

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
MARCH 27, 2017

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, March 27, 2017 at 6:00 pm with the following members present:

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

County Personnel in Attendance:
County Manager Richard D. Morris
Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins
Finance Director Julia Edwards
DSS Director Stacey Elmes
EMS Director Greg Collins

Chairman Jimmy Walker called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.

INVOCATION

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

Chairman Walker delivered the invocation.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT-GOVERNING BODY-PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Walker invited those 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 March 27, 2017

Agenda.

Commissioner Booth moved to approve the March 27th Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS - Manager/Commissioners

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

County Manager Morris commented.

- Reminded the Board regarding the following upcoming meetings:
 - Goals/Budget Work Session – Tuesday, March 28, 2017 -10:00 am
 - Legislative Delegates Meeting – Friday, March 31, 2017 – 11:00 am

Chairman Walker noted that both meetings mentioned by Manager Morris are open to the public and anyone is welcome to attend.

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Would like to welcome everyone to tonight's meeting
- Would also like to thank everyone for attending tonight's meeting
- The Farmer's Appreciation Day event is scheduled for Thursday, April 6th starting at 6:00 pm at South Stokes High School

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Would like to thank each person for being here tonight
- Means so much to see people attending our meetings; it shows that you are interested in Stokes County Government
- Appreciate everyone's thoughts and prayers with my family's recent health issues
- Have done a lot of research on the opioid issue that I will discuss later in tonight's meeting
- Have worked very hard during the past three weeks trying to do my due diligence on this subject
- Would like to share these quotes from John Wooden, former UCLA basketball coach:
 - "Talent is God given. Be humble. Fame is man-given. Be grateful. Conceit is self-given. Be careful."
 - "If you are not making mistakes, then you are not doing anything. I am positive that a doer makes mistakes."

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Ethics for Life – "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)
- Would like to thank whoever put this information on Facebook about educating commissioners regarding prescription drug abuse, heroin and opioid addiction in Stokes, evidently, it really helped to get the people out

- This is the kind of thing that we will have to do in the future – get everyone together, working together
- This is my plan to get people together and work together to help those who need help with drug addiction
- Appreciate everyone being here tonight

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Would like to welcome everyone tonight
- This opioid issue is tremendous
- We are losing thousands of people due to drugs
- Need to come up with some type of plan
- The Board of Commissioners attended a joint meeting with Caswell and Rockingham Counties on Wednesday, March 22nd in Caswell County
- There is a scam dealing with State Employees Credit Union right now – a text – do not reply

Chairman Walker commented:

- Welcome everyone tonight
- The joint meetings mentioned by Commissioner Jones are being held among these three counties (Stokes, Rockingham and Caswell) to learn what other counties are doing about specific things – new ideas, useful information, successes, etc.
- Have a good representation of our pastors at tonight's meeting
- Whatever has brought you to tonight's meeting, glad you decided to come
- See some regular attendees and some new faces tonight
- This is our meeting to make decisions, but it is also a meeting where citizen involvement is greatly appreciated
- Have a variety of views in our County and that is how the world works

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. Speakers will be allowed to finish their sentence at the end of three (3) minutes. I choose not to allow personal comments. Speakers can talk about issues or what any of us have done; we don't need to make personal comments. We don't do it as commissioners and I don't allow it from the public; this is usually not a problem during our public comments.

The following spoke during Public Comments:

Ann Nichols

1145 Sandy Lane

Sandy Ridge, NC

Re: **Stokes County Public Libraries**

Ms. Nichols, King Public Librarian, presented the following comments to the Board of County Commissioners:

- I am here tonight representing the three libraries in Stokes County
- Our libraries are facing some budget challenges for the upcoming fiscal year
- Our E-rate discount that we receive from the State of North Carolina for telephone services is going to be cut 20%
- The E-rate discount was also cut 20% last year
- We will be asking for that 20% cut in the budget presented to the County
- We will also be asking for a 12% increase in employee health insurance costs
- The cost for NC Cardinal, a statewide circulation data base, has been paid for by a grant for the past two (2) years
- The cost (\$1,400 per library) for NC Cardinal will now be passed on to the Northwestern Regional Library System
- Our region, which includes 13 libraries, will all be charged \$1,400 each
- Acting Library Director Joan Sherif, Northwestern Regional Library System, has submitted the Fiscal Year 2017-18 Budget to all four counties – Alleghany, Stokes, Surry, and Yadkin
- Desperately need the funding submitted by the Library System
- NC Cardinal has been met by excitement and enthusiasm by the public
- With NC Cardinal, the library system has access to over five (5) million materials, books, etc. that can be borrowed from across the State
- Without NC Cardinal, we could not operate as a library
- We realize that there are many needs for many departments in each county
- I humbly ask, on behalf of the Stokes County Libraries, that you please consider our budget requests
- Employees in the region are not asking for a Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA)
- The employees in the region have only had a 1.5% COLA in the last ten (10) years
- But we do need health insurance, we do need to pay for our telecommunication needs, and we need NC Cardinal – our circulation system
- Provided Board members with pamphlets about the libraries
- Libraries are a bargain for the consumer
- We provide books, audio books, dvds, eBooks for adults, teens and children
- At the King Public Library, we have the only job assistance lab in the County; we have assistance from Forsyth Tech and WorkForce Development
- We have high success in helping people find jobs
- We provide free tax preparation services
- We provide free programs for all ages
- We provide free use of the computers, internet, and Wi-Fi
- Thank you for the generosity that has been shown to the libraries in the past
- Thank you for helping us to enrich the lives of the people in Stokes County
- Hope you will consider the budget submitted by the Northwestern Regional Library System for the Stokes County Libraries

Three (3) minute time limit called.

Suzan Garner
1118 Flynt Road
King, NC
Re: **Stokes County Public Libraries**

Ms. Garner, King Senior Center Director, presented the following comments to the Board of County Commissioners:

- I am here tonight to advocate for the senior adults in Stokes County
- Senior Adults needs two (2) things:
 - The Senior Center
 - The Library
- The library is very important to my seniors because of large print books
- Don't know how many of you are there yet
- Large print books are much easier for us older people to read
- Greatly appreciate the large print books provided by the library
- NC Cardinal allows me to find large print books across the state for our seniors
- Our seniors read a great deal
- Have several seniors that go through a complete series of a book
- Majority of the books I receive are large print books which are very helpful
- Asking that you fund the NC Cardinal that benefits the seniors and other citizens in Stokes County
- Another thing is that our seniors bring their grandchildren to the libraries

Ramona Timm
PO Box 573
Walnut Cove, NC
Re: **Liberty**

Ms. Timm presented the following comments to the Board of County Commissioners:

Our concern is over liberty. – God who gave us life gave us liberty. “Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God?”– is the message inscribed on Thomas Jefferson’s Memorial, Washington, DC. That understanding of where liberty comes from, flows into a coherent definition: that liberty is freedom within the bounds of God’s moral law. Confluent with that understanding is the Bible verse Leviticus 25:10, which is inscribed on America’s Liberty Bell: “Proclaim LIBERTY Throughout all the Land unto all the Inhabitants Thereof Lev. XXV.vX.” which is made possible because of God’s Law.

Today the Leviticus 25:10 text reminds us that the definition and the source of liberty has not changed; yet questions remain, despite the Supreme Court’s opinion: Is a man having consensual sex with another man–Moral? Is it Right? Is it normal or lawful within one’s Liberty? And is the Transgender behavior Moral, Right, and normal or lawful within one’s Liberty? Does the Constitution guarantee equality, irrespective of Right or Wrong; Moral or Immoral?

John Quincy Adams answers many of those foundational questions when he gave: A DISCOURSE Delivered at the Request of The New York Historical Society (Tuesday, the 30th of

April, 1839, Being the Fiftieth Anniversary of the INAUGURATION OF GEORGE WASHINGTON as President of the United States on Thursday, 30th of April, 1789).

“ . . . I mean by democratic, a government, the administration of which must always be rendered comfortable to that predominating public opinion, which even in the ages of heathen antiquity, was denominated the queen of the world: and by republican I mean a government reposing, not upon the virtues or the powers of any one man—not upon that *honor*, which Montesquieu lays down as the fundamental principle of monarchy—far less upon that *fear* which he pronounces the basis of despotism; but upon that virtue which he, a noble aristocratic peerage, and the subject of an absolute monarch, boldly proclaims as a fundamental principle of republican government. The Constitution of the United States was republican and democratic – but the experience of all human governments, democracy was the most unstable, and short-lived; and it was obvious that if virtue – the virtue of the people, was the foundation of republican government, the stability and duration of the government must depend upon the stability and duration of the virtue by which it is sustained.

Three (3) minute limit called.

E.A. “Buddy” Timm

PO Box 573

Walnut Cove, NC

Re: **Liberty**

Mr. Timm presented the following comments and also presented a copy of his and Ramona Timm’s comments to the Board of County Commissioners:

Mr. Timm noted that he would be continuing John Quincy Adams’ Discourse:

Now the virtue which had been infused into the Constitution of the United States, and was to give to its vital existence, the stability and duration to which it was destined, was no other than the concretion of those abstract principles which had been first proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence—namely, the self-evident truths of the natural and unalienable rights of man, of the indefeasible constituent and dissolvent sovereignty of the people, always subordinate to a rule of right and wrong, and always responsible to the Supreme Ruler of the universe for the *rightful* exercise of that sovereign, constituent, and dissolvent power.

This was the platform upon which the Constitution of the United States had been erected. Its VIRTUES, its republican character, consisted in its conformity to the principles proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence, and as its administration must necessarily be always pliable to the fluctuating varieties of public opinion; its stability and duration by a like overruling and irresistible necessity, was to depend upon the stability and duration in the hearts and minds of the people of that *virtue*, or in other words, of those principles, proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence, and embodied in the Constitution of the United States.” (The underlining was added for emphasis.)

Virtue, as with Liberty, is sourced from God our Creator, and is understood by His high moral standards expressed in His Laws—“the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God,” the Natural and the Revealed Laws from the Bible’s Holy Scriptures—Blackstone’s Commentaries, Book I, Section 2. Those principles proclaimed in our Declaration of Independence held the “Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God” supreme over all: including Kings, Parliaments, and Courts; and rightly so, for where among all the religions and atheistic philosophies can one find a higher moral standard and source

for answering the issues of life: Origin, Morality, Meaning and Destiny? People are not sovereign over Right and Wrong, nor the issues life.

The infusion and embodiment of Virtue into the Constitution can be found in Article IV, Section 4's guarantee: "The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government," since Virtue is the foundation of a Republican form of government. Indirectly, Virtue is embodied in Article I, Section 8's "common Defense and general Welfare" phrase, along with the whole purpose of government: to secure our individual, not collective, nor socialized, unalienable Rights from our Creator. That runs into conflict with the "Separation of Church and State" crowd; yet that guarantee of a Republic rests on our elected officials to do something—like educating others and heralding a resolved insistence on wholesome, just and virtuous laws; and reject any perversion of law. All because the people when left ignorant will not know how to be secure in their liberty, which will avail the need for government to provide for their every need—tyranny's goal.

Liberty and the preciousness of Virtue that makes it happen, brightens the future for a wholesome society, yet it will not happen without educating and proclaiming it.

Donald McHone

2325 Pitzer Road

Danbury, NC

Re: **Drug Addiction**

Mr. McHone presented the following comments to the Board of County Commissioners:

- Would like to thank the County Commissioners for allowing the pastors to come and speak at tonight's meeting about the growing problem of drug addiction in our county
- The question was asked of me what do we as a church, as a whole, like our local church, Lawsonville Baptist Church, have to offer those who are faced with drug addiction
- First resource, is myself – the pastor
- All of us here tonight representing Christ, know that he is the answer to any problem and through him and his word, there is hope of change in a person needing counseling
- Second thing, equip pastors with Christian and biblical counseling
- In 2008, our church started a Bible College and it was our goal and desire to equip God's people for the work of the ministry that God has placed them in
- Some of the courses we offer is Christian Counseling and Christian Psychology
- While these are good places to start, I felt personally that was not enough
- I have been preaching and pastoring for over 25 years, but felt I was not fully equipped in counseling
- I enrolled in 2014 and graduated in 2016 with a counseling degree
- Because of this, I desire for our church to have a more active role in seeing and meeting the need to help others and to help pastors and Christians when it comes to biblical counseling through our Bible College
- I took this Spring semester off from teaching and put together a biblical counseling curriculum which is now completed
- I have to send the curriculum to the University of North Carolina Governing Board to get approval
- Let me concluded by saying that drug addiction is a growing problem in our county

- I have personally dealt with it whether counseling a drug addict or trying to bring some comfort to families that have personally been affected by it; some of my own family and friends
- Last year alone, my eyes were open when standing by grieving fathers, mothers, wives, and children who lost their loved ones because of some sort of alcohol or drug addiction problem
- The question was asked again what we can offer at Lawsonville Baptist Church
- We can show our love and that there is hope
- Hope is in Christ and through him and his word, he brings change

Kenny Heath

1477 Mountain Road

Walnut Cove, NC

Re: **Drug Addiction**

Mr. Heath presented the following comments to the Board of County Commissioners:

- I appreciate the opportunity to speak
- I believe the drug problem is really an issue that needs to be dealt with
- I believe personally that God is the answer to any problem that any person has
- I think about that a lot and with that being said, I would like to take a moment and let you know as a pastor what we are doing to help people with drug addiction
- God has blessed me to pastor the Faith Baptist Church in Germanton for the past fifteen (15) years
- Our church has several ministries that we use to try to help people in our community
- I have been involved in the jail ministry for fifteen (15) years while being the pastor at the church
- I have also been involved personally in the jail ministry for about twenty-three (23) years
- We have seen God change many lives because of the jail ministry
- The Sheriffs have even told us that they have seen a difference in things and a difference in the inmates
- We have seen God change many lives and is still changing lives today
- We have sixteen (16) churches involved in the jail ministry
- We have the Gideons coming in on Saturdays and being involved in the jail ministry
- We have a discipleship program that has been started in the jail to help inmates receive Christ as their personal savior and to continue and grow in their journey as they go into Christ
- Stokes County Sheriff's Office has a chaplaincy program which was started in 2012 that we take part in
- At this time, we have three (3) chaplains -- two (2) men and one (1) lady involved in that
- We have several pastors throughout the county that help us with the jail ministry from time to time when we need extra help
- We are on call 24/7 to go out and help those people who may be involved with addiction
- I just became the highway patrol chaplain for Stokes County on November 1, 2016
- In conclusion, God has blessed us to be involved in many, many ways of helping people

- I believe that people should come to the realization that they are in need of a savior because of a void in their life that is always trying to be filled with something that they are putting in there that is not working
- I believe personally that the real solution is Jesus Christ
- The Bible says in Corinthians 5:17 – “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new”
- When I look at this addiction problem, I think about the situation that you are in
- We are trying to help
- We are trying to do everything we can
- You can call on us at any time if we can be of any help
- We will be praying for you

Sri Ananda Sarvasri

1060 Tyler Road

Walnut Cove, NC

Re: Happiest, Healthiest, Greenest County in the Nation

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

- Just wanted to bring you an update on what I have been doing regarding the opioid problems
- Part of my program can make Stokes County the Happiest, Healthiest, and Greenest County in the Nation
- Met with Sheriff Mike Marshall last week; Sheriff Marshall was very interested in the mythologies that I am promoting
- He is going to try a bunch of them out
- Also met with the other Mike Marshall in Stokes County and demonstrated some of the technologies for him
- His hip was very much out of alignment, in two minutes I got in back in alignment using the bioenergy method that I have mentioned before
- Want to talk a little bit about being happier and healthier
- Have come across some research that talks about the fact that there has been collusion between big business and government which is affecting our healthcare
- Recently, it was discovered that the EPA approved pesticides and herbicides that are known to cause cancer
- The most recent case involves Monsanto and their product Roundup, a glyphosate herbicide
- Internal Monsanto documents obtained by plaintiffs’ attorneys indicate that Monsanto may have manipulated research regulators to garner favorable safety assessments
- Apparently, there has been EPA-Monsanto collusion and alleged bribery
- It turns out, according to some EPA scientists, Roundup is carcinogenic
- It also appears that Monsanto has known this since 1995
- Congressman Ted Liu has called for a probe by the Department of Justice into Monsanto’s actions
- Congressman Liu recommends that all consumers immediately stop using Roundup
- Apparently Roundup contains other ingredients that make it even more damaging

- In February of 2012, the journal *Archives of Toxicology* published a shocking study showing that Roundup is toxic to human DNA even when diluted to concentrations 450 times lower than used in agricultural applications
- This effect could not have been anticipated from the known toxicological effects of glyphosate alone
- The likely explanation is that the surfactant polyoxyethyleneamine within Roundup dramatically enhances the absorption of glyphosate into exposed human cells and tissue
- Roundup must now carry a cancer warning in California
- In 2009, a French court found Monsanto guilty of lying; falsely advertising its Roundup herbicide as “biodegradable” “environmentally friendly” and claimed it “left the soil clean”
- Provided information from the EPA regarding Updated Screening Level Usage Analysis
- Need to be aware of what is being sprayed on our crops
- Need to try to see what we can do to promote organic agriculture here in Stokes County – clean up our food supply
- Get the poisons out
- Thank you for your time

Ellen Peric

1095 Wheeler Smith Road

Lawsonville, NC

Re: **Arts Update**

Ms. Peric presented the following comments to the Board of County Commissioners:

- Want to give you an update on the Arts
- Last Saturday, we had the largest event yet at the Arts Place
- Had a John Cowan concert – 165 attended
- Great show – very nice setting
- Attendees enjoyed specialty coffees from the Higher Grounds Coffee Shop
- Lot of them had a meal before the performance at Artists Way Creations
- So it really brings added value to the area
- Next Wednesday will be the final show of the UNC Programs in the schools – Peter and the Wolf at Nancy Reynolds Elementary School – starts at 9:30 am – invite you all to attend
- Other UNC Programs include the Winston Salem Symphony, Piedmont Opera, Mandela Show, and Baily Mountain Cloggers which are all funded by the NC Arts Grassroots Grants, Reynolds America, Duke Energy and the Sara Smith Self Foundation
- Lane Watson has a hanging exhibit currently at Hanging Rock State Park – famous artist in other parts of the state – natural and farm scenes
- Have art work from local area high school students at the Apple Gallery in Danbury – reception for these students is this Friday – would be great to see you come out and support these students
- Scholarships for high schools students will be given out on Friday
- In the Stokes News last week, there were articles on the Arts Place and free Wi-Fi coming to Walnut Cove; both projects were made possible because of grants from the Appalachian Regional Commission
- As you know 85 out of 100 North Carolina counties are deemed rural counties

- Appalachian Regional Commission is a very good tool for us to use in our rural areas for economic development
- As we go forward, I think we need to make sure that programs like that are protected from being cut from the federal budget

Randy Cook

2021 Moir Farm Road

Sandy Ridge, NC

Re: **Opioid**

Mr. Cook presented the following comments to the Board of County Commissioners:

- I am the pastor of Shining Light Baptist Church in Germanton
- I know we all don't always agree on everything, but I think we can all agree that we have a problem in Stokes County regarding the drug epidemic
- This epidemic is not only in Stokes County, it is everywhere you turn and look
- Drugs have no practicality; it does not matter whether you come from a good background or a bad background, poor or rich, black or white
- People are dealing with drugs everywhere we turn
- Being a pastor, you deal with this kind of thing almost on a daily basis
- Try to help folks who are addicted
- Try to help families make decisions with those who are addicted
- Try to lead and guide them in the right direction
- We need to understand that it is a complex problem, in a sense
- It is going to take more than one resource to get it under control
- There are a lot of things that will lead someone to get into drugs
- It could be peer pressure, broken homes, emotional problems, or maybe hanging out with the wrong crowd
- It can be many things that lead to drug addiction
- Provided the Board with a pamphlet "Rock of Ages Character Under Construction" which is a program that I have been working with for over ten (10) years;
- Rock of Ages Character Under Construction (CUC) Group has been going on for over forty (40) years; have worked with them in juvenile prisons from Ohio to Florida for over five (5) years
- Once I stopped traveling with the group, I have taught these classes in Tennessee, Virginia, North Carolina and Florida
- These classes are neutral objective and are taught in the public school system
- The Rock of Ages CUC Program consists of over one hundred and sixty lessons that target these specific character traits found to be lacking in the lives of many young people today
- Feel one of the big problems associated with the drug epidemic is the lack of education
- Our outreach is trying to catch the young kids and teach them what to look out for, what to be warned of and the consequences of things that can happen
- Was in a class two (2) weeks ago talking about the drug epidemic and how a drug addict starts and winds up with a \$200 a day problem and even stealing from his own parents
- A seventh grade student raised her hand and said that was her Daddy

- That is so sad
- That girl does not want that kind of lifestyle
- We try to educate them with a neutral objective program
- The lessons primarily deal with: honesty, citizenship, trustworthiness, responsibility, respectfulness, patience, forgiveness, and friendship
- Some of these kids are in bad situations and don't know how to deal with life
- We teach lessons on making the right choice, choosing your friends wisely, drugs/drinking
- Appreciate the Dare Program in Stokes County; we just impact that program
- CUC lessons are designed for implementation in the public school classroom, ranging from Pre-K through 12th grade
- We teach about laws, conduct, and the consequences
- The program discovered thirty (30) years ago that young kids were missing character traits needed to base their decisions on
- Want to make you aware that about a year and three (3) months ago, we presented to Stokes County Juvenile Probation Officers the same program to help them work with juvenile offenders; not only in Stokes County but also in Surry County
- We have twelve (12) people trained in Surry County that are ready to go
- We have one (1) person trained in Rockingham County that is ready to go
- We give the alternative instead of community service
- I am ashamed to say this but I did community service when I was a young man
- I would party all night and go do community service
- The man over the community service would just tell me to lie down and take a nap
- That did not do me or anyone else any good
- These classes are available to them – trying to teach them to start making better choices
- This program is offered in Stokes, Surry, and Rockingham Counties at no cost
- All I ask is that we just utilize our available resources
- We are here to help, not here to hurt

Three (3) minute limit called.

Jim Seagle

536 South Main Street

King, NC

Re: **Drug Addiction – Recovery Program (RU)**

Mr. Seagle presented the following comments to the Board of County Commissioners:

- I am here to represent Reformers Unanimous Addiction Program (RU) that we have at our local church, Calvary Baptist
- RU is a biblically based Christ-centered recovery program designed to rescue, recover, and restore those in addictive behaviors with the power of the victorious hidden life found only in Jesus Christ
- RU is an international program with more than 600 chapters around the world as well as the Philippines where the program has just started
- We offer more than just a place for a person with an addiction problem to come to
- We also affect the entire family

- We have them come and we try to give them hope and a reason to overcome whatever addiction brought them here
- We try to help them find the root cause of the addiction in the first place
- Not only do we help the individual, we also help their spouses and loved ones try to overcome their pain and suffering from having a family member who has a drug addiction
- We have a youth program to help their children to overcome the troubles and trials that they have received from family members who are addicted
- We also give them the tools necessary to keep them from falling into the same trap that their family member has been involved in
- We have a teen program on Friday nights where teens can come to learn how to stand on their own two feet instead of falling into the party life
- We also have the ability to help the court system, probation and patrol officers
- We also have a Reformers Institutional Program (RIP)
- RIP is a study program designed to help those incarcerated to avoid recidivism
- RIP is designed to be one on one counseling as well as outreach to their families while they are incarcerated
- Provided the Board with information for Reducing Recidivism Through Symbolism – Reformers Institutional Program
- I am available 24/7 and available to you anyway I can help

Kay Richey

1065 Ernest Nelson Road

Danbury, NC

Re: **Defining Natural Law**

Ms. Richey presented the following comments to the Board of County Commissioners:

- Wish I was speaking on addiction, but I am not
- I have come to many commissioners' meetings and have listened as homosexuals and transsexuals are condemned as being against "The Laws of Nature and Nature's God"
- While I think this discussion is not really appropriate here, I feel I must make some observations
- First nature:
 - There are many animals that we know exhibit homosexual tendencies and homosexual behavior
 - There are asexual animals and plants
 - There are animals that transition from one sex to another during their life span for a variety of reasons
 - These are a part of Natural Law
- But what about humans, you may ask
 - When humans are developing, when humans are knit together in the womb, many things happen hormonally that affect gender identity, sexual preference and other natural human attributes
 - Some of these things you can see, the most well-known is those that are born with the sexual organs of both sexes

- Instead of having these folks grow up to join a freak show which use to be the case; physicians now make decisions as an infant whether these folks are male or female, sometimes they may make the wrong decision
- No one can deny that these physical differences exist from birth; therefore, they are part of Natural Law – they are natural, they are a scientific reality
- While we may see these physical attributes, those same hormonal changes may make attributes that we can't see that manifest themselves as that person reaches sexual maturity and decides what their sexual preference is or what their gender identity is
- As far as God's Law within the Christian tradition of the Bible, there are seven (7) passages that speak about homosexual behavior
- By the best interpretation of the ancient languages of the Bible, several of those seem to refer to not an equal behavior, not just homosexual behavior but behavior that is unequal in nature – a master to a slave, not the behavior that would be found in a loving, committed relationship
- While a few of the references may not have that that nuance, it bares mention in lists of behaviors that we now do not worry about
- By God's Moral Law, for me, all people are God's Children and across many religions that highest law is love

Tracey Collins

1048 Stateline Church Road

Westfield, NC

Re: **Addiction**

Mr. Collins presented the following comments to the Board of County Commissioners:

- Would like to thank you for what you do
- Each and every one of you are in a no win situation
- I want to tell you how addiction hit me first hand as a pastor
- Had a young man that became a really good friend and who did some of the craziest things that you have ever seen
- He stole from his parents
- He stole from his grandparents
- He forfeited a four- year, full ride basketball scholarship
- He made a shamble out of his life
- Learned a lot about addiction on a daily basis from this young man
- He told me when he was 19 that he went to a party at Pfeiffer University and took a synthetic form of heroin
- He said that as soon as it hit him he knew his life would never be the same
- He is twenty-seven (27) now and he called me about two (2) weeks ago to tell me that he was still there in the addiction program
- He has been in an addiction program for seventeen (17) months
- The thing that I thought was most significant that I wanted to share tonight is that he was not allowed to have any communication whatsoever with the outside world for the first year
- He could not talk to his parents, his pastor, or his friends because it takes that long to get it out of your system

- Even a positive person in your life can throw you back into addiction
- He is doing well and has about nine (9) more months to go in this program
- He devastated his family
- His mother has stated that they did not have anything further to give him financially or emotionally; he wrecked the whole family
- What I want to say as a pastor is that absolutely, unequivocally Christ is the solution
- But I want us also to be aware that there are medical aspects involved and mental health aspects involved here
- If we can set aside our own Agendas and just work together
- Went on a chaplain call a few weeks ago where a young man of twenty-eight who had a wife and two (2) children got high and committed suicide at a church
- It is awful
- It is not anyone's responsibility, it is everyone's responsibility
- There is a lot of talented, compassionate people here tonight that can all come together and make a difference
- One thing that we don't have is a place for these people with drug addiction to go

Three (3) minute limit called.

Chairman Walker, with no other speakers, closed the time for public comments.

Chairman Walker, without any objection from the Board, allowed Commissioner Booth to take a few minutes to welcome an attendee at tonight's meeting.

Commissioner Booth welcomed Boy Scout Joshua Manring who was in attendance at tonight's meeting working on his merit badge in communications.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Minutes

- Minutes of March 13, 2017 - Regular Meeting

Public Building & Capital Reserve - Budget Amendment #62

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #62.

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

| Account Number | Account Description | Current Budgeted Amount | Increase (Decrease) | As Amended |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Public Buildings | | | | |
| 100.4190.510 | Equipment | <u>\$33,071.00</u> | <u>\$14,715.00</u> | <u>\$47,785.00</u> |
| | Total | \$33,071.00 | \$14,715.00 | \$47,786.00 |
| Capital Reserve Fund | | | | |
| 201.4190.013 | Public Buildings | \$225,125.00 | \$(14,715.00) | \$210,410.00 |
| 201.9810.000 | Transfer to General Fund | <u>\$206,518.00</u> | <u>\$14,715.00</u> | <u>\$221,233.00</u> |
| | Totals | \$431,643.00 | \$00.00 | \$431,643.00 |

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To transfer funds for the replacement of HVAC units at the Health Department.

This will result in a **net increase** of **\$14,715.00** 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 | | | | |
| 100.3982.960 | Transfer from Capital Reserve | <u>\$206,518.00</u> | <u>\$14,715.00</u> | <u>\$221,233.00</u> |
| | Total | \$206,518.00 | \$14,715.00 | \$221,233.00 |

Social Services Department - Budget Amendment #63

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #63.

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

| Account Number | Account Description | Current Budgeted Amount | Increase (Decrease) | As Amended |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Social Services | | | | |
| 100.5310.180 | Professional Services | \$92,700.00 | \$(15,000.00) | \$77,700.00 |
| 100.5310.188 | Attorney Fees | <u>\$95,000.00</u> | <u>\$15,000.00</u> | <u>\$110,000.00</u> |
| | Totals | \$187,700.00 | \$00.00 | \$187,700.00 |

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To appropriate additional funding for the attorney fees for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2016-17.

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.

Stokes Reynolds Hospital Fund - Budget Amendment #64

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #64.

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

| Account Number | Account Description | Current Budgeted Amount | Increase (Decrease) | As Amended |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Stokes Reynolds Hosp. Fund | | | | |
| 500.5700.000 | Hospital Operations | \$00.00 | \$66,670.00 | \$66,670.00 |
| 500.9810.960 | Transfer to Capital Reserve Fd | <u>\$00.00</u> | <u>\$10,000.00</u> | <u>\$10,000.00</u> |
| | Totals | \$00.00 | \$76,670.00 | \$76,670.00 |
| Capital Reserve Fund | | | | |
| 201.5700.000 | Hospital Capital | <u>\$10,000.00</u> | <u>\$10,000.00</u> | <u>\$20,000.00</u> |
| | Totals | \$10,000.00 | \$10,000.00 | \$20,000.00 |
| General Fund | | | | |
| | Transfer to Stokes Reynolds | | | |
| 100.9820.984 | Hospital Fund | <u>\$00.00</u> | <u>\$66,670.00</u> | <u>\$66,670.00</u> |
| | Totals | \$00.00 | \$66,670.00 | \$66,670.00 |

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To appropriate and transfer funds per the amended lease agreement with LifeBrite. The appropriation for indigent services is for 8 months (66.67%) and \$10,000.00 appropriation for capital to be transferred to the Capital Reserve Fund

This will result in a **net increase** of **\$153,340.00** 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 |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Stokes Reynolds Hospital Fd | | | | |
| 500.3839.000 | Miscellaneous | \$00.00 | \$10,000.00 | \$10,000.00 |
| 500.3981.000 | Transfer from General Fund | <u>\$00.00</u> | <u>66,670.00</u> | <u>\$76,670.00</u> |
| | Totals | \$00.00 | \$76,670.00 | \$67,670.00 |
| Capital Reserve Fund | | | | |
| | Transfer from Stokes Reynolds | | | |
| 201.3981.002 | Hospital Fund | <u>\$00.00</u> | <u>\$10,000.00</u> | <u>\$10,000.00</u> |
| | | \$00.00 | \$10,000.00 | \$10,000.00 |
| General Fund | | | | |
| | Medicaid Relief -Hold | | | |
| 100.3327.200 | Harmless | <u>\$535,000.00</u> | <u>\$66,670.00</u> | <u>\$601,670.00</u> |
| | Totals | \$535,000.00 | \$66,670.00 | \$601,670.00 |

Tax Administration Report – February 2017

Refunds More Than \$100 – Real and Personal Property

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

| Refunds More Than \$100 | Real/Personal | Property | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Name | Bill Number | Amount | Reason |
| Richard Lee Howell Jr | 31984299 | \$135.88 | Vehicle Sold |
| Richard Dean Irby | 26425260 | \$106.63 | Vehicle Sold |
| Joseph Keith Nelson | 26570243 | \$136.64 | Assessed In Error |
| Todd A. Thornton | 25421194 | <u>\$160.78</u> | Vehicle Sold |
| | Total Amount | \$539.93 | |

Tax Administration – Appeal Request Garnishment – Maser

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Appeal Garnishment Request for Brandon Maser at the March 13th meeting with the Board's consideration at the March 27th meeting:

- Brandon Maser has requested the Tax Office bring his appeal before the Board of County Commissioners for the release of Garnishment fees in the amount of \$60.00 for 2014 and 2015 dog fees
- Bill number 7169
- His request is based upon the fact that he had moved and the bills were not forwarded to his new address
- Tax Office recommends denial of Mr. Maser's request to release garnishment fees in the amount of \$60.00

Tax Administration – Appeal Request Garnishment - Horn

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Appeal Garnishment for Stacey N. Horn at the March 13th meeting with the Board's consideration at the March 27th meeting:

- Stacey N. Horn requested the Tax Office bring her appeal before the Board of County Commissioners for the release of Garnishment fees in the amount of \$60.00 for a 2013 Motor Vehicle Tax
- Bill number 836382
- Her request is based upon the fact that she had sold the vehicle and thought all taxes were paid in full

- Tax Office recommends denial of Ms. Horn's request to release garnishment fees in the amount of \$60.00

Tax Administration – Appeal Request 2016 Interest - Hunter

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Appeal Garnishment for Jason E. Hunter at the March 13th meeting with the Board's consideration at the March 27th meeting:

- Jason E. Hunter requested the Tax Office bring his appeal before the Board of County Commissioners for the release of Interest fees in the amount of \$10.34 for 2016 Real Property Tax
- Bill number 303881
- His request is based upon the fact that he came in to pay all his taxes and this bill was overlooked
- Tax Office recommends denial of Mr. Hunter's request to release Interest fees in the amount of \$10.34

Tax Administration – Appeal Request 2016 Interest - Silmsr

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Appeal Garnishment for Charles Silmsr at the March 13th meeting with the Board's consideration at the March 27th meeting:

- Charles Silmsr requested the Tax Office bring his appeal before the Board of County Commissioners for the release of Interest fees in the amount of \$58.04 for 2015 and 2016 Real Property Tax
- Bill number 298549
- His request is based upon the fact that his address had been on file as Josie Lane, Rural Hall and needed to be Josie Lane, King
- Ms. Silmsr stated that he never received these bills but on August 26, 2016, there was \$1,431.24 paid which was the discounted amount for the 2016 bill
- This payment in August 2016 was applied to the delinquent 2015 bill
- This is why the amount due for 2015 is only \$138.85
- Tax Office recommends denial of Mr. Silmsr's request to release Interest fees in the amount of \$58.04

Proposed Proclamation – National Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month

Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins presented the following proposed Resolution – National Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month (March 2017) in Stokes County for the Board's review and consideration at tonight's meeting (March 27th) which was requested by DSS Director Stacey Elmes:

**NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION MONTH
A PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, in Federal fiscal year 2015, 4 million reports were made to child protective services; and

WHEREAS child abuse and neglect is a serious problem affecting every segment of our community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone in our community; and

WHEREAS, our children are our most valuable resources and will shape the future of Stokes County; and

WHEREAS, child abuse can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects that can have lifelong consequences for victims of abuse; and

WHEREAS, protective factors are conditions that reduce or eliminate risk and promote the social, emotional, and developmental well-being of children;

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the meaningful connections and partnerships created between child welfare, education, health, community, and faith-based organizations, businesses and law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, communities must make every effort to promote programs and activities that benefit children and their families;

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that we must work together as a community to increase awareness about child abuse and contribute to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families in a safe, stable, nurturing environment.

WHEREAS, Prevention remains the best defense for our children and families;

NOW, THEREFORE, We, the Commissioners of Stokes County, do hereby proclaim **April 2017** as **NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION MONTH** in Stokes County, and urge all citizens to recognize this month by dedicating ourselves to the task of improving the quality of life for all children and families.

Dated this 27th day of March, 2017

Chairman Jimmy Walker

Vice-Chairman Ernest Lankford

Commissioner James D. Booth

Commissioner Ronda Jones

Commissioner Ronnie Mendenhall

Clerk to the Board Darlene M. Bullins

Proposed Proclamation – National Public Safety Telecommunication Week

Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins presented the following proposed Proclamation – National Public Safety Telecommunication Week for the Board's review and consideration at tonight's meeting (March 27th) which was requested by E911 Director Del Hall:

Proclamation

National Public Safety Telecommunications Week

April 9-15, 2017

Whereas, emergencies can occur at any time that require police, fire or emergency medical services;

Whereas, when an emergency occurs the prompt response of police officers, firefighters and paramedics are critical to the protection of life and preservation of property;

Whereas, the safety of our police officers, firefighters, and paramedics is dependent upon the quality and accuracy of information obtained from citizens who telephone the Stokes County Emergency Communications Center;

Whereas, Public Safety Telecommunicators are the first and most critical contact our citizens have with emergency services;

Whereas, Public Safety Telecommunicators are the single vital link for our police officers, firefighters, and paramedics by monitoring their activities by radio, providing them information and insuring their safety;

Whereas, Public Safety Telecommunicators of the Stokes County Emergency Communications Center have contributed substantially to the apprehension of criminals, suppression of fires and treatment of patients;

Whereas, each Telecommunicator has exhibited compassion, understanding and professionalism during the performance of their job in the past year;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the **Board of County Commissioners of County of Stokes**, North Carolina declares the week of **April 9 -15, 2017** to be **National Public Safety Telecommunications Week in the County of Stokes**, North Carolina in honor of the men and women whose diligence and professionalism keep our County citizens safe.

Signed this 27th day of **March, 2017**

STOKES COUNTY

Jimmy Walker, Chairman

Ernest Lankford, Vice Chairman

March 27, 2017

James D. Booth, Commissioner

Ronda Jones, Commissioner

Ronnie Mendenhall, Commissioner

Attest:

Darlene Bullins, Clerk

Palmetto Theatre Restoration Project – Proposed Letter of Support

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following proposed Letter of Support for the Palmetto Theatre Restoration Project at the March 13th meeting with a request for approval at the March 27th meeting:

TO: To Whom It May Concern

FROM: Chairman Jimmy Walker
Stokes County Board of County Commissioners

DATE: March 27, 2017

RE: Palmetto Theatre Restoration Project

The purpose of this letter is to pledge the support of the Stokes County Board of County Commissioners for the Palmetto Theatre Restoration Project being undertaken by a group of private investors who have purchased the old theatre located in the downtown district of the Town of Walnut Cove, North Carolina, which is in Stokes County. This letter will be included in grant application packages to supplement private funding for the project.

The Palmetto Theatre was a centerpiece of downtown Walnut Cove in earlier years and now has fallen into disrepair. This restoration project is designed to support the downtown revitalization of Walnut Cove and provide a multipurpose venue for concerts, arts and entertainment plus community meeting space. The theatre will seat 450 to 500 people and if restored would provide a perfect medium size venue for town and county functions that would support economic development growth for both. It would also likely serve as an anchor point for other downtown revitalization projects located in close proximity to the theatre.

Support of the Palmetto Theatre Restoration Project was approved by the Stokes County Board of Commissioners.

Jimmy Walker, Chairman
Stokes County Board of County Commissioners

Proposed Resolution – Sale of County Issued Service Fire Arm – Retiree Greg Manley

Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins presented the following proposed Resolution –
Authorizing the Sale of County Issued Service Side Arm for Retiree Greg Manley for the Board's
review and consideration at tonight's meeting (March 27th) which was requested by Sheriff Mike
Marshall:

**Resolution authorizing sale of County issued service side arm:
(North Carolina General Statute 20-187.2.A)**

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Greg Manley is retiring from the Stokes County Sheriff's Department on
April 28, 2017; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Greg Manley has been a dedicated fulltime law enforcement officer to the
citizens of Stokes County from January 4, 1988 through April 28, 2017; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute 20-187.2 (a), permits Stokes County to donate the
badge worn at no cost, and to the sell service issued side arm to retiring law enforcement officers, at
a price determined by the Board of Commissioners; and

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

1. The Sheriff of Stokes County is authorized to present to Lieutenant Greg Manley his Stokes
County Sheriff's Department issued badge at no cost.
2. The Sheriff of Stokes County is also authorized to sell a Smith & Wesson Model M&P 40
caliber semi-auto handgun, serial number DWJ3207 and holster at a set price of \$1.00 to
Lieutenant Greg Manley after securing a permit as required by North Carolina General
Statute 14-402 or 14-409.

Adopted this the 27th day of **March 2017**.

Jimmy Walker- Chairman

Ernest Lankford – Vice Chairman

James D. Booth- Commissioner

Ronda Jones - Commissioner

Ronnie Mendenhall – Commissioner

Attest:

Darlene Bullins – Clerk to the Board

Commissioner Jones moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Booth seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – INFORMATION AGENDA

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

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – DISCUSSION AGENDA

Opioid Issues in Stokes County – Further Discussion

Chairman Walker opened the floor for further discussion of the Opioid Issues in Stokes County.

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following additional information from DSS Director Stacey Elmes regarding the Opioid issue along with an estimated cost for a liaison (Substance Abuse Counselor) position which was presented to the Board at an earlier meeting:

- Letter of Support for the liaison position from Health Director Emily Naylor
- Statistical Charts detailing Heroin/Opioid Overdoses, Narcan Doses, ER Visits, etc.
- Estimated Costs for a Substance Abuse Counselor (wages/fringes)
 - Two months - \$8,613.67
 - Federal - \$4,906.61
 - State - \$362.87
 - County (Cardinal Maintenance of Effort) (MOE) - \$3,344.19
 - First Year - \$55,465.50
 - Federal - \$31,594.87
 - State - \$2,336.60
 - County (Cardinal MOE) - \$21,534.04

Chairman Walker noted that the estimated costs for a Substance Abuse Counselor would be discussed later in tonight's meeting.

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Anyone who was at the last meeting knows that I had requested three (3) weeks to do a lot of research

- I am very much research oriented being a former teacher and a former superintendent
- I could have probably written two (2) books on this subject by the time we came back tonight
- There is so much information out there that you have to narrow down your focus
- I could talk for hours about this subject
- As I evaluated an enormous amount of information concerning the opioid issue over the past three weeks, two or three concepts continued to surface in my analysis of this concern of tremendous importance
- First, what are the core issues that seem to continue to arise each time the opioid problem is discussed and analyzed
- Second, there are several facets to overcome and win this battle against heroin/opioid use, possession, and distribution
- They are in no particular order:
 - Identification of problem users
 - Evaluation
 - Treatment
 - Prevention
 - Education
 - Enforcement
 - Communication
- This is not just a Stokes County problem, it is also a North Carolina problem and a major issue across America
- The North Carolina House has just recently introduced House Bill 243 (STOP ACT) which includes some of the following information:
 - Lawmakers joined law enforcement and medical professions to detail a comprehensive proposal to treat opioid misuse in NC through smarter prescribing, smarter dispensing, and recovery alternatives for those struggling with addiction
 - Key provisions of the STOP ACT require prescribers to check the Controlled Substance Reporting System (CSRS), limit the initial quantity of opioid prescriptions for acute pain, reduce the diversions of veterinary drugs and tighter supervision and oversight of prescribers
- As I researched this issue, I looked around our area to see what was going on
- Northern Surry Hospital is working with Surry's Health Department with procedures in place to work with newborn infants of mothers who are addicted to either heroin or opioids substances; town meetings across many, many states throughout the USA and formation of task forces inclusive of citizens concerned about this issue, including members of local agencies and faith based members
- Have recently seen on television, West Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania and many other states up the coast that are having town hall meetings trying to get a handle on this issue
- Therefore, I support thorough discussion at tonight's meeting on the heroin/opioid issue
- We have heard from some of the faith based community
- We have now got a formation of a taskforce in Stokes County

- We have inclusive concerned citizens regarding this issue including members of local agencies, (Social Services, Law Enforcement, Health Department, EMS, etc.)
- All these groups working together
- The problems and concerns are very evident
- I have spoken to many people during the past three (3) weeks
- I have gone to meetings and thoroughly researched this problem
- We are going to have to come together to do as much as we can to try to solve this problem
- We may not be able, as a Board, to solve this problem ourselves; it is going to take a group working together

Commissioner Jones commented:

- I am not going to reiterate what Commissioner Mendenhall just stated
- We have all studied and researched this problem in our County
- This is an ongoing issue
- This drug addiction is insane
- At our level, the best thing that I feel we can do is to give these groups that have the expertise the tools, the manpower, or whatever they need to address this issue and try to make it better
- Prevention and Education are a huge key, but it is not all of it
- Social Services, Health Department, Sheriff's Department, and EMS all have to work together
- Feel the liaison position they are asking for, could be that glue to hold everything together and make it more effective
- I will end with this thought
- When we have almost weekly reports where parents are overdosing simultaneously leaving orphan children and with the foster care issue where it is at; we must do something
- We can't delay

Chairman Walker requested to offer some information for record:

- In our Agenda packet, we have received four (4) Letters of Support for the liaison position from the following:
 - EMS Director Greg Collins
 - Assistant District Attorney Tom Langan
 - Stokes SCAN Director Tamara Veit
 - Health Director Emily Naylor
- Have also received verbal support for the liaison position from the following:
 - Dr. Brad Rice, Stokes County School Superintendent
 - DSS Director Stacey Elmes
 - DSS Program Manager Marsha Marshall – job duties include foster care
 - Senior Community Executive Ronda Outlaw, Cardinal Innovations Healthcare
 - Stokes County Sheriff Mike Marshall
 - Contacts from the Stokes County Citizens' Group
 - Citizens in General

- I have received no opposition from anyone regarding the new liaison position

Commissioner Booth commented:

- I can agree with my fellow commissioner and all the pastors here tonight that it is a problem, not only in Stokes County but across the nation
- What I fail to hear was an after fact
- After someone is addicted to drugs, what can we do?
- Need to also look at what we can do to keep it from happening
- You have borders that are open and drug cartels that are bringing drugs into the United States
- Something has to be done about it
- This drug addiction is a very big problem
- You have the Sheriff's Department doing drug busts and arresting dealers and users (mostly dealers) and then when they go into the court system, they get slapped on the hand
- They will have a felony charge that is reduced to a misdemeanor, but back on the streets to continue to sell more drugs to our kids, moms, dads, brothers and sisters
- You have to "cut the snake's head off at the ground level" to prevent what is going on now – overdoses
- Heard Greg Collins at a couple of meetings ago where he said that EMS gave a person something to bring them out of the overdose, got to the hospital and the patient refused medical treatment and then went back and overdosed again - second time he did not make it
- We need to get with our state legislators to get the laws stricter
- If you are selling drugs to our kids, brothers, sisters, moms, and dads, you need to know that you are going to be put away for a long time, not just slapped on the hand and maybe given some probation after two or three times
- I have heard Sheriff Marshall and former Sheriff Joyce say several times over the years that they arrest someone and then when there is another drug bust, they are back there again – same ones
- I know we have a drug problem
- Also heard of a situation of a child who overdosed and died; the parents had no idea that their child was on drugs
- I don't think that you can put one person and think this is going to take care of the problem
- I know that our faith-based communities have some programs
- I have talked to several pastors in the county
- Pastor Cook is a member of the Stokes County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council
- I am glad to know that there are programs out there that are ready to help people
- But first you have got to get them to admit that they have a drug problem and want to get rehabilitation
- Just heard Tracey Collins speak about an individual that ruined his whole life and been in rehabilitation program for the past seventeen months (17) and take another eight (8) months of therapy
- Cardinal Innovations provides mental health services for Stokes County

- Glad to hear that Tom Langan's wife just joined Cardinal and represents Stokes County for Cardinal; she is a person that you can go to if you are not getting the services
- Ms. Langan just joined Cardinal in September and we need to give her a little time to get her feet on the ground and get to running to see what can be done - this is my observation from that
- First, we have got to "cut that snake's head off" so drugs can't come in and be there for our kids (peer pressure, parties or whatever it may be)
- You have parents doing drugs, what do you expect from the kids?
- It is a big problem
- I know it is a problem
- Like I heard tonight, one way is through faith – through Christ Jesus that you can change everything – I am strong believer in that

Chairman Walker commented:

- Katie Lee Langan is another person who has expressed their support for the liaison

Commissioner Booth responded:

- The only reason I mentioned her name is because I don't know if she knows what she can do right now

Chairman Walker responded:

- She will be an asset to our county where she is now with Cardinal; she expressed a strong positive for the liaison position

Commissioner Booth responded:

- We did not have a county representative with the ones below, so now we have one that works here all time
- She even said two meetings ago that you could come to her and then there is someone above her that you can go to
- There is two people that you can go to if you have drug addiction

Chairman Walker responded:

- As I understand it, that is not exactly her job, but I know she would not turn a cold shoulder to someone who needs help

Commissioner Booth responded:

- With her being in support of the liaison position, I would not think she would

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Like Commissioner Mendenhall spoke about collecting information, I have tried my best to get all the information about this problem I could
- It is a serious problem
- It is going to take a lot of people working together to see results

- Today, from all the information received gives a clear indication that the drug problem is real and something that needs us all working together and take very serious
- This problem goes beyond Stokes County and the State of North Carolina
- The information gathered shows we are no worse and might even be a little better than other counties in the state
- To help solve or help reduce this problem is something that one person can't fix
- We must join together as a community of citizens along with all our employees, school students, school employees, community clubs, and community churches
- By getting involved and helping identify, communicate or inform the correct person or group of persons, will help get a reduction in drugs use or a reduction in the amount of drugs coming into the county
- Other counties have got their citizens involved to watch out and inform
- This has helped to make a big difference with many issues
- We know that the "Talk-It-Out" Programs in the schools have had a lot of participation and this is what we need
- Sheriff's Department has been involved with this problem
- In 2016, there were over 4,000 drug related charges in Stokes County
- This was both users and sellers
- In my opinion, the Sheriff's Department is doing their job
- Found out that Stokes County prescription drugs uses are down from 2015 at 62,274 prescriptions or 4,921,857 pills to 58,430 prescriptions or 4,635,230 pills in 2016
- This decrease gives us some hope about prescription drugs being on the decline
- There are other counties that have a drug problem
- Similar counties like Beaufort – there total prescription pill count in 2016 was 5,001,298; Carrabus County (large county with population of 196,000) has 12,858,585 total pill count
- Even some of the closer counties like Davie County (population 41,000) has a pill count 3,424,000
- Some of the other counties that we identify with are Rockingham County (population of 91,000) and their pill count is 10,534,529 which is more than double to Stokes (population of 46,000): Stanly County (population of 60,000) has a pill count of 5,600,038; Surry County (population of 72,000) has a pill count of 7,006,206
- Just wanted to provide a little bit of history on how we ranked among other counties
- That is the reason I stated that we are not any worse and probably even better than a lot of other counties
- We are doing something right as far as the prescription drug thing which is encouraging
- We have churches that are providing programs that are helping drug users to recover from addiction - both children and adults along with others working with school children
- Stokes County EMS had 47 overdose calls in 2016
- Stokes County EMS has already had 34 overdose calls in 2017

- Commissioners received a presentation on the NC211 System that would be available 24/7 for our people to get the information they need for accessing available services
- I feel when this is implemented, this will give people an avenue to get information so they can get help
- Mental Health for the County will be provided by Cardinal Innovations Health Care
- There is someone who is working for Cardinal, as mentioned by Commissioner Booth, that is from Stokes County that will be handling that position for Stokes and Rockingham Counties
- This will enable a person to contact a Cardinal employee regarding mental health issues which some of them could be related to drug abuse
- My recommendation:
 - Get the people involved by informing and getting the word out about the county drug problem and asking for commitment to stay involved until we all see results
 - Implement the NC211 System, evaluate it to see how much help this system will provide help to the families in need
 - After the evaluation study is over and we still have a need then hire a coordinator to work with departments and organizations to focus on the drug problem and develop a plan to be implemented that will work with families who are recovering from drugs use and reduce or rescue the drugs in our county
- There are many things like Commissioner Mendenhall has stated, plenty of information out there and that is one of reasons that I wanted to have plenty of time to gather all the information I could get
- There is much more information out there as Commissioner Mendenhall stated
- It just makes sense that we know what we are going into before we can solve the problem
- It is going to take everyone, a mass section of people
- There is approximately 46,300 in Stokes County, if we could get a large portion of those to be alert and watch and point out things that are going on, get people to help if possible, that would make a large contribution as far as reducing this drug problem that we have
- It is a major problem
- Fixing it is something that we must do, the process to do that, I am not sure at this point what it is

Chairman Walker confirmed with Vice Chairman Lankford that the pill count numbers he provided were pertaining to prescription drugs.

Chairman Walker continued:

- Understand that the real problem now is heroin because prescription drugs have gotten so expensive
- Understand that what one prescription pill on the street costs, a person can get a two-day supply of heroin

- The shift has now has gone to heroin
- Do you have any numbers regarding the heroin?

Vice Chairman Lankford responded:

- Do not have any numbers regarding the heroin
- Have discussed this issue with the Sheriff and others
- We are not only talking about prescriptions, it includes heroin and other street drugs
- We have a problem
- Stokes County is not any worse than any other county in the state, but we have a major problem here that needs to be fixed
- How we are going to fix that problem is where we have to get to
- That is what we are working toward

Chairman Walker continued:

- If I take the 34 overdoses for 2017 and project it out for the remainder of 2017, it would be 136 based on it being the same rate
- We are looking at maybe close to three times what we had last year

Commissioner Booth responded:

- We have got to get it off the street

Vice Chairman Lankford responded:

- That is what we have got to fix
- We can't fix people taking it

Chairman Walker, with no objection from the Board, questioned EMS Director Greg Collins if he had any current data on heroin usage?

EMS Director Collins responded:

- I provided the data presented by Vice Chairman Lankford tonight
- Did chart review today for 2016, heroin is about 50% with oxycodone, other narcotics and cocaine
- Heroin is cheaper right now
- It is a broad mix, not just heroin

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Confirmed with EMS Director Collins that the heroin on the street now is a dangerous mix because if it does not do what the user wants it to do, they keep taking more of it

EMS Director Collins responded:

- Fentanyl is being added to some of these drugs
- The strengths vary depending on who is cutting it and how it is being manufactured

- So if they take a dose today to get high and take the exact same dose next time from someone else, it could put them into respiratory distress which leads them into cardiac arrest because they do not know how strong the dose really is

Commissioner Booth continued:

- Confirmed with EMS Director Collins that it has to be gotten off the street
- I have seen it over the years, the same people selling drugs, over and over
- We have got to do something with our court system and district attorney
- As I mentioned earlier, reducing it from a felony to a misdemeanor – just to get it off the court docket
- When someone is selling drugs to our kids, sisters, brothers, parents, it should be a felony
- It should stick that you are going to pay if you do the crime
- It is not happening, they are being put back on the street to continue to sell drugs
- Something has got to happen with this situation – we have got to get them off the streets
- It shouldn't be three strikes and then you are out when you are selling drugs
- A former president commuted sentences for drug dealers who were in prison with thirty (30) years sentences and some only having served seven (7) years – stating it was not violent
- Don't tell me that it is not violent when a drug dealer is selling drugs to my kids, my grandkids and the kids in my community – that is a violent crime
- They overdose and die or they will start stealing from everyone to be able to continue to get drugs – their parents, their grandparents, their neighbors, and their friends
- When a drug dealer is out selling drugs – it is a violent crime

Commissioner Jones commented:

- We have approximately 54,000 people dying a year nationwide from overdoses
- This is not just a Stokes County problem
- It is generational, there won't be people putting money in social security
- This is huge
- We are killing ourselves off
- We are going to have to do something
- We are going to have to try
- We may fail, but we have to try
- It is not just any one thing, it is a complex situation
- We need to help those who have to deal with it everyday
- Ground zero – provide what they need to be more effective

Chairman Walker continued:

- Can tell that the commissioners have put some thought and research into this issue
- Feel our discussion this evening has some substance
- Sometimes the basic question comes – what can the county actually do to help with this situation?

- I see four or five different categories that have been discussed to some degree this evening
 - Education and Prevention
 - Liaison position will help to bring all this together; position has a high amount of support from a variety of sources
 - Another level of DARE that has some support – I am on board with that; with fifth grade we are dealing with one level of child, but in the seventh grade, we are willing a totally different level of child
 - Confirm with Commissioner Mendenhall dealing with a fifth grader versus a seventh grader is totally different
 - Another thing mentioned by Vice Chairman Lankford is the NC211 which I also feel can help to deal with the issue
 - There is a tendency for a person to not pick up the phone and call 911
 - When that call is answered by E911 with the question – What is your emergency? It puts the person on the spot when the caller may just be a parent who is not sure if their child is using drugs
 - That type of question may not work with 911 but would certainly work with 211
 - Enforcement
 - Feel we all agree we have a good Sheriff and a good department
 - Think the Sheriff is working diligently to try to do what he can with his resources to deal with this situation
 - Commend the Sheriff for the effort he is making
 - Could he have more success – always, but I think he is really giving it a good effort at this time and possibly has increased his efforts because of the numbers
 - Judicial
 - What can I say?
 - Heard former Sheriff Joyce say that he could arrest people and before he got back to his office, they would be back out on the street
 - I know personally of an incident or two that things should have gone this way but through the judicial system, they went another way
 - I think this citizens group is forming a watch group – possibly putting someone in the courtroom to monitor the proceedings and share them if necessary
 - Treatment
 - Confirm with Manager Morris that hospital officials will be speaking to the Board of County Commissioners at their next regular meeting to provide information about possible beds at the hospital for treatment

Chairman Walker requested Manager Morris provide the Board with information regarding the costs estimated provided to the Board earlier in the meeting pertaining to the liaison position.

County Manager Morris provided the following information:

- Two months - \$8,613.67 (Fiscal Year 2016-17)
 - Federal - \$4,906.61
 - State - \$362.87
 - County (Cardinal MOE) - \$3,344.19
- First Year -\$55,465.50 (Fiscal Year 2017-18)
 - Federal - \$31,594.87
 - State - \$2,336.60
 - County (Cardinal MOE) - \$21,534.04
- Cost estimates include overhead
- There would be no new county funding – funding would be coming from Cardinal MOE

Chairman Walker opened the floor for discussion regarding the cost estimates provided by County Manager Morris.

Commissioner Booth requested County Manager Morris to explain the Cardinal MOE funding.

County Manager Rick Morris responded:

- We are required to fund Cardinal \$398,000 for mental health services each fiscal year
- When we were giving that funding to CenterPoint, they had a little tighter control on how the funding was spent
- Cardinal's approach is to give the County a little bit more flexibility on how the funding is being utilized
- Currently have a little over \$100,000 of funding that is undesignated that needs to be spent
- Will be giving you a recommendation on how that \$398,000 can be spent during Fiscal Year 2017-18
- Cardinal wants the local boards to have some authority in how the county funding is being spent, a little bit more than CenterPoint
- Will talk more about spending of the undesignated funds in the next Agenda items

Commissioner Booth confirmed with County Manager Morris that the \$398,000 provided to Cardinal is for all services such as mental health, Stokes Opportunity Center, substance abuse and that it is not just for substance abuse.

Commissioner Booth confirmed with County Manager Morris that there is a little over \$100,000 of undesignated funding that has not been spent on mental health services during Fiscal Year 2016-17.

County Manager Morris responded:

- One reason there is undesignated funding is because there was one thing that had been funded from the county allocation that is now being picked up by the state
- The Board has the authority to allocate the undesignated funding, for example, the undesignated funding can be used for the NC211
- If the undesignated funding is not used in this fiscal year, it will be rolled over into Fiscal Year 2017-18
- The Board can't use the undesignated funding to reduce the \$398,000 allocation in Fiscal Year 2017-18
- You don't lose it if you don't use it

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Seems like the Board has some discussion to do about what the undesignated funding needs to be used for

Chairman Walker questioned Manager Morris about the location of the liaison position?

Chairman Walker continued:

- My understanding is that the liaison position does not have to be located in the DSS building
- Have had some comments/concerns about the liaison position being located at DSS or on the governmental campus
- Concerns are that the individual needing the services might be intimidated to come to DSS or the governmental campus for services

County Manager Morris responded:

- Have had a discussion with DSS Director Elmes about the location
- My understanding is that the liaison position has to be under the supervision of DSS in order to pull down federal and state dollars
- If overhead is pulled down from federal and state dollars, the liaison position has to be based at DSS
- That does not mean that the person who needs the help has to be seen at DSS
- Confirmed with DSS Director Elmes that the person in the liaison position would have to have an office at DSS; it does not mean the person would have to be in the DSS office at all times – could go to other places
- If you want to pull down as much federal and state dollars as possible, it would have to be located at DSS, but there would be some flexibility as to where they provide the service
- Would want to make sure all requirements are met

- If the position is not under the supervision of DSS, there is no federal and state reimbursement for the position
- Would allow as much flexibility as possible if located at DSS
- If the school of thought is that it will not work if it is on this campus, we would try to make sure we locate the position where it would work

Chairman Walker responded:

- It was not a question of whether it would work or not; haven't heard that particular question
- It was just more a manner that some people thinking it would work better if it wasn't located at DSS

County Manager Morris responded:

- Have heard the statement that the position should be located off this campus

Commissioner Jones commented:

- If the funding is there, it gives us an opportunity to try this liaison position
- Not sure about the location
- Relieved that the MOE funding is available and that federal and state funding can be drawn down to help fund the position

Commissioner Booth commented:

- If it is not tied into DSS, you would lose the federal and state funding (approximately \$33,930 for an entire year)
- If you don't take advantage of the federal and state funding and use the MOE to fund the entire position, you are taking away MOE funding that could be used for other mental health and substance abuse services
- There might not be any MOE the next year, then it would have to be fully funded by the County
- There are different angles that you have to look at
- We all know we have a problem in Stokes County and that we want more services from Cardinal to help the problem
- We have a person in Stokes County that you should be able to go to and increase these services; if it is not, I want to know
- If you are not getting what you need from those representatives, it is time that you come to this Board so that we can address that with Cardinal
- It can't just fall through the cracks like some other things had done in the past
- If it is not working and we are not getting the services we are paying Cardinal for, I want to know
- If you fund the entire position from the MOE, it will take a lot of the funding each year

Chairman Walker commented:

- Confirmed with Manager Morris and DSS Director Elmes that the physical services do not have to be performed on this campus

- I feel that I would be representing the people in the County who have expressed a preference by supporting this position
- I know each commissioner has to reach their own conclusion
- I would suggest for Commissioner Booth, just for safety sake or clarification sake, that he might want to look at what Katie Langan's position is with Cardinal and see if does include acting as a liaison for Stokes County
- I have not picked up on that from the meetings that I have been attending

Commissioner Booth responded:

- For clarification sake, I would request that you have Ms. Langan at the next meeting so that all five members of the Board hear the same answer; to make sure that everyone has the same understanding
- Ms. Langan brought this information to the Board a couple of meetings ago and I did not realize her employment with Cardinal until then

Chairman Walker responded:

- I don't know if that would be putting her on the spot or not by having her at this meeting
- I would suggest that we request Ronda Outlaw be at the next meeting if possible to answer Commissioner Booth's questions and any other questions such as the MOE funding

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Would like to have Ms. Langan here too, if possible
- I know she is going to do a good job for Stokes County

Chairman Walker questioned the pleasure of the Board for the next meeting (action or discussion)?

Commissioner Booth: Discussion Agenda
 Commissioner Mendenhall: Action Agenda
 Vice Chairman Lankford: Discussion Agenda
 Commissioner Jones: Action Agenda
 Chairman Walker: Action Agenda

Chairman Walker, with a majority of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the April 10th Action Agenda.

Chairman Walker commented:

- There can be more discussion at the next meeting if needed
- If so desired by the Board, one action that can be taken is to place the item back on the Agenda for the next meeting
- No decision has to be made at the next meeting

North Carolina 211 Update

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding the North Carolina 211:

- The Board received information at a previous meeting on the NC211 by Director Cindy Tuttle, Stokes Partnership for Children and a NC211 representative
- The Board further discussed the NC211 in a Goals/Budget Planning Session
- My understanding was that there was consensus from the Board to fund the NC 211
- Not sure what funding amount the Board would like to consider
- Understanding the cost for implementation and usage for the first year would be between \$4,000 and \$5,000 and that there would be an additional amount needed for advertising and marketing – possibly an additional \$5,000 for the first year for marketing and advertising
- The MOE Funding discussed in the previous Agenda item could be used to fund the NC 211
- Whatever level of funding is allocated, we will figure out how long that will operate the NC 211
- Will address how to fund the NC 211 once that designated funding is exhausted
- If the Board decides to fund the NC 211 from MOE Funding, will work with Cardinal to make that happen

Vice Chairman Lankford noted that he would want to implement the NC 211 with the Fiscal Year 2017-18 (July 1, 2017).

Chairman Walker opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Understand the top level of the NC 211 is between \$4,000 and \$5,000
- Did not hear anything from the presentation about an additional \$5,000 for marketing

Chairman Walker responded:

- Presented that amount at one of the budget work sessions
- I have been attending their meetings and the amount of \$5,000 has been discussed for marketing and advertising

Commissioner Booth continued:

- Can see that NC 211 would be helping the drug problems
- Like Chairman Walker stated, someone might call NC 211 for information about substance abuse but not call 911

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- NC 211 can be used for a lot of other things too

County Manager Morris responded:

- Reiterated that MOE Funding can be used for the remainder of this fiscal year and for the next fiscal year

Chairman Walker commented:

- Would like to share some additional information regarding Commissioner Booth's inquiry about the additional \$5,000
- The additional \$5,000 is an estimate of what it would take to get the word out to the citizens to make sure everyone is aware of what NC 211 is and how it can help
- Marketing and advertising would be handouts, brochures, billboards, advertising in the paper, etc,

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Put it on social media, it would not take long for the word to get out

Chairman Walker responded:

- Not everyone uses social media
- Feel like Vice Chairman Lankford that NC 211 can be an asset to the County

Commissioner Booth commented:

- School system could use their telephone call system to get the word out
- Need to make sure we balance the use of the MOE Funding and look at all priorities

Chairman Walker questioned the pleasure of the Board.

The Board unanimously agreed to place the item on the Action Agenda for the

April 10, 2017 meeting.

Chairman Walker, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the April 10th Action Agenda.

Cardinal Innovations -Undesignated/Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Funding

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding the Cardinal Innovations Undesignated/MOE Funding:

- Along with DSS Director Stacey Elmes, met with four (4) other county managers and DSS Directors (Forsyth, Alamance, Davie, and Rockingham Counties) recently
- Couple of those managers have been dealing with Cardinal for over five (5) years
- We gained a lot of insights from this discussion
- The meeting was to try to decide how we could collectively get the best services we can from Cardinal and to leverage the expertise from the folks that have been dealing with Cardinal a long time

- That is how we found out about Cardinal wanting to get the Board involved with how the funding is being allocated
- Have a follow up meeting scheduled for April 21, 2017
- Couple of the managers are putting a draft together on recommendations for best using the MOE Funding
- Would suggest the Board not continue this item until the first meeting after April 21st which would be April 24th in order to gain any additional information based on the expertise from the managers who have dealt with Cardinal
- Can start the process of the Board deciding on the remainder of the Fiscal Year 2016-17 MOE Funding and the 2017-18 MOE Funding at the April 24th meeting

Chairman Walker requested the direction of the Board regarding Manager Morris' recommendation to place the item on the April 24th Discussion Agenda.

The Board agreed to place the item on the April 24th Discussion Agenda.

Chairman Walker, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the April 24th Discussion Agenda.

Stokes County Audit Contract

County Manager Rick Morris turned the item over to Finance Director Julia Edwards who has done some extensive research regarding the increase for audit services for Fiscal Year 2016-17.

Finance Director Julia Edwards presented the following information regarding the upcoming Fiscal Year 2016-17:

- Martin Starnes & Associates has submitted their cost for the FY 2016-17 audit
- The proposed cost from Martin Starnes is \$53,300 which is an increase of \$6,950 or 15%
- Have contacted several other counties and their auditing fees have increased about same as ours
- Other auditor firms are giving other counties the same explanation for an increase this year
- The explanation for the increase is due to the required single audit information for the Office of State Auditors which is another unfunded mandate
 - The testing for the single audit, which is required by the State Auditor, had increased significantly over the past several years
- Martin Starnes has tried to keep our fees as low as they can, but due to the additional work they are required to process, they have no choice but to increase the fee

- Information from Martin Starnes:
 - Earlier this year, a meeting was held to establish deadlines for confirmations, questioned costs from NC DHHS, populations, and county reporting
 - In January 2017, the Office of State Auditor released a performance audit on County Medicaid eligibility determination
 - The results of this performance audit has increased the sample size to go from 60 files to 93 files at the minimum
 - This change increases the hours necessary to complete the compliance audit significantly
 - The increased fees for the county audit is not a reflection on the County or the condition of the county records, it simply an effort to get their fee to match the hours required to meet the group audit expectations from the State and perform a quality audit
- Martin Starnes Fees:
 - 2005-06 - \$40,500.00
 - 2006-07 - \$42,000.00
 - 2007-08 - \$43,600.00
 - 2008-09 - \$45,000.00
 - 2009-10 - \$45,000.00
 - 2010-11 - \$45,000.00
 - 2011-12 - \$45,000.00
 - 2012-13 - \$45,000.00
 - 2013-14 - \$45,000.00
 - 2014-15 - \$46,350.00
 - 2015-16 - \$46,350.00
 - 2016-17 - \$53,300.00 (proposed)
- Reiterated that this is another unfunded mandate
- Recommend the contract be approved with Martin Starnes for FY 2016-17

Chairman Walker opened the floor for discussion.

Chairman Walker commented:

- Confirmed with Finance Director Edwards that with all the information received regarding the increase for audit services, it is her recommendation to enter into a contract with Martin Starnes for FY 2016-17

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Confirmed with Finance Director Edwards that the audit services have not been bid since Fiscal Year 2005-06
- Confirmed with Finance Director Edwards that the additional files being reviewed also occurred this past year, but Martin Starnes did not request an increase

Finance Director Edwards responded:

- Martin Starnes explained that due to the additional man hours needed, they will have to have an increase this year
- Have went several years with no increase

Vice Chairman Lankford continued:

- Know that you work well with this firm, but a 15% increase (\$6,950) in one year is a little bit stiff
- Understand they have went several years with no increase
- May be we need to discuss this issue with our legislators this Friday

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Vice Chairman Lankford hit on the comments that I was thinking about; another unfunded mandate
- State is increasing the requirements and making the counties pick up the costs
- Increased fees across the state would add up several dollars
- I also would like to bring this up at the meeting with legislators
- Understand Martin Starnes does a good job, but there are other auditing firms
- Fifteen (15%) is a big increase in one year
- Realize there was an increase, but the County locked in that rate for two years

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Understand looking at other companies by bidding
- Confirmed with Finance Director Edwards that when talking to other counties that did not use Martin Starnes, they also have received an increase
- Probably will not be a big difference even if we bid it out this year
- Sometimes there is a lot of chaos when changing vendors and could cost more than the 15% increase

Finance Director Edwards commented:

- If the Board wishes to bid the services out this year, will have to do as soon as possible
- Auditing firm starts coming in June to get started in order to meet the state's deadline
- County used Dixon and Hughes before Martin Starnes

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- This is a tough situation when you have an increase of that amount (15%) and near the end of the fiscal year
- But if you don't bid, you don't know what is out there and what you can get regarding the price
- This is a tough spot for the Finance Director and this Board
- When using a firm for eleven (11) years, they are in tune with the process and the county
- Bringing in a new firm at the end of the fiscal year could cause problems, but at the same, as stated by Vice Chairman Lankford, if you don't open it up for bids, you will never know if you could get a lower price

Chairman Walker commented:

- This particular firm has been providing audit services for several years and I know that the County has had some firms where the process was not as smooth

Finance Director Edwards commented:

- I still do part of the report that saves the county money
- I don't do the GASB34; Martin Starnes performs those services and has never charged the county

Chairman Walker commented:

- Could get a lower bid from a firm that does not do quality work
- Bids could also be higher than what we have before us

Vice Chairman Lankford responded:

- These firms have to be certified

County Manager Rick Morris continued:

- I am not married to any particular firm, but it is more convenient when the firm is used to the County
- We would do a best value bid, not just go on the cost
- Would look at past performances to make sure we got a reliable firm
- Confirmed with Finance Director Edwards that Martin Starnes submitted this bid based on the County not bidding
- If we bid out the services, Martin Starnes will have a chance to place another bid which may be higher
- It is just a roll of the dice
- You need to consider bidding and possibly getting a higher bid than the amount submitted by Martin Starnes
- We think there is a high probability that if we bid out this year, the cost will be greater than the amount submitted by Martin Starnes

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- The School System used Dixon and Hughes while I was superintendent

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Need to remember the real problem -- unfunded mandates
- They just keep coming
- Unfunded mandates are in the top five NCACC Legislative Goals each year

Chairman Walker questioned the desire of the Board.

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- If we don't do a bid process this year, definitely need to plan to bid out the audit services next year

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Confirmed with Finance Director Edwards that her recommendation would be to stay with Martin Starnes this year and then bid out the audit services next year due to being so close to the end of the fiscal year

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Confirmed with Finance Director Edwards that the drop dead date to decide whether to go out for bids this year is now
- Confirmed with Finance Director Edwards that it would take at least a month to do a bid process
- Would recommend considering going back to Martin Starnes to see if this amount could be contracted for the next two years

Vice Chairman Lankford responded:

- Would agree with Commissioner Booth to consider contracting with Martin Starnes for the next two years at this year's quote

Finance Director Edwards responded:

- Normally when you go out for bids, the bid is normally for a three-year period

Chairman Walker commented:

- Have to keep in mind that if we bid this year, Martin Starnes could increase their bid

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Don't think it is wise to do anything this year
- Could cause a lot of chaos which could be costly
- Not sure about going out for bids next year, need to get some information to see what is going on
- Sometimes upsetting the apple cart is more expensive
- Need to deal with this year
- Do not want to change this year
- Need to work on unfunded mandates

Chairman Walker commented:

- Agree with Vice Chairman Lankford's recommendation to not bid this year and possibly go out for bids next year
- Confirmed with Finance Director Edwards that the increase is probably proportional to the additional amount of work – pulling additional files increases the number of work hours

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Confirmed with Finance Director Edwards that she had no problems going back to Martin Starnes to see if the year's bid quote could be carried for two years (Fiscal Year 2016-17 and Fiscal Year 2017-18)

The Board agreed to have Finance Director Edwards go back to Martin Starnes to see if they would agree to the same price \$53,300 for the next two years and if not consider bidding out the audit services next year.

Chairman Walker, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the April 10th Action Agenda.

Proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOE) Between Surry County and Stokes County for E911 Backup Services

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following proposed MOE between Surry County and Stokes County for E911 Backup Services:

**SURRY COUNTY } MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
 } BETWEEN SURRY COUNTY AND
NORTH CAROLINA } STOKES COUNTY**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) made and entered into this the ____ day of March, 2017, by and between Surry County, on behalf of its Central Communications Division, hereafter "C-Com" and Stokes County, on behalf of its Emergency Communications Division, hereafter "Stokes 911".

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, both C-Com and Stokes 911 operate 911 Emergency Communications Systems in their respective Counties; and

WHEREAS, C-Com and Stokes 911 desire to enter into an agreement to develop Backup 911 Centers for both Stokes 911 and C-Com; and

WHEREAS, during times of natural disaster and other unpredictable events, a 911 system may be temporarily disabled and it is crucial to maintain a Backup 911 Communications Center which can be utilized immediately to receive and process 911 emergency calls in the event its primary Emergency Communications Center is disabled; and

WHEREAS, Stokes 911 desires to maintain a Backup 911 Center and recognizes the economic benefits of utilizing C-Com's Communications Center located in Surry County, North Carolina which is Surry County's primary Communications Center; and

WHEREAS, C-Com desires to maintain a Backup 911 Center and recognizes the economic benefits of utilizing Stokes 911's Communications Center located in Stokes County, North Carolina which is Stokes County's primary Communications Center; and

WHEREAS, Stokes 911 desires to establish a Backup 911 Center by co-locating at Surry County's Communications Center to which Surry County and C-Com consent; and

WHEREAS, C-Com desires to establish a Backup 911 Center by co-locating at Stokes County's Communications Center to which Stokes County and Stokes 911 consent.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the terms, conditions and covenants expressed herein, the parties agree as follows:

1. Purpose of Agreement.

- 1.1. The purpose of this MOU is (1) to establish a formal arrangement whereby C-Com makes available to Stokes 911 a Backup 911 Center located in Surry County, North Carolina, for use by Stokes 911 during such times as Stokes 911 may experience failure of its primary Emergency Call Dispatch Center, subject to the terms of this MOU; and (2) to establish a formal arrangement whereby Stokes 911 makes available to C-Com a Backup 911 Center located in Stokes County, North Carolina for use by C-Com during such times as C-Com may experience failure of its primary Emergency Call Dispatch Center, subject to the terms of this MOU.
- 1.2. There may be events within either county area that necessitate relocation to the other County's site for use as an Incident Command Center or for routine practice of back-up procedures. If these scheduled events are to occur, the out-of-County party seeking to use facilities in the other County will provide as much notice to the other party as possible. It is understood that the facility used by the out-of-County party is owned by the other County and all modifications of space must be approved by that County's Facilities Director.

2. Term and Costs.

- 2.1. The out-of-County party will provide, at its cost, any and all hardware, software and any other equipment or service of any kind that is required in order to make the Backup 911 Center compatible with out-of-County party's primary 911 emergency call and dispatch operations. It will be the out-of-County party's sole responsibility to insure and maintain such additional hardware, software and equipment. All technology installations will be coordinated between C-Com, Stokes 911, Stokes County, and Surry County personnel.
- 2.2. Subject to the terms and conditions of this MOU, the term shall commence upon the execution of this MOU and will continue for a period of one year. The agreement shall be automatically extended annually for additional one year terms unless one of the parties delivers to the other a written Notice of Intent to Terminate at least 120 days prior to the expiration of the initial term or any extension. Either party may terminate this agreement upon a breach by the other party. If either party desires to terminate this MOU based upon a breach, it shall deliver a written notice of its intent to Terminate to the other party by registered or certified mail. Termination shall not become effective until 30 days after the receipt of the notice of intent.

3. Responsibilities of C-Com and Surry County -- Surry County 911 Center

- 3.1. C-Com agrees to make its Surry County 911 Center available to Stokes 911, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, to man and operate as its Backup 911 Center in the event of failure of Stokes 911's primary 911 Emergency Call and Dispatch Center.
 - 3.2. C-Com agrees to maintain its Surry County 911 Center and to keep it operational, functional and as technologically up-to-date as is reasonable.
 - 3.3. C-Com shall provide key cards or other means of access to the Surry County 911 Center to Stokes 911 personnel so that Stokes 911 personnel have access to the facility at all times. Stokes 911 is responsible for maintaining current ID's for their personnel, and notifying Surry County of any changes of employee status.
4. Responsibilities of Stokes 911 – Surry County 911 Center
- 4.1. Stokes 911 shall give to C-Com Director as much advanced notice as is practical under the then-existing circumstances of its need and intent to utilize the Backup 911 Center at Surry County's facility.
 - 4.2. Stokes 911 will provide, at its expense, any and all hardware, software, and any equipment or service of any kind that is required in order to make its Backup 911 Center compatible with C-Com's primary 911 emergency call and dispatch operations. It will also be Stokes 911's sole responsibility to insure and maintain such additional hardware, software and equipment.
 - 4.3. Stokes 911 will also be responsible for additional network requirements for the Surry County facility, including monthly subscription fees.
 - 4.4. Stokes 911 shall insure that its operations, hardware, software and equipment do not in any way interfere with C-Com's 911 emergency communications operations.
5. Responsibilities of Stokes 911 and Stokes County – Stokes County 911 Center
- 5.1. Stokes 911 agrees to make its Stokes County 911 Center available to C-Com 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, to man and operate as its Backup 911 Center in the event of failure of C-Com's primary 911 Emergency Call and Dispatch Center.
 - 5.2. Stokes 911 agrees to maintain its Stokes County 911 Center and to keep it operational, functional and as technologically up-to-date as is reasonable.
 - 5.3. Stokes 911 shall provide key cards or other means of access to the Stokes County 911 Center to C-Com personnel so that C-Com personnel have access to the facility at all times. C-Com is responsible for maintaining current ID's for their personnel, and notifying Stokes County of any changes of employee status.

6. Responsibilities of C-Com – Stokes County 911 Center

- 6.1. C-Com shall give to Stokes 911 Director as much advanced notice as is practical under the then-existing circumstances of its need and intent to utilize the Backup 911 Center at Stokes County's facility.
- 6.2. C-Com will provide, at its expense, any and all hardware, software, and any equipment or service of any kind that is required in order to make its Backup 911 Center compatible with Stokes 911's primary 911 emergency call and dispatch operations. It will also be C-Com's sole responsibility to insure and maintain such additional hardware, software and equipment.
- 6.3. C-Com will also be responsible for additional network requirements for the Stokes County facility, including monthly subscription fees.
- 6.4. C-Com shall insure that its operations, hardware, software and equipment do not in any way interfere with Stokes 911's 911 emergency communications operations.

7. Priority – Surry County 911 Center

- 7.1. The parties acknowledge and agree that in the event that C-Com's 911 Center is needed by both C-Com and Stokes 911 at the same time, the parties shall act in good faith and use best efforts to share the use of the Surry County 911 Center. However, in the event that shared use is, for whatever reason, impossible and not reasonably practical, C-Com shall have priority in the use of the Surry County 911 Center and Stokes 911's need for the Surry County 911 Center must be subordinated thereto.

8. Priority – Stokes County 911 Center

- 8.1. The parties acknowledge and agree that in the event that Stokes 911's 911 Center is needed by both C-Com and Stokes 911 at the same time, the parties shall act in good faith and use best efforts to share the use of the Stokes County 911 Center. However, in the event that shared use is, for whatever reason, impossible and not reasonably practical, Stokes 911 shall have priority in the use of the Stokes County 911 Center and C-Com's need for the Stokes County 911 Center must be subordinated thereto.

9. Funding for expansion or Change of Use – Surry County 911 Center

- 9.1. Should additional space become available in the Surry County facility, Surry County's contribution to any upgrade will be limited to the contribution of square footage and the loss of utility of the space.
- 9.2. All up-fitting will be done in a professional and competent manner following written approval from Surry County's Facilities Director and in accordance with North Carolina building, electrical, mechanical and plumbing code.

- 9.3. Modification of use will also require applicable permits from Surry County.
- 9.4. Any and all modifications will be done in concert with Surry County's Facilities Director or designee to avoid unnecessary hardship on Surry County operations maintained at the Dobson facility.
10. Funding for expansion or Change of Use – Stokes County 911 Center
 - 10.1. Should additional space become available in the Stokes County facility, Stokes County's contribution to any upgrade will be limited to the contribution of square footage and the loss of utility of the space.
 - 10.2. All up-fitting will be done in a professional and competent manner following written approval from Stokes County's Facilities Director and in accordance with North Carolina building, electrical, mechanical and plumbing code.
 - 10.3. Modification of use will also require applicable permits from Stokes County.
 - 10.4. Any and all modifications will be done in concert with Stokes County's Facilities Director or designee to avoid unnecessary hardship on Stokes County operations maintained at the Stokes County facility.
11. Amendment. This MOU may not be modified or amended except by subsequent written modification approved and authorized by the governing boards of each party and signed by an authorized representative of each party.
12. Cost Sharing. C-Com and Stokes 911 agree to cost sharing of facility space in accordance with an Addendum attached hereto which may be periodically updated by mutual agreement of C-Com and Stokes 911. Each updated Addendum will be signed and dated and shall supersede earlier versions of the Addendum.
13. Entire Agreement. This MOU contains the entire agreement between the parties, and no statements, oral or written, made by either party or agent of either party that is not contained in this written MOU shall be valid or binding.
14. Remedies. This MOU shall be enforceable by each party by way of all remedies available at law or in equity. Failure or delay to exercise any right, remedy or privilege hereunder shall not operate as a waiver of such right, remedy or privilege, nor prevent subsequent enforcement.
15. Duplicate Originals. This agreement shall be executed by the parties in duplicate originals, one to be retained by each party.
16. Applicable Law. The parties agree that this MOU is subject to the jurisdiction of the laws of the State of North Carolina. The parties will comply with bid restrictions, if any, and applicable laws, including NCGS Section 141-129(j) regarding e-verify.

17. Indemnity. Each party agrees to be solely responsible for its own negligent acts or omissions and willful misconduct, and those of its employees, agents and subcontractors in the performance of services provided hereunder.

Each party will indemnify and hold harmless the other and agrees to be liable for any and all claims, costs, demands, causes of action (including reasonable attorney fees, if any), losses or damages that may be made against it as a result of any negligent act or omission or willful misconduct on the part of its agents and/or employees, to the extent allowed by law.

18. Insurance. Both parties will provide a Certificate of Insurance to the other naming them and their respective County as Additional Insureds at the time of the signing of this MOU that shall have limits as follows: not less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per occurrence. The Certificate of Insurance shall be non-cancellable without 30 days written notice to the other party.

19. Notices. All notices pursuant to this MOU shall be in writing and delivered personally or mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested, at the address appearing below, but each party may change its address by giving written notice in accordance with this paragraph. Notices delivered personally will be deemed communicated as of actual receipt. Mailed notices will be deemed communicated as of three (3) days after mailing.

If to Surry County:

Chris Knopf, Surry County Manager
118 Hamby Road
Dobson, NC 27017

If to Stokes County:

Richard D. Morris, Stokes County Manager
1014 Main Street
Danbury, NC 27016

If to C-Com:

Surry County Central Communications
Stephanie Conner, Director
PO Box 1280
Dobson, NC 27017

And

Surry County Emergency Services
John Shelton, Director
1218 State Street
Mount Airy, NC 27030

If to Stokes 911:

Stokes County Emergency Communications
Del Hall, Emergency Communications Director

P.O. Box 20
Danbury, NC 27016

20. Contract Language. The inclusion of titles of paragraphs or section headings, capitalization of certain words or phrases, and/or bold face type style of certain words or phrases in this contract are for convenience only and shall not be used to interpret or construe the provisions of this agreement. The terms "contract" and "agreement" and "Memorandum of Understanding" have the same meaning and may be used interchangeably throughout this document. The terms "attachment", "exhibit" and "addendum" have the same meaning and may be used interchangeably through this document.
21. Severability. If for any reason, any provision of this MOU is held unenforceable, then such provision will be modified in writing to reflect the parties' intention. All remaining provisions of this MOU shall remain in full force and effect.
22. Entire Agreement. This MOU, including exhibits and/or attachments, if any, sets forth the entire agreement between the parties. Faxed or electronic versions of this agreement shall have the same legal affect as originals, and all of which when fully executed, shall constitute one and the same instrument. All prior conversations or writings between the parties hereto or their representatives are merged within and extinguished.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.

SIGNATURE PAGES TO FOLLOW

COUNTY OF SURRY, a body politic and corporate

By: _____ (SEAL)
Chris Knopf, Surry County Manager

ATTEST:

Clerk to the Board

This instrument has been pre-audited in the manner required by the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act.

Sarah Bowen, Surry County Finance Officer

COUNTY OF STOKES

By: _____ (SEAL)
Richard D. Morris, Stokes County Manager

ATTEST:

Clerk to the Board

This instrument has been pre-audited in the manner required by the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act.

Stokes County Finance Officer

County Manager Rick Morris commented:

- Have been working this project for about a year
- Started out working with Rockingham County to be our E911 backup
- Ran into carrier issues that would result in exorbitant expenses
- Met with the state and they suggested that we look at using Surry County
- Surry County was also looking for a backup
- Have put together a proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that I feel is a zero risk to the County and this Board
- Surry County will backup Stokes County and Stokes County will backup Surry County
- Requested the proposed MOU be moved to tonight's Action Agenda in order to expedite the approval (Surry County is waiting for Stokes County to approve the proposed MOU before placing it on the Surry County Agenda)
- Need to get back to the state for approval in order to not impact the county's E911 funding reimbursement for the upcoming fiscal year
- Counties without an approved backup will get their funding cut
- County Attorney Browder has approved the MOU
- This turned out to be the best solution for both counties

Chairman Walker opened the floor for discussion.

The Board did not have any issues with the proposed MOU.

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

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

External Posting – Social Services

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding an external positing for a vacant Income Maintenance Caseworker II position which is being requested from DSS Director Stacey Elmes:

- Would first like to amend the request to post a vacant Income Maintenance Caseworker II position to post two (2) vacant Income Maintenance Caseworker II positions
- DSS Director Elmes reported another resignation today
- Internal application deadline for the first vacant position ended March 23rd
- With no applications, there is no use in posting the second vacant position internal
- This unit is in desperate need to get these positions filled
- Would request to move to the Action Agenda to expedite the hiring process

Chairman Walker opened the floor for discussion.

Chairman Walker questioned what is the pleasure of the Board regarding the disposition of this item being placed on tonight's Action Agenda?

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

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

GENERAL GOVERNMENT - GOVERNING BODY – ACTION AGENDA

Stokes County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council – Fiscal Year 2017-18 Funding Applications

Chairman Walker presented the following Stokes County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council's Funding Applications for Fiscal Year 2017-18 which were presented at the March 13th meeting for consideration:

- **Surry/Stokes Friends of Youth**
 - JCPC Legislative Recommended Allocation for FY 2017-18 = \$77,526
 - County Match = \$23,258
- **Stokes Scan**
 - JCPC Legislative Recommended Allocation for FY 2017-18 = \$21,940
 - County Match = \$6,582
- **Children's Center**
 - JCPC Legislative Recommended Allocation for FY 2017-18 = \$11,084
 - County Match = \$4,326
- **Insight**
 - JCPC Legislative Recommended Allocation for FY 2017-18 = \$25,460
 - County Match = \$7,638

Vice Chairman Lankford moved to approve the following Stokes County Juvenile

Crime Prevention Council's recommendation for Funding Applications for FY 2017-18:

- **Surry/Stokes Friends of Youth**
 - JCPC Legislative Recommended Allocation for FY 2017-18 = \$77,526
 - County Match = \$23,258
- **Stokes Scan**
 - JCPC Legislative Recommended Allocation for FY 2017-18 = \$21,940
 - County Match = \$6,582
- **Children's Center**
 - JCPC Legislative Recommended Allocation for FY 2017-18 = \$11,084
 - County Match = \$4,326
- **Insight**
 - JCPC Legislative Recommended Allocation for FY 2017-18 = \$25,460
 - County Match = \$7,638

Commissioner Jones seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOE) between Surry County and Stokes County for E911 Backup Services

Chairman Walker entertained a motion regarding the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between Surry County and Stokes County for E911 Backup Services which was presented at tonight's meeting.

Commissioner Booth moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Surry County and Stokes County for E911 Backup Services. Commissioner Jones seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

External Posting – Social Services

Chairman Walker entertained a motion regarding the external postings for two (2) vacant Income Maintenance Caseworker II positions.

Commissioner Mendenhall moved to approve the external postings for two (2) vacant Income Maintenance Caseworker II positions. Commissioners Jones seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

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

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

Darlene M. Bullins
Clerk to the Board

Jimmy Walker
Chairman