS CHAMPION**

**WHEREAS**, the North Stokes High School Athletic Department is providing an equal opportunity for all students to participate in the sports program, with great emphasis being placed upon physical fitness, sportsmanship, and character; and

**WHEREAS**, Justin Kenard has obtained a high level of achievement through hard work and dedication; and

**WHEREAS**, Justin Kenard completed the Season undefeated in non-conference and conference action; earned the Northwest 1-A Conference Championship and Regional Championship in the 800 meters and ended the season as the North Carolina High School Athletic Association 1A State 800 Meters Champion with a time of 1:59.01, setting a new North Stokes High School record for the 800 meters; and

**WHEREAS**, Justin's success has brought honor to North Stokes High School and Stokes County.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that a copy of this Resolution will be presented to Justin Kenard, Principal Nathan Rasey, County Athletic Director Annette Johnson, Coach Mike Williams, and Coach Rodney King as an expression of the Board's appreciation for Justin's hard work and dedication.

Adopted this 13<sup>th</sup> day of October 2014.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**James D. Booth - Chairman**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
**J. Leon Inman - Commissioner**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Jimmy Walker - Commissioner**

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

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Darlene M. Bullins – Clerk to the Board**

**Laith Nickell – 1A/2A Indoor State Pole Vault Champion**

**RESOLUTION HONORING**

**LAITH NICKELL**

**1A/2A INDOOR STATE POLE VAULT CHAMPION**

**WHEREAS**, the North Stokes High School Athletic Department is providing an equal opportunity for all students to participate in the sports program, with great emphasis being placed upon physical fitness, sportsmanship, and character; and

**WHEREAS**, Laith Nickell has obtained a high level of achievement through hard work and dedication; and

**WHEREAS**, Laith Nickell completed the season as the **North Carolina High School Athletic Association 1A/2A Indoor State Pole Vault Champion** reaching a height of 12'00"; and

**WHEREAS**, Laith's success has brought honor to North Stokes High School and Stokes County.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that a copy of this Resolution will be presented to Laith Nickell, Principal Nathan Rasey, County Athletic Director Annette Johnson, Coach Mike Williams, and Coach Rodney King as an expression of the Board's appreciation for Laith's hard work and dedication.

Adopted this 13<sup>th</sup> day of October 2014.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**James D. Booth - Chairman**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
**J. Leon Inman - Commissioner**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Jimmy Walker - Commissioner**

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

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Darlene M. Bullins – Clerk to the Board**

Members of the Board expressed congratulations to each state champion and expressed appreciation for their attendance at tonight's meeting.

## COMMENTS

### Manager/Commissioners

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

County Manager Rick Morris commented:

- Fiscal Year 2013-14 Audit
  - North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has finally released the needed information for completion of the county audit
  - Local Government Commission (LGC) has extended the deadline to January 5, 2015 due to information just being released by DHHS
  - As long as the county audit is submitted before the due date of January 5<sup>th</sup>, no amendment to the audit contract will be required
- E911 Center – Texting for Emergencies
  - Stokes County E911 Center now has the capability of receiving text messages for emergencies only
  - Verizon and AT&T are already up and running
  - Sprint and TMobile should be online by the end of 2014
  - Once everything is complete, public information about the new texting feature will be released
- Operation Medicine Drop
  - Operation Medicine Drop, which was started in 2010, has collected 514,171.45 doses of unused medicine
  - Fire Marshal Brian Booe has been and is currently heavily involved in this program that properly disposes of unused medication
- Closed Session Minutes Request
  - The request for Closed Session Minutes has been turned over to the County Attorney for his review
  - County will follow the policy adopted by the Board at the last meeting
- Health Director Scott Lenhart
  - Health Director Lenhart is recovering nicely and is planning to be back at work on December 29<sup>th</sup>

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Glad to see everyone here tonight
- Glad to have North Stokes State Champions here tonight
- Glad to see positive things happening in Stokes County
- Very proud of the accomplishments by our student athletes
- Thought the Board had a very good budget work session
  - Very glad to see the Board get an early start
  - Feel the Board has a lot of work to do and a lot of very important decisions to make
- Hard to believe that Thanksgiving is just around the corner; hope everyone has a nice holiday

Vice Chairman Jones commented:

- Wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving
- Wish my daughter, Olivia, had been able to attend tonight's meeting to honor the student athletes; Olivia helped Coach Rodney King with the track team

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Very delighted to honor these student athletes
  - Remember when Coach Rodney King won a state championship title at North Stokes
  - Very proud of the accomplishments made by our student athletes
- Would also like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving
- Will be attending the first meeting for the NCACC Mental Health Task Force (will be chairing the Task Force) on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and a NCACC Board of Directors' Meeting on December 3<sup>rd</sup>

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Ethics for Life – "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus " (Philippians)
- Happy Thanksgiving to everyone

Chairman Booth commented:

- Just wanted to note that I was a member of the first graduating class at North Stokes High School (50 years ago)
- Very proud of our student athletes
- Happy Thanksgiving to everyone

Commissioner Walker requested the Board send Vice Chairman Jones' daughter, Olivia, a letter of appreciation from the Board of Commissioners for her volunteerism; it is always nice to let someone know their volunteerism is appreciated when you can.

The Board unanimously agreed to have staff send Vice Chairman Jones' daughter a letter of appreciation.

Chairman Booth noted the many volunteers that help to make things happen in Stokes County.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chairman Booth opened the floor for Public Comments.

There were no Public Comments.

## CONSENT AGENDA

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

### Minutes

- Minutes of November 10, 2014 – Special Meeting – GIS/Mapping/Tax – Fact Finding
- Minutes of November 10, 2014 – Regular Meeting
- Minutes of November 17, 2014 – Budget Guidance Work Session

### Sheriff's Department - Budget Amendment #25

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #25.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
<b>Sheriff's Department</b>				
100.4310.351	Maint. & Repair – Auto	<u>\$103,094.00</u>	<u>\$1,229.00</u>	<u>\$104,323.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$103,094.00</b>	<b>\$1,229.00</b>	<b>\$104,323.00</b>

This budget amendment is justified as follows:  
To purchase needed accessories for a vehicle.

This will result in a **net increase of \$(1,229.00)** 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
100.3301.413	State Fines & Forfeitures	<u>\$300.00</u>	<u>\$1,229.00</u>	<u>\$1,529.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>	<b>\$1,229.00</b>	<b>\$1,529.00</b>

### Sheriff's Department - Budget Amendment #26

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #26.

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



Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
<b>Sheriff's Department</b>				
100.4310.351	Maint. & Repair – Auto	\$103,990.00	\$2,216.00	\$106,206.00
100.4310.350	Maint. & Repair – Equipment	<u>\$21,250.00</u>	<u>\$632.00</u>	<u>\$21,882.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$125,240.00</b>	<b>\$2,848.00</b>	<b>\$128,088.00</b>

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To appropriate insurance claim funds for Sheriff's Department due to deer damage and radio repairs due to accident.

This will result in a **net increase of \$2,848.00** 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>\$21,760.00</u>	<u>\$2,848.00</u>	<u>\$24,608.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$21,760.00</b>	<b>\$2,848.00</b>	<b>\$24,608.00</b>

#### **Public Buildings - Budget Amendment #27**

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #27.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
<b>Public Buildings</b>				
100.4190.500	Improvements	<u>\$10,000.00</u>	<u>\$27,000.00</u>	<u>\$37,000.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>	<b>\$27,000.00</b>	<b>\$37,000.00</b>
<b>Capital Reserve Fund</b>				
201.4190.013	Public Buildings	\$120,000.00	\$(27,000.00)	\$93,000.00
201.9810.000	Transfer to General Fund	<u>\$123,500.00</u>	<u>\$27,000.00</u>	<u>\$150,500.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$243,500.00</b>	<b>\$00.00</b>	<b>\$243,500.00</b>

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To transfer funds from Capital Reserve Fund for the replacement of roof at the Walnut Cove EMS Station.

This will result in a **net increase of \$27,000.00** 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>
100.3982.960	Transfer from Capital Reserve Fund	\$143,800.00	\$27,000.00	\$170,800.00
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$143,800.00</b>	<b>\$27,000.00</b>	<b>\$170,800.00</b>

#### **Emergency Communications - Budget Amendment #28**

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #28.

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>Emergency Communications</b>			
100.4520.490	Equipment-Non Capitalized	\$00.00	\$1,648.00	\$1,648.00
	<b>Contingency</b>			
100.9910.000	Contingency	\$107,416.00	\$(1,648.00)	\$105,768.00
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$107,416.00</b>	<b>\$00.00</b>	<b>\$107,416.00</b>

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To transfer funds from Contingency for the purchase of a UPS (battery back-up) for the Sauratown Mountain Tower Site.

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

#### **Tax Administration Report – October 2014**

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

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Real and Personal Release more than \$100 (October 2014) at the November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting with a request for approval at the November 24<sup>th</sup> meeting:

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

Name	Bill No	Amount	Reason
Betty L. Holt	14A602100541096	<u>\$283.76</u>	Board approved Elderly App.
Total		<b>\$ 283.76</b>	

**Real and Personal Refunds more than \$100**

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Real and Personal Refunds more than \$100 (October 2014) at the November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting with a request for approval at the November 24<sup>th</sup> meeting:

**Refunds more than  
\$100 - Real/Personal  
Property**

Name	Bill No	Amount	Reason
Phillip Smitherman	14A599219607761	\$ 477.90	Board approved VE
Mary Isabelle Boyles	14A1599304512842	\$ 386.37	Board approved VE
Lisa Beck Dyer	19019854	<u>\$ 235.71</u>	Sold vehicle
Total		<b>1,099.98</b>	

**Employee Christmas Luncheon – Tuesday, December 23, 2014**

Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins submitted the date of Tuesday, December 23, 2014 at 12:00 noon for the annual employee Christmas Luncheon (funding from vending machines has been appropriated for the meal) for consideration and approval at the November 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Proposed 2015 Board of Commissioners' Meeting Schedule**

Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins submitted the following 2015 Board of Commissioners' Meeting Schedule for consideration and approval at the November 24<sup>th</sup> meeting:

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**2015 COMMISSIONERS' MEETINGS SCHEDULE**

**The Stokes County Board of Commissioners will meet each month on the  
2<sup>nd</sup> (Second) Monday at 1:30 pm and 4<sup>th</sup> (Fourth) Monday at 6:00pm**

**2nd MONDAY**

January 12, 2015  
February 9, 2015  
March 9, 2015  
April 13, 2015  
May 11, 2015  
June 8, 2015  
July 13, 2015  
August 10, 2015  
September 14, 2015  
October 12, 2015  
November 9, 2015  
December 14, 2015

**4th MONDAY**

January 26, 2015  
February 23, 2015  
March 23, 2015  
April 27, 2015  
May 26, 2015\*  
June 22, 2015  
July 27, 2015  
August 24, 2015  
September 28, 2015  
October 26, 2015  
November 23, 2015  
December 28, 2015

\*May 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting changed to Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup> (Due to Holiday)

**The Board of Commissioners will conduct its regular meetings in the Commissioners' Chambers at the Administrative Building in Danbury. The Board will consider invitations to meet at different locations throughout the County at the invitation of community groups that wish to host a meeting.**

Commissioners' Meeting (Planning) – First Tuesday of every other month at 7:00 pm  
**Planning meetings are held as needed- the meeting will be advertised prior to the dates listed below: Held in Commissioners' Chambers**

February 3, 2015 (as needed)  
April 7, 2015 (as needed)  
June 2, 2015 (as needed)  
August 4, 2015 (as needed)  
October 6, 2015 (as needed)  
December 1, 2015 (as needed)

**Stokes County League of Governments – 6:30 pm**

**Meeting with Town of Danbury, Town of Walnut Cove, City of King & Stokes County**

January 29, 2015 – Town of Walnut Cove

April 16, 2015 – Town of Danbury

July 16, 2015 - City of King

October 1, 2015 – Stokes County

Any other change in Date, Time, or Place will be advertised and placed on the County Web Page – [www.co.stokes.nc.us](http://www.co.stokes.nc.us)

Darlene Bullins  
Clerk to the Board

Vice Chairman Jones moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Walker seconded the motion carried unanimously.

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

### **NC Cooperative Extension – Strategic Plan (2014-2016)**

County Manager Rick Morris noted that Director Cox had been told to be here at 7:00 pm and requested the Board continue and come back to the Strategic Plan once Director Cox arrives.

### **NCFAST Update**

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

- Hard Launch for Stokes County was October 20, 2014
- All applications for Medicaid, Work First, and Food/Nutrition Services must be taken in NCFAST
- All reviews must be completed in NCFAST
- Applications have increased and now with NCFAST being completely live, reviews and pending applications must be converted from the EIS Legacy System to NCFAST prior to processing the review/application which can take up to 2.5 hours per case (and some cases taking longer)
- As cases come up for review, this additional workload will extend as the full conversion from EIS to NCFAST is completed (conversion process is requiring a significant amount of staff time to complete)
- During the past 2 weeks, NCFAST has been extremely slow and has had several glitches
- Have gotten several emails from NCFAST staff apologizing for the delays and comments that they are working on the issues
- Staff began working some paid overtime this week to help with the conversion process
- Three contract positions have been posted externally until 12-2-14 to help in Income Maintenance
- Director Elmes will be providing more information regarding NCFAST during her update at the next meeting

Chairman Booth expressed appreciation to Manager Morris for the update.

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

### **Health Department – Staffing Issues – Health Education Specialist**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding a request from Health Director Scott Lenhart requesting a salary hiring range for the vacant Health Education Specialist:

- Recently lost the Health Education Specialist
- Director Lenhart has requested a salary hiring range in order to get the position filled
- Has 4 applicants who have all declined the salary being offered according to the current Stokes County Salary Plan which starts at \$26,029
- Two applicants were qualified by Office of State Personnel and two applicants were qualified for a work against
- Director Lenhart has requested a salary hiring range of \$29,000 to \$33,000
- Director Lenhart feels he can fill the position if the hiring range is approved
- This position has the following responsibilities:
  - Very vital to the accreditation; plays a very big part in getting the accreditation done
  - Public Education (many school programs)
  - Manages and oversees several grants
  - Required by the state contract addendum
  - Impacts the revenue side of the grants
- Would request discussion tonight and action at the December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting

Chairman Booth opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Inman confirmed with Manager Morris that Director Lenhart's request for the hiring range is \$29,000 to \$33,000 and the Office of State Personnel qualified two of applicants for the position and two of the applicants would be in a work against position.

County Manager Morris noted that he felt it was going to be difficult to hire someone if the hiring range is not approved.

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Can understand maybe increasing the hiring range to \$29,000 to \$30,000, but don't want to go to \$33,000 on the first go around

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Not being as closely connected to the Health Department, I rely on input from those who have hopefully put more time and study into it

- If Director Lenhart was here tonight, I would be asking him what it is going to take to make it work.
- Questioned Manager Morris, who is serving as the Acting Health Director, in his opinion, what it was going to take to make it work?

County Manager Morris responded:

- Do not feel that \$30,000 will make it work

Commissioner Walker responded:

- What will make it work?

County Manager Morris responded:

- Possibly \$32,000 to \$33,000

Commissioner Walker responded:

- In your opinion, can it be justified?

County Manager Morris responded:

- If the position is going to be filled, feel there has to be an adjustment to the current salary structure in order to fill the position

Commissioner Walker responded:

- Doesn't do any good to have the position, if we can't fill it
- Confirmed with Manager Morris that none of the four applicants were willing to accept the salary according to the county's current salary structure
- Will support, based on information from Manager Morris, whatever it takes in reason, to fill the position
- Don't need the position empty – accreditation, state contract addendum, revenue, etc.
- Have to go where the current market is regarding this position
- On board with whatever it takes to fill the position
- Ongoing concern is that the Board keeps increasing salaries for certain positions in the Health Department and not for other departments
- We have good, dedicated employees across the county
- Would be interested in how this is going to be reconciled down the road

Vice Chairman Jones commented:

- Ditto everything that Commissioner Walker stated
- Tired of seeing employees go to other counties
- Tired of not being able to hold on to good employees
- Turnover is expensive
- Have got to start doing something to remedy this problem
- Must think about the accreditation and state contract addendum
- It is only \$3,000 over what Commissioner Lankford is willing to do
- The \$3,000 is not worth losing another good candidate
- Want to see the position filled and move forward

Chairman Booth commented:

- Confirmed with Manager Morris the position requires a four-year degree

County Manager Morris noted that Health Director Lenhart had already had the first round of negotiations with the candidates.

Commissioner Inman commented:

- As someone who worked for the Stokes County School System for 33 years, all teachers were required to have 4-year degrees; however, there were certain positions then and are still in the school system that were more market driven
- For example, an exceptional children's teacher and/or a speech therapist demanded a higher salary because those are market driven positions
- To say to pay everyone the same is not necessarily fair and is not really realistic expectations
- This is no way degrading any position, but there may be 10 applying for a secretarial position and only one applying for the Health Education Specialist position
- We all know that we can never compete with counties like Forsyth, but if we don't figure out a way to attract these folks, we are going to have a lot of empty positions
- The reality is that individuals must provide for their families and some can ride across county lines and make an additional \$5,000 doing the same job
- Need to figure out a way to be fair to everyone and also fill the specialty positions
- These specialty positions are in demand

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Another aspect that I look at that has some value is that the citizens of Stokes County deserve quality
- I don't think we need necessarily to try to fill the position the cheapest and easiest way
- I also want to find someone for the position that fits our county that is a quality employee who will provide the kind of service that our citizens deserve in our County along with filling the position
- My preference is to do what it takes to get the right person to fill the job because we are going to be glad we did in the long run

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Don't have to have a Health Education Specialist
- Nice to have one, but for the Health Department to operate and function, you don't have to have one
- Don't like just coming up with a certain number, don't particularly like bargaining
- Think you need discussion
- Just giving someone what they ask for is not the position I like to take



Vice Chairman Jones responded:

- Confirmed with Manager Morris that the position is needed to maintain the current accreditation

Commissioner Lankford responded:

- Don't need the accreditation, that is just a plus
- Not sure that accreditation would be lost if there was no Health Education Specialist position

Vice Chairman Jones responded:

- My understanding is that the position is needed for accreditation
- Do not want to see the County go backwards with the accreditation

Commissioner Lankford responded:

- Hate to see a lot of things happen, but have to live in a reality world
- Reality is that there are only so many dollars to work with and that is going to be the theme of this year's budget process

Vice Chairman Jones responded:

- Would like to see the long term consequences of not filling the position
- Need to know those before making the hiring range decision

County Manager Morris noted that staff would be happy to provide any additional information needed.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- I think Commissioner Lankford is absolutely right, we don't have to have a Health Education Specialist; we don't have to have anything but a bare bones Health Department that provides essential health services
- It is a matter of what we feel our citizens' preference is, what they deserve and I agree it is what we can afford
- Would like to know the percentage of county funds that go towards the salary of the position versus other funding?
- Would like to know what the timeframe is for filling the position?

County Manager Morris responded:

- Not urgent like the recent PHNII positions, but would need an answer hopefully at the next meeting
- Could provide the Board with the requested information at the next meeting

Vice Chairman Jones commented:

- Would like to know if there are any long-term, financial losses by not having this position filled?
- Know there have been other funding losses because certain positions were not filled

Chairman Booth noted there were several questions that needed to be answered.

The Board discussed placing the item on the Discussion/Action Agenda for the next meeting.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Protocol would be to place the item on the Action Agenda at the next meeting

Commissioner Inman and Vice Chairman Jones stated they were fine with either Discussion or Action Agenda.

County Manager Morris questioned if there was any other information needed regarding the position?

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Would need to know the specific details of the job position
- Have seen a presentation done by the Health Education Specialist

Vice Chairman Jones noted the need to know the impact of accreditation.

Chairman Booth confirmed with Manager Morris that the decision did not have to be made at the next meeting.

County Manager Morris confirmed with the Board the need for the following information regarding the position:

- Breakdown of funding (federal, state, and county)
- Specific job duties of the position
- Impact regarding accreditation
- Length of time the Health Department has had the position
- Specifics on grants and programs
- Average salary for those counties that touch Stokes County
- Average salary for like-size counties
- If there are any long-term, financial losses by not having this position filled?

Commissioner Walker noted that he was still where he started, need to fill the position, feel the position adds to the overall quality of how things are being done in our county; to quibble over one or two thousand dollars to me like Vice Chairman Jones stated, is probably not worth it.

Chairman Booth, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the December 8<sup>th</sup> Discussion Agenda.

**GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – INFORMATION AGENDA  
(continued)**

**NC Cooperative Extension – Strategic Plan (2014-2016)**

Cooperative Extension Director Debbie Cox presented the following update regarding the new NC Cooperative Extension Strategic Plan for 2014-2016:

- A summary of the strategic plan for NC Cooperative Extension Service was provided in the Board's Agenda
- Strategic Plan for the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service was rolled out in September
- Over the course of the next year, there will be staff reductions; however, with the current staff, that will not impact Stokes County
- An extensive process was done to listen to the public, county commissioners, county managers, employees, and an appointed advisory board
- The process took several months
- What they heard:
  - Return to your strengths
    - Focus on Agriculture, Food and 4-H Youth Development
  - We value Extension because you are knowledgeable, unbiased and trusted
  - Enhance staff capacity and expertise
    - Develop stronger connections between county agents and NC State Extension specialists
  - Invest in High Tech, remain High Touch
    - Create technological tools and web-based resources, but still provide unfettered client access to agents and specialists
  - Extension is the best kept secret
    - Strengthen communication and branding so people know who you are and that what you do is important
- Each County Cooperative Extension will have a base level of staff:
  - One agriculture agent
  - One 4-H agent
  - One FCS agent per two counties unless the FCS agent is a county director such as myself
  - One support administrative specialist
  - As of December 31, 2014, all other county support specialists will be eliminated unless the county funds the entire position
- County only has one support administrative position which is currently being filled with a temporary employee; however, the position should be filled permanently by the first of 2015

- Also hope to get the livestock position in order
- Feeling very positive about this plan
- Based on population and agricultural sales, will receive from the university a .5 position to be added for agriculture for new products
- Plan for the Family and Consumer Science is doable
- Focus is also on seeking an equal match from local government on base positions (50/50 on single-county positions and 1/3 on two-county positions, etc.); this should not be expensive for the county, estimated to be \$2,800 increase for the County
- Would welcome any questions regarding the new plan
- The plan is focusing on Agriculture, Food, and 4-H Youth Development; some programs such as money management and health education will no longer be offered; will be concentrating on leadership and community development
- Our focus, as far as the university is concerned, is Food, Food Safety, Foods and Nutrition, 4-H Youth Development and Agricultural
- The plan was rolled out for county commissioners at their annual conference

Chairman Booth opened the floor for discussion.

The Board had no questions regarding the new strategic plan.

Director Cox provided the Board with a few departmental successes:

- The university brings in \$24,064 for a Steps Program that focuses on food and nutrition for second and third graders and for senior centers; very successful program
- Agricultural Agent Tim Hambrick is having great success from Corn Hybrid Trial results
- Agent Randy Fulk and I are working on a new grant opportunity from the Department of Community Development (\$10,000 grant for two individual producers who must apply and \$20,000 that will be shared among the counties in our district)
- Agent Matt Barber has secured \$2,300 in funding for embryology for all second graders in Stokes County
- Agent Matt Barber has secured \$9,000 for shooting sports at North Stokes High School and looking to expand to South Stokes High School

Director Cox expressed her appreciation for the Board's time.

Chairman Booth, on behalf of the Board, expressed appreciation to Director Cox for the update.

## **GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – DISCUSSION AGENDA (continued)**

### **CenterPoint Human Services – Manage Care Organization (MCO) Merger Direction**

Chairman Booth noted the Board had recently held a joint meeting with CenterPoint Human Services regarding the new direction for mental health in North Carolina.

Chairman Booth opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Walker questioned if there were any members of the Futures Committee studying the MCO Merger from Stokes County?

Commissioner Inman responded:

- Jan Spencer served on the Futures Committee
- The group did fact finding for the entire Board of Directors
- The entire Board of Directors have been doing due diligence and will be having a special called meeting on December 1<sup>st</sup>
- Stokes County was the only county in our region who held a special meeting with CenterPoint Human Services to discuss the merger
- Would like direction from the Board of Commissioners regarding the MCO Merger
- It appears, at this point and time, that there will be a vote to align with Partners
- Geographically, feel it is a good alignment
- There has been some discussion regarding alignment with Cardinal, but several board members have concerns with Cardinal having the large metropolitan counties such as Mecklenburg
- Feel the rural counties will be in good shape with the sharing of providers in adjoining counties if aligned with Partners
- It is an open meeting and would invite fellow commissioners to attend
- This past Thursday, the CenterPoint Human Services Board of Directors approved the purchase of land in Winston Salem to build a Crisis Center (24/7 operation)
  - This center would provide first opinion waivers which would eliminate deputies being tied up for hours and hours, even days, at the emergency room
  - Very much needed facility
- The choice of mental health in North Carolina is not about which MCO that you are going to align with, but about privatization
  - The House is very much supportive of the four region MCOs that is being considered
  - The Senate is very much talking about privatization
  - The real choice in North Carolina is whether we are going to continue with managed care for mental health services or if it is going to be privatized
  - To me, privatization means profit and the question is whether that will be the best care for our citizens
  - Personally support the managed care system that is currently in place with adequate funding from the state
- Will be glad to answer any questions

Commissioner Walker continued:

- Appreciate Commissioner Inman's comments and the work he is doing for our County and also for being a strong voice for Stokes County
- Tend to agree with Commissioner Inman's comments regarding privatization means profit
- Anytime the criteria is how much money can be made? How profitable is this going to be? That is to me a paradigm change, that shifts it into a totally different category and I am not sure that would be to the benefit of citizens in any situation

- Questioned what the County needed to do, to at least give our citizens the chance of having the best mental health services available?

Commissioner Inman responded:

- Feel the Board has been very involved by giving me direction unanimously to go forward with the alignment with Partners
- Personally feel that this is just the first step
- There are 100 counties in North Carolina and there will not be 25 counties in the alignment with Partners and CenterPoint
- Personally don't think that NC Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) will allow the alignment of Partners and CenterPoint to remain as one region MCO
- Feel it will eventually be a merger with the Smoky Mountain Region

Vice Chairman Jones commented:

- Currently serve on the Child Protection/Child Fatality Team, the group is very concerned about the merger because of the already difficulty finding the means for these kids along with the high suicide rate in Stokes County
- This was discussed at our last meeting
- Would appreciate this being passed on to CenterPoint

Commissioner Inman responded:

- CenterPoint continues to look at the high suicide rate in all four counties with other counties in our region being higher
- The most important thing is to continue to get adequate mental health funding to provide the services
- There has always been a concern for those seeking mental health services, most having to go to emergency rooms

Chairman Booth confirmed with Commissioner Inman that he would like consensus from the Board of Commissioners for CenterPoint to align with Partners as discussed in the Special Called Meeting with CenterPoint.

Chairman Booth, with full consensus of the Board, stated the Board of Commissioners supports the alignment with Partners.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Have consensus from me regarding the alignment with Partners, but also grant Commissioner Inman to represent this county based on information he has to work with
- Commissioner Inman is staying involved, he is on top of the situation
- I defer to Commissioner Inman's judgment
- Right now, I am hearing the alignment with Partners, but if he feels he needs to change and take a different look, I support him to represent the County

Commissioner Inman expressed his appreciation to Board for their continued support for mental health services.

**Proposed Resolution – Opposition to the Federal Court Ruling Abolishing the 2012 Marriage Amendment to the North Carolina Constitution**

Chairman Booth presented the following proposed Resolution Opposition to the Federal Court Ruling Abolishing the 2012 Marriage Amendment to the North Carolina Constitution for the Board's consideration:

**Resolution in Opposition to the Federal Court Ruling Abolishing the 2012 Marriage Amendment to the North Carolina Constitution**

**WHEREAS**, in May 2012, the voters of Stokes County by a 77% to 23% margin, and the voters of North Carolina by a 61% to 39% margin, voted to amend the North Carolina Constitution defining marriage in North Carolina to mean only a legal union between one (1) man and one (1) women as husband and wife, and the word "spouse" referred only to a person of the opposite sex who is a husband or a wife"; and

**WHEREAS**, in October 2014, two U.S. District Court Judges from North Carolina, Max O. Cogburn, Jr. and William Osteen, ruled against North Carolina's 2012 Marriage Protection amendment, declaring that it was unconstitutional, following a U.S. Supreme Court's decision to refuse to hear appeals or review lower court rulings on the matter; and,

**WHEREAS**, in response to the rulings, North Carolina House Speaker Thom Tillis and Senate Leader Phil Berger announced their intentions to "vigorously defend the values of our state and the will of more than 60 percent of North Carolina voters who made it clear that marriage is between one man and one woman"; and

**WHEREAS**, the Stokes County Board of Commissioners believes that this ruling is in violation of the United States Constitution in that it interferes with the powers of the State of North Carolina reserved to the states in the United States Constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, the Stokes County Board of Commissioners recognizes its constitutional duty to uphold the law; however, the Board remains resolved in their efforts to defend the tradition of marriage and will strongly support and advocate on behalf of the appeals being brought forward by North Carolina House Speaker Thom Tillis and Senate Leader Phil Berger.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Stokes County Board of Commissioners strongly opposes the federal court ruling that abolishes North Carolina's Marriage Amendment (Amendment One) and hereby encourages all those in the state that recognize the sanctity of marriage between one man and one woman to voice their opposition to this ruling.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Stokes County Board of Commissioners, while charged with a duty to uphold the law, does herewith offer its support of the appeal to protect the 2012 constitutional amendment and request that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the local legislative delegation to the North Carolina General Assembly, the local congressional delegation in Washington, DC, Governor Pat

McCrory, and to the other 99 counties in the state, requesting they join in their support of the appeal that will allow the voice of more than 60 percent of North Carolina's voters, who cast their vote in support of the 2012 amendment, to be heard.

**APPROVED and ADOPTED** this the \_\_\_\_ day of November, 2014.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
**J. Leon Iuman – Commissioner**

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

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

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Darlene M. Bullins – Clerk to the Board**

Chairman Booth commented:

- This is going forth as an appeal, would not be heard in Asheville, will be heard in Greensboro
- Spoke to Senator Shirley Randleman who stated that the Six Circuit Court heard Kentucky's appeal and ruled favorable for Kentucky
- A proposed resolution in support of the appeal

Chairman Booth opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Have reviewed the proposed resolution and feel it has all the needed information
- Supportive of the proposed resolution
- Would like to see the decision turned and hope the next court that hears the appeal will

Chairman Booth commented:

- Reiterated that the Stokes County citizens voted 77% in 2012 to amend the North Carolina constitution defining marriage in North Carolina
- Would be nice if the Six Circuit Court could hear the appeal, never know who will hear the appeal

Vice Chairman Jones commented:

- I consider this very serious because we are not talking only about the county, but also the state and federal level
- I wrote my notes because I take it very seriously
- Would like to read my thoughts



Vice Chairman Jones read the following comments:

"I doubt there is anyone who thinks less of the Federal Government's overreach in its citizen's lives than I do. They are in our bedrooms, food systems, schools, cars, cell phones, churches, and even in our home copiers. Unfortunately, we have stood by and let it happen because someone gets a big idea that we might agree with and we think it is a great idea for the Feds to get involved, but every time anyone gets a big idea that suits them and manages to make a law someone somewhere in America is losing a liberty. Collectively, we have each consistently been losing liberties for decades. As for myself, I don't like the consequences.

The Resolution at hand is two issues. The ultimate issue of which I just covered will secure my vote for the Resolution in the spirit that the Federal Government is and has been overreaching. However, I want to make my views regarding this amendment clear because I never had an opportunity.

I am disappointed that despite my pleas, this resolution was brought forth by the request of two individuals in our community. I don't think it is appropriate for us to be dealing with a social issue. It has put us in a no-win situation no matter how we vote tonight, there will be people out there that will be upset with us. I think we could have avoided that. I may be ostracizing from my own political party, as well as, other community members that I love dearly. But I feel like it is very important being and this on the eve of a potential chairmanship makes me wonder sometimes.

I am disappointed that the leadership in our country, state, and county do not have the wisdom to realize that any type of legislation against any certain group is divisive and counterproductive to our county, state and nation. Apparently, there are some very short memories of what was done to some of our own ancestors, the Native Americans, as well as, African Americans. Those that forget their history are doomed to repeat it, as well as, continue pouring all taxpayers monies into an abyss for restitution. Can any of you look anyone in the eye, despite their beliefs, life style, gender or skin color, and say they are less of a human or less American? I cannot. I pledged to lead and represent every person in this county despite my own indoctrination.

I am disappointed that we still fail as people here to measure a person's worth by their merit, integrity, contributions to our community, willingness to be personally responsible, work ethics, law abiding and tax contributions.

I am very disappointed that church and state have not been kept separate as intended by the Constitution. I am disappointed that certain Christians fail to realize that all Christians do not believe the same way; therefore, imposing their beliefs on others pitting Christian against Christian. This is not healthy. This is not what America was designed to be. I am disappointed that any Christian thinks they have the right to judge and place hardship on any American.

I, like many, crave leadership that is not prejudice that desires to create unity among all. Leadership that empowers, not enables. Leadership with accountability for itself and citizens. Leadership that has the foresight to know what is right for all; not for particular sectors of the

population. Leadership with a voice of reason. Leadership that is willing to work together despite differences. Sadly, it is obvious that we have not evolved to that type of wisdom and it is going to set up us for self-destruction. You can mark my words.

- I will vote with the proposed resolution, but I am not happy with this legislation.
- It is not to condone or condemn the group, it is just a general fact that it is a group and it is not right

Chairman Booth commented:

- Questioned Vice Chairman Jones what group is she referring to?
- Reiterated that 77% voted in 2012 regarding Amendment One

Vice Chairman Jones responded:

- That is not the point, there were only two people to start with that approached the Board regarding this issue that got the county all upset
- This is a social issue and we should not be getting involved in social issues
- If they had come up and wanted something that you did not like, would you have taken it on then?
- That is the all point

Chairman Booth responded:

- That is your opinion
- In my opinion, I have other constituents that talked to me about the issue besides those two individuals

Commissioner Walker commented:

- I appreciate the thoughts Vice Chairman Jones has shared with the Board, obviously well thought out; she has put a lot of time and effort in composing her thoughts and feels she speaks from her heart; I never have a problem with that
- I think everyone is entitled to see things as they feel like they need to and I will defend their right to do that to the upmost
- In this particular instance, from the beginning, I thought this issue was settled long before
- I was really surprised when it was overturned by two federal judges in some court somewhere
- I am not convinced to this day that they have the right to do that; they might, I am not a technocrat when it comes to federal law, how one jurisdiction applies
- I can never ignore the will of the people, whether it coincides or meshes with my view or not, I try to not down play any group or any view
- I feel everyone is entitled to their view and their position in life as I am to mind
- I don't assign judgment, I just look at what makes sense and what is right and what the will of the people is
- In this particular instance, whether I agree with the social issue or whatever it represents or whatever, I think the will of the people is being tampered with
- I can't condone that

- The people in our state voted, the people in our county voted, how do you ignore that?
- Even if I disagree with their vote, how can I ignore those sure numbers?
- That is kind of where I am
- Again, I am not assigning judgment right or wrong to this or that
- I don't feel qualified to do that
- I think I am continually reminded by the good word to not judge, so I try hard not to
- But on the other hand when you just look at facts and figures and what best represents the will of the people in our county, I have to put some value to that

Commissioner Inman commented:

- I grew up in the Quaker faith
- Quakers were among the first to recognize and show tolerance for other beliefs
- I later converted and started attending the Baptist church when I was married
- For example, as Quakers, we always prayed in silence, is that wrong? Who can say?
- When I am coming from the heart with prayer, I don't really need to make any public display of it; I am personally talking to the man upstairs when I pray
- I remember a resolution about two or three years ago
- The marriage amendment was on the ballot and there was a resolution brought before this Board, I voted against that resolution
- I told everyone that I supported the marriage amendment
- I am a Caucasian, heterosexual male, but I have lots of friends who are otherwise
- I can't condemn them
- I do not really have the right to judge
- If I wanted to carve something out of the Bible, I would do it tonight and say "judgment not less you be judged"
- Every day as a realtor, I take an oath that I will not discriminate based on race, color, creed, age, national origin or sexual preference
- With that being said, I agree with Vice Chairman Jones, I have a real problem with the long arm of the federal government, but I don't agree with the ruling and all
- But the statement in the proposed resolution - "Whereas, the Stokes County Board of Commissioners recognizes its constitutional duty to uphold the law", my constitutional duty to uphold the law says that everyone will have equal protection under the law - that is what the Constitution of the United States says
- I can carve that part out and if you believe that, then what are we doing?
- Are we saying that only heterosexuals shall have equal protection under the law?
- Just throwing it out there, equal protection under the law, look at the Constitution
- Everyone shall be afforded equal protection under the law
- Regardless of what we believe, whether it be morally wrong or morally right
- It raises some very strong emotions on both sides
- Commissioner Walker talked about the will of the people, the will of the people is 77%, what about the 23%? Who is speaking for them?
- Lot of questions

Vice Chairman Jones stated that she would like to inject some information that she did not include in her first comments:

- I am disappointed that our leaders do not see the real issue with this particular legislation. It is not about alternate life styles. It is about equal opportunity to gain health insurance and tax breaks, as well as, other opportunities. These individuals work, own businesses and pay taxes just like everyone else. How is it that traditional marriages with a 50% failure rate are deserving of multitudes of benefits and tax credits while everyone else continues to pay? This issue could have had a very different conversation and results had our leadership acknowledged the real problem. The hypocrisy that has been allowed to infiltrate our nation is beyond disheartening.
- That is really what this was about
- It was made to be a gay thing, but it really wasn't a gay thing
- That is the other part that bothers me about the 77%, people really did not know to a great degree on what they were voting on, they were guilty, they felt like they had to take the Bible with them and that is fine if that is their religion
- But the fact is, it is about having equal rights and protection more than anything
- Had the churches not gotten involved with the government with marriages years ago, probably would have never came up
- This has been coming on for decades
- Who knows what is next?
- But as I said, government is far over reaching, have been for a while, for that reason alone, I will say yes to this
- I don't agree with the legislation itself

Commissioner Walker commented:

- It raises a lot of questions
- I am surprised it came up again, the way it did
- I thought it was all settled
- I think by the very definition of our form of government, we are a constitutional democracy and that means our very form of government itself is based the constitution, and democracy is the will of the people
- When you try to put all that together, I think it is pretty clear to me, what needs to be done
- I am actually encouraged, I think the judges had a right to do what they did, apparently, whether technically, they had the constitutional basis or whether they are trying to make law instead of interpret law, there may be some questions there
- The way I think things work is, when someone does what they did, it is up to the rest of us to choose how we deal with what they did
- When I hear that Phil Berger and Thom Tillis and I am sure many others are actually taking issue, battling what the judges did, they have a right to do and we have a right to do whatever we feel like is necessary to let our voices be added as well to whatever we feel like we need to support
- These are different times, I have seen a lot of changes in 70 years
- This is a different country now from what I grew up in

- Where these lines are now, I can't be sure, I try to do the best I can on whatever comes along, steadfastly and continue to make decisions that are in the best interest for the citizens in this County that elected me to this office and who put their trust and confidence in me to make these decisions

Chairman Booth requested direction from the Board regarding action tonight or at the next meeting.

Commissioner Walker stated that he was not interested in action tonight, I say follow the Board's normal procedures.

Chairman Booth, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the December 8<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda.

#### **Appointment – Piedmont Triad Regional Development District (PTRDC)**

Chairman Booth requested Clerk Bullins to provide information regarding the appointment.

Clerk Darlene Bullins presented the following request from Piedmont Triad Regional Development District (PTRDC):

- County received a request from PTRDC seeking appointments and recommendations of individuals to serve on the Piedmont Triad Regional Development District
- PTRDC is in the process of having our region designated as an Economic Development District and request the Board's support of that effort
- PTRDC has requested one appointment to the PTRDC by the Board of Commissioners
  - The appointee may be any member of the governing board for the County or a municipality in the county or an appointed public official such as the City or County Manager
- There are additional opportunities for representation from the county to the PTRDC
  - The County is welcomed to make recommendations for additional appointees that will be considered by the Regional Council's Board of Delegates
  - The Board of Delegates will be appointing 6 additional local elected officials and 17 private and/or non-profit sector seats
- Given the work of the PTRDC to administer a Small Business Administration loan program, the Board of Delegates does have preference for some of these individuals to have finance backgrounds for the purpose of loan review
- Other choices can include developers, downtown advocates, business owners, utility representatives, or any other positions that are representations of development interests in the region

Chairman Booth opened the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Walker questioned who on the Board might be interested in this appointment and how many other boards were members currently serving on?

Commissioner Lankford stated he was interested in this appointment and did not feel the number of boards each member served mattered; this board is related to the Piedmont Triad Partnership that I served on for three years.

Chairman Booth nominated Commissioner Ernest Lankford for the Board of Commissioners' appointee.

Chairman Booth entertained a motion to close the nominations.

Commissioner Inman moved to close the nominations. Commissioner Walker seconded the motion.

Commissioner Walker nominated Von Robertson to be considered for an additional appointee from a private and/or non-profit sector.

The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Booth, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the December 8<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda.

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

### **Voting Delegate Designation – Legislative Goals Conference**

Chairman Booth noted that Commissioner Leon Inman was nominated at the November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Chairman Booth opened the floor for nominations.

There were no further nominations.

Chairman Booth entertained a motion to close the nominations.

Commissioner Lankford moved to close the nominations. Vice Chairman Jones seconded

and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Booth polled the Board:

Commissioner Lankford: Commissioner Leon Inman

Commissioner Inman: Commissioner Leon Inman

Chairman Booth: Commissioner Leon Inman

Vice Chairman Jones: Commissioner Leon Inman

Commissioner Walker: Commissioner Leon Inman

Chairman Booth noted that Commissioner Leon Inman would serve as the County's Voting Delegate at the Legislative Conference.

**Appointment – Walnut Cove Planning Board/Board of Adjustments – Alternate Member**

Chairman Booth noted that there were no nominations at the November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Chairman Booth opened the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Lankford requested the appointment be held to the December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting due to his nomination was unable to be contacted due to a death in the family.

The Board had no issues with placing the item back on the Action Agenda at the next meeting.

Chairman Booth entertained a motion to close the nominations.

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

Chairman Booth, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the December 8<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda.

### **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**