



Commissioner Jones moved to approve the April 13<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Lankford seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Inman turned the meeting over to County Manager Rick Morris.

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding a potential building at the community college site:

- Forsyth Tech is considering allocating \$800,000 of the NC Connect Bond Funding to build a trades building at the community college site in Meadows
- Provided information from Forsyth Tech for the Board to review
- Board of County Commissioners must approve the Capital Project, lease or give the land where the facility is going, and provide operating expenses for the facility
- The same procedure that was done for the community college being constructed
- Plans are to take this proposal to the Forsyth Tech Board on April 14<sup>th</sup> for approval
- After approval, needs to be placed on the Commissioners' Agenda for consideration and approval

Chairman Inman opened the floor for discussion.

- Great news
- Stokes County actually received approximately \$500,000 from NC Connect Bond
- Forsyth Tech is adding \$300,000 for the proposed project
- Will be a great addition to the campus site
- There is truly a need in the county for a trades building

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Should the old prison camp facility not be considered
- Needs to be looked at
- Have a good building that needs some renovation
- For a trades building, the prison camp is a number one building for that
- Needs renovations, but don't think it would cost \$800,000
- Needs to be considered
- Looks like Forsyth Tech has already made the decision and the County has no say so about it

County Manager Morris noted that this is just the first step, plenty of time for discussion.

Chairman Inman commented:

- Commissioner Lankford's comment about the old prison camp facility does have some merit

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- Need a trades facility

- Need to know how the funding has to be spent
- Willing to see if the old prison camp facility can be brought up to date
- If not adequate, support a trades facility on the property

Commissioner Jones commented:

- County's projected cost is \$22,000+ a year for operating expenses
- Love to see old buildings renovated, but may not have an option
- Need to see what the bond requires and if there is any flexibility
- Would like to see if the old prison camp could be renovated
- Would like to know where the other funding could be spent
- Need to look into codes and requirements

County Manager Morris responded:

- Feel the left over funding would be spent in Forsyth County if not spent in Stokes
- This is just to get the process started
- Will place on the Board's Agenda once approved by Forsyth Tech Board

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Facility has been looked at before for uses
- Support a new facility beside our community college
- Lost the last bond referendum money because we could not get it together
- Great idea- there is a definite need for a trades building in the County
- Has been my experience that remodeling is typically more expensive than new construction
- Be convenient to the other facility
- Can just hear students saying that my classes are at the old prison camp
- Need to approve and move forward with this project
- Will be willing to look at the old prison camp for other projects, but not for this one

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- There will be water and sewer to the old prison camp facility which changes things

Chairman Inman commented

- Don't know what trades will be offered, how much square footage is needed, etc.
- The old prison camp would have to be gutted completely

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- According to Ann Watts, grants have been applied for regarding the old prison camp facility that never came through
- Don't want to lose \$800,000

Chairman Inman commented:

- Reiterated the need for a trades facility in Stokes County

County Manager Morris reiterated this is just the first step in the process.

The Board agreed to place the item on the next Agenda.

## **Park Grant Program**

County Manager Morris presented the following information regarding the Park

Grant Program:

- Last year's allocation for park projects was very successful – all four county owned parks did a project in FY 2014-15
- Only one park has submitted a plan for a project for FY 2015-16
- Thinking about recommending suspending this allocation for the upcoming FY 2016-17 Budget

Chairman Inman suggested making sure that all the park organizations were aware of the grant for FY 2015-16.

Chairman Inman noted the following regarding the use of grant funding for the

Francisco Elementary School grounds:

- The grant was mentioned at the two-day event at Francisco Elementary School
- Questioned Manager Morris if that property qualified for the grant?

County Manager Morris responded:

- Not under the current requirements – the location is not a park
- Board would have to approve a grant for the location

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Listened to the comments regarding Little League and other uses for the playground
- Thought these people may be wanting to create a park
- The question is whether this Board would cover creating a park?

Chairman Inman commented:

- Current policy would not allow funding due to not being a park
- Questioned Commissioner Walker when was he thinking about the \$2,000 appropriation?

Commissioner Walker responded:

- Considering an appropriation when appropriate to do so

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- The non-profit can't make it a park
- They do not own the property
- They are currently in a 16-month period to see if a sustainable plan can be developed in order to take possession of the property
- Do not know what will happen to the property after the 16-month period if the non-profit can't provide a sustainable plan

Commissioner Walker noted that all the other parks that receive the \$2,000 appropriation are owned by the County.

The Board discussed the start of the county parks through CW Federal Grants and State PARTF Grants.

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- The grant in the Budget is for existing parks
- If we start new parks in areas of the County such as Francisco, I am sure other areas in the County will want to start a new park
- Will be on the Agenda to make application for a park in Lawsonville
- Can support the manager's recommendation to not allocate funding in the upcoming budget if the parks are not going to use it

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Can see both sides
- It is not a park
- It is a good place to have a park
- Would be a good faith incentive that may bring others out to help
- Looking back at Camp Sertoma – County couldn't allocate the needed funding
- Bottom line - doesn't qualify as a park
- If started as a park, keep in mind, another park to possibly keep up if they don't take over the property
- Just not sure I could allocate funding now

Chairman Inman commented:

- Want a great solution for the Francisco property
- Want the community to have the property and use the facilities if possible
- Property may have to be sold if no sustainable plan is developed
- Think the most important thing is whether they can use the grounds now
- County has liability insurance on the property
- It is the Board's decision whether to allow usage of the grounds
- There are people who want to clean up the facility and the grounds

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Would like to see this area and others have recreational opportunities
- Need wholesome activities for our young people
- Want to help if possible
- Anyone can apply and the Board would decide whether the application qualifies

Chairman Inman confirmed with Manager Morris that a proposed Memorandum of Understanding will be on the Board's next Agenda.

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- Other Little League groups do not have to sign a waiver nor do visitors to our parks in the County
- No problem with letting them use the grounds
- Will help to possibly gain community involvement

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Agree with Vice Chairman Booth, letting them use the grounds could help to gain community involvement

County Manager Morris continued:

- Requested input regarding the increase of fees for the upcoming FY 2016-17 Budget
- Will be looking at fire inspections fees (currently do not charge)
- Considering how much of the new sales tax dollars (\$1.5 million estimated) to allocate in the upcoming FY 2016-17 budget
- Will be another hard budget this year
- Reiterated that the new sales tax dollars must be allocated for either economic development, public education or community college
- Senator Randleman seems confident with allocating the entire \$1.5 million (conservative estimate)
- There is no definition or specific requirements on how to spend it on economic development, public education or community college

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Confirmed with Finance Director Edwards the County is projected to get \$43,000 more this fiscal year
- Confirmed with Finance Director Edwards the funding will not be included until the June payment

Chairman Inman commented:

- Always budget revenue conservative

County Manager Morris continued:

- Have been talking to the County's insurance broker, will receive an increase this year
- Affordable Care Act is impacting premiums this year
- Trend for BCBS is 15%
- Trying not to change carriers or benefits this year
- Had a bad claims experience this past year
- Other counties receiving 20% to 25% increases
- Affordable Care Act is coming part according to everyone we have talk to about insurance
- Not sure what the future will hold for health insurance
- Will be presenting final premiums at the next meeting

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Inman entertained a motion to adjourn the Goals/Budget Work Session.

Commissioner Jones moved to adjourn the Goals/Budget Work Session. Vice Chairman Booth seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

---

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

---

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