

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA )  
 )  
COUNTY OF STOKES )  
 )

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS  
STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA  
APRIL 25, 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 25, 2016 at 6:00 pm with the following members present:

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

County Personnel in Attendance:  
County Manager Richard D. Morris  
County Attorney Tyrone Browder  
Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins  
Finance Director Julia Edwards  
EMS Director Greg Collins  
Tax Administrator Jake Oakley

Chairman Leon Inman called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.

#### **INVOCATION**

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

Commissioner Inman delivered the invocation.

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

Chairman Inman invited those in attendance to join the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Chairman Inman entertained a motion to approve or amend the April 25, 2016 Agenda.

Commissioner Jones moved to approve the April 25<sup>th</sup> Agenda as presented.

Vice Chairman Booth seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

### **COMMENTS - Manager/Commissioners**

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

County Manager Rick Morris commented:

- Upcoming meeting:
  - Goals/Budget Work Session – Tuesday, April 26, 2016 at 1:00 pm

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Ethics for Life – “So are the ways of everyone that is greedy of gain, which taketh away the life of owners thereof”
- Little Folks Festival – Saturday, April 30, 2016 starting at 10:00 am at Walnut Cove Elementary School (sponsored by the Stokes Partnership for Children)

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- Farmer Appreciation Day Event went very well with over 600 attendees
- Would like to extend appreciation to the 40 local businesses that sponsored the event
- Soil and Water Conservation District sponsored the Annual Environment Awareness Day at Hanging Rock State Park last week (all Stokes County fifth grade students attend the event)

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Would like to compliment Vice Chairman Booth and the other volunteers who organized and worked to put on the Farmer Appreciation Day Event which was a great success

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Attended the NCACC District Meeting with Chairman Inman and Vice Chairman Booth last week in Surry County
- Lot of great networking

Chairman Inman commented:

- Agree the Farmer Appreciation Day Event was another great success
- Lot of discussion at the District Meeting regarding the lottery funding - think there will be renewed interest on behalf of our legislative liaison to try to get back a portion of the lottery funding for schools this year

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chairman Inman 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:

- We saw the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) today and with input from this meeting, we will review with Our Communities (OC) and OC's attorney. We have a leadership meeting tomorrow.
- We appreciate the experience we have had with the County Manager as we provided input for this draft and have started discussions with the Planning and Environmental Staff to learn if there is a path for OC volunteers to be helpful with issues of deferred maintenance and preventive maintenance.
- We have completed the initial assessment of roofs, HVAC, and septic systems with more to do on septic. We have identified a volunteer for the water and water treatment systems and still have other sources to approach: structural engineering, soil scientist, and septic engineer.
- We would like to comment on three terms in the MOU:
  - Please know that we continue to see the waiver under Term 6 as problematic... detrimental to success in numerous ways.
  - We urge deletion of Term 16 from the MOU as it is premature, more investigation needs to be done, and could undermine fund raising going forward. Let's explore and solve this issue together.
  - Request that Term 19 be moved to the action agenda; even if no other actions are taken. We have discussed the importance of moving forward in a timely manner and the impact this will have on community perception. Certain proposed items already have funding unless that funding is derailed.
- We are happy to be responsive during the meeting if you so choose or during a Working Group meeting.
- Thank you.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Consent Agenda:

### **Minutes**

- Minutes of March 21, 2016 - Goals/Budget Work Session
- Minutes of March 22, 2016 - Goals/Budget Work Session
- Minutes of April 8, 2016 - Special Called Meeting
- Minutes of April 11, 2016 - Regular Meeting
- Minutes of April 13, 2016 - Goals/Budget Work Session
- Minutes of April 13, 2016 – Emergency Called Meeting

### **Sheriff's Department - Budget Amendment #65**

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #65.

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>Sheriff's Department</b>				
100.4310.250	Auto Supplies	\$243,647.00	\$18,204.00	\$261,851.00
100.4310.510	Equipment	<u>\$201,656.00</u>	<u>\$(18,204.00)</u>	<u>\$183,452.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$445,303.00</b>	<b>\$00.00</b>	<b>\$445,303.00</b>

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To transfer funds for the replacement of scanning software. The software can't be upgraded and having issues per the IT Department. This software company is at a lower cost than the current software company.

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.

### **Health Department- Budget Amendment #66**

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #66.

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>Health Department</b>				
100.5100.511	Non-Capital Equipment	<u>\$10,211.00</u>	<u>\$2,722.00</u>	<u>\$12,933.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$10,211.00</b>	<b>\$2,722.00</b>	<b>\$12,933.00</b>

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

The Immunization Action Plan Program is receiving additional funding of \$2,722.00 to purchase a stand-alone freezer for vaccines. The State has encouraged the department to make the purchase during our last three (3) program audits. These funds will be used for the purchase.

This will result in a **net increase** of **\$2,722.00** in the expenditures and other financial use to the County's annual budget. To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will increase. These revenues have already been received or are verified they will be received this fiscal year.

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
100.3301.239	Immunization Action Plan	<u>\$8,526.00</u>	<u>\$2,722.00</u>	<u>\$22,248.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$8,526.00</b>	<b>\$2,722.00</b>	<b>\$11,248.00</b>

#### **Social Services - Budget Amendment #67**

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #67.

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

Account Number	Account Description Social Services	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
100.5310.320	Telephone	\$35,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$41,000.00
100.5310.321	Postage	<u>\$35,000.00</u>	<u>\$(6,000.00)</u>	<u>\$29,000.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$70,000.00</b>	<b>\$00.00</b>	<b>\$70,000.00</b>

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To appropriate additional funding for telephone.

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.

#### **Legal - Budget Amendment #68**

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #68.

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

Account Number	Account Description Legal	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
100.4150.180	Professional Services	\$80,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$90,000.00
	<b>Contingency</b>			
100.9910.000	Contingency	<u>\$95,920.00</u>	<u>\$(10,000.00)</u>	<u>\$85,920.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$175,920.00</b>	<b>\$00.00</b>	<b>\$175,920.00</b>

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To transfer funds from Contingency for possible litigation.

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 – Emergency Medical Services Week – May 15-21, 2016**

Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins, on behalf of EMS Director Greg Collins, presented the following proposed Proclamation – Emergency Medical Services Week – May 15-21, 2016 for the Board's consideration and approval at the April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting:

**STOKES COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK 2016**

**BY THE STOKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, The State of North Carolina has proclaimed May 15–21, 2016 as "EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK"; and

**WHEREAS**, Stokes County's Emergency Medical Services system is a vital public service; and

**WHEREAS**, the members of the Emergency Medical Services teams are ready to provide life-sustaining care to those in need twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week; and

**WHEREAS**, over the years, the quality of emergency care has dramatically improved the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury; and

**WHEREAS**, the residents and visitors to Stokes County benefit daily from the dedicated efforts, knowledge and skills of the emergency medical teams, career and volunteer; emergency medical technicians; paramedics; emergency nurses; emergency physicians; rescue squad workers; fire fighters; public safety telecommunications personnel; emergency administrators; emergency response educators; disaster response personnel, and others who received specialized training and continuing education to enhance and maintain their lifesaving skills; and

**WHEREAS**, injury prevention, public safety education and the appropriate use of the Emergency Medical Services system will help reduce health care costs; and

**WHEREAS**, to recognize the value and accomplishments of the Emergency Medical Services teams, we set aside a special period to observe the contribution of these men and women to the citizens of Stokes County.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE STOKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS** do hereby proclaim May 15-21, 2016, as "EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK" in

Stokes County, and call upon all citizens to observe this period with appropriate programs and activities.

Approved this 25<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2016.

---

**Chairman J. Leon Inman**

---

**Vice-Chairman James D. Booth**

---

**Commissioner Ronda Jones**

---

**Commissioner Ernest Lankford**

---

**Commissioner Jimmy Walker**

---

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

Vice Chairman Booth moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Jones seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

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

Chairman Inman noted there were no items on tonight's Information Agenda.

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

#### **Tax Administration Report – March 2016**

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following informational data for the March 2016 Report:

<b>Fiscal Year 2015-16</b>	<b>Budget Amt</b>	<b>Collected Amt</b>	<b>Over Budget</b>	<b>Under Budget</b>
<b>Current 2015 Taxes</b> Percentage = 0.9869%	\$20,083,177.00	\$19,820,552.68		\$262,624.32
<b>New Schools F-Tech Fund</b> Percentage = 1.0117%	\$1,295,689.00	\$1,310,876.75		\$(15,187.75)
<b>Prior Taxes</b> County Regular & Motor Vehicles Percentage = 0.5582%	\$675,000.00	\$376,761.44		\$298,238.56
<b>Business and Personal Property Discovery Report</b>				
<b>Audit Dates</b>	<b>Accts</b>	<b>Total Value</b>	<b>Taxes Due</b>	
(03-01-16/03-31-16)	26	\$35,127.00	\$344.64	
(07-01-15/06-30-16)	241	\$1,025,109.00	\$9,252.23	

**Motor Vehicle Release Report****Audit Dates**

Assessment through NC

Department of Motor Vehicles

**Garnishment Totals**

Month	Total Accounts	Original Levy Amount	Collected Amount
(03-1-16/03-31-16)	136	\$63,580.87	\$20,254.35
<b>F/Year 2015-16</b>			
(07-1-15/6-30-16)	517	\$423,184.95	\$157,909.12

**Interstate Collection Report**

March 2016

	Collection	Total Collected
Cumulative Total Collected to Date	NC Debt Setoff	<b>\$252,910.47</b>
Cumulative Total Collected (to date)	Motor Vehicles	\$139,850.23
Cumulative Total Collected (to date)	Property Taxes	\$51,708.09
Cumulative Total Collected (to date)	EMS	<u>\$344,325.37</u>
Collected (to date)	All Categories	<b>\$535,883.69</b>

**EMS Billing & Collections for Fiscal Year 2015-16**

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following EMS Billing &amp; Collections

Report for Fiscal Year 2015-16 for the Board's review:

Transports				Medicare Medicaid Non	Other Non	Collection
Month	Billed	Charged	Collected	Billable*	Billable*	Rate
Jul-15	451	\$264,725.10	\$140,364.35	\$44,654.00	\$5,450.71	53.02%
Aug-15	235	\$136,920.60	\$121,859.97	\$52,114.81		89.00%
Sep-15	531	\$312,070.00	\$123,758.91	\$67,180.42	\$1,248.97	39.66%
Oct-15	463	\$277,229.80	\$135,206.53	\$73,293.22	\$1,585.07	48.77%
Nov-15	284	\$170,135.80	\$131,446.96	\$52,921.82	\$573.90	77.26%
Dec-15	294	\$175,245.10	\$122,491.88	\$42,150.10	\$154.37	69.90%
Jan-16	403	\$254,929.33	\$100,256.21	\$50,000.25	\$782.48	39.33%
Feb-16	417	\$272,343.00	\$133,166.94	\$56,471.79	\$5,224.04	48.90%
Mar-16	591	\$387,900.90	\$181,693.18	\$79,633.50	\$(554.93)	46.84%
Apr-16						
May-16						
Jun-16						
Totals	3,669	\$2,251,499.63	\$1,190,244.93	\$518,419.91	\$14,464.61	54.86%

Non Billable are contractual obligation, amount for which the patient can't be billed  
August – decreased billed and charged due to increase in collection of property taxes



## Collection of New State Motor Vehicle Billings

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Collection of New State Motor Vehicle Billing for the Board's review:

- Graph shows each month's collection per taxing codes: **February 2016**  
New VTS System

Tax Code	Levy	Interest	Adjustment	Billing	Net
Jurisdiction	Billed	Paid	Made	Cost	Collected
City of King	\$16,264	\$147	-\$24	-\$959	\$15,428
King Car Fee	\$2,175	\$13	None	None	\$2,188
Walnut Cove Town	\$2,127	\$25	-\$40	-\$104	\$2,008
Danbury Town	\$224	None	None	-\$11	\$213
School Tax	\$11,646	\$91	-\$23	-\$600	\$11,114
King Fire	\$3,584	\$29	-\$3	-\$187	\$3,423
Rural Hall Fire	\$683	\$6	-\$1	-\$36	\$652
Walnut Cove Fire	\$2,183	\$15	-\$19	-\$112	\$2,067
General County	\$180,428	\$1,413	-\$356	-\$9,302	\$172,183
Service Fire	\$10,845	\$80	-\$7	-\$557	\$10,361
<b>Total Collected</b>	<b>\$230,159</b>	<b>\$1,819</b>	<b>(\$473)</b>	<b>(\$11,868)</b>	<b>\$219,637</b>

- Cost in the New VTS System is calculated in all areas of billing (staffing, contracting, postage, DMV, software, etc.) by the NC Department of Revenue and prorated on each taxing district per bill
- Cost in car fees for the City of King is calculated in the City of King Bills

### **CUMULATIVE COLLECTION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-16** **NC Vehicle Tax System Summary per Tax District)**

<b>Total Cumulative Collected to date (NCVTS) system</b>	City of King/Car fee	\$150,484.00
<b>Total Vehicles Billed Per Tax Code 3,753</b>	Total Expenses	<u>\$(7,338.00)</u>
<b>Average Cost per Bill = \$1.96</b>	Total Net Collected	\$143,146.00
<b>Total Cumulative Collected to date (NCVTS) system</b>	Town of Walnut Cove	\$19,397.00
<b>Total Vehicles Billed Per Tax Code 788</b>	Total Expenses	<u>\$(940.00)</u>
<b>Average Cost per Bill = \$1.19</b>	Total Net Collected	\$18,457.00
<b>Total Cumulative Collected to date (NCVTS) system</b>	Town of Danbury	\$1,236.00
<b>Total Vehicles Billed Per Tax Code 84</b>	Total Expenses	<u>\$(57.00)</u>
<b>Average Cost per Bill = \$0.68</b>	Total Net Collected	\$1,179.00
<b>Total Cumulative Collected to date (NCVTS) system</b>	F Tech/School Fund	\$90,349.00
<b>Total Vehicles Billed Per Tax Code 33,277</b>	Total Expenses	<u>\$(4,346.00)</u>
<b>Average Cost per Bill = \$0.13</b>	Total Net Collected	\$86,003.00

Total Cumulative Collected to date (NCVTS) system	King Fire District	\$25,002.00
Total Vehicles Billed Per Tax Code 5,104	Total Expenses	<u>\$(1,228.00)</u>
Average Cost per Bill = \$0.24	Total Net Collected	\$23,774.00

Total Vehicles Billed Per Tax Code 966	Total Expenses	<u>\$(223.00)</u>
Average Cost per Bill = \$0.23	Total Net Collected	\$4,378.00

Total Cumulative Collected to date (NCVTS) system	Walnut Cove Fire Dist.	\$16,032.00
Total Vehicles Billed Per Tax Code 3,641	Total Expenses	<u>\$(769.00)</u>
Average Cost per Bill = \$0.21	Total Net Collected	\$15,263.00

Total Cumulative Collected to date (NCVTS) system	General County	\$1,382,991.00
Total Vehicles Billed Per Tax Code 33,277	Total Expenses	<u>\$66,669.00)</u>
Average Cost per Bill = \$2.00	Total Net Collected	\$1,316,322.00

Total Cumulative Collected to date (NCVTS) system	Service Fire District	\$83,418.00
Total Vehicles Billed Per Tax Code 19,031	Total Expenses	<u>\$(4,001.00)</u>
Average Cost per Bill = \$0.21	Total Net Collected	\$79,417.00

Total Cumulative Collected NCVTS through February (all tax districts)	\$1,773,510.00
Total Expenses for NCVTS through February(all tax districts)	\$(85,571.00)
Total net collected for NCVTS through February (all tax districts)	\$1,687,939.00
Average cost per total billings through February	\$2.57 per bill

Lowest cost billed = \$2.34 (County, School Fund, Service Fire) (based on 33,277 cars)  
Highest cost billed = \$4.09 (County, School Fund, King City based on 3,753 cars)

#### Releases Less than \$100 – Real and Personal Property

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Releases less than \$100 –

Real and Personal Property (March 2016) at the April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting for the Board's review:

#### **Releases Less Than \$100 - Real/Personal Property**

Name	Bill No	Amount
Larry & Gail Joyce	284258-2015	\$35.04
Mark O. Helms	297261-2015	<u>\$1.60</u>
Total		\$36.64

### **Releases More than \$100 – Real and Personal Property**

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Releases more than \$100 – Real and Personal Property (March 2016) at the April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting for the Board's review with consideration at the May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting:

#### **Releases More Than \$100 - Real/Personal Property**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Bill No</b>	<b>Amount</b>	
<b>Robert G. Johnson</b>	296890-2015	\$186.88	Revised Assessment of Dwelling
	296890-2014	\$180.48	
	296890-2013	\$180.48	
<b>Moir R Bennett</b>	301615-0070-2016-15	\$91.98	Released deferred bill as acreage deeded
	301615-0070-2016-14	<u>\$88.83</u>	changed-revised bill to be processed
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$728.65</b>	

### **Refunds More than \$100 – Real and Personal Property**

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Refunds more than \$100 – Real and Personal Property (March 2016) at the April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting for the Board's review with consideration at the May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting:

#### **Refunds More Than \$100 - Real/Personal Property**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Bill No</b>	<b>Amount</b>	
<b>Lois Martin Amos</b>	29066425	\$149.46	Out of state
<b>Scott Chilton</b>	28332904	\$103.72	Vehicle totaled
<b>David Allen Deal</b>	23155154	<u>\$347.84</u>	Vehicle sold
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$601.02</b>	

Tax Administrator Oakley requested the following be placed on the May 9<sup>th</sup> Consent Agenda for consideration of approval:

- Releases More than \$100 – Real and Personal Property
- Refunds More than \$100 – Real and Personal Property

Chairman Inman opened the floor for discussion.

The Board had no issues with the monthly information presented by Tax Administrator Oakley.

Chairman Inman, with full consent of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the following items on the May 9<sup>th</sup> Consent Agenda:

- Releases More than \$100 – Real and Personal Property
- Refunds More than \$100 – Real and Personal Property

### **Tax Administration Agenda Reporting**

Tax Administrator Oakley presented the following information regarding the Tax Administration Agenda:

- Request the following currently being submitted monthly be changed and submitted to the Board on a quarterly basis:
  - EMS monthly report
  - NC VTS (cars) monthly report
  - Garnishments
  - Discoveries
  - Delinquent Collections by DataMax
- These five reports would be submitted in January, April, July and October
- This would free-up time on the Board's Agenda, making more time available for the Board to spend on other pressing needs, along with reducing the time the Board Clerk spends on minutes
- This request is only a recommendation, it will be up to the Board whether or not to approve the change in reporting
- If approved, the new procedure would start now and the first of the four (4) reporting quarters would be July 11, 2016 with the year's end reporting of the 2015-16 Budget Year
- The following reports would continue to be reported monthly:
  - Monthly Collections
  - All Releases
  - All Refunds
  - All Write-offs
  - Any other needed reporting
- Will be happy to continue as usual if desired by the Board

Chairman Inman opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Like Tax Administrator Oakley's recommendation to go quarterly for some of the reports
- Saves time, money, etc.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Confirmed with Tax Administrator Oakley that the reports recommended to stay monthly could not be quarterly; they are needed monthly in order to carry on the business in the Tax Department
- Comfortable with Tax Administrator Oakley's recommendation to move some of the reports that need no action to quarterly

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- Can go either way

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Continue the way it is

Chairman Inman commented:

- Can go either way

Chairman Inman, with full consent of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the May 9<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda.

**Proposed Memorandum of Understanding – Stokes County & Our Communities of NW Stokes**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following proposed Memorandum of Understanding – Stokes County & Our Communities of NW Stokes for the Board review and consideration:

**Francisco School Repurposing MOU with Terms of  
Stokes County (SC) and Our Communities of NW Stokes (OC)**

**Purpose:**

This Memorandum of Understanding between the Stokes County (SC) Board of Commissioners (BOCC) and the residents of Northwest Stokes, represented by Our Communities (OC), summarizes the terms of agreement for their collaboration through the end of June 2017. It sets forth the working relationship and expectations of both parties required for a successful collaboration.

**Goal – Phase 1 (through June 30, 2017):**

Develop feasible and sustainable plan for the repurposing of the Francisco Elementary School (facility and grounds) to serve the people and communities of northern Stokes County:

**Potential Outcomes:**

- (1) OC is successful in creating a feasible and sustainable plan.
- (2) OC is unsuccessful in creating a feasible and sustainable plan and there appears to be no path in doing so and no alternative. Thus, the County puts the property on the market for sale.

**Terms:**

1. **Working Group** – Consists of two County Commissioners, County Manager, Director of Planning and Economic Development and four representatives from OC, including the points of contact shown below. The working group will meet once per month.
2. **SC Points of Contact** – Rick Morris will serve as the SC primary point of contact and David Sudderth will serve as the SC alternate point of contact.
3. **OC Points of Contact** – Texie Jessup will serve as the OC point of contact and Horace Stimson as the OC alternate point of contact to avoid miscommunications and confusion with OC. They will generally meet as a team.
4. **Accessibility of Property** - All of the school buildings and property will be made accessible to OC and community to support the planning and evaluation process for re-purposing the property.
5. **Use of Buildings** – No other use of the buildings will be authorized prior to the transfer of ownership from Stokes County to an OC designated entity unless mutually agreed as to use(s) and restrictions.
  - **Air Movement** – SC will work with OC to ensure proper air circulation is maintained in the buildings as a preventative maintenance measure.
  - **Agriculture Building** - SC will work with OC to determine if the Agriculture Building can be used by OC between now and July 2017 assuming there are no health and safety issues associated with the building.
6. **Use of the grounds** – Use of the grounds by the public, including use by the communities, is authorized, during County ownership covered by County liability insurance as mutually agreed to by SC and OC and approved by the County Manager. Users will be required to sign a waiver of liability and Hold Harmless Agreement that is approved by the County Attorney (draft copy attached).
7. **Quarterly Review** - A quarterly presentation will be made by OC to the BOCC to report and assess progress being made with the re-purposing effort.

8. **Insurance** - Stokes County will pay property & liability insurance premiums plus utilities and will maintain the grounds during the period of County ownership. Property insurance will have a \$25,000 deductible.
9. **Operating Costs Cap** - A cap may be placed on utilities (electrical) cost if grounds are used in a manner that generates additional cost, such as operating ballfield lighting.
10. **Building Codes** - Any re-purposing plan that is approved must meet all building code, sewer and zoning requirements.
11. **Official Communications** - All official communications on the re-purposing effort must flow between the county manager and the point of contact and alternate point of contact of OC.
12. **Progress** - Progress must be demonstrated at the quarterly reviews with the BOCC if the re-purposing effort is to continue until July 2017.
13. **Property Transfer** - Stokes County is prepared to transfer ownership of the Francisco School Property to a non-profit or another acceptable entity at any time after a re-purposing plan is approved subject to legal requirements for the transfer of county owned real estate that are set out in Attachment #1 to these terms and conditions.
14. **Inspections** - The Stokes County Department of Public Buildings will make bi-weekly site visits to the Francisco School Property to inspect for any changes in the condition of the property.
15. **Plan Not Approved** - If a re-purposing plan is not approved by June 30, 2017, Stokes County intends to place the property on the market for sale.
16. **Change of Purpose** - If property is transferred out of County ownership and then ceases to be used for the approved public purpose the property will revert back to the County; the reversion provisions should be included on the deed that transfers ownership of the property.
17. **Grants to SC** – Stokes County will serve as a sponsor in the grant process for those grants that can only be awarded to or approved by government entities. SC will also support grants written by the nonprofit from nongovernment entities. OC will prepare grant applications / documentation for signature by the County where government signoff is required.
18. **Water** – Water will continue to be available to the outside and provisions made, as required, for water access inside the building when cleanup is going on. The County will not require a sewer operator to keep the inside water turned on between now and June 2017 since the buildings will not be inhabited other than for maintenance and cleanup purposes.
19. **Immediate Actions Requested by OC** – While this MOU is in the approval process the BOCC approves the following:
  - Little League may use the school ground for practice and games;

- Events may be conducted on the outside grounds by OC starting with the Community Activity Day for Kids and Families to plant flowers in existing flower beds, start a community garden, enjoy food, and participate in other outdoor activities;
- Other events to be scheduled including Francisco Community Day where school yard may be a part of the celebration that ties in with the Community Building;
- Porta-johns will be obtained and placed on property to support baseball and other community uses at the expense of OC or other community entities;
- OC will begin implementation of OC approved beautification / improvement plans for property and equipment
- The agriculture building will be made available for cleanup and use as a storage facility if no health & safety issues are identified with the building, such as the presence of non-encapsulated asbestos.

County Manager Morris noted the following:

- Incorporated input from the Our Communities of NW Stokes into the proposed MOU
- Understand the position of the OC regarding the waiver in Item #6
- Would leave the decision to take it out up to the Board of Commissioners
- There are things in Item #19 that need to be considered at tonight's meeting
- Once the MOU is approved, will set up the first meeting with two commissioners, county staff, and OC representatives
- County Attorney Ty Browder has reviewed and approved the proposed MOU
- County Attorney Ty Browder prepared the proposed Waiver of Liability and Hold Harmless Agreement

Chairman Inman opened the floor for discussion:

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- Do not see the need to include the waiver
- County has liability insurance on the property
- County owns other properties such as parks that do not have waivers signed by everyone who uses them
- Good with the proposed MOU

Commissioner Walker commented:

- On Board with Vice Chairman Booth's recommendation
- Agree with Vice Chairman Booth regarding the county not requiring waivers for other county properties
- Don't have any issues with approving Item #19 at tonight's meeting
- Hope there can be some help with the agriculture building

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Good with the suggestions already mentioned
- Confirmed with County Manager Morris that by not having a waiver, there could be a little higher risk



Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Can go either way – with or without the waiver

County Manager Morris commented:

- Wanted to mention one other point
- Would like to have County Attorney Ty Browder's opinion about deleting Item #16 which reverts back ownership of the property if the facility is transferred to another entity and ceases to be used for the approved public purpose (wording would be included on the deed)

County Attorney Ty Browder responded:

- Definitely needs to be included in the MOU

Chairman Inman noted a particular city in North Carolina who had gotten into legal trouble by not disclosing this type of information in a similar situation.

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Item #16 definitely needs to stay in the MOU – deals with what will happen to the property if a re-purposing plan is not approved by June 30, 2017

Chairman Inman allowed Mr. Horace Stimson, OC Representative, to speak.

Ms. Stimson commented:

- The OC is not disputing that it is not needed on the deed, the OC is just asking that it not be included in the MOU
- There may be some issues that both groups can explore together that might change in some way
- Don't want it to interfere until it can be discussed with the working group
- Feel it could interfere with fund raising efforts
- Want to discuss it and address it

County Attorney Browder responded:

- Everyone needs to be upfront and this definitely needs to stay in the MOU

The Board discussed Item #16, which County Attorney Browder reiterated that this is a disclosure statement and definitely needs to remain in the MOU.

Mr. Stimson commented:

- During the assessment, there are some things that need to be addressed with County staff

Chairman Inman commented:

- Agree Item #19 needs to be addressed at tonight's meeting
- Reiterated that the Little League has a \$1 million insurance policy

- Understand the county's insurance representative suggesting a possible waiver, that is their job
- Don't see the waiver as being practical

The Board discussed moving Item #19 to tonight's Action Agenda for consideration.

The Board discussed deleting the waiver from the MOU.

The Board unanimously agreed to delete the waiver wording from Item #6 of the MOU (delete - Users will be required to sign a waiver of liability and Hold Harmless Agreement that is approved by the County Attorney - draft copy attached).

Commissioner Lankford suggested approving the entire MOU instead of just Item #19.

The Board discussed approving the entire MOU.

Commissioner Walker noted that once the MOU is approved, it can always be brought back to the Board for reconsideration if needed.

Commissioner Walker questioned Attorney Browder if there were any issues with approving the entire MOU at tonight's meeting?

County Attorney Browder responded:

- See no issues with approving the entire MOU
- Changes can always be brought back to the Board for consideration

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

County Manager Morris commented:

- If the MOU is approved, will schedule a meeting with OC representatives, county staff and two commissioners for the latter part of May

#### **Proposed Letter of Intent – Stokes County High Speed Internet/Broadband Expansion Project**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following proposed Letter of Intent - Stokes County High Speed Internet/Broadband Expansion Project for the Board's review and consideration:

**Letter of Intent to Wilkes Communications; dba, RiverStreet Networks**

**Subject:** Grant Funding for the Expansion of High Speed Internet / Broadband

Stokes County recently issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) soliciting High Speed Internet / Broadband providers to expand High Speed Internet / Broadband to unserved users in Stokes County, which is authorized by N.C. General Statute 153A-349.60 – Authorization to provide grants.

Your proposal was the winning proposal in the County's RFP process based on evaluation criteria that were contained in the RFP.

Based on the investment amount that your company committed to in your proposal, and subject to approval of a contract containing grant terms and conditions, it is the intent of Stokes County to provide you \$1,800,000 in grant funding for High Speed Internet / Broadband expansion in Stokes County. This dollar amount will be budgeted in the FY16/17 Stokes County Budget and incorporated into the above-referenced contract providing for the funds to be disbursed in three equal payments over the next three fiscal years with the first payment being made during July 2016. July is the first month of the County's fiscal year.

---

**Chairman J. Leon Inman**  
**Stokes County Board of Commissioners**

Attest:

---

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

County Manager Morris noted the following:

- This is the same proposed Letter of Intent provided to the Board at the April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting with the exception of the dollar amount which has been added
- Meets all the requirements of the RFP
- Can see by the justification sheet that RiverStreet is taking some risks – borrowing money for the project in Stokes
- County Attorney Ty Browder has reviewed and approved both the proposed Letter of Intent and Justification
- Would request to move the item to tonight's Action Agenda so that the RiverStreet's CEO can show his Board of Directors some good assurance that Stokes County is moving forward to assist in the project

County Manager Morris provided the Board with the following justification sheet for the Broadband Grant Funding:

**Justification for High Speed Internet / Broadband Grant Funding**

In reference to the draft letter of intent that was recently presented to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), it is recommended that Stokes County provide Wilkes

Communications; dba, RiverStreet Networks \$1,800,000.00 in grant funding to supplement the company's investment in Stokes County's broadband expansion project with Wilkes Communications; dba, RiverStreet Networks. These funds would be dispersed in three equal payments in accordance with the terms contained in the letter of intent. Upon approval of the letter of intent and funding level, the funds will be budgeted by the County in its FY 16/17 Budget and a contract specifying the terms and conditions of the grant funding completed between Stokes County and Wilkes Communications; dba, RiverStreet Networks.

Just over a year ago Commissioner James Booth and the county manager met with Wilkes Communication, at the suggestion of Senator Shirley Randleman, to discuss the potential expansion of high speed internet / broadband coverage for unserved and underserved residents, students and businesses in Stokes County. This initial meeting led to a project between Stokes County and Wilkes Communications; dba, RiverStreet Networks that will change the face of Stokes County forever, and place Stokes County into a special category of broadband connectivity that separates the county from most other rural counties in North Carolina, the Southeastern United States and the nation as a whole. Without the commitment of Wilkes Communications; dba, RiverStreet Networks to Stokes County, the likelihood of the county receiving expanded high speed internet / broadband in the majority of the unserved areas in the county was not envisioned for decades into the future, if ever.

The Wilkes Communications; dba, RiverStreet Networks business plan, which inherently contained several types of risk to the company, envisioned Wilkes Communications; dba, RiverStreet Networks being able to initially win the business of the local school system, hospital and county government. These entities would then be leveraged to expand connectivity to unserved and underserved residents of the county, especially students who are at a great disadvantage in today's virtual learning environment without adequate Internet connectivity. All of the funding for the project was initially to be provided by Wilkes Communications; dba, RiverStreet Networks. When the dust settled, Wilkes Communications; dba, RiverStreet Networks ended up with the county government business, but missed out on the school system and the hospital business due to other factors that could not be anticipated in the beginning. Even with these setbacks to the original business plan, Wilkes Communications; dba, RiverStreet Networks remained committed to the project, which has evolved to approximately \$13 Million in cost for the initial three to five year phases of the project, which installs the backbone network and provides the platform for further expansion to many unserved and underserved users. As a result of weather and other schedule delays, increased cost of materials and challenging rocky terrain for fiber optic cable installation, the cost of the original project is approximately 30% higher than estimated at the start. Even with this overrun, Wilkes Communications; dba, RiverStreet Networks remained committed to the project and is borrowing funds when required to keep the project on schedule and not reduce the project scope. Furthermore, their commitment to Stokes County not only involves fiber optic cable installation, but also includes the construction of a half million dollar customer service building / network hub in Danbury, creation of new local jobs and other community support, all of which equal a major positive impact the Stokes County's economic development health and potential. In conclusion, it should be clear to everyone concerned that the \$1,800,000.00 level of county grant funding recommended to support the Wilkes Communications; dba,

RiverStreet Networks project is not excessive and clearly meets the criteria specified in the County's request for proposal, given the \$12,900,000 total project cost contained in the Wilkes Communications; dba, RiverStreet Networks proposal. This conclusion is further supported by Wilkes Communications; dba, RiverStreet Networks continued commitment to the project even though project costs have escalated 30% beyond the original estimates. It's difficult to envision, in today's virtual world, where the County could realize a greater economic development and educational return on its investment than this partnership with Wilkes Communications; dba, RiverStreet Networks to expand high speed internet / broadband availability in Stokes County.

Chairman Inman opened the floor for discussion.

Vice Chairman Booth confirmed with Manager Morris that the project cost is approximately 30% higher than estimated at the start.

Vice Chairman Booth also confirmed with Manager Morris that the project is now approximately \$13 million in cost.

Commissioner Lankford had no comments.

Commissioner Jones had no comments.

Commissioner Walker recommended moving the item to tonight's Action Agenda.

The Board had no issues with moving the proposed Letter of Intent to the Action Agenda.

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

#### **Proposed Capital Improvement Project – Forsyth Technical Community College**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding the proposed Capital Improvement Project for the Board's review and consideration:

- Previously discussed by the Board at the April 13<sup>th</sup> Goals/Budget Work Session
- Capital Improvement Project is for a Shop Building at the Community College Meadows Campus of Stokes County
- Description of the project:
  - New facility
  - Approximately 3,500 sq. ft. building
  - Will consist of several trade shop areas, such as welding, carpentry, plumbing, HVAC, etc.
- Estimated cost of the project = \$809,410

- Approximately \$500,000 from the NC Connect Bond Referendum
- Approximately \$309,410 from Forsyth Tech Community College
- Approximately \$9,410 more than the first estimate presented to the Board at the April 13<sup>th</sup> work session
- Approved by the Forsyth Tech Community College Board of Trustees on April 14<sup>th</sup>
- County must approve the Certification as to availability of Local Support and Funds which certifies that the County is estimated to provide an additional \$22,449 per year for annual operating and utility costs
- Would request this item be placed on the May 9<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda
- After approval by the Board, the next step would be to have Forsyth Tech Representatives come to a Board meeting to discuss the project

Chairman Inman opened the floor for discussion.

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- Just want to let people know that the recent NC Connect Bond that was approved by the people of NC is providing the funding for this new building
- Reiterated Manager Morris' comments regarding the \$309,410 that is being provided by Forsyth Tech Community College
- Feel there is a real need for this type of training at the community college
- Will always need these trades – carpenters, plumbers, electricians, mechanics, welders, etc.
- Would also like to mention that this same bond will provide Hanging Rock State Park approximately \$2.1 million that will be used at Vade Mecum – will start with renovations to the old hotel

Chairman Inman commented:

- Reiterated the need for trades
- Remember when trades were taken out of the schools and replaced by technology
- Will be a great addition to our community college site

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Can also remember when trades were taken out of the schools, was actually a vocational teacher at the time
- Not all kids want to go to college for a four-year degree
- Lot of kids want to do hands on work
- Nothing is wasted in vocational
- Even if the kid decides another career path, those trades come in handy in daily life

Commissioner Lankford confirmed with County Manager Morris that the document must be signed before a meeting can be scheduled with Forsyth Tech representatives.

County Manager Morris responded:

- Representatives from Forsyth Tech can't start on the project until the document has been signed

- This particular document was delayed with our community college project which caused some scheduling issues
- This document does not lock the County into anything

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Would prefer to know what the \$809,410 will actually be spent on prior to making a decision

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Glad to be discussing this topic on tonight's Agenda
- There is a definite need for trades
- Like the spirit of the relationship between Forsyth Tech and Stokes County currently
- Seems like they are taking our interests into account to meet our needs
- County has already approved a hoop house to be located on the campus property
- Hope this is just the first step in helping our citizens be able to continue to make a living from the land
- Have available land for the proposed trades building

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- Just wanted to mention that technology is used in all trades – computers are constantly being used in just about all vocational trades

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Just wanted to mention that the trade courses were promised upfront when the community college was started
- Trades were to be taught at the new community college
- Feel the meeting with Forsyth Tech should be before signing the document, don't agree with the process

The Board agreed to place the item on the May 9<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda.

Chairman Inman, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the May 9<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda.

### **Proposed Fiscal Year 2016-17 Health and Dental Rates**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding proposed Health and Dental Rates for Fiscal Year 2016-17 for the Board's review and consideration:

- Health Insurance
  - Will remain with Blue Cross and Blue Shield
  - Premiums reflect a 15% increase
  - No change in benefits
  - Annual estimated increase for the County budget = \$232,560

- Dental Insurance
  - Will remain with Assurant
  - No increase in premiums
  - No change in benefits
- Term Life Insurance
  - Will remain the same
  - No increase in premiums

	<b>Employee Current Monthly Premium</b>	<b>Employee New Monthly Premium</b>
<b>BCBS Health Insurance</b>		
Employee Only	\$ 430.93	\$ 495.53
Spouse coverage	\$ 511.94	\$ 588.71
Child coverage	\$ 163.73	\$ 188.28
Children coverage	\$ 361.98	\$ 416.23
Family coverage	\$ 989.39	\$1,137.68

	<b>Employee Current Monthly Premium</b>	<b>Employee New Monthly Premium</b>
<b>Assurant Dental Insurance</b>		
Employee Only	\$ 27.75	\$ 27.75
Spouse coverage	\$ 32.75	\$ 32.75
Child coverage	\$ 33.25	\$ 33.25
Children coverage	\$ 40.75	\$ 40.75
Family coverage	\$ 80.25	\$ 80.25

- Would request the item be moved to tonight's Action Agenda in order to get everything done for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2016-17

Chairman Inman opened the floor for discussion.

The Board discussed the proposed 15% increase which will increase the FY 2016-17 budget in the amount of approximately \$232,560.00.

The Board discussed being in the private market, Affordable Care Act, and the County's Claims Experience which all played a part in the 15% increase.

The Board agreed to place the item on tonight's Action Agenda.

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



on tonight's Action Agenda.

**Proposed Resolution – VESTA 911 Software/Hardware Upgrade**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following proposed Resolution regarding the VESTA 911 Software Upgrade for the Board's review and consideration:

**RESOLUTION**

**EXEMPTION FROM GENERAL STATUTES  
FOR E911 ANI/ALI UPGRADE**

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina General Statutes 143-129 require public bidding for the purchase of apparatus, supplies, materials, or equipment requiring an estimated expenditure of public money over a stated dollar amount and further provided that no contract may be awarded therefore, by any board or governing body of the State, or of any institution of the State government, or of any political subdivision of the State, unless provisions of these statutes are complied with;

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina General Statute 143-129 contains the following exception;

(e) (6) Exceptions – The requirements of this Article do not apply to:

Purchases of apparatus, supplies, materials, or equipment when: (i) performance or price competition for a product are not available; (ii) a needed product is available from only one source of supply; or (iii) standardization or compatibility is the overriding consideration. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the governing board of a political subdivision of the State shall approve the purchases listed in the preceding sentence prior to the award of the contract.

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners is convened in a regular meeting:

**NOW THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF STOKES COUNTY  
RESOLVES THAT:**

The purchase of VESTA 911 ANI/ALI software/hardware package from Century Link be made exempt from the provisions of North Carolina General Statute bidding requirements per 143-129(e)(6) for the following reasons:

- Stokes County's E911 system currently utilizes 911 ANI/ALI software/hardware purchased and supported by Century Link;
- Stokes County E911 Center current ANI/ALI software has to be upgraded to VESTA 911 software before Stokes County can utilize Rockingham County's E911 Center as a back-up communications location;

- Software/hardware compatibility, standardization with one (1) vendor and past/current vendor performance are major concerns to be taken into consideration for this purchase;

**Adopted the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2016.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
J. Leon Inman - Chairman

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ernest Lankford - Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ronda Jones – Commissioner

Attest \_\_\_\_\_  
Darlene Bullins - Clerk to the Board

County Manager Morris noted the following:

- Funding for the purchase of the VESTA 911 Software/Hardware Upgrade was approved by the Board of Commissioners on Budget Amendment #44 dated February 22, 2016 (No County Funding – E911 Funding)
- The proposed resolution is a Sole Source Resolution that needs the Board's approval before the County can move forward with the purchase
- Have no choice but go with CenturyLink for E911 Communications
- County must have a backup plan into the State by July 1, 2016 in order to use Rockingham County as our backup center
- This is part of what has to be in place to use Rockingham County as our backup center
- Request approval of the proposed resolution at the May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Chairman Inman opened the floor for discussion.

Vice Chairman Booth confirmed with County Manager Morris that legislation requires every county to have a backup center.

Commissioner Walker confirmed with County Manager Morris that the County could not be Rockingham County's backup due to a backup center has to be as big or bigger than your own communication center; therefore, Rockingham County would have to go to a larger county.

The Board had no issues placing the item on the May 9<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda.

Chairman Inman, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the May 9<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda.

### **External Posting – Health Department**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding an external posting for the Health Department:

- Request from Health Director Scott Lenhart to externally post one vacant Processing Assistant III if no internal qualified applicant applies
- This position is vital to the department as it case manages Medicaid children and reaches out to them for appointments
- There is no county funding – paid by the Northwest Community Care Network
- Request to move the item to tonight's Action Agenda
- If approved, would be able to advertise on April 26<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 tonight's Action Agenda.

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

### **Scheduling for Fiscal Year 2016-17 Budget Work Sessions and Public Hearing**

Chairman Inman opened the floor for discussion and suggestions for scheduling of Budget Work Sessions and Public Hearing regarding the Fiscal Year 2016-17 Budget.

The Board discussed possible dates.

The Board unanimously agreed on the following dates:

- Budget Work Sessions:
  - Tuesday, May 31, 2016 – 1:00 pm
  - Monday, June 6, 2016 – 10:00 am
  - Wednesday, June 8, 2016 – 2:00 pm
  - Tuesday, June 14, 2016 – 10:00 am
  - Tuesday, June 21, 2016 – 1:00 pm
- Public Hearing:
  - Thursday, June 2, 2016 – 7:00 pm (Courtroom A)
- All work sessions will be held in the third floor conference of the Ronald W. Reagan Memorial Building (administration building)
- Board will offered June 8<sup>th</sup> or June 14<sup>th</sup> to the Board of Education for a Joint Session if desired by the Board of Education

Chairman Inman noted the Board could recess the June 21<sup>st</sup> meeting if additional meetings were needed.

### **Emergency Medical Services – Staffing Issues**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding the Emergency Medical Services Staffing Issues:

- EMS Director Greg Collins has informed me that his department is experiencing an extraordinary amount of vacancies due to Worker's Compensation Claims (3 full time employees and 1 part time employee), Family Medical Leave (2 full time employees), and Resignations/Retirements (4 resignations and 1 retirement since December 31, 2015 with two resignations this past week) along with a limited number of solo-paramedics
- Must make some immediate changes in order to continue to provide adequate Emergency Medical Services to the citizens of Stokes County
- For a temporary solution until June 30, 2016, would request the Board approve the following:
  - Full time employees who are willing to work an extra shift will be paid as follows:
    - Paramedics = \$30.00 per hour
    - Intermediate = \$22.50 per hour
    - Basic = \$19.50 per hour
  - Increase part time rates as follows:
    - Paramedics = \$20.00 per hour
    - Intermediate = \$15.00 per hour
    - Basic = \$13.00 per hour
  - Approve Budget Amendment #69 which allocates funding to cover these requests until June 30, 2016 (EMS Ambulance fees are being increased due to the additional call volume)
- Will be looking into options to recruit and retain staffing for EMS during the upcoming budget recommendation for Fiscal Year 2016-17
- This incentive is to try to "stop the bleeding"
- EMS Director Collins has calculated that there are approximately 92 shifts which equates to 2,231 hours that must be covered due to the worker's compensation, family medical leave, and resignations between now and June 30, 2016
- This does not even count future sickness of other employees, possible other worker's compensation claims, and employee vacations
- There is a shortage of paramedics being produced by the educational institutions
- We are competing with everyone around us
- Forsyth County currently has 14-15 vacancies
- EMS Director Collins and his supervisors are basically working seven days a week
- EMS Director Greg Collins is in attendance for the meeting tonight

- Request the item be moved to tonight's Action Agenda in order to try to prevent one (1) or two (2) of our (5) front-line ambulances from being taken out of service due to non-availability of staff

County Manager Rick Morris presented the Budget Amendment #69 which would cover the salary requests:

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
<b>Emergency Medical Services</b>				
100.4370.010	Salaries & Wages Overtime	\$185,000.00	\$42,000.00	\$227,000.00
100.4370.020	Salaries & Wages Part Time	<u>\$165,000.00</u>	<u>\$24,000.00</u>	<u>\$189,000.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$350,000.00</b>	<b>\$66,000.00</b>	<b>\$416,000.00</b>

This budget amendment is justified as follows:  
To appropriate fees for emergency staffing.

This will result in a **net increase** of **\$66,000.00** in the expenditures and other financial use to the County's annual budget. To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will increase. These revenues have already been received or are verified they will be received this fiscal year.

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
<b>General Fund</b>				
100.3437.410	Ambulance Fees	<u>\$1,300,000.00</u>	<u>\$66,000.00</u>	<u>\$1,366,000.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$1,300,000.00</b>	<b>\$66,000.00</b>	<b>\$1,366,000.00</b>

Chairman Inman questioned EMS Director Collins for any comments?

EMS Director Collins commented:

- As the County's Emergency Management Director/EMS Director and if this was a weather condition, I would be coming to you today to "Declare a State of Emergency"
- That is how serious I feel this is currently
- This has been on the horizon for quite some time, but the storm is here now
- We greatly appreciate the salary grades increase last year, but I am here today to say that we are in a much deeper crisis
- Stokes County provides the following:
  - Five Advanced Life Support Ambulances every day (three shifts)
  - Those five units are supported by one supervisor on a Quick Response Vehicle (QRV)

- Only other staff is the training officer and director
- Each shift requires a minimum of five (5) solo-paramedics
- A solo-paramedic is a paramedic who has been a paramedic for at least six (6) months preferably about a year
- Just because you get a certification, it does not mean that you can come directly from school and practice in the high level service we provide
- The solo-paramedic must be proficient in pre-hospital medicine and pass an oral exam given by the County's Medical Director along with being evaluated on the department's protocols and procedures
- NC Office of EMS also mandates that two (2) paramedics be on the scene to perform the high risk procedure of drug assisted intubation (most critical patients) (these are the same drugs that are given before you have surgery)
- Have lost six (6) employees since the end of 2015:
  - One for retirement
  - One seeking other options
  - One for personal reasons
  - One for nursing school
  - Two transferring to another county
- As mentioned by County Manager, these resignations are compounded by Worker's Compensation Claims (two being very extensive) and Family Medical Leave
- Department has a lack of part time staff
- Have only had fourteen (14) paramedic applications received since July 2015
- Hired nine (9) of the fourteen (14) as part time employees (currently only have six (6) who work less than 100 hours per pay period)
- Those part time employees can make more money working other part time jobs
- This is just not a Stokes County problem
- This is a local, regional, and state problem
- Forsyth County has 14 paramedic openings
- Forsyth County EMS is working with their county manager to implement a fluctuating schedule (employees will be able to pick from 8, 10 or 12- hour shifts)
- Surry County is planning on putting on 2-3 QRVs in July 2016 which will need additional staffing
- Yadkin County has two openings and are proposing to add an additional ambulance in July which will add six (6) more openings (Yadkin County only hires paramedics)
- Caswell County seems to be the number one County who is pulling employees from other counties due to higher salary pay (Rockingham County just lost one employee to Caswell County)
- Caswell County is considering going to 12-hour shifts in the near future
- Regional Hospitals such as Wake Forest, Hugh Chatham, and Northern Surry are currently employing paramedics full time
- Davie County is requesting five (5) new positions for FY 2016-17
- Just hired three (3) employees from our part time list which is depleting our part time roster
- There are 184 paramedic services in North Carolina

- Last year, our community colleges graduated approximately 856 students with approximately 650 passing the exam
- Those new 650 paramedics must be spread among the 184 services in North Carolina
- We are at a critical point in the County's EMS Agency
- Reiterated the 92 shifts that must be filled between now and July 1, 2016
- Must keep in mind the unexpected emergencies, vacations, family deaths, etc.
- The addition of LifeStar to provide the non-emergency transports has helped; however, as recently as yesterday, Forsyth County transported two patients and Surry County transported one patient
- We are an extremely young service
- Excluding the administrative staff, only have six (6) paramedics with greater than ten (10) years of experience
- Have hired five (5) employees who are yet to be credentialed
- The remaining full time paramedics/intermediates have approximately 3-5 years of experience
- I am asking this Board to approve Manager Morris' recommendation
- Need to attract full and part time employees
- At what length do we go to prevent a decrease in service?
- I want to thank the employees I have who are working very hard to maintain the current level of service
- Provided the Board with a chart detailing the current staff and the need for solo-paramedics
- Working hard to get some new paramedics approved as solo-paramedic

County Manager Morris commented:

- Just want to add that we hope this will be enough of an incentive to fill the shifts
- This is not a guarantee
- This is a best guess solution

Chairman Inman opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Questioned EMS Director Collins to explain the current range of capabilities of LifeStar?

EMS Director Collins responded:

- They have basic life support
- They are EMTs similar to our rescue squads
- They have basic EMT skills
- They can provide defibrillation, can't start IVs, can't give any meds other than epinephrine for anaphylaxis along with breathing treatments

Commissioner Walker continued:

- Confirmed with EMS Director Collins that currently LifeStar is taking all non-emergency calls

EMS Director Collins responded:

- LifeStar has done 63 transports each month for the past two months
- If they were not transporting the non-emergencies, it would be even more critical because the units would be out of the county all the time

Commissioner Walker continued:

- Questioned how the lack of an Emergency Room in King is impacting the call volume?

EMS Director Collins responded:

- Every call that used to go to Pioneer ER in King now goes to another facility (approximately 90% go to Winston)
- There have been approximately 200 calls per year to the ER in King
- Insurance companies will not pay for being transported to an Urgent Care Center

Commissioner Walker continued:

- Would it be better to up the salaries like a bonus until the budget?

County Manager Morris responded:

- Would depend on how much the salaries would be raised
- Would really need to look into this issue before making a change in permanent salaries

Commissioner Walker continued:

- Seems this is not a local problem

EMS Director Collins responded:

- It is more than a local problem
- The salary last year helped tremendously, but just brought us under the other counties
- Other counties are upping the game more

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- You came to the Board through the County Manager and requested a tremendous raise and you said it would fix the problem
- It has not fixed the problem

EMS Director Collins responded:

- I said I hoped it would fix it

Commissioner Lankford responded:

- You said it would fix it
- Evidently, we have a problem beyond money
- Money is not always the motivator
- What you are asking for now (\$30 per hour for a paramedic) is unreasonable



- One shift will cost \$720
- We can't be competitive, there is no use to try
- Need to start putting a game plan together
- Need maybe to look at privatizing or doing something besides what we are doing
- We are not gaining anything and with what you have provided us tonight, we are going backwards instead of forward
- We have a problem other than money
- To continue to get part time help, we have increased the hourly rate by \$4 per hour during the past two budgets
- Don't know how this can be stopped, money is not going to take care of it

County Manager Morris commented:

- Privatization will not be cheaper

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- The thing about it is – we are not trying to fix it
- We are just throwing money at it

County Manager Morris commented:

- We are open to any suggestions or otherwise an ambulance will be taken out of service this coming week
- The first one will come from King

Commissioner Lankford continued:

- If that is what you have to do to fix it
- You need to find out if we can get any additional service from who we contracted with this past year

EMS Director Collins commented:

- Supervisors spend hours and hours every day calling part timers
- Don't know the solution either

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- Confirmed with EMS Director Collins that there are private companies across the State
- Don't know what the answer is either
- Looks like LifeStar is making money with the number of calls being transported
- Confirmed with EMS Director Collins that there is no county funding paid to LifeStar
- Three grade increases were given during the FY 2015-16
- Need to have a Special Meeting to look at privatization
- The department has a \$2.7 million budget with approximately \$1 million a year coming from the General Fund

County Manager Morris commented:

- Have been discussing the need for a sixth ambulance for the past two years

EMS Director Collins commented:

- Stokes County starts a paramedic with no experience at \$12.07 per hour, in two years they will make \$12.43, in thirty years and being in the same position, they will make \$18.33 per hour
- Surry County starts out at \$15.28 per hour, in two years they go to \$16.60 per hour with a work schedule of 24/72
- Stokes County works 24/48

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- Confirmed with Manager Morris that his recommendation will pay a full time paramedic \$30 per hour to work an extra shift

EMS Director Collins commented:

- We have offered extra shifts at the employee's current rate at time and a half
- We are not getting volunteers to work

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Sense your frustration
- Don't know what will fix the problem
- Confirmed with EMS Director Collins that with the new employees, they normally do not stay more than five (5) years
- Confirmed with EMS Director Collins the proposed rate is to attract people to come and work for Stokes County and to stay

EMS Director Collins continued:

- If we can't get people to work, we have no choice but to shut services down
- Also have a supervisor, including myself, that can retire

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Confirmed with EMS Director Collins that this is a temporary solution
- Confirmed with EMS Director Collins that he would not have to work paramedics in all vacant shifts; there could be some intermediates/basics which would lower the cost
- Concerned with an experienced paramedic receiving the same rate of pay as an inexperienced paramedic
- Confirmed with EMS Director Collins that a paramedic in Caswell County is making approximately \$50,000 a year and their goal is to go 24/72 in July 2016
- Questioned EMS Director Collins where did the Fire Department's Quick Response Units fit into emergency responses in our County and is there any possibility they might be of some help?

EMS Director Collins responded:

- They respond to every emergency call to assist the EMS Unit when possible
- If they get there first, they try to stabilize the patient until EMS arrives
- Only two departments in the County have transport units – Francisco and Stokes-Rockingham
- All the departments' members have full time jobs
- All departments try to get to the calls if possible
- They do transport some occasionally, usually if we are out of units or there are multiple patients on the same call
- It is fairly infrequent that they transport

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- Confirmed with County Manager Morris that this is a temporary fix till July 1, 2016
- Most times when you put in something, it is hard to stop it

County Manager Morris responded:

- This is a strictly temporary measure
- It will most likely be something totally different proposed in the next budget
- Haven't even thought about that yet

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Confirmed with Manager Morris, the \$66,000 is an estimate that is coming from ambulance fees that are beyond what was budgeted in the FY 2015-16 budget

Chairman Inman commented:

- What do you think contributes to the small number of people who are pursuing the career?
- That is a big factor in this whole dilemma

EMS Director Collins responded:

- The younger generation is looking for the high paying salaries and good work schedules

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- Confirmed with EMS Director Collins that the major worker's compensation claim right now is the recent wreck

County Manager Morris commented:

- Just want to reiterate that there was never a guarantee that increasing the grades last year would work
- No one could guarantee that
- There is no way to know if it will work
- We hope these recommendations will work
- That is the case in this situation, we don't know if it will work, we hope so
- The three grade increases are all irrelevant, we are in a competitive environment

- If you are not competitive to start with, how many grades are increased doesn't have a whole lot to do with anything
- There are two ambulances in King, one in Lawsonville, one in Walnut Cove, and one in Danbury
- If we don't get a solution to this problem, we will have to take one out of King this week
- Could even have to take a second unit out
- We have to try something, we can't just put this off and try to pretend it does not exist
- We have daily operations to run every day and have to make operational decisions

Chairman Inman requested Commissioner Walker talk further about his concept of a bonus.

Commissioner Walker responded:

- A bonus would not lock the County into a new pay scale
- Did hear the manager respond later in the discussion that his recommendation is a temporary measure and would not be locked in after June 30, 2016
- Confirmed with Manager Morris that this incentive is similar to a bonus - a temporary measure
- This could be treated as an emergency situation and during the budget process, this would be worked on trying to get a better feel for what is sustainable and what is needed long term

County Manager Morris commented:

- Would appreciate any budget guidance at tomorrow's work session on what to do with this for the upcoming FY budget
- Don't have the answer
- Would be happy to hear any recommendation

Commissioner Walker commented:

- In fairness to the manager and director, they saw this coming, but it has hit a lot quicker and harder than we realized
- Not surprised to hear the manager say that he has not had time to really look at this
- Willing to go along with the recommendation from the manager and the director just to get us through until the budget process
- Know that we are stressed financially in many ways
- Know this budget is going to be one of the biggest challenges of many years
- Consider the EMS, especially to the rural areas, essential
- My goal is to have good equipment and good personnel
- Part of that process is to determine what it takes to have both good equipment and good personnel
- I think we have good equipment, if we don't, I don't know why we don't
- Have been on a very aggressive schedule to keep good equipment on the road
- But we have to keep personnel in those units

- We want quick response, adequate personnel and good equipment on that unit because people's lives are at stake
- I have no issue if it comes down to it, but I hope it doesn't, having one of the two units in King being taken out of service because, let's face it, we can get down the road quicker
- We are a lot closer to major hospitals than some of the other areas in the county
- Willing to go along with the recommendation
- Not seeing a lot of choice
- Still have questions about paying the experienced paramedics the same as the inexperienced paramedics, but that is management's decision
- Do not want to micromanage

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Questioned how the \$30 per hour for a paramedic came about?

County Manager Morris responded:

- Just a best guess of what it will take to get them to come to work for us during this emergency situation

EMS Director Collins responded:

- They are not coming for their current pay at time and a half
- Part timers are not coming for the current \$14.77 per hour rate

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Have always supported EMS, but just don't feel there has been enough time put into this to come up with a practical solution
- Just don't see it
- Rather be looking at bringing someone in to help transport like we did last year
- Feel like something needs to be done besides just saying we are going to give you this kind of money
- Can't support it

County Manager Morris responded:

- Can look at Commissioner Lankford's recommendation about privatization, but we have an immediate problem right now
- If we have to take an ambulance out of service next week, that means Forsyth and Surry Counties will be transporting more patients for us, don't know how that will impact their service to their citizens – especially with Forsyth with their shortages

EMS Director Collins noted that other counties are calling Stokes for standby, especially Forsyth with their 14 vacancies.

Chairman Inman confirmed with EMS Director Collins that supervisors are already filling in on shifts.

EMS Director Collins responded:

- First thing to shut down will be the QRV (supervisor's vehicle) that does emergency response, backup, day-to-day operations such as delivering supplies along with their other duties
- Told the training officer to be prepared to work some 12-hour shifts – that means the training will be off for this new group of employees just hired
- It is a vicious cycle

County Manager Morris responded:

- The County is not only competing against the wages, we are competing against the hours
- County works 24/48 – the worst possible shift
- Most other counties work 24/72 or 12-hour shifts
- Forsyth County is implementing a new schedule where the employee will choose whether he/she wants to work 8, 10 or 12-hour shifts
- When changing to 24/72, it takes more staff

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- The three supervisors did ride the truck the first eight hours of the shift when I first came on board as a commissioner

EMS Director Collins responded:

- When I first became the director, I requested the Assistant EMS Director position not be filled in order to get the supervisors off the truck
- Could not make it every day without the supervisors
- Have Emergency Management duties – will be in Davie County tomorrow for Emergency Management
- About the only director that still responds to calls

Vice Chairman Booth continued:

- Confirmed with EMS Director Collins that the shift supervisors have been off the ambulances since he became the director unless there was no one to fill the spot

EMS Director Collins responded:

- During that time when the shift supervisors were on the trucks, former Training Officer Brian Booe and myself (while serving as Assistant EMS Director) rotated coming in at 7:00 am to make sure the citizens of Stokes County were being taken care of
- The shift supervisors were supposed to come off the unit at 3:00 pm, most of the time it was much later due to the unit being on a call

Commissioner Jones commented:

- I am not going to mention the pay gap
- I am always appalled about the pay gap
- Look at the difference in what we start out in pay compared to what Caswell County starts a paramedic out,

- What I am seeing here is that this funding has been earned by the increased call volume by EMS
- I am considering the liability
- What if someone dies due to this situation?
- For that reason alone, I feel that this recommendation is a small price to pay where we could have much more liability by not having all our units in service
- On board with the recommendation

Chairman Inman confirmed with Manager Morris that this is a two-month test to see if this will work, can and will be looked at during the budget process and can recommend something totally different with the FY 2016-17 budget.

County Manager Morris responded:

- We all have to realize if we are going to provide EMS Services, and we all have to, it is a very expensive business
- Trying to do things all the time to prevent worker's compensation claims, but some are just not avoidable like the recent vehicle wreck
- The new stretchers that help to prevent back injuries are \$35,000 a piece
- Can't expect a different outcome unless you change something
- Lifting heavy patients are a recurring problem with EMS (which causes back injuries)

Chairman Inman polled the Board regarding moving the item to tonight's Action Agenda.

Commissioner Jones: fine to move to Action Agenda tonight

Commissioner Walker: yes

Vice Chairman Booth: no

Commissioner Lankford: no, needs more study done on the issue

Chairman Inman: would like to sleep on this – will move over to the budget work session scheduled for tomorrow afternoon.

Chairman Inman directed the Clerk to place the item on the tomorrow's budget work session.

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

### **Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Recommendation for Funding for Fiscal Year 2016-17**

Chairman Inman entertained a motion regarding the following Juvenile Crime Prevention Council's Recommendation for Funding for Fiscal Year 2016-17:

- 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

Commissioner Lankford moved to approve the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council's Recommendation for Funding for Fiscal Year 2016-17:

- 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

Vice Chairman Booth seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Appointments – Stokes County Board of Adjustments**

Clerk Darlene Bullins presented the following information regarding the appointments to the Stokes County Board of Adjustments:

- Nominated at the April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting for regular members (three vacancies):
  - Amos Elvis
  - Carl Hill
  - Don Lester
- One vacancy remains for alternate member
- Nominations can be polled at tonight's meeting

Chairman Inman opened floor for nominations.

Commissioner Walker nominated Dennis Robinson for appointment to the Stokes County Board of Adjustments for the alternate member.

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 polled the Board:

- Commissioner Lankford:
  - Regular Members – Amos Elvis, Carl Hill, & Don Lester
  - Alternate Member – Dennis Robinson
- Chairman Inman:
  - Regular Members – Amos Elvis, Carl Hill, & Don Lester
  - Alternate Member – Dennis Robinson
- Vice Chairman Booth:
  - Regular Members – Amos Elvis, Carl Hill, & Don Lester
  - Alternate Member – Dennis Robinson

- Commissioner Walker:
  - Regular Members – Amos Elvis, Carl Hill, & Don Lester
  - Alternate Member – Dennis Robinson
- Commissioner Jones:
  - Regular Members – Amos Elvis, Carl Hill, & Don Lester
  - Alternate Member – Dennis Robinson

Chairman Inman noted that the Board unanimously appointed the following to serve on the Stokes County Board of Adjustments:

- Regular Members – Amos Elvis, Carl Hill, & Don Lester
- Alternate Member – Dennis Robinson

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

Clerk Darlene Bullins presented the following information regarding the appointments to the Stokes County Human Services Advisory Committee:

- Jan Spencer was nominated at the April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting for the general public appointment (one vacancy)
- No other applications have been received
- Can poll at tonight's meeting

Chairman Inman opened floor for nominations.

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

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

Chairman Inman polled the Board:

- Commissioner Lankford: Jan Spencer
- Chairman Inman: Jan Spencer
- Vice Chairman Booth: Jan Spencer
- Commissioner Walker: Jan Spencer
- Commissioner Jones: Jan Spencer

Chairman Inman noted that the Board unanimously appointed Jan Spencer to serve on the Stokes County Human Services Advisory Committee for the general public appointment.

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

Clerk Darlene Bullins presented the following information regarding the appointments to the Stokes County Aging Planning Committee:

- The Aging Planning Committee recommends Margaret Young
- Committee has three (3) vacancies remaining
- Can poll nominations at tonight's meeting

Chairman Inman opened floor for nominations.

Vice Chairman Booth nominated Margaret Young for appointment to the Stokes County Aging Planning Committee.

Chairman Inman entertained a motion to close the nominations.

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

Chairman Inman polled the Board:

- Commissioner Lankford: Margaret Young
- Chairman Inman: Margaret Young
- Vice Chairman Booth: Margaret Young
- Commissioner Walker: Margaret Young
- Commissioner Jones: Margaret Young

Chairman Inman noted that the Board unanimously appointed Margaret Young to serve on the Stokes County Aging Planning Committee.

### **Appointments – Stokes County Nursing Homes Advisory Committee**

Clerk Darlene Bullins presented the following information regarding the appointments to the Stokes County Nursing Home Advisory Committee:

- County has not received any applications for the appointment
- There were no nominations at the April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting
- Nominations can be polled at tonight's meeting if any

Chairman Inman opened floor for nominations.

There were no 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 May 9<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda.

Commissioner Walker requested the Clerk to see if a commissioner could be appointed to the vacancy as he was interested in the appointment.

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

Clerk Darlene Bullins presented the following information regarding the appointments to the Surry Housing Consortium:

- Staff received an application from Jane Cole for the appointment (one vacancy)

Chairman Inman opened floor for nominations.

Commissioner Lankford nominated Jane Cole for appointment to the Surry Housing Consortium.

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

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

Chairman Inman polled the Board:

- Commissioner Jones: Jane Cole
- Commissioner Walker: Jane Cole
- Vice Chairman Booth: Jane Cole
- Chairman Inman: Jane Cole
- Commissioner Lankford: Jane Cole

Chairman Inman noted that the Board unanimously appointed Jane Cole to serve on the Surry Housing Consortium.

**Proposed Memorandum of Understanding – Stokes County & Our Communities of NW Stokes**

Chairman Inman entertained a motion regarding the proposed Memorandum of Understanding –Stokes County & Our Communities of NW Stokes which was presented at tonight's meeting:

Commissioner Jones moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding –Stokes County & Our Communities of NW Stokes as amended. Vice Chairman Booth seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**Proposed Letter of Intent – Stokes County High Speed Internet/Broadband Expansion Project**

Chairman Inman entertained a motion regarding the proposed Letter of Intent – Stokes County High Speed Internet/Broadband Expansion Project which was presented at tonight's meeting:

Vice Chairman Booth moved to approve proposed Letter of Intent – Stokes County High Speed Internet/Broadband Expansion Project. Commissioner Walker seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**Proposed Fiscal Year 2016-17 Health and Dental Rates**

Chairman Inman entertained a motion regarding the following proposed Fiscal Year 2016-17 Health and Dental Rates presented at tonight's meeting:

	Employee	Employee
BCBS	Current	New
Health	Monthly	Monthly
Insurance	Premium	Premium
Employee Only	\$ 430.93	\$ 495.53
Spouse coverage	\$ 511.94	\$ 588.71
Child coverage	\$ 163.73	\$ 188.28
Children		
coverage	\$ 361.98	\$ 416.23
Family coverage	\$ 989.39	\$1,137.68

Assurant Dental Insurance	Employee Current Monthly Premium	Employee New Monthly Premium
Employee Only	\$ 27.75	\$ 27.75
Spouse coverage	\$ 32.75	\$ 32.75
Child coverage	\$ 33.25	\$ 33.25
Children coverage	\$ 40.75	\$ 40.75
Family coverage	\$ 80.25	\$ 80.25

Commissioner Lankford moved to approve Fiscal Year 2016-17 BCBS Health and Assurant Dental Rates. Commissioner Jones seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

#### **External Posting – Health Department**

Chairman Inman entertained a motion regarding the external posting for the Health Department which was submitted at tonight's meeting.

Commissioner Walker moved to approve the external posting for Processing Assistant III for the Health Department. Commissioner Jones seconded and 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)
- To consider the initial employment or appointment of an individual to any office or position, other than a vacancy in the Board of County Commissioners or any other public body, or to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, and fitness of any public officer or employee, other than a member of the Board of Commissioners or of some other public body pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(6)

Vice Chairman Booth 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)
- To consider the initial employment or appointment of an individual to any office or position, other than a vacancy in the Board of County Commissioners or any other public body, or to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, and fitness of any public officer or employee, other than a member of the Board of Commissioners or of some other public body pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(6)

Commissioner Lankford seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The Board reentered the opened session of the April 25<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. Vice Chairman Booth seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

---

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

---

**J. Leon Inman**  
Chairman