

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
NOVEMBER 30, 2016

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met for a Recessed Meeting (recessed from the November 28, 2016 Regular Meeting) in the Commissioners’ Chambers of the Ronald Wilson Reagan Memorial Building (Administration Building) located in Danbury, North Carolina on Wednesday, November 30, 2016 at 10:30 am with the following members present:

Chairman J. Leon Inman
Vice Chairman James D. Booth -via conference call
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
Register of Deeds Kathy Young
Sheriff Mike Marshall
Tax Administrator Jake Oakley

Chairman Inman called the Recessed Meeting to order.

INVOCATION

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

Chairman Inman 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.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Inman entertained a motion to approve or amend the minutes of the November 28, 2016 meeting.

Commissioner Lankford moved to approve the minutes of November 28, 2016 as presented. Commissioner Jones seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Presentation of Plaque

County Manager Rick Morris, on behalf of the Stokes County, presented Chairman Inman a picture/plaque for his sincere dedication and service to Stokes County and its citizens.

Chairman Inman commented:

- Expressed his sincere appreciation for the picture/plaque that will remind him of Stokes County
- The past 14 years has really flown by
- Have had the opportunity to serve with a lot great commissioners
- This Board, along with past Boards, have made some very good accomplishments
- Think the County is in a very good place
- Have full confidence that the Board coming in will continue the tradition
- Has been very special serving Stokes County, but it is time to turn it over to someone else
- Think Commissioner-Elect Ronnie Mendenhall will do a great job when he joins this Board of Commissioners

Chairman Inman opened the floor for comments from the Board.

Vice Chairman Booth commented: (via phone)

- Did not want to miss this time to express my appreciation to Chairman Inman (out of town due to a scheduling conflict)
- Has been an honor to serve with Chairman Inman during my time as a commissioner (six years)
- It has also been an honor to serve as Vice Chairman under Chairman Inman's leadership
- Appreciate all you have done for Stokes County
- Hope you will continue to be around and be involved

Vice Chairman Booth exited the meeting.

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Have been friends with Chairman Inman for many, many years – long before this commissioner route
- Have worked with Chairman Inman during his time as an educator
- Have always had a good working relationship with Chairman Inman
- Read the following: “Friendship”
 - Casual friendships are plentiful and happen quickly, but intimate friends are few in number, and the relationship takes longer to develop
 - No matter what our position or status in life, we all need friends, especially those who are genuine, loyal, and lasting
 - If we have found a friend like this, we should be grateful because he or she is a priceless possession
- This is the way I see our friendship, Chairman Inman – priceless
- Thank you for your service
- Have enjoyed working with you as a commissioner

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Know, this has to be bitter sweet
- Often think about when I go; I know that I am not staying but two more years
- You have seen a lot of things put in motion, a lot of things done, and a lot things you want to happen that will never get done
- Grateful and thankful for the opportunity to work with you as a commissioner
- Also happy for you to enter another phase of your life

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Go back along time with Commissioner Inman
- Remember when there was a vacancy on this Board and lobbied for Chairman Inman for commissioner
- Chairman Inman has served Stokes County and the citizens very well over the past 14 years
- If you have some free time and want to be productive, might want to consider writing a book about the past 14 years
- Has been an honor to serve as commissioner with Chairman Inman
- Have not always agreed on every issue, but one thing, could always talk about the issues
- Seems like there are two categories of people when you are in your current situation
 - Those who have stayed involved after their terms ended
 - Those who have just dropped out after their terms ended
 - Hope you will be one of those who continues to stay involved after their term ends
- Almost made the same the decision you did about another term
 - At the very last moment before filing, decided that I wanted to continue to hopefully be productive in serving the citizens of Stokes County for another four years
- Wish you well in the future

Chairman Inman commented:

- Appreciate the kind words from my fellow commissioners
- Will continue to serve and be involved in Stokes County
- If appointed, will continue to serve this Board on the new Cardinal Innovations Triad Committee
- When you serve with people you consider friends and never let that friendship get involved in the decision making, that is very special

The following expressed their appreciation and gratitude to Chairman Inman for his dedication, service to Stokes County and its citizens/employees, and for always putting Stokes County first:

- County Manager Rick Morris
- Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins
- Tax Administrator Jake Oakley
- Register of Deeds Kathy Young
- Sheriff Mike Marshall
- Finance Director Julia Edwards
- County Attorney Tyrone Browder

Chairman Inman concluded:

- Remember a workshop attended with Commissioner Walker in my first years as a commissioner in which each commissioner had to speak about their county's asset; quickly thought about the mountains and river, but then stated the people of Stokes County was our next greatest asset and possibly our greatest asset
- One of the first things I learned as a commissioner was that everything was not always black or white; always can have a shade of gray in there
- While obtaining my masters, read the novel – “The Little Prince” by Antoine De Saint Exuperty
 - There is a parable in that story that has always been a great guiding force for me about how you make your decisions
 - It talks about making decisions that are matters of consequence or invisible to the eye
 - “It is only with the heart that one can truly listen”
- Have appreciated the opportunity to serve Stokes County and its citizens

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Inman adjourned the Recessed Meeting.

Darlene M. Bullins
Clerk to the Board

J. Leon Inman
Chairman