

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

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met for regular session in the Commissioners' Chambers of the Ronald Wilson Reagan Memorial Building (Administration Building) located in Danbury, North Carolina on Monday, July 11, 2016 at 1:30 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  
Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins  
County Attorney Tyrone Browder  
Finance Director Julia Edwards  
DSS Director Stacey Elmes  
Tax Administrator Jake Oakley

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

Chairman Inman noted that he and the manager had been in discussion concerning matters that are extremely important to the County (not involving the Separation of Church and State) and the Agenda may need to be modified today.

#### **INVOCATION**

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

Vice Chairman Booth delivered the invocation.

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

Chairman Inman invited the citizens 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 July 11, 2016 Agenda.

County Manager Rick Morris requested that an additional Closed Session be added to the beginning of the meeting to discuss a very time sensitive subject that has just come up.

Commissioner Walker moved to approve the Agenda with the removal of Item VI (j) – “Proposed Resolution – Supporting Separation of Church and State”.

Commissioner Lankford seconded the motion.

Chairman Inman requested advice from County Attorney Ty Browder according to the Board’s Rules of Procedure regarding the removal of an item from the Agenda.

County Attorney Ty Browder responded:

- According to the Board’s Rules of Procedure, the Chairman and the Clerk prepared the Agenda (Rule 9 (a) – Agenda)
- Under Rule 9(c), the Board may, by majority vote, add an item that is not on the Agenda
- There is no provision in the Board’s Rules of Procedure to remove an item from the Agenda

Chairman Inman commented:

- Requested County Attorney Browder to speak about Rule 9(a) – Any board member may, by a timely request, have an item placed on the Agenda

County Attorney Ty Browder responded:

- That is a privilege that each Board member has
- Certainly, if a Board member who placed an item on the Agenda requested that particular item be removed from the Agenda, feel that commissioner would have the option to make a motion to remove that item at their request
- But absence the request by the person who has placed the item on the Agenda, there is nothing in the Board’s Rules of Procedure to allow an item to be removed from the Agenda
- Since each Board member has the right to have an item placed on the Agenda, I think to allow a motion to remove an item (which was opposed by the person placing the item on the Agenda) would deny that right to place an item on the Agenda
- It would be in contravention of Rule 9(a)

Chairman Inman opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Questioned Chairman Inman what would happen if the Board did not approve the Agenda?
- Believe we have a right to not approve the Agenda, is that not correct Mr. Attorney?

County Attorney Browder responded:

- If you wish to not approve the Agenda, you have the right not to approve the Agenda

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- I seconded the motion because we have done this in the past
- If we broke the rule then, I don't see any reason why we can't break it this time
- We have done it before, whether you believe it or not

Commissioner Jones commented:

- We have been respecting everyone's request
- As the Chair, I did
- I put anyone's and any Board members' request on an Agenda when I served as Chair
- It was the right thing to do
- It did not mean that I had to agree with what was placed on the Agenda
- I ask you to give the same courtesy

County Attorney Browder commented:

- It may be that the Board has removed items from an Agenda in the past
- I have never been asked my opinion on that issue
- There is nothing in your rules which permit the Board to remove an item from an Agenda

Commissioner Walker commented:

- I can give you a recent example of items being removed
- I can remember instances when our manager would request an item be removed because he did not have all the information that he thought he would have for the meeting
- The manager would request an item be removed and this Board would take an item off the Agenda
- I specifically remember, probably more than one occasion

Chairman Inman questioned County Attorney Browder if he would like to respond to

Commissioner Walker's comments?

County Attorney Browder responded:

- If the person who places the item on the Agenda, requests that it be removed, then that is not violating that person's rights to have an item placed on the Agenda
- But if you are going to give each Board member the right to place an item on the Agenda and then you allow a motion to remove that item from the Agenda without

the request or consent of the person placing the item on the Agenda, that is denying that person's right to have that item placed on the Agenda

- Under the Board's Rules of Procedure, the Chair has the right to rule on motions
- If the Board refuses to approve the Agenda, we all go home
- If I may add, it is each Board members' right and privilege to have an item placed on an Agenda
- I think every Board member should respect the other Board members' right and privilege to place an item on an Agenda
- If you don't want to give a Board member the right to place an item on an Agenda, it needs to be removed from your Rules of Procedure

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- I agree that if we have the right to place an item on an Agenda, then we should have the right to take it off which we have done in the past
- That is something that needs to correct

Chairman Inman commented:

- Have to follow Robert's Rules of Order and our own Rules of Procedures
- At any point time, we can change our own Rules of Procedures by placing them on an Agenda
- Will be glad to place the Rules of Procedures on the next Agenda if so desired by the Board

Commissioner Lankford requested the Rules of Procedures be placed on the Discussion Agenda for the next meeting.

Chairman Inman, with full consent of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the Board's Rules of Procedures on the Discussion Agenda for the next meeting.

Chairman Inman confirmed with County Attorney Browder that his recommendation would be to rule the motion on the floor out of order.

County Manager Rick Morris reiterated the need to place a Closed Session on the Agenda at the beginning of the meeting to discussed a time sensitive subject.

Chairman Inman commented:

- It is not a secret that this County has been working with a hospital bankruptcy situation
- We are at the eleven hour with that situation
- Adding a Closed Session is not to inconvenience anyone who came to today's meeting
- It is something that has to be done

Commissioner Walker stated that he would reluctantly withdraw his motion; however, I feel like this Board should have the ability to set its own Agenda.

Commissioner Walker continued:

- Do not know how we have kind of got backed into a corner where one commissioner can add an item, a majority of commissioners can't remove the item
- I withdraw my motion in respect to the people who came here today for a meeting and for those who came for a chance to voice their opinion
- Don't want people to feel like they have wasted a trip to today's meeting
- Appreciate the people who have come today to have a chance to speak their opinion

Commissioner Lankford stated that he would withdraw his second to the motion.

Commissioner Walker moved to approve the Agenda as submitted with the addition of a Closed Session when and if needed. Commissioner Jones seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Inman requested consensus from the Board to allow Public Comments to be heard first hopefully before the need of the Closed Session.

The Board had no issues with allowing Public Comments to be heard first.

## **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:

### **Patricia Bovender**

1041 Highland Oaks Drive  
Walnut Cove, NC 27052

Re: **Commissioner Jones Recent Address**

Ms. Bovender presented the following comments:

- Provided the Board with a copy of the Board's Code of Ethics
- Thank you for hearing me today
- I need to speak to Commissioner Jones' recent personal address on behalf of all Christians that believe in love, acceptance, and peace recently labeled as "phony Christians"
- First of all and most importantly, I am a Christian who believes in love, acceptance, and peace

- That is, I believe in the love of Christ, the acceptance of salvation, and the peace of his promise of eternal life
- With God's blessed assurance, I need not worry over the little trivial matters of being called a "phony Christian"
- See commissioner, I know and my Savior knows that I am his; therefore, I know that the term "phony Christian" does not apply to me and never will as long as I follow God's word – the Bible
- With that being said, I would respectfully request, Commissioner Jones, that you refrain from speaking on my behalf in your future assertions
- Although, I sincerely support your right to freedom of speech, I do question the platform you chose to spew your pinned up frustrations with the job that you were elected to perform
- You had some strong words that signal threats toward Mr. Timm and all the while of accusing him of bullying
- Referenced several points in the handout provided to the Board regarding the Board's Code of Ethics
- In regards to HB2, a "no" vote on that resolution seems to me that it would have been a conflict according to your Code of Ethics "we follow the law of the General Assembly"
- My biggest thing on Article III, Commissioner Jones you shared two excerpts from the Baptist Joint Committee and also stated that you attended the luncheon (Greensboro – Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup>)
- That was actually the Religious Liberty Council that is a part of the BJC; those both represent Separation of Church which I am all for that
- But they also openly promote acceptance of LGBT, abortion, and Islam
- It seems really inappropriate that you would bring all that stuff to the forum and actually threaten the freedom of speech from Mr. Timm – saying "not to worry that won't happen again, no more"
- I implore you to ponder these concerns that I have brought to you, in good faith, that you will appreciate my concern for the good of our whole community and that you, Commissioner Jones, will find a way to resolve your imprudent reaction
- All across our nation, the changes we seek can be frightening or alarming at best
- Some of us, who like the Patriots risked everything for liberty and justice, will continue to speak out against those things which are incompatible with our treasured ideals

Clerk called the three-minute time limit

**Jeanette Robertson**

1020 Tonya Court

Walnut Cove, NC

**Re: Resolution – Separation of Church and State**

Ms. Robertson presented the following comments:

- I would just like to know today, as an ordained minister of the Assemblies of God, the precedence for the separation of church and state given that the United States Constitution and the North Carolina Constitution do not have legislation separating the church and state
- My concern is, when we separate church and state, we are actually thinking of said rules
- What we are actually saying is that we are separating church from state

- We are seeing that all over America
- We are seeing when a young boy in a school writes his favorite story on Noah's Ark that his is sent home and this is deeply concerning
- It is interesting for all of you and for everyone who works in North Carolina government any person who shall deny the being of Almighty God (Article 6 – Section 8 – North Carolina Constitution – Disqualifications for Office)
- Respectfully ask that this not be brought before and approved today by this Board

**Mary Kerley**

1150 NC 772 HWY

Pine Hall, NC

**Re: Resolution – Separation of Church and State**

Ms. Kerley read the following comments:

- President Ronald Reagan, for whom this building is named, said on October 26, 1984: “We in the United States, above all, must remember that we were founded as a nation of openness to people of all beliefs. And so we must remain. Our very unity has been strengthened by our pluralism. We establish no religion in this country, we command no worship, we mandate no belief, nor will we ever. Church and state are, and must remain, separate.”
- At the June 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of this board, I heard only one person speak in favor of the resolution in support of HB2.
- I heard many others speak eloquently in opposition.
- The fact that HB2 was signed into law does not make it right and the vote for the resolution in support of this law reflects a misguided attempt to justify a shallow-minded view of bigotry and hatred.
- This vote does not represent the will of the people of Stokes County. Instead it is pandering to religious fundamentalists who spread a poisonous form of hatred for any person or persons who do not adhere to their narrow, twisted views.
- Religious fundamentalism is the belief of an individual or a group in the absolute authority of a religious text or teachings of a particular religious leader, prophet, and/or God.
- These fundamentalists believe that their religion is beyond any form of criticism, and should therefore also be forced upon others. Logical explanations and scientific evidences have no place in these belief systems.
- The Spanish inquisition by the Catholic Church, the Salem witch trials by Puritan Protestants, and the massacre of millions of Armenians by the Islamic Ottoman Empire are examples of religious fundamentalists successfully using government to impose their perverted beliefs on their fellow citizens.
- I suppose the Proposed Resolution for Separation of Church and State

**Ellen Peric**

1095 Wheeler Smith Road

Lawsonville, NC

**Re: Resolution – Separation of Church and State**

Ms. Peric presented the following comments:

- I speak today in favor of the Resolution before the Commissioners to affirm the Separation of Church and State
- I sell real estate and I am a realtor
- Realtor agrees to abide by the Realtor Code of Ethics
- The Code of Ethics lays out how we must interact with clients, customers, the public, and other realtors
- Real estate is a service industry
- I deal with a diverse public everyday
- If you get in my jeep to see homes or property, there are a few rules that you have to follow
- First, you have to remain calm as I help turtles across the road
- Second, you have to leave your racism and bigotry outside my door
- Our Realtor Code of Ethics is over 100 years old, but the National Association of Realtors has said there is no place for discrimination in our organization
- The Code says in Article 10, "Duties to the Public" "Realtors shall not deny equal professional services to any person for reasons of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity"
- It also states that "Realtors shall not be parties to any plan or agreement to discriminate against a person or persons on the basis race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity"
- I think that you all are in a service industry also, one of upmost importance as decisions you make can affect a citizen's life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness
- In our County, we don't have a lot of diversity, so that you can easily fall into the trap of thinking that everyone is alike and thinks alike
- So decisions you make preferring one faith over others may seem like common sense since everyone you know feels the same
- You have been elected to serve the entire County, not just a segment
- You have to let those who are different speak, listen carefully to their concerns, and make all citizens feel that they have a voice in government
- From Hare Krishnas and Sikhs in Sandy Ridge to folks of Jewish and Catholic Faith, to folks who have no religious faith, government has to be as welcoming for these folks as it is for Baptists or Presbyterians
- It is the right thing to do, liberty and justice for all

**William Sparks**

1215 Singletree Road  
Westfield, NC

**Re: Resolution in Supporting Separation of Church and State**

Mr. Sparks presented the following comments:

- Just to get ahead of the name calling that goes on in here, I am an American Patriot
- Here today, to speak on Commissioner Jones' Resolution
- Want to provide a short little history lesson
- In 1802, the Baptists of Danbury, Connecticut wrote to President Thomas Jefferson and you know why, they were being persecuted by the Congregationalists, the state sponsored religion of the State of Connecticut



- Connecticut was passing laws driven by their religion like HB2 and the Resolution recently passed by this Body
- In his answer to this letter, Jefferson stated a wall of separation should exist between government and religion as he worked to end the persecution of the Danbury Baptists
- This is where the term originated
- Forward to 1947 and we find a ruling by the Supreme Court in a landmark case entitled “Everson vs Board of Education”
- Justice Hugo Black, a Baptist school teacher, said the following as he finally defined the Establishment of Religion Clause found in our Constitution: “The Establishment of Religion Clause of the First Amendment means at least this: Neither a state nor the Federal Government can set up a church. Neither can pass laws which aid one religion, aid all religions or prefer one religion over another. The State cannot force nor influence a person to profess a belief or disbelief in any religion. No person can be punished for entertaining or professing religious beliefs or disbeliefs. No tax in any amount, large or small, can be levied to support any religious activities or institutions, whatever they may be called or whatever form they may adopt to teach or practice religion. Neither a state nor the Federal Government can, openly or secretly, participate in the affairs of any religious organizations or groups and vice versa. In the words of Jefferson, the clause against establishment of religion by law was intended to erect a wall of separation between Church and State”
- This precedent setting Supreme Court opinion represents the Supreme Law of our Country since 1947
- Please end the government attacks and discrimination brought to us by certain religious sects
- I defend the right of all to practice their religion but not when it means taking away the rights of others
- Support our Constitution and our Supreme Court
- It is all American to support the resolution on the Agenda today, it is the law

**Johannah Stern**

1215 Singletree Road  
Westfield, NC

Re: **Resolution – Ronda**

Ms. Stern presented the following comments:

- I am her to offer my support for the resolution proposed by Commissioner Jones today
- On June 13<sup>th</sup>, this Body passed another resolution, the one in support of what many of us call “Hate Bill 2”
- In this resolution, you state the following:
  - “Whereas, Stokes County is grateful and in full support of Governor Pat McCrory and the North Carolina Legislature concerning HB2”
- Excuse me, all of Stokes County is not in full support of this and is a misstatement of fact
- Many of us in this room are obviously not in support of a resolution that is driven by certain religious sects in this county
- We do not support discrimination against people for their sexually orientation, gender identity, or any other reason
- Who else in this County is in conflict with this Board’s HB2 Resolution?
- It seems like some major Stokes County employers are

- This Board seems very excited about the tax revenue that Walmart will provide
- Walmart has a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Associate Community called "Pride"
- Walmart states their mission is "To ensure Walmart is the workplace of choice for the LGBT Community with an inclusive environment. Our mission is to cultivate an inclusive environment where all associates including transgender associates can be their authentic selves at work"
- Other major Stokes County employers have similar, robust, diversity policies that provide discrimination protections for sexual orientation and gender identity including Duke Energy, Wieland Copper, Food Lion, Wells Fargo along with many others
- Many businesses and citizens are in conflict with religious based discrimination resolutions passed by this Board
- You get to believe whatever you want to believe
- I get to believe whatever I want to believe
- These good people get to believe whatever they want to believe
- That is being an American
- But as a government body, I resent being dictated to or having you represent in my name one religious agenda over another
- I fully expect all who support HB2, including those of you from King who applauded that town's passage of the support, to boycott the above mentioned businesses including Walmart or else some of us might expect there are "phony Christians" among us

**Janis Henderson-Hunsucker**

1140 Sterling Point Drive

King, NC

Re: **Resolution - Ronda**

Ms. Henderson-Hunsucker presented the following comments:

- Stagnation occurs when people are forced into ideological boxes
- When many different mindsets are accepted, supported, and encouraged, growth can happen
- Many of the counties embrace diversity and sparks entrepreneurship
- We need an economy where my high school seniors can get internships
- We need an economy where my children can get high paying jobs when they grow up
- By supporting the "Ronda Resolution", you show the citizens of this County that you will focus on important, local issues, not state and federal issues that seems to divide us
- We need to be unified in order to solve the big picture problems of our county like poison well water and inadequate school funding
- At North Stokes, I am teaching a new class called "Digital Photography"
- I don't have the money for cameras or textbooks
- It is like learning to read with knowing only half of the alphabet
- When I meet with my House and Senate Leaders as a member of the Stokes County Association of Educators, I often hear because of our declining population, we don't deserve more money
- That is hard for me to tell my students, especially my high school senior, who just got back from her NC State School Design Audition where she was competing against students whose entire portfolios contained 3D printed objects (I don't have a 3D printer)

- She asks “why we don’t have the fancy stuff like the big city schools, Ms. Henderson, why don’t we have more AP classes so that my GPA can be higher and therefore be more competitive when I apply for scholarships?”
- All I can tell her is that I am sorry, Stokes County Schools does not have the money
- Inclusion, I ask you to support the “Ronda Resolution” and focus on our County’s big picture problems
- We need your help

**Peggy Wert**

1440 Peewee Cromer Road

Danbury, NC

Re: **Church/State**

Ms. Wert presented the following comments:

- Many in this County want our government to follow the Christian faith, well, I am a Christian
- I am not a Baptist or a Catholic or a Mormon or a Presbyterian or any of the other hundreds of Christian faith
- So if our government wants to be Christian, which denomination, do you follow?
- If Baptist, should it be Southern Baptist or Primitive Baptists?
- If Catholic, should we outlaw the use of birth control?
- If Mormon, should we outlaw caffeinated coffee?
- Those are part of their faiths
- No. when government aligns with one faith, you open Pandora’s box and end up with country like Saudi Arabia
- Unless an act on one person’s part harms another person, the government should butt out, leaving controlling and directing of morality up to the churches
- I heard someone says that originally the North Carolina Constitution said that only Christians could hold office, I don’t know if that is true or not, if it is, it is a weak argument
- It used to be legal to own slaves
- It used to be that women could not vote and had very few rights
- Just because that was the way it used to be, doesn’t make it right
- I would hope that we could evolve as a society and as human beings
- I support Commissioner Jones and the resolution supporting the Separation of Church and State
- I hope this Commission does its job to support all the people of this County, not just the ones who are like you or who have the loudest voices

**James Sprinkle**

1066 Woodbury Road

King, NC

Re: **The Separation of Church and State**

Mr. Sprinkle presented the following comments:

- I come here today in support of the Resolution submitted by Commissioner Jones

- I support it because government does not speak for any religion, but supports the rights of all religions to peacefully coexist together
- When a position is taken that supports one religious view over another, government is no longer impartial, but discriminates against opposing religious views
- I ask that you let government address the needs of all people, not a select view
- I ask you to do this by supporting Commissioner Jones' Resolution

**Jeff George**

1005 Sara Dan Lane

Pinnacle, NC

**Re: Resolution – Separation of Church and State**

Mr. George presented the following comments:

- I do not support the resolution
- I am deacon in the Presbyterian Reformed Church of North Carolina
- Our confession of faith is the Westminster Confession of Faith, which was written in the 1600's
- Would like to read from Chapter 23 of the Civil Magistrate: (Section 1)
  - "God, the supreme Lord and King of all the world hath ordained civil magistrates, to be, under Him, over the people, for His own glory, and the public good; and to this end, hath armed them with the power of the sword, for the defense and encouragement of them that are good and for the punishment of evil doers"
- Would like to read Psalms 2 (Psalm of Jesus Christ)
  1. "Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?"
  2. "The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed, saying"
  3. "Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us"
  4. "He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall have them in derision"
  5. "Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure"
  6. "Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion"
  7. "I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son: this day have I begotten thee"
  8. "Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession"
  9. "Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel"
  10. "Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth"
  11. "Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling"
  12. "Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little, Blessed are all they that put their trust in him"
- Would like to say one final thing, as a Christian, my concern for these people who are for this, I am concerned for their souls
- An Atheist once said, "how badly does a Christian have to hate his neighbor to believe that he knows the way to eternal life and not tells his neighbor"
- Since I am a believer in God, I am a believer in the God of the Bible, I believe there is a judgment day

- I am concerned for the souls of my neighbors in Stokes County

**Robert Knight**

1220 Hubbie Moore Road

Lawsonville, NC

Re: **Resolution – Separation of Church and State**

Mr. Knight presented the following comments:

- Every person in every generation has always been on a creative crest to be unique
- Though, it can be chaotic at times, it is part of what makes this country great
- Our founding documents are the key to preserving the freedom that continues to allow America to be the unique and diverse country that it is
- The separation of church and state has become a selective application of a misinterpreted portion of the First Amendment
- With the changes in laws and the activists judges attempting to legislate the majority and the morality, we are seeing cases across the country where B&Bs, florists, bakers, photographers that aren't willing to provide their services for weddings that are against their religious beliefs; they are being sued, fined, and many times forced out of business
- This type of overreach will do nothing but erode the religious freedom that the First Amendment was designed to protect and create a top down, one size, fits all form of morality that is sure to fail
- I don't support the resolution
- As far as the Danbury Connecticut letter from Thomas Jefferson, I do believe that he said a prayer for them in that letter

**E. A. "Buddy" Timm**

PO Box 573

Walnut Cove, NC

Re: **The Separation of Church and State**

Mr. Timm read and presented the following comments:

- "I would like to address the Separation of Church and State phrase, that has been misused by the ACLU and it communist founder Roger Baldwin, who said: "Communism is the goal" compared to America's founding document the Declaration of Independence. It reads: "When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitles them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation." The first declared reason for separation is: "He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good," which reveals their main concern: wholesome law.

Please notice what "entitles them... to the separation." It was "the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God" which according to Blackstone's Commentaries are: "The doctrines thus delivered we call the revealed or divine law and they are to be found only in the Holy Scriptures. These precepts, when revealed, are found upon comparison to be really a part

the original law of nature.” This law of nature, being coeval with mankind and dictated by God himself, is of course superior in obligation to any other – It is binding over all the globe in all countries, and at all times; no human laws are of any validity, if contrary to this.” From that understanding, there is no separation from God of the Bible’s Holy Scriptures and government: the state. Furthermore, our American Founders concluded: “And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.” There is no separation there either. “A firm reliance” bears witness to our Founders Trust in God; and the Holy Scriptures to establish Right from Wrong.

What folly it is for man to think he can write the laws for Right and Wrong, when he has not written the laws for things to grow, animals to reproduce, or the sun to rise in the morning. God, our creator, established those laws for everything to work properly; which includes laws for mankind.

America is in a death grip by the supporters of immorality; and falsehood is used to infringe on free speech.

I concur with Jefferson: “God who gave us life gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God?”

What is our authorities’ responsibility to the truth of America’s founding, since our Liberties are held in the balance? Or can the ignorant, the debased, or anyone, govern a nation to greatness?”

**Ramona Timm**

PO Box 573

Walnut Cove, NC

Re: **Resolution and Our Country**

Ms. Timm presented the following comments:

- If anyone in this room thinks Mr. and Mrs. Timm are guilty of toxic and dangerous rhetoric – take a look at this past weeks’ news
- Take a good look
- The history and foundational truths concerning our country are shared out of love – love of country and all people that seek life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness
- A true understanding of good government and the essential role of morality as taught in Judeo/Christianity is key to our country’s future and prosperity
- Because of the nature of the proposed resolution, I am giving each of you, the commissioners, a copy of the Constitution
- I would like to read a verse from the song “America” – underscores what really matter
  - “O beautiful for pilgrim feet
  - Whose stern impassioned stress
  - A thoroughfare for freedom beat across the wilderness
  - America, America, God mend thine every flaw
  - Confirm thy soul in self-control
  - Thy liberty in law”

- Thank you

**Dale Swanson**

1065 Billy Moorefield Road

Sandy Ridge, NC

Re: **Church and State**

Mr. Swanson presented the following comments:

- I have been trying to figure out what to say
- I scribbled some things on paper, but I am actually up here right now with a blank piece of paper
- I think this is the most American thing that we can do
- I think that we have been having this debate right here for a very long time
- We know that Thomas Jefferson, John Adams and all of their contemporaries struggled over this, it is very hard
- We have recently been struggling over a problem that we have with morality on the river
- We decided that we are going to take away one small right in order to make the river more inclusive to everybody
- Right now, the river is not inclusive for women who want to float down it because they may be accosted by some drunk; it is not safe for families to float down the river because they may be accosted by some drunk or might see something that should not be happening in public
- Those things should be done with people who want to do those types of things with you, not on display for everyone
- People in this County have many different faiths
- In talking with a friend, we decided, we could probably come up with 365 faiths of Stokes County
- There are all different kinds of blended things
- My faith has changed over 52 years of my life
- I thought one way as a child, I think a different way now that I am an adult
- I am sure I will think even further different things as I go on
- Having our government pronounce one faith, one deity, or no deity is a problem because it makes it less inclusive for everybody
- I am not saying that saying a prayer at the beginning of the commissioners' meetings is like a drunk in the river exposing himself to your daughter, but I would say it is not the most inclusive thing that you can do for everybody else who lives here and pays taxes here
- We have Eastern Orthodox
- We have Krishnas
- One year, the Krishna Community brought their youth to the river
- We actually picked them up in the vans
- When I was driving van to the river, I felt like I was driving the shuttle van for the Methodist Church Youth Group that I grew up with
- They were singing songs, different than the ones that I had remembered, but they were acting just like church youth groups from any other faith; the faith that I grew up in
- Let's keep our faith over in houses

- We have houses for our faith where we can talk about these things and where we can comfort one another
- When we are doing the business of government, we need to be doing the business of government
- We can be informed by our faith, we can make decisions on what we have learned in our houses

Clerk called the three-minute time limit

**Thomas Delp**

1117 Still Meadows Lane

King, NC

Re: **Church and State**

Mr. Delp presented the following comments:

- I first want to sincerely thank the Stokes County Commissioners for this honor to speak today; I am very grateful for it
- In 1947, the judicial decision of Everson vs. Board of Education ,where the courts decided that Thomas Jefferson messed up on his 1802 statement regarding the separation of church and state and grossly misinterpreted his statement by saying that the church should not get involved in public matters
- Because of this error, Jefferson's statement "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment for religion", now means that a teenager cannot say the word God during a graduation speech, a public high school football coach cannot pray with this his teams or for us we could say placing a Christian Flag and A Kneeling Solider at a Veterans Memorial
- This is not the way our founding father, Thomas Jefferson, intended for his statement to be taken
- As a direct result of the recent HB2 issue, as well as, religious issues in our county, Commissioner Ronda Jones has recently put forth a resolution to the Stokes County Commissioners calling for this exact false interpretation of Jefferson's statement
- I want to kindly remind the commissioners that HB2 is not a religious issue
- It is wrong and is a bully tactic to make this a religious issue
- I have not an ounce of hate or disgust towards any transgender individual and I have not a single friend that is a hatemonger or bigot
- We are made by the same creator, the God of Heaven
- HB2 is nothing more than a safety issue for the women and children of North Carolina including by wife and two daughters
- I strongly applaud Governor McCrory and Representative Kyle Hall
- I would ask the commissioners where have the complaints over restrooms and changing facilities been up until now?
- Has the United States refused to not "love our neighbor" and have they been discriminating against the people for hundreds of hundreds of years by daring to have separate restroom and changing facilities?
- It is absolute immaturity to tell someone that they do not love their neighbor or are showing hate by simply disagree with an individual



- In closing, I would like to remind our commissioners that our nation was founded upon God and His Word
- President George Washington said, "It is impossible to rightly govern a nation without God and the Bible"
- President Ronald Reagan stated, "Without God, there is no virtue because there is no prompting of the conscience, And without God, democracy will not and cannot endure. If we ever forget that we are one nation under God, then we will be one nation gone under"
- To some up today, making a resolution like this is a minor issue, but I firmly believe it is a purposeful desire to continue to remove God from our very society and to remove our religious liberties
- I admit that my two little girls will live in a much different America than what even I was raised in
- But I am confident more than ever before as I stand before you today that my God is still on the throne
- He will not be impeached and He will never resign

**Carmen Spainhour**

105 Farmstead Road

King, NC

Re: **Church and State**

Ms. Spainhour presented the following comments:

- I am speaking with regard to the proposed resolution by Commissioner Jones supporting the separation of church and state
- I am here to declare that we are a Christian nation
- In the Book of Genesis, God gave Noah and his sons a directive to establish government
- God gave Moses 10 laws that people were to live by
- That idea that government and those 10 laws are what our laws of governing the people of America are based on
- There is no way to separate our government from religion
- As Attorney David Gibbs explains, if we look at it as a business corporation, the Declaration of Independence can be called America's Articles of Incorporation while the Constitution is its Bylaws
- Many people are quick to say that the Constitution does not mention God, but the truth of the matter is that it doesn't need too because it is already declared in the Declaration of Independence
- The Constitution adds to that foundational document
- The Constitution is merely the rules by which we put into practice with what the Declaration of Independence already establishes that "we hold these truths to self-evident; that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness"
- We are a Christian Nation
- Why would Patrick Henry state that Virginians could belong to any church, but they must belong to some church
- We are a Christian Nation

- God is mentioned in all our early documents; in the Mayflower Compact signed November 11, 1620 states “In the name of God, Amen, We, whose names are underwritten, Having undertaken, for the Glory of God and advancements of the Christian faith”
- That document was to establish government in the New Land
- We are a Christian Nation
- Benjamin Franklin called for prayer breaks during the Constitutional Convention
- We are a Christian Nation
- George Washington issued the first proclamation of National Thanksgiving, October 3, 1789, in order to “Acknowledge the Providence of the Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits and humbly to implore his protection and favor”
- That was made a National Holiday by President Lincoln in 1863 and he proclaimed “the day of Thanksgiving to praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens”
- We are a Christian Nation
- Congress frequently called for a National Days of Prayer
- Separate America from Christianity; everything I do and every decision I make is based on the basis of those principles – the founding documents and in our laws
- They are based on the 10 laws given to us by God to Moses
- We should never be separated from Christianity, but we willing to die for others so that they have the freedom to worship the way they believe

Clerk called the three-minute time limit

**Leslie Staples**

1304 P East Road

Westfield, NC

Re: **Church and State**

Ms. Staples presented the following comments:

- I am here today to support Commissioner Jones’ resolution
- Today, I am going to ask you to reflect on and contemplate the Presbyterian Church Affirmation of Faith of 1967 from which I will read:
  - God has created the peoples of the earth to be one universal family
  - It is reconciling love, God overcomes the barriers between sisters and brothers and breaks down every form of discrimination based on differences, real or imaginary
  - The Church is called upon to bring all people to receive and uphold one another in a relationship of life; in employment, housing, education, pleasure, marriage, family, church and the exercise of political rights; therefore, the church labors for the abolition of all discrimination and ministers to those injured by it
  - Congregations, individuals, or groups of Christians who exclude dominate or patronize others; however, subtly, resist the spirit of God and bring contempt on the faith which they profess”
- I believe that all people should feel called upon to bring others together under the spirit of God
- I respectfully ask you that you consider these words and that they cause you to be more respectful of and kind to all the citizens of Stokes County

- No matter what you personally believe, it is very important to remember that your role as county commissioners must be driven by the Constitution
- All personal belief systems, no matter what they are, need to be parked at the door if this chambers where your meetings are held
- Church doctrine can't determine outcomes here
- Support of this resolution will make that clear to the citizens of Stokes
- Lack of support will just add another example of bias on your part
- Please support this resolution

**Pastor Mark Smith**

5148 Beulah Lane

Kernersville, NC

Re: **The Separation of Church and State**

Pastor Smith presented the following comments:

- I have been a citizen of Stokes County most of my life until just recently
- I do pastor a church where the majority of congregation live in Stokes County
- I am here today against the proposed resolution submitted by Commissioner Jones on the Separation of Church and State
- I am not here today, of course probably some people here in the room today think, to support nothing but the Baptist; although, I am a Baptist minister and proud to be a Baptist minister
- I am convinced that the majority of the people that think they are going to heaven, simply because they are a Baptist, are not going there either
- It is all about being a believer on the Lord Jesus Christ
- Now, some people disagree with that statement in this room
- I want you to understand something today
- When America was founded, it was founded by Christians
- I know there are a lot of different people in this room and outside this room, I have been all over Stokes County knocking on doors most of my Christian life
- I have compassion on people, I love people
- I spend nights at hospitals, hospice centers, while the majority of people in this room are in the bed because I care about people
- I care about our nation
- I care about the citizens of Stokes County
- The one thing we have got to settle in this room today is America was founded by Christians
- In fact, 52 of the original 56 people who signed our Declaration of Independence were strongly committed Christians
- At least 24 of our Founding Fathers, folks, had degrees in theology
- These men were qualified ministers of Gospel of Jesus Christ
- Their faith was an integral part of all their decisions
- Your faith today, people elected you to put you here
- Your faith is still a part of those decisions

- If people don't like the fact that your faith is a part of decisions that are made, yes, even in this room, then the majority of people in this county and including in this room are going to have to elect different officials
- But, I guarantee you that everyone has a belief
- You either believe in the Creator of God or you believe in something
- Some of you in this room and outside this room, you make a God of your mind
- If you don't like the way these people work government in this county or other counties, then you are going to have to get the majority of people on your side because everybody has got some input
- You are going to have to make that decision
- But as of right now, this country was founded upon Christianity
- It is very plain and simple
- One of our leading Founding Fathers, Patrick Henry, said "that it could be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded by Christians, not a religion but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ"
- The Bible is worth all other books that has ever been printed
- Someone quoted George Washington, the most recognized Founding Father of this Nation, he said "it is impossible to rightly govern a nation without God and the Bible"
- George Washington was the first inaugurated person of the Constitution to take the oath of office by with his hand on the Bible

Clerk called the three-minute time

**Randy Cook**

2021 Moir Farm Road

Lawsonville, NC

Re: **The Separation of Church and State**

Pastor Cook presented the following comments:

- I am Pastor of Shining Light Baptist Church
- We are here today because of the resolution submitted by Commissioner Jones
- My understanding is that a resolution is a binding agreement or similar to a law
- All this got started over HB2
- I have been a believer for 10 years now
- No Christians have got up here and called anyone narrowed minded, called anyone names
- We are all open to ideas
- Everyone has ideas
- And be great to expect others in those ideas
- Even before I was a believer, I would not want a man in a bathroom with my 11-year old daughter
- I would not want a man in a bathroom with my wife
- HB2 is protecting folks
- You have high schools boys that their hormones are going to be raging that are going to be in locker rooms with our daughters and others that are around us

- I don't believe everybody that is a transgender is a pedophile, but the one that got it started in Charlotte, if you look at him, he was a registered sex offender
- You have go to see where it comes from
- If you want to blame somebody about this, go back to the Charlotte Mayor, she was the one that got it all
- I have no problem with anyone in this room
- I love everybody
- What is I am seeing the problem is that everyone is worried about a dog
- Would like to ask (directed to the audience) what you are doing in the middle of the night as Pastor Smith spoke about being at hospitals?

A member of the audience called for Point of Order, as the Public Comments Speaker (Pastor Cook) was addressing the audience instead of the Board of County Commissioners

Pastor Cook continued his comments:

- Would like to know where everyone else is at when I am up in the middle of the night staying at the hospital with a family?
- Would like to know where everyone else is at when I am running children to West Jefferson this morning
- With this HB2, all these people are worried about is making their dollar, their finances
- That is not what HB2 is about
- You are talking about the Constitution
- If you look at the Constitution, you try to bind these from expressing their faith openly
- That is against the law, regardless of what Supreme Court Judges said
- You have it on your resolution, "Whereas, the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights states that Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof"
- Congress is the only law maker
- I have heard you pray and you did not pray in Jesus name
- I have not come over here in a meeting and jumped all over you
- I have never tried to shove my religion down your throat or anyone else who is here
- I may try to share it
- I listen to what you believe
- When I was working the prison system, I listen to all ideas, then I told them about my ideas
- You, Commissioner Jones, are trying to hinder these men here from expressing their religious belief to go with your Agenda, I guess, because, if you remember, you were determine to not stand or vote with Tom Tillis when the people of Stokes County voted approximately 60% that they did not agree with same sex marriage
- Now you say you do not want anything to do with HB2
- I am just trying to say that we need to look at the protection of all people
- When all this really hits the fan, there are going to be some people that really gets hurt
- You are going to have some mad Dads, some mad husbands that wind up hurting people
- We really need to look at it
- Where is your compassion at?
- All I have heard is you do is mock and laugh at every Christian that has been up here

- Thanked the person who pointed him in the right direction regarding speaking to the Board of Commissioners, not to a congregation
- So what are we going to do?
- I appreciate you guys and all you do
- Thank the Lord that you are working on the river
- Last time I was there, it was pot smell everywhere and drunks laying everywhere
- I could not go to the river with my children
- We need an atmosphere that is acceptable for everyone

Clerk called the three-minute time limit

Commissioner Walker called for a point of order.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- When we have a speaker and he is speaking, he has the floor
- I think he is entitled to look anyway he chooses and not be interrupted

**Amos Elvis**

1250 Carson Watts Road

King, NC

**Re: The Separation of Church and State**

Mr. Elvis presented the following comments:

- I have been here since 1996
- I am not leaving any paperwork because you have a recorder
- I have two Constitutions in my hand, have a Constitution of God which is the Holy Bible and the Constitution of the Federal Government the United States Constitution
- First Amendment covers religious freedom and other freedoms
- Congress shall make no law representing an establishment of religion
- Religious liberty is a biblical concept
- In the Old Testament, kings always came from the tribe of Judah and priests always came from the tribe of Levi
- In the New Testament, "So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's" (Matthews 22:21)
- Civil government derives its authority from God
- Read the First Amendment of the United States Constitution "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances"
- There is no separation of church and state
- There is no separation from church and state
- I am telling you that right now
- I am a certified Constitutionalist with a law firm
- I have the credentials and credit to back it up
- Just going to tell you that right now

- I think what you are doing, Ronda, bringing this resolution up, is illegal and I don't think it is right
- I am a Christian, I am a Veteran, I am a certified Constitutionalist and a minister, whether you knew it or not
- I don't have any hate in my heart whatsoever, but I get so "cotton-pickin mad" when someone steps on my rights and I think you stepped on them

**Marsha Dunn**

124 Hepler Lane

Pinnacle, NC

Re: **The Separation of Church and State**

Ms. Dunn presented the following comments:

- Going of script just a little bit
- First of all, I am a teacher in Stokes County and also President of the Stokes County Educators
- This past Spring, I had a student from a church going family asked me, "why is it that non-Christians are nicer than Christians?" "Why do Christians seem to be bullying everybody?"
- I responded that is just the way it is sometimes, what else can you say to a 14-year old boy?
- How do you address that?
- This is 2016
- We have so much more in our County to worry about
- We have schools closing, businesses leaving, and have Walnut Cove basically disintegrating (wonderful little town full of boarded up buildings)
- We have so much more to concern ourselves with than other people's religious beliefs
- I am not sure how many of you spoke actually read Ronda's Resolution, I have read it several times, pretty much memorized it, and has nothing to do with what everyone was talking about
- We have children who do not have enough food in this county
- They go hungry, I feed them
- In my classroom, I give them lunches
- I make sure they have breakfast and water
- I make sure they have coats
- That all comes out of my pocket
- I have a son that has graduated and one that just started as a freshman, I take care of those kids because that is my job
- We have locations in this County without clean water
- We have areas in this County disappearing because we are not recruiting industry to locate here
- We have schools that are falling apart because we refuse to invest and instead keep the same tax rates for the past three decades
- We are a million dollars in budget shortfalls and this is what we are talking about today for the last hour and a half
- This is where our priorities are lying right now
- You don't have all these people coming out for your budget meetings, do you?

- You might have ten in the seats, I know I have been there
- Where are you at then?
- We concern ourselves with what flag is flown or what momentum stands or supports a Constitution law such as HB2 which was and never will be about safe bathrooms
- I get it, you want to please
- You keep dragging the issues that should never concern government official
- I know plenty of non-Christians who are morally, upstanding, humble people
- I also know plenty more Christians, who for the lack of a better word, are not so outstanding and gracious
- I think the citizens of Stokes need to be reminded that we need a separation of church and state and we need to think more about our economy, out students, and our growth
- We have enough churches
- I am in support of Ronda's Resolution – Separation of Church and State
- I think that you guys need to focus on that

Clerk called the three-minute time limit

**Rev. Ruth Lenger**

400 S Main Street  
Danbury Cove, NC

**Re: The Separation of Church and State**

Rev. Lenger presented the following comments:

- I actually live in High Point, but I am employed here in Danbury in Stokes County
- I am an ordained pastor in the Presbyterian Church USA and employed as a pastor by the Danbury Community Church; however, I am not here as a representative of the denomination nor congregation, but here as a concerned citizen.
- In recent weeks and months, I have realized that I needed to revisit and reeducate myself about our founding father's language, intent, and circumstances in writing the First Amendment
- As we know, the First Amendment was written by folks that were Christians and Theologians
- As I read it, The First Amendment to the United States Constitution prohibits the making of any law respecting an establishment of religion or impeding the free exercise of religion
- I did some homework and learned
- Mr. Sparks sold my thunder regarding the Danbury, Connecticut Church and Mr. Jefferson's speech to them and that was new to me that there was another Danbury
- Mr. Jefferson wrote in part: "Believing with you that religion is a matter which lies solely between Man & his God, that he owes account to no one other for this faith or his worship, That the legitimate powers of government reach actions only & not opinions, I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American People which declared that their legislature should make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, thus building a wall of separation between Church & State"
- Yes, another Wall
- As a Christian, I tend to see that wall as more of a division between the Kingdom of God and The Kingdom of man; they are different



- I am pleased and proud that folks like yourselves step up to the plate and serve your community as elected officials
- There is work to be done
- Elected officials often have thankless tasks
- I respect your authority over matters of legality according to the laws of the nation, the state, and county
- I am very aware of that
- My father also served in my hometown (Grand Rapids, Michigan) for many, many years as both a city commissioner and a county commissioner
- I am proud of that
- He was also a most faithful Christian and served most of his life as an Elder in the church
- A very important thing my Father taught was that legal laws are not, I repeat not, nor have they ever been intended to be laws of morality
- Those two things are separate
- What you and I perceive to be moral, even as faithful Christians living in close proximity and similar circumstances – differ
- And those differences are those which belong to the discretion, the dictates, and the jurisdiction of persons, the church, and their conscience with their God
- I neither want nor expect any other faith to dictate to me what I consider to be moral, nor would I ever presume to do the same for others
- I request you preferably consider no one else makes those decisions for you and me

Clerk called the three-minute time limit

Chairman Inman expressed appreciation to those who spoke today.

Chairman Inman noted that the County staff had not received a call that was needed before going into Closed Session, but may later in the meeting.

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

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

Manager.

County Manager Rick Morris had no comments.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- As I understand, this is a time that Board members can address any issue or make any comment we choose unrestricted
- I wish in a way that we were not having to deal with some of the issues
- They appear to be very divisive
- If anyone says we are doing this so that we can include everybody, they are putting the pieces together in a way that I have not quite been able to do so far
- When I first ran for office, I ran as a Christian

- I was re-elected as a Christian
- I ran for mayor of King as a Christian, I was re-elected as a Christian
- One thing that I feel like is if someone runs as an Atheist and they are voted in, then when they are sitting on this Board, they can conduct themselves as an Atheist
- They can refuse to pray or pray in the name of whatever an Atheist prays in because if they are elected as an Atheist, they have just as much right to be saying what they want to say as I have to say what I am saying right now
- I don't think there is any doubt from anyone my belief is Christian
- I feel like I am in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century being strongly attacked as a Christian in this country
- There is a question of my right to exercise my belief, I have to bury it when I am sitting here in this chair or else I am questioned why I am treading on other people's rights who don't want to hear something from a Christian
- I had a talk with Mr. Hewett
- Some of you might remember Mr. Hewett
- His big issue was separation of church and state
- Cost the City of King \$501,000 to try to comply with Mr. Hewett's wishes
- I challenged Mr. Hewett to that; I said to Mr. Hewitt, if you are so uptight and you want to exercise your beliefs, then file for office
- See if you are elected
- If you are elected, you can do whatever you choose because that is the most democratic way that I know of
- If someone gets the most votes, they own the office
- I applaud anyone to come and speak and state their case, give their reasons for believing the way they do
- I think we have had a good mixture here today
- I really feel like we are dealing with the same issue in a way that we have already dealt with as a Board
- It appears it deserves due process, hopefully that will happen
- I will stop there

Commissioner Jones commented:

- I was made aware during the budget process that there has been no Music, Art, and Spanish in the county schools for the last several years, if I was given the correct information
- Of course, I know that is a School Board decision
- But we all know that comes down to money
- We are trying to build up economic development, but our schools need certain things to attract people
- We are in a community that has so much talent, I am really concerned about this issue
- When we start the budget process next year, I would like to speak to the School Board regarding this issue
- Feel like this may be one reason the Charter Schools are getting our students

- We need to figure out ways to keep our students in the County because it is hurting our bottom line

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- Thank everyone for being here
- Welcome to today's meeting
- As Commissioner Walker has stated, I also ran 6 years ago as a Christian
- I am in my second term and I ran to be re-elected as a Christian
- I did not run as a Baptist or any other denomination
- I am a Christian
- I believe in the Word of God
- I seek his counsel in everything that I do
- I ask for prayer before I come to the meetings
- I ask several people to pray for me to make the right decisions
- If you don't want to vote for me in the next round, if I decide to run, please don't vote for me
- Vote for who you want
- If you don't want a conservative, if you want a liberal progressive, then vote for a liberal progressive
- Like Commissioner Walker stated, if they are voted in, they can do what they want when they take this seat
- You know up front how I run
- I am a conservative, but a Christian first

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Ethics for Life "That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance and I will fill their treasures" (Proverbs 8:21)
- Would like to say to this Board that I am very thankful for the \$250,000 State Grant that the County received to implement our broadband system which is going to be tremendous for Stokes County
- It is going to help the children and economic development as far as jobs
- I do support the First Amendment which gives freedom of choice; think we need to remember that

Chairman Inman commented:

- Appreciate everyone being here today
- Always remember the First Amendment rights -- freedom of speech
- Grew up in the Quaker faith
- My family was very poor, grew up in poverty
- Joined the Baptist church
- I am in prayer every single day, right now, for our hospital, for our country and our nation
- Whatever your belief is, it is fine with me, whether it is Baptist, Moravian, Catholic -- the most important thing to me is that you believe in the higher power
- Want to thank everyone again for being here today

## CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Minutes of June 27, 2016 – Regular Meeting

### New School/Forsyth Tech Fund- Budget Amendment #1

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #1.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
	<b>New School/F. Tech Fund</b>			
	Transfer to Capital Projects			
211.9820.001	Fund	\$00.00	\$1,243,040.00	\$1,243,040.00
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$00.00</b>	<b>\$1,243,040.00</b>	<b>\$1,243,040.00</b>

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To correct a clerical error on the Capital Projects Ordinance for the Chestnut Gove Roofing Project. The amount to transfer from the New School/Forsyth Tech Fund (4 cent fund) was left off the Capital Projects Ordinance.

This will result in a **net increase** of **\$1,243,040.00** 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
211.3991.000	Fund Balance	\$00.00	\$1,243,040.00	\$1,243,040.00
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$00.00</b>	<b>\$1,243,040.00</b>	<b>\$1,243,040.00</b>

### Emergency Communications - Budget Amendment #2

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #2.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
<b>Emergency Communications</b>				
100.4325.511	Equipment – Non Capitalized	<u>\$00.00</u>	<u>\$1,751.00</u>	<u>\$1,751.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$00.00</b>	<b>\$1,751.00</b>	<b>\$1,751.00</b>
<b>Capital Reserve Fund</b>				
201.4325.002	Emergency Communications	\$36,006.00	\$(1,751.00)	\$34,255.00
201.9810.000	Transfer to General Fund	<u>\$117,652.00</u>	<u>\$1,751.00</u>	<u>\$119,403.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$136,658.00</b>	<b>\$00.00</b>	<b>\$153,658.00</b>

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To transfer funds from Capital Reserve Fund to replace the omnidirectional antennas at the Old E911 Building due to NC Viper radio issues. The NC Viper technicians suggested that we replace the antennas to clear up the issues.

This will result in a **net increase** of **\$1,751.00** 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
100.3982.960	Transfer from Capital Reserve Fund	<u>\$117,652.00</u>	<u>\$1,751.00</u>	<u>\$119,403.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$117,652.00</b>	<b>\$1,751.00</b>	<b>\$119,403.00</b>

### **E911 Fund - Budget Amendment #3**

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #3.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
<b>E911 Fund</b>				
200.4325.510	Equipment	<u>\$336,800.00</u>	<u>\$243,459.00</u>	<u>\$580,259.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$336,800.00</b>	<b>\$243,459.00</b>	<b>\$580,259.00</b>

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

The re-appropriate funds for the upgrade of NAI/ALI Software to Vesta Software with CenturyLink

This will result in a **net increase** of **\$243,459.00** 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>E911 Fund</b>				
200.3991.000	Fund Balance	\$615,807.00	\$243,459.00	\$859,266.00
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$615,807.00</b>	<b>\$243,459.00</b>	<b>\$859,266.00</b>

#### **Sheriff's Department- Budget Amendment #4**

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #4.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
<b>Sheriff's Department</b>				
100.4310.511	Equipment – Non Capitalized	\$00.00	\$3,075.00	\$3,075.00
<b>Contingency</b>				
100.9910.000	Contingency	\$125,000.00	\$(3,075.00)	\$121,925.00
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$125,000.00</b>	<b>\$00.00</b>	<b>\$125,000.00</b>

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To transfer funds from Contingency for the matching funds to purchase five (5) body armor vests.

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.

#### **Sheriff's Department - Budget Amendment #5**

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #5.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
<b>Sheriff's Department</b>				
100.4310.511	Equipment – Non Capitalized	\$3,075.00	\$3,395.00	\$6,470.00
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$3,075.00</b>	<b>\$3,395.00</b>	<b>\$6,470.00</b>

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To appropriate State Fines and Forfeiture funds to purchase two (2) computers.

This will result in a **net increase** of **\$3,395.00** 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>				
100.3301.413	State Fines & Forfeitures	<u>\$00.00</u>	<u>\$3,395.00</u>	<u>\$3,395.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$00.00</b>	<b>\$3,395.00</b>	<b>\$3,395.00</b>

#### **Emergency Management - Budget Amendment #6**

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #6.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
<b>Emergency Management</b>				
100.4330.311	Training	<u>\$2,000.00</u>	<u>\$6,000.00</u>	<u>\$8,000.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>	<b>\$6,000.00</b>	<b>\$8,000.00</b>

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To appropriate grant funds for a tabletop exercise and full-scale exercise for Emergency Management.

This will result in a **net increase** of **\$6,000.00** 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
100.3301.262	Emergency Management	<u>\$30,000.00</u>	<u>\$6,000.00</u>	<u>\$36,000.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$30,000.00</b>	<b>\$6,000.00</b>	<b>\$138,310.00</b>

#### **Public Buildings/Transfers/Capital Reserve Fund - Budget Amendment #7**

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #7.

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>Transfers</b>				
100.9820.960	Transfer to Capital Reserve	<u>\$100,000.00</u>	<u>\$32,610.00</u>	<u>\$132,610.00</u>
		<b>\$100,000.00</b>	<b>\$32,610.00</b>	<b>\$132,610.00</b>
<b>Capital Reserve Fund</b>				
201.4190.013	Public Building	<u>\$250,580.00</u>	<u>\$32,610.00</u>	<u>\$283,190.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$250,580.00</b>	<b>\$32,610.00</b>	<b>\$283,190.00</b>

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To transfer funds to Capital Reserve Fund for the purchase of a dump truck. This is to replace the wrecked truck.

This will result in a **net increase** of **\$32,610.00** in the expenditures and other financial use to the County's annual budget. To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will increase. These revenues have already been received or are verified they will be received this fiscal year.

<b>Account Number</b>	<b>Account Description</b>	<b>Current Budgeted Amount</b>	<b>Increase (Decrease)</b>	<b>As Amended</b>
<b>General Fund</b>				
100.3839.850	Insurance Claims	<u>\$00.00</u>	<u>\$32,610.00</u>	<u>\$32,610.00</u>
		<b>\$00.00</b>	<b>\$32,610.00</b>	<b>\$32,610.00</b>
<b>Capital Reserve Fund</b>				
201.3981.000	Transfer from General Fund	<u>\$100,000.00</u>	<u>\$32,610.00</u>	<u>\$132,610.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$100,000.00</b>	<b>\$32,610.00</b>	<b>\$132,610.00</b>

### **Proposed 2017 Holiday Schedule**

Clerk to the Board of Commissioners Darlene Bullins presented the proposed 2017 Holiday Schedule for the Board's review and approval at today's meeting.

#### **PROPOSED HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FOR 2017**

<b>Holiday</b>	<b>Day of Week</b>	<b>Date</b>
New Year's Day	Monday	January 2, 2017
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Monday	January 16, 2017
Good Friday	Friday	April 14, 2017
Memorial Day	Monday	May 29, 2017
Independence Day	Tuesday	July 4, 2017



Labor Day	Monday	September 4, 2017
Veterans Day	Friday	November 10, 2017
Thanksgiving	Thursday	November 23, 2017
	Friday	November 24, 2017
Christmas	Monday	December 25, 2017
	Tuesday	December 26, 2017

Floating Holiday-(1) day to be used by employees during the calendar year of 2017 upon approval of supervisor. Can't be carried over to calendar year 2018.

### **Proposed Resolution Establishing Capital Reserve Fund – Fiscal Year 2016-17**

Finance Director Julia Edwards presented the proposed Capital Reserve Resolution for Fiscal Year 2015-16 for the Board's consideration and approval at today's meeting.

Project	Account	2014-15 Reserve	2015-16 Appropriated	2015-16 Amendments	2015-16 Expenditures	2015-16 Reserve
Name	Number	Amount				Amount
Elections	201.4170.022	\$39,680.00	\$00.00	\$00.00	\$00.00	\$39,680.00
Tax Administration	201.4140.000	\$71,900.00	\$00.00	\$00.00	\$42,000.00	\$29,900.00
Register of Deeds	201.4180.025	\$34,547.00	\$00.00	\$3,603.00	\$10,776.00	\$27,374.00
Public Buildings	201.4190.013	\$78,475.00	\$100,000.00	\$00.00	\$19,895.00	\$158,580.00
Technology	201.4210.009	\$15,423.00	\$00.00	\$00.00	\$10,000.00	\$5,423.00
Vehicle Maintenance	201.4250.006	\$89,217.00	\$00.00	\$00.00	\$00.00	\$89,217.00
Sheriff's Department	201.4310.001	\$60,000.00	\$00.00	\$00.00	\$00.00	\$60,000.00
Econ. Development	201.4920.027	\$109,428.00	\$00.00	\$00.00	\$60,000.00	\$49,428.00
Emergency Comm.	201.4325.002	\$67,105.00	\$00.00	\$00.00	\$5,981.00	\$61,124.00
Emergency Mgmt	201.4330.001	\$46,288.00	\$00.00	\$17,918.00	\$46,287.00	\$17,919.00
Fire Marshal	201.4340.000	\$5,241.00	\$00.00	\$00.00	\$787.00	\$4,454.00
EMS	201.4370.010	\$00.00	\$00.00	\$50,358.00	\$00.00	\$50,358.00
Jail	201.4320.012	\$18,226.00	\$00.00	\$00.00	\$14,800.00	\$3,426.00
Health Department	201.5100.019	\$00.00	\$00.00	\$4,622.00	\$00.00	\$4,622.00
Environmental Health	201.5191.001	\$00.00	\$00.00	\$3,000.00	\$00.00	\$3,000.00
Stokes Rey. Mem						
Hosp.	201.5700.000	\$40,000.00	\$00.00	\$00.00	\$40,000.00	\$00.00
Forsyth Tech.	201.5912.018	<u>\$13,600.00</u>	<u>\$00.00</u>	<u>\$00.00</u>	<u>\$00.00</u>	<u>\$13,600.00</u>
Totals		<b>\$689,130.00</b>	<b>\$100,000.00</b>	<b>\$79,501.00</b>	<b>\$250,526.00</b>	<b>\$618,105.00</b>

Commissioner Jones moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Walker seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

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

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

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

### **Social Services Monthly Report**

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

- Program Reports
  - Services Report (Social Work, Family Support Services, Administration)
    - Provides all services for May and June
    - Concerns are the increase in Foster Care
      - We now have 84 foster children in custody with 16 other children being monitored
  - Audit/Reviews
    - Operational Support Team County Contact (06-14-16)
      - Deals with Medicaid and Food Stamps
      - Things going well in those areas
      - For the last 5 weeks, the Food Stamps timeliness average is 96.87% (goal is to be 95% or better)
    - Family Caregiver Support Program Monitoring (02-5-16)
      - Voucher Program to provide Respite Care for Caregivers
      - No issues
    - Child Welfare Program Monitoring (letters dated 12-16-15, 02-12-16, and 06-15-16)
      - This was done at my request
      - All 100 counties are being monitored
      - Working with the state
      - Will be coming again in November 2016 to review another program
- Metrics (As of March 2016):
  - Income Maintenance
    - NC FAST – In Compliance
    - WorkFirst – In Compliance
    - FNS – In Compliance
    - Adult Medicaid – In Compliance
    - Family and Children's Medicaid – In Compliance
    - Child Support – In Compliance
    - Program Integrity – In Compliance
    - Appeal Hearings and Fraud Hearings – In Compliance
  - Day Care – In Compliance
  - Foster Care
    - Foster Care Services – Needs Improvement
      - Caseloads at capacity
      - Work is overwhelming

- Currently have 84 children in custody and monitoring 16 other children
- Foster Care Home Licensing – Needs Improvement
  - Need licensed foster homes in Stokes County
  - Looking for those who are genuinely interested in making a difference in the life of a child
- Adoptions – In Compliance
- Child Protective Services
  - Investigations – Needs Improvement
    - Reports are up
    - Work is extremely stressful
    - Having a difficult time replacing investigator that retired in May
  - Case Management – In Compliance
  - Adult Services
    - Adult Protective Services – Needs Improvement
      - The APS position is a Social Worker II; this position should be held by a Social Worker III
      - This position needs to be reclassified to meet standards
    - Guardianship– Needs Improvement
      - Our guardianship position is a Social Worker II; this position should be held by a Social Worker III
      - This position needs to be reclassified to meet standards
    - SSBG/HCCBG/Payee/Adult Day– In Compliance
    - Family/Monitoring– In Compliance
    - SA IH/MAC– In Compliance
    - CAP DA/CAP C– In Compliance
    - Intake– In Compliance
    - Caseloads– In Compliance
- Supervision (Staff/Supervisor Ratio)- Needs Improvement
  - We do not have enough supervisors to adequately manage employees and provide quality assurance
  - Due to program growth, supervisors are like line workers
  - Need a Social Worker Supervisor III in Child Welfare as well as a Program Manager for Social Work Services
- Staffing (Years of Service) – Needs Improvement
  - Currently, 34% of our staff have less than 2 years of service with DSS
- Medicaid Transportation – Needs Improvement
  - One of our Medicaid Transportation workers is a Processing Assistant III
  - That position needs to be reclassified to an Income Maintenance Caseworker I in order to correctly reflect her job duties
- Clerical – Needs Improvement
  - Clerical positions are currently Processing Assistants IIIs

- They need to be reclassified to Processing Assistant IVs due to the complexity of work completed, the NC FAST System and to correctly reflect the job duties
- For Reading Pleasure
  - Provided the Board with reading information:
    - The Opioid Epidemic: By the Numbers
    - “North Carolina: 2016 Kids County Profile
- Provided the Board with a new mandate – Temporary Financial Assistance for Facilities Licensed to Accept State-County Special Assistance Payments
  - County pays 50% of State County Special Assistance for individuals in rest homes
  - There is a \$34 stipend that gets paid to facilities for residents that need a little extra personal care which has been paid by the State
  - Effective October 1, 2016, the State will no longer pay that stipend the full amount – will be split 50/50 with the County
  - Currently, there are 124 residents receiving this service
  - For the month of July, this would total \$2,108 to cover the service
  - Using the July amount, projected cost for the County from October 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 is \$18,972
  - This amount could be higher or lower depending upon the number of residents receiving this service each month
  - This is another unfunded mandate
  - Believe this amount could be covered in our Special Assistance line item if our projections for Fiscal Year 2016-17 remain the same

Chairman Inman opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Lankford confirmed with DSS Director Stacey Elmes that there could be a chance that this program may not be continued after FY 2016-17. (June 30, 2017)

Vice Chairman Booth noted that he did have a few questions, but for the sake of time, will hold until later.

Commissioner Jones noted concerns regarding the increase in the number of foster children.

Chairman Inman expressed appreciation to DSS Director Elmes for the report

### **Social Services – Energy Programs Outreach Plan – Fiscal Year 2016-17**

DSS Director Stacey Elmes presented the Social Services’ Proposed Energy Programs Outreach Plan for Fiscal Year 2016-17 for review and approval for consideration at the July 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

DSS Director Elmes noted the following:

- Energy Programs Outreach Plan applies to Crisis Intervention Program which is a year round program which runs from July 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup> statewide
- Low Income Energy Assistance Program runs from December 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup> annually statewide
- The maximum allowed CIP benefit amount per eligible household is \$600 per fiscal year
- Plan must be approved by the Board of Commissioners

Chairman Inman opened the floor for discussion.

There were no issues with the proposed plan submitted by the DSS Director Elmes.

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

#### **Tax Administration Report – June 2016**

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following informational data for the

June 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 Percentage = 100.43%</b>	\$20,083,177.00	\$20,169,906.22	\$86,729.22	
<b>New Schools F-Tech Fund Percentage = 103.65%</b>	\$1,295,689.00	\$1,342,988.28	\$47,299.28	
<b>Prior Taxes County Regular &amp; Motor Vehicles Percentage = 73.15%</b>	\$675,000.00	\$493,747.54		\$181,252.46

#### **Business and Personal Property Discovery Report**

<b>Audit Dates</b>	<b>Accts</b>	<b>Total Value</b>	<b>Taxes Due</b>
(04-1-16/06-30-16)	30	\$57,783.00	\$556.79
(07-01-15/06-30-16)	271	\$1,082,892.00	\$9,809.02

#### **Motor Vehicle Release Report**

**Audit Dates**  
Assessment through NC  
Department of Motor Vehicles

**Garnishment Totals**

Month	Total Accounts	Original Levy Amount	Collected Amount
(04-1-16/06-30-16)	602	\$359,887.42	\$118,746.36
<b>F/Year 2015-16</b>			
(07-1-15/6-30-16)	937	\$783,072.37	\$276,655.48

**Interstate Collection Report**

June 2016

Cumulative Total Collected to Date

**Collection**

NC Debt Setoff

**Total Collected****\$259,084.74**

Cumulative Total Collected (to date)

Motor Vehicles

\$141,480.37

Cumulative Total Collected (to date)

Property Taxes

\$53,431.87

Cumulative Total Collected (to date)

EMS

\$367,501.13

Collected (to date)

All Categories

**\$562,413.37****EMS Billing & Collections for Fiscal Year 2015-16**

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following EMS Billing & 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	510	\$330,937.00	\$178,767.97	\$110,021.47	\$1,240.94	54.02%
May-16	387	\$247,060.90	\$200,896.01	\$99,807.54	\$603.23	81.31%
Jun-16	386	\$254,560.50	\$153,684.58	\$67,560.49	\$110.36	60.37%
Totals	4,952	\$3,084,058.03	\$1,723,593.49	\$795,809.41	\$16,419.19	\$55.89%

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

**NCVTS Motor Vehicle Billings and Collections – Quarterly Report June 2015-May 2016**

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following NCVTS Motor Vehicle Billings and Collections – Quarterly Report June 2015-May 2016 for the Board's review:

Tax Code	Number of	Levy	Interest	Adjustment	Billing	Net
Jurisdiction	Vehicles	Billed	Paid	Made	Cost	Collected
City of King	5599	\$ 197,960	\$ 1,327	\$ (783)	\$ (10,220)	\$ 188,284
King Car Fee	5184	\$ 25,920	\$ 127	\$ (10)	\$ -	\$ 26,037
Walnut Cove Town	1186	\$ 29,804	\$ 222	\$ (67)	\$ (1,335)	\$ 28,624
Danbury Town	136	\$ 1,925	\$ 9	\$ (4)	\$ (84)	\$ 1,846
School Tax	49205	\$ 132,402	\$ 908	\$ (494)	\$ (6,004)	\$ 126,812
King Fire	7542	\$ 37,225	\$ 244	\$ (176)	\$ (1,707)	\$ 35,586
Rural Hall Fire	1438	\$ 7,189	\$ 43	\$ (46)	\$ (327)	\$ 6,859
Walnut Cove Fire	5383	\$ 23,642	\$ 162	\$ (64)	\$ (1,065)	\$ 22,675
General County	49205	\$2,034,738	\$13,884	\$ (7,529)	\$ (92,348)	\$1,948,745
Service Fire	28063	\$ 121,966	\$ 835	\$ (411)	\$ (5,529)	\$ 116,861
<b>Total Collected</b>	<b>49205</b>	<b>\$2,612,771</b>	<b>\$17,761</b>	<b>\$ (9,584)</b>	<b>\$ (118,619)</b>	<b>\$2,502,329</b>
					Total refunds	\$ (9,529)
						<b>\$ 2,492,800</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

**Average cost per total bill**

**\$2.41 per bill**

**Lowest cost billed = \$2.20 (County, School Fund, Service Fire) (based on 49,205 cars)**

**Highest cost billed = \$3.83 (County, School Fund, King City based on 5,599 cars)**

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

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

Real and Personal Property (June 2016) at the June 13<sup>th</sup> meeting for the Board's review:

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

Name	Bill No	Amount
John H Liptrap	156027796	\$4.99
Total		\$4.99

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

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Refund more than \$100 –

Real and Personal Property (June 2016) at the July 11<sup>th</sup> meeting for the Board's review

with consideration at the July 25<sup>th</sup> meeting:

**Refund More Than  
\$100 - Real/Personal  
Property**

Name	Bill No	Amount	Reason
Paul Ralph Hartsoe	29493780	\$118.18	Vehicle sold
Ted Gray Midkiff	32214629	\$154.19	Assess in error
Jeffrey Wilson Wall	30302013	\$124.59	Vehicle sold
Scott W Whitley	16523429	<u>\$103.45</u>	Vehicle sold
Total		<b>\$500.41</b>	

**Write Off Request – EMS Billing and Jail Services**

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Write-Off Request for EMS

(June 2016) at the July 11<sup>th</sup> meeting for the Board's review with consideration at the July 25<sup>th</sup> meeting:

- Minors – Uncollectable
  - Transports = 73
  - Charges = \$36,081.91
  - Credits = \$2,437.86
  - Balance Due - \$33,644.05
- No Estate - Deceased
  - Transports = 776
  - Charges = \$388,380.16
  - Credits = \$212,060.68
  - Balance Due - \$176,319.4833,644.05
- Total EMS Write-Off = \$209,963.53
- Jail – Inmate billing – no further recourse of collection
  - Call Number E15-10233
    - Date – 12/30/2015
    - Charge Amount - \$459.00
    - Reason – Inmate/No insurance
  - Call Number E16-02117
    - Date – 12/30/2015
    - Charge Amount - \$712.80
    - Reason – Inmate/No insurance
- Total Inmate Write Off Request = \$1,171.80
- Both these Write Off Request are non-collectable

Tax Administrator Oakley commented:

- Have collected \$86,729.22 over budget (Ad Valorem Taxes)
- Would like to commend Cheryl Hill (oversees collections) and the entire collection department for an exceptional job this past fiscal year



Chairman Inman opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Walker confirmed with Tax Administrator Oakley that business is as usual in his department with a slight increase in addressing – more construction.

Commissioner Walker confirmed with Tax Administrator Oakley that the new software program is working fine with bills getting ready to come off within the next few weeks.

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- EMS Collection is down to 55.89%
- Total charges for FY 2015-16 were \$3,084,058.03
- Collected amount was \$1,723,593.49
- Understand the write-offs involving children, deceased, and jail services
- Has your department ever tried to brainstorm new ways to increase the collection rate?
- Don't think the County can continue with at 55.89% collection rate

Tax Administrator Oakley responded:

- Rules and regulations hinder collection

Commissioner Lankford continued:

- Might need to start with the state regulations
- My recommendation would be to form a committee to try to brainstorm ideas and solutions to increase the collection rate
- Can't continue like this

Tax Administrator Oakley responded:

- Need to start with state regulations and insurance payments
- Have close to \$2.5 million at debt setoff
- One way to start would be to not accept assignment from Medicare
- Could talk to other counties regarding their collection procedures

Commissioner Lankford continued:

- Would request that a committee be formed to start implementing new ways to increase the EMS Collection rate

Vice Chairman Booth expressed appreciation for the great job in collecting the Ad Valorem Taxes for Fiscal Year 2015-16.

Commissioner Jones commended the Tax Department for their hard work.

Vice Chairman Booth also expressed appreciation for their customer friendly approach in

working with the citizens.

Chairman Inman noted that the Tax Department collected 100.43% of the budgeted amount for Fiscal Year 2015-16.

Tax Administrator Oakley requested the following be placed on the July 25<sup>th</sup> Consent Agenda for consideration for approval:

- Refunds More Than \$100 – Real and Personal Property
- Write Off – EMS
- Write Off – Jail Services

**Timetable Request for Approval of the 2017 Proposed Schedule of Values**

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following 2017 Proposed Schedule of Values Timetable at the July 11<sup>th</sup> meeting for the Board's review with consideration of approval at the July 25<sup>th</sup> meeting:

- August 8, 2016
  - Schedules of Values submitted to the Board of Commissioners
- August 9, 2016
  - Schedule is available for public inspection in the Tax Office
- August 11, 2016
  - Advertise a Public Hearing for the proposed 2017 Schedules of Values in the Stokes News and County Website
- August 15- September 5, 2016
  - The Board must set a date that is at least seven (7) days prior to the adoption of the Schedule of Values
- August 22, 2016
  - Public Hearing is held
- September 12, 2016
  - Schedule of Values is adopted by the Board
- September 15, 2016
  - Publication of the first of four (4) weekly public notices stating that the 2017 Schedules of Values has been adopted and that a taxpayer appeal may be filed with the Property Tax Commission – within 30 days of the date when the notice of the order adopting the schedules, standards, and rules were first published (NCGS 1015-317)

Tax Administrator Oakley requested the following be placed on the July 25<sup>th</sup> Consent Agenda for consideration for approval:

- Timetable for the Schedules of Values with Public Hearing on August 22<sup>nd</sup>

Chairman Inman with full consensus of the Board directed the Clerk to place the following items on the July 25<sup>th</sup> Consent Agenda:

- Refunds More Than \$100 – Real and Personal Property
- Write Off – EMS
- Write Off – Jail Services
- Timetable for the 2017 Proposed Schedules of Values – Public Hearing – August 22<sup>nd</sup>

#### **Tax Administration Report – Fiscal Year 2015-16 County Collection Rate**

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Fiscal Year 2015-16 County Yearly Collection Rate for the Board's review:

- Under NCGS 105-321 and NCGS 105-354, the FY 2015-16 Charge to Collect order, the Tax Administrator was charged with the collection of Current Year Taxes based on an estimated County value of \$3,340,437,369 at a 96.97% collection rate
- The Tax Office billed \$3,370,653,385 in value for ad valorem taxes assessed (real/personal property, all utilities, Educational Fund, Municipalities) based upon the tax rates as illustrated:

Taxing Unit	Tax Rate	2015 Assess Value	Original Bill	Net Levy	Collection Percentage
County	\$0.620	\$3,370,653,385	\$20,898,051	\$20,169,906	96.52
Educational Fund	\$0.040	\$3,370,653,385	\$1,348,261	\$1,342,988	99.61
Fire Service District	\$0.070	\$2,036,109,048	\$1,425,276	\$1,377,043	96.62
King Fire District	\$0.070	\$407,400,782	\$285,180	\$276,654	97.01
Rural Hall Fire District	\$0.070	\$78,274,811	\$54,792	\$53,063	96.84
Walnut Cove Fire District	\$0.070	\$291,834,665	\$204,284	\$195,749	95.82
Danbury	\$0.270	\$9,151,295	\$24,708	\$24,073	97.43
King	\$0.422	\$462,456,790	\$1,951,567	\$1,890,900	96.89
Walnut Cove	\$0.400	\$95,411,543	\$381,646	\$369,794	96.89

The above documentation does not reflect discounts, adjustments, releases, and refunds taken through the year. A full detail report is available upon request.

Tax Administrator Oakley noted that he had backup reports (did not include due to the numerous pages in each report) for all the statistical data being presented today (can be presented upon request).

Chairman Inman opened the floor for discussion.

The Board had no issues with the Fiscal Year 2015-16 Report.

**Tax Administration**

**Annual Settlement of Fiscal Year 2015-16**

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following information:

- Submitting documents relating to the Settlement of Fiscal Year 2015-16 taxes/prior delinquent taxes
- Request this Settlement be placed on the July 25<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda for final approval in order to meet our schedule with the county's printing vendor, South Data of Mount Airy, NC - for mailing the 2016 annual tax bills on approximately July 27<sup>th</sup>
- The mailing of the bills in July gives taxpayers time to review their tax statements and take advantage of the 2% discount offered for early payment prior to September 1, 2016

Chairman Inman opened the floor for discussion.

The Board had no issues.

**Order of the Compliance with GS 105-352(b) (1) and GS 105-532(b)(2) for the Settlement for Fiscal Year 2015-16 Property Taxes**

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following information and documents relating to the settlement of Fiscal Year 15-16 taxes/prior delinquent taxes:

- Tax Administrator for the County of Stokes has delivered all "Pre-Payment of Taxes" for Fiscal Year 2015-16 to the Stokes County Chief Accounting Officer Julia Edwards

<u>Source Type</u>	<u>Amount Pre-Paid</u>
○ Dogs (Fee)	\$5.88
○ Ind. Personal (tax)	\$954.70
○ Real Property (tax)	<u>\$47,984.28</u>
Total	\$48,944.86

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA ) ORDER OF THE COMPLIANCE WITH G.S.105-  
 ) 352(b) (1) AND G.S. 105-352(b)(2) FOR THE  
 ) SETTLEMENT OF FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016  
COUNTY OF STOKES ) PROPERTY TAXES

TO: THE STOKES COUNTY TAX ADMINISTRATOR

By the powers invested in me as the Chief Accounting Officer of Stokes County, North Carolina, this order of compliance pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes 105-352(b) (1) and 105-352(b) (2) is issued to you. I further acknowledge that the receipts for prepayments of taxes for the fiscal year 2015-2016 have been delivered to me, and that such prepayments have been deposited to the credit of Stokes County.

July 11, 2016

Witness my hand and official seal this 6<sup>th</sup> day of July 2016.

Julia E Edwards

Julia Edwards, Finance Officer & Chief  
Accounting Officer, Stokes County North Carolina

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME THIS

6<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2016

Darlene M Bullins  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires 09-27-2019

Tax Administrator Oakley noted:

- After July 1<sup>st</sup> and before the Tax Administrator/Collector is charged with taxes for the current fiscal year, the Tax Collector shall make a sworn report to the Governing Body of the following taxing unit:

**Report of Delinquent Real Property Taxes.** The following illustration outlines the difference between the report to the Board on February 8, 2016 (advertised list) and the current number of accounts due as of June 30, 2016).

**Report to the Board on February 8, 2016 (Advertised Real Property)**

<b><u>Delinquent 2015 Tax Bills</u></b>	<b><u>No. of Bills</u></b>	<b><u>Principal Due</u></b>
General County/Education	4,009	\$1,538,059.31
City of King	198	\$ 111,874.37
Town of Danbury	12	\$ 931.75
Town of Walnut Cove	89	\$ 22,348.52

**Delinquents Real Property Taxes as of June 30, 2016**

<b><u>Delinquent 2015 Tax Bills</u></b>	<b><u>No. of Bills</u></b>	<b><u>Principal Due</u></b>
General County/Education	1,572	\$ 557,026.61
City of King	79	\$ 49,772.17
Town of Danbury	4	\$ 379.87
Town of Walnut Cove	33	\$ 8,022.01

**Report of Delinquent Personal Property Taxes.** The following illustration outlines the County and Municipality delinquent Personal Property Accounts,

**Delinquents Ind. & Bus. Personal Property Taxes as of June 30, 2016**

<b><u>Delinquent 2015 Tax Bills</u></b>	<b><u>No. of Bills</u></b>	<b><u>Principal Due</u></b>
General County/Education	1,075	\$ 36,016.70

<b>City of King</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>\$ 3,498.92</b>
<b>Town of Danbury</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>
<b>Town of Walnut Cove</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>\$ 154.57</b>

**Delq. All Prior Years Taxes Real / Personal as of June 30, 2016**

<b><u>Delinquent Prior Tax Bills</u></b>	<b><u>No. of Bills</u></b>	<b><u>Principal Due</u></b>
<b>General County/Education</b>		<b>\$ 909,526.82</b>
<b>City of King</b>	<b>16,877</b>	<b>\$ 53,925.11</b>
<b>Town of Danbury</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,700.18</b>
<b>Town of Walnut Cove</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>\$ 19,976.82</b>

Summary list of delinquent Personal (Individual/Business) Property that applies to each Taxing Unit can be obtained upon request (numerous pages in each report). The governing body may publish the list of Delinquent Personal/Business Property accounts in any newspaper in the taxing unit, at the cost of the taxing unit. A list in full detail can be submitted upon request by the Board or order for advertisement.

Chairman Inman opened the floor for discussion.

The Board had no issues.

**2015 Report of Insolvents (Personal Property)**

Tax Administrator Oakley noted the following:

- Tax Administrator/Collector respectfully reports that certain personal property taxes levied for Year 2015 remain uncollected; said taxes are not liens upon real estate
- Tax Administrator/Collector has made diligent efforts to collect said taxes by use of remedies against personal property as provided by law but has been unable to locate sufficient property belonging to delinquent taxpayers out of which the taxes might be collected
- In every instance in which the Tax Administrator/Collector has been able to discover through diligent inquiry the existence of property belonging to delinquent taxpayers within other taxing units in North Carolina, the undersigned has proceeded under the provisions of GS 105-364
- Report for bill number/account number/name & principal amount can be obtained upon request (numerous pages in each report)
- The Tax Administrator /Collector requests that the taxes listed below be declared insolvent and credited upon annual (or other) settlement

Chairman Inman opened the floor for discussion.

The Board had no issues.

**Proposed Resolution of Settlement – (NCGS 105-373)**

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following proposed Resolution in accordance with G.S. 105-373 which provides for an annual settlement of the property taxes

July 11, 2016

charged to the Tax Collector for Fiscal Year 2015-16:

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA    )  
  )  
COUNTY OF STOKES                )

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Section 105-373 of the North Carolina General Statutes provides for an annual settlement of the property taxes charged to the Tax Collector; and

WHEREAS, that, in keeping with this requirement, the attached settlement summary was provided to the Stokes County Board of Commissioners by the Stokes County Tax Administrator, Jake M. Oakley;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Stokes County Board of Commissioners:

- (1) Orders the insolvent amount for 2015 be entered into the minutes as the accepted insolvent amount, and further, that said insolvent amount be credited to the Stokes County Tax Administrator in his settlement. And;
- (2) Orders the tax liens for 2015 property taxes for the purpose of collection to be recharged to the Stokes County Tax Administrator. And further;
- (3) Orders that the settlement for delinquent (prior year's taxes) be entered into the minutes, and that the uncollected balance of said taxes be recharged to the Stokes County Tax Administrator for the purpose of collection. And finally;
- (4) Orders that the 2015 property tax settlement by the Stokes County Tax Administrator be accepted in accordance with Section 105-373(e) of the North Carolina General Statutes.

Adopted this the \_\_\_\_ day of July 2016.

\_\_\_\_\_  
J. Leon Inman – Chairman

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jimmy Walker – Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ernest Lankford – Commissioner

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Darlene Bullins – Clerk to the Board

Tax Administrator Oakley requested the 2015 Property Tax Settlement and Recharge be placed on the July 27<sup>th</sup> Consent Agenda for approval.

July 11, 2016

Chairman Inman opened the floor for discussion.

The Board had no issues.

**Proposed Order for Collection of Fiscal Year 2016-17**

Tax Administrator Oakley presented the following documents relating to the Collection of Fiscal Year 2016-17 taxes:

The following tax rates are to be applied to this Charge to Collect (NCGS 105-321 & 105-354) by Budget Ordinance.

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| 1. General County      | (GO1) = 0.620 per one hundred dollars value. |
| 2. School Fund         | (EO1) = 0.040 per one hundred dollars value. |
| 3. Service Fire        | (SO1) = 0.075 per one hundred dollars value. |
| 4. King Fire           | (FO1) = 0.075 per one hundred dollars value. |
| 5. Rural Hall Fire     | (FO2) = 0.075 per one hundred dollars value. |
| 6. Walnut Cove Fire    | (FO3) = 0.075 per one hundred dollars value. |
| 7. City of King        | (CO1) = 0.422 per one hundred dollars value. |
| 8. Town of Walnut Cove | (CO3) = 0.400 per one hundred dollars value. |
| 9. Town of Danbury     | (CO4) = 0.270 per one hundred dollars value. |

**Order to Collect FY 2016-17 Property Taxes**

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA	) ORDER OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
	) IN ACCORDANCE WITH G.S.105-321(b) FOR THE
COUNTY OF STOKES	) COLLECTION OF FY 2016-2017 PROPERTY TAXES

TO: THE STOKES COUNTY TAX ADMINISTRATOR

You are hereby authorized, empowered, and commanded to collect the taxes set forth in the 2016 tax records filed in the Office of the Stokes County Tax Administration (General County Taxes and Educational School Fund Taxes), and in the tax bills herewith delivered to you, in the amounts and from the taxpayers likewise set forth. You are further authorized, empowered, and commanded to collect the 2016 taxes charged and assessed as provided by law for adjustments, changes, and additions to the tax records and tax bills delivered to you which are made in accordance with law per G.S. 105-321(b). Such taxes are hereby declared to be a first lien on real property of the respective taxpayers in Stokes County.

You are hereby authorized, empowered, and commanded to collect the taxes of Special Districts (King Fire District, Rural Hall Fire District, Walnut Cove Fire District, Stokes County Service Fire District, the Town of Danbury, City of King and the Town of Walnut Cove), and in the tax bills herewith delivered to you, in the amounts and from the taxpayers likewise set forth. You are further authorized, empowered, and commanded to collect the 2016 taxes charged and assessed as provided by law for adjustments, changes, and additions to the tax records and tax bills delivered to you



which are made in accordance with law per G.S. 105-354. Such taxes are hereby declared to be a first lien on real property of the respective taxpayers in each Special Tax District of Stokes County.

This order shall be full and sufficient authority to direct, require, and enable you to garnish wages, to attach rents, cash receipts, checking accounts, and savings accounts; levy on and sell any real or personal property of such taxpayers, for and on account thereof, in accordance with law.

Witness my hand and official seal this \_\_\_\_ day of July 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

Tax Administrator Oakley noted:

- Taxes bills are done
- Ready to go to the vendors
- 37,597 bills to be mailed
- 5,300 of the 37,597 are escrow accounts
- Plans are to mail bills on July 27<sup>th</sup>

Vice Chairman Booth noted the 2% discount if paid during prior September 1, 2016.

Vice Chairman Booth confirmed with Tax Administrator Oakley that discount amounted to approximately \$277,000 last year.

Tax Administrator Oakley requested the Order to Collect be placed on the July 25<sup>th</sup>

Consent Agenda for approval.

Chairman Inman opened the floor for discussion.

The Board had no issues with Tax Administrator's Annual Settlement.

Chairman Inman, with full consent of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the following items on the July 25<sup>th</sup> Consent Agenda:

- Annual Settlement of Fiscal Year 2015-16

- Order to Collect – Fiscal Year 2016-17

**Proposed Contract – Stokes Family YMCA – Fiscal Year 2016-17**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following proposed Recreation Contract with Stokes Family YMCA for Fiscal Year 2016-17 for the Board's review and approval at the July 25<sup>th</sup> meeting:

**County of Stokes & Stokes Family YMCA**

**RECREATION CONTRACT**

This contract for Recreation Services (herein the "Contract") is made by and between the Stokes Family YMCA herein known as the "YMCA", and the County of Stokes, herein known as the "County". For and in consideration of the mutual promises and covenants set forth herein, the parties agree as follows:

**Responsibilities of the YMCA**

The YMCA agrees to provide the following minimum services:

1. The YMCA shall administer and coordinate all current recreation and wellness programming to include Stokes County Youth Sports Programming, Summer Day Camp, Stokes County Easter Egg Hunt, other seasonal family special events, 5k event, Fitness Center operation and wellness services.
2. A Summer Youth Program shall be provided to the youth of Stokes County. This program shall be for the length of time specified each year in the Annual Budget (as herein defined). This program shall utilize school sites as well as YMCA and County facilities.
3. The YMCA shall provide recreation, wellness and social programs at a County facility, at the County's sole expense except for long distance telephone calls, in Danbury, North Carolina. The YMCA shall maintain regular office hours and Fitness Center hours of operation in said facility.
4. Stokes County Youth Sports Programming shall be provided to the youth of Stokes County. The programming shall last a minimum of seven weeks.
5. The YMCA shall host an annual 5k event.
6. New Programs shall be offered based on need and availability, such as additional summer camps, sports, recreation and wellness programs and social events.

7. The YMCA shall assume all liability insurance coverage for all YMCA staff and program offerings.
8. The YMCA shall administer the scheduling of shelter usage and special events to be held at Moratock Park, located in Danbury, North Carolina.
9. The YMCA shall collect all fees as set by the Stokes County Board of Commissioners for use of Moratock Park facilities and remit those funds back to the County as requested by the County.
10. The YMCA shall retain all revenues generated by program offerings, except those fees generated from Moratock Park shelter usage.
11. The YMCA shall provide a Stokes County Recreation Department Committee under the authorization of the Stokes Family YMCA volunteer Board of Management. The Committee shall consist of Stokes Family YMCA volunteers, Stokes County citizens and a designated representative of the Stokes County Board of Commissioners.

### **Responsibilities of the County of Stokes**

The County of Stokes agrees to the following responsibilities:

1. The County shall maintain ownership of Moratock Park located in Danbury, North Carolina. Further, the County shall provide maintenance and repair services for Moratock Park up to and including grounds maintenance, facility maintenance, insurance and utility costs.
2. The County shall provide a facility to serve as a Program Center to the YMCA in Danbury, North Carolina or other strategically placed locations at the County's sole expense except for long distance telephone calls. The County shall maintain ownership of said facility and shall provide maintenance and repair services up to and including road maintenance, grounds maintenance, facility maintenance, insurance and utility costs.
3. The County shall provide, at its sole cost and expense, the YMCA staff in Stokes County with one (1) vehicle for travel solely within Stokes County in maintaining programs based in Stokes County and offered to Stokes County citizens.
4. The County shall allow the YMCA staff to purchase fuel at the Stokes County fueling facilities for use in the vehicle provided by the County.

### **Cost**

The County hereby agrees to pay to the YMCA an amount equal to one hundred seventeen thousand and four hundred and eighty-four dollars (\$117,484) for the contract year. This contract sum shall be paid in two (2) equal installments with the first payment due on July 31<sup>st</sup> and the second due on January 31<sup>st</sup> of the contract term.

### **Term**

The term of this contract shall be for a period of one year. This contract may be extended for additional periods upon the expressed written consent of both parties.

The Agreement shall be effective July 1, 2016 and shall remain in effect through June 30, 2017. If a new agreement has not been reached between the parties by July 1, 2016, the FY 2015-16 Agreement shall remain in force, unless it has been terminated in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.

### **Contract Termination**

Either party wishing to terminate this contract may do so upon one-hundred and eighty days written notice to the other party.

### **Hold Harmless Provision**

The YMCA hereby agrees to indemnify and hold the County harmless from all liability arising out of the provision of recreational programs and services as set forth herein.

The County agrees to indemnify and hold the YMCA harmless from all liability arising out of the provision of County maintenance and facilities.

### **Contract Date and Signatures**

This contract for services shall commence as of July 1, 2016 and terminate on June 30, 2017. Contract term extensions are provided in the section of this contract titled "Term".

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Curtis Hazelbaker**  
**President/CEO**  
**YMCA of Northwest North Carolina**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Attest**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Attest**

This Instrument has been pre-audited in the Manner as required by the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Julia Edwards, Finance Director**

Approved as to Form and Legal Sufficiency

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Tyrone Browder, Stokes County Attorney**

County Manager Morris commented:

- Same as last year – no changes except for fiscal year dates

Chairman Inman opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Expressed concerns regarding the committee (item #11) that has not met in over a year
- Served on that committee as a commissioner appointment
- Would like to see wording added to the contract: the committee would meet no less than once a quarter

Chairman Inman suggested having Manager Morris talk with YMCA Director Edwards regarding the committee.

The Board agreed to have Manager Morris discuss the committee concerns with Director Edwards.

Chairman Inman, with full consent of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the July 25<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda with the added language.

#### **Delegation of Voting Delegate for NCACC Annual Conference – August 2016**

County Manager Rick Morris presented a request from the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners regarding the designation of Voting Delegate for the upcoming NCACC Annual Conference in August 2016.

Chairman Inman opened the floor for volunteers or nominations.

Chairman Inman volunteered to be the Voting Delegate for the NCACC Annual Conference in August 2016.

The Board had no issues with Chairman Inman being designated to be the Voting Delegate for the NCACC Annual Conference.

The Board unanimously agreed to designate Chairman Inman as the voting delegate for Stokes County at the NCACC Annual Conference

Chairman Inman commented:

- Happy to serve as the voting delegate
- Conference is in Winston Salem this year
- This is the year to elect district delegates

### **Animal Control – Staffing Restructure**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding a staffing restructure for Animal Control:

- Would like to request your approval of a minor change to the plan that was approved for Animal Control during the recent budget process
- Instead of filling the Animal Shelter Administrator, Chief Animal Control Officer Kevin Webster and I would like to fill the unfunded Animal Control Officer II (ACO) position
- Would then proceed to have all three individuals cross trained to perform both animal control functions and administrative functions associated with the shelter
- Only a small cost increase – only one grade different
- It would much improve flexibility for dealing with animal control issues and provide other advantages as listed below:
  - It would add another person to the rotation for on-call, which would prevent the every other week on-call that is currently in place.
  - It would provide another person to perform euthanasia on animals, which would reduce the number of times each person had to perform euthanasia.
  - It would much improve the resolution of animal control issues by having a certified ACO answering the phone, who could resolve more issues with the initial phone call. In the past, the administrative person would often have to call an ACO to get issues resolved.
  - It would be an advantage to have an ACO on-site at the shelter in case of an emergency situation occurs there while the other ACOs are out answering calls. An example would be an emergency euthanasia of an injured animal.
  - It would help immensely when personnel are out on vacation or sick leave to have two ACOs available to perform both ACO functions and administrative functions, which are both closely inspected by the State of N.C.
  - This option would cost slightly more but would not impact the FY 2016/17 Budget since we already have enough lapsed salaries to cover the increase for this year and would greatly lower the risk of something going wrong at the shelter.

County Manager Morris continued comments:

- It is becoming very obvious that the shelter is only capable of handling the statutory requirements
- Was at the shelter recently and there was only limited space available with only handling the statutory requirements
- Feel this recommendation will meet Animal Control needs more efficient with more trained personnel to fill in when someone is out

County Manager Morris requested this item be moved to today's Action Agenda in order to expedite the hiring of an Animal Control Officer.

Chairman Inman opened the floor for discussion.

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- Sounds like the recommendation should work better for the staff and the public
- Pleased with the recommendation
- Confirmed with Manager Morris that there will be crossing training among the staff
- Confirmed with Manager Morris that the difference in the one grade is approximately \$1,000
- This Board has been working diligently to try to get the best situation possible for Animal Control
- Ready to go with the manager's recommendation

Commissioner Lankford had no issues.

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Feel this is the best situation available at the current time
- Hope things will be getting better in the not so far off future with the new Adoption Facility coming on board

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Like the sound of the recommendation
- Sounds like it could be efficient and help streamline and stabilize the current situation
- Need to continue to support the new Adoption Facility which will fit together very well with our Animal Control operation
- The sooner the Adoption Facility comes on board the better for the citizens and the animals of Stokes County

County Manager Morris noted that there is a major fundraising for the Adoption Facility for those who are interested on August 20<sup>th</sup> in Sandy Ridge.

Chairman Inman confirmed with Manager Morris that the current operation of the shelter

is still subject to state inspections.

Chairman Inman wanted to make sure everyone understood the current path that the Board took during the budget work sessions was not about saving \$40,000; it was about the fact that we could not staff the facility at the current time and the space.

Chairman Inman continued:

- This situation can always be revisited
- FOSS has already raised approximately a quarter of a million dollars for the project
- The site have been approved in the Meadows area by this Board with water/sewer available
- Lot of things moving forward with the project

Vice Chairman Booth noted the County donated the site for the new Adoption Facility.

The Board unanimously agreed to move the item to today's Action Agenda.

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

**Proposed Resolution – Advisory Referendum – One Quarter Cent Local Sales and Use Tax in Stokes County**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following proposed Resolution Advisory Referendum – One Quarter Cent Local Sales and Use Tax in Stokes County as requested by the Board during the budget work sessions for the Board's review with consideration for approval at the July 25<sup>th</sup> meeting:

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**COUNTY OF STOKES**

**RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO CONDUCT AN  
ADVISORY REFERENDUM ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER TO LEVY A ONE-  
QUARTER CENT LOCAL SALES AND USE TAX IN STOKES COUNTY PURSUANT TO  
ARTICLE 46 CHAPTER 105 OF THE NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL STATUTES**

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina General Assembly has enacted the "One-Quarter Cent County Sales and Use Tax Act" as set forth in Article 46 of Chapter 105 of the North Carolina General Statutes, which authorizes counties to levy a one-quarter cent local sales and use tax; and



**WHEREAS**, in order to levy the local sales and use tax, the County of Stokes must conduct a special advisory referendum on the question of whether to levy a one-quarter cent local sales and use tax, which election shall be held in accordance with the provisions of North Carolina General Statute 163-287; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the desire of the Board of Commissioners of Stokes County to offer the possibility of such additional sales tax to the voters of Stokes County in an advisory referendum pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 105-537.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Commissioners of Stokes County:

Section 1. The Stokes County Board of Elections is hereby directed to conduct a special advisory referendum on **November 8, 2016** on the question of whether to levy a one-quarter cent local sales and use tax; which election shall be held in accordance with the provisions of North Carolina General Statute 163-287.

Section 2. The form of the question to be presented on the ballot for said advisory referendum shall be as follows:

“[ ] FOR [ ] AGAINST

Local sales and use tax at the rate of one-quarter percent (0.25%) in addition to all other State and local sales and use taxes.”

Section 3. The Clerk to the Board of Commissioners of Stokes County is hereby authorized and directed to deliver a certified copy of this Resolution to the Stokes County Board of Elections within three (3) business days after the passage hereof.

Section 4. This Resolution shall take effect upon its passage.

This \_\_\_\_\_ day of July, 2016.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**J. Leon Inman – Chairman**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Jimmy Walker – Commissioner**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Ernest Lankford – Commissioner**

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

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Darlene M Bullins**  
**Clerk to the Board of Commissioners**

County Manager Morris commented:

- Proposed Resolution was prepared by County Attorney Ty Browder
- Proposed Resolution will need to be approved and presented to the Board of Elections before August 1<sup>st</sup> in order to get on the November 8<sup>th</sup> ballot
- Request consideration for approval at the July 25<sup>th</sup> meeting

Chairman Inman opened the floor for discussion.

Chairman Inman commented:

- During the budget negotiations, it became clear and has been very obvious for a long time, the County need additional revenue
- Quarter of a cent sales tax is still a tax, can't be disguised
- Did a little calculation – if a family of four spends \$200 a week on groceries with some items being exempt from this quarter cent sales tax, the increased sales tax would be approximately \$24 per year more
- Personally, I feel it is one of the fairest tax that there is
- Not a fan of taxes, but don't see a way around some taxes if we are to continue to provide services
- Only about half the people who live in Stokes County own real estate
- You are seeing half the people really paying the burden for everyone
- To me, it kind of spreads it out and one of the fairest taxes out there

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Have talked to a lot of counties with Surry probably being the closest who have already voted in the quarter cent tax
- General Assembly allowed this a couple of years ago, we had not thought about it seriously until this year's budget discussions
- Our revenues do not provide enough funding to cover the services being provided
- We are spending more on services than there is revenue coming in
- Instead of increasing property taxes, this will be put to the citizens of Stokes County for a vote in November
- If they want a tax, like a lot of people have indicated to the commissioners, this will give them the opportunity to vote on it
- The people can either vote it up or down – it will be a people's tax at that point, not five people putting a tax on the citizens
- Support the proposed resolution for one quarter cent local sales tax
- It is a fair tax – a consumption tax

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- Don't know how much more I can say that has not already been stated by Chairman Inman and Commissioner Lankford
- Bottom line, I am not for taxes
- But when you look at it like Chairman Inman stated – 50% of the people in Stokes County is carrying the tax burden
- Revenues do not cover the expenditures
- FY 2016-17 Budget appropriated approximately \$2.3 million out of the County's Fund Balance
- Can't keep appropriating funds from the Fund Balance to balance the budget, the well will eventually run dry

- Don't want that well to run dry, it will leave you in jeopardy when you need to borrow funding
- We are down to approximately 20% with the approval of the FY 2016-17 budget
- That 20% would only operate the County for three months
- Need to always have a "rainy day fund" for emergencies
- This is a fair tax
- We have approximately 500,000 tourists that come to Hanging Rock State Park each year
- Reiterated that this is a fair tax

Commissioner Walker commented:

- I see this as a fairer tax than property tax
- I think the fairest way to decide this issue is to have a referendum for the people
- On board with the proposed resolution
- If it is approved, it would shift some of the taxes that we normally need to collect through property taxes to sales tax
- Feel this is a good situation for the citizens and the county

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Obviously for it
- Need the revenue
- Wish all revenue could be brought in by consumer tax because then people have a choice – to buy or not to buy
- Would be distributed among all the people, not just a few
- People will have the option to vote on it on the November ballot

Chairman Inman confirmed with Finance Director Edwards that the additional one quarter cent sales tax would generate approximately \$480,281 (projection provided by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners).

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

#### **Proposed Resolution – Supporting Separation of Church and State**

Chairman Inman allowed Commissioner Jones to present the following proposed Resolution – Supporting Separation of Church and State which was requested to be on today's Agenda by Commissioner Jones:

## **Resolution Supporting Separation of Church and State**

**WHEREAS**, all elected officials in the United States swear an oath to uphold the United States Constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, Article Six of the United States Constitution states that “no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States.”; and

**WHEREAS**, the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights states that Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion; or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; and

**WHEREAS**, all elected officials swear an oath to faithfully and impartially perform the duties of their office for all citizens that they serve; and

**WHEREAS**, elected officials recognize the importance of cohesiveness of diverse citizenry for healthy communities, national security and economic growth; and

**WHEREAS**, elected officials recognize that social issues based on and driven by any particular religious doctrine undermines the First Amendment, as well as, negates the purpose of our nation’s creation;

**THEREFORE**, the **Stokes County Board of Commissioners** does hereby resolve to support the Separation of Church and State, and respectfully requests that the people of Stokes County honor and promote the Separation of Church and State in an effort to secure peace, freedom of religion, and the pursuit of happiness for all citizens.

Approved this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2016.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairman J. Leon Inman**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Vice-Chairman James D. Booth**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Commissioner Jimmy Walker**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Commissioner Ernest Lankford**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Commissioner Ronda Jones**

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

Commissioner Jones commented:

- I think it is notable today that if all people came up here today with their views, I think that someone can counter what someone else says pertaining to the Bible and the Constitution
- We all have our ways of doing things and our interpretations of those things
- Commissioner Walker stated a little while ago of how angry it makes him when someone stepped on his religious rights, I am a Christian too
- I feel the same way, but I am accepting the people that are LGBT
- I am not going to make their lives more difficult

- There are different views within the Christian community
- For one view to say the other view is more right, simply is not fair to anyone
- My whole thing here is -- I want to make it fair for all of us
- We all bring Christian views to the table and there is nothing wrong with that
- It is not fair for certain Christians and certain denominations to tell other denominations and other Christians that their views are not as worthy
- That is what some of us are hearing
- It is very disconcerting and I think anybody could understand that
- So as I am and others are condemned for believing the way we do, if you are furious, then you can understand how we feel
- We feel just as furious that we are being condemned by our own folks too
- I just ask that everyone respect people's views
- When it comes to government, we deal with the taxpayer as an individual and leave it at that
- Let the church take care of the rest

Chairman Inman opened the floor for discussion from other Board members while IT prepared a video for the Board to see at Commissioner Jones' request.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- I don't think I have condemned any particular element of our society
- I think some of the pastors earlier mentioned love for all
- That is my obligation to love my neighbor regardless of the circumstances
- One thing I wanted to mention -- one unusual thing that Thomas Jefferson did, not sure how many people are aware of this, was that he rewrote the Bible
- He came up with pretty much his own version of the Bible
- Can't remember the differences, he was obviously interested in theology

Chairman Inman allowed Commissioner Jones to continue her presentation with a short video.

Commissioner Jones continued:

- Provided the Board and audience a video of President Ronald Reagan who stated:
  - "We, in the United States, above all, must remember that lesson, for we were founded as a nation of openness to people of all beliefs. And so we must remain. Our very unity has been strengthened by our pluralism. We establish no religion in this country. We command no worship. We mandate no belief nor will we ever. Church and state are and must remain separate. All are free to believe or not believe, all are free to practice a faith or not."
- This building was named after him
- That was our party
- I feel like my party has left me, I did not leave

- This Board is composed of all Republicans, this building is named after him and yet his words don't matter any longer
- My thing is, what is fair to everyone, the fairest thing to do is to separate the two so that no one is insulted and hurt or feel discriminated against
- I know this will not pass
- I knew it would not pass when I placed it on the Agenda, but I think you need to be aware that there are different kinds of Christians and we all don't feel the same
- That is all I have to say

Chairman Inman allowed Commissioner Walker to continue his comments.

Commissioner Walker continued:

- I particularly liked the last comment that President Reagan made, "all are free to believe or not believe"
- If I choose to believe and I choose to give an invocation and end that invocation in Christ name, I would think that is because of what President Reagan said that we all have the right to choose to believe
- I am not trying to force my beliefs on anyone else who is in our audience
- I am not trying to force my beliefs on anyone who picks up the paper and reads something that Commissioner Walker said such and such
- I choose to believe because at this point in my life I could not do otherwise
- I have to believe
- I will believe till I draw my last breath in the higher power and God as the creator
- I will never hide that
- I think President Reagan recognized that very well in the last comment he made – if anyone chooses not to believe, it is certainly their choice or if anyone chooses to believe differently, that is their choice
- If anyone chooses to believe, he honors that privilege to be able to do so
- I would like to make a motion to move this to today's Action Agenda so that we can decide one way or the other, put this to rest one way or the other and have it done and over with

Vice Chairman Booth seconded Commissioner Walker's motion.

Chairman Inman opened the floor for discussion of the motion.

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- I guess the reason why I oppose this resolution, I would like for people to know this, the writing of the Resolution did not focus on religion and did not focus on the Constitution
- I studied the Constitution of the United States and what it does say
- The First Amendment does say there is a freedom thereof to serve however you want to serve
- Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, prohibiting the free exercise thereof

- To me, this resolution is not about how many types religion we have in Stokes County
- The resolution is not in respect to the United States Constitution
- That is where I have a big, major problem
- The Constitution does not say that there is separation of church and state
- It does not say that
- We had a person in the audience that wanted to give a history lesson, but all of us have the right to go and do their own history lesson
- I did my homework
- It was a phrase by Thomas Jefferson in 1787 that was in a letter, this is where this phrase came from
- This phrase is not in the Constitution; therefore, I can't vote or support a resolution and everyone is thinking it is about religion and one person is telling other people how they should and what type religions they should have
- That is not what this is about
- If that is what it was to be about, the resolution should have been on the church and religion
- This resolution don't say that
- It starts out - "Whereas, all elected officials in the United States swear an oath to uphold the United States Constitution"
- I am probably the one on this Board that has done that more times than anyone else
- I swore on that oath
- I believe in the Constitution
- I support the Constitution
- I will always support the Constitution, even to death
- I have the right to have my own religion, what I serve, which is God, himself
- That is what I serve
- I don't serve a particular church
- I am in a category of religion, but that does not mean what I serve
- If you go to a Baptist church, that church is not God
- You go to that church to worship to God
- I have no reason to want to tell anyone in the audience, anyone in Stokes County, that is not the reason I chose to run for the Board of County Commissioners
- I ran for the Board of County Commissioners to be a public servant
- Servant for all the people in Stokes County and try my level best, to the best of ability, in an fair and equitable way
- This is not what this resolution says and stands for
- I am sorry, it don't
- What other religion people have or no religion, it is ok with me; I don't have any problems with that – none whatsoever
- The separation of church and state is not in the Constitution of the United States of America
- Everyone who spoke today, spoke on religion and this type thing
- They did not speak on separation of church; they did not speak on the Constitution

- It was all religion, that is what I have not understood from the beginning and that is why I am not going to support it
- The reason I can't support it is because this resolution is not in the Constitution of the United States
- It is a personal viewpoint of what they believe religion is and that is not the purpose of me serving on this Board
- I serve on this Board to be a state's person who represents the people in reference to Constitution of the United States
- I absolutely swore on that oath and probably have done it more times than anyone up here
- I just wanted the people to know why I am totally against this resolution
- It is not about religion, it is not about individuals, it is about the Constitution of the United States

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- I affirmed, when I took this office, to support the Constitution of the United States
- To the best of my knowledge, I have supported the Constitution of the United States and will continue to support the Constitution
- I don't single out anyone when I make decisions
- It is decisions for the best for the citizens of Stokes County
- For that reason, it is not a religious thing, one person mentioned tonight that there is approximately 300 religions, but it is only one God, one Christ Jesus that you serve
- That is who is serve and who I put my faith and independence in – God and the Savior Lord Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son
- That is how I stand

Chairman Inman called the question.

The motion to put the proposed resolution on today's Action Agenda carried unanimously.

### **Emergency Medical Services – FY 2016-17 Ambulance Purchase**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding the

FY 2016-17 Ambulance Purchase:

- The Board of Commissioner approved on October 26, 2015 the purchase of a 2016 Ford Type I (F450) 4x4 chassis with a Horton 603 Ambulance module at a cost of \$183,436 utilizing the HGAC contract AM10-14
- Mr. Pete Laake Jr, FESCO Emergency Sales, (State of North Carolina Horton Ambulance Distributor) placed an order with Horton Manufacturing for two identical units.
- The County's ambulance has been picked up and put into service and the other was for FESCO to use as a demo



- FESCO Emergency Sales has offered to sale the second ambulance unit to the County at the same cost as the 2015 purchase (\$183,436.00)
- EMS Director Greg Collins and Support Services Supervisor Danny Stovall recommend the County move forward with the purchasing of the 2016 Ford/Horton Ambulance from FESCO Emergency Sales
- In doing this, the County avoids a 7.5% cross the board manufacture cost increase along with not having to wait 10 months for delivery
- Funding Source – Lease Purchase Agreement
- Budget Amount approved for FY 2016-17 = \$184,000
- Recommend the item be moved to today's Action Agenda in order to expedite the purchase

Chairman Inman opened the floor for discussion.

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

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

#### **Appointments – Walnut Cove Senior Center Advisory Council**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following request for appointments to the Walnut Cove Senior Center:

- Walnut Cove Senior Center Advisory Council currently has two (2) vacancies
- Ms. Judy Long resigned
- Ms. Carroll Knight's term expired and does not wish to be considered for reappointment
- County has received an appointment application from Ms. Marchelle Brown who is interested in serving on the Advisory Council
- Committee does recommend Ms. Brown

Chairman Inman opened the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Lankford nominated Marchelle Brown for appointment to the Walnut Cove Senior Center.

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, with full consensus of the Board, direct the Clerk to place the item on July 25<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda.

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

### **Proposed Ordinance – Regulate Door-to-Door Solicitation**

Chairman Inman entertained a motion to approve the following proposed Ordinance to Regulate Door-to-Door Solicitation which was presented at the July 11th meeting:

NORTH CAROLINA  
STOKES COUNTY

#### **ORDINANCE TO REGULATE DOOR TO DOOR SOLICITATION**

##### **SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS**

The following definitions apply:

- A. Solicit – use of the spoken, written, or printed word, or other acts as are conducted with the purpose of immediately collecting contributions for the use of one's self or others.
- B. Door-to-door commercial solicitation - attempting to make personal contact with a resident at his or her residence, without prior specific invitation or appointment with the resident, for the primary purpose of:
  - 1. Attempting to sell, for present or future delivery, any goods, wares or merchandise, or any services to be performed immediately or in the future, whether or not the person has a fixed place of business in the County or elsewhere and whether or not the person carries or exposes a sample of such good, wares or merchandise, and whether or not he or she is collecting advance payments for such sales; and/or
  - 2. Personally delivering to a resident a handbill or flyer advertising a commercial event, activity, good or service that is offered to the resident for purchase away from the residence or at a future time.
- C. Door-to-door noncommercial solicitation - attempting to make personal contact with a resident at his or her residence, without prior specific invitation or appointment with the resident, for the primary purpose of:
  - 1. Seeking or asking for a gift or donation for a public entity or nonprofit organization exempt from federal income tax under 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3);
  - 2. Soliciting the sale of goods, wares or merchandise for present or future delivery, or the sale of services to be performed immediately or in the future, with the entire proceeds of such sale to be paid directly to, or used exclusively for the benefit of, a public entity or nonprofit organization exempt from federal income tax under 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3);
  - 3. Personally delivering to the resident a handbill or flyer advertising a future, not-for-profit event, activity, good or service;
  - 4. Proselytizing on behalf of a religious organization;
  - 5. Soliciting support for a political candidate or organization, or ballot measure or ideology; and/or

6. Soliciting the sales of newspapers.

## SECTION 2. SCOPE OF PERMITTED ACTIVITY

- A. **Permit Required.** It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in door-to-door commercial solicitation, in the unincorporated areas of Stokes County without obtaining a permit from the Stokes County Sheriff's Department. A permit shall be valid for six months from the date of issuance. In the event a holder violates any provision of this chapter, Stokes County Sheriff's Department may revoke the holder's permit.
- B. **Eligibility.** A person is not eligible for a permit or for renewal of a permit, as required by this ordinance if, within the two-year period prior to application for a permit or renewal:
  1. The Stokes County Sheriff's Department has received information that the applicant or any person authorized to solicit under a permit held by a permit holder has violated any of the requirements of this ordinance; or
  2. That person has been convicted of an offense under the law of any jurisdiction which involved either misdemeanor or felony assault, communicating threats, the illegal use of weapons, larceny, embezzlement, breaking and entering or other crimes relating to theft, or crimes deemed by the Sheriff's Department, in their discretion, to prevent issuance of this permit; or
  3. A permit held by that person has been revoked under this ordinance or the identification badge of any person authorized to solicit under that person's permit has been revoked under this ordinance.
- C. **Standards of Conduct and Prohibited Acts.**
  1. Enforcement of "no solicitation," "no commercial solicitation" or "no trespassing" signs.
    - (a) No person engaged in door-to-door commercial or noncommercial solicitation, shall enter or remain upon any private premises in the County if a "no solicitation" or "no trespassing" sign is posted at or near the entrance(s) to such premises. For purposes of enforcement of this provision, if a multi-family housing complex is not otherwise posted with regard to solicitation and an individual occupant of such multi-family housing complexes wishes to prohibit some or all door-to-door solicitation at their individual residence, that individual occupant may do so by the posting of a sign prohibiting solicitation or commercial solicitation at or near the entrance(s) to the occupant's individual residence.
    - (b) This provision shall apply to all solicitation, including, without limitation, all activities that are religious, charitable, or political in nature and all solicitation of newspaper subscriptions.
  2. No person engaged in door-to-door commercial or noncommercial solicitation shall:
    - (a) Attempt to sell, for present or future delivery, any goods, wares or merchandise, or any services to be performed immediately or in the future (for purposes of this ordinance, hereinafter referred to collectively as "sell" or "selling") by means of statements which are known, or should have been known, by the person making them to be false or misleading;
    - (b) Obstruct the free flow of traffic, either vehicular or pedestrian, on any street, alley, sidewalk or other public right-of-way;
    - (c) Sell in a way as creates a threat to the health, safety, or welfare of any specific individual or the public;
    - (d) Solicit before 9:00 a.m. or after 7:00 p.m. or sunset, whichever occurs first;
    - (e) Remain on the property of another person after having been requested to leave;

- (f) State or imply that the holding of a permit issued by the Stokes County Sheriff's Department constitutes an endorsement of the solicitor's goods, services and/or position by Stokes County;
  - (g) Fail to display the identification badge required by this ordinance;
  - (h) Use or present a revoked, expired or otherwise invalid permit and/or identification badge required by this ordinance; or
  - (i) Otherwise sell or conduct commercial solicitation in any manner that a reasonable person would find obscene, threatening, intimidating, or abusive.
3. Duty to display permit/identification badge; report of lost or stolen permit or badge.
- (a) Any person engaging in door-to-door commercial solicitation under a permit issued pursuant to this ordinance shall conspicuously display an identification badge issued or approved by the Stokes County Sheriff's Department containing the photograph of the person on the front of his/her person by the use of a lanyard or on the outside of his/her clothing at all times.
  - (b) Whenever requested by any law enforcement officer or by any customer or prospective customer, any person engaged in door-to-door commercial solicitation shall exhibit his/her copy of the permit issued by the Stokes County Sheriff's Department.
  - (c) A permit holder is required, without undue delay, to report any lost or stolen permit, copy of a permit and/or identification badge to the Stokes County Sheriff's Department.
4. Except for Section 2(C)(1) and 2(C)(2)(a)-(f) and (i) above, the regulation of soliciting under this ordinance shall not apply to:
- (a) The lawful solicitation of contributions from the public for personal or charitable purposes if in areas and in a manner otherwise permitted by law;
  - (b) The promotion or expression of views concerning political, social, religious, and other like matters if in areas and in a manner otherwise permitted by law;
  - (c) Campaigning for political office or on a candidate's behalf or on behalf of or against any upcoming ballot measure;
  - (d) Licensees, employees, or contractors of the Department of Transportation or of any municipality engaged in construction, maintenance, or in making traffic or engineering surveys; or
  - (e) Distribution of newspapers on the non-traveled portion of any street or highway except when those distribution activities impede the normal traffic on the street or highway.
  - (f) Employees of Stokes County engaged in official County business.
  - (g) Sales of goods, merchandise and raffle or event tickets by schools, churches, scouting organizations, and civic groups or other non-profit organizations.

### SECTION 3. PERMIT ISSUANCE AND REVOCATION

- A. **Timeliness of Application.** An application for a solicitation permit shall be made at least 15 business days before the applicant desires to conduct door-to-door commercial solicitation within Stokes County.

- B. **Permit Application Procedure:** A criminal background check is required and will be reviewed by the Stokes County Sheriff's Department to determine eligibility of the applicant. Application shall be on a form issued by the Sheriff's Department, signed by the applicant in the presence of the employee accepting the application, and shall set forth the following information:
  - A. The name, permanent address (or if no permanent address a temporary address in the vicinity of Stokes County), a phone number (if available), and emergency contact of/for the applicant;
  - B. Picture identification of the applicant through a valid state-issued photo identification, or if picture identification is impractical, the applicant shall provide other documentation that reasonably establishes identity; and
  - C. A brief description of the activity to be conducted, including if applicable, any items or services to be sold or offered for sale.
  - D. Applicants to engage in door-to-door commercial solicitation shall also provide:
    - A. A complete list of all persons authorized to solicit under the requested permit and all supervising staff;
    - B. Name, address and telephone number where applicant or supervising staff can be reached while conducting business in Stokes County;
    - C. A photograph taken no more than six months prior to the application, which photograph fairly depicts the appearance of each person authorized to solicit under the permit as of the date of the application and which, in the judgment of the Stokes County Sheriff's Department, is suitable for reproduction on the identification badge(s) to be issued by the County; and
    - D. Immediate notification of any change to the information provided in the application to the Stokes County Sheriff's Department.
- C. **Permit Application Fee.** An application fee of \$25.00 shall be required to be submitted together with the application.
- D. **Permit Issuance, Denial, And Appeal.**
  - 1. **Procedure for application review.** Within 5 business days of receipt of an application, the Stokes County Sheriff's Department shall issue a permit unless the applicant:
    - (a) Has not submitted a complete application.
    - (b) Has submitted false information.
    - (c) Is less than 18 years of age.
    - (d) Has been convicted of one or more offenses which involve either misdemeanor or felony assault, communicating threats, illegal use of weapons, or other violent crime; or
    - (e) Has been convicted of one or more offenses which involve either misdemeanor or felony crimes relating to or in the nature of larceny, embezzlement, breaking and entering or other crimes relating to theft or crimes deemed by the Stokes County Sheriff's Department, in its discretion, to justify denial of the permit.

2. Possession of permit. Any person authorized by permit to engage in door-to-door solicitation shall keep the issued permit in his or her possession and exhibit his or her permit when requested to do so by any solicited individual or law enforcement officer.
3. Denial of permit. In the case of denial, the reasons for denial shall be noted on the application, and the applicant shall be notified that his or her application is denied and no permit shall be issued. Notice shall be mailed to the applicant at the last known address shown on the application form, if given.

E. Permit Revocation

1. A permit may be revoked or suspended by the Stokes County Sheriff's Department for the following reasons:
  - (a) Fraud, misrepresentation, or false statement contained in the permit application;
  - (b) Soliciting door-to-door in a manner inconsistent with the provisions in the issued permit;
  - (c) Conducting solicitation in such a manner as to create a breach of the peace or endanger the health, safety or general welfare of the public; or
  - (d) The failure of an applicant, or any person working on behalf of or with the applicant, to comply with any provision or requirement of this ordinance or other applicable law.
2. Upon revocation, the permit issued must be immediately surrendered to the Stokes County Sheriff's Department.

F. Appeal of Denial or Revocation. Any applicant who has been denied issuance of a permit under Section C or who has had a permit revoked under Section D of this ordinance may appeal such action within 10 days of the date of denial or revocation by delivering a written notice of appeal, specifying with particularity the ground(s) for the appeal to the Stokes County Manager.

G. Penalties. A violation of this ordinance shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$500.00 or imprisonment for not more than thirty (30) days for each separate violation. Each day any violation of this ordinance shall continue shall constitute a separate offense. In addition to the penalties previously stated, a violation of this ordinance may be enforced by any one or more of the remedies authorized by G.S. §153A-123.

H. Severability. Should any section or provision of this ordinance be declared invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

This ordinance shall become effective upon adoption.

This the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2016.

STOKES COUNTY

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
J. Leon Inman, Chairman  
Board of Commissioners

I, Darlene Bullins, Clerk of the Stokes County Board of Commissioners, do hereby certify that the foregoing ordinance was duly adopted by the governing body of Stokes County after lawful public notice and at a regular meeting thereof, a quorum being present.

ATTEST:

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Darlene Bullins  
Clerk to the Board

Vice Chairman Booth moved to approve the proposed Ordinance – Regulate Door-to-Door Solicitation. Commissioner Jones seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**Appointments – Stokes County Planning Board**

Chairman Inman noted the following were nominated at the June 13<sup>th</sup> meeting:

- Tommy White – Peters Creek Township
- Ted Hairston – Beaver Island Township
- Ronnie Tilley – Big Creed Township
- Lewis Wood – Danbury Township
- Patrick Flinchum – Meadows Township

Chairman Inman opened the floor for further nominations.

There were no further nominations.

Chairman Inman entertained a motion to close the nominations.

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

Chairman Inman polled the Board

The Board unanimously approved the following by polling:

- Tommy White – Peters Creek Township
- Ted Hairston – Beaver Island Township
- Ronnie Tilley – Big Creed Township
- Lewis Wood – Danbury Township
- Patrick Flinchum – Meadows Township

Chairman Inman noted that Tommy White (Peters Creek Township), Ted Hairston (Beaver Island Township), Ronnie Tilley (Big Creek Township), Lewis Wood (Danbury Township), and

Patrick Flinchum (Meadows Township) were unanimously appointed to the Stokes County Planning Board.

**Animal Control – Staffing Restructure**

Chairman Inman entertained a motion regarding the Animal Control Staffing Restructure presented by County Manager Morris at today's meeting.

Commissioner Walker moved to approve the Animal Control Staffing Restructure (funding an Animal Control Officer instead of the Animal Shelter Administrator for Fiscal Year 2016-17). Vice Chairman Booth seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**Proposed Resolution – Supporting Separation of Church and State**

Chairman Inman entertained a motion regarding the proposed Resolution Supporting the Separation of Church and State which was presented at today's meeting.

Commission Walker moved to not approve the proposed Resolution Supporting the Separation of Church and State. Vice Chairman Booth seconded the motion.

Chairman Inman opened the floor for any further discussion.

Chairman Inman commented.

- All of you heard people speaking in favor of the resolution and against the resolution
- I kind of kept a tally – it was about 50/50
- I personally feel like we have a forum here
- We allow everyone to come in
- Don't think I have ever heard anyone who has spoken to say to not let anyone else speak
- Our forum has the openness, it has the transparency
- Like I said to the entire group earlier, I think public comments is one of the best places to state your opinion
- I hope that no one on this Board has ever tried to pass our beliefs off to you or convince you that you need to believe another way
- How many Quakers in the house? One - me
- I have never felt discriminated against
- I am a born again Christian
- I will never pass my beliefs off to anyone else or try to get you to believe a certain way



- Our fore fathers came to escape religious oppression
- They were not seeking freedom from religion, they were seeking freedom of religion

Chairman Inman called the question.

The motion carried (4-1) with Commissioner Jones voting against the motion.

### **Emergency Medical Services – 2016-17 Ambulance Purchase**

Chairman Inman entertained a motion regarding the purchase of a 2016 Ford Type I F450 4x4 chassis with a Horton 603 Ambulance module at a cost of \$183,436 utilizing the HGAC contract AM10-14 which was presented at today's meeting.

Vice Chairman Booth moved to approve the purchase of a 2016 Ford Type I F450 4x4 chassis with a Horton 603 Ambulance module at a cost of \$183,436 utilizing the HGAC contract AM10-14. Commissioner Lankford seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

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

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

Commissioner Lankford moved to enter Closed Session for the following:

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

Commissioners Walker seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The Board reentered the opened session of the July 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Adjournment**

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

Commissioner Lankford moved to adjourn the meeting. Vice Chairman Inman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

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

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