

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
MARCH 23, 2015

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, March 23, 2015, at 6:00 pm with the following members present:

Chairman Ronda Jones
Vice Chairman Jimmy Walker
Commissioner J. Leon Inman
Commissioner Ernest Lankford
Commissioner James D. Booth

County Personnel in Attendance:
County Manager Richard D. Morris
Clerk to the Board Darlene M. Bullins
County Attorney Tyrone Browder
Finance Director Julia Edwards

Chairman Ronda Jones called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.

Chairman Jones delivered the invocation.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT-GOVERNING BODY-PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Jones 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 Jones entertained a motion to approve or amend the March 23, 2015 Agenda.

County Manager Rick Morris requested to add "Social Services-External Posting" to tonight's Discussion Agenda due to a recent resignation of an Income Maintenance Caseworker.

The Board had no issues with adding Manager Morris' request to the Discussion Agenda.

Commissioner Booth moved to approve the March 23rd Agenda as amended.

Commissioner Lankford seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS

Manager/Commissioners

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

County Manager Rick Morris commented:

- The John Burwell 2015 Excellence in EMS Awards Banquet
 - Will be held at The Hawthorne Inn on May 7, 2015 – 6:00 pm
 - 2015 Award Recipient – Dr. Darrell Nelson, Medical Director for Davie County EMS and Stokes County EMS

Vice Chairman Walker:

- Welcome everyone here tonight
- Glad to see Kyle Hall, Congressman Mark Walker's representative, at tonight's meeting
- Attended the recent town hall meeting in King with Congressman Mark Walker
 - One item that came up was about confidence and trust in government today
 - Unfortunately, it seems like there is a diminishing confidence and trust in pretty much all levels of government if you just start talking to people
 - The citizens feel there is a disconnect in government today and people feel that their needs and views are not always listened to
 - Congressman Walker addressed it at the national level and feels like it is something that needs to be looked at to try to restore the confidence and trust
 - Need for our leaders to make good, quality decisions instead of decisions that are expedient, political and/or for some other reason other than good quality leadership
 - Have become aware that things are being done at the state level with people being chosen for committees for political payback, political cronies or friends with committees not being staffed at the very best level possible
 - When there is a breach or lack of leadership, evidently, it is the citizens who suffer
 - Recently heard a conversation regarding political cronies being chosen, not sure what they were talking about, but believe they were talking about local county government
 - Don't think that the county is the exception, don't think the state is the exception and don't think the country is the exception, feel it is something that is just happening

- Want to make a commitment that anytime that I can just do the right thing for the right reason instead of what is expedient and handy, I will do the right thing for the right reason
- Very encouraged with the things that are happening at Camp Sertoma
 - Seems things are getting in the right place
 - There is some funding that needs to happen for Camp Sertoma for things to really move along
 - Hope the funding can be resolved in favorable ways in the near future versus long term

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Welcome to everyone tonight
- Have a very full Agenda, with the expedience of time and the significance of this Agenda, would like to move forward

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Ethics for Life – “My son, be wise, and make my heart glad, that I may answer him that reproacheth me” (Proverbs)
- Board of Commissioners recently met with State Legislative Delegates and had a very good, productive session discussing the NCACC’s top five goals

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Welcome everyone tonight
- Want to remind everyone of the Farmer Appreciation Dinner scheduled for Thursday, April 9, 2015 starting at 6:00 pm at South Stokes High School
 - Hosted by: Stokes Soil & Water Conservation District, the Cooperative Extension, Farm Service Agency, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the NC Forestry Service
 - Sponsored by local Stokes County Businesses – no county dollars
 - Everyone is invited

Chairman Jones commented:

- Also want to welcome everyone tonight
- Attended several meetings during the past weeks
- Appreciate House Representative Bryan Holloway and Senator Shirley Randleman for taking time from their very busy schedules for the special session with the Board
- Stokes Future will have a booth at the Farmer Appreciation Dinner

Public Comments:

There were no Public Comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Jones entertained a motion to approve or amend the following items on the

Consent Agenda:

Minutes

- Minutes of March 9, 2015 – Regular Meeting

Debt Service - Budget Amendment #46

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #46.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
	Debt Service			
100.9100.833	Interest – Equipment	<u>\$4,841.00</u>	<u>\$4,422.00</u>	<u>\$9,263.00</u>
	Total	\$4,841.00	\$4,422.00	\$9,263.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To appropriate remaining funds from equipment loan to prepay interest for FY 2015-16.

This will result in a **net increase of \$4,422.00** 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
100.3839.000	Miscellaneous Revenue	<u>\$25,000.00</u>	<u>\$4,422.00</u>	<u>\$29,422.00</u>
	Totals	\$25,000.00	\$4,422.00	\$29,422.00

Sheriff's Department, Emergency Communications, Planning, Social Services, Contingency - Budget Amendment #47

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #47.

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			
100.4310.000	Salaries & Wages	\$1,617,809.00	\$4,054.00	\$1,621,863.00
	Emergency Communications			
100.4325.000	Salaries & Wages	\$380,859.00	\$2,946.00	\$383,805.00
	Planning			
100.4910.000	Salaries & Wages	262,042.00	\$9,302.00	\$271,344.00

Social Services				
100.5310.000	Salaries & Wages	\$1,792,278.00	\$2,044.00	\$1,794,322.00
100.5310.000	Salaries & Wages	\$1,794,322.00	\$13,152.00	\$1,807,474.00
Contingency				
100.9910.100	Leave Cost Contingency	<u>\$77,207.00</u>	<u>\$(21,634.00)</u>	<u>\$55,573.00</u>
Total		\$5,924,517.00	\$9,864.00	\$5,934,381.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To transfer funds from Leave Cost Contingency for employees that have resigned, retired, or dismissed and appropriating funds from DSS-Federal reimbursement for the paying of Compensatory Time in the Social Services Department due to the NCFAS Project. Leave paid: Vacation = \$15,437; Holiday = \$1,781.74; Compensatory Time = \$1,125.54; and NCFAS Compensatory Time = \$13,152.00.

This will result in a **net increase of \$9,864.00** in the expenditures and other financial use to the County's annual budget. To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will increase. These revenues have already been received or are verified they will be received this fiscal year.

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
100.3301.202	DSS Federal	<u>\$1,792,248.00</u>	<u>\$9,864.00</u>	<u>\$1,802,112.00</u>
Total		\$1,792,248.00	\$9,864.00	\$1,802,112.00

Social Services - Budget Amendment #48

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #48.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
Social Services				
Professional Services –				
100.5310.188	Attorney Fees	<u>\$80,000.00</u>	<u>\$25,000.00</u>	<u>\$105,000.00</u>
Total		\$80,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$105,000.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To appropriate additional funding from the DSS Federal revenue line item to the Attorney Fees Expenditure line item to cover expenditures for the remainder of this fiscal year. This is 100% Federal Funding.

This will result in a **net increase of \$25,000.00** 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.

Account Number	Account Description	Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
100.3301.202	DSS – Federal	<u>\$2,090,030.00</u>	<u>\$25,000.00</u>	<u>\$2,115,030.00</u>
	Totals	\$2,090,030.00	\$25,000.00	\$2,115,030.00

Application for Use of Lottery Funds for Debt Service for Fiscal Year 2014-15

Finance Director Julia Edwards presented a Debt Payment Application – Public School Building Capital Fund – NC Educational Lottery in the amount of \$400,000 from approved by the Stokes County Board of Education at their March 6, 2015 meeting for the Board of Commissioners’ consideration and approval at the March 23rd meeting. (\$400,000 was approved in the FY 2014-15 Budget for Nancy Reynolds Elementary School Construction – Debt Service)

Tax Administration Report – February 2015

Releases more than \$100 – Real and Personal Property

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Releases more than \$100 – Real and Personal Property (February 2015) at the March 9th meeting for the Board’s review and consideration at the March 23rd meeting:

Releases more than \$100 - Real/Personal Property

Name	Bill No	Amount	Reason
Davis Lawn Care	14A156049770.09.1	<u>\$284.05</u>	Correction of Listing
James Richard Davis			
Total		\$284.05	

Refunds more than \$100 – Real and Personal Property

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Refunds more than \$100 – Real and Personal Property (February 2015) at the March 9th meeting for the Board’s review and consideration at the March 23rd meeting:

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

Name	Bill No	Amount	Reason
Nancy Boyles	22373308	\$130.13	Vehicle Sold
Raymond Hurst	23067668	\$204.37	Vehicle Sold
Chad Ray Joyce LLC	14A156049210.01	<u>\$938.23</u>	Double Listed
Total		\$1,272.73	

Present-Use Value Late Applications

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Present-Use Value Late Applications (February 2015) at the March 9th meeting for the Board's review and consideration at the March 23rd meeting:

- Taxpayer: Eddie Glenn LeVan
 - Parcel: 599500142141
 - Acreage: 24.12
 - Reason: Land (all wooded) has been in the family for many years
- Taxpayer: Robert Ridge and Nancy Ridge
 - Parcel: 598600341871
 - Acreage: 8.96
 - Reason: Owner has other adjoining farmland

Proposed Proclamation-National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week – April 12-18, 2015

Clerk Darlene Bullins, on behalf of Emergency Communications Director Del Hall, presented the following proposed Proclamation – National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week (April 12-18, 2015) for the Board's review and consideration of approval at the March 23rd meeting:

Proclamation

National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

April 12-18, 2015

Whereas, emergencies can occur at anytime that require police, fire or emergency medical services;

Whereas, when an emergency occurs the prompt response of police officers, firefighters and paramedics are critical to the protection of life and preservation of property;

Whereas, the safety of our police officers, firefighters, and paramedics is dependent upon the quality and accuracy of information obtained from citizens who telephone the Stokes County Emergency Communications Center;

Whereas, Public Safety Telecommunicators are the first and most critical contact our citizens have with emergency services;

Whereas, Public Safety Telecommunicators are the single vital link for our police officers, firefighters, and paramedics by monitoring their activities by radio, providing them information and insuring their safety;

Whereas, Public Safety Telecommunicators of the Stokes County Emergency Communications Center have contributed substantially to the apprehension of criminals, suppression of fires and treatment of patients;

Whereas, each dispatcher has exhibited compassion, understanding and professionalism during the performance of their job in the past year;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Board of County Commissioner's of County of Stokes, North Carolina declares the week of April 12 through 18, 2015 to be National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week in the County of Stokes, North Carolina in honor of the men and women whose diligence and professionalism keep our County citizens safe.

Signed this 23rd day of March, 2015.

Ronda Jones, Chairman

Jimmy Walker, Vice Chairman

J. Leon Inman, Commissioner

Ernest Lankford, Commissioner

James D. Booth, Commissioner

Attest:

Darlene Bullins, Clerk

Commissioner Inman moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Lankford seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – INFORMATION AGENDA

Wilkes Communications, Inc. – dba “RiverStreet Networks” - Broadband

County Manager Rick Morris introduced Chief Executive Officer Eric Cramer, Wilkes Communications, Inc. (dba “RiverStreet Networks).

County Manager Morris commented:

- Very pleased to have representatives from Wilkes Communications at the meeting tonight
- This is the first public information session regarding what Wilkes Communications can do for Stokes County
- County staff has been working several months with representatives and very anxious to see what they can do to help with the expansion of Broadband in Stokes County
- As you are aware, personally briefed the Board of Education last week; they are getting ready to make a very critical decision regarding Broadband that could impact this project
- Wilkes Communications is scheduled to brief the Board of Education on April 10th

Chief Executive Officer Eric Cramer, Sales and Marketing Manager Brett Yates, and Network Operations Manager Jody Call presented and discussed the following power point presentation regarding Broadband expansion in Stokes County:

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Cramer started the presentation with the following comments and information:

- Very glad to be here in Stokes County
- Feel this project is a “win-win” for everyone and will have a real impact to Stokes County
- Who We Are
 - Incorporated in August 24, 1951 as Wilkes Telephone Membership Corporation
 - Started as a group of Wilkes County citizens in 1949 looking for telephone service in rural Wilkes County
 - Wilkes Communications, Inc. has grown to provide an extensive suite of communications services for residents and businesses of Wilkes County
 - Wilkes Communications is a non-profit
 - RiverStreet Networks was established as a “DBA –Doing Business As” of Wilkes Communication, Inc. to provide these same services to customers outside of our local serving area
 - The project would be Riverstreet Networks in Stokes County
- Management Team
 - Eric Cramer – Chief Executive Officer
 - Amanda Perry – Customer Service and PR Manager
 - Brett Yates – Sales and Marketing Manager
 - Jody Call – Network Operations Manager
 - Josh Sheets – Network Services Manager
 - Kimberley Johnson – Accounting Manager
 - George Roark – Network Engineering Manager
 - Greg Anderson – Construction Supervisor

- Jody Souther – Network Engineering Supervisor
- How We Got Here
 - Was approached by Senator Shirley Randleman during an Economic Development Commission meeting in Wilkes County
 - Met with County Manager Rick Morris and Commissioner James Booth to see what could be done in Stokes County
 - Have spent about six months engineering and designing a network and developing a business case that would work in Stokes County
 - Discussed unserved and underserved areas in Stokes County
- Wilkes Communications Serving Area
 - Discussed the Wilkes Communications Serving Area and how funding was secured for the initial project in Wilkes
 - Over the next ten years, the plan is to bring fiber to every customer who wants it in Wilkes County
- Footprint
 - Have recently purchased three other telephone companies in North Carolina
 - Very serious in expanding our footprint by providing Broadband service
- What Do We Provide?
 - Industry-leading communications services including:
 - Broadband
 - Voice Services
 - Digital TV
 - Security and Monitoring Services
 - Phone Systems
 - All services are provided and supported by local, trusted, technical staff
- How We Deliver Services
 - State-of-the-Art Fiber Optic Network
 - Services are provided to customers via a dedicated (Active) fiber from the serving office directly to each customer's house
 - This correlates to a higher quality, dependable, and higher speed experience compared to DSL or Cable because services are not being shared between neighbors and/or within communities
 - Some of the industry terms you may have heard:
 - Fiber to the Home (FTTH)
 - Fiber to the Premises (FTTP)
 - Fiber to the Business (FTTB)
- National 1 Gbps Service
 - Displayed and Discussed the areas with one Gbps
 - North Dakota has lots of areas with Gbps service, where fracking has occurred; Texas, Rhode Island, and Indiana have small areas with Gbps service
 - The only one in North Carolina is Wilkes County
 - Hope to have Stokes County on the map

Sales and Marketing Manager Brett Yates continued the presentation with the following comments and information:

- Broadband
 - 20Mbps/5Mbps
 - 50Mbps/10Mbps
 - 100Mbps/10Mbps
 - 250Mbps/25Mbps
 - 500Mbps/25Mbps
 - 1Gbps/50Mbps
- Commercial Broadband
 - Connectivity for small, medium, and large businesses
 - Municipal, County, State, and Federal Government Agencies
 - Education (K-12, Community College, Daycare) and Healthcare
 - Mobile service backhaul (T-Mobile, AT&T, Carolina West)
 - Services from simple internet connectivity to fully-designed Metro-E Network backhaul to connect geographically separated sites (County, Education, Medical)
- Telephone
 - Traditional and Advance Telephone Services
 - Voicemail
 - Caller ID
 - Call Waiting
 - Three-way calling
 - Call Forward
 - Call Screening
 - Priority Ringing
 - Long Distance Plans
- Digital TV
 - 290+ Channels including:
 - 73 high definition channels
 - 30 music channels
 - Local channels
 - Premium channels including HBO, Cinemax, Showtime, Starz, Encore
 - Pay-per-view
 - DVR (whole home function)
 - Caller ID on-screen
 - Games
 - Up-to-date weather information
- Digital V Pricing
 - Digital Basic =\$30
 - Digital Plus = \$55 (Includes Digital Basic)
 - Digital Premier = \$65 (Includes Digital Plus)
 - Digital Music = free (Included in Digital Plus)
 - HD Basic = free

- HD Premier =\$9.99
- Premium packages
 - HBO = \$13.95
 - Showtime/Movie = \$12.95
 - Channel = \$12.95
 - Cinemax = \$12.95
 - Starz/Encore = \$12.95
- Security
 - Ability to monitor existing security systems
 - Phone, internet, and cellular monitoring options
 - Smartphone applications to remotely control systems
 - Life safety monitoring (personal emergency response service)
 - Smoke, heat, carbon monoxide monitoring
 - Home and business automation (cameras, thermostats, door locks/entry)
 - Everything the large companies can do at a more affordable price
- Phone Systems
 - Custom-tailored solutions designed to fit each specific customer's needs
 - Multi-site deployment
 - Premise-based and hosted solutions
 - Uses latest VoIP (Voice over IP) technology
 - Integrates with each customer's existing customer computer network
 - Phone system and all associated equipment, maintenance, and updates are included in monthly service payment
 - State-of-the-Art wiring included with each install provides future –proof scalability
- Bundles
 - Platinum Bundle
 - Silver Bundle

Network Operations Manager Jody Call continued the presentation with the following comments and information:

- Would like to thank County Manager Morris and staff for welcoming Wilkes Communications to Stokes County and providing the requested information during the past few months
- Experience and Proven Success
 - Began ILEC fiber overbuild in 2005 and was completed in December 2014
 - Built 1,500 miles of fiber to the homes/businesses in Wilkes ILEC Service Area
 - Converted a total of 9,500 subscribers from copper network to fiber network
 - Started CLEC build out in 2007
 - Built 300 miles of fiber to the homes/businesses in Wilkes CLEC Serving Area
 - There are 600 miles of proposed fiber to place in order to complete the build out of Wilkes County
 - Completion date is set for 2025

- A ten-year build plan forecasts 30% take rate of service in all proposed areas
 - The proposed CLEC build out is projected to cost \$30 million dollars
 - Average yearly investment will be \$3 million dollars every year for 10 years
 - Provided detailed mapping of the Wilkes County Anchors, Schools and Cell Towers
- Stokes County Partnership and Opportunity
 - Discussed provided maps which outlined DSL and Cable Access Data Speed of 3MB Plus
- Construction Overview and What to Expect
 - There will be three (3) initial phases to our proposed build out
 - Phase 1 consists of building a backbone network to connect all of the equipment and create a launch point from which to build future infrastructure
 - Phase 2 consists of building to the underserved areas in Stokes County according to the FCC
 - These areas are considered unserved if internet speed is less than 4Mbps/1Mbps
 - Phase 3 consists of building to other areas according to prospected interest with a minimum of 30% take rate
- Costs, Logistics, and Subscribers – Phase I
 - The Phase 1 build is estimated to cost \$4.5 million dollars
 - This includes building the retail store, remote buildings, equipment, OSP material, and construction
 - Will pass an estimated total of 2,519 subscribers during the Phase 1 build out
- Costs, Logistics, and Subscribers – Phase II
 - The Phase 2 build is estimated to cost \$2 million dollars
 - This project would build taps off of the primary backbone to serve two underserved areas in Stokes County
 - These areas lie north east and northwest of Danbury
 - Will pass an estimated total of 651 subscribers during the Phase 2 build out
- Costs, Logistics, and Subscribers – Phase III
 - For the Phase 3 build out, our estimated budget would be \$3 million dollars (This project will build taps off of the primary backbone to serve prospected customers along a specific route with a take rate of 30%)
 - Higher percentage of people taking the service increases pace of the build out
- Property Considerations
 - Acquire property in Danbury to build a dual-purpose location for a retail presence and serving office
 - Two additional locations (one in King and one in Walnut Cove) for remote buildings to serve each of these areas
 - The preferred location of the remote buildings would be along the proposed fiber route between Danbury, King, and Walnut Cove
- Plan of Action
 - The proposed build out will begin in Danbury with King and Walnut Cove to follow soon thereafter

- Field design and staking will begin as soon as property is secured for retail store and remote locations
- Material will be ordered as soon as quantities are determined for each area
- Estimated Timeline
 - Phase 1 (backbone network) construction start date - July 1, 2015
 - Phase 1 (backbone network) construction completion date - July 1, 2016
 - All schools, county offices, hospital, and any other locations deemed necessary will be built during construction which will include all services drops
 - Equipment will be installed in the proposed serving office and remote buildings during the initial build out
 - Entire backbone network (Phase 1) will be ready for service by July 1, 2016
 - Includes all businesses and residential services along all routes
 - Phase 2 build will start sometime after Phase 1, possible third or fourth quarter 2016

Chief Executive Officer Eric Cramer continued the presentation with the following comments and information:

- Economic Impact and Benefits to Stokes
 - Major infrastructure investment - \$6.5 million (Phases 1 and 2)
 - Access to cutting-edge technology rarely seen in rural areas
 - Local retail presence – bundled services (one bill)
 - Increased employment and job opportunities
 - Those who work for Riverstreet Networks in Stokes County will be from Stokes County
 - Community partner – philanthropy, scholarships and volunteerism
 - Will be part of the community
 - Will be a community partner
 - Will serve the community
 - Will be developing a business channel that businesses who are customers can advertise
 - Have 2,500 business customers in Wilkes County
 - Working with Wilkes County to provide information on the cable to promote the county and plan to do the same thing in Stokes County
 - Recently donated \$30,000 to Wilkes County Schools for installation of smart boards in the classrooms
 - Board just voted to give \$25,000 for another project for the high schools in Wilkes County
- Closing
 - We bring industry-leading technology, services, and experience to rural America
 - Local presence and unparalleled support and response times
 - Look forward to becoming partners with Stokes County and providing services to its residents

Chairman Jones opened the floor for discussion.

Vice Chairman Walker commented:

- Encouraged with the information that is being shared with the Board tonight
- Like the concept that you strive to be the best
- Questioned “what kind of feedback is the company receiving from the current customer base so far?”

CEO Cramer responded:

- Getting ready to do a customer satisfaction survey
- Have had growth in our telephone business
- We look at our business as telephone, broadband, television, and security
- Last year was the best year the company has ever had
- People are getting on the network and staying with the network
- We are not losing customers; we are gaining customers
- This is a highly competitive business with our company continuing to grow
- Charter covers approximately 70% of Wilkes County which is our biggest competitor
- We are competing and winning, it speaks for itself
- Last year, we took an average of 20 customers from CenturyLink and Charter each month
- We compare our pricing every month
- Competition drives down prices which is good for everyone
- We feel, this same model that works in Wilkes County, will work in Stokes County

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Confirmed with CEO Cramer that if a house was located on the route in Phase I, the citizen would have the option to join

CEO Cramer responded:

- Did not allow citizens in Wilkes County to join in Phase I, but will in Stokes
- Have spoken to Manager Morris about possibly holding town hall meetings to let people know what is about to happen in their community
- If there is demand, we will build it
- We will bring in additional contractors to get the job done
- Would not be uncommon to have 120+ contractors on the job

Commissioner Lankford continued:

- Very pleased with the projected timeline
- Been looking for something like this for the past 7-8 years
- We have a lot of unserved citizens in the county, as well as, underserved citizens

Commissioner Inman continued:

- Appreciate Wilkes Communications having an interest in Stokes County
- This will be a “game changer” and “life changer” in Stokes County

- This will be very significant for economic development in Stokes County
- Infrastructure is not just water and sewer
- Have been a full time realtor in Stokes County since 1980, one of the first questions asked is “what is the access and availability of high speed internet?”
- One of the four strategic plans of the Stokes County Economic Development Commission is entrepreneurship which must have high speed internet

Network Operations Manager Jody Call responded:

- Recent survey shows that having high speed internet increases the value of your property

CEO Cramer responded:

- Agree with Commissioner Inman regarding the importance of high speed internet for economic development
- To me, high speed internet is a necessity
- Think everyone should have an option to have high speed internet
- Currently serve on the Wilkes Economic Development Commission
- High speed internet opens a new whole world to the student who wants to go on line and get a degree

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Want to thank you for all the work done getting this ready to come into Stokes County
- Not sure people realize the amount of work that has been done over the past six months
- Believe this will be one of the greatest opportunities that has come to Stokes County in a very long time
- As noted by Commissioner Lankford, have worked to try to get high speed internet to the unserved areas in the County with no success
- Like the personal commitment from Riverstreet Networks to make sure the customer is treated right; the commitment to hire local people from Stokes County; the commitment to have an office in the county that citizens can talk to someone face to face
- Great opportunity for individuals to have a home business
- Appreciate the efforts being made by Wilkes Communications

CEO Cramer responded:

- Feel it is a “win-win” for everyone
- It is a huge commitment and must be a true partnership between Wilkes Communications/Riverstreet Network and Stokes County to make it work
- At the end of the day, this could put Stokes County on the map, similar to what has happened in Wilkes County

Vice Chairman Walker commented:

- Again, very encouraged about the opportunity for Stokes County
- It all sounds very positive for Stokes County

- Good to hear Stokes County, a small rural county, could have something that could put Stokes County ahead of most of the similar counties in the state
- Questioned “when the project is complete, how will things be in our county as far as high speed internet access?”

CEO Cramer responded:

- Everyone we pass will have an active fiber available to them and access to one “gig” just like in Wilkes County, fastest speed available

Vice Chairman Walker continued:

- Questioned “what can we do as a county to facilitate this in anyway, help move it along, and is there anything we can do as a county to help move this along?”

CEO Cramer responded

- A lot of the work has already been done
- County Manager Morris and his staff have been extremely helpful
- It is a commitment, we are ready to invest a lot of money in infrastructure in Stokes County
- What we like to see is a commitment from the County that the County understands what we are doing and the County is committed and willing to help fund this backbone project to help push this out to the rural areas
- We are looking for a long-term commitment with some contracts
- We have already looked at some of the county business and determined there will be a significant savings to the county budget
- Looking for a commitment from the County to endorse and promote this project as a partnership, working hand and hand to committing to doing something special in Stokes County
- No other company cares if the citizens of Stokes County have high speed internet
- Working together, we can all win

County Manager Morris responded:

- The first step is working closely with the school system to help them with their upcoming contract
- This network project is designed around the school system doing a one-year contract which this Board has committed to working with the school system
- Wilkes Communications will be briefing the school board on April 10th

CEO Cramer responded:

- This is a long-term business proposition, it will not start making money for at least seven years

Chairman Jones commented:

- Excellent presentation
- Very excited about this opportunity for Stokes County
- Look forward to partnering with Wilkes Communications to move this project forward

- It will be “life changing” for Stokes County

CEO Cramer commented:

- Appreciate the opportunity to be here tonight and to work with Stokes County
- Appreciate Manager Morris and Commissioner Booth reaching out to Wilkes Communications and all the work done by Stokes County to provide requested data

Chairman Jones expressed the Board’s appreciation to CEO Cramer and staff for tonight’s presentation.

NCFAST Update

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

- Will be starting the MAPP Training Class for Foster Parents tonight and have eleven families enrolled with hopes several will complete the training and become foster parents
- NCFAST has been quite challenging during the month of March with several days that the system was very slow
- Staff has worked a lot of hours to try to meet the March 31st deadline
- Will most likely not meet the March 31st deadline, but are much closer than ever before in meeting the deadline

Chairman Jones opened the floor for discussion.

Vice Chairman Walker commented:

- Confirmed with Manager Morris that DSS will most likely not be able to meet the March 31st deadline
- Questioned “what does not meeting the deadline mean for the County?”

County Manager Morris responded:

- Actually the department is in better shape than a lot of the other counties across North Carolina
- State is going to extend the deadline and should be okay

Chairman Jones commented:

- Requested Manager Morris extend the Board’s appreciation to the DSS staff for working so diligent in trying to meet the March 31st deadline

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – DISCUSSION AGENDA

US Motto Action Committee – Facility Signage Request

County Manager Rick Morris introduced Rick Lanier, US Motto Action Committee, who will be speaking to the Board tonight regarding the National Motto – “In God We Trust”.

Mr. Rick Lanier, former Davidson County Commissioner and current Vice Chairman of the US Motto Action Committee, presented the following comments:

- Appreciate the opportunity to speak to the Board tonight regarding our National Motto “In God We Trust”
- Co-founder of the US Motto Action Committee

Mr. Lanier introduced Davidson County Commissioner Fred McClure who presented the request to place the wording “In God We Trust” on governmental buildings.

Mr. McClure presented the following information:

- Appreciate the opportunity to speak to the Board tonight
- Would like to invite the Board to join a growing list of cities and counties that have made the decision to put “In God We Trust” on their governmental buildings
- Davidson County did it in 2002
- We were told that we were going to get sued and we did
- Davidson County won the case and it was appealed and Davidson County won the appeal
- It was taken to the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court would not hear the case so that means it is case law
- In all the 19 cities and counties that have put this motto, “In God We Trust” on their buildings, there has not been one legal challenge
- The US Motto is engraved above the entrance of the U.S. Senate Chamber and above the Speaker’s Seat in the U.S. House of Representative
- On July 30, 1956, during the Dwight D. Eisenhower administration, the U.S. Congress adopted “In God We Trust” as the official National Motto of the United States of America
- This is not foreign to our country, this is our National Motto
- One of the things that we can do as county commissioners, is to take the lead
- Feel every time the ACLU pushes forward, we need to push back
- This is an opportunity that we have as leaders in our nation to make that statement, to push back a little bit of the darkness the ACLU is trying to bring
- Just picked up two counties last week
- Pastor Mark Smith, who is a Board member and a pastor at Baux Mountain Church, is here tonight
- The reason we formed the committee is so we can go out to cities/counties/school boards and talk to them about what “In God We Trust” really means

- It does not mean that everything that transpires in the building is Godly, but it means that it is a basis of the decisions that are made
- This is no better way to increase confidence in government than to provide the leadership necessary for morale issues in our county
- The U.S House of Representatives reaffirmed the nation's motto on Nov. 1, 2011 by a 396-9 vote
- Confirmed with County Attorney and the Board that they had received a copy of the case law
- The US Motto Action Committee pays for the installation of the motto, it will not cost the county any money
- We are losing privileges and rights every single day because we are just going along to get along
- This Board has the opportunity to make a difference
- Would like to thank you in advance for voting "yes"

Chairman Jones opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Very proud that there are concerned citizens that are trying to do morale rights and thank you for doing that
- Very important to me to stand on the promise of "In God We Trust"

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Extended appreciation to Commissioner McClure for his work and being at tonight's meeting
- A friend of mine said one time, "Why do you pause when you are saying the Pledge of Allegiance, "One nation (pause) under God"?"
- The reason is "under God", give him his due
- Only question I had was the cost and that has been answered – no cost for the County
- On Board with the request

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Appreciate you being here tonight
- This is very important to me
- Agree, we are losing a lot of our freedoms
- Makes it even better with no cost to the County

Vice Chairman Walker commented:

- Appreciate you being here
- Glad that folks of your caliber are willing to get involved with this type of movement
- Totally agree
- Very concerned with the progress that groups such as ACLU and others are making
- It seems to me like these groups are trying to push God out of the picture
- If we can make an effort to push back in a positive direction, that is one way, as a county, we can make our statement

- I am willing to do that
- My vote will be yes
- Like what you have presented tonight
- If it were up to me, my only question would be “how soon can you start?”
- This is where I am and will be on the request – yes

Chairman Jones commented:

- Bottom line, this has been tested in court more than one time
- It is case law
- There is nothing to debate
- No cost to the Stokes County taxpayers
- Appreciate your presentation tonight

Chairman Jones, with full consensus of the Board, directed Clerk to place the item on the April 13th Action Agenda.

Architectural/Engineering Services – Jail Expansion

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding architectural/engineering services for the proposed jail expansion project:

- Referred back to the Special Meeting regarding the possible jail expansion, it was noted the need to get an architect on board to provide cost figures before taking a final vote to proceed
- Per NCGS 143-64.3, a Request for Qualifications was posted on the County’s web page and an advertisement was placed in the Stokes News announcing the need for architectural/engineering services for the project
- An email was sent to the following firms notifying them of the proposed jail expansion project
 - Boomerang Design
 - Brennan Works, LLC
 - HDR Inc.
 - Moseley Architects
 - Ramsey Smith Burgin Architecture
 - Ware Bonsall Architects
- Statement of qualifications was received from the following firms interested in this project
 - Moseley Architects
 - Ware Bonsall Architecture
 - Little Architecture
 - Studio & Design Architecture
- This process is not fee based
- Statute requires the county to select a firm qualified to provide these services based on demonstrated competence and qualifications without regard to fee other than unit

pricing at this point and to negotiate a contract for these services at a fair and reasonable fee with the best qualified firm

- Sheriff Mike Marshall and Support Services Supervisor Danny Stovall recommend Moseley Architects for this project
- Request consensus from the Board to enter into contract negotiations with Moseley Architects

Chairman Jones opened the floor for discussion.

The Board had no issues with directing the manager to enter into contract negotiations with Moseley Architects.

Chairman Jones, with full consensus of the Board, directed the manager to enter into contract negotiations with Moseley Architects.

Petree Project – Proposed Contract – Peterson/Gordon Architects

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding Architectural/Engineering Services for the Petree Project which was presented at the March 9th meeting:

- As of last Friday, designated funding from Mr. Petree's assets were turned over to the manager to sell
- Mr. Petree has given up control of the specified assets and the assets are under the control of Stokes County
- Once the assets are all sold, the funding will be placed in a special county account
- The land has also been transferred to the County
- Peterson/Gordon Architects' scope of work will be to design a 7,824 square foot Health Clinic/Community Center in Pine Hall
- Peterson/Gordon's lump-sum contract amount for this project is \$68,000; the fee is within the project budget allocation for these services
- Project/design team will consist of the following members:
 - Architect
 - Peterson/Gordon Architect – Perry Peterson
 - Civil Engineer
 - Hugh Creed and Associates – Darian Creed
 - Structural Engineer
 - Moorefield Engineering – Jerry Moorefield
 - PME Engineer
 - Greensboro Engineering – Chad Lackey
- Building design, blueprints, and bid documents will take approximately 60 business days to complete

- Mr. Petree hired Peterson/Gordon Architects to do the preliminary work on the project
- Request the Board move the item to tonight's Action Agenda in order to expedite the project

Chairman Jones opened the floor for discussion.

Vice Chairman Walker commented:

- Appreciate all the work done by Manager Morris to move this project forward
- This will be a real benefit to Stokes County
- If Mr. Petree is comfortable with Peterson/Gordon Architects, I am on board

There were no other comments.

The Board had no issues with Manager's Morris request or to move the item to tonight's Action Agenda.

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

East Walnut Cove Park – Surplus Property

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following additional information from the NC Forest Service (information was requested by the Board at the March 9th meeting):

- Stokes County Forest Ranger Jonathan Young and Service Forester Luke Tuschak examined the approximate 7 acres of forestland in the East Walnut Cove Park located on Burton Loop Road in Walnut Cove
- The forested area is mainly a mixed pine hardwood stand
 - This mixed stand is composed of the following tree species:
 - Shortleaf pine
 - Virginia pine
 - Poplar
 - Red oak
 - White oak
 - Red maple
 - Sweetgum
 - Beech
 - Diameters in this stand range up to 18 inches measured at 4.5 feet about the ground with dominant tree heights ranging up to 85 feet tall
- Majority of the timber in this particular area is less than 12 inches in diameter
- The stand is fairly young and is marginally considered saw timber which is the higher valued product class

- A small intermittent stream is present within the area
- A buffer of sufficient width should be maintained along both sides to prevent any sediment loss during harvesting operations
- Since the objective is to generate income and to improve visibility while maintaining park appearance, would recommend that you selectively harvest the hardwood and clear-cut harvest all pine areas
- The select harvest should include all large diameter (greater 14 inches) hardwood trees and any low quality species which includes beech, sourwood, and sweetgum
- Would recommend that the hardwood be marked prior to harvesting
- Marking the trees will ensure that the correct size and quality trees are removed
- The stand should be monitored every couple of years to determine if any stand improvements are needed
- Would recommend that the County procure the services of a consultant forester to assist in the process
- Consultants typically charge a commission based on the sale price for the services they provide
- There are multiple benefits to hiring a consultant and the net return on the timber is typically higher than if you sold the timber yourself
- Benefits from hiring a consultant
 - Timber appraisal
 - Advising on best time to sell
 - Market your timber
 - Develop a timber sale contract
 - Assure contract compliance
 - Assure that the logger is in compliance with the Forest Practice Guidelines/Water Quality
- Things that can be done during the harvest to ensure water quality is maintained:
 - Pre-harvest planning
 - Create a streamside buffer of sufficient width on both sides of all streams
 - Minimize stream crossings
 - Make the stream crossing at right angles to the stream
 - Use a portable bridge if fording a stream is unfeasible
 - Install water bars on any harvest roads
 - Stabilize slope by seeding and mulching bare mineral soil
 - Use Best Management Practices (BMPs) which are forestry practices that help protect streams and waterways from excessive sedimentation
- If the County is unable to procure the services of a consulting forester due to the small acreage, would recommend the County contact several timber buyers in the area

County Manager Rick Morris commented:

- The more information the County gathers, the less sense it makes to do this for a fundraiser
- Should look some other ways to help out the park

Chairman Jones opened the floor for discussion.

Vice Chairman Walker commented:

- Not ready to make a quick decision on this issue
- Believe looking at a consultant might be a good idea; consultants usually charge a commission on the sales
- If we don't like the price, there is no obligation to sell
- Want to make sure Rev. Hairston knows the County has made a good faith effort regarding his request
- Want to take the steps necessary to see what kind of dollars there might be from the sale of the timber
- Want to also know what this would do for the park, looking for quality, not just a little extra money
- Need to know if the cutting of the timber will impact the quality of the park
- Would like more information before making a final decision

Chairman Jones commented:

- Have no problem with obtaining more information even though it does look like it is starting to look a little bleak

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Can cut approximately an acre off the area to buffer the stream each side
- Believe it would take any profit from the sale of the timber to remove the stumps
- Agree with Forest Ranger Jonathan Young that the majority of the timber is less than 12 inches in diameter which means that the stand is fairly young and is marginally considered saw timber
- Believe a park needs to have trees
- As you recall, Commissioner Lankford suggested last year putting \$10,000 in the budget for grants for county owned parks (\$2,000 per park)
- Believe we can add \$6,000 to that line item in order to provide each park, other than Moratock which is already taken care of, \$2,000 for operational expenses
- This would be much more if the county had to operate these four parks
- Would like the Board to direct Manager Morris to include this in the upcoming proposed FY 2015-16 budget for the Board's review and consideration

Vice Chairman Walker responded:

- Like the tone of Commissioner Booth's suggestion
- Believe we need to look at continuing the grant and adding some operational funding
- Unless I am wrong, clear cutting the property for funding was not the only reason the committee recommended this option, it was also for quality - safety
- Cutting the timber could improve the park's appearance
- Want some numbers before making any decision

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Did not know about the stream at the last meeting
- Could be environmental issue if clear cutting was done

- With the additional information, don't see it would be a good idea to pursue the request

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Confirmed with Manager Morris the value of clear cutting the area would be approximately \$10,000

County Manager Morris responded:

- The \$10,000 did not include removal of the stumps and any buffering to the stream

Commissioner Inman continued:

- Typically when clearing an acre of land, it cost approximately \$2,000 per acre for stump removal and/or grading in order to sow in grass
- Support Rev. Hairston's efforts
- It is exemplary in the pride the committee and community take in the park
- Could end up costing more than the revenue from the selling of the timber to get the area cleared and ready for grass
- Encouraged by Commissioner Booth's comments regarding operational allocation for the parks in the upcoming budget for consideration by the Board
- Will look at any solution to help the operation of these parks
- Not sure a consultant would be interested in such a small area especially when they receive their commission on the sale of the timber
- Would be open to receive more information

Chairman Jones commented:

- Want to see the parks taken care of
- Don't want to make a decision tonight
- Personally, have no problem allocating funding for the operation of the parks
- Safety is an issue here, there may still need to be some trees removed
- Possibly look at motion lights/cameras
- Would like to hear a professional give an opinion
- Would like to see a cost breakdown regarding Commissioner Booth's recommendation in allocating funding versus value of the work done by volunteers

Vice Chairman Walker commented:

- Action Agenda, with more information, at the next meeting
- Agree with Chairman Jones' observation, putting a value on the work done by volunteers
- Interested in two things:
 - Where is the community on this?
 - Where is the quality in this? Safety – Enjoyment, etc.
- Interested in what can make it a better park

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Want to reiterate his recommendation is a budget issue for the upcoming FY 2015-16

Vice Chairman Walker responded?

- Questioned Commissioner Booth “what his take was regarding the quality of the park?”

Commissioner Booth responded:

- My recommendation is based on Rev. Hairston’s final comment – if there is not some type of financial assistance, the park will be turned over to the county for operation
- Want to look at what is best for the park and the community

Chairman Jones commented:

- Do not want to just put a band aide on it

Commissioner Booth responded:

- To me, just cutting the timber would be putting a band aide on the issue
- That would be just the start
- Have to look at what would be left from the clear cutting for someone to do – stump removal, possible grading, sowing of grass, etc.
- Believe the allocation of operational funding would be more than just a band aide approach

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Went to the park and looked at the area requested by Rev. Hairston to be clear cut
- Did not follow Rev. Hairston regarding the safety in relation to the main road
- Don’t believe there is a lot of community interest

Chairman Jones requested the desire of the Board regarding Commissioner Booth’s recommendation regarding operational funding.

Vice Chairman Walker commented:

- Would like to meet Rev. Hairston at the park to review his request with him
- Want to see what the community wants

The Board discussed what direction to go.

Commissioner Booth reiterated that his recommendation was to place operational funding in the proposed FY 2015-16 budget for further discussion by the Board.

Vice Chairman Walker requested Manager Morris meet with Rev. Hairston regarding the safety issue and quality of park that was discussed at the last meeting and get a dollar amount regarding clear cut versus select cut.

Commissioner Lankford requested Manager Morris obtain any additional information regarding buffering of the stream.

Chairman Jones confirmed with Manager Morris that he would email any additional information regarding the park to the Board.

Chairman Jones noted that at this time, the item would not be placed on the next meeting's Agenda.

Appointments – Stokes County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC)

Chairman Jones noted the following:

- Stokes County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council would like to recommend the appointment of Park Superintendent Robin Riddlebarger to serve on the JCPC as a commissioner appointee

Chairman Jones opened the floor for nominations.

Vice Chairman Walker nominated Park Supervisor Robin Riddlebarger.

Chairman Jones entertained a motion to close the nominations.

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

Chairman Jones, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the April 13th Action Agenda for any further nominations and polling.

Appointments – Stokes County Animal Control Advisory Council

County Manager Rick Morris noted the following:

- Stokes County Animal Control Advisory has the following vacancies:
 - Citizen Appointments: two vacancies
 - Animal Advocacy Organization
- Stokes County Animal Control Advisory Council recommends the following re-appointments:
 - Citizen Appointments: two vacancies
 - Ted Kitzmiller
 - Leslie Staples
 - Animal Advocacy Organization
 - Candis Loy
- Would recommend re-appointment of these very dedicated Council members

Chairman Jones opened the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Inman nominated the following:

- Citizen Appointments: two vacancies
 - Ted Kitzmiller
 - Leslie Staples
- Animal Advocacy Organization
 - Candis Loy

Chairman Jones nominated Sarah Johnson.

Chairman Jones entertained a motion to close the nominations.

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

Chairman Jones, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the April 13th Action Agenda for any further nominations and polling.

Appointments – Stokes County Economic Development Commission

County Manager Rick Morris noted the following:

- EDC Member Sam Hill resigned with an effective date of 03-19-2015

Chairman Jones opened the floor for nominations.

Vice Chairman Walker nominated Kathy Loveday.

Chairman Jones nominated Larry Snyder.

Chairman Jones entertained a motion to close the nominations.

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

Chairman Jones, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the April 13th Action Agenda for any further nominations and polling.

External Posting – Social Services

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information from DSS Director

Stacey Elmes to externally post a vacant Income Maintenance Caseworker position:

- Currently have a vacant Income Maintenance Caseworker which is being posted internally this week
- Internal posting closes this week
- Do not expect any internal applications
- Need to keep the positions filled for NCFAS
- Request approval to move to tonight's Action Agenda in order to expedite the hiring of an Income Maintenance Caseworker

Chairman Jones opened the floor for discussion.

The Board had no issues with Manager's Morris request or to move the item to tonight's Action Agenda.

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

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – ACTION AGENDA

Petree Project – Petree Charitable Trust – Board of Directors – Selection of Executive Director

Chairman Jones noted the following were nominated at the March 9th meeting to serve as the Executive Director for the Petree Charitable Trust:

- Chairman Ronda Jones
- Commissioner Ernest Lankford

Commissioner Inman commented:

Chairman Jones opened the floor for any further nominations.

There were no other nominations.

Chairman Jones entertained a motion to close the nominations.

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

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Just wanted to make a comment before the polling

- Chairman Jones, you are doing a great job as Chairman of the Board of Commissioners
- The only reason I nominated Commissioner Lankford was to try to help you since the chair has so many other duties
- The Board, in the past, approved Vice Chairman Walker to serve as Chair of the Hospital Board
- It was nothing personal

Chairman Jones polled the Board:

- Commissioner Booth – Commissioner Lankford
- Vice Chairman Walker – Chairman Jones
- Chairman Jones – Chairman Jones
- Commissioner Inman – Commissioner Lankford
- Commissioner Lankford – Commissioner Lankford

Chairman Jones commented:

- Would like to be as involved as I can, since it is one of the few projects that has started from the ground up since I have been a member of this Board

Commissioner Inman noted the Executive Director should keep the Chairman fully engaged at all times.

Chairman Jones noted Commissioner Lankford would serve as the Executive Director for the Petree Charitable Trust.

Fire Contracts – Service District, City of King, Town of Rural Hall and Walnut Cove Vol. Fire Department – Contract Renewals

Chairman Jones entertained a motion to approve the following fire contracts which were presented at the March 9th meeting:

- Service District
 - Danbury Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, Inc.
 - Double Creek Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.
 - Francisco Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.
 - Lawsonville Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.
 - Northeast Stokes Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, Inc.
 - Pilot Knob Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.
 - Pilot Mountain Rescue Squad and E.M.S. Inc.
 - Pinnacle Volunteer Fire District, Inc.
 - Sauratown Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.
 - South Stokes Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.
 - Stokes-Rockingham Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, Inc.
 - Westfield Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

- Walnut Cove Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, Inc.
- City of King – King Volunteer Fire District, Inc.
- Town of Rural Hall- Rural Hall Fire Department, Inc.

County Manager Morris noted that County Attorney Ty Browder had approved all the contracts.

Commissioner Booth moved to approve following fire contracts: Service District, City of King, Town of Rural Hall, and Walnut Cove Vol. Fire Department, Inc. Vice Chairman Walker seconded the motion.

Chairman Jones opened the floor for discussion.

Vice Chairman Walker commented:

- Confirmed with Manager Morris that the only things changed had been highlighted in yellow
- Confirmed with Manager Morris that the contracts, once approved, would be distributed to each department for their approval

The motion carried unanimously.

Petree Project – Proposed Contract – Peterson/Gordon Architects

Chairman Jones entertained a motion regarding the proposed contract presented at tonight's meeting from Peterson/Gordon Architects for architectural/engineering services for the Petree Project.

Commissioner Booth moved to approve the contract with Peterson/Gordon Architects for the Petree Project. Commissioner Inman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

External Posting – Social Services

Chairman Jones entertained a motion to approve the external posting for the vacant Income Maintenance Caseworker position presented at tonight's meeting.

Commissioner Booth moved to approve the external posting for the vacant Income Maintenance Caseworker position. Vice Chairman Walker seconded the motion.

Vice Chairman Walker questioned "why these external postings continue to be placed on the
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Agenda when they are all always approved?"

Chairman Jones noted that the Board needed to know what is externally posted especially with the Health Department and Social Services being under the Board of Commissioners.

The motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

Chairman Jones entertained a motion to enter Closed Session for the following:

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

Vice Chairman Walker moved to enter Closed Session for the following:

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

Commissioner Booth seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The Board reentered the opened session of the March 23rd meeting.

Adjournment

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

Commissioner Booth moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Inman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Darlene M. Bullins
Clerk to the Board

Ronda Jones
Chairman