

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF STOKES)
)

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS
STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT
DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA
APRIL 27, 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, April 27, 2015, at 6:00 pm with the following members present:

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

Absent: Vice Chairman Jimmy Walker

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

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

Commissioner Lankford 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 April 27, 2015 Agenda.

Commissioner Booth moved to approve the April 27th Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Inman seconded and the motion carried (4-0) with Vice Chairman Walker absent

COMMENTS

Manager/Commissioners

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

County Manager Rick Morris commented:

- Mobile Blood Drive will be held on Wednesday, April 29th starting at 10:00 am
- EMS – Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (CARES)
 - Manager Morris read the following information from EMS Director Greg Collins and Dr. Daryl Nelson – EMS Medical Director
 - The **Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival** or **CARES** was initiated in 2004 as an agreement between the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the Department of Emergency Medicine at Emory University. It is a simple but powerful database that allows county agencies to collect a small set of performance measures from 9-1-1, first responders, fire departments, and Emergency Medical Services, and link it with outcome data from hospitals. This data enables agencies to perform internal benchmarking and improve their response to cardiac arrest by strengthening the chain of survival in their community. Because most EMS systems don't measure their response effectively, they are unable to implement change in an effective manner. Attached is the 2014 Annual CARES Report. While Stokes County EMS (SCEMS) cardiac arrest numbers seem low at 39 (this includes cardiac arrest from all causes) the important numbers are:
 - Survival
 - Stokes County = 50%
 - North Carolina = 29.8%
 - National – 32.8%

Stokes County EMS survival rates for cardiac arrest due to non-traumatic cardiac cause are high compared to other reporting agencies in North Carolina as well as the nation. The Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC), or regaining of pulses is only the beginning of our mission. We strive for those patients to survive and lead a functional life. Approximately 50% of our patients are discharged from the hospital neurologically intact. Dr. Darrell Nelson, Medical Director for Stokes County EMS states “This is really amazing that our system has been able to reach and maintain these impressive survival rates. Very few places in the world can produce these results.” It is through the dedicated teamwork of our 9-1-1 telecommunicators, first responders, EMS providers and the hospitals that make this possible.

- Provided the Board with a CARES Summary Data Report

- Animal Adoption Facility Project - Update
 - Organization has locked in an architect
 - Provided the Board of Commissioners with an updated map that designates the site of the proposed facility at a new location
 - Getting ready to do a survey on the land at the old prison site which has been designated by the Board of Commissioners for the proposed facility
 - After meeting with the architect, it is recommended to move the proposed site over from its original placement due to the amount grading needed at the original site selection
 - Several things make that designated site not exactly the best place for the new facility
 - With the new site, there will be a couple of unusable buildings that would have to be removed by the Friends of Stokes Shelter (FOSS)
 - Will be requesting Dr. Cowan and members of her organization to review the new site selection
 - Feel the site originally designated by the Board will be too cost prohibited
 - The new proposed site will need very little grading
 - Just wanted to let the Board know that staff is still working on the project

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Welcome to everyone tonight
- Farmer's Appreciation Day Event was held on Thursday, April 9, 2015
 - Very positive event
 - Sponsored by Stokes County businesses – no cost to the Stokes County taxpayers
 - There were between 550 to 600 attendees
- Very good news coming from Emergency Medical Services
- Would like for the manager to extend the Board's appreciation to all the first responders for their dedicated service to Stokes County

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Would also like to welcome everyone
 - Great to see people involved in what is happening in Stokes County
- Attended the NCACC Board of Directors Meeting in Macon County last week
 - Presented an update on the Mental Health TaskForce
 - Received some bad news for North Carolina counties who participate in Debt Setoff
 - Fiscal Year 2013-14, the County received \$60,728.21 from debt setoff
 - Fiscal Year 2014-15, the County has only received \$19,999.99 thru April 2015
 - Due to the changes in the state taxes, fewer people are getting refunds
 - Approximately \$40,000 loss in revenue for Fiscal Year 2015-2016

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Appreciate those in attendance tonight

- Ethics for Life – “Oh taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed is the man that trusteth in him” (Psalm 34)
- Stokes Partnership for Children held the Little Folks Festival at Mount Olive Elementary School last Saturday
 - Very good attendance
 - Very positive event

Chairman Jones commented:

- Attended the Dare Graduation at Lawsonville Elementary School this morning
 - Talking with Lt. Danny Bottoms, Sheriff’s Department, who believes the Dare Program makes a big impact on the elementary school students and that kids do tend to stay off drugs
- Will be attending a Piedmont Authority Regional Transportation (PART) meeting this week – Financial Committee
 - Very glad to report that PART is in the “black” financially
- Want to let everyone know that Vice Chairman Jimmy Walker is absent for tonight’s meeting due to his knee surgery today and hopes to be back by the next meeting.

Public Comments:

Chairman Jones noted that each speaker had three (3) minutes to speak.

The following spoke during Public Comments:

Shane Thrapp

Winston Salem, NC

Re: **In Reason We Trust**

Mr. Thrapp presented the following comments:

Good evening Thank you for letting me speak today. My name is Shane Thrapp, and I am coming to you as a member of the Triad Coalition of Reason, a member of the community, and a Patriot. There has been an outside group that has come to you with private funds to place “In God We Trust” on your courthouse. Using the Right of Free Speech to place something that has been called the National Motto on a Public Landmark.

Let me say that you are in the right, I believe in the First Amendment, an amendment that prohibits the making of any law respecting an establishment of religion, impeding the free exercise of religion, abridging the freedom of speech, infringing on the freedom of the press, interfering with the right to peaceably assemble or prohibiting the petitioning for a governmental redress of grievances. I would like to point out though, that in this our Founding Fathers put the making of any law that respects an establishment of religion BEFORE the freedom of speech, but maybe that is just a nuance that many would miss, but I will say that our Founding Fathers did feel that Separation of Church and State was an integral part of our Constitution. I can bring out many different quotes that many of them said, such as:

“In every country and in every age, the priest has been hostile to liberty. He is always in alliance with the despot, abetting his abuses in return for protection to his own. It is error alone that needs the support of government. Truth can stand by itself.”~Founding Father Thomas Jefferson, in a letter to Horatio Spofford, 1814 and that has been shown to hold true for many generations since then. From the time of slavery, to women’s rights, civil rights, and even now in this day and age LGBT rights, religion has been hostile to liberty.

But that is not the purpose of tonight; tonight we are here speaking on The Freedom of Speech.

Well I would like MY Freedom of Speech to be heard. I would like the members of the Triad Coalition of Reason to have THEIR Freedom of Speech to be heard. I would like ALL people’s Freedom of Speech to be heard and protected, not just one of the majority’s.

Our voices echo those of our Founding Fathers. We want our voice heard. We want the minority to have equal right to be heard as the majority. We want fair representation. We want a government to be impartial, fair, and just. So if you are going to allow a group to come in and place “In God We Trust” on the County Courthouse, then WE as an equal group want “In Reason We Trust” and E Pluribus Unum placed in Equal measure on the Courthouse, and let ALL people be represented by ALL Speech to be heard.

Not everyone in America trust in your definition of God, but we do trust in reason and we do trust that out of many we are one.

I end tonight with a quote by John Adams, in his defense of the Constitution of Government of the United States of America” 1787-1788.

“The United States of America have exhibited, perhaps, the first example of governments erected on the simple principles of nature; and if men are now sufficiently enlightened to disabuse themselves of artifice, imposture, hypocrisy, and superstition, they will consider this event as an era in their history. Although the detail of the formation of the American governments is at present little known or regarded either in Europe or in America, it may hereafter become an object of curiosity. It will never be pretended that any persons employed in that service had interviews with the gods, or were in any degree under the influence of Heaven, more than those at work upon ships or houses, or laboring in merchandise or agriculture; it will forever be acknowledged that these governments were contrived merely by the use of reason and the senses.”

Thank you.

Kevin Broyhill

King, NC

Re: In God We Trust

Mr. Broyhill presented the following comments:

I want to first express my appreciation to the Commissioners first of all for hearing us and also for the opportunity to state my support of your decision to display our national motto: “In God We Trust” on exterior of our County Courthouse.

Our Nation’s Motto has deep historical roots and embodies the founding principle of our great Republic.

April 27, 2015

The displaying of our Nation's motto, "In God We Trust" would be in keeping with that same spirit.

Our forefathers recognized the hand of Divine Providence in the founding of our nation and the need of God's divine protection and guidance for our future. This is clearly reflected in the many public references to God displayed in our Nation's Capitol. To deny America's godly heritage is nothing more than attempt to revise history and intellectual dishonesty. The motto was officially adopted in 1956 to show our distinction as a God-fearing nation from the atheistic and secularist government of the Soviet Union during the Cold War era. Their claim would be their reason their God. They were the greatest perpetrators of tyranny of the last century.

Dwight Eisenhower said, "Without God there could be no American form of government and no American form of life. The recognition of the Supreme Being is the first – the most basic – expression of Americanism. Thus the founding fathers saw it and thus with God's help it will continue to be (beginning and end quote from President Dwight D. Eisenhower) during the time that he enacted the National Motto in 1956 and 1957.

The public display of our nation's motto on the Stokes County Courthouse is completely in keeping with that same spirit of Americanism that has been true of our nation since its founding. To claim that the public display of "In God We Trust" is somehow an attempt at exclusivism or coercion has no valid basis; 2 different courts of appeal in 1970 and 2005 said it was not a breach of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights as it relates to the Separation of Church and State.

Our nation's motto has not nor does it infringe on the rights of others. It neither excludes people of other faiths nor does it coerce people who espouse no faith. They have been and remain free in America to believe or not to believe in whatever they choose. That too is the spirit of Americanism.

Therefore, I applaud you for standing with our surrounding counties by promptly and enthusiastically adopting this initiative. I further urge you to prominently and proudly display our nation's motto reflecting our nation's historical trust in the God of our Fathers without apology.

Furthermore, I encourage you to reject the attempts of others to hijack this initiative to further their own personal agenda. The slogan "In Reason We Trust" has no more legal nor does it have congressional standing nor has it been signed into law by a President of the United States, no more than be petitioning you as saying "In Dean Smith We Trust".

It leads to a Pandora's Box of confusion.

In the words of the 3-judge panel of the 4th US Circuit Court of Appeals this is not an issue of the freedom of one's speech; but rather a phrase of patriotism, which appears on the nation's coins and was made the national motto by Congress.

I am not saying that a person who disagrees with that motto is unpatriotic, but it was a patriotic decision made by our Congress together. It was also reemphasized under President George Bush's Administration in 2006 with a 369 vote.

Chairman Jones called time.

Eric Baker
Winston Salem, NC
Re: **In God We Trust**

Mr. Baker presented the following comments:

Very thankful for being allowed to speak on this very important issue.

I am from the National Center of Life and Liberty (NCLL), a legal group that protects America's religious liberties.

Want to let you know that it is entirely constitutional for the Board of Commissioners to publicly display America's national motto and to let you know that if anyone were to file a lawsuit against the Board for displacing the national motto, the NCLL would defend the Board free of charge in such a lawsuit.

The situation you are in currently is similar to a situation that the Supreme Court resolved in 2009.

In 2009, the Supreme Court decided a case in favor of local government that asked a question, "Does the city's refusal to place a religious organization's monument in a public park violate that organization's First Amendment free speech when the park already contains a monument donated by a different group?"

The Court, in an 8-1 decision that included both conservative and liberal Justices, that the city retained final authority over which monuments were displayed in the park. Since the monument in Pleasant Grove City (like the American's national motto) had an undeniable historical meaning in American law and history, the Court held that this monument did not represent any attempt to establish a religion and the city was not required to also display the Summum monument.

The Court, in its decision, explained that a municipality's acceptance and acquisition of a privately-funded permanent monument, while refusing to accept another privately-funded permanent monument was a valid express of permissible government speech, which to the ordinary and reasonable observer denoted an expression of the values and ideas of government.

The Court made a clear distinction between forms of private speech in a public forum like a park and the government speech represented a permanent monument, even though that monument was donated and funded by a private group.

The Supreme Court specifically mentioned France's donation to America of the Statue of Liberty in the New York Harbor. The Court noted that, just because America accepted and displayed this Statue, America was not then legally required to also accept and display a Statue of Autocracy from Russia or the German Empire. The national motto donated to Stokes County Board of Commissioners is no different. Just because the Board accepted a donation of America's national motto does not then require it to also accept the donation of someone's motto.

In fact, if the Board were to respond positively to this request to display the private motto, it is possible that by displaying a private motto, it might actually show to a Court you are creating a

private forum and may open yourself to have to put up every single monument that someone brings to the Board. It would then be a private forum and not just government speech if the Board accepts the current request.

Chairman Jones called time.

Rick Lanier

Lexington, NC

Re: **In God We Trust**

Mr. Lanier presented the following comments:

- Appreciate the opportunity to speak before the Board tonight
- Just want to say that we are not the only organization that is seeking to get the national motto, "In God We Trust" on governmental centers
- Jacquie Sullivan heads up an organization in California called "In God We Trust America"
- So far this organization has 505 municipalities across America that have adopted a resolution to display "In God We Trust"
- Spoke to Ms. Sullivan this morning, she also offered Pacific Justice Institute that defends religions freedom
- You have plenty of people on your side
- "In Reason We Trust" actually means "In Anti-theism We Trust"
- Theism means the belief in one God as a creator of the universe and ruler of the universe without rejection or revelation
- It also means the belief in the existence of a God or Gods as opposed to Atheism, so why not say "In Atheism We Trust", that is what it really means
- Richard Dawkins founded the "Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason and Science
- The Foundation's mission statement: "To support scientific education, critical thinking, and evidence-based understanding of the natural world in the quest to overcome religious fundamentalism, superstition, intolerance, and suffering"
- It seems somehow they think displaying our national motto, "In God We Trust" violates the establishment of the First Amendment of the Constitution
- It says the legislature should make no law respecting an establishment of religion", they conveniently forget about the part of the amendment that follows saying- "that the government should not prohibit the free exercise of religion".
- They forget, many times, about the part of the First Amendment that says government should not prohibit free exercise of religion
- George Washington said "It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the Providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly implore his protection and favor
- There is nothing at all in our Founding Fathers' documents forbidding religious expression in public life
- Our Founding Fathers did not want us to embrace theocracy as a nation, neither did they want us to eschew religious principles
- They did not want to see a particular religion endorsed, neither did they want to see faith and religion suppressed

- The reason public institution would rather exclude God is to avoid offending others and creating controversy
- The idea that any kind of free society can be constructed in which people will never be offended or insulted is absurd
- A fundamental decision needs to be made
- Do we want to live in a free society or not?
- Democracy is not a tea party or coffee shop where people sat around making polite conversation
- In democracies, people get extremely upset with each other, they argue vehemently against each other's positions
- The freedom to worship or not to worship as one pleases would not be an issue were it not for the extreme tolerance of anti-religious groups
- These same groups brand anyone who disagrees with their agenda as bigoted and intolerant
- Their extreme hypocrisy is almost comical were, it not so sad
- Until these anti-religion zealots learn the meaning of tolerance and truly comprehend the full content of the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment, we will continue to experience unnecessary strife

Buddy Timm

Walnut Cove, NC

RE: In Reason We Trust

Mr. Timm read and provided a copy of the following to the Board:

"I would like to address the proposal to put "In Reason We Trust" on the Courthouse.

It is very strange that an atheist would want to put "In Reason We Trust" on anything when they do not have a foundational source of Right and Wrong, just personal preference. The honest atheist will consent that there is no such thing as Right and Wrong. They have no moral document to differentiate between the two. Society will end up like those in the movie "Idiocracy", if everybody's personal reasons guides their way. The movie "Expelled No Intelligence Allowed" reveals the seriousness of the problem.

Atheists are not very tolerant.

Communist are atheist, and they threaten, torture, and murder to maintain control; which they mainly do to Christians. That has been the case in communist countries around the world. The book "Tortured for Christ" – 14 years, by Richard Wurmbrand, tells of the horrid tortures by Communists. He founded the magazine "Voice of the Martyrs."

We must never forget the words of the ACLU founder, Rodger Baldwin: "I have continued directing the unpopular fight for the rights of agitation as director of the American Civil Liberties Union... I am for socialism, disarmament and ultimately for abolishing the state itself as an instrument of violence and compulsion. I seek the social ownership of property, the abolition of the propertied class and sole control by those who produce wealth. Communism is, of course, the

goal.” Is it any wonder they aggressively push Christianity out of any identification with the State using “The Separation of Church and State” slogan?

The Communist Party USA has many front organizations working for political advancement. Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn reminds us of their first step: “To destroy a people, you must first sever their roots.” The seriousness of it is realized by Alexander Vinet’s words: “Christianity is the immortal seed of freedom of the world.” George Washington brings it home in his Farewell Address: “The name AMERICAN, which belongs to you,...With slight shades of difference, you have the same religion, manners, and political principles... Of all the dispositions and habits, which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of Patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great Pillars...”

To entertain the specious words to eliminate Almighty God from our motto, is to sever America from our roots; making America one generation away from the extinction of Righteous Law.

“Silence is the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless,” spoke Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

“Man, considered as a creature, must necessarily be subject to the Law of his Creator, for he is entirely a dependent being,” wrote William Blackstone.

Ramona Timm

Walnut Cove, NC

Re: **In God We Trust**

Ms. Timm presented the following comments:

- I just want to underscore of the things that have already been spoken to us tonight
- The people that do not believe in God want to ultimately take away our religious freedom
- They want to take away our freedom of expression and they want to take away our freedom of speech and ultimately, it will result in the freedom of our pastors to practice their beliefs even within our churches
- That is the way it is going
- I have heard other people speak of this, this is the path
- Ordained ministers in Coeur d’ Alene, Idaho that have a wedding chapel have been ordered to marry homosexuals or face jail time and fines
- Keep in mind, back in the founding our country when the constitution in 1787 was about to formed and collated, those Founding Fathers were not completely unified
- They had this unity, they had discussion, they had disagreement, but it was Benjamin Franklin who said “Gentlemen, let us call for pray”
- These men were from different denominations, but they believed in the same God
- They called for those prayers
- Benjamin Franklin, even though he was one of the biggest deist of all the deists in that day called for prayers to a mighty god
- He said himself that he believed that God does govern in the affairs of men
- He acknowledged God and it was God that was at the founding of this country
- I just want to underline to you that God does intervene

- God does have heart in this country, there is no question
- Can take it back to ancient history, even back to the Saxtons
- Have found evidence and documentation
- Christianity was part of the formation of English Common Law
- Would like to finish up with the words that were so elegantly pinned by Frances Scott Key when he stood aboard the battleship and watched the bombing of Fort McHenry (September of 1814)
- The flag that was flying that night and survived the night of bombing inspired Frances Scott Key to write four verses
- The fourth verse is the one that inspires me:
 - “O, thus be it ever when free men shall stand
 - Between their loved homes and the war’s desolation
 - Blest with victory and peace, may the Heaven rescued land,
 - Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation!
 - Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
 - And this be our motto – “In God is our Trust”
 - And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
 - Over the land of the free and the home of the brave

Chairman Jones called time.

Dr. Ron Baity

Winston Salem, NC

Re: **In God We Trust**

Dr. Baity presented the following comments:

- Appreciate you standing for “In God We Trust”
- Somehow we have the idea given to us that our forefathers had nothing to do with religious expression
- I have just heard tonight and I hear quite often the name of Thomas Jefferson
- Danbury Baptist Association in the state of Connecticut wrote to Thomas Jefferson in 1802, telling him they were praying for him and wanting to know about our religious freedom and religious rights
- Thomas Jefferson wrote back to them quoting the First Amendment of the Constitution – Congress will make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof
- Wrote the letter on Friday and two days later, he rode his horse 1.6 miles to the United States Capitol Building where they worshipped on Sunday
- He did not like the music, so he brought in the United States Marine Corp Band to play the hymns of faith
- They ran out of hymns books; Congress allocated money to purchase hymn books
- It is very interesting today that people try to hit us with the philosophy that our forefathers somehow wanted to separate religious expression from government
- Thomas Jefferson worshipped in the Capitol Building that was paid for with taxpayers’ money

- The United States Marine Corp played the hymns of the faith; their salaries derived from taxpayers' money
- Sang out of hymn books that was paid for from taxpayers' money
- Mr. Jefferson opened a second church in a Navy yard
- Mr. Jefferson opened a third church in another governmental building in Washington, DC
- So away with this business that our forefathers somehow tried to separate religion from government
- When our Constitution was signed, it is very interesting what was said in Article Seven
- They closed it out and said it was signed on the 17th day of September in the year of our Lord which was the 12th year from the signing of the Declaration of Independence
- Article Seven of our Constitution incorporates the Declaration of Independence into the Constitution
- Declaration of Independence mentions God as least four times
- When the Declaration of Independence was incorporated into the Constitution, they said they were doing this in the year of our Lord 1787 which does two things
- It establishes the fact that the birthday of the Lord was 1700 and 87 years previous to that and it also establishes the fact that they did that in the year of our Lord and in the inception of the Declaration of Independence which talks about God on 4 different occasions
- University of Houston, several years also, decided to try to figure out what made our forefathers make the decisions they made
- They poured over 15,000 documents
- They came to the conclusion they quoted 8% of the time
- They quoted some from Blackstone and other great commentaries on law
- They also wanted to find out what sources they use to quote from
- They took ten years and went over 3,000 quotes and found out that our forefathers quoted from the Bible 34% of the time and were influenced from the scriptures 94% of the time
- Have got to remove from our thinking that fact that some people who are ignorant of history, just simply don't believe that God played a part in our history
- John Adams said that our Constitution was made for a religious people

Chairman Jones called time.

Chairman Jones expressed appreciation to those who spoke.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Consent Agenda:

Minutes

- Minutes of April 13, 2015 – Recessed Meeting
- Minutes of April 13, 2015 - Regular Meeting

Senior Services - Budget Amendment #58

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #58.

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

| Account Number | Account Description | Current Budgeted Amount | Increase (Decrease) | As Amended |
|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Senior Services | | | | |
| 100.5860.312 | Transportation | \$48,693.00 | \$(4,005.00) | \$44,688.00 |
| | Total | \$48,693.00 | \$(4,005.00) | \$44,688.00 |

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To un-appropriate Home Community Care Block Grant funding due to an error on the Funding Plan submitted to the County by the Piedmont Triad Regional Council (PTRC).

This will result in a **net decrease of \$(4,005.00)** 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 |
|----------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 100.3301.369 | PTRC –Transportation | \$54,533.00 | \$(4,005.00) | \$50,528.00 |
| | Totals | \$54,533.00 | \$(4,005.00) | \$50,528.00 |

Emergency Management – Budget Amendment #59

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #59.

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

| Account Number | Account Description | Current Budgeted Amount | Increase (Decrease) | As Amended |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Emergency Management | | | | |
| 100.4330.000 | Salaries & Wages | \$57,466.00 | \$(2,500.00) | \$54,966.00 |
| 100.4330.100 | Retirement | \$4,110.00 | \$(200.00) | \$3,910.00 |
| 100.4330.101 | 401(k) | \$855.00 | \$(300.00) | \$555.00 |
| Contingency | | | | |
| 100.9910.000 | Contingency | \$142,327.00 | \$3,000.00 | \$145,327.00 |
| | Total | \$204,758.00 | \$00.00 | \$204,758.00 |

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To un-appropriate funds per Budget Amendment #59 (approved 04-13-2015) – Emergency Management was listed twice.

This will result in a **net increase 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.

Animal Control - Budget Amendment #60

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #60.

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

| Account Number | Account Description | Current Budgeted Amount | Increase (Decrease) | As Amended |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Animal Control | | | | |
| 100.4380.580 | Improvements | \$00.00 | \$16,695.00 | \$16,695.00 |
| Contingency | | | | |
| 100.9910.000 | Contingency | <u>\$145,327.00</u> | <u>\$(12,195.00)</u> | <u>\$133,132.00</u> |
| | Total | \$145,327.00 | \$4,500.00 | \$149,827.00 |
| Capital Reserve Fund | | | | |
| 201.3800.002 | Animal Control | \$4,500.00 | \$(4,500.00) | \$00.00 |
| 201.9810.000 | Transfer to General Fund | <u>\$188,347.00</u> | <u>\$4,500.00</u> | <u>\$192,847.00</u> |
| | Total | \$192,847.00 | \$00.00 | \$192,847.00 |

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To transfer funds from Capital Reserve Fund and Contingency for the mandated floor repairs at the Animal Shelter; repairs were approved by the Board of Commissioners at the April 13, 2015 meeting.

This will result in a **net increase of \$4,500.00** 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 |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 100.3982.960 | Transfer from Capital Reserve Fund | <u>\$188,347.00</u> | <u>\$4,500.00</u> | <u>\$192,847.00</u> |
| | Totals | \$188,347.00 | \$4,500.00 | \$192,847.00 |

Vehicle Maintenance - Budget Amendment #61

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #61.

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

| Account Number | Account Description | Current Budgeted Amount | Increase (Decrease) | As Amended |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| | Vehicle Maintenance | | | |
| 100.4250.351 | Maintenance & Repairs-Auto | \$2,365.00 | \$2,500.00 | \$4,865.00 |
| | Contingency | | | |
| 100.9910.000 | Contingency | <u>\$98,632.00</u> | <u>\$(2,500.00)</u> | <u>\$96,132.00</u> |
| | Total | \$100,997.00 | \$00.00 | \$100,997.00 |

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To transfer funds from Contingency for the removal, repair and reinstall the under reach cylinder on the rollback vehicle.

This will result in a **net increase 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 – March 2015

Refunds more than \$100 – Real and Personal Property

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Refunds more than \$100 – Real and Personal Property (March 2015) at the April 13th meeting for the Board's review and consideration at the April 27th:

Refunds more than \$100 - Real/Personal Property

| Name | Bill No | Amount |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Gary Lee Smith | 14A699600033045 | \$457.55 |
| Myriah Cox | 24631874 | \$436.40 |
| Earl Falconer | 18816739 | <u>\$176.56</u> |
| Total | | \$1,070.51 |

Present-Use Value Late Applications

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Present-Use Value Late Applications (March 2015) at the April 13th meeting for the Board's review and consideration at the April 27th meeting:

- Taxpayer: Joe Troy Stapleton
 - Parcel: 598302796887

- Acreage: 20.4
 - Reason: Has planted trees in addition to existing woodlands
- Taxpayer: Doyle Bullins
 - Parcels:
 - 695504031599
 - Acreage: 9.5
 - 695503037608
 - Acreage: 1.11
 - 695503036486
 - Acreage: 1.3
 - 695503036217
 - Acreage: 1.48
 - 695503034180
 - Acreage: 1.36
 - 692200887223
 - Acreage: 54.11
 - 694503207546
 - Acreage: 19.95
 - 69453104744
 - Acreage: 7.68
 - Reason: Farmland has been qualified for many years
 - Reason: Forestland – Doyle has other land in the program
- Taxpayer: James M Hill Jr
 - Parcel: 600100064026
 - Acreage: 20
 - Reason: Forestland has been in the family for many years
- Taxpayers: Carl & Beverly Gunn
 - Parcel: 597904924472
 - Acreage: 65.06
 - Reason: Full time farmers
- Taxpayers: Gretchen & Robert Rhodes
 - Acreage: 65.19
 - Reason: Has other use-value land
- Taxpayers: Donald Gibson & Others
 - Parcels:
 - 698402565300
 - Acreage: 76
 - 698300518097
 - Acreage: 10
 - 698300523310
 - Acreage: 66
 - 698300529437
 - Acreage: 14
 - Reason: Forested land has been in the family many years

EMS Billing- Write-Off Request

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following EMS Billing – Write-Off Request (March 2015) at the April 13th meeting for the Board’s review and consideration at the April 27th meeting:

| Date of Service | Charge Amount | Reason |
|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 7/18/2014 | \$ 366.00 | Inmate- No insurance |
| 11/29/2014 | \$ 480.60 | Inmate- No insurance |
| 12/13/2014 | \$ 358.00 | Inmate- No insurance |
| 12/13/2014 | <u>\$ 598.80</u> | Inmate- No insurance |
| | \$ 1,803.40 | |

Commissioner Lankford moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Booth seconded and the motion carried (4-0) with Vice Chairman Walker absent.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – INFORMATION AGENDA

NCFAST Update

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

- Stokes is one of about 50 counties that got close enough to meeting the April deadline that the State is not going to roll over Medicaid re-certifications this month
- That, in itself, was a huge accomplishment
- While we are happy that this has happened, it hasn’t happened without the enormous amount of overtime hours and temporary help that we have had
- We will not be able to maintain going forward without this assistance
- The vacant Income Maintenance Caseworker has been filled, but leaves one of the contract position vacant
- Will be holding the vacant contract position open until after the budget is approved, discussing resources and personnel as part of the budget

Chairman Jones opened the floor for discussion.

The Board had no questions.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – DISCUSSION AGENDA

Steven Hewett – Facility Signage Request

Mr. Steven Hewett read and presented a copy of the following information regarding his request to place “In Reason We Trust” on the Courthouse:

Before presenting his presentation, Mr. Hewett noted:

- Got very educated on the historic history of our country during public comments, too bad they don’t know real history
- I will be giving you history today with quotes directly from the Constitution

“Thank you, Commissioners for placing me on today’s Agenda. By “Voting Yes” this is an opportunity to express your support for the citizens of Stokes County to express our freedom of speech. I am requesting that “In Reason We Trust” be placed on the Courthouse, in and on our governmental buildings just as you approved for the US Motto Action Committee to place their free speech.

I have been a resident of Stokes County for over 15 years, own a home, and pay property tax, own a business which Stokes County benefits from with sales tax and I vote in this County unlike those who have requested their free speech be placed on our government buildings. People who try and wrap Patriotism around their religion are just wrong! Patriotism is not defined by religious beliefs, but by duty to your country and I have done just that serving our great country, first in the US Army, then in the North Carolina National Guard, during which I was called to active duty shortly after 911, deploying to Afghanistan. My entire tour of duty was at Forward Operation Base Salerno, just several kilometers from the Pakistan border in the Khowst Providence of Afghanistan. I received a Bronze Star, Combat Action Badge, and various other medals for my service in defending by country, my city in which I live, and Stokes County from those who would take rights and privileges away from us. Especially, the right of “Freedom of Religion and Freedom of Speech!

First, I would like to give some background on our rights and privileges:

I would like to quote portions of our history that predates the 1956 Motto “In God We Trust” by 165 years, that is the 1st and 14th Amendments to the United States Constitution as well as the North Carolina Constitution Declarations of Rights:

1st Amendment created September 25, 1789 – Ratified December 15, 1791, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

14th Amendment adopted on July 9, 1868, Section 1

“...No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property,

without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”

Our liberties are not defined by anyone’s religious views or opinions; we are all equal in the eyes of our constitution!

North Carolina Constitution Article 1 – Declarations of Rights, Section 14 Freedom of Speech and Press

Freedom of speech and of the press are two of the great bulwarks of liberty and therefore shall never be restrained, but every person shall be held responsible for their abuse.

You will be held responsible if you allow certain citizens free speech and yet deny another’s!

There is already case law concerning free speech zones and public forum zones that have been through the courts that support my position. As stated, this is not the counties initiative, but that of a private group and it is private speech.

The word United in United States – Shows we are a people united under one Constitution, which applies equally to “All” citizens of these United States. To deny one their freedom of speech and yet allow another’s waters the seeds of tyranny in our community and country! We are a people united under a constitution with the rights and privileges being equally applied to “All” its citizens.

I fully support the US Motto Action Committee’s right to their free speech and their choice of speech, which just so happens to be, “In God We Trust” our nation’s motto.

However, to allow one, you must allow another’s equal speech, access and privileges. To deny one, then you must deny all, to allow one and to deny another’s free speech is a violation of both the U.S. and North Carolina Constitution.

Not everyone believes or trusts in a God. It was truly a sad day when then President Eisenhower and Congress bowed to the religious political pressure placed on them to change the nation’s motto from E Pluribus Unum (“Out of Many, One”) to “In God We Trust” due to the fear-mongering Cold War days with Soviet Union.

Millions of Americans believe in logic and reason, which is what our laws are based upon. Certainly, if you used someone’s religious text to base our laws on, we would be stoning people to death or our female commissioner here would not be allowed to hold office, many believe women should have no authority over man, but to be in silence.

For example:

...But if this thing be true, and the tokens of virginity be not found for the damsel: Then they shall bring out the damsel to the door of her father’s house, and the men of her city shall stone her with stones that she die. Deuteronomy 22:13-21

This our son is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; he is glutton, and a drunkard. And all men of this city shall stone him with stones, that he die. Deuteronomy 21:18-21

Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, not to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. First Timothy 2:11-12

Thank goodness, these are not laws we adhere to today since society has evolved to laws of reason, logic, and individual rights, which our nonsectarian constitution bestows on all Americans.

I do not begrudge anyone for their beliefs and if they believe in the phrase "In God We Trust" it's your freedom to do so and to express it on government buildings as a form of free speech, especially since you have effectively made our government buildings a free speech and public forum zone!

Myself, as well as, millions of others are not second-class citizens, we are not to be disenfranchised nor marginalized just because we do not believe in this national motto's wording. Millions of us do not believe in god or gods.

Our Motto is "In Reason We Trust". When we enter into our courts, council chambers or government buildings, we expect the law or services to be dispensed, void of anyone's religious beliefs they may wish to impose upon us.

In closing:

I fully support the US Motto Action Committee's right to their free speech and their choice of wording, "In God We Trust".

However, if you allow one you must allow another equal speech, access and privileges. To deny one then you must deny all, to allow one and to deny another is a violation of our founders' principles in that all people are equal and all people deserve the same freedoms guaranteed by the United States Bill of Rights and our North Carolina Constitution Declarations of Rights. You cannot allow one person or group's speech to be greater than that of another's.

All I ask for are the following:

- Same Rights
- Same Privileges
- Same Freedoms
- Same access to express my Free Speech as you granted the US Action Motto Committee

That citizens be allowed to express their "Freedom of Speech" in this "free speech" or "public forum" zone that this has been established by the Stokes County Commissioners.

The motto "In Reason We Trust" expresses that all our citizens are treated equally upon entering our courts or our government buildings.

Just as with US Motto Action Committee, the lettering will be of no cost to the county and will be paid for by private funds. It will be of similar style and make.

Therefore, I am submitting at this time you place on the next "Action Agenda" that I be allowed to place "In Reason We Trust" on or in any government building or court house just as you have granted US Motto Action Committee their free speech.

You now have an opportunity to guarantee that all citizens of Stokes County have an equal voice concerning their right of "freedom of speech" just as the United States and the North Carolina Constitutions guarantee us!

I am submitting six examples for your consideration, with one example of what it could look like if another group or individual wished to also be accommodated.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

I would be happy to answer any questions.

Chairman Jones opened the floor for questions or comments.

Chairman Jones questioned Mr. Hewett, for clarification, which group he was presenting?

Mr. Hewett responded:

- I am representing myself
- Another group contacted me today, "Original Motto Project Committee"; they are also wanting E Pluribus Unum put on the buildings
- Have other organizations that at this time back me, financially
- But as a citizen of Stokes County, I am requesting this to be put on the facilities
- Also wanted to make a comment regarding the gentlemen who spoke informing the Board that his organization would represent the Council if there was ligation
- You all know me very well
- I prevailed with the City of King regarding the Christian Flag and the cross along with the Christian prayers that were imposed upon people and the Christian services by the City
- I will let you know this, these people will not and I repeat will not pay if there are any damages
- If there is a lawsuit and let's say that I prevail, I hope we don't have to go to a lawsuit, this is Stokes County, I am a citizen of Stokes County
- That gentleman is not even a citizen of Stokes County, he does not pay taxes, but I do
- You are allowing outsiders to come and dictate what we are to do in Stokes County
- I am going to let you know, that if, just like the City of King, there is a lawsuit and I prevail, that group will not step up to the bat and they will not pay the damages or attorney fees just like the attorneys that represented the City did not pay either
- That will be paid out of your insurance companies, you will also have your attorney fees for whatever services he will be rendering
- Don't think these folks will flip the bill for you because they want, they will represent you, but that is it

Commissioner Lankford noted that he did not have any questions.

Commissioner Inman commented:

- This is the first time I have seen this information
- Need to do some studying

Mr. Hewett requested the Board place his request on the Action Agenda for a vote at the next meeting.

Chairman Jones requested the pleasure of the Board regarding the placement of the request on the next Action Agenda.

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Need some time to do some research
- May or may not be ready at the next meeting

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- I am like Commissioner Inman, I will look at all the information that the Board has and will probably gather more information
- If possible, would prefer to put it on the Action Agenda for the next meeting

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Will be fine with the request being put on the next Action Agenda.

Chairman Jones noted it was the consensus of the Board, with Vice Chairman Walker absent, to place the item on the next Action Agenda.

Chairman Jones, with full consensus of the Board with Vice Chairman Walker absent, directed the Clerk to place the item on the May 11th Action Agenda.

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) – Recommendation for State Funding

County Manager Rick Morris introduced JCPC Chairman Kim Palmer and Chief Court Counselor Rusty Slate who presented the following JCPC Recommendation for State Funding for Fiscal Year 2015-16:

| Fiscal Year 2015-16 Program | JCPC Legislative Allocation for Fiscal Year 2014-15 | County Match | JCPC Legislative Allocation for Fiscal Year 2015-16 | County Match |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------------|---|-----------------|
| Stokes Friends of Youth | \$77,526 | \$23,258 | \$77,526 | \$23,258 |

| | | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Stokes Scan | \$21,940 | \$6,582 | \$21,940 | \$6,582 |
| Children's Center | \$11,084 | \$3,326 | \$11,084 | \$4,326 |
| Insight | \$25,460 | \$7,638 | \$25,460 | \$7,638 |
| Total | \$136,010 | \$40,804 | \$136,010 | \$ 41,804 |

Chief Court Counselor Rusty Slate presented the following information regarding the JCPC recommendation for requesting funding to the State:

- JCPC allocation of \$136,010 is the same as last year
- Stokes Friends of Youth
 - Provides family counseling
 - Provides Community Service and Restitution Program
- Stokes Scan
 - Provides in-home counseling for families
 - Very valuable with the transportation problems that often occur
- Children's Center
 - Provides bed space days
 - Provides a safe place for children to go when things are not right at home between parents and children
 - Children receive needed services while at the Children's Center
 - This allows the court counselors some time to evaluate the situation
- Insight
 - Provides all the substance abuse services
- County matches are the same with the exception of the Children's Center who is requesting an additional \$1,000 in county funding to provide additional (11) bed space days
- JCPC had lengthy discussion at their last meeting regarding the additional county funding request
- Children, because of mental health reform, many times do not have places that they can go into, even children who have been determined to be in need of some type of residential care, all the beds are full
- There are times when I have to make really hard decisions, as a chief court counselor, to place children in detention center because there is no other place to put them; that is for their own safety and the safety of the public
- When they are in detention centers, they are safe but receiving no treatment such as counseling with the child and family; it cost the county \$122 every day that a child spends in a detention center
- Additional \$122 is also paid from state funding; very expensive when placing a child in detention
- Don't like to have to place a child in detention
- Statistics have shown that detention does not work, in fact, they are finding that the more the child is locked up, the more crimes they are committing
- Detention does not work, wish there was a facility in Stokes County
- Children's Center is very good to work with, providing excellent services

Chairman Jones opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Booth commented: (serves on the JCPC)

- Cost twice as much when a child is placed in a detention center
- There are children who desperately need these bed spaces

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Very familiar with all the organizations
- Worked with Rusty several years ago
- Confirmed with Rusty that detention did not work in 1995 and still does not work in 2015
- Very much on board with the JCPC recommendation and the request of an additional \$1,000 for the Children's Center

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- This is not a good year to be asking for any additional dollars
- Will have to take everything into consideration
- Know the programs are needed and am sure every consideration will be taken

Chairman Jones commented:

- Don't think \$1,000 additional county funding is too much to ask for 11 additional bed days that are really needed
- Appreciate all programs being provided
- Do wish there could be a facility in Stokes County

Chairman Jones, with full consensus of the Board with Vice Chairman Walker absent, directed the Clerk to place the item on the May 11th Action Agenda.

Lease of County Property

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding the lease of county property:

- Continuation is ongoing with the project to try to increase broadband competition in the County
- Wilkes Communications would like to lease land from the County in front of the Old School Building in Danbury to construct a new building
- Staff has estimated the fair market value of the useable land at that location (plus or minus one acre) at \$35,000 (Commissioner Inman, who has the real estate expertise, provided help with the recommendation of the monthly lease payment)
- Using a 5% rate of return, the County could do a ten (10) year lease with three (3) ten-year renewals at \$168 per month with no increase at renewals
- It will cost \$10,000 to connect the property to water and sewer. This expense will be paid by the lessee.

- This lease option also factors in that the fact that this lease is being done to support a public purpose of increased broadband connectivity
- If the Board of Commissioners provides consensus tonight on this approach, which would be a commitment to lease the land, then the County would be required to advertise the lease and the dollar amount for a ten (10) day upset bid period before the lease and resolution could be approved at the next commissioner meeting
- The bidder will need to submit a written offer and deposit of 5% of the bid
- If the offer is for a ten (10) year lease, then the 5% deposit would be 5% of the total rental over the ten (10) period
- Anyone could upset the offer by 10% of the first \$1,000 and 5% of the remainder and then the upset offer would have to be re-advertised under GS 160A-269
- The Board can make a commitment to approve the lease subject to advertisement and no upset offers
- This commitment would allow work to start now on the broadband expansion project to ensure critical schedule milestones are met as briefed earlier to the Board by Wilkes Communication
- If the initial offer is upset, then upset process will continue until the highest bidder is identified
- Wilkes Communications, Inc. must start now to meet the deadlines for network installation and operation that they have presented to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)
- The action that is needed now by the BOCC is a commitment to lease a parcel of land in Danbury for the construction of a new building, which will serve as their network hub and initial customer service location
- When the commitment to lease the property (in front of the old school in Danbury) is locked in, Wilkes Communications will have the start point for their network and will immediately begin the process of laying out the first phase of their network
- Until we have that start in Danbury “nailed down”, they are effectively on hold with a day-for-day schedule impact/delay
- Provided the Board with a map detailing the location of the land
- Provided the Board with pictures of a facility that Wilkes Communication renovated for their home office in Wilkes County
- The new facility will provide the Board property taxes and utilize some land that will probably not do anything but get mowed
- This facility will be the “hub” of the network
- Will not only provide property taxes, but will serve a larger purpose – broadband connectivity which I believe is everyone’s number economic development goal

Chairman Jones opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Inman commented:

- As a real estate broker, want to make sure everyone knows that I have no interest in this property other than a position as a commissioner, do not have the property listed, property does not belong to Stokes County
- Will not receive any commission regarding the property
- In discussing the situation with Manager Morris, there were two challenges:

- Try to come up with a lease
- Try to find a facility or build a facility, if built would become the County's if Wilkes Communication decided to leave
- Tried to figure in a fair rate of return on the county's investment
- Confirmed with Financial Director Edwards that if the County could get a 5% return on investments, that would be doing pretty good
- Discussed how the value of \$35,000 was determined
- Amortized \$35,000 for 40 years at 5% interest rate of return (initial ten-year lease with three (10) year renewals producing \$168 per month)
- Must remember this is for a public purpose, but must meet guidelines and requirements (General Statutes)
- Would probably place a clause in the lease that notes if Wilkes no longer ceases to exist the facility would revert to the County
- Put no increases for renewals, but that can be changed by the Board, if so desired

County Manager Morris noted those conditions have not been discussed with Wilkes.

Chairman Jones opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Booth commented:

- This is one of the most important projects for Stokes County to be able to increase broadband to the underserved and unserved areas
- Very good rate of return
- Very much on board

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Have no issues
- Liked the process taken to derive at a monthly lease
- Feel it is fair
- On board

Chairman Jones commented:

- Don't think there is a moment to spare
- Certainly on board
- Do not want to hinder the process

County Manager Morris noted:

- Lease has not been done regarding the terms
- Wilkes has agreed to everything presented to the Board tonight

It was consensus of the Board, with Vice Chairman Walker absent, to direct the manager to go forth with advertising for the upset bid processes.

Architectural/Engineering Services – Jail Expansion

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding the quote from Moseley Architects for architectural/engineering services for possible jail expansion:

- This is a continuation to look at possible jail expansion (information has been briefed to the Board in previous commissioners' session)
- Phase 1 services include preliminary schematic floor plans, a cost estimate and a general building massing study
 - These services will assist the County in establishing a total project cost budget and scope in order to proceed with subsequent construction document design and bidding/construction to the addition project
 - A/E preliminary design with cost estimate
 - Compile and analyze existing facility information, plans and site information provided by the County
 - Prepare Preliminary Schematic Design (SD) for the County's review and approval
 - Provide a cost estimate showing estimated total project costs (construction, FFE, and miscellaneous costs)
 - Meet with the Board of Commissioners to present the findings and seek approval to commence subsequent design and construction phases
 - Those subsequent design services will be negotiated with the County receiving after notice to proceed
- Estimate duration = 2.5 months
- Lump sum fees for the basic services as described
 - Phase 1 preliminary design services = \$14,800 plus travel related expenses
 - Subsequent A/E Design Development, Construction Document, Bidding, and Construction Administration Services = TBD upon written authorization from the owner to proceed
 - Operations and transition training services = TBD upon written authorization from the owner to proceed
 - PREA policy development services = TBD upon written authorization from the owner to proceed
- Only wanted enough information that would allow the Board to make a decision regarding the jail expansion
- As the Board recalls, Financial Advisor Doug Carter noted at the special meeting that this needed to be done in order for the Board to make decisions
- Compared this estimate to the charges for the Petree Project which will probably be one third to the scale of the project
- That charge for the Petree Project was approximately \$5,000 – feel this is a reasonable charge for the scope of the project
- Once the information is provided to the Board, the information will remain valid if the project is put on hold with the exception of prices for the construction of the project

- Phase One Preliminary Design Services = \$14,800
- Request the item be placed on the May 11th Action Agenda, will provide a budget amendment at that meeting for funding allocation

Chairman Jones opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Inman confirmed with Manager Morris that funding would be from Contingency.

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Need this information per the County's Financial Advisor to determine whether the project can be done

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Confirmed with Manager Morris that the \$14,800 would be part of their total charges if the jail expansion project is approved

Chairman Jones confirmed with Manager Morris that the work would take approximately two and half months.

Chairman Jones, with full consensus of the Board with Vice Chairman Walker absent, directed the Clerk to place the item on the May 11th Action Agenda.

Meadows Community Water System – Ground Water Exploration

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following additional information regarding the request for ground water exploration for the Meadows Community Water System:

- This is a continuation from the April 13th meeting
- Provided the Board with a corrected Comparison of Options from Charles Anderson and Baker Engineering
 - Option 1 – Project Cost = \$6,109,787
 - Option A – Project Cost = \$3,871,800
 - Option B – Project Cost = \$2,546,640
- The question in hand is if the Board of Commissioners wishes to proceed with the ground water exploration?
- Then later decide whether the Board of Commissioners wishes to process with water project
- Public Work Director Mark Delehant is in attendance for tonight's meeting to answer some of the questions that came up at the last meeting

Public Works Director Mark Delehant presented the following information:

- Presented a handout with information and a detailed map of Option B along with statistical information regarding the 2013 traffic count
- Design Option B will provide a ground tank at the Forsyth Tech. Community College site and extension of water lines in Meadows only to serve non-residential growth (initially)
- Systems with more than 50 connections require a minimum of two (2) wells – per NCAC 18C.0402 (g)(5)
- Combined production of all wells must provide the Total Average Daily Demand in 12 hours pumping time
- Existing & Future Non-Residential Uses Covered (No Residential)
 - Gallons Per Minute (GPM)
 - Full Expanded Forsyth Tech = 22
 - NC Department of Transportation (DOT) Facility = 3
 - Existing Businesses in Meadows = 30
 - Expansion of Existing Businesses in Meadows = .1
 - Anticipated Non-Residential Growth in Meadows = 100
 - Total = 156
 - Gallons Per Day (GPD)
 - Full Expanded Forsyth Tech = 16,164
 - DOT Facility = 2,160
 - Existing Businesses in Meadows = 21,600
 - Expansion of Existing Businesses in Meadows = 90
 - Anticipated Non-Residential Growth in Meadows = 72,300
 - Total = 112,314
 - GPM and GPD rates are assumed the same as used in the Hobbs-UpChurch Study
- Even if you take out the anticipated non-residential growth in the Meadows area, you will still need one more well just to supply the early college campus, NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT), and existing businesses in Meadows in the event a community water system was placed in the area

Chairman Jones opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Support County staff going out to try to discover water
- Going to need it at some point and time
- If we are able to locate wells and know their GPM yield, would hopefully give the County more ability to obtain grant monies in the future to expand the water system
- Feel we need to go ahead and explore now

Commissioner Inman commented:

- Would echo Commissioner Lankford's comments
- Certainly appears at some point, we will need an additional well anyhow
- Have county staff, will not have to employ any outside entity to engage this process
- Have the potential for some economic development

- On board with proceeding with the ground water exploration

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Would like to ask the two commissioners who serve on the committee: "If we commit to doing the two wells, are we committing to doing the project?"

Commissioner Lankford responded:

- My thinking is that if we commit to two wells, it means that we will know what the results are and we will know where we can go from there
- That is the only commitment

Commissioner Booth continued:

- Looking at Option B which puts in 1.25 miles of line extension; we will be paying 58% of the total cost for engineering and getting grants which is nearly \$1 million

Commissioner Inman responded:

- It would give us an option

Commissioner Booth continued:

- What I am hearing is that currently we have 50 gallons per minute from the well at the community college site which will do everything we are talking about and some, if you have a big enough tank

Director Delehant responded:

- As noted, systems with more than 50 connections require a minimum of two (2) wells
- Right now, the water system out there is technically considered a non-community, non-transient water system which is a tier lower than what it would be, if we were a public water system such as what we have here in Danbury

Commissioner Booth continued:

- Confirmed with Director Delehant that by adding one more additional well, it would meet the state requirements of a public water system
- Looking at the project we did for the Danbury Water System, we got 27 GPM with the new well, have two wells that produce just under 100 GPM
- The original water and sewer project had the water coming from Danbury
- Confirmed with Director Delehant that originally water was to be on one side of the road with sewer on the other side of the road

Director Delehant responded:

- The change was due to the fact there are not a lot of customers to be gained between Danbury and the community college site
- It was changed for the benefit of the entire project to gain more potential water customers

Commissioner Booth continued:

- If we had followed the original design with the original wells producing less than 100 GPM along with the 27 GPM other well, it would have done all of Danbury, the hospital, the government center, and the community college site area

Director Delehant responded:

- Basically, it would have made a system with the less than 100 GPM wells along with the community college site well which is producing 50 GPM

Commissioner Booth continued:

- We have 50 GPM at the community college site well, two other wells getting little less than 100 GPM, one more good well will provide enough water
- Not ready to do any of these projects right now
- Think I am hearing from Commissioner Lankford the need to drill two wells to know we have the water
- If we drill one well, we will know if we have enough water

Director Delehant responded:

- If we are lucky enough to get a well producing a significant yield, will go to the county manager before going any further

Commissioner Booth continued:

- Tight budget year coming up this year and next
- Commissioner Inman just reported tonight another estimated \$40,000 loss in revenue from debt setoff
- Can go with ground water exploration for one well
- Questioned Director Delehant if he thought one well would enable the county to get grant funding?

Director Delehant responded:

- One of the reasons for asking for enough funding for two wells was if the first well did not produce any water

Commissioner Booth continued:

- If you don't get water the first time, we are here, you can always come back to the Board
- Think the Dollar General has a well producing 100 GPM
- Feel there is water in the vicinity

Chairman Jones commented:

- Have had the unfortunate experience of drilling wells, have three (3) within an acre with the last one being 800 ft with 10 GPM
- How deep would you go if no water is found before stopping? (thinking about cost)

Director Delehant responded:

- Think the one at the community college site is approximately 600 ft which producing 50 GPM
- Would work with the county manager making those decisions

Chairman Jones continued:

- Feels like we are gambling

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Drilling is now about \$10 a foot
- When it comes to buying land, there is approximately 45 acres in the community college site, would there not be sufficient land for another well?

Director Delehant responded:

- You could get in the same water vein and take away from the first well
- A well on the community college site could be ½ mile from where the potential Meadows Water System would be, getting it in close proximity to the intersection would be beneficial due shorter lines to connect thus saving money

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Questioned Director Delehant if he was talking about buying land to drill a well?

Director Delehant responded:

- Would be similar to what was done with the Danbury Water System
- Would do an offer to purchase prior to digging a well
- Landowner would be willing to sell the property at a certain price
- If no water is found, no sale takes place

Commissioner Booth commented:

- How much land is needed?

Director Delehant responded:

- You would need 100 ft radius along with easement access

Chairman Jones, with full consensus of the Board with Vice Chairman Walker absent, directed the Clerk to place the item on the May 11th Action Agenda.

Commissioner Booth questioned if the number of wells had been decided on?

Chairman Jones noted that could be discussed further on the Action Agenda at the next meeting.

Fiscal Year 2015-16 Health, Dental, and Vision Insurance – Contract Renewal

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding the Fiscal Year 2015-16 Health, Dental, and Vision benefits for county employees:

- As noted at the last meeting, the League of Municipalities had provided the County with a 21% increase for health insurance for FY 2015-16
- Advised the League that the County could not live with a 21% increase for health insurance
- Requested the League provide the Board with some different options to decrease the cost
- Did not receive the options needed from the League
- Personnel Officer Bullins was at a League meeting, kind of like the meeting when I discovered the League, and was provided a recommendation from another city manager regarding a broker group
- Decided to entertain conversation with the group which started the process
- Current budget increase for the county for employee coverage, paid by the county, to continue as is with the League would be approximately \$297,900 for Fiscal Year 2015-16
- Quote from the brokerage group switching to Blue Cross/Blue Shield BCBS with some noted changes would be an increase of approximately \$100,044
- Quote from the League for dental for Fiscal Year 2015-16 was approximately \$800
- Work with brokerage group regarding dental
- Could not get the County's dental experience rate from the League which makes it very hard for the broker to negotiate with dental carriers
- Would see approximate increase of \$3,564 for FY 2015-16 switching to Delta Dental Insurance Company
- Would ask Personnel Officer Bullins, who has worked with the broker group up until about 5:00 pm this afternoon, to explain the other advantages for switching to BCBS
- Bottom line, the County could not sustain a 21% increase this year
- Recommend going with BCBS for health insurance and Delta for dental insurance for the upcoming FY 2015-16

Personnel Officer Bullins noted the following:

- Would see a decrease in office visits co-pays
 - Primary Care - \$40 to \$35
 - Specialist - \$75 to 70
- Would see an increase in Emergency Room (ER) co-pays
 - Increase from \$300 to \$500
 - This is standard for BCBS
 - Also is a deterrent to try to encourage individuals from going to the ER instead of their family doctor or urgent care when it is not truly an emergency
 - Emergency Room charges are one of the most expensive claims to pay
- Advantages:
 - One new item

- County would be issuing each active employee a \$25,000 term life insurance policy for FY 2015-16 which would save approximately \$5,000 on health insurance premiums
 - Employee would be able to increase personal coverage and add other family members
- Decrease in office co-pays
- Large savings over the League's quote for health
- Group will do competitive bidding each year for coverage instead of county staff
- Will assist county staff in the development of a wellness plan for future discounts from BCBS or other carriers
- Brokerage Group serves municipalities and counties across NC
- Brokerage Group has 32 years of experience
- Decrease workload for county staff
- Will have a staff member at the County one day a month to help employees with claims, benefits, locating providers, etc.
- Rates will be even lower, still negotiating with BCBS regarding prescription coverage (BCBS has a slightly different prescription plan from the \$10/\$45/\$75 currently used by the County)
 - Trying to get the best plan possible, not sure what exactly how it will work
- Will still have a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA)
- Tried to basically mirror our existing plan
- Dental will have a slight increase, still negotiating with dental providers so rates could also be less than presented tonight
 - Quotes do not include the five tier which is custom to the County
 - Employee only
 - Child (most carriers use children which causes the employee to pay the same with one child as an employee with more than one child)
 - Children
 - Spouse
 - Family
- Talked with references today who have had no issues with the brokerage group
- Rates quoted tonight are the worst case scenario with possibility of decreasing
- Would request to move the item tonight's Action Agenda in order to provide employees with the required 60-day notice (Affordable Care Act)
- League did not provide quotes to the County until late March and could not decrease the premium without making huge increases for employees
- Would request the Board authorize County staff to continue negotiations for the best rate for both health and dental

Chairman Jones opened the floor for discussion.

The Board had no issues and expressed appreciation for bringing the recommendation that saved county dollars and offers a new benefit to the active employees (term life policy).

The Board had no issues with moving the item to tonight's Action Agenda and giving consensus, with Vice Chairman Walker absent, for county staff to continue to negotiate to get the best benefits and rates.

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

Walnut Cove Senior Center Advisory Council – Bylaws Proposed Amendments

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following Walnut Cove Senior Center Advisory Council's additions and removals to the Council's Bylaws for the Board's consideration for approval:

ARTICLE I NAME

SECTION I. Name

The name of this organization shall be the Walnut Cove Senior Center Advisory Council.

ARTICLE II MISSION

SECTION I. Mission

It is the mission of the Walnut Cove Senior Center *to provide Stokes County seniors accessible services and opportunities for fellowship, fun and learning through activities and programs that enrich lives.* (Involves, Enriches and Empowers Seniors in our Community.)

SECTION II. FUNCTION

The function of the Walnut Cove Senior Center Advisory Council shall be as follows:

- 1) To assist the Walnut Cove Senior Center and local service providers in a needs assessment process to determine the priority needs of older adults in Stokes County, and to determine which can be provided at the Walnut Cove Senior Center and through Senior Center Outreach.
- 2) To assist in the determination of the mission of the Walnut Cove Senior Center and to help oversee implementation of that mission.
- 3) To regularly review programs offered by the Walnut Cove Senior Center and the extent to which those services and activities meet its established mission and the changing needs of the community.

- 4) To play a major role in assisting the Walnut Cove Senior Center Director with fund-raising events.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

SECTION I. VOTING MEMBERS

- A) The membership of the Walnut Cove Senior Center Advisory Council shall be comprised of fifteen (15) members appointed by the Board of County Commissioners and one representative from the Region I Advisory Committee of the Area Agency on Aging, approved by the Advisory Council upon recommendation of the Area Agency on Aging. Of the 15 members appointed by the Board of County Commissioners, there shall be at least one representative from each city, town, and township in Stokes County, whenever feasible. All Advisory Council members shall have full voting privileges.
- B) Terms of membership shall be (3) three years, and members shall be eligible to serve up to three consecutive terms. Terms shall begin on July 1st and end on June 30th. If for any reason an appointee does not serve a complete term on the Advisory Council, the Board of County Commissioners may appoint another individual to fulfill the remainder of the un-expired term. The Term of membership for the Region ~~I(G)~~ representative shall coincide with their membership on the Region I ~~(G)~~ Advisory Board. If for any reason the member from the Region ~~I(G)~~ does not serve a complete term, another individual from the Region ~~I(G)~~ Board shall be appointed by a Region I ~~(G)~~ Board Representative.
- C) If a voting member of the Walnut Cove Senior Center Advisory Council accumulates four (4) ~~(3)~~ absences in a year, the Director of the Walnut Cove Senior Center, or his or her designee, shall contact the member to discuss whether circumstances warrant that a replacement should be named.

ARTICLE IV OFFICERS

SECTION I. ELECTED OFFICERS

- A) The elected officers of the Walnut Cove Senior Center Advisory Council shall be: Chair, First Vice Chair, **and Second Vice Chair.** ~~(remove)~~ Officers shall be elected to serve for a period of **one** ~~(two)~~ years, but may be re-elected to serve, up to (3) consecutive terms. Senior Center Staff shall serve as secretary and be responsible for recording the minutes and distributing them to all Council members. A Nominating Committee of (3) three voting members shall bring a slate of nominees to the last meeting of the fiscal year.
- B) The Chair shall be responsible for reviewing the agenda, presiding at all regular and special meetings of the Council, ~~(and assist with)~~ appointing committees and representing the Council in public relations activities.
- C) In the absence of the Chair, the First Vice Chair will assume the duties of the Chair.
- D) ***In the absence if the Chair and First Vice Chair, the Second Vice Chair will assume the duties of the Chair.*** ~~(Remove)~~

ARTICLE V

MEETINGS

SECTION I. MEETING DATES

- A) Meetings shall be held *bi-monthly*, ~~(once every other month)~~ with a consistent meeting date to be established by the Walnut Cove Senior Center Advisory Council.
- B) Meetings shall be called at the discretion of the Chair and the Senior Center Director and cancelled by the same.
- C) A Quorum shall consist of a simple majority of the members of the Walnut Cove Senior Center Advisory Council.
- D) All meetings shall comply with Open Meetings Law.

ARTICLE VI COMMITTEES

SECTION I. STANDING COMMITTEES

Standing Committees shall be as follows:

- A) Nominating Committee: The purpose of this committee is to nominate Council members for the offices of Chair, First Vice Chair *and Second Vice Chair*. ~~(Remove)~~ The committee shall be comprised of three (3) voting members appointed by the Chair. The nominating committee shall present a slate of nominees to be voted upon the last meeting of the fiscal year and installed at the first meeting of the next fiscal year.
- B) Special Needs Committee: May be appointed as the need arises.

ARTICLE VII AMENDMENTS

SECTION I. AMENDMENT PROCEDURE

- A) By-Law amendments may be proposed to the Board Of County Commissioners by a majority vote at any meeting of the Walnut Cove Senior Center Advisory Council, provided the proposed alteration has been announced at the previous meeting and provided further that a written notice has been sent to all members outlining the proposed changes and announcing the time and place of the meeting at which action will be taken regarding the proposed changes.
- B) All amendments or other changes to these By-Laws must be approved by the Board of County Commissioners.
- C) Notwithstanding the above, the Board of County Commissioners retains ultimate responsibility for the form and content of the By-Laws of the Walnut Cove Senior Center Advisory Council.

Chair,
Walnut Cove Senior Center Advisory Council

Date

**First Vice Chair,
Walnut Cove Senior Center Advisory Council**

Date

**Director
Walnut Cove Senior Center**

Date

**Chairman
Board of County Commissioners**

Date

Attest:

**Clerk to the Board
Of County Commissioners**

Date

County Manager Morris noted that items bolded are to be deleted and items underlined are to be added.

Chairman Jones opened the floor for discussion.

The Board had no issues with the additions/deletions to the Council's Bylaws.

Chairman Jones, with full consensus of the Board with Vice Chairman Walker absent, directed the Clerk to place the item on the May 11th Action Agenda.

Appointments – Walnut Cove Senior Center Advisory Council

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information:

- Mr. Frank Dalton has resigned from the Walnut Cove Senior Center Advisory Council thus creating a vacancy on the Council
- Per the Council's Bylaws, a member of the Regional Advisory Council should be a member of the Council
- There has been no member of the Regional Advisory Council due to having no vacancy on the Council
- Erma Perkins is a current Stokes County Representative for the Regional Advisory Council
- Erma Perkins has expressed interest in being a member of the Walnut Cove Senior Center Advisory Council which will fulfill the requirements of their Bylaws
- The Council recommends Ms. Perkins for the appointment.

Chairman Jones opened the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Lankford nominated Erma Perkins.

Chairman Jones entertained a motion to close the nominations.

Commissioner Inman moved to close the nominations. Commissioner Booth seconded and the motion carried (4-0) with Vice Chairman Walker absent.

Chairman Jones, with full consensus of the Board with Vice Chairman Walker absent, directed the Clerk to place the item on the May 11th Action Agenda for any further nominations and polling.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – ACTION AGENDA

Proposed Audit Contract – Martin*Starnes Associates, CPAs, P.A. – Fiscal Year 2014-15

Chairman Jones entertained a motion regarding the Fiscal Year 2014-15 Audit Contract with Martin*Starnes Associates which was presented to the Board at the April 13th meeting.

Commissioner Booth moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2014-15 Audit Contract in the amount of \$46,350 with Martin*Starnes and acknowledged that Martin*Starnes will also honor the contract price of \$46,350 for the Fiscal Year 2015-16 Audit. Commissioner Lankford seconded and the motion carried (4-0) with Vice Chairman Walker absent.

Health Director Vacancy

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information and recommendation as requested at the April 13th meeting:

- Would recommend to appoint Wanda East as the acting health director at Director Scott Lenhart's departure with a stipend of \$500 per pay period
- If there is no objection from the Board, Director Lenhart has requested to extend his last day of work to Friday, May 8th due to being out last week due to illness
- Director Lenhart has stated there are some loose ends he would like to complete before leaving
- The recommendation also includes that Ms. East has no authority with hiring/firing/personnel issues and no contract authority; those item will be handled by Manager Morris

Chairman Jones opened the floor for any discussion.

Commissioner Lankford confirmed with Manager Morris that Wanda East would still be performing all duties of her current position while serving as acting health director.

Chairman Jones entertained a motion

Commissioner Booth moved to approve the appointment of Wanda East as acting health director at Director Lenhart's departure with a stipend of \$500 per pay period and that all hiring/firing/personnel and contract authority be under the direction of the county manager. Commissioner Lankford seconded and the motion carried (4-0) with Vice Chairman Walker absent.

Proposed Bids – Solid Waste – Landfill Erosion Repairs

Chairman Jones entertained a motion regarding the Landfill Erosion Repairs presented at the April 13th meeting and the following Budget Amendment #62 which allocates the funding:

Solid Waste - Budget Amendment #62

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #62.

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

| Account Number | Account Description | Current Budgeted Amount | Increase (Decrease) | As Amended |
|----------------|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| | Solid Waste | | | |
| 100.4720.590 | Improvements | \$9,000.00 | \$34,500.00 | \$43,500.00 |
| | Contingency | | | |
| 100.9910.000 | Contingency | <u>\$133,132.00</u> | <u>\$(34,500.00)</u> | <u>\$98,632.00</u> |
| | Total | \$142,132.00 | \$00.00 | \$142,132.00 |

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To transfer funds from Contingency for Landfill Soil Erosion Repairs.

This will result in a **net increase 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.

Commissioner Inman moved to accept the bid from William V. Fulp, Inc. in the amount of \$34,500 for Landfill Soil Erosion Repairs and Budget Amendment #62. Commissioner Lankford

seconded and the motion carried (4-0) with Vice Chairman Walker absent.

Fiscal Year 2015-16 Health, Dental, and Vision Insurance – Contract Renewal

Chairman Jones entertained a motion regarding Fiscal Year 2015-16 Health, Dental, and Vision Insurance which was presented at tonight's meeting.

Commissioner Booth moved to approve for Fiscal Year 2015-16 health insurance with BCBS with rates not to exceed what was presented by the county manager at tonight's meeting, and dental insurance with Delta with rates not to exceed what was presented by the county manager along with dental rates being adjusted to add an additional tier. Commissioner Lankford seconded and the motion carried (4-0) with Vice Chairman Walker absent.

Adjournment

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

Commissioner Lankford moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Inman seconded and the motion carried (4-0) with Vice Chairman Walker absent.

Darlene M. Bullins
Clerk to the Board

Ronda Jones
Chairman