

**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS  
STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA  
FEBRUARY 13, 2017**

Chairman Jimmy Walker  
Vice Chairman Ernest Lankford  
Commissioner James D. Booth  
Commissioner Ronda Jones  
Commissioner Ronnie Mendenhall

Chairman Jimmy Walker called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance for today's meeting.

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

Commissioner Booth delivered the invocation.

Chairman Walker invited the citizens in attendance to join the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Chairman Walker entertained a motion to approve or amend the February 13, 2017

Agenda.

Commissioner Mendenhall requested to add the following item to today's Discussion

Agenda:

- Appointment to the Winston Salem Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization – Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

Commissioner Mendenhall noted:

- Have a conflict with two appointed committees' meetings on the same day – Thursday
- Winston Salem Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (TAC) and the Cardinal Innovations Triad Community Board of Directors meet on the same day

Chairman Walker requested the pleasure of the Board regarding Commissioner

Mendenhall's request to add the item to today's Discussion Agenda.

Vice Chairman Lankford confirmed with Commissioner Mendenhall that there was a TAC meeting this Thursday.

The Board unanimously agreed to place Commissioner Mendenhall's request on today's Discussion Agenda.

Chairman Walker directed the Clerk to place the item on today's Discussion Agenda.

Commissioner Booth moved to approve the February 13<sup>th</sup> Agenda as amended.

Vice Chairman Lankford seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

### **COMMENTS – Commissioners/Manager**

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

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Would like to welcome and thank everyone for being at today's meeting
- Appreciate citizen involvement
- Very glad to see so many citizens at today's meeting

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- As we gather through the winter months, it is a pleasure to see everyone here today

- See some old friends and new friends
- Thank you for having an interest in Stokes County and the way government is run

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Ethics for Life “Whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men” (Colossians 3:23)
- Just want to remind the commissioners that the County pays approximately \$13,000 to the Piedmont Triad Regional Council of Governments for dues, with over a \$1 million in returns to the County

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Attended a workshop in Asheville regarding demographics/statistics – very good workshop
  - Information is available on the School of Government’s website under materials
  - Feel it should be mandated for all public officials
  - One thing that I wanted to mention was that approximately 50% of our immigrants are allowed in the United States by visas and green cards
  - When these visas and green cards expire, there is no enforcement
  - There was also information about population and how social security is now fed
  - The information shows the importance of having immigrants, as well, to keep up the workforce
  - The very lengthy powerpoint tells what is going on in North Carolina and the United States
- Have ordered two free flag disposal boxes from the Association of County Commissioners
  - People need a place to put worn out flags
  - Can decide where to put them later
- Found out that we are having an influx of individuals who have mental health issues not only in Stokes County, but across the state
- Attended the opening of “Jimmy, the Story of James Dean” at the Arts Place of Stokes
  - Employee, Kristy Anderson’s son, Colin Anderson played the lead role
  - Suggest everyone try to attend one of the upcoming events
  - Other productions are scheduled in February and March
- Became very aware at the Community Child Protection Meeting about the Opioid epidemic in the County
  - Did some research on different angles regarding the issue
  - 19% of the state budget goes to the consequences of drug abuse, not prevention
  - Something to think about as we go forward with this
  - Also found out that most of the rehab centers are really not very effective
  - Most people fail once they leave the program
  - A person is considered a success once they finish the program
  - There is no tracking mechanism in place to follow those leaving the program

- Don't know anyone who can kick drugs in few weeks
- There is one center in Florida that follows the individual 18 months after leaving the program
- Recently spoke to a recovering addict
  - Questioned how they were successful in stopping and staying off drugs
  - Her answer was that she had to leave Stokes County – had to leave the environment that got her in the position she was in
  - She also said that education was important and that kids in Stokes County often feel stuck; they have no transportation
  - She stated the main thing is that the person had to want to kick the habit
  - Very interesting to hear the information from someone who has kicked the habit
- Very disheartened to want to keep our youth, but have to get them out sometimes to save them

Chairman Walker commented:

- Attended the same session described by Commissioner Jones at the Essentials of Government
- Very enlightening presentation
- Work can be outsourced for about 1/8 of what it might cost to do it in this county – architects, engineering, programming, etc.
- If we are not there yet, as far as a Global Economy, we are definitely moving closer to it
- As a country, we might have to make some adjustments
- Attended the Stokes County Concerned Citizens' meeting regarding the "Opioid issues in Stokes County" at South Stokes High School last Thursday (Commissioner Mendenhall also attended the meeting)
  - Several attending tonight's meeting were at the citizen meeting
  - Well organized event and well attended
  - Staff from Stokes Partnership for Children and DSS were in attendance
  - Dr. Rice, School Superintendent, also attended
- It showed me how much interest there is in the community about this issue
- We are not the only county having to deal with this issue, but we seem to have as much of a challenge as any county in this area
- Hope everyone will be thinking about what we can do collectively to help deal with this issue
- We don't need to see our young people dying; don't need to see anyone dying from drugs
- Something that we need to be working on
- Hope everyone is thinking about we can do
- If we work as a community, we can come together
- This meeting was a good sign that we can work collectively together
- If we work hard and come together, we just might make some progress

- We need to look at education and prevention, law enforcement (control), treatment, etc.

County Manager Rick Morris provided the Board with a copy of the Quarterly Report from Our Communities of Northwest Stokes (OC) which was received at the February 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chairman Walker 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:

### **Kathy Blue**

2188 Horseshow Road  
Westfield, NC

### **Re: Francisco School**

Ms. Blue presented the following comments:

- I am a resident of Stokes County and live within 1 mile of the former Francisco School
- I am speaking today to let you know, along with my neighbors, we are still very interested in the repurposing of the former school facility to benefit this northern Stokes County community
- This facility has great potential to continue to be a vital part of the life of our community
- As you are aware, the organization, Our Communities of Northwest Stokes County has been actively working on plan of usage that will benefit the community and financially support the overall facility
- On days like this past weekend, the walking trail, basketball court, and playground are already proving a needed recreational area for the residents
- We are thankful that the County has worked with the community to allow this area to be a place we can be proud of and have such a valuable use
- This is an example of what we can do with the overall facility
- I wanted to provide you with a citizen's perspective on the progress being made in the repurposing effort
- A few weeks ago, our community meeting was attended by approximately 50 people enthusiastic over the progress toward facility repurposing
- We are actively pursuing potential long term candidates for tenants for the buildings
- We are in the process now, not just planning, but compiling overall operational costs, including obtaining quotes for insurance coverage, utilities, and maintenance costs to develop a feasible plan
- USDA representatives have agreed to meet with us and discuss potential grant opportunities for startup or ongoing projects for the repurposing
- I want to thank the County for its work thus far and ask that the commissioners make this a focus to continue to work hard with the residents of the County in finding the right solution for this facility

- To that end, we ask for your vote today to modify the MOU to allow limited use of the interior of the facilities to aid in this process of building a viable repurposing plan
- Thank you

**Stephen Jessup**

6621 NC HWY 89 West

Westfield, NC

**Re: Francisco School**

Mr. Jessup presented the following comments:

- Would like to talk a little bit about the school today
- Would like to thank the county officials for letting the community use the facility while trying to work something out
- We are all working together on this project
- Kathy spoke briefly about the number of people at the school during the recent beautiful weather – kids on the basketball court and swings, people on the trail – almost needed a parking attendant
- We were there yesterday and saw the people using the facility
- We know they will use the facility and grounds if we can bring everything together to a point
- Want all the county commissioners, Manager Morris, Clerk Bullins and everyone else to think about these questions if this closed facility was in their neighborhood
  - What would you do?
  - What would you think about the situation?
  - How would you want to use it?
  - How would you improve what is there?
- We have a fire instructor that comes to the station and tells us that every time we get out of the fire truck or rescue truck at a call, to always take something with you – a tool
  - He says to use every tool in the toolbox
  - You, commissioners, are a tool in the toolbox
  - Everyone in this room is part of the toolbox
- We need to use every tool we can get our hands on and think about how we can use those tools to make this facility a better place for all the citizens in Stokes County because they are all using it
- You, as a commissioner, represent all the citizens in the county
- You are our representatives
- Have talked to people about a possible convenience store in the facility
- People are asking about renting the facility
- People who are interested in renting the facility always ask where can we get something to eat and where can we get milk/bread
- It is like the “Field of Dreams” – build it and we will come
- It will be a facility that will keep money in Stokes County
- It will be a facility that will produce jobs in Stokes County
- We need to all work together to get a benefit from this facility
- Every time we use this facility, it is a benefit to someone
- The facility needs to be used every day to get the full benefit from the facility

**Sri Ananda Sarvasri**  
1060 Tyler Road  
Walnut Cove, NC  
**Re: Happy, Healthy, & Green**

Mr. Sarvasri presented the following comments:

- I am continuing with my proposal to make Stokes County the happiest, healthiest, greenest county in the nation
- Today, I am focusing on economics
- Yet, I am also creating a document on the 12 methodologies mentioned previously, to improve health and eliminate drug abuse in Stokes County
- This document will be freely available to all people and groups who would like to use it
- In rural counties and towns, such as ours, money is continuously exported to wealthier locations that create products and services for export
- Stokes County imports more products and services than it exports, so our economy is continuously being drained
- Our County does not have the resources to initiate businesses to produce high-value mass-marketed products and services to compete corporations established 50 to 100 years ago
- Nor do we have the technological expertise to do so
- The solution is to look at where we spend our money for imported goods, for example – food
- We have the capacity in Stokes County to produce high-value organic food, yet most of our expenditures (81% to 86%) are for mass marketed junk food and junk beverages
- Likewise, 50% of our food purchases outside the home is for mass-marketed restaurant food that incorporates ingredients from external sources
- We are spending a fortune to destroy our health and export our economic wealth out of the County
- We need an educational campaign to reverse our junk food lifestyle
- This would not only be a boom to our economy, it would solve most our physical, mental, emotional, and social problems such as degenerative disease, crime, and drug abuse
- The most successful economic experiment in the world is the Mondragon Cooperative
- A small region in the Basque area of Spain created 111 cooperatives with annual sales of \$16 billion
- Stokes County could create organic food producing cooperatives to create high-value food for local consumption and export
- This would be a boom to the health of the people and to the economy
- We could also create our own local currency similar to how Ithaca, New York created the most successful local currency in the nation, called “Ithaca hours”.
- The economic solution for Stokes County is to create hundreds of cooperative businesses producing high-value organic food for local consumption and export
- Later, Stokes County could create cooperatives to produce high-value green technology products where there are no currently established businesses to compete with the market
- Thank you

**Robert Phillips**  
1626 Johnson Road  
King, NC  
**Re: Fracking**

Mr. Phillips presented the following comments:

- Appreciate the opportunity to speak today
- Welcome Commissioner Mendenhall to the affray
- It has been almost a year and a half since the Board of County Commissioners adopted the Stokes County Ordinance Establishing a Three-year Moratorium on Oil and Gas Development within Stokes County North Carolina
- Wondering where we are at on that project
- For the benefit of the commissioners and new Commissioner Mendenhall, would like to read a passage from the moratorium to refresh our memories:
  - “The purpose of this Ordinance is to establish a moratorium to allow the Stokes County Board of County Commissioners time to:
    - (1) research and study the impact of Hydraulic Fracturing and other Oil and Gas Development activities in other states;
    - (2) determine the adequacy of existing state and federal laws and regulations applicable to Hydraulic Fracturing and other Oil and Gas Development activities;
    - (3) research and study the potential impact of Hydraulic Fracturing and other Oil and Gas Development activities on Stokes County’s roads and other infrastructure, and natural resources, and health and safety of the residents of Stokes County;
    - (4) develop standards and conditions to be implemented in the Stokes County Zoning Ordinance to address any impacts that are not adequately addressed by applicable state and federal regulations.
- So where are we?
- Have we done anything?
- Sounds like a lot of work
- Would like to know the state of the progress on the items noted in the moratorium
- With the present administration in Washington it seems to be, please excuse my phrase, “hell bent” on opening up the entire nation to energy development
- It seems to be more important to safeguard what resources we have here in the county, as best as we can and as good as we can
- I would like to point out what I feel is the most important which is included in this moratorium - “health and safety of the residents of Stokes County” – it is paramount
- It sounds like we all care about our children and our children’s children so perhaps, I don’t know, but it seems like your citizens’ meeting worked out pretty good, maybe we should have another one specifically designed to discuss this and get some things going on this moratorium
- I would be willing to help out
- Seems to me, we need to get started
- Appreciate your time and will be happy to help in any way



Chairman Walker allowed Tracey Collins who had not signed up to speak; Mr. Collins requested to speak.

**Tracey Collins**

1048 Stateline Church Road

Westfield, NC

**Re: Francisco Community Church**

Mr. Collins presented the following comments:

- We are actually going to start Francisco Community Church on Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>
- Initially, we are probably looking at four (4) months at the community building
- We are very interested in possibly utilizing a portion of the former Francisco School Building
- We understand that there are a lot of challenges in regards to insurance, liability, and risk
- We want to just make you aware that this is something that our group is interested in doing
- Would be happy to provide additional information if needed
- We think we can be a part of the solution
- Our initial interest is Sunday mornings (10:30 am – 12:30 pm) and Wednesday nights (6:30 pm – 8:30 pm)
- Thank you for the time to speak today

Chairman Walker expressed appreciation to those who spoke.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of January 23, 2017 – Regular Meeting
- Minutes of February 6, 2017 – Special Called Meeting

**Special Appropriation and Social Services - Budget Amendment #53**

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #53.

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>Special Appropriation</b>				
100.4520.490	YVEDDI	\$184,229.00	\$5,000.00	\$189,229.00
<b>Social Services</b>				
100.5310.316	NCDOT – WorkFirst	\$5,000.00	\$(5,000.00)	\$00.00
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$189,229.00</b>	<b>\$(00.00)</b>	<b>\$189,229.00</b>

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To transfer funds from Social Services for WorkFirst Funds to YVEDDI for transportation. These grant funds are from NC Department of Transportation – ROAP.

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 #54**

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #54.

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>				
100.4310.351	Maint. & Repairs – Auto	\$203,240.00	\$4,510.00	\$207,750.00
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$203,240.00</b>	<b>\$4,510.00</b>	<b>\$207,750.00</b>

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To appropriate insurance claim funds for repairs to vehicle.

This will result in a **net increase** of **\$4,510.00** 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>Sheriff's Department</b>				
100.3839.850	Insurance Claims	\$56,383.00	\$4,510.00	\$60,893.00
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$56,383.00</b>	<b>\$4,510.00</b>	<b>\$60,893.00</b>

**Stokes Reynolds Hospital Fund & Capital Reserve Fund - Budget Amendment #55**

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #55.

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>Stokes Reynolds Hospital Fd</b>				
500.5700.510	Fixed Assets	<u>\$00.00</u>	<u>\$25,000.00</u>	<u>\$25,000.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$00.00</b>	<b>\$25,000.00</b>	<b>\$25,000.00</b>
<b>Capital Reserve Fund</b>				
201.4190.013	Public Building	\$250,125.00	\$(25,000.00)	\$225,125.00
201.9850.000	Transfer to SRMH Fund	<u>\$00.00</u>	<u>\$25,000.00</u>	<u>\$25,000.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$250,125.00</b>	<b>\$00.00</b>	<b>\$250,125.00</b>

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To transfer funds from Capital Reserve for the replacement of HVAC at the hospital.

This will result in a **net increase** of **\$25,000.00** in the expenditures and other financial use to the County's annual budget. To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will increase. These revenues have already been received or are verified they will be received this fiscal year.

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
<b>Stokes Reynolds Hospital Fd</b>				
500.3981.001	Transfer from Capital Reserve Fund	<u>\$00.00</u>	<u>\$25,000.00</u>	<u>\$25,000.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$00.00</b>	<b>\$25,000.00</b>	<b>\$25,000.00</b>

#### **Social Services - Budget Amendment #56**

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #56.

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>Social Services</b>				
100.5850.002	Regular Purchase of Day Care	<u>\$931,517.00</u>	<u>\$(7,987.00)</u>	<u>\$923,530.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$931,517.00</b>	<b>\$(7,987.00)</b>	<b>\$923,530.00</b>

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To revise the total budget amount for the Day Care Line Item. The State has reverted funds from Daycare funding. The current budgeted amount was based on the budget estimate for Fiscal Year 2016-17.

This will result in a **net decrease** of **\$(7,987.00)** 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
100.3301.208	Day Care	\$1,183,288.00	\$(7,987.00)	\$1,175,301.00
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$1,183,288.00</b>	<b>\$(7,987.00)</b>	<b>\$1,175,301.00</b>

#### **Sheriff's Department - Budget Amendment #57**

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #57.

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 Capital	\$208,000.00	\$6,900.00	\$214,900.00
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$208,000.00</b>	<b>\$6,900.00</b>	<b>\$214,900.00</b>

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To appropriate funding for the purchase of a Narcotic K-9 – No County Funding.

This will result in a **net increase** of **\$6,900.00** 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
100.3301.413	State Fines & Forfeitures	\$3,395.00	\$6,900.00	\$10,295.00
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$3,395.00</b>	<b>\$6,900.00</b>	<b>\$10,295.00</b>

#### **Revision of Resolution Establishing Capital Reserve Fund for Fiscal Year 2016-17**

Finance Director Julia Edwards presented the following revised Resolution Establishing Capital Reserve Fund for Fiscal Year 2016-17 for the Board's review and consideration at the February 13<sup>th</sup> meeting:

Project Name	Account Number	2014-15	2015-16			2015-16
		Reserve Amount	Appropriated	Amendments	Expenditures	Reserve 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	\$100,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$100,000.00
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>\$89,501.00</b>	<b>\$250,526.00</b>	<b>\$628,105.00</b>

Commissioner Mendenhall moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Vice Chairman Lankford seconded the motion.

Commissioner Booth confirmed with Finance Director Edwards that the Resolution Establishing Capital Reserve Fund was approved in July 2016 and per the audit, the \$10,000.00 transferring to Stokes Reynolds Memorial Hospital had to be included in the Resolution.

Commissioner Jones confirmed with Finance Director Edwards that the County no longer had to use the name of Stokes Reynolds Memorial and that was just the name on the line item and that could be changed.

The motion carried unanimously.

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

### **North Carolina 211 Information**

Chairman Walker noted that Executive Director Cindy Tuttle, Stokes Partnership for Children and President/CEO Laura Marx, United Way of North Carolina were here to present information regarding North Carolina 2-1-1.

Executive Director Cindy Tuttle, Stokes Partnership for Children, presented the following information regarding the North Carolina 211 Information:

- Appreciate the opportunity to speak to the Board today about North Carolina 2-1-1
- Going to piggyback on what Chairman Walker and Commissioner Jones have mentioned, see this as part of a multifaceted solution for our drug situation in the County
- Bottom line is, if you don't know what resources are here, you are not going to be able to access them
- You will be hearing a detailed presentation today from President/CEO Laura Marx, United Way of NC
- Will leave the presentation up to Laura, but would like to mention that this service can be accessed from a land line, cell phone, or computer
- The reason I am so interested in this is because Stokes Partnership put together and published the Stokes Family Resource Guide for over ten (10) years
- Stokes Partnership is no longer able to provide the guide due to budget cuts which resulted in a reduction in personnel
- Publishing costs are very expensive and as soon as it is printed, it is obsolete because things change – programs change
- Have been working in this County over thirty (30) years
- Worked several years at Social Services and the one thing I found out was that people in this county do not know what services are available and where they need to go to access those services
- That is why the Stokes Family Resource Guide was developed; a booklet to give to people so they know where to access specific services
- Stokes County is one of the few counties in NC that does not participate in the NC 2-1-1 System
- Typically, this service runs through the United Way
- Stokes County no longer has a United Way, Stokes County has a United Fund
- Our local United Fund is very interested in this system
- There has been a committee formed which consist of leaders from EMS, Sheriff's Department, E911, DSS, Cardinal Innovations, Stokes United Fund, Stokes School System, Children's Center and Stokes Family Health; several members are here today in support of this initiative
- The group has unanimously voted to move this project forward

- Also attended the Concerned Citizen Group meeting last Thursday that addressed the drug abuse program in our County
- Several speakers spoke about the difficulty of accessing services
- NC 2-1-1 is a non-emergency access line; it does not take the place of 911
- It is an access line for non-emergency information which includes counseling, food banks, shelters, clothing, housing, mental health services, childcare and more
- Feel this is something that Stokes County needs
- Want the Board's support; not asking for money today
- Would like to turn the presentation over to Laura Marx

President/CEO Laura Marx, United Way of North Carolina, presented the following powerpoint presentation regarding the North Carolina 2-1-1 Information:

- Very pleased to be here today to provide you information about NC 2-1-1
- 2-1-1 has been around for about 15 years in various parts of the United States
- 2-1-1 came about as a result of people not being able to find out how and where services were available
- FCC designated the 2-1-1 to make it simple for citizens to access services
- Our goal is to connect people the first time if possible
- System is very young in North Carolina – 2-1-1 was established in 2014 and have answered across the nation approximately 14 million calls
- Have two call centers in North Carolina – Durham and Asheville
- Easy access to health, human services and government programs and preparedness information, 24/7, 365 days a year
- Getting ready to launch a new website this Friday
- NC 2-1-1 is:
  - 24 hour access to human services , health and community resources and disaster response resources 365 days a year
  - Virtual call center environment, allowing for calls to be distributed across locations
  - Multi-lingual access (170+ languages)
  - Based on nationally recognized I&R standards : AIRS
  - Part of a National 2-1-1 Response Network of 20 Premier Call Centers
  - Live Chat & Text (coming soon)
  - A searchable web site [www.nc211.org](http://www.nc211.org) with over 19,000 local and statewide resources
  - Real time data dashboard of local needs at [www.211counts.org](http://www.211counts.org)
- 2016 All Contacts
  - 129,000 Calls
    - When we receive a call, we have a protocol to follow to see what the citizen needs and where they have already looked
    - Have a follow up call to make sure the person was able to connect to the services
  - 145,000 Needs Represented
  - 174,000 Unique Web Visitors

- Calls are answered by highly trained specialists
- Consistency in service delivery is of critical importance and is achieved through extensive training of call center staff on quality call handling standards, ongoing attention to call monitoring, calibration through peer and supervisor evaluation, and maintenance of an accurate and current resource database built according to national data integrity standards
- Even though NC 2-1-1 has not been marketed in Stokes County, you can logon and see information about services in Stokes County (limited information)
- Why People Call 2-1-1
  - Housing and Shelter
  - Utilities
  - Healthcare
  - Food
  - Mental Health and Addictions
  - Clothing and Household Items
  - Legal Services
  - Transportation Assistance
  - Employment and Income Assistance
  - Childcare and Parenting
- Data Collection and Reporting
  - Record caller demographics, needs and referrals and report statewide, by county and to the municipal level.
  - Use reports to help inform key decision makers about real time needs
  - In a disaster, reports can reflect changing trends and unmet needs within affected areas.
- Reports can help in writing grants
- Try to keep data updated, but need partnerships to help keep the data accurate
- Could use the NC 2-1-1 to help provide information about services in regards to the issue spoke earlier in the meeting – opioid problem
- NC 2-1- Role in a Disaster
  - Activated at the request of local or State Emergency Management;
  - 24/7 Call Center Operations during the disaster;
  - Back-Up from out-of-state partner 2-1-1 center(s);
  - NC 2-1-1 Leadership are credentialed for State EOC access;
  - Member of NC VOAD;
  - Database, Website, and Dashboard updating in real-time;
  - Report Needs to Emergency Management to Inform Resource Allocation;
  - Supports Local Long-term Recovery Committees, including Crisis Clean-up
- Hurricane Matthew Challenge: Handling the Surge: 9,762
  - Very helpful during the recent Hurricane Matthew
- Call Surge Solutions
  - Leverage other 2-1-1 Systems (Best for Emergencies and For Coverage of Daily 2-1-1 Calls)
  - Leverage Existing CERT Teams (Best for Planned, or Known Events)
  - AmeriCorps Volunteers (Best for Long Term Events)
  - Train Spontaneous Volunteers (Not Best Solution)



- Long Term Recovery – Assign Specially Trained Staff
- How Are We Paying For It
  - New Tier Support from Local United Ways and Community Partners
    - Can buy in at 4 cents per population at the lowest level
    - Can buy in at 8 cents per population for a more specific initiative approach
  - State Contracts
  - Various Initiatives and Partnerships
- Single 2-1-1 Portal for Access to Health and Human Services
  - State Programs
  - Regional/Issue Collaboratives
  - Local United Way Initiatives
- Very excited about the TaskForce's support
- Want to enter into a partnership to help Stokes County residents find what they need
- Vision for the future is to continue to build partnerships in order to build our communities stronger

Chairman Walker commented:

- Unless there is objection from the Board, would like to ask Dr. Rice, Superintendent of Stokes County Schools, to make a comment about how NC 2-1-1 can fit in with our school system

The Board had no issues with allowing Dr. Rice to comment.

Dr. Rice commented:

- As you know, there are no social workers in the school system
- There are times when students/parents have specific needs
- NC 2-1-1 would give school personnel one number to provide to those in need
- This would be a much more efficient way to provide information and get people connected to the services they need

Chairman Walker opened the floor for questions/discussion.

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Love it and wonder why we have not already had it
- People are often isolated in the county and often do not know where to go for particular services and this would provide them with one number to call
- Would like to know what we do to get started
- Would make programs more effective

President Marx responded:

- When I came here two years ago, it was everyone had to pay to play
- Did not agree with that method
- I believed that it needed to be one statewide system so that everyone could have access
- Sustainability and partnership would come from the local relationships

- Have a very new model
- If we don't have resources, we can't help anyone
- Much more interested in trying to build relationships to have more resources than trying to raise tons of money

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Statistical data also helps the decision makers

Director Tuttle responded:

- Depending upon the tier selected, approved agencies from the county can enter information into the system to keep it updated
- It is live now, but no one in Stokes County knows about it
- If the county chooses to participate on the highest tier, the cost would only be \$4,000 per year
- There will be some need for some additional marketing funds
- The committee has been discussing ways to market such as possible billboards, flyers, etc.
- Feel Stokes Partnership could possibly fund some amount with other agencies contributing

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Appreciate the detailed information
- Very informative

Chairman Walker commented:

- Would like to know where are we now at having 2-1-1 in the county and what will it take to make it happen along with a projected date

President Marx responded:

- It is actually live now but not sure the data is accurate
- Need to dive in and update the data

Director Tuttle responded:

- Committee did look at the data which needs to be updated
- There has to be a decision made on what tier we select and funding for marketing to get the word out to the citizens
- Committee voted to go with highest tier which takes the responsibility of updating the system off the county agencies
- Committee is currently looking at budget items
- Committee wanted to make sure the Board knew what is going on in the county

Chairman Walker confirmed with Director Tuttle that the funding would need to be in place before a projected date could be determined.

Commissioner Jones commented:

- A free advertisement would be FaceBook

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Would also like to express appreciation for the detailed presentation
- Very good information

Director Tuttle responded:

- TaskForce will be meeting in the very near future to discuss today's presentation and will be putting together some strategies that can be brought back to the Board if so desired

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Anytime you take an undertaking such as this, you have to make sure you cover your bases
- Think everything that I had questions about has been covered today
- Have worked with Director Tuttle on many projects
- In most cases, the final step to get the project going tends to be funding
- Agree that marketing is needed to get the word out about 2-1-1 and needed for the program to be successful
- Feel that 2-1-1 would be beneficial and could help in many ways
- Would venture to say that less than 10% of the residents in the County know about 2-1-1

Chairman Walker expressed appreciation to President Marx and Director Tuttle for their presentation.

### **Presentation of the Stokes County Fiscal Year 2015-16 Health Report**

Health Director Emily Naylor presented the following information regarding the

Stokes County Fiscal Year 2015-16 Health Report:

- Presenting this information as part of the Accreditation process
- Former Health Director Scott Lenhart, who is the now the Health Director in Pamlico County, prepared a message which is included in the report
- Executive summary provides statistical highlights regarding the following:
  - Public Health Clinic
  - Communicable Diseases
  - Prenatal Program
  - WIC (Woman, Infant, & Children)
  - Environmental Health
  - Health Education/Promotions
  - Emergency Preparedness
  - Committee Participation

- Monthly Activities
- Quarterly Activities
- Annual Activities
- Plans
- Health Department received the second Accreditation Certification at 97% Compliance
- Prenatal Program has grown 14% since last fiscal year
- Health Department is now a training site for Wake Forest Baptist University PA students
- Health Department is one of two health departments to participate in a pilot prenatal dental program
- 13% patient decrease since Fiscal Year 2014/15 due to vacant provider position and Affordable Care Act that gives patients more health care options
- Women's Infants, and Children (WIC) Department opens 3 days per week in King
- WIC Department has had an increase of 773 clients since last fiscal year
- Public Health Priorities identified during community health assessment
- Believe there is opportunity for growth at the Health Department once a second provider is on board

Chairman Walker opened the floor for discussion or questions.

The Board had no concerns with the presentation.

Chairman Walker expressed appreciation to Health Director Naylor for the presentation of the Annual Report.

### **Stokes County Community Child Protection & Child Fatality Prevention Team Annual Report**

DSS Director Stacey Elmes and Health Director Emily Naylor, Co-Chairs, presented the Stokes County Community Child Protection & Child Fatality Prevention Team (CCPT) Annual Report.

DSS Director Elmes commented:

- In accordance with NC General Statutes, the Annual Report for 2016 for the Stokes County Community Child Protection and Child Fatality Prevention Team is being presented to the Board of County Commissioners
- Recommendations for the Board of County Commissioners
  - Continue to support efforts by service providers to make resources such as transportation and mental health/substance abuse treatment available to Stokes County citizens
  - Formally appoint the individuals presented in the report to serve on the team as required by NC General Statutes 7B-1407

- Conclusion:
  - CCPT remains focused on the task of identifying system deficiencies in Stokes County as they relate to child abuse and neglect
  - CCPT continues to be satisfied with the merger of the Community Child Protection and Child Fatality Prevention Teams and are confident that our joint efforts will make an even greater impact on our ability to enhance child safety in our community
  - CCPT's goal is to make Stokes County a safer place for all our children and families
  - CCPT welcomes your input and, most importantly, your continued support

#### Prevention Team for 2017

##### Team Members

Stacey Elmes (Co-Chair)  
 Emily Naylor (Co-Chair)  
 Marsha Marshall  
 Det Libby Reid- CCPT  
 Sheriff Mike Marshall-CFPT  
 Tom Langan  
 Jeannie Easter  
 Tony George  
 Katie Lee Langan  
 Jaime Kehoe  
 Dr. Sam Newsome  
 Greg Collins  
 Judge William Southern  
 Susan Hairston  
 Samantha Brewster  
 Cindy Brown Stiltner

##### Team Position

Director of the county department of Social Services  
 Director of the local Health Department  
 Member of DSS - Director's staff  
 Local Law Enforcement -officer  
 Local Law Enforcement -officer  
 Attorney from the District Attorney's office  
 Executive director of the local community action agency  
 Superintendent or his designee  
 Local mental health professional  
 Guardian ad Litem Coordinator  
 Local health care provider/county medical examiner  
 Emergency medical services provider or firefighter  
 District Court Judge  
 Representative of a local child care facility or Head Start  
 Parent of a child who died before reaching the child's 18th birthday  
 Substance Abuse Counselor

##### Additional Appointees

Ronda Jones - CCPT	County Commissioner
Jimmy Walker - CFPT	County Commissioner
Rusty Slate or Jeana Barneycastle	Juvenile Services
Tamara Veit or Susan Cockerham	Prevention Agency
Pam Hooker	Community Representative
Sheila Bowen	Community Representative
Diana Bryant	Community Representative
Wanda East	Team Coordinator

DSS Director Elmes requested the Prevention Team members be placed on the next Agenda for appointment.

Chairman Walker, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the Prevention Team members on the February 27<sup>th</sup> Discussion Agenda for consideration.

Chairman Walker expressed appreciation to DSS Director Elmes and Health Director Naylor for the report.

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

### **Social Services Monthly Report**

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

- **Program Information**
  - Family Caregiver Program Monitoring Report
    - Monitoring visit was made December 14, 2016 by the Piedmont Triad Regional Council (PTRC) staff
    - Adult Services Social Work Supervisor II and staff were to be commended for implementing the PTRC recommendation made last year
  - Title IV-E Adoption Assistance and Social Services Block Grant Monitoring Reports
    - Stokes County correctly determined eligibility for the utilization of all of the 5 cases reviewed for IV-E Adoption Assistance and 3 of 5 cases reviewed for Social Services Block Grant
- **Metrics**
  - NC FAST – In Compliance
    - Child Care to go live in March 2017
    - In process of converting all child care cases to NCFast
  - WorkFirst – In Compliance
    - 63 open cases
    - \$12,360 in benefits delivered
    - One (1) benefit diversion = \$708
  - FNS – In Compliance
    - 2,871 open cases
    - 6,051 participants
    - \$654,343 in benefits delivered
  - Adult Medicaid, Family & Children's Medicaid – In Compliance
    - Medical Assistance
      - 8,097 open cases
      - 9,056 participants

- Special Assistance:
    - 197 open cases
    - \$87,653 Special Assistance benefits delivered
- Child Support – In Compliance
  - Serving 1,341 children with collections at \$205,596
- Program Integrity – In Compliance
  - 177 open cases
  - Collected \$3,024 with \$582 of collections retained in the county
- Child Day Care – In Compliance
  - 37 children on waiting list for service
    - Added 22 children during January
- Foster Care
  - Foster Care Services – Needs Improvement
    - 110 children in custody
    - Currently, have the two new social work positions and the community social services assistant position posted externally
    - External postings are in the paper, online sites, and colleges
    - Yellow because of the vacancies – soon to be green
    - BOCC has taken action to address current foster care organizational issues
  - Foster Care Home Licensing – Needs improvement
    - Currently have 22 licensed foster homes located in Stokes and other counties
    - Working on completing the licensing requirements for 7 families
    - New foster parent class begins this month
    - This area is green because we are in compliance; however, the need for foster homes in our county continues to be great
  - Adoptions – In Compliance
    - One (1) adoption completed this month
- Child Protective Services
  - Investigations – In Compliance
    - Received 41 reports involving 30 children
    - There were 15 reports accepted for investigation
      - Five (5) of these were found in need of services
    - Have 26 active CPS investigations are open
    - Provided two (2) offer services visits
  - Case Management – In Compliance
    - Fifteen (15) open cases
  - Assists to other Counties
    - Nine (9) assists
- Adult Services
  - Adult Protective Services – In Compliance
    - Received eleven (11) reports
    - Three (3) reports were screened in
    - Four (4) report received an offer services visit

- Guardianship – In Compliance
  - Currently have 30 adult wards
- SSBG/HCCBG/Payee/Adult Day – In Compliance
  - Twenty-one (21) open cases
- Facility Monitoring – In Compliance
  - Monitor six (6) adult care facilities
  - No complaints received this month
- Family Caregiver Program – In Compliance
  - Fourteen (14) open cases
  - Currently working two (2) referrals
- SA IH/MAC – In Compliance
  - Eighty-one (81) open cases
  - Currently working nine (9) referrals
- CAP DA – In Compliance
  - Sixty-nine (69) open cases
  - Currently working eight (8) referrals
- Intake – In Compliance
  - See any individual that comes into the agency needing assistance with anything from housing to utility assistance to other resources
- Other – In Compliance
  - No unclaimed bodies
  - LIEAP
    - January – 257 approved families totaling =\$68,300
- Supervision (Staff/Supervisor Ratio) – In Compliance
  - Program Manager position filled internally
  - Working to fill the supervisor position that was vacated
  - State standard says one supervisor per five (5) child welfare social workers, so the need still exists for a supervisor position
- Staffing (Years of Service) – In Compliance
  - Two vacancies for foster care social workers and one vacancy for community social services assistant
- Medicaid Transportation – In Compliance
  - 475 clients served
  - \$59,340 spent on transportation
- Clerical – In Compliance
  - 1,263 Walk Ins
  - One (1) Fishing License disbursed
  - One (1) Voter Registration turned in
- Miscellaneous
  - 2017-2018 NC General Assembly Social Services Consortium Legislative Priorities
    - Increase funding and enhance services for Adult Protective Services and Guardianship while also improving behavioral Health Services for vulnerable, older, and disabled adults



- Appropriates recurring funds to support the State's Child Welfare Program Improvement Plan
- Preserve Federal and State Block Grants for county administered programs (TANF, SSBG, CSBG, HCCBG), oppose unfunded mandates, and prevent unnecessary workload increases to counties (including shifting state responsibilities to counties)

Chairman Walker opened the floor for questions/comments.

Commissioner Jones confirmed with DSS Director Elmes that the recently approved Program Manager had been filled internally which has created a domino effect and those positions also being posted internally.

Commissioner Jones confirmed with DSS Director Elmes that the department had two Social Worker positions and one Community Social Services Assistant currently vacant.

The Board had no other questions or comments.

Chairman Walker expressed appreciation to DSS Director Elmes for the report.

#### **Tax Administration Report – January 2017**

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following informational data for the January 2017 Report for the Board's review:

<b>Fiscal Year 2016-17</b>	<b>Budget Amt</b>	<b>Collected Amt</b>	<b>Over Budget</b>	<b>Under Budget</b>
<b>Current 2016 Taxes</b> <b>Percentage = 95.20%</b>	\$20,420,409.00	\$19,439,466.63		\$980,942.37
<b>New Schools F-Tech Fund</b> <b>Percentage = 97.19%</b>	\$1,317,445.00	\$1,280,395.56		\$37,049.44
<b>Prior Taxes</b> <b>County Regular &amp; Motor Vehicles</b> <b>Percentages = 74.19%</b>	\$450,000.00	\$333,835.00		\$116,165.00

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

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Releases less than \$100 – Real and Personal Property (January 2017) at the February 13<sup>th</sup> meeting for the Board's review:

<b>Releases Less Than \$100</b>	<b>Real/Personal</b>	<b>Property</b>
<b>Name</b>	<b>Bill Number</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Christopher ONeal Hill	851507-2016-2016	\$58.42
	851507-2016-2015	\$68.50
Crystal Dodson	320416-2016-2016	\$27.38
Sarah Smith Simmons	302774-2016-2016	\$10.29
	302774-2015-2015	\$10.22
	302774-2014-2014	\$9.87
	302744-2013-2013	\$9.87
	302774-2012-2012	\$9.87
	302774-2011-2011	\$9.87
	302774-2010-2010	\$9.31
	302774-2009-2009	\$9.31
Oakley's Conv. Mart #3	5856-2014-2014	<u>\$96.94</u>
	<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>\$329.85</b>

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

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Releases more than \$100 – Real and Personal Property (January 2017) at the February 13<sup>th</sup> meeting for the Board's review with consideration at the February 27<sup>th</sup> meeting:

<b>Releases More Than \$100</b>	<b>Real/Personal</b>	<b>Property</b>	<b>Reason</b>
<b>Name</b>	<b>Bill Number</b>	<b>Amount</b>	
Matthew George	294701-2016-2016	\$271.95	Correction to Basement Size/Percent Finished
Ralph L McGee III	293049-2016-2016	\$307.23	Adjustment to Home Value Per Field Review
Oakley's Con. Mart #3	5856-2015-2015	\$100.38	Business Personal Property Sold in 2013
Oakley's Con. Mart #3	5856-2016-2016	\$101.07	Business Personal Property Sold in 2013
Caterpillar Financial Ser	282171-2016-2016	<u>\$9,187.60</u>	Amended Listing
	<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>\$9,968.23</b>	

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

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Refunds more than \$100 – Real and Personal Property (January 2017) at the February 13<sup>th</sup> meeting for the Board's review with consideration at the February 27<sup>th</sup> meeting:

<b>Refunds More Than \$100</b>	<b>Real/Personal</b>	<b>Property</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Bill Number</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Reason</b>
Kathleen M. Anderson	31984299	\$107.05	Vehicle Totaled
John W. & Lydia K. Cater	26425260	\$318.83	Vehicle Sold

Michael Stuart Lee	26570243	\$103.27	Vehicle Sold
Robert T. Thorton	25421194	\$106.57	Vehicle Sold
Gary A. & Amanda D. Tucker	23603735	\$126.00	Vehicle Sold
Brian L. & Cassandra L. Welch	28302450	<u>\$132.49</u>	Vehicle Sold
<b>Total Amount</b>		<b>\$894.21</b>	

Tax Administrator Oakley commented:

- Currently have collected approximately \$450,000 more than this time last year due to an increase in business personal property and utilities

### **Advertisement of 2016 Tax Liens**

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following information regarding the

Advertisement of 2016 Tax Liens:

- According to NC General Statutes 105-369(a), the Tax Collector must report to the Governing Body a total amount of unpaid taxes for the current Fiscal Year 2016-17 that are liens on real property, including the County and Municipalities
- The Governing Body must order the Tax Collector to advertise these tax liens
- According to NC General Statutes 105-369(b1), after the Governing Body orders the Tax Collector to advertise the tax liens, the Tax Collector must send a notice to the owner of record of each affected parcel
- The notice must be sent to the owner's last known address by first class mail at least thirty (30) days before the date of advertisement is to be published
- Projected date for mailing of second notices is February 28, 2017
- As of 02-01-2017:

<b>Delinquent 2016 Tax Bills</b>	<b>Number of Bills</b>	<b>Principal Due</b>
General County	3818	\$1,442,424.77
Education Fund	3818	\$ 93,065.73
Town of Danbury	16	\$ 1,162.84
City of King	169	\$ 106,170.80
Town of Walnut Cove	73	\$ 15,662.84
King Fire District	365	\$ 18,241.16
Rural Hall Fire District	89	\$ 4,044.23
County Service Fire District	2672	\$ 112,204.19
<u>Walnut Cove Fire District</u>	<u>449</u>	<u>\$ 18,174.72</u>
<b>Total Bills Delinquent</b>	<b>3818</b>	<b>\$1,811,151.28</b>

- Requesting the Governing Body order the Tax Office to advertise these accounts no earlier than thirty (30) days after the mailing of the past due notices (less any bills paid between the report date and the advertising date)

- Projected advertisement date for 2016 Tax Liens in the Stokes News is April 13, 2017
- Delinquent bills are approximately \$200,000 less than last year
- Have to advertise the liens in a local paper which cost approximately \$8,000
- Would love to see this changed by state legislators
- Will be checking to see if there is any way around advertising all the parcels in the paper
- A complete list of parcels is available for the Board's review
- Will also be sending out second notices for any unpaid 2016 personal property which is not a lien on real property

### **Veterans Exemption**

Tax Administrator Oakley presented the following information regarding the proposed

Bill filed and attached to NC House 2 (HB2):

- A second bill has been filed and attached to NC House 2 (HB2)
- The bill expands the Veterans' exemption from the current \$45,000 to 100% of the assessed value taxed
- The bill also expands the group eligible for this exemption to the surviving spouse, if not remarried, of an Emergency personnel officer "killed in the line of duty" (includes Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters, Search & Rescue and EMS Personnel)
- If passed, this bill would be effective for taxes levied in 2017
- Current lists for 2016 billing cycle for Veterans
  - Number of Accounts = 90
  - Total Value = \$10,412,769
  - Exempt Value = \$3,812,019
  - Difference = \$6,600,750
  - Revenue lost @\$0.66 = \$43,564.95
- New House Bill using 2016 listings
  - Number of Accounts = 90
  - Total Value = \$10,412,769
  - Exempt Value = \$10,412,769
  - Difference = \$00.00
  - Revenue lost @\$0.66 = \$68,724.28
- Felt the Board should be aware of the possible changes that could decrease tax revenue

### **Board of Equalization and Review**

Tax Administrator Oakley presented the following hearing dates for the 2017 E&R:

- April 13<sup>th</sup> – Thursday – 1:00 pm
- April 17<sup>th</sup> – Monday – 5:00 pm

- May 15<sup>th</sup> – Monday – 1:00 pm
- May 18<sup>th</sup> – Thursday – 4:00 pm

Chairman Walker opened the floor regarding the dates submitted by Tax Administrator Oakley.

Commissioner Mendenhall noted that Thursdays would not work for him.

The Board discussed other possible dates.

The Board unanimously agreed on the following E&R Hearing Dates:

- April 12<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday – 1:00 pm
- April 17<sup>th</sup> – Monday – 5:00 pm
- May 15<sup>th</sup> – Monday – 1:00 pm
- May 17<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday – 4:00 pm

Tax Administrator Oakley noted additional meetings, if needed, could be scheduled up to December 1, 2017.

### **Revaluation Notices**

Tax Administrator Oakley noted that Revaluation Value Notices will be mailed today to Stokes County citizens.

Tax Administrator Oakley requested the following be placed on the February 27<sup>th</sup> Consent Agenda:

- Releases Less than \$100 – Real and Personal Property
- Refunds More than \$100 – Real and Personal Property
- Advertisement of 2016 Tax Liens

Chairman Walker opened the floor for discussion regarding Tax Administrator Oakley's Tax Report.

Commissioner Booth confirmed with Tax Administrator Oakley that the Total Delinquent Bills was approximately \$200,000 less than last year.

Tax Administrator Oakley commented:

- Once the second notices are sent, the total of delinquent tax bills could possibly drop by \$500,000
- Whatever is paid between now and advertisement date naturally would not be advertised

Chairman Walker, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the following item on the February 27<sup>th</sup> Consent Agenda:

- Releases Less than \$100 – Real and Personal Property
- Refunds More than \$100 – Real and Personal Property
- Advertisement of 2016 Tax Liens

### **Revaluation of the Board of County Commissioners' Rules of Procedure**

Chairman Walker turned the Revaluation of the Board of County Commissioners' Rules of Procedure over to Commissioner Jones who requested the item be placed on today's Discussion Agenda.

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Would like to see the Board reevaluate the newest policy where three (3) commissioners can vote down another commissioner's request for an Agenda item
- I know we are all concerned about perception
- Know quite a few people that are concerned that alliances can be made and then anyone who wants to put something on the Agenda to have a voice for certain people in the county may or may not be heard
- Can come up with all kinds of examples
- It is very important that our people have an opportunity to trust and align themselves with a commissioner or a couple of commissioners without the fear of not being able to be heard
- Would like to see the original policy be reinstated which allows a commissioner to place an item on the Agenda without the other commissioners being able to remove the item
- It was fair and equitable when any commissioner could place an item on the Agenda
- If someone does not like something, they can always vote against it
- Would be happy to answer any questions or give examples
- The original policy is more fair to our constituents

Chairman Walker opened the floor for questions/comments.

Chairman Walker requested if there was action that any member of the Board would like to take regarding this request.

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Would like to add that I did call the School of Government and know that it is within the rights of the Board to make this policy but will say that just because you can do something, does not make it right
- We should think of our constituents and they should have whoever they want to be their voice

Chairman Walker noted that since he was hearing no interest or action on this item that he would move to the next Agenda item.

**Francisco School Repurposing Memorandum of Understanding – Discussion – Use of Gym and Agricultural Facilities**

Chairman Walker turned the Francisco School Repurposing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) - Discussion – Use of Gym and Agricultural Facilities over to Commissioner Booth who requested the item be placed on today's Discussion Agenda.

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Attended the last meeting (February 1<sup>st</sup>) with the Our Communities of NW Stokes (OC) along with Chairman Walker; there was some questions brought up about the use of the Gym and Agricultural facilities
- In another OC meeting that I attended in November, I thought we were heading towards allowing the OC to use certain sections of the facility to raise revenue while getting things together to hopefully turn over the facility in July 2017 to the OC
- OC has provided suggested changes to the Memorandum of Understanding for the Board's consideration
- Believe some parts of the facility has already been used by the OC (during the FarmFest)
- Understand the sewer system can take care of the gym with having small functions
- OC already has someone who can monitor the sewer system
- Know the OC has been working very hard to raise revenues
- Only have a little over 4 months before the deadline of June 30<sup>th</sup> rolls around
- Know the OC has several events waiting for approval from the Board to use certain parts of the facility
- Feel that we should do everything we can to help this community keep its identity
- When the school was closed, part of the identity was taken away
- If the school in Lawsonville or Sandy Ridge or any other elementary school in the county were closed down, there would be great concern
- Would like to amend the MOU to allow the OC to use certain parts of the former Francisco School facility
- Would request the Board look at the request from the OC to amend the MOU

**Amendments to the MOU recommended from the OC:  
(wording italicized and underlined)**

**"5. Use of Buildings** - No other use of the buildings, except for the Gym wing of the 1970s education building, the large downstairs main room only of the Agriculture Building, and the playground Concession Stand will be authorized prior to the transfer of ownership from Stokes County to an OC designated entity unless mutually agreed as to use(s) and restrictions. OC will work closely with County Manager and Staff as to use(s) and restrictions of the aforementioned three buildings.

- **Air Movement** - SC will work with OC to ensure proper air circulation is maintained in the buildings as a preventive maintenance measure.
- **Agriculture Building** - SC will work with OC to determine if the Agriculture Building can be used by OC between now and July 2017 assuming there are no health and safety issues associated with the building. OC was given permission to use the Agriculture Building for storage and then Farmfest use and can now proceed with use of the Agriculture Building, limited to the large downstairs room."

**"9. Water** - Water will continue to be available to the outside and provisions made, as required, for water access inside the building when cleanup is going on. The County will not require a sewer operator to keep the inside water turned on between now and June 2017 since the buildings will not be inhabited other than for maintenance and cleanup purposes. For the approved uses of the Gym wing, only one of three buildings in Item 5 with water and septic service (where use will also support water quality and septic operations), the signed septic operator contract forwarded to Environmental Health and County Manager on December 9, lays out the inspections regimen every six months per Environmental Health, effective as of first use following approval of this revised MOU."

**Purpose**

Approval of the above revisions will be helpful to the planning and funding process; hopefully, building support momentum, gaining market experience, and generating cash (adding to FES project fund for assessment and repurposing as was done with Farmfest) in advance of taking on financial responsibility for the facility in whatever form that may take.

**Timing**

OC is looking to schedule music, movie, stage, and other permitted activities in the gym ASAP.

And on Wednesday, planning was started for **Francisco Community Market Day....Celebrating Homegrown and Handmade** as the preliminary theme. An opportunity to gauge success and potentially grow as an event in the Northern Piedmont. It envisions reducing the risk of adverse weather and enhancing results by using the gym and ag. building to, e.g., display certain products, etc. if the MOU is approved.

As discussed on Wednesday, during the Working Group meeting, this will be combined with the Francisco Fire & Rescue Community Day annual event. The projected date is April 29....which is fast approaching.

Chairman Walker noted that he would follow the same procedure as he did with Commissioner Jones' request.

Chairman Walker opened the floor for questions/comments.

Commissioner Booth moved to place the item on today's Action Agenda.

Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.

Chairman Walker opened the floor for discussion.



Commissioner Jones commented:

- Need to give the OC a fair opportunity to be successful
- It has been several holdups during the past few months and things have not been in place to allow them to be successful
- It is not their fault
- I am okay with reconsidering the changes requested by the OC
- Want to see them be successful

Chairman Walker noted for clarification, the motion is to move the item to today's Action Agenda.

Chairman Walker called the question.

The motion failed (2-3) with Chairman Walker, Commissioner Mendenhall, and Vice Chairman Lankford voting against the motion.

Chairman Walker commented:

- Would like to explain my vote
- Do not like to be rushed on anything especially when insurance is involved
- Based on information from the NC Association of County Commissioners, if there was an accident, the OC could be open to possible lawsuits
- Would be willing to put on the next Agenda if so desired by the Board

Commissioner Booth moved to place the item on the February 27<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda.

Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.

Chairman Walker opened the floor for discussion.

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Guess we are going to have to discuss the issue
- Don't mind explaining why I don't support putting it on the next Action Agenda

Chairman Walker responded:

- The motion on the floor is to determine if the item will be placed on the February 27<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda

Commissioner Booth noted that Vice Chairman Lankford should be able voice his opinion.

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Don't see any point of placing it on another Agenda
- Very clear to me what the NCACC Insurance Pool is stating - the facility must be staffed
- I am not going to put the county at risk

- If the OC is ready to take control of the facility, then that is what we need to be talking about

Commissioner Booth commented:

- In the last meeting of the OC and county staff, the insurance was discussed
- The County does have insurance that covers the facility inside and outside
- Don't know who got the insurance information, I did not ask for it
- I guess it was gathered so that it could come against the MOU

Chairman Walker commented:

- The motion on the floor is to decide if the item will be on the February 27<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda

Chairman Walker called the question.

The motion carried 3-2 with Vice Chairman Lankford and Commissioner Mendenhall voting against the motion.

County Manager Morris commented:

- Requested if he could clear something up regarding the insurance

Chairman Walker allowed Manager Morris to speak.

County Manager Morris commented:

- The reason the insurance information was placed in the Agenda packet was because the MOU was requested to be changed
- The insurance coverage with the NCACC Pool was based on the original MOU
- Would like to clarify that the County is covered under the original MOU and the amended MOU if approved
- The people that are not covered is the OC Group who could be sued as a group and an individual
- That is why the County's insurance company recommended that the OC Group obtain their own liability insurance if the amended MOU is approved
- The County's insurance pool is working under the original MOU
- You can't amend the MOU without getting the insurance pool involved

Chairman Walker commented:

- For now, we are ready to move to the next Agenda item
- We are just following the Board's normal process unless it is approved to be moved to today's Action Agenda
- The Board has voted to place the item on the next Action Agenda at which time any aspect of the insurance can be discussed

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Would like to respond to Manager Morris' comments regarding the insurance

Chairman Walker noted that he would like to move to the next Agenda item.

Commissioner Booth commented:

- County Manager Morris was allowed to speak

Chairman Walker noted that Manager Morris requested to speak to the insurance information that he placed in the Agenda packet.

Commissioner Booth noted that he was requesting to speak regarding the insurance information placed in the Agenda packet by Manager Morris.

Chairman Walker responded:

- Going to move on to the next Agenda item
- Anything regarding this item can be discussed at the next meeting
- The majority of the Board voted to place the item on the next Action Agenda – February 27<sup>th</sup>

County Manager Morris noted that staff would be glad to research any additional information before the next meeting.

Commissioner Booth noted he just wanted to clarify something.

Chairman Walker noted that the people from Francisco have the opportunity to provide any additional information between now and the next meeting.

Chairman Walker moved to the next item.

### **Scheduling of Goal/Budget Planning Sessions**

Chairman Walker requested meeting dates for Goal/Budget Planning Sessions.

Chairman Walker questioned how many and when were meetings last year?

Commissioner Booth noted that the meetings started in November per the request of Chairman Walker.

Vice Chairman Lankford noted that he thought there were 4 meetings.

The Board discussed dates for future Goal/Budget Planning Sessions.

Chairman Walker noted the dates needed to be as soon as possible in order to give the

manager as much time as possible because our goals will determine how he approaches the budget.

Commissioner Booth noted that April 6<sup>th</sup> is Farmer Appreciation Day.

The Board unanimously agreed to the following dates and times for Goal/Budget

Planning Sessions:

- Monday, March 6, 2017 – 10:00 am
- Wednesday, March 15, 2017 – 1:00 pm
- Tuesday, March 21, 2017 – 10:00 am
- Tuesday, March 28, 2017 – 10:00 am

Chairman Walker directed the Clerk to place the dates and times for Goal/Budget

Planning Sessions on the Board's calendar.

#### **External Posting – Emergency Medical Services**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following EMS vacancy that needs to be immediately posted externally:

- Have one (1) vacant EMS EMT Intermediate or Paramedic position
- Posted internally on Monday, February 6, 2017 for one week
- In the event that the vacant position can't be filled internally, request to post external
- Internal Posting closes today
- Request the item be moved to today's Action Agenda in order to expedite the hiring process

Chairman Walker opened the floor for discussion.

The Board had no issues with the request.

The Board had no issues placing the item on today's Action Agenda.

Commissioner Booth moved to move the item to today's Action Agenda. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.

Chairman Walker confirmed with Manager Morris that there was no issue on acting on this request before the internal posting closes.

The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Walker, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item  
February 13, 2017

on today's Action Agenda.

**Appointment – Stokes County Human Services Advisory Committee**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding appointments to serve on the Stokes County Human Services Advisory Committee:

- Committee has two vacancies:
  - Registered Nurse Appointment
  - General Public with interest or background in Social Services
- Received appointment applications from Joanie Spencer and Jane S. Humphries for the Registered Nurse appointment
- Received appointment applications from Diana Bryant and Jane Cole for the General Public Appointment

Commissioner Booth confirmed with Manager Morris that the public appointment is replacing Dwayne Young who resigned.

Clerk Bullins commented:

- Diana Bryant had been considered before and requested by the Board to keep her name on file
- Ms. Bryant confirmed that she does want to be considered again
- Request for consideration from Jane Cole was just recently received

Chairman Walker noted that Jane Cole was the Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners for Forsyth County.

Chairman Walker opened the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Lankford nominated:

- Jane S. Humphries for the Registered Nurse appointment
- Diana Bryant for the General Public appointment

Commissioner Ronda Jones nominated:

- Joanie Spencer for the Registered Nurse appointment

Chairman Walker nominated:

- Jane Cole for the General Public appointment

Chairman Walker entertained a motion to close the nominations.

Vice Chairman Lankford moved to close the nominations. Commissioner Booth seconded

and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Walker, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the February 27<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda.

#### **Committees – Commissioner Mendenhall**

Chairman Walker turned the item over to Commissioner Mendenhall regarding his various appointments because of scheduling.

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Have three (3) meetings on Thursday that times coincide with each other
- Winston Salem Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (TAC) meets at 4:15 pm and the Cardinal Innovations Triad Community Board of Directors meets at 5:00 pm
- No way to make both meetings
- Would be willing to trade appointments if possible
- Feel like I need to be at the Cardinal Innovations Triad Community Board of Directors
- League of Governments also meets on Thursdays which I will not be able to make

Chairman Walker opened the floor for members to discuss possibly trading or taking the appointment to the Winston Salem Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (TAC).

Commissioner Jones noted that she was interested but needed some time to think about it.

Commissioner Mendenhall also noted that the Surry Housing Consortium which he is appointed to also meets on Thursday.

Vice Chairman Lankford noted that his understanding was the appointment to the Surry Housing Consortium is optional.

Chairman Walker directed the Clerk to verify the appointment to the Surry Housing Consortium.

Commissioner Jones noted that she had taken the PART appointment from former Commissioner Inman because of scheduling.

Chairman Walker, with full consensus, directed the Clerk to place the item on the February 27<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda.

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

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

Clerk Darlene Bullins noted that the Stokes County Aging Planning Committee did not have a scheduled meeting in February and hopes to confirm a recommendation for a member at their scheduled meeting in March per Senior Services Program Manager Vicky East.

Clerk Bullins reiterated the appointment needed to stay on the Board's Agenda until an appointment is made in case a volunteer wishes to serve on the Committee.

Chairman Walker, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item back on the February 27<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda.

### **External Postings – Emergency Medical Services**

Chairman Walker entertained a motion regarding the external postings for a vacant EMT - Paramedic position which was presented at today's meeting.

Commissioner Booth moved to approve the external postings for the vacant EMT – Paramedic position. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Chairman Walker 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 GS 143-318.11(a)(3)

Commissioner Jones 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 GS 143-318.11(a)(3).

Commissioner Booth seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The Board re-entered the opened session of the February 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Adjournment**

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

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

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

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**Jimmy Walker**  
**Chairman**