

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF STOKES)
)

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS
STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT
DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA
JULY 25, 2016

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met for regular session in the Commissioners' Chambers of the Ronald Wilson Reagan Memorial Building (Administration Building) located in Danbury, North Carolina on Monday, July 25, 2016 at 6:00 pm with the following members present:

Chairman J. Leon Inman
Vice Chairman James D. Booth – arrived at 6:15 pm
Commissioner Jimmy Walker
Commissioner Ernest Lankford
Commissioner Ronda Jones

County Personnel in Attendance:
Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins
County Attorney Tyrone Browder
Finance Director Julia Edwards

County Manager Richard D. Morris – absent

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

INVOCATION

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

Commissioner Walker delivered the invocation.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT-GOVERNING BODY-PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Chairman Inman noted that County Manager Rick Morris would not be in attendance for tonight's meeting due to recent knee surgery.

Chairman Inman also noted that Vice Chairman Booth seemed to be running a little late for July 25, 2016

tonight's meeting.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins requested to add the following to the Consent Agenda:

- Budget Amendment #11 which is needed to transfer funds from Contingency for repairs to the air conditioning on the emergency communication command unit
- Vehicle was taken to the shop this morning and air conditioning needs repairing in case the unit is needed for an emergency situation
- There is no funding allocated in the Fiscal Year 2016-17 Budget for the repairs
- The \$1,085.00 needed for repairs will be allocated from Contingency

The Board had no issue placing Budget Amendment #11 on the Consent Agenda with the other Budget Amendments.

Commissioner Jones moved to approve the July 25th Agenda as amended with the addition of Budget Amendment #11 to the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Lankford seconded and the motion carried (4-0) with Vice Chairman Booth absent.

COMMENTS - Manager/Commissioners

Chairman Inman opened the floor for comments from the Board.

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Ethics for Life – “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance” (Psalm 33:12)

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Good to see everyone tonight
- Attended the League of Governments last week along with Commissioner Lankford and Vice Chairman Booth at the City of King
 - It was noted that the new Walmart in King is on schedule to open in March 2017
 - Have heard there are already walls up

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Lot going on with meetings and farming
- Glad to see everyone here tonight

Chairman Inman commented.

- Attended the celebration of the 26th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) at Hanging Rock State Park's new accessible picnic shelter on Sunday

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:

E.A. "Buddy" Timm

PO Box 573

Walnut Cove, NC

RE: **Oaths**

Mr. Timm read and presented the following to the Board of Commissioners:

"My concern is over oaths. Oaths or vows that we take to uphold the Constitution are solemn promises witnessed by God, whether or not His name is invoked, that come with a scriptural warning from Ecclesiastes 5:4 - "When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for He hath no pleasure in fools...."

Oaths to the Constitution are to its words written on the page, thereby conveying its original intent; and not to anyone's opinion.

The words: "Separation of Church and State" are not found in the Constitution, and therefore would be a violation of one's oath to the Constitution to apply them as if they were in the Constitution. Erroneously, the "Separation of Church and State" phrase has been applied by the political left against Bible reading and Prayer in public schools; yet Thomas Jefferson had the Bible and Watts Hymnal used as reading material in the D.C. public schools, since the Bible and Prayer are not a Church. A Church has a steeple on the roof, and a date of its establishment, thereby establishing -- "an establishment of religion."

The subject of the First Amendment is -- Congress and the prohibition is against -- Congress. Thomas Jefferson explains that in his Kentucky Resolutions of 1798, 3 Resolved.... "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: thereby guarding in the same sentence, and under the same words, the freedom of religion, of speech, and of the press: insomuch, that whatever violated either, throws down the sanctuary which covers the others, and that libels, falsehood, and defamation, equally with heresy and false religion, are withheld from the cognizance of the federal tribunals."

The Constitution's Article 4, Section 4, states "the United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government...." Therefore, to support the immoral LGBT behavior would be subversive to a Republican Form of Government, since a Republic is based on

virtue – the high moral standards; thus undermining that Constitutional guarantee, and violating one’s oath. Even Isaiah (5:20) warns: “Woe unto them that call evil good...”

Benjamin Franklin when asked about our form of government, responded: “A Republic, if you can keep it.” We cannot keep it if we do not get involved and demand Virtuous Law, which is at the heart of a Republic. Law, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good, complements one’s oath to the Constitution.

Our Nation is in a mess, because calamity comes with oath violations.”

Chairman Inman expressed appreciation to those who spoke at tonight’s meeting.

Vice Chairman Booth entered the meeting.

Vice Chairman Booth extended his apologies for his lateness to the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Minutes

- Minutes of July 11, 2016 – Regular Meeting

Register of Deeds – Budget Amendment #8

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #8.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
	Register of Deeds			
100,4180.260	Departmental Supplies	<u>\$3,945.00</u>	<u>\$50.00</u>	<u>\$3,995.00</u>
	Totals	\$3,945.00	\$50.00	\$3,995.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To appropriate a donation to the Register of Deeds to purchase supplies

This will result in a **net increase** of **\$50.00** in the expenditures and other financial use to the County’s annual budget. To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will increase. These revenues have already been received or are verified they will be received this fiscal year.

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
100.3839.100	Register of Deeds –Miscell.	\$00.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
	Totals	\$00.00	\$50.00	\$50.00

Sheriff’s Department – Budget Amendment #9

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #9.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
	Sheriff’s Department			
100.4130.351	Maint. & Repair – Auto	\$93,500.00	\$1,770.00	\$95,270.00
	Totals	\$93,500.00	\$1,770.00	\$95,270.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To appropriate insurance claims to repair damaged vehicle.

This will result in a **net increase** of **\$1,770.00** in the expenditures and other financial use to the County’s annual budget. To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will increase. These revenues have already been received or are verified they will be received this fiscal year.

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
100.3839.850	Insurance Claim	\$32,610.00	\$1,770.00	\$34,380.00
	Totals	\$32,610.00	\$1,770.00	\$34,380.00

Public Buildings - Budget Amendment #10

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #10.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
	General Fund			
	Public Buildings			
100.4190.510	Equipment	\$00.00	\$26,265.00	\$26,265.00
	Totals	\$00.00	\$26,265.00	\$26,265.00

Capital Reserve Fund				
201.4190.013	Public Buildings	\$32,610.00	\$(26,265.00)	\$6,345.00
201.3981.000	Transfer to General Fund	<u>\$(32,610.00)</u>	<u>\$26,265.00</u>	<u>\$(6,345.00)</u>
Totals		\$00.00	\$00.00	\$00.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To transfer funds from Capital Reserve Fund for the purchase of a dump truck.

This will result in a **net increase** of **\$26,265.00** 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
General Fund				
	Transfer from Capital Reserve			
100.3982.960	Fund	<u>\$119,403.00</u>	<u>\$26,265.00</u>	<u>\$145,668.00</u>
Totals		\$119,403.00	\$26,265.00	\$145,668.00

Emergency Communications - Budget Amendment #11

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #11.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
Emergency Communications				
100.4325.351	Maint. & Repairs – Auto	\$500.00	\$1,085.00	\$1,585.00
Contingency				
100.9910.000	Contingency	<u>\$121,925.00</u>	<u>\$(1,085.00)</u>	<u>\$120,840.00</u>
Totals		\$122,425.00	\$00.00	\$122,425.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To transfer funds from Contingency for air conditioning repairs on the emergency communication command vehicle.

This will result in a **net increase** of **\$00.00** in the expenditures and other financial use to the County's annual budget. To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will increase. These revenues have already been received or are verified they will be received this fiscal year.

Tax Administration Report – June 2016

Refunds More Than \$100 – Real and Personal Property

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Refunds more than \$100 – Real and Personal Property (June 2016) at the July 11th meeting for the Board's review with consideration at the July 25th meeting:

Refunds 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		\$500.41	

Write-off Requests – EMS Billing and Jail Services

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Write-off Requests – EMS Billing and Jail Services (June 2016) at the July 11th meeting for the Board's review with consideration at the July 25th 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 - \$176,319.48
- 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: 03/15/2016
 - Charge Amount - \$712.80
 - Reason – Inmate/No insurance
- Total Inmate Write-off Request = \$1,171.80
- Both Write-off Requests are non-collectable

Timetable – 2017 Proposed Schedule of Values – Public Hearing – August 22, 2016

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Timetable for the 2017 proposed Schedule of Values, which included a Public Hearing for August 22, 2016, at the July 11th meeting for the Board’s review with consideration at the July 25th 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 105-317)

Tax Administration

Proposed Resolution – Annual Settlement of Fiscal Year 2015-16

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following proposed Resolution for the Annual Settlement of Fiscal Year 2015-16 at the July 11th meeting for the Board’s review with consideration at the July 25th meeting:

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

Proposed Order – Collection of Fiscal Year 2016-17 Property Taxes

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following proposed Order for the Collection of Fiscal Year 2016-17 Property Taxes at the July 11th meeting for the Board's review with

consideration at the July 25th meeting:

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

Commissioner Lankford moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with the addition of Budget Amendment #11 to the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Jones seconded the

motion.

Vice Chairman Booth confirmed with staff that funding for the purchase of the dump truck on Budget Amendment #10 was from insurance funds that had been received in Fiscal Year 2015-16 and placed in Capital Reserve for the purchase in Fiscal Year 2016-17.

The motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – INFORMATION AGENDA

Chairman Inman welcomed CEO Pam Tillman, Pioneer Community Hospital of Stokes, and Director Jorge Perez, LifeBrite Hospital Group, LLC to tonight's meeting.

Chairman Inman presented the following comments:

- LifeBrite Hospital Group, LLC has entered into an Interim Management Agreement with Pioneer Health Services to operate Pioneer Community Hospital of Stokes
- Hopes are for a signed Asset Purchase Agreement very soon

Director Jorge Perez presented the following update:

- Appreciate the opportunity to be at tonight's meeting and the opportunity to work with such a fine hospital
- I have been involved in healthcare for 30 years
- Have run the family business of saving hospitals
- Have a long track record in Florida of saving several hospitals there
- Have made the news numerous times, one example is Campbellton Graceville Hospital in Graceville, Florida
- Another one is Regional General Hospital in Williston, Florida
- Those are the latest and greatest claims to fame
- Both of these facilities were in days of closing
- When I saw the situation in Graceville, I was knocking on their door within 24 hours
- After 48 hours, a contract was signed
- After 14 months, the hospital is back on its feet with the employee count being doubled
- Have added clinical services that they had not been able to obtain before we took over
- One thing that we created that we call our "secret sauce" is "thinking outside the box"
- In smaller hospitals, such as in Stokes County, there is just not enough volume of business to sustain in an institution that large with all the clinical services that is required
- Sometimes you have to go beyond the boundaries of the community

- One thing that was brought into the Campbellton Hospital was tele-medicine which allowed us to reach out to other parts of the country and bring in specialists to a particular area
- Using tele-medicine, a patient can be consulted by a specialist without having to be transferred to another facility
- Those things all add up to bring in additional revenue for the facility and keeps the revenue at the hospital instead of being transferred out
- Will be adding additional state of the art diagnostic equipment, better radiology equipment, and improved laboratory equipment to this hospital
- Enjoy being at this hospital
- This hospital already has several things not often found in other small rural hospitals such as the geriatric psychiatric department which is not currently being used, an amazing nursing home, etc.
- I know with our management team and our technology, we will be able to turn your hospital around
- We have gone beyond what a normal hospital does in the lab
- We have developed a wellness lab panel that checks 60 different types of physical conditions in the body with blood and urine tests
- This provides additional revenue for the hospitals
- This also provides information not normally found in the standard lab tests
- Would be happy to answer any questions

Chairman Inman opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Appreciate you being here tonight
- We hope you are a lifeline that we so desperately need
- Very happy to hear that you are diverse and do not put all your “eggs in one basket”
- Very pleased to hear about the doubling of employees at another hospital location
- Questioned Mr. Perez “if he had any idea what might could be done in terms of the number of employees at our hospital?”

Mr. Perez responded:

- This hospital location is so far ahead of other locations that I have worked with in the past, especially with the geriatric psychiatric department which is very expensive to build out
- Believe this is one area that can be very profitable and good for the community
- Will do marketing, with increased patients, staff must increase

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Appreciate you being at tonight’s meeting
- Confirmed with Mr. Perez that he is currently involved with 3 rural hospitals

Mr. Perez responded:

- Have managed other hospitals that have been sold

- Have worked in much larger hospitals, but try to focus on critical access or rural hospitals under 50 beds

Commissioner Walker continued:

- Confirmed with Mr. Perez that he has been doing his due diligence on the hospital and the county
- Questioned Mr. Perez “what has he found out so far with his due diligence regarding the delivery of medical services in the county?”

Mr. Perez responded:

- With the remote locations in King, the hospital is very diversified
- Hope to get the surgery center in King back on its feet along with the re-opening of the emergency room in King
- Believe all the ingredients are there to make this a very successful hospital
- We like to think that we are different from everyone else
- Not going to put Pioneer down, but have always believed that we need to be in total control of our destiny
- We have own technology
- We write our own software
- We have a 24/7 billing team; billing should not stop at 5:00 pm
- With a hospital that operates 24/7, so should the billing department so that you never fall behind in the billing
- In this industry, the faster you bill, the sooner you get reimbursed
- If you send out the correct billing, you should be able to have a 99% reimbursement rate
- Will not change billing technology right off the bat; may incorporate that at a later time

Commissioner Walker continued:

- See where you are coming from with billing and revenue
- Requested Mr. Perez to speak about how the citizens of Stokes County can benefit from future expanded services
- Lot of people, especially those on the northern side have a good distance to travel to other hospitals
- Very pleased to hear about the re-opening of the emergency room in King
- Heard recently of a citizen going to one of the hospitals’ emergency rooms in Forsyth and having to wait 5 hours to be seen

Mr. Perez responded:

- This is kind of like what comes first “the chicken or the egg”
- If I don’t build it, physicians will not come
- Physicians are the key to everything
- Want to be able to bring big city medicine into Stokes County
- The only way that can be achieved is to give physicians the tools, staff, and technology that they need

- Any doctor would love to come to work in a small town, but their biggest challenge is the lack of technology that they would find in a big city
- Our company brings in the latest and greatest technology
- Once we have the technology and the doctors, the community will feel very confident that this hospital can deliver the best quality of care
- Once we start to grow, we are going to need staff
- We know the issues and the needs
- Can provide you preferences from other hospitals where we have done this
- We are not a large corporate type of organization; we have less than 75 employees, but continue to grow
- Don't have the huge infrastructure where things take forever to move
- We like to move fast and get things done
- We go in, execute, and watch it grow

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- Also appreciate you being here tonight
- I like what I have heard so far
- Confirmed with Mr. Perez that he has worked over the years with over 50 hospitals, but currently has 3 hospitals

Mr. Perez responded:

- Believe it is not about quantity, but it is all about quality
- We are our own investors
- Currently, working with another community in Florida to build a new hospital – investing approximately \$6 million
- We had rather have 3-5 hospitals and make them strong
- Want to expand services

Vice Chairman Booth continued:

- Confirmed with Mr. Perez that their largest hospital has over 175 employees
- When Pioneer took over the hospital, at one time, there was approximately 300 employees
- Definitely want expanded services and need providers
- Confirmed with Mr. Perez that they will be working on bringing new providers to the County
- Noted the new medical facility in Pine Hall that should be ready in August

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Very pleased to have you here tonight
- Very pleased to hear the comments regarding expansion of services and growing the hospital
- We believe in community hospitals
- Population in Stokes County is growing older
- Even with citizens having to go to a larger hospital for needed services, many like to come back here for extended care

- Questioned Mr. Perez, “with the signing of the Interim Management Agreement, does your company feel they are free to start operating the business as they see”

Mr. Perez responded:

- Going to speak openly
- The Interim Management Agreement (IMA) has not been signed off yet by creditors’ attorneys
- We have been pushing hard
- We have wired the funds that were requested
- We are moving forward as if it were completely signed off on
- Want to start spending money on this hospital, but have been through this type of situation before
- Things always pop up in bankruptcy court
- Someone can always yell “I object” and it changes everything
- If you can help push that process forward, that would be greatly appreciated
- We are waiting and ready to go

Commissioner Lankford continued:

- Confirmed with Mr. Perez that the IMA has been approved by the bankruptcy judge, but has not been signed off by everyone such as the creditors’ attorneys
- We hope that you are very successful and look forward to working with you and your company

Chairman Inman commented:

- Currently, the County has the county attorney, special counsel Parker, Poe and an attorney in Mississippi working on the issue
- Will continue work with them and the CRO
- County has already allocated \$600,000 to keep the doors at the hospital open
- Feel it is extremely important for every citizen in the county to have access to healthcare
- Geographically, we are a divided county by the Sauratown Mountains
- On the north side of the mountains, citizens are approximately 35-40 minutes away from Forsyth and Baptist Hospitals; they must depend on EMS
- In the past, critical patients would be stabilized at Stokes Reynolds and transferred if needed
- Tele-medicine will be extremely important to this area
- Confirmed with Mr. Perez that he is going to try to keep the acute care and skilled care operating
- Confirmed with Mr. Perez that he is also looking into the Home Health component
- Very pleased to hear about the possible re-opening of the emergency room in King

Mr. Perez responded:

- Need all the feeder systems that we can
- There are a lot of things that can be done

Chairman Inman continued:

- Can understand that you can't continue business as usual with the critical care access hospital; you have to expand services
- Stand ready to help

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Recall that when the emergency room was operating in King, there were approximately 200 transports per year by our EMS to that facility
- One thing that slipped away while Pioneer was in control was the communication with this Board
- As a commissioner, felt so often, that I was in the dark with what was happening and where things were going along with the general public
- Questioned Mr. Perez "what his plans were to maintain adequate and appropriate communication with the Board of Commissioners?"

Mr. Perez responded:

- Can't believe any organization would not want everyone to be informed of what is going on
- Believe in keeping everyone informed – commissioners, the public, etc.
- The more we can get the word out about what we are doing and what we can offer, the better it will be
- Hope to be able to come every month and bring good news
- Will be marketing the services
- Need to win the trust of the community

Commissioner Walker continued:

- Questioned Mr. Perez "how he became aware of the hospital's current situation?"

Mr. Perez responded:

- A close doctor friend, who staffs rural hospitals' emergency rooms, gave me a call about the hospital
- First did a drive by and was very impressed
- Moved on it

Commissioner Walker continued:

- Questioned Mr. Perez "when all things were signed and finalized, who would be running the hospital?"

Mr. Perez responded:

- Fortunately for this hospital, Pam Tillman is amazing
- Can see she is very passionate about this hospital
- Part of the "secret sauce" is finding the local people who are passionate about their hospital and want to see it succeed
- Our job is to support Pam and give her whatever she needs to make this hospital successful
- We will always be there to assist Pam with whatever she needs

Commissioner Walker continued:

- Questioned Mr. Perez “what is going on with the IMA and if there is anything that this Board can do to facilitate this process?”

Mr. Perez responded:

- Unfortunately, there are so many parties involved with their own agenda
- Everyone is looking after themselves
- These are the things that close things down
- We are working diligently to move forward
- We have said “yes: to everything they have asked for
- We are waiting on the creditors
- We are ready to go

Chairman Inman commented:

- Stay strong, we will get there

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- Feel Mr. Perez has made a good observation with Pam leading the hospital

Chairman Inman expressed the Board’s appreciation to Mr. Perez for tonight’s update.

Mr. Perez extended his appreciation to the Board for being allowed to speak at tonight’s meeting.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – DISCUSSION AGENDA

Board of County Commissioners – Rules of Procedure - Discussion

Chairman Inman opened the floor for discussion regarding the Board of County Commissioners’ Rules of Procedure which was requested at the July 11th meeting to be placed on the July 25th Discussion Agenda.

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- At the last meeting, there was a question regarding the removal of an item on the agenda which is not defined in the Board’s current Rules of Procedure
- Referenced Rule 9 – Agenda (c) which allows the Board, by majority vote, to add an item that is not on the Agenda during the adoption of the Agenda to the Rules of Procedure
- Feel it is very appropriate to include that the Board, by majority vote, may remove an item on the Agenda during the adoption of the Agenda
- Would like to see language added to the Board’s Rules of Procedure to be able to remove an item (language similar to adding an item to the Agenda)

- When the Board receives the Agenda, it is not official, it only becomes official when the Board approves the Agenda at the start of the meeting
- It is basically a draft Agenda until it is approved by the Board

Commissioner Jones commented:

- I am very much against this because putting this in the Rules of Procedure is going to marginalize anyone sitting on this Board whose philosophy or beliefs are different
- The next administration may be one Republican and four Democrats
- That one Republican could constantly ask for something to be on the Agenda and nothing never be done about it
- There is going to be a marginalization of constituents that may want to be heard that may have a different philosophy
- I don't see this as a "checks and balances"
- I see it stifling the process

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Going to take a little different view than my commissioner to the right
- I don't see it as targeting any particular person or position because I think it is neutral
- As Commissioner Lankford pointed out, it is not an official Agenda until it is approved by a majority (3 members) of the Board
- Recently spoke to Trey Allen at the School of Government, who is actually writing a book about Board of Commissioners' Procedures, about the situation at the last meeting which involved taking an item off the Agenda
- Explained the Board's current Rules of Procedure about adding any item to the Agenda
- Mr. Allen stated that the Rules of Procedure do not have to state anything about removing an item
- Mr. Allen stated that a Board, at the time of approval of the Agenda, can add or remove any item by the vote of three commissioners except for Public Hearings or items that have a time factor and have been advertised as such
- Mr. Allen also stated that the Agenda, until approved, is a draft Agenda
- If it is the pleasure of the Board, feel the wording should be added to the Rules of Procedure to remove an item so that it is clear
- Also noted that this Board has moved items around on the Agenda
- Don't believe that wordage to move items around on the Agenda is included in the Rules of Procedure, may want to look at adding something to that effect
- Requested Commissioner Lankford state his language again about removing an item from the Agenda

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- The Board may, by majority vote, take an item off the Agenda. Any item to be removed from the Agenda must be removed at the time of the adoption of the Agenda.
- This suggested language can be simplified

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Suggested language to read: The Board may, by majority vote, add an item that is not on the agenda or remove an item that is on the Agenda and any item added or removed from the Agenda must be done at the time of the adoption of the Agenda.

Commissioner Lankford stated he had no issues with Commissioner Walker's suggested language.

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- Sounds like from what Commissioner Walker learned from the School of Government, an item can be removed regardless of the wording in the Rules of Procedure
- Don't see any issue with suggested language
- Adding the language will make it clear

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Posed the question regarding a Commissioner requesting to put an item on the Agenda at the time of the Adoption of the Agenda

Commissioner Lankford noted that as the Rules of Procedure state that the Board may, by majority vote, add any item to the Agenda during the adoption of the Agenda.

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Don't feel it is fair to constituents, unless it is county business that is absolutely necessary, because the Agenda is advertised days before the meeting as to what is going to be on the Agenda
- That is not transparent and could be abused

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Most items added to the Agenda is usually requested by the county manager
- Is it fair for the county manager to add an item that we have not had time to consider at the beginning of the meeting and not allow a commissioner to add an item?

Chairman Inman commented:

- The county manager serves at the pleasure of the Board to conduct the County's business

Commissioner Walker stated he was not trying to push the issue, just wanting to make sure the language was added if needed.

Chairman Inman commented:

- The Rules of Procedure can always be modified

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- Most of what the manager requests to be added is a time sensitive item

Commissioner Walker commented:

- One point to consider, anything requested to be added during the adoption of the Agenda must be approved by a majority vote

Chairman Inman commented:

- A good example of adding an item was Budget Amendment #11 which was requested by the Clerk tonight
 - Item was time sensitive
- Reiterated the point made by Commissioner Walker that anything requested to be added during the adoption of Agenda must be approved by a majority vote

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Noted that Mr. Allen also stated that the Agenda is the Board's Agenda and is a draft Agenda until approved by a majority of the Board

Commissioner Lankford recommended that the Clerk modify the language in Section (c) under Rule 9 – Agenda as indicated by the Board and to place the item on the Action Agenda for the next meeting.

Chairman Inman questioned if there were any other issues pertaining to the Rules of Procedure?

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Reference Rule 12 – Powers of the Chair
 - The chair shall preside at all meetings of the Board. A member must be recognized by the chair in order to address the Board.
 - Feel like that is being done and the member speaking is given the floor without being interrupted
 - To rule on points of parliamentary procedure, including the right to rule out of order any motion patently offered for obstructive or dilatory purposes;
 - To determine whether a speaker has gone beyond reasonable standards of courtesy in his or her remarks and to entertain and rule on objections from other members on this ground;
 - To call a brief recess at any time;
 - To adjourn in an emergency
- Honestly, I was expecting to see a longer list of powers of the chair

Chairman Inman noted that the Chair has one additional power which is just like the other commissioners - one vote.

Commissioner Walker continued:

- At times, the power of our chair, not speaking specifically of Chairman Inman, I think this has happened on other occasions, has represented the Board in various ways in negotiations and certain other ways
- Those duties such as negotiations are not defined as a power of the chair
- My question to the other commissioners is “does this need any attention?”

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- If the powers listed are followed, I feel that is adequate

Commissioner Walker continued:

- If I may, let’s take a recent example, Commissioner Inman was very involved in negotiations regarding the hospital, he along with the county manager
- Technically, there is no authority for him to act in that capacity based on the Rules of Procedure

Chairman Inman questioned Commissioner Walker “what was his recommendation?”

Commissioner Walker responded:

- I am actually not making one
- I am just pointing out that if we want to expand the powers of the chair, we need to clarify the Rules of Procedure
- As Commissioner Lankford mentioned, if we are satisfied with the powers of the chair, we need to monitor ourselves

Commissioner Lankford responded:

- The reason I stated it was adequate is because I do not want anyone to have the chair and think that they are representing the Board without the knowledge of the other members
- I would hate to have a chair that I thought was doing that

Commissioner Walker noted that each member of the Board had served as the chair.

Commissioner Lankford continued:

- I am sure there are situations that are going to pop up that will require the chair to get involved
- The only thing that I would ask of any chairman is that when something is discussed, the other four members are notified, at least some way, somehow
- Feel it is very important for a universal Board to be notified

Commissioner Walker commented

- Looking at it from a Chairman’s view, if they are put in a position that they are speaking for or negotiating for the Board, I would want Board concurrence that I could point back to
- Reference that the Board told me to do

Chairman Inman commented:

- That is what has been done

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- If the Board gives the Chair that authority, then the Chair has that authority

Commissioner Walker responded:

- That is fine, if that authority is recorded in the minutes
- I was surprised at how limited the powers of the chair actually are

Commissioner Lankford responded:

- That is the way it should be

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- The chair is like each member, he/she has one vote

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Skimmed over the rest of the procedures and did not see any other changes that I wanted to recommend at this time

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Referenced Rule 24 – Introduction of Ordinances, Resolutions, and Orders.
 - A proposed ordinance shall be deemed introduced at the first meeting at which it is on the Agenda, regardless of whether it is actually considered by the Board and its introduction shall be recorded in the minutes
- I see that as the item must be on the Agenda before it is discussed, then be on the Discussion Agenda and possibly then the Action Agenda

Vice Chairman Booth commented:

- That is what has been being done

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Would like to hear the Clerk's take on this rule as she monitors our meetings

Clerk Darlene Bullins responded:

- Feel that this rule was included because certain ordinances must be introduced at one meeting and can't be voted on the same day it is introduced to the Board, per general statutes
- General statutes also require that the introduction of the ordinance must be recorded in minutes
- Confirmed with County Attorney Ty Browder that was the purpose of Rule 24
- Don't recall any ordinance being voted on the first time it was on the Agenda
- Normally items such as resolutions and orders are placed on the Discussion Agenda and then moved if time sensitive

Chairman Inman commented:

- Noted the original Rules of Procedure were adopted in 2002 which was before the Board changed to include a Discussion Agenda and an Action Agenda

Vice Chairman Booth questioned “if items being moved from the Discussion Agenda to the Action Agenda on the same day, should there be a motion or could there be a consensus of the Board to move the item to the Action Agenda?”

Vice Chairman Booth noted that it had been done both ways.

Clerk Bullins responded:

- Normally time sensitive items are done by a motion and consensus if it is a nomination for things like a designation for a voting member of the Board or to direct the staff to proceed with an upset bid process

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Wanted to make sure that Commissioner Jones has had an opportunity to speak

Chairman Inman noted she was next on his list to speak if she so desired.

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Just wanted to recognize that the last Resolution that was submitted on the Discussion Agenda on the first day was taken to the Action Agenda on the same day
- Commissioner Walker has admitted that was not the correct procedure
- Course, we know all about that
- Just wanted to recognize that
- I think what we have now is fine
- Don't think we need to make any changes if we already have it clarified
- It will be on the Action Agenda next time and we will vote on it

Chairman Inman confirmed with County Attorney Ty Browder that he did not feel there needed to be any changes pertaining to Rule 24.

Chairman Inman, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to modify the language and to place the item on August 8th Action Agenda.

Commissioner Walker confirmed with Chairman Inman that the only language that will be modified is under Rule 9 which will include being able to remove an item from the Agenda during the adoption of the Agenda.

Proposed Ground Lease Agreement – The Friends of Stokes Shelter, Inc. (FOSS)

Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins presented the following proposed Ground Lease Agreement with the Friends of Stokes Shelter, Inc. (FOSS) for the Board’s review and Consideration.

Clerk Bullins presented the following information:

- Proposed lease pertains to the construction and operation of a Humane Animal Shelter to be located on county property near the old prison camp in the Meadows Community
- Proposed lease was prepared and has been approved by County Attorney Ty Browder
- Dr. Debbie Cowan has reviewed the proposed lease and did not have any issues, but would be reviewing the proposed lease with other FOSS members
- At this time, Dr. Cowan has not provided any indication there are issues

Chairman Inman opened the floor for discussion.

The Board had no issues with the Agenda item.

The Board agreed to place the item on the August 8th Action Agenda.

Chairman Inman, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on August 8th Action Agenda.

Appointment – Stokes County Human Services Advisory Committee

Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins presented the following information regarding a vacancy on the Stokes County Human Services Advisory Committee:

- Amy Barnes, who served as an appointee from the General Public with an interest or background in Social Services, resigned from the Committee
- New Appointee will fill the unexpired term

Chairman Inman opened the floor for nominations.

There were no nominations.

Chairman Inman entertained a motion to close the nominations.

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

Commissioner Walker confirmed with Clerk Bullins that at this time, there has been no recommendation from the Human Services Advisory Committee.

The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Inman, with full consent of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on August 8th Action Agenda.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – ACTION AGENDA

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

Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins presented the revised version of the proposed Contract Recreation – Stokes Family YMCA – FY 2016-17, which was presented at the July 11th meeting, for the Board’s review and consideration:

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 at the “YMCA”, and the County of Stokes, herein know 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, and 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. **The Committee will meet at least one time quarterly.**

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, and 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 31st and the second due on January 31st 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

July 25, 2016

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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

Chairman Inman entertained a motion regarding the proposed Contract - Recreation Stokes Family YMCA for Fiscal Year 2016-17 as amended.

Vice Chairman Booth moved to approve the amended Contract with Stokes Family YMCA for Recreational Services for Fiscal Year 2016-17. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.

Commissioner Walker questioned if the wording had been added to Item #11?

Clerk Bullins noted the following:

- Language added to Item #11 – “The Committee will meet at least one time quarterly” as requested by the Board at the July 11th meeting (bold and underlined in the proposed contract presented at tonight’s meeting)
- Information received from Derek Edwards indicates that the Stokes Family YMCA will re-engage the Committee with the goal to meet once per quarter during the 2016-17 Fiscal Year
- Commissioner Walker served as a Board appointee to the Recreation Committee

Commissioner Walker noted that he would continue to serve on the Recreation Committee and would report back to the Board of Commissioners.

The motion carried unanimously.

Proposed Resolution – Advisory Referendum – One-Quarter Cent Local Sales & Use Tax in Stokes County

Chairman Inman entertained a motion regarding the proposed Resolution – Advisory Referendum – One-Quarter Cent Local Sales & Use Tax in Stokes County which was presented at the July 11th meeting.

Commissioner Lankford moved to approve the Resolution – Advisory Referendum – One-

Quarter Cent Local Sales & Use Tax in Stokes County. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.

Commissioner Walker confirmed with Clerk Bullins that the Resolution calls for the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners to deliver a certified copy of the Resolution to the Stokes County Board of Elections within three (3) business days after the passage hereof.

The motion carried unanimously.

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

Chairman Inman entertained a motion regarding the proposed Social Services' Energy Programs Outreach Plan for Fiscal Year 2016-17 which was presented at the July 11th meeting.

Commissioner Jones moved to approve the Social Services' Energy Programs Outreach Plan for Fiscal Year 2016-17. Commissioner Walker seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Appointments – Walnut Cove Senior Center Advisory Council

Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins presented the following individual who was nominated at the July 11th meeting to serve on the Walnut Cove Senior Center Advisory Council:

- o Marchelle Brown

Clerk Bullins noted that there were two vacancies.

Clerk Bullins noted that the Council is looking for another recommendation.

Chairman Inman opened the floor for any further nominations.

There were no further nominations.

Chairman Inman entertained a motion to close the nominations.

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

Chairman Inman polled the Board.

Commissioner Lankford: Marchelle Brown

Chairman Inman: Marchelle Brown
Vice Chairman Booth: Marchelle Brown
Commissioner Walker: Marchelle Brown
Commissioner Jones: Marchelle Brown

Chairman Inman noted that the Board unanimously appointed Marchelle Brown to serve on the Walnut Cove Senior Center Advisory Council.

Adjournment

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

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

Darlene M. Bullins
Clerk to the Board

J. Leon Inman
Chairman