

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA )  
 )  
COUNTY OF STOKES )  
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OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS  
STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA  
APRIL 11, 2016

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met for regular session in the Commissioners' Chambers of the Ronald Wilson Reagan Memorial Building (Administration Building) located in Danbury, North Carolina on Monday, April 11, 2016 at 1:30 pm with the following members present:

Chairman J. Leon Inman - entered the meeting at 1:50 pm  
Vice Chairman James D. Booth  
Commissioner Jimmy Walker  
Commissioner Ernest Lankford  
Commissioner Ronda Jones

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

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

Vice Chairman Booth noted that Chairman Inman would be a little late for today's meeting due to another meeting.

**INVOCATION**

Vice Chairman Booth invited those who wished to join in the invocation to please do so.

Vice Chairman Booth delivered the invocation.

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

Vice Chairman Booth invited the citizens in attendance to join the Board in the Pledge of

Allegiance.

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

Vice Chairman Booth entertained a motion to approve or amend the April 11, 2016 Agenda.

Vice Chairman Booth noted that a Closed Session needed to be added to today's Agenda.

County Manager Rick Morris noted the following for information:

- Meeting is scheduled with representatives from RiverStreet Networks this week regarding a Letter of Intent
- Meeting is also scheduled this week with Texie Jessup and Horace Stimson regarding the Memorandum of Understanding regarding Francisco Elementary School
- Both items will be on the April 25<sup>th</sup> Discussion Agenda

The Board had no issues with adding a Closed Session to today's Agenda.

Commissioner Jones moved to approve the April 11<sup>th</sup> Agenda as amended.

Commissioner Lankford seconded and the motion carried (4-0) with Chairman Inman absent.

## **COMMENTS - Manager/Commissioners**

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

County Manager Rick Morris did not have any comments.

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Very glad to see everyone
- Welcomed everyone to today's meeting
- Recently attended the Piedmont Authority Regional Transportation (PART) meeting
  - PART Board is making some really good changes
  - Continuing to work toward getting the Intermodal Complex up and running in Greensboro
- Attended the NCAACC Environmental Steering Committee last week
  - Need to be watching out for Hydrilla, an invasive plant, that is getting into the rivers (not easy to get rid of)
  - The NC Department of Environment & Natural Resources is now the NC Department of Environment Quality (NC DEQ)
  - Received a lot of information regarding solar farms (pros and cons) which provide a diversity for energy

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Looking forward to the upcoming Farmer Appreciation Event on Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> (great event)
- Encourage everyone to try to attend

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Ethics for Life “I will instruct thee and teach thee in thy way which thou shalt go, I will guide thee with mine eyes”

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- “Farmer Appreciation Day”
  - The event will be held on Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:00 pm at North Stokes High School
  - Want to invite everyone to come out to this great event

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Vice Chairman Booth noted that the Board of Commissioners will hear Public Comments, but will not respond to Public Comments and that each speaker will be allowed three (3) minutes.

The following spoke during Public Comments:

### **Horace Stimson**

1931 Horseshoe Road  
Westfield, NC

### **Re: Francisco School**

Mr. Stimson presented the following comments:

First, on behalf of Our Communities, we are so pleased four County Commissioners, the County Manager, and the Director of Planning and Economic Development, were able to participate with our leadership group during the two-day visit by the Construction Professionals Network Institute. Thank you.

Commissioner Jones, we know you had a conflict, but we are happy to have you join our team leaders for a briefing and to benefit from your input and perspective.

We will leave it up to the County Commissioners and staff to offer their observations and comments about the two partial days with CPNI and Our Communities.

We will let you know when representatives of CPNI will return to present their report to Our Communities and to County Commissioners and staff, if you would like. And schedule it sufficiently in advance to meet your timing.

We have not been sitting on our hands and neither has the County. That is great news.

- Wednesday, we were told about the park grants available from the County. We are already working on matches for that potential \$2,000 grant and resources to do more. How do we proceed with the application?
- Thursday, a leader of the youth initiatives team and his son repaired the rigging and raised the Stars & Stripes over the property....symbolic and welcomed. This retired vet (Career Army Special Operator) is the coach for Little League.
- Saturday, we were excited to see the pretrial / early release team mowing and weed-eating the school grounds. This ongoing work by the County will boost our capacity, to not only improve the grounds, but do it faster. It is always encouraging when government is viewed as a facilitator of rather than a barrier to success. As your collaborators / partners, we have the same obligations.
- Sunday, a community team traveled across Surry County visiting walking trails and pricing special paints for playground equipment, etc. This was just a part of their research so Our Communities can put together a property improvement / curb appeal plan for the **Our Communities Park – Francisco – Serving Northern Stokes** (interim working name).
- Sunday, 2 ½ hours were spent searching for leak evidence on the interior ceilings and on the two flat roofs to locate problems and also assessed the Ag. Building. Those from CPNI and others have commented about the significant amount of delayed maintenance, but we told them we are looking forward to solving what we face, not looking backward. In this case, our focus is on how the community can help protect the County asset from weather.
- Today, the OC Beautification Team Leader received confirmation of a grant from Burt's Bees through RAFI (Rural Advancement Foundation International). \$189 of a southeast mixture of wildflower seed from American Meadows. We have been alerted of more resources on the horizon.
- Wednesday, Mrs. Jessup and I will meet with the County Manager to review the terms, some suggested edits and discussion points so we can get to a term sheet and MOU as soon as possible. That meeting will give the County Manager a week to draft, pass by the county attorney, and us in time for distribution in your packets for your next meeting.
- Wednesday afternoon, the HVAC assessment team will be on site.
- Sunday morning, the septic system assessment is scheduled.

Mrs. Jessup will cover our more urgent requests, pending MOU finalization, and how they fit.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Texie Jessup**  
6621 NC 89 W  
Westfield, NC

Re: **Francisco Elementary School**

Ms. Jessup presented the following comments:

- Had a very successful two-day meeting with professionals in the construction industry from all over the state of NC
- Very appreciative for the attendance of county staff and commissioners
- Listened very carefully to what the professionals had to offer
- As suggested, have someone to do an assessment for specific areas along with some resources that are close at hand
- There are a couple of things that need to be done by the County as quick as possible:
  - Determine if anyone will be allowed to use the outside facilities (Little League has an insurance policy of \$1 million)
  - There are seven (7) teams that practice at the Nancy Reynolds field and need the field at Francisco if possible
  - Need port-a-johns (were once there and have now been removed)
  - Need to start the community garden as soon as possible
  - Would like to go into the agriculture building and see what is worth keeping -- possibly use as a storage building
- Would like to know how to go about applying for a park grant that was mentioned at the two-day work session
- Appreciate the collaboration and what has been done to help the community and would like to continue that collaboration
- Provided the Board with written information about Youth Initiatives for the Francisco Elementary School grounds along with letters from the Stokes County Arts Council and Stokes County Cooperative Extension

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of March 2, 2016 – Joint Meeting with Caswell and Rockingham Counties
- Minutes of March 29, 2016 – Regular Meeting

## **Sheriff's Department, Animal Control, Contingency- 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
<b>Sheriff's Department</b>				
100.4310.000	Salaries and Wages	\$1,686,030.00	\$5,422.00	\$1,691,452.00
<b>Animal Control</b>				
100.4380.000	Salaries and Wages	\$123,068.00	\$452.00	\$123,520.00
<b>Contingency</b>				
100.9910.100	Leave Cost	<u>\$27,184.00</u>	<u>\$(5,874.00)</u>	<u>\$21,310.00</u>
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$1,836,282.00</b>	<b>\$00.00</b>	<b>\$1,836,282.00</b>

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To transfer funds from Contingency for the payoff of terminated, resigned, retired, dismissed and compensatory time over limit employees for April. (holiday =\$1,238, vacation=\$4,184, and compensatory time =\$452)

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.

**Emergency Medical Services - 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
<b>Emergency Medical Services</b>				
100.4370.351	Maint. & Repairs – Auto	<u>\$69,445.00</u>	<u>\$1,700.00</u>	<u>\$71,145.00</u>
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$69,445.00</b>	<b>\$1,700.00</b>	<b>\$71,145.00</b>

This budget amendment is justified as follows: To appropriate funds from insurance claim.

This will result in a **net increase** of **\$1,700.00** 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
100.3839.850	Insurance Claims	<u>\$49,440.00</u>	<u>\$1,700.00</u>	<u>\$51,140.00</u>
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$49,440.00</b>	<b>\$1,700.00</b>	<b>\$51,140.00</b>

**Social Services - Budget Amendment #63**

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #63.

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

<b>Account Number</b>	<b>Account Description</b>	<b>Current Budgeted Amount</b>	<b>Increase (Decrease)</b>	<b>As Amended</b>
	<b>Social Services</b>			
100.5310.511	Equipment	<u>\$00.00</u>	<u>\$30,000.00</u>	<u>\$30,000.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$00.00</b>	<b>\$30,000.00</b>	<b>\$30,000.00</b>

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To appropriate funds for the equipment line item which is to be paid through MOE money. Approval has been given by the State for an equipment purchase of computers and printers.

This will result in a **net increase** of **\$30,000.00** in the expenditures and other financial use to the County's annual budget. To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will increase. These revenues have already been received or are verified they will be received this fiscal year.

<b>Account Number</b>	<b>Account Description</b>	<b>Current Budgeted Amount</b>	<b>Increase (Decrease)</b>	<b>As Amended</b>
100.3301.202	SS County Federal	<u>\$00.00</u>	<u>\$30,000.00</u>	<u>\$30,000.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$00.00</b>	<b>\$30,000.00</b>	<b>\$30,000.00</b>

**Jail - Budget Amendment #64**

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #64:

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

<b>Account Number</b>	<b>Account Description</b>	<b>Current Budgeted Amount</b>	<b>Increase (Decrease)</b>	<b>As Amended</b>
	<b>Jail</b>			
100.4320.000	Salaries and Wages	\$697,885.00	\$(40,000.00)	\$657,885.00
100.4320.390	Misc. Expense of Prisoners	<u>\$35,000.00</u>	<u>\$40,000.00</u>	<u>\$75,000.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$732,885.00</b>	<b>\$00.00</b>	<b>\$732,885.00</b>

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To appropriate funds for large medical claim for inmate medical care.

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.

**Proposed Proclamation – National Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month – April 2016**

Clerk Darlene Bullins, at the request of DSS Director Stacey Elmes, presented the following proposed Proclamation – National Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month – April 2016 for the Board’s review and approval at the April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting:

**NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION MONTH  
A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, in Federal fiscal year 2014, 50 states reported 702,000 victims of child abuse or neglect; and

**WHEREAS**, child abuse and neglect is a serious problem affecting every segment of our community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, our children are our most valuable resources and will shape the future of Stokes County and North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, child abuse can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects that can have lifelong consequences for victims of abuse; and

**WHEREAS**, protective factors are conditions that reduce or eliminate risk and promote the social, emotional, and developmental well-being of children;

**WHEREAS**, effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the meaningful connections and partnerships created between child welfare, education, health, community, and faith-based organizations, businesses, and law enforcement agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, communities must make every effort to promote programs and activities that benefit children and their families;

**WHEREAS**, we acknowledge that we must work together as a community to increase awareness about child abuse and contribute to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families in a safe, stable, nurturing environment.

**WHEREAS**, prevention remains the best defense for our children and families;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, we, the Commissioners of Stokes County, do hereby proclaim **April 2016** as **NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION MONTH** in Stokes County, and urge all citizens to recognize this month by dedicating ourselves to the task of improving the quality of life for all children and families.



Dated this 11<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2016.

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**Chairman J. Leon Inman**

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**Vice-Chairman James D. Booth**

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**Commissioner Ronda Jones**

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**Commissioner Ernest Lankford**

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**Commissioner Jimmy Walker**

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

**Proposed Proclamation – National Public Safety Telecommunicators’ Week –  
April 10-16, 2016**

Clerk Darlene Bullins, at the request of E911 Director Del Hall, presented the following proposed Proclamation – National Public Safety Telecommunicators’ Week – April 10-16, 2016 for the Board’s review and approval at the April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting:

**Proclamation**

**National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week**

**April 10<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**Whereas**, emergencies can occur at any time that require police, fire or emergency medical services;

**Whereas**, when an emergency occurs the prompt response of police officers, firefighters and paramedics is 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;

April 11, 2016

**Therefore Be It Resolved** that the Board of County Commissioners of County of Stokes, North Carolina declares the week of **April 10<sup>th</sup> through 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016** 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 11<sup>th</sup> day of **April, 2016**.

**STOKES COUNTY**

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**J. Leon Inman, Chairman**

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**James D. Booth, Vice Chairman**

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**Jimmy Walker, Commissioner**

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**Ernest Lankford, Commissioner**

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**Ronda Jones, Commissioner**

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Darlene Bullins, Clerk to the Board**

**Release of Closed Session Minutes**

Clerk Darlene Bullins presented the following Closed Session Minutes, which have been redacted and approved by County Attorney Tyrone Browder for release:

- September 14, 2015
- October 12, 2015
- November 23, 2015
- December 8, 2015
- December 14, 2015

Commissioner Jones moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Walker seconded the motion carried (4-0) with Chairman Inman absent.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Spoke briefly about the recent joint meeting with Caswell and Rockingham Counties (referring to the minutes of March 2, 2016 (Joint Meeting))
- Joint meetings are to discuss issues of mutual interest with Caswell and Rockingham Counties
- This was the second joint meeting – first joint meeting hosted by Rockingham County
- Great networking for all the counties
- Discussed fracking at the first meeting which helped the Board move forward with the Moratorium

- Just another way of getting things done by working together

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

Vice Chairman Booth noted there were no items on the Information Agenda today.

Chairman Inman entered the meeting at 1:50 pm.

Vice Chairman Booth turned the meeting over to Chairman Inman.

Chairman Inman extended his apologies for being late due to another scheduled meeting in Clemmons.

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

### **Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) Recommendation for Funding for FY 2016-17**

County Manager Rick Morris introduced Chief Court Counselor Rusty Slate who presented the JCPC recommendation for Fiscal Year 2016-17.

Chief Court Counselor Rusty Slate presented the following information regarding the JCPC Recommendation for Funding for 2016-17:

- JCPC Chairman Kim Palmer was unable to attend today's meeting due to a scheduling conflict
- The following providers are present today for any questions:
  - Terry Fowler and Brittany Newsome – Insight
    - Provides substance abuse and prevention services for children
  - Clyde Stewart – Surry/Stokes Friends of Youth
    - Provides family counseling and community services restitution
  - Tamera Veit – Stokes SCAN
    - Provides home based family counseling particularly for children who have transportation needs
  - Robin Testerman - Children's Center
    - Provides temporary shelter care
- JCPC Allocation for FY 2016-17 will be \$136,010 (same as last year)
- Have been told that his department has asked for \$1.5 million to be disbursed throughout NC for prevention services (not sure if that will be approved)
- Request for Proposals were sent out on December 21, 2015
- Proposals were heard at the February 16, 2016 JCPC Meeting
- Final approval was voted on at the March 15, 2016 JCPC Meeting
- JCPC Funding Recommendation:
  - Stokes Friends of Youth

- JCPC Legislative Allocation for FY 2015-16 = \$77,526
  - County Match = \$23,258
  - JCPC Legislative Allocation Recommendation for FY 2016-17 = \$77,526
  - County Match Recommendation for FY 2016-17 = \$23,258
- Stokes SCAN
  - JCPC Legislative Allocation for FY 2015-16 = \$21,940
  - County Match = \$6,582
  - JCPC Legislative Allocation Recommendation for FY 2016-17 = \$21,940
  - County Match Recommendation for FY 2016-17 = \$6,582
- Children's Center
  - JCPC Legislative Allocation for FY 2015-16 = \$11,084
  - County Match = \$4,326
  - JCPC Legislative Allocation Recommendation for FY 2016-17 = \$11,084
  - County Match Recommendation for FY 2016-17 = \$4,326
- Insight
  - JCPC Legislative Allocation for FY 2015-16 = \$25,460
  - County Match = \$7,638
  - JCPC Legislative Allocation Recommendation for FY 2016-17 = \$25,460
  - County Match Recommendation for FY 2016-17 = \$7,638
- There are no changes in the recommendation for FY 2016-17 with the exception of the request from the Children's Center to continue the additional \$1,000 county funding to provide additional bed space days
- Will be glad to answer any questions

Chairman Inman opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Confirmed with Chief Court Counselor Slate that there was a 30% county match
- On board with the request

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Questioned Counselor Slate how long the state funding had been the same allocation?

Counselor Slate responded:

- Way too long
- County took a 15% decrease in 1998 with continued cuts over the years
- Even with the cuts, services have continued to strengthen
- Have requested that the formula for the youth population from 10-17 be reviewed (originally developed in the 1980s)
- Needs to be changed

- Urban communities have other resources and financial means with the rural communities suffering

Commissioner Walker continued:

- Even though you are trying to provide the services, seems there will come a point, if no increase, that it will be stretched as thin as it can be
- Feel the county is getting a fantastic bargain
- Great purpose – trying to help those in trouble who need some redirection in life
- What would it take for this amount to increase?

Counselor Slate responded:

- First, there will have to be a policy change
- If the county is giving away money, we will take it
- Understand there is not a lot of money available in the counties
- Providers work very hard to obtain funding from other sources when possible
- County could send a letter regarding the allocation

Commissioner Walker continued:

- Confirmed with Counselor Slate the ultimate authority to change the policy for allocation is the governor

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- Appreciate the services being provided with JCPC dollars

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Encourage you to advocate for more funding
- Would be happy to support you advocating for more funding if needed

Chairman Inman commented:

- County receives great services for our youth population from our JCPC and County allocations
- Can possibly talk to our two state legislators regarding the allocation formula

Counselor Slate commented:

- Recidivism rate is about 30% which is really good
- These JCPC services are making a tremendous impact in Stokes County
- Appreciate the continued support from the Board of Commissioners

The Board agreed to place the item on the Action Agenda for the April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Chairman Inman, with full consent of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the

April 25<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda.

## Social Services Monthly Report

DSS Director Stacey Elmes presented the following Social Services Monthly Report:

- Program Reports
  - Services Report (Social Work, Family Support Services, Administration)
    - Provides January and February 2016 data for all services (Foster Care totals in February needed to be adjusted – have the same as January)
    - Will be adding unclaimed bodies to the report (have had one in February and one in March)
  - Audit/Reviews
    - NC Division of Social Services Food/Nutrition Services
      - No issues
- Metrics (As of March 2016):
  - Income Maintenance
    - NC FAST – In Compliance
    - WorkFirst – In Compliance
    - FNS – In Compliance
    - Adult Medicaid – In Compliance
    - Family and Children’s Medicaid – In Compliance
    - Child Support – In Compliance
    - Program Integrity – In Compliance
    - Appeal Hearings and Fraud Hearings – In Compliance
  - Day Care – In Compliance
  - Foster Care (hope to be in compliance in April)
    - Foster Care Services – Needs Improvement
      - Case load numbers continue to grow
      - New staff still learning
    - Foster Care Home Licensing – In Compliance
    - Adoptions – In Compliance
  - Child Protective Services
    - Investigations – In Compliance
    - Case Management – In Compliance
    - Adult Services
      - Adult Protective Services – In Compliance
      - Guardianship– In Compliance
      - SSBG/HCCBG/Payee/Adult Day– In Compliance
      - Family/Monitoring– In Compliance
      - SA IH/MAC– In Compliance
      - CAP DA/CAP C– In Compliance
      - Intake– In Compliance
      - Caseloads– In Compliance
  - Supervision (Staff/Supervisor Ratio)- Needs Improvement
    - Not enough supervisors to adequately manage employees and quality assurance
    - Supervisors are more like line workers because of program growth
  - Staffing (Years of Service) – In Compliance

- Medicaid Transportation – In Compliance
- Clerical – In Compliance

For Reading Pleasure

- Provided the Board with reading information:
  - NC Child Health Report Card
  - “The Most Vulnerable Victims of America’s Opioid Epidemic”
- State has to have a 95% Timeliness Rate in Food and Nutrition Services in order to receive federal funding
  - Stokes County has had 100% Timeliness Rate for the past four weeks
  - Very proud of the staff
- During March, a child support worker brought in \$8,213
- Little Folks Festival is Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> – Walnut Cove Elementary School
- Foster Parent Appreciation Picnic is scheduled for Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at Hanging Rock State Park

Chairman Inman opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Confirmed with DSS Director Elmes that there is an increase in drug addicted mothers
- Used to hear about drug pushers in the metropolitan areas, but now they are in the rural areas

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- Very good news to hear Foster Care may be in compliance in April
- Confirmed with Director Elmes that drug-addicted newborns can have problems for years and can even be permanent

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Confirmed with DSS Director Elmes that the department deals with prescription drug abuse clients, but most of what the department is dealing with now is heroin abuse (seems to be the drug of choice)
- Very pleased with the Food Stamps timeliness rate
- Appreciate the work and services the department continues to provide to the citizens of Stokes County

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Expressed concerns about the disconnect between newborns and the doctors reporting it to social workers and entities
- Confirmed with Director Elmes that the department is receiving more reports from the hospital and believe it is improving due to more education being available

Chairman Inman commented:

- Very sad situation

- Very proud to see Stokes County with a 100% Food Stamps Timeliness Rate (one of only a few counties across the state)

**External Posting – Social Services**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding an external posting for Social Services:

- Request from DSS Director Stacey Elmes to externally post two vacant Social Worker II positions in Adult Services if no qualified applicant applies by Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm
- These positions are very important to the work that the department does with the elderly and disabled population and it is critical that these positions are filled as quickly as possible
- Request to move the item to today’s Action Agenda
- If approved, would be able to advertise on April 12<sup>th</sup> if no qualified applicant applies

Chairman Inman opened the floor for discussion.

The Board had no issues with the request and no issues with moving the item to today’s Action Agenda.

Chairman Inman, with full consent of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on today’s Action Agenda.

**Appointments - Stokes County Board of Adjustments**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding the vacancies on the Stokes County Board of Adjustments:

- The Stokes County Board of Adjustments has the following vacancies:
  - Three regular members
  - One alternate member
- Don Lester and Carl Hill have both agreed to continue to serve
- Larry Boles does not wish to be considered for reappointment
- Russell Slate has not responded to messages left regarding his reappointment
- Members serve a three (3) year term
- Vacancies will be advertised and placed on the county website

Chairman Inman opened the floor for nominations.



Chairman Inman noted that Russell Slate is moving out of the county.

Vice Chairman Booth nominated the following:

- Don Lester and Carl Hill for regular members

Commissioner Lankford nominated Amos Elvis for a regular member appointment.

With no further nominations, Chairman Inman entertained a motion to close the nominations.

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

Chairman Inman, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the April 25<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda.

#### **Appointments – Stokes County Human Services Advisory Committee**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding the vacancies on the Stokes County Human Services Advisory Committee:

- The Stokes County Human Services Advisory Committee has the following vacancy:
  - General Public Appointment
- Stokes County Human Services Advisory Committee recommends Jan Spencer for the appointment
- Ms. Spencer has agreed to serve
- Vacancy will be advertised and placed on the county website

Chairman Inman opened the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Jones nominated the following:

- Jan Spencer

With no further nominations, Chairman Inman entertained a motion to close the nominations.

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

Chairman Inman, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item

on the April 25<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda.

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

### **Health Department – Recruitment of Mid-Level Provider**

County Manager Rick Morris provided the following information presented by Health Director Scott Lenhart at the March 29<sup>th</sup> meeting along with new information regarding a hiring salary range:

- Recommendations at the March 29<sup>th</sup> meeting:
  - Option One: Keep pay scale as is and offer a \$5,000 signing bonus to be paid at as follows:  
Equal payments of \$1,250 will be paid at date of hire, 6 months, one year and two-year anniversary dates
    - County will reimburse employee up to \$3,000 for moving expenses incurred by the use of a household moving company (paid receipt from moving company will be required for reimbursement)
  - Option Two: As last resort, seek employment through a professional agency to hire a qualified candidate.
- Option Three: Give the health director the authority to negotiate a salary range not to exceed, Grade 88, Step 14(a) which is \$83,098 based on qualifications and experience

Chairman Inman entertained a motion regarding the recommendations for recruitment of a mid-level provider.

Commissioner Lankford moved to approve the following:

- Option One: Keep pay scale as is and offer a \$5,000 signing bonus to be paid at as follows: Quarter payments of \$1,250 will be paid at date of hire, 6 months, one year and two-year anniversary dates
  - County will reimburse employee up to \$3,000 for moving expenses (if moving more than 100 miles) incurred by the use of a household moving company (paid receipt from moving company will be required for reimbursement)
- Option Two: Negotiate with current applicants for requested salary or go through a professional agency to hire a qualified candidate.

Vice Chairman Booth seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Appointments – Stokes County Aging Planning Committee**

Chairman Inman noted the following:

- Committee has three vacancies
- Will have two recommendations after the Aging Planning meeting in April
- Aging Planning Committee will continue to recruit the last vacancy

Chairman Inman opened the floor for any further nominations.

There were no further nominations.

Chairman Inman entertained a motion to close the nominations.

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

Chairman Inman, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the April 25<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda.

### **Appointment –Stokes County Nursing Home Advisory Committee**

Chairman Inman noted a vacancy for the Stokes County Nursing Home Advisory Committee which was presented at the March 29<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Chairman Inman opened the floor for any further nominations.

There were no further nominations.

Chairman Inman entertained a motion to close the nominations.

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

Chairman Inman, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the April 25<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda.

### **Appointments – Surry Housing Consortium**

Chairman Inman noted a vacancy for the Surry County Consortium which was presented at the March 29<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Chairman Inman opened the floor for any further nominations.

There were no further nominations.

Chairman Inman entertained a motion to close the nominations.

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

Chairman Inman, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the April 25<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda.

### **External Posting – Social Services**

Chairman Inman entertained a motion regarding the external posting for two vacant Adult Services Social Workers II positions which was presented at today's meeting.

Commissioner Jones moved to approve the external posting of two vacant Adult Services Social Workers II positions. Vice Chairman Booth seconded the motion.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Would like to see department heads given the authority to automatically post externally when needed
- Don't think there has been one external posting refused since the start of the policy

Chairman Inman noted the policy would need to be amended.

The motion carried unanimously.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

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

- To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the County pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4)
- To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3)

Commissioner Lankford moved to enter Closed Session for the following:

- To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the County pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4)
- To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3)

Vice Chairman Booth seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The Board re-entered the open session of the April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Adjournment**

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

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

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

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**J. Leon Inman**  
**Chairman**