

**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS
STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT
DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA
APRIL 10, 2017**

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met for a regular session in the Commissioners' Chambers of the Ronald Wilson Reagan Memorial Building (Administration Building) located in Danbury, North Carolina on Monday, April 10, 2017, at 1:30 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
County Attorney Tyrone Browder
Finance Director Julia Edwards
DSS Director Stacey Elmes
Tax Administrator Jake Oakley

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

INVOCATION

Chairman Walker asked Commissioner Jones to deliver the invocation.

Commissioner Jones invited those who wished to join in the invocation to please do so.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT-GOVERNING BODY-PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Walker entertained a motion to approve or amend the April 10, 2017

Agenda.

Commissioner Booth moved to approve the April 10th Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Jones seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS – Commissioners/Manager

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

County Manager Morris commented:

- Ribbon cutting for the Pine Hall Community Campus (Petree Property) in Pine Hall is scheduled for Tuesday, April 18th at 11:00 am – funding was donated by Mr. Ron Petree for a community/medical facility for the Pine Hall community
- Governmental offices will be closed Friday, April 14th for Good Friday
- Golden LEAF Foundation announced Friday that, the grant submitted by Forsyth Tech for \$1.5 million for the trades facility was approved
 - Facility will be constructed on the community college campus

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Welcome everyone
- Glad to see the citizen participation and appreciate those coming out today

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Welcome everyone to today's meeting
- Appreciate those attending and taking their time to participate in the government process
- Approximately 500-525 people attended the Farmer Appreciation Day on Thursday, April 6, 2017 – appreciate those who attended

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Would like to thank everyone for coming out to today's meeting
- Glad to see everyone here today
- Appreciate those who have come out today to participate in Stokes County Government

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Ethics for Life "On this rock, I will build my church and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it" (Matthews 16:18)
- Attended the NCACC Risk Management Insurance Pool Meeting – Board of Trustees last week

- Appears that there is some potential for newcomers to join the insurance pool – Worker's Compensation and General/Liability
- Premiums for Worker's Compensation and General Liability will increase by about 2% for Fiscal Year 2017-18
- With our discount of having more than one insurance, the county should not see any increase for this upcoming fiscal year over last year

Commissioner Booth noted that he had read that the NCACC Pool would be starting to replace ambulances involved in accidents on a depreciation basis which could be costly to the County (actual value versus replacement value).

Commissioner Booth questioned Vice Chairman Lankford if the Pool had made any mention of this change.

Vice Chairman Lankford responded:

- Read the same information
- Have not been notified by the Pool
- Will be glad to look into the matter

Chairman Walker commented:

- Glad to see everyone here today
- Want everyone here today to know that this is your government – government of the people
- Attended the District Meeting in Burke County recently
 - One item of interest discussed at the District Meeting, which impacts Stokes County, is House Bill 13
 - House Bill 13 would reinstate a waiver that would not require specific class sizes for K-3 grades
 - The bill passed the House of Representatives, but it has stalled in the Senate
 - If House Bill 13 does not pass, it will definitely cost Stokes County – more teachers and classrooms
 - It will also create some tough decisions for the Board of Education
 - Not too late to call our senator about passing House Bill 13
- Have heard a lot of positive compliments regarding the Farmer Appreciation Day – was unable to attend due to unexpected last minute obligations
- Have a mystery about farming and agriculture – we live in a County where people know how to farm and we have available land to farm; yet we bring vegetables in from thousands and thousands of miles away
 - Hope someday that mystery can be solved and Stokes County can be the farming center for this area

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Walker noted that the Board of Commissioners will hear Public Comments, but will not respond to Public Comments and that each speaker will be allowed three (3) minutes. The following spoke during Public Comments:

Sri Ananda Sarvasri

1060 Tyler Road

Walnut Cove, NC

Re: Happy, Healthy, & Green

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

- Continuing with my proposal to make Stokes County the Happiest, Healthiest, Greenest County in the Nation
- A Practical Solution to the Opioid Epidemic:
 - When you do the numbers, it becomes obvious that we can't solve the opioid problem through any ordinary methods of Enforcement, Treatment, or Prevention.
 - According to the CDC, the percentage of people using illicit drugs in 2014 was 10.2%.
 - Using a rough population of 50,000 for Stokes County, we have about 5,000 illicit drug users.
- Enforcement/Incarceration
 - There is no possible way we could imprison 5,000 people for their drug use.
 - If we assume 10% are also dealing, we couldn't even imprison 500 dealers.
 - Where would we put them?
 - To build enough prison cells would cost \$32 million (\$32,000,000).
 - To incarcerate them for 20 years would cost \$500 million (\$500,000,000).
 - And this doesn't cover the social costs, loss of income, loss of tax revenue, potential contributions to society, or the cost to families.
 - According to the Huffington Post, the real cost for incarceration in the US is already at \$1 trillion dollars annually.
 - Plus, it doesn't solve the problem.
 - As soon as you remove one dealer, three more will be there to take his place.
 - As long as you have demand, a supply will come.
 - Enforcement and incarceration are not a solution.
 - It was tried with prohibition.
 - If the new STOP bill has any focus on incarceration, it will be an expensive failure.
 - To stop the supply, we have to stop the demand.
- Treatment
 - What about treatment? Assuming 5,000 users.
 - Could one liaison have any impact at all?
 - How could we treat 5,000 users, and at what cost?
 - Assuming a reasonable client load, we would need 500 counselors.
 - And what success rate does counseling have?
 - The most highly promoted programs, Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous (faith-based programs) have a success rate of about 5% after 13 months.

- A dismal failure.
- So this kind of outpatient counseling could have no real effect in reducing the number of users.
- Inpatient facilities have a higher success rate.
- There has been some talk of adding some new beds to the hospital.
- Where would you find 5,000 beds for an inpatient program?
- Or stretching it out over a year with 4 groups still requires 1,250 beds for three months.
- Most private rehabilitation centers charge \$10,000 per month on average at a minimum (luxury rehab centers cost \$180,000 per month) 30 days is the minimum, but the success rate is higher for 90 days.
- \$5,000 users times \$10,000 per month for three months = \$150 million (\$150,000,000)
- Even at these extreme costs, the relapse rate averages around 50%
- Even expensive treatment is no guarantee for success
- Prevention
 - Let's look at the cost and success rates of prevention programs
 - The most popular program is the D.A.R.E program
 - Unfortunately, this program has not proved successful
 - To quote: "Scientific evaluation studies have consistently shown that D.A.R.E is ineffective in reducing the use of alcohol and drugs and is sometimes even counterproductive – worse than doing nothing"
 - One study produced alarming results from D.A.R.E – with students showing a 29% increase in drug use
 - Educating students about drugs apparently only created more interest in drugs, or at least produced no deterrent
 - In a very telling study: "...participants filled out a survey on their substance use when they were 10 years old and again when they were 20 years old"
 - Those who completed D.A.R.E were no less likely to smoke cannabis or tobacco, drink alcohol, use illicit drugs, or succumb to peer pressure than their non-D.A.R.E peers
 - Even more worrisome, those who did participate in the program correlated with a high incident of low self-esteem later in life"
 - Many schools have dropped the D.A.R.E program altogether
 - The D.A.R.E program doesn't work
 - Another case of time and money wasted
 - A more successful approach is being tried which is to focus on life skills and activities that provide a happy, nurturing environment. Iceland is the current leader in this approach
 - By teaching children to focus on positive experiences and helping them develop lifelong skills within nurturing relationships, children learn how to grow into maturity with far greater success
- The Only Practical Approach
 - Scientific studies show that normalizing neurochemistry reduces addiction by 80-95%
 - Is has a proven track record

- The only practical, cost-effective approach to reduce addiction is to turn every affected household into a natural healthcare treatment center using the neurochemistry approach
- Simply train families to treat their own family members at home where they live
- All they need is a training manual
- I have written a training manual for this very purpose
- This is a manual for families, but it is also a training manual for parole officers, police officers, social workers, EMS, medical doctors, and other professionals and caregivers who have been searching for solutions to the crises of addiction, violence, depression, suicide, learning disabilities, bullying, and other behavioral problems that plague our society
- It is easy to train families to administer this program
- It is available for free
- All families in Stokes County could use this manual to work with their own family members who have an addiction
- All we need to do is to promote this manual
- It is theoretically possible that we could eliminate drug use within 90 days if we can get his manual to everyone in Stokes County
- This manual is online, freely available, and can be read in one evening
- The manual is called "The Guide" and is available now at –
<http://RebuildHealth.com/guide>
- Anyone can obtain "The Guide" on line for free

Three minute time limit called.

Ellen Peric

1095 Wheeler Smith Road

Lawsonville, NC

RE: Arts Update

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

- Here today to provide the Board of County Commissioners with an Arts Council Update
- The Stokes County Arts Council announced six (6) scholarship recipients Friday evening during our annual student art show at the Apple Gallery in Danbury – magnificent show
- This year, the impressive artwork spilled over into The Arts Place of Stokes
- Following a program of music by the West Stokes Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of music director, Ms. Lorena Schakel, and a solo alto saxophone performance by Mr. Jacob Shumate, senior at West Stokes High School, the attendees enjoyed refreshments and viewed the exhibit
- Stokes County Arts Council Secretary and Visual Co-Chair Amanda Gordon awarded three (3) scholarships for young aspiring artists, announcing a \$1,250 scholarship for Miss Erin Kye, a \$1,000 scholarship for Miss Tara Schiphof, and a \$750 scholarship for Miss Jessica Bailey Tatum
- Stokes County Arts Director Eddy McGee was proud to offer for the second year, the Ben T. Vernon Community Service Award, aimed at community volunteers, not necessarily those who are pursuing artist careers

- Director McGee said,
 - “Mr. Vernon has been a senior trustee of the Apple Foundation for many, many years
 - His family originally came from the Sandy Ridge community and has supported the Arts Council for many years. He has also helped fund senior special needs and Stokes Partnership for Children, as well as, granted funding for community building renovations in Sandy Ridge, Lawsonville, and Francisco
 - Ben Vernon has been a tremendous supporter of Stokes County, so this award was created in honor of him”
- Director McGee presented the 2017 Ben T. Vernon Community Service Award to three (3) deserving students for their volunteerism in community service projects, as well as, many hours of volunteering with the Stokes County Arts Council
 - Mr. Thomas Carroll received a \$1,000 scholarship
 - Mr. Chase Tedder received a \$1,000 scholarship
 - Miss MaKayla Utt received a \$250 scholarship
- On Saturday, The Arts Place of Stokes held a free event called “Word Up”
 - This event celebrates the spoken word movement and is open to all – it is free
 - Allows an individual to read their own work
 - Your 15 minutes of fame awaits on the Arts Place stage
 - Had approximately 20 attend the first event so the Arts Council will definitely continue to support the new event
- On April 28th, the “Uncorked” painting series will offer two venues:
 - One in King at the Wooden Ladder Art Loft
 - One in Danbury at the Green Heron
 - These events let you paint under the instruction of an artist and take home your very own masterpiece
 - These sell out quickly so sign up now
- Thank you

Chairman Walker expressed appreciation to those who spoke at today’s meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Minutes of March 27, 2017 – Regular Meeting

Special Appropriation & Capital Reserve Fund - Budget Amendment #65

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #65.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
Special Appropriation				
100.4520.491	Stokes County Fire & Rescue Association	<u>\$23,460.00</u>	<u>\$1,536.00</u>	<u>\$24,996.00</u>
	Totals	\$23,460.00	\$1,536.00	\$24,996.00
Capital Reserve Fund				
201.4340.000	Fire Marshal	\$4,454.00	\$(1,536.00)	\$2,918.00
201.9810.000	Transfer to General Fund	<u>\$206,518.00</u>	<u>\$1,536.00</u>	<u>\$208,054.00</u>
	Totals	\$210,972.00	\$00.00	\$210,972.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To transfer funding for water point for Lawsonville Vol. Fire Department.

This will result in a **net increase** of **\$1,536.00** in the expenditures and other financial use to the County's annual budget. To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will increase. These revenues have already been received or are verified they will be received this fiscal year.

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
100.3982.960	Transfer from Capital Reserve	<u>\$206,518.00</u>	<u>\$1,536.00</u>	<u>\$208,054.00</u>
	Totals	\$206,518.00	\$1,536.00	\$208,054.00

Jail - Budget Amendment #66

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #66.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
Jail				
100.4320.000	Salaries & Wages	\$648,565.00	\$2,296.00	\$650,861.00
Contingency				
100.9910.100	Leave Cost	<u>\$64,075.00</u>	<u>\$(2,296.00)</u>	<u>\$61,779.00</u>
	Totals	\$712,640.00	\$00.00	\$712,640.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To transfer funds from Contingency for the payoff of terminated, resigned, retired, dismissed or compensatory time over limit employees for March.

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.

Social Services - Budget Amendment #67

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #67.

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			
100.5310.511	Equipment	<u>\$00.00</u>	<u>\$30,000.00</u>	<u>\$30,000.00</u>
	Totals	\$00.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To appropriate funding for Maintenance of Effort (MOE) monies. State has approved MOE funding for the purchase of computers, printers/equipment purchase

This will result in a **net increase** of **\$30,000.00** in the expenditures and other financial use to the County's annual budget. To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will increase. These revenues have already been received or are verified they will be received this fiscal year.

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
100.3301.202	Social Services County Federal	<u>\$2,351,993.00</u>	<u>\$30,000.00</u>	<u>\$2,381,933.00</u>
	Totals	\$2,351,933.00	\$30,000.00	\$2,381,933.00

Medical Examiner - Budget Amendment #68

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #68.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
	Medical Examiner			
100.4360.000	Medical Examiner	<u>\$45,000.00</u>	<u>\$30,000.00</u>	<u>\$75,000.00</u>
	Totals	\$45,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$75,000.00
	Contingency			
100.9910.000	Contingency	<u>\$65,725.00</u>	<u>\$(30,000.00)</u>	<u>\$35,725.00</u>
	Totals	\$65,725.00	\$(30,000.00)	\$35,725.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To transfer funds from Contingency to Medical Examiner Line Item. This is due to autopsies that the State is requiring for drug overdoses. As of March 31, 2017, the County has paid \$43,750 for autopsies and \$9,000 for medical examiners. These invoices come directly from the State Medical Examiners' Office.

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.

Proposed Proclamation – Children's Mental Health Awareness Day – May 11, 2017

Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners Darlene Bullins, at the request of the Stokes Collaborative, presented the following Proclamation – Children's Mental Health Awareness Day – May 11, 2017 for the Board's review and consideration at the April 10th meeting:

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY

May 11, 2017

**BY THE COUNTY OF COMMISSIONERS - STOKES COUNTY
A PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, to promote awareness of positive mental health, well-being and development for all children, youth and young adults ages birth through 26 years in **STOKES COUNTY**, North Carolina.

WHEREAS, the leadership in **STOKES COUNTY**, North Carolina recognizes that mental health needs and treatment be on par with physical needs and treatment.

WHEREAS, families shall not feel stigma and shame to seek treatment for their children and youth and be able to discuss openly their need for help without public retribution.

WHEREAS, Children's Mental Health promotion needs to be universal and available to everyone. Education on the identification and use of child strengths to support success and promote mental health as well as anti-stigma, inclusion and social skills education should be available to all citizens of **STOKES COUNTY**, North Carolina

WHEREAS, available school based mental health programs and Positive Behavior, Interventions and Supports should be considered a best practice, and be encouraged to be implemented in every **STOKES COUNTY** public school. This should include early infant mental health, interventions and trauma knowledge.

WHEREAS, children are recognized for having unique needs for recovery of mental health, emotional,
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behavioral and substance abuse issues and not being combined with the adult mental health population for treatment.

WHEREAS, effective mental health treatment services to strengthen families, youth leadership development and family partner/peer supports results in children and youth overcoming trauma, becoming successful and contributing **STOKES COUNTY** citizens in a safe environment in their homes, schools and communities.

WHEREAS, the **COUNTY COMMISSIONERS of STOKES COUNTY**, and the families who have children, youth and young adults struggling with emotional and behavioral health issues join to recognize **Children's Mental Health Awareness Day** and safety.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of County Commissioners of Stokes County do hereby proclaim May 11, 2017, "**CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY**" in Stokes County, North Carolina, and commend its observance to our citizens.

Signed this 10th day of April, 2017.

STOKES COUNTY

Jimmy Walker, Chairman

Ernest Lankford, Vice Chairman

James D. Booth, Commissioner

Ronda Jones, Commissioner

Ronnie Mendenhall, Commissioner

Attest:

Darlene Bullins, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

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

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – INFORMATION AGENDA

LifeBrite Community Hospital of Stokes – Quarterly Update

County Manager Rick Morris introduced Administrator Pam Tillman and Attorney Adam Walters, LifeBrite Community Hospital of Stokes, who were in attendance for today's meeting to present the Quarterly Report.

County Manager Morris commented:

- Per the amendment to the Lease, LifeBrite will make quarterly reports to the Board of County Commissioners

- This is the first quarterly report since LifeBrite took over the hospital operation in January 2017

Attorney Adam Walters presented the following information:

- Here today representing LifeBrite Community Hospital of Stokes
- Reiterated what County Manager Morris noted about the amendment to the lease did include quarterly reports along with biannual financial reports
- Want to mention the outstanding job Administrator Pam Tillman has done during the transition
- The hospital obtained the lease on January 31st and patient care went off without a hitch thanks in large part to Pam and her staff – patient care is the most important thing
- Don't have any update on finances because of payment issues
- We have rendered a lot of care and have not collected any money – hard to say at this point what the revenue would be for the last quarter
- There were some undisclosed issues from the seller that have held up Medicare
- Medicare enrolled LifeBrite as a new provider approximately a week ago
- Still waiting for Medicaid to enroll LifeBrite as a payer
- Patients are still being seen
- BCBS, which is the largest commercial payer, hasn't been the most cooperative payer
- Have complied with all of BCBS requests, things should hopefully be worked out shortly
- All other payers have been transitioned over to LifeBrite
- Expect full billing to start very soon
- No services have been eliminated
- Currently upgrading the clinical lab – very close to completion
- Working on upgrading and expanding the surgical center
- Based on preliminary studies, there might be a need for Stokes County residents to have surgeries done in Stokes County instead of going out of the county
- Will be happy to answer any questions

Administrator Pam Tillman commented:

- Some may think we should have made more progress in the past two months, but we have been working diligently to get all the providers online
- LifeBrite has engaged several consultants to get things done
- Have received good support from LifeBrite – very positive experience
- Anything needed, LifeBrite has found a way to come thru – have overcome a lot of obstacles during the last two months
- I have been waiting two weeks to get a call back from Medicaid, Adam was able to get a call back today in about 30 minutes from his email
- Very positive working relationship

Chairman Walker opened the floor for discussion/questions/comments.

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Confirmed with Administrator Tillman that the lab renovations have been completed along with some new equipment and training and should be ready for new testing within a few weeks
- Confirmed with Administrator Tillman that the hospital will still be using LabCorp for certain tests
- Confirmed with Attorney Walters that lab services will continue to grow down the road
- Confirmed with Attorney Walters that there has been a lot of red tape in dealing with BCBS
- Don't understand why there is so many issues with BCBS – county staff has BCBS along with a lot of citizens throughout the county

Administrator Tillman responded:

- BCBS is working with hospital staff to retro process claims from January 31st to March 26th – BCBS is requesting claims be converted to a spreadsheet
- Just some of the hurdles that you have to go through

Commissioner Booth continued:

- Confirmed with Administrator Tillman that South Data is helping to get all the servers converted
- Confirmed with Administrator Tillman that billing will be done with a group (associated with LifeBrite) in Miami, but hospital staff will be working with patients if there are any issues with the bill

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Confirmed with Attorney Walters that conversations regarding the surgery center will began this week

Attorney Walters responded:

- The first step is doing your due diligence with providers which will determine whether to go to the next step
- If all this comes together, this could happen in approximately six (6) months

Vice Chairman Lankford continued:

- At one time, there was a lot of surgeries being done here in Stokes County
- Feel that is one of the support areas of the hospital – inpatient/outpatient
- I am sure the people of Stokes County would rather be here in the county instead of having to go outside the county to a large hospital facility
- Applaud you for looking into this so quickly

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Appreciate the due diligence being done
- My questions were dealing with the surgical aspect which have been answered

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Sounds like you are getting your ducks in a row
- Looks and sounds very hopeful
- Keeping my fingers crossed that everything is successful

Chairman Walker commented:

- Seems like things are looking better
- Confirmed with Administrator Tillman that the hospital has four (4) operating room licenses
- Confirmed with Administrator Tillman that right now the two (2) in King are the only ones being used
- Confirmed with Administrator Tillman that due diligence starting this week will determine what happens next
- Confirmed with Attorney Walters that due diligence and evaluation are being done regarding the psychiatric beds

Attorney Walters responded:

- Unfortunately, Administrator Tillman and her staff have been so tied up with provider/payer issues that they have not been able to focus on geriatric psych issues

Chairman Walker continued:

- With the possible increase of surgeries, what affect would that have on the possible opening of the emergency room in King?

Attorney Walters responded:

- Do not think one impacts the other
- Both are two separate issues
- Surgical expansion would be adding new surgical equipment

Chairman Walker continued:

- Are you about where you would have hoped to be right now with the hurdles you have come up against?
- Where do you feel you are currently at?

Attorney Walters responded:

- As I mentioned earlier – the first concern is patient care which went as good as it could have
- Operationally, feel the hospital is on track
- Disappointed with the roadblocks with the providers
- Those roadblocks have not interfered with patient care
- With that uncertainty, LifeBrite is having to fund out of reserve these payer's care which throws roadblocks that slow down initiatives
- Would say the payer issue is the one most disappointed in, but have to keep in mind that there is only so much you can control

Chairman Walker continued:

- Confirmed with Attorney Walter that LifeBrite does have adequate reserve until the payer issues are worked out
- Confirmed with Manager Morris that Home Health has been sold to someone who already has an agency within the County
- Find it very encouraging with the positive comments being made about LifeBrite being in the County
- Commend LifeBrite for the efforts being made

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Confirmed with Administrator Tillman that LifeBrite currently has staff and contracted providers
- Confirmed with Administrator Tillman that LifeBrite has not hired any new providers yet; working on getting the payer issues resolved
- Confirmed with Administrator Tillman that measures are in place if providers do not work out
- Confirmed with Administrator Tillman that surgeries are the only thing being performed at the JRJones facility and that the urgent care is still in place

Chairman Walker expressed appreciation to Attorney Walters and Administrator Tillman for the quarterly update.

Piedmont Triad Regional Council – Housing Update

County Manager Rick Morris introduced Regional Housing Director Michael Blair, Piedmont Triad Regional Council (PRTC), who was in attendance to present the Housing Update.

Director Michael Blair presented the following powerpoint presentation:

- Would like to congratulate the County on receiving the Golden LEAF Grant
- PTRC Development Corporation was awarded \$1 million from Golden LEAF for the 12-county region for small business loans
- Appreciate Stokes County allowing the PTRC to handle the 2013 Housing Grant which was the first grant done by PTRC which has allowed us to go into nine other counties

PTRC Housing Programs

- Established in 1968
- Reformed July 2011
- 72 members
- Approximately 100 staff
- 1.6 million citizens
- \$31 million budget
 - Housing is \$6.5 million
 - Weatherization is \$4 million (not done in Stokes County)

Member Services

- Bring together regional leaders to form cooperative partnerships of mutual benefit
 - Executive committee
 - Board of Delegates
 - Managers' Meetings
 - Directors' Meetings
- Programs and Services
 - Directories & Resources
 - Facilitation & Training
 - On-Call Assistance
 - Regional Data Center

PTRC Program Areas

- Area Agency on Aging
- Criminal Justice
- Economic Development
- Housing
- Weatherization (not done in Stokes County)
- Management Services
- Workforce Development
- Planning

Regional Housing Programs

- PTRC Regional Housing Programs
 - Section 8 Housing Vouchers
 - Serving approximately 800 eligible households in Surry, Yadkin, Davie, and Stokes Counties
 - Approximately 188 Vouchers are in Stokes County
 - Surry Housing Consortium
 - Serves Surry, Yadkin, Davie, and Stokes Counties – Affordable housing rehabilitation and development
- PTRC Housing – Rehabilitation Programs by County
 - Randolph County
 - ESFRLP 16
 - Rockingham County
 - SFRLP 15
 - Surry County
 - SFRRLP 15 and Urgent Repair
 - Davie County
 - ESFRLP 16
 - Stokes County
 - ESFRLP 16
 - Caswell County
 - ESFRLP 16
 - Alamance County
 - SFRLP 15 and Urgent Repair
 - Guilford and Davidson Counties
 - ESFRLP 17

Regional Rehabilitation

- Common issues
 - Roof
 - Plumbing
 - Accessibility – Bathroom, ramps
 - Electric
 - Windows and doors
 - Heating and air
 - Old septic and wells
 - Accumulated hazardous waste - junked vehicles, containers, mobile homes, etc.
- Funding Limitations
 - NCHFA ESFR Grants limited to \$25,000 per house
 - 2013 SFR grant in Stokes County was \$45,000 per house
 - Funded for three (3) houses, actually did nine (9)
 - Funded for \$170,000, actually received funding for over \$500,000
 - Exceptions in the 7 out of 12 PTRC Counties that are members of HOME Program Consortia which includes Stokes County
 - Try to buy supplies and use local contractors – economic development
 - Current ESFRLP16 Grant is just getting underway
 - Grant has been approved for five (5), hope to do ten (10) if possible
 - Have selected four (4) houses that are eligible for \$25,000 per unit
 - Surry Consortium can step in at times to add additional funding

Rural Section 8

- Common Housing Quality Standard (HQS) Issues
 - Roof
 - Housekeeping
 - Old mobile homes
 - Very old house
 - Lead
 - Accessibility – bathrooms, ramps
 - Heating and air
 - Underpinning
- How we manage vouchers
 - 775 vouchers (188 vouchers in Stokes County)
 - 800 on the waiting list
 - Preferences:
 - Homeless
 - Veterans
 - Elderly 62+
 - Disability
 - Children under 16

Rural Section 8 -

- Common Tenant Issues
 - Unreported income
 - Household change – unreported
 - Abandoned property without notice

- Difficulty locating available decent housing
- Lack of knowledge of tenant rights
- Failure to notify program when wages increase substantially
- Common Owner Issues
 - Hidden/unreported charges
 - Failure to collect tenant share of rent due
 - Failure to report tenant nonpayment of their portion
 - Failure to report move out in 30 days or less
 - Hiding relationships with tenant
 - Lack of desire to bring units up to a decent standard – have a REHAB Specialist who inspects rough units

Rural Section 8 – Demographics

- Who is served
 - 148 children under 18
 - Average less than age 18 of 10 years
 - Number of family members = 372
 - Female Head of Households = 86%
 - Male Head of Households = 14%
 - Average Head of Households size = 2.03
 - Head of Head of Households couples = 2.0%; the remainder are single
 - White 87%; AA/Black 13%
- Primary Income
 - Social Security = 44%
 - Other Wages = 15%
 - SSI = 25%

Rural Section 9 – Demographics

- Own Business = 1.09%
- Child Support = 8.2%
- AFDC/TANF = 0%
- General Assistance = 1.64%
- Military Pay = 0%
- NonWage = 3.83%
- Pension = .55%
- SSI = 25.14%
- Social Security = 43.72%
- Unemployment = 0%
- Other Wage = 15.30%
- No/Other = .55%

Rural Section 8 – Vouchers

- 188 vouchers in Stokes County – spread all over the county
- Must be inspected each year

Director Blair concluded that he would be happy to answer any questions.

Chairman Walker opened the floor for discussion/questions/comments.

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Confirmed with Director Blair that mobile homes are now available for rehab but must be owned and have good foundations (changed in 2016)

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Very pleased with information provided today
- So many people in need for housing rehab
- Confirmed with Director Blair that their goal is to rehab as many homes as possible and get as much funding as possible for Stokes County residents

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Serve on the Surry Housing Consortium
- Director Blair does a great job keeping the group on focus and on task
- Recent meeting with the Surry Housing Consortium was a very productive meeting

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Very good report
- Glad to see that mobile homes can now be assessed for rehab
- Rural counties have an abundance of mobile homes that need housing rehab

Director Blair commented:

- Approximately 50% of the vouchers in Stokes County are for mobile homes

Chairman Walker commented:

- YVEDDI does the weatherization in Stokes County and receives funding from Duke Power for energy star appliances
- Concerned about how the word gets out relating to this rehab funding that is available
- Confirmed with Director Blair that an advertisement was done in the local paper, county website, housing finance agency at the state, flyers, word of mouth, YMCA, etc.

Director Blair responded:

- It is very hard to get the word out in rural counties such as Stokes
- Lots of time, you have plenty of applications, just don't get that many that can meet the requirements such as clean ownership

Chairman Walker expressed appreciation for the report.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – DISCUSSION AGENDA

Stokes County Board of Education – Use of Undesignated Funding

County Manager Rick Morris noted that Dr. Brad Rice is present for today's meeting to present a funding request from the Stokes County Board of Education.

Dr. Brad Rice, Stokes County School Superintendent, presented the following funding request on behalf of the Stokes County Board of Education: (Executive Director of Operations David Burge and Maintenance Supervisor Ricky Goins were in attendance for the meeting)

- As you know, the Board of County Commissioners appropriated \$1.243 million for the Chestnut Grove Roofing Project
- Would like to take a few moments to explain about the \$1.234 million estimate
- That estimate was determined when a repair was being done and one of the workers fell through the decking, so the thought was that the decking was rotten over the entire roof
- When the repair was done, there was only a small portion of the decking that had to be replaced which saved a substantial amount of funding
- After the Chestnut Grove Roofing Project was complete, the Board of Education requested funding from the remaining funding for additional projects:
 - Pavement at Chestnut Grove Middle School that was damaged during the renovations to the roof
 - The Germanton Elementary School Roofing Project
 - Lawsonville Elementary Light Poles/Lighting
 - Additional funding for North Stokes Baseball Lights/Poles Project
 - South Stokes Baseball Lights/Poles Project
- The Board of County Commissioners allowed the Board of Education to use part of the leftover funding for these additional projects
- The Germanton Roofing Project also came way under budget – saved approximately \$237,759 due to several bidders
- There is a current leftover funding balance of \$403,984.44 from the funding appropriated by the county commissioners for the Chestnut Grove Roofing Project
- Due to health and safety concerns for students, employees, and citizens resulting from the extreme hot temperature in the gyms at North Stokes and South Stokes High Schools, the Stokes County Board of Education has been discussing the need to install air conditioning at these two schools
- Found out when I first got here how hot it really was when I attended a volleyball game in August
- During that same time, PE classes were not using the gym due to the heat – worried about the students' safety
- Even in the middle of the winter during a South Stokes/West Stokes basketball game, would guess it was over 100 degrees – it was miserable – I was there
- In my past experience, at one graduation where there was no air conditioning in the gym, five (5) people had to be transported due to the heat
- I am here today to try to prevent that from happening in Stokes County
- The Board of Education has requested engineering services to be provided, at no cost, by the State Department of Public Instruction (DPI); originally had thought funding for the engineering services would have to come from the County
- DPI is scheduled to look at both projects on April 18th

- We are not here today to put pressure on the Board of County Commissioners; we are here to show you what we are up against
- South Stokes will possibly have to place air conditioning units on the roof due to lack of ground space
- DPI engineering recommendation will not change unless the code requirements change
- The Board of Education wants the County Commissioners to be aware of their focus on these two projects and will provide information from the State Department of Public Instruction as soon as it is completed
- Have had several calls since that South Stokes/West Stokes basketball game
- People were wanting to come before the county commissioners in support of the project
- I asked people to hold off on coming until the Board of Education had a chance to get all their ducks in a row and submit the request to the county commissioners
- There is public support for this project
- The Board of Education is requesting the county commissioners consider using the undesignated funding from the Chestnut Grove Roofing Project, \$403,984.44 for these projects in the 2017-18 school year
- Any additional funds needed for these projects will be requested in the 2017-18 Capital Outlay Budget
- The Capital Outlay Five Year Plan for the school system has been updated and included these two projects for Fiscal Year 2017-18:

Priority Order	SQ. FT.	Estimated Cost	Fiscal Year
Chestnut Grove Middle School			
(1) 1975 Building/Gym 5 Year Capital Plan 2015-2016	71,302	Complete	\$430,346.60
Germanton Elementary School			
(2) 1975 Building/Gym 5 Year Capital Plan 2015-2016	26,020	\$237,759.96	Project Begin 04-01-2017
South Stokes High School			
(3) Media Center/Auditorium 5 Year Capital Plan 2016-2017	16,006	\$150,000.00	2017-2018 Budget Request
(4) "E" Building Classroom 5 Year Capital Plan 2016-2017	11,440	\$175,000.00	2017-2018 Budget Request
Mount Olive Elementary School			
(5) 1978 Building/Gym 5 Year Capital Plan 2017-2018	56,750	\$500,000.00	2018-2019 Budget Request

Pinnacle Elementary School

(6) Classroom Building/Gym 30,307 \$475,000.00 2019-2020 Budget Request
5 Year Capital Plan 2018-2019

South Stokes High School

(7) "A" Building/Wrestling Rm 25,152 \$400,000.00 2019-2020 Budget Request
5 Year Capital Plan 2018-2019

Walnut Cove Elementary School

(8) Entire Building 53,129 \$800,000.00 2020-2021 Budget Request
5 Year Capital Plan 2019-2020

North Stokes High School

(9) Field House 3,500 \$100,000.00 2020-2021 Budget Request
5 Year Capital Plan 2019-2020

Total Estimated Cost \$2,837,759.96

- Will be glad to answer any questions

Chairman Walker opened the floor for discussion/questions/comments.

Chairman Walker commented:

- Confirmed with Executive Director Burge, who was in attendance for the meeting, that he fully supported Dr. Rice's comments

Executive Director Burge responded:

- Would like to reiterate the savings of \$30,000+ by using DPI Engineering Services
- There could be additional electrical work needed by both schools
- DPI Engineering will let us what kind of projects we are looking at for both schools

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Think this would be very good projects for both schools, but we are only a few weeks before receiving the proposed Fiscal Year 2017-18 Budget which will include all the school capital request
- Personally could leave that \$403,984.44 in the discussion when the budget discussions start
- Could not make any decision right now
- Would also need to have the DPI Engineering report along with potential costs for both projects
- Just can't support it at this particular time, but can support the project when the budget discussions start

Dr. Rice responded:

- That is one reason for me being here today
- Want to get this project request on the Board's radar

- Board of Education is committed to requesting this funding when formal capital requests are made for the Fiscal Year 2017-18
- Couldn't probably use the funding within the next six weeks
- Just want it known that this project is a priority for the Board of Education

Commissioner Jones commented:

- In theory, I am all for it but don't know what the realities are right now
- Do know that the summers are getting warmer – not sure if you believe in global warming, but do know that it is happening
- The safety of these kids is paramount, will have to see
- Don't have much recreation and places for people to go in the county
- These two gyms are important to the citizens of Stokes County – not just to athletes, but also spectators
- Would certainly like to see it happen if possible

Commissioner Booth commented:

- I also feel this is a budgetary thing for the Fiscal Year 2017-18 as mentioned by Vice Chairman Lankford
- Need to see what the priorities are
- Not sure about using the undesignated funding, the original allocation of \$1.2 million was for a roof at Chestnut Grove
- I am still not clear how the estimate was so far off for the Chestnut Grove Roofing Project and now with Germanton Roofing Project
- When we do a project, our employee brings the bid and we know what we are dealing with up front – we don't have leftover funding as it was with the Chestnut Grove Project
- From my point of view, monies came from a fund that I did not think should be touched and not sure it should be touched now
- My thoughts were that any unused amount of funding would go back into that fund
- There is a designated funding source for that leftover funding
- This request is a budgetary issue
- We have to look at the priorities and see where everything is at once we receive the school's request

Director Burge requested to respond to Commissioner Booth's comments.

Chairman Walker allowed Director Burge to respond.

Director Burge responded:

- Can understand your concerns regarding the difference in the estimated amount and the actual amount of the Chestnut Grove Roofing Project
- When we came to request the funding for the Chestnut Grove Roofing Project, we requested the worst scenario
- According to the roof contractor who actually stepped through the decking, the amount projected was a worst case scenario – replacing the entire decking over the entire roof

- Did not know the entire deck would not have to be replaced until the project was underway
- Much rather come and ask for the worst case scenario than to get into the project and have to come back for several hundred thousand dollars more

Commissioner Booth responded:

- When you went out for a bid, why did the contractor not know what he was bidding on?

Director Burge responded:

- At the time of the request, there had not been any formal bid
- By law, we can't go out for bid unless the funding is allocated

Commissioner Booth responded:

- Hard to allocate funding when you don't know what the bid is going to be
- Especially when the bid is 200% over what the actual cost was
- Lot of funding allocated – just floating out there
- It is not undesignated to me, it came from a specific fund

Director Burge responded:

- Until you have awarded a project and the project is started, especially when it is a roof, you don't know what you really have until that entire roof is taken off
- There can always be unknowns – such as decking – especially with a roofing project

Commissioner Booth questioned if that bidding requirement is just for schools or all local government?

Director Burge responded:

- My understanding is it is all bids

Commissioner Booth responded:

- Understand that, but in this case, it was not undesignated funding, it came from a specific fund

Director Burge concluded that none of the leftover funding had been used without Board of County Commissioners' approval.

Dr. Rice commented:

- Just want to reiterate that the estimated cost for the Chestnut Grove Roofing Project was to replace all the decking
- It was not until the project was started that we found out that only a small portion of the decking had to be replaced which saved the county a tremendous amount of money

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Glad to see DPI coming in on the front of the project
- This way, will know what is actually needed for the entire project

Dr. Rice commented:

- Engineering services will help design the parameters for contractors to bid on
- They can also provide estimated costs

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Reviewed the roofing review provided to the Board
- See there are several roofing projects still on the list
- Roofs are very important to keep the schools intact

Dr. Rice responded:

- Mount Olive Elementary School Roofing Project is the next big roofing project estimated at \$500,000
- We are at a place that we feel we can make it until those bonds are paid off which should free up some additional funding

Commissioner Booth responded:

- All those priorities will have to be looked at during the budget process
- When the bond debt is paid, should free up funding for some of these other projects
- Could possibly even look at borrowing additional monies

Dr. Rice responded:

- Reiterated that the Mount Olive Elementary School Roofing project is planned for when the bonds are paid off – freeing up additional funding

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Do have quite a bit of information about these projects from being the former superintendent
- Going to address this from two ways
- Was the principal at North Stokes for seven (7) years
- Can say without any doubt, there were times when the temperature outside was 95 degrees and we would have a volleyball game going on inside; left many games from North Stokes soaking wet
- Does get extremely hot in both gyms – I understand that completely
- Also was part of the group with Director Burge and Supervisor Goins (know it changes when needs are met) that developed the first five-year capital plan while serving as the superintendent
- Looking at FY 2017-18 which is year three (3) of the five year capital plan
 - Priorities
 - #1 - Emergencies – unknown system wide - \$50,000
 - #2 - Roof 1978 Building/gym at Mount Olive Elementary School to prevent further damage to facility – estimated \$710,000
 - #3 - Repair awnings and overhangs - Mount Olive – estimated \$10,000

- #4 - New construction and renovation at Sandy Ridge – classroom additions to eliminate mobile units – estimated \$3,696,000
- #5 – Air conditioning for gyms at North and South High Schools
- Some items may have been taken care of since my departure
- Questioned Dr. Rice if the air conditioning at the two high schools has taken priority over the Mount Olive roof ?

Dr. Rice responded:

- The Mount Olive roofing situation is needed, but stable
- Project at Mount Olive could come with needing a large amount funding
- In addition to the priorities, also comes fitting in the puzzle pieces of trying to figure out what amount of funding may be available to fix what projects when
- Since this was a project for FY 2017-18, we felt there might be available funding for this project

Chairman Walker commented:

- As I listened to Commissioner Mendenhall's list of priorities when the first plan was developed, it seems there has been a shift in the priorities
- Questioned Dr. Rice if there was any information regarding how the shift of project occurred?

Dr. Rice responded:

- Confirmed with Commissioner Mendenhall that the listing presented was done in FY 2015-16
- Germanton Roof was on that list and is now underway
- Things have moved around
- Things do change
- Roofs are stable right now
- In my opinion, citizens/students/staff are suffering in a gym that has no air conditioning
- There is also a major concern with safety
- The people who watched the South Stokes/West Stokes basketball game watched a lot of kids on the floor because of the humidity problem
- Air conditioning would eliminate the humidity problem
- Looking at air conditioning issue as a safety problem
- Roofs are stable, but will still need to be repaired down the road
- Trying to factor in the time when the debt service payment will come off
- Truly believe we can make it with roofs until the debt service payment comes off

Chairman Walker commented:

- Sensing from the Board of County Commissioners that the need is well recognized
- It is just a matter of how to deal with this
- Would like to ask Dr. Rice what is needed from this Board today?

Dr. Rice responded:

- If you want to move the request to today's Action Agenda, that would be great, but there was no expectation of that action today
- Today was more of an informational meeting – provide the Board of County Commissioners with what the Board of Education is thinking
- Will be coming with a formal budget request in a few weeks
- Just beginning discussion

Chairman Walker requested the pleasure of the Board of Commissioners?

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Following up on Commissioner Mendenhall's comments regarding how hot it is in the gyms
- Was in the first graduating class at North Stokes High School and graduated in the gym and remembered no issues
- Think there were several at last year's graduation, which was outside, that also had to have medical treatment

Director Rice responded:

- Agree with Commissioner Booth, people were tougher back then
- Now most of us are all sitting in air conditioning houses, working in air conditioning and our bodies are not conditioned for the heat like they were 50 years ago

Chairman Walker confirmed with Dr. Rice that this item could be presented with the Board of Education FY 2017-18 budget request and still not have a timing issue.

The Board unanimously agreed this is a budgetary item and should be dealt with the FY 2017-18 budget discussion.

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Served on the Board of Education for several years and used DPI when available for engineering services
- Very pleased to see the school system using those available services again

Dr. Rice responded:

- Understand that there were some bad experiences and delays when dealing with DPI
- Have spoken to other school systems that have recently used DPI and were very pleased with their services
- DPI has changed engineers
- Will continue to try to use DPI services which are free

Presentation of the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) Proposed Resolution

County Manager Rick Morris introduced Assistant Planning Director Elizabeth Jernigan,

Northwest Piedmont Rural Planning Organization, and Transportation Engineer, III Hemal J. Shah, NCDOT, who were present for today's meeting to present the proposed Comprehensive Transportation Plan and Resolution.

County Manager Morris commented:

- NCDOT has a proposed Resolution of Adoption that needs to be considered by the Board of County Commissioners
- Presented the following proposed Resolution to the Board of County Commissioners which can be approved at the April 24th meeting:

**STOKES COUNTY
COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN
RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION**

Upon careful consideration, a motion was made by _____ and seconded by _____, to consider the following resolution and upon being put to a vote, was duly adopted.

WHEREAS, the Town of Walnut Cove, Town of Danbury, Stokes County, Northwest Piedmont Rural Planning Organization, and the Transportation Planning Branch, North Carolina Department of Transportation have actively worked to develop a comprehensive transportation plan for Stokes County; and

WHEREAS, Stokes County and the Department of Transportation are directed by North Carolina General Statutes 136-66.2 to reach agreement for a transportation system that will serve present and anticipated volumes of traffic in and around the Towns and County; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that the proper movement of traffic within and through Stokes County is a highly desirable element of the comprehensive plan for the orderly growth and development of the County; and

WHEREAS, after full study of the plan and the supporting documents presented, and following two public workshops, the Board of County Commissioners feel it to be in the best interest of Stokes County to adopt a plan pursuant to General Statutes 136-66.2;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Stokes County hereby reaffirms and adopts the Comprehensive Transportation Plan map documents as a guide in the development of the County's future transportation system and further recommends adoption of the plan map documents by the North Carolina Board of Transportation.

ADOPTED this the 24th day of April, 2017.

Jimmy Walker, Chairman

Ernest Lankford, Vice Chairman

James D. Booth, Commissioner

Ronda Jones, Commissioner

Ronnie Mendenhall, Commissioner

Attest:

Darlene M. Bullins – Clerk to the Board

Assistant Planning Director Elizabeth Jernigan presented the following comments:

- The Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) is regularly updated
- The last update was approved in 2009
- This is a planning process across the State of North Carolina
- We are not requesting any funding
- Transportation Engineer Hemal J. Shah did most of the work on the CTP
- I serve as a liaison to the communities
- Will be happy to address any questions regarding the public participation process

Transportation Engineer, III Hemal J. Shah presented the following information regarding the CTP:

- Started the planning process for the CTP for Stokes County in January 2016
- As Elizabeth mentioned, the last CTP was approved in 2009
- This plan includes all of Stokes County except for the City of King; their planning process is done by the Winston Salem Metropolitan Planning Organization
- The Stokes County CTP includes the Town of Walnut and the Town of Danbury
- This update to the Stokes County CTP includes Highway Public Transportation & Rail, Bicycle, & the Pedestrian modes
- The last Stokes County CTP did not include Pedestrian
- The following deficiency was identified during the development of the CTP, but remains unaddressed:
 - US 311 (Main Street) is currently near or over capacity from NC 65 to Oldtown Road (SR 1918)
 - By 2045, the section between NC 65 and NC 89 is projected to remain near or over capacity
 - Improvements are needed to relieve congestion on the existing facility such that a minimum of Level of Service (LOS) D can be achieved
 - The CTP Project proposal (STOK00001-H) is to study and implement transportation demand management strategies along this corridor
 - This includes improving First Street/Oldtown Road (SR 1918) as an alternate US 311 truck route and the intersection of US 311 and Oldtown Road to accommodate truck traffic
 - The CTP project proposal is to upgrade First Street/Oldtown Road to 12 ft. lanes with paved shoulders to accommodate truck traffic

- The CTP includes minor widening improvements for 30 facilities - all sections are recommended to have a minimum of 12 ft. lanes with paved shoulders in order to improve mobility, safety and/or to accommodate bicycles
- During the development of the CTP, a public transportation and rail assessment was completed; there are no recommended improvements associated with rail
- Also during the development of the CTP, the stakeholders and Yadkin Valley Economic Development District, Inc. proposed a fixed deviated route transportation service connecting King, Hanging Rock State Park, Danbury and Walnut Cove
 - Potential locations for park-and-ride lots were identified in the Town of Danbury and the Town of Walnut Cove
- During the development of the CTP, there were 35 facilities identified as recommended bicycle routes and will need improvement
 - In accordance with American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, roadways identified as bicycle routes should incorporate the following standards as roadway improvements are made and funding is available:
 - Curb & gutter sections require, at minimum, 5 ft. bike lanes or 14 ft. wide shoulder lanes
 - Shoulder sections require a minimum paved width of 4 ft.
 - All bridges, along the roadways where bike facilities are recommended, shall be equipped with 54 inch high railings
- The Piedmont Triad Regional Council created local trail plans and also maintain a current database of existing trails and planned improvements
 - During the development of the CTP the following facilities were recommended to have multi-use trail accommodations:
 - Scott Branch Creek – alignment along Scott Branch Creek from Seven Island Road in Danbury to Sheppard Mill Road in Danbury
 - Sauratown Trail – proposed trail alignment modified from 2006 Stokes County CTP to follow Sheep Rock Road and NC 8&89 through Danbury
- The Piedmont Triad Regional Council maintains a sidewalk inventory of existing pedestrian facilities and planned improvements
 - Additional sidewalks are recommended for the Town of Danbury and the Town of Walnut Cove
- Will be happy to answer any questions

Chairman Walker opened the floor for discussions/questions/comments.

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- As a member of the PTRC - Transportation Advisory Council (TAC), I have reviewed the recommended CTP for Stokes County
- Long range transportation planning goes out from 25 to 30 years
- Short range transportation planning goes out from 5 to 10 years
- If the funding is not available, the planning recommendations just keeps on being pushed farther
- Everything in the transportation system is based on funding

- Keep on hoping that something will happen with the US 311 corridor which could be as much as 5 years

Planning Director Jernigan added:

- The CTP serves as a planning document
- Every 2 years, there is a statewide transportation prioritization process
- Those projects that have been identified are then given points by the Transportation Technical Council (Planning Director David Sudderth serves as a member) and Transportation Advisory Council (Vice Chairman Lankford serves as a member) before being presented to NCDOT for funding
- Work very closely with NCDOT to identify projects dealing with safety and congestion
- Struggle in rural areas in getting funding for projects
- Working on a statewide taskforce that is charged with trying to identify ways to better improve our chances for getting projects funded

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Appreciate the hard work put into this CTP
- This is a very comprehensive plan
- Totally agree starting with the projects dealing with safety and congestion
- Getting projects done as recommended in the CTP does really help the rural counties' chance for economic growth such as the route transportation service connecting King, Hanging Rock State Park, Danbury and Walnut Cove
- Glad to see the biking and trails included in the CTP
- My first thought was where is the funding coming from
- Guess we need to start small and hope to continue on
- Pleased with the CTP
- Appreciate all the hard work put into this CTP

Planning Director Jernigan added:

- Very fortunate to have such engaged county staff helping to identify these needed projects
- Worked closely with the School Transportation Department, EMS, county and town staff
- Worked with former Health Director Scott Lenhart who administered a survey which had a much higher response rate than a lot of other rural CTPs
- Felt we got great feedback from the community

Commissioner Jones questioned what could this Board do to help move these projects forward at this point?

Planning Director Jernigan responded:

- It is a very formulated process as far as the prioritization process
- When safety issues arise, be sure and communicate those safety issues to the Division Staff; sometimes there is alternate funding that can be obtained

- One thing to try to do is get the ball rolling on a project
- Sometimes some of the smaller projects can be funded

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Very comprehensive plan – very detailed
- Being from the County – identified with all the areas mentioned in the CTP
- Three (3) things came to my mind while reviewing the information:
 - US 311 (Main Street – NC 65 to NC 89)
 - Safety - the proposed improvements may reduce the amount and severity of crashes at these locations by removing the left turn conflicts – page 2
 - Congestion – projected to increase from 12,000 vehicles per day in 2015 to 13,500 vehicles per day in 2045
 - Economic Development – Improvements to safety and congestion can be looked at as a way to develop economic development in the area
- Feel we need to try to do anything we can to move these projects along especially those dealing with safety

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Great comprehensive plan
- Understand this is a long-range plan
- Hope that some of the projects can go to the short range transportation plan
- Feel it is important to work on projects dealing with safety
- Hanging Rock State Park has increased their visitors' count to approximately 650,000 per year
- Understand it increased 15% last year and should increase at least 15% or more this year
- Need to also remember that Vade Mecum has been added to Hanging Rock State Park which is going to increase visitors – an increase in traffic
- Tubing is also increasing which is another increase in traffic
- Confirmed with Engineer Shah that state funding, if possible, would be provided for the park-and-ride lots mentioned in Danbury and Walnut Cove
- Hope the increase of visitors to Hanging Rock was taken into consideration along with Vade Mecum during this planning process

Chairman Walker expressed appreciation for the comprehensive report.

The Board agreed to place the proposed resolution on the April 24th Action Agenda.

Chairman Walker, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the April 24, 2017 Action Agenda.

Social Services Monthly Report

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

April 10, 2017

- Metrics (As of March 2017):
 - Income Maintenance
 - NC FAST – In Compliance
 - WorkFirst – In Compliance
 - 64 open cases
 - \$13,069 in benefits delivered
 - FNS – In Compliance
 - 2,821 open cases
 - 5,913 participants
 - \$638,649 in benefits delivered
 - Adult Medicaid, Family & Children’s Medicaid – In Compliance
 - Medical Assistance
 - 8,197 open cases
 - 9,081 participants
 - Special Assistance:
 - 183 open cases
 - \$77,542 Special Assistance benefits delivered
 - Child Support – In Compliance
 - Serving 1,353 children with collections at \$248,174.49
 - Program Integrity – In Compliance
 - 182 open cases
 - Collected \$12,841.40 with \$1,966.56 of collections retained in the county
 - Child Day Care – In Compliance
 - Numbers pending for March
 - Foster Care
 - Foster Care Services – Needs Improvement
 - 115 children in custody
 - Seven (7) children exited care in March and ten (10) entered care
 - Monitoring twelve (12) children that have been returned to their families
 - Two (2) kids are receiving the 18-21 extended foster care benefits
 - Yellow because of vacancies
 - Foster Care Home Licensing – Needs improvement
 - Currently have 22 licensed foster homes located in Stokes and other counties
 - Working to complete the licensing requirements for seven (7) families that completed MAPP Class in November
 - Currently, MAPP Class is being held with 17 individuals (8 families)
 - This area is green because we are in compliance; however, the need for foster homes in our county continues to be great
 - Adoptions – In Compliance
 - One (1) adoption this month

- Child Protective Services
 - Investigations – In Compliance
 - Received 47 reports involving 54 children
 - There were 27 reports accepted for investigation
 - Seven (7) of these were found in need of services
 - Have 49 active CPS investigations open
 - Offered services in one (1) case
 - Case Management – In Compliance
 - Fourteen (14) open cases
 - Assists to other Counties
 - Five (5) assists
- Adult Services
 - Adult Protective Services – In Compliance
 - Received eighteen (18) reports
 - Six (6) reports were screened in
 - Nine (9) received an offer services visit
 - Guardianship – In Compliance
 - Currently have 27 adult wards
 - SSBG/HCCBG/Payee/Adult Day – In Compliance
 - Twenty (20) open cases
 - Facility Monitoring – In Compliance
 - Monitor six (6) adult care facilities
 - No complaints received this month
 - Family Caregiver Program – In Compliance
 - Fourteen (14) open cases
 - SA IH/MAC – In Compliance
 - Seventy-nine (79) open cases
 - CAP DA – In Compliance
 - Sixty-seven (67) open cases
 - Intake – In Compliance
 - See any individual that comes into the agency needing assistance with anything from housing to utility assistance to other resources
 - Other – In Compliance
 - One (1) unclaimed body
- Supervision (Staff/Supervisor Ratio) - Needs Improvement
 - State standard says one supervisor per five (5) child welfare social workers, so the need still exists for a supervisor position
- Staffing (Years of Service) – In Compliance
 - Five (5) vacancies
- Medicaid Transportation – In Compliance
 - 385 clients served - \$54,457 spent
- Clerical – In Compliance
 - 817 Walk Ins
 - Five (5) Fishing Licenses disbursed

- Miscellaneous
 - April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Chairman Walker opened the floor for discussion/questions/comments.

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Confirmed with Director Elmes that the department currently has 115 foster care children

Commissioner Booth requested an update from Director Elmes on the current staffing.

DSS Director Elmes responded:

- Currently have five (5) vacancies
 - Two (2) Social Worker III – Foster Care Services
 - Two (2) Social Worker II – Adult Services
 - One (1) Income Maintenance Caseworker II
- Just started a new Income Maintenance Caseworker II full time today
- Have several interviews tomorrow for Social Work positions
- Just not getting applications for Social Workers
- Staff members attended a Job Fair at UNC- Chapel Hill last week

Chairman Walker commented:

- In talking with other commissioners across the state at various meetings, they are experiencing some of the same challenges that we are
- It is not just Stokes County, even though we are responsible for Stokes County, we are not alone

Tax Administration Report – March 2017

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following informational data for the

March 2017 Report for the Board's review:

Fiscal Year 2016-17	Budget Amount	Collected Amount	Over Budget	Under Budget
Current 2016 Taxes	\$20,420,409.00	\$20,058,209.14		\$362,199.86
Percentage = 98.23%				
New Schools F-Tech Fund	\$1,317,445.00	\$1,328,450.78	\$(11,005.78)	
Percentage = 100.84%				
Prior Taxes				
County Regular & Motor Vehicles	\$450,000.00	\$414,006.44		\$35,993.56
Percentages = 92.00%				

Business and Personal Property Discovery Report – January, February, & March 2017

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Business and Personal Property Discovery Report for January, February, & March 2017 for the Board's review:

Audit Dates	Number of Accounts	Total Value	Taxes Due
01-01-17-/03-31-17	35	\$ 110,556.00	\$1,078.08

Business and Personal Discoveries Billed for Fiscal Year 2016-17

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Business and Personal Discoveries Billed for Fiscal Year 2016-17 for the Board's review:

Audit Dates	Number of Accounts	Total Value	Taxes Due
07-01-16/06-30-17	554	\$1,272,052.00	\$12,104.35

Garnishments

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Garnishments for January, February, & March 2017 along with the Fiscal Year 2016-17 Totals for the Board's review:

Audit Dates	Number of Accounts	Total Value	Taxes Due
01-01-17-/03-31-17	441	\$106,561.88	\$45,416.83
07-01-16/06-30-17	1,186	\$287,400.95	\$199,423.40

EMS Billings & Collections

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Current and Delinquent EMS Billing for Fiscal Year 2016-17 for the Board's review:

Month	Transports			Medicare/Medicaid	
	Billed	Charged	Collected	Non-Billable*	Other Non-Billable*
Jul-16	287	\$ 190,015.90	\$ 116,548.02	\$ 60,170.24	\$ 34,625.55
Aug-16	332	\$ 218,584.09	\$ 124,271.79	\$ 79,635.48	\$ 186,385.97
Sep-16	371	\$ 246,072.75	\$ 112,786.22	\$ 82,369.59	\$ 2,420.03
Oct-16	409	\$ 274,592.50	\$ 135,569.75	\$ 72,277.19	\$ 1.23
Nov-16	327	\$ 206,644.47	\$ 142,157.35	\$ 74,860.94	\$ 425.00
Dec-16	230	\$ 148,205.18	\$ 106,593.54	\$ 45,322.44	\$ 1,835.10

Jan-17	459	\$ 297,549.05	\$97,884.43	\$	63,449.19	\$	4,307.10
Feb-17	421	\$277,124.20	\$159,669.12	\$	\$81,590.15	\$	2.21
Mar-17	419	\$277,650.80	\$168,546.22	\$	80,176.27	\$	1,930.46
Totals	3,255	\$2,136,438.94	\$1,164,026.44	\$	639,851.52	\$	\$231,932.65

*Non Billable are contractual obligation, amount for which the patient can't be billed

NCVTS Motor Vehicle Billings & Collections – Quarterly Report July 2016-February 2017

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the NCVTS Motor Vehicle Billings & Collections – Quarterly Report July 2016- February 2017 for the Board's review:

Tax Code Jurisdiction	Number of Vehicles	Levy Billed	Interest Paid	Adjustment Made	Billing Cost	NC GAP Billing Collected	Total Collected To Date
King City	3,936	\$142,952.00	\$ 871	\$ (952)	\$ (8,047)	\$ 114	\$ 134,938
King Car Fee	3,687	\$ 18,435	None	\$ (15)	None	\$ 23	\$ 18,443
Walnut Cove Town	805	\$ 23,412	\$ 156	\$ (60)	\$ (1,010)	\$ 29	\$ 22,527
Danbury Town	103	\$ 1,507	\$2	\$ (25)	\$ (73)	None	\$ 1,411
School Tax	34,345	\$ 97,067	\$ 529	\$ (383)	\$ (4,797)	\$ 63	\$ 92,479
King Fire	5,242	\$ 28,613	\$ 162	\$ (111)	\$ (1,418)	\$ 8	\$ 27,254
Rural Hall Fire	996	\$ 5,356	\$ 22	\$ (11)	\$ (263)	\$ 3	\$ 5,107
Walnut Cove Fire	3,685	\$ 18,256	\$ 96	\$ (39)	\$ (894)	\$ 15	\$ 17,434
General County	34,345	\$ 1,504,500	\$ 8,296	\$ (5,941)	\$ (74,366)	\$ 976	\$ 1,433,465
Service Fire	19,681	\$ 96,480	\$ 492	\$ (350)	\$ (4,798)	\$ 66	\$ 91,890
Totals	34,345	\$ 1,936,578	\$ 10,626	\$ (7,887)	\$ (95,666)	\$ 1,297	\$ 1,844,948
				Total	Refunds		\$ (7,986)
							\$ 1,836,962

Cost in the New VTS System is calculated in all areas of billing(staffing, contracting, postage, DMV, software, etc.) by the Department of Revenue and prorated on each taxing district per bill

NC GAP Billing refers to vehicles that were renewed late. This is taxes due on months that the vehicle wasn't tagged

Billing Cost in car fees for the City of King are calculated in the King City Bills

Lowest Cost \$2.55
Billed
(County, School Fund, Service Fire - based on 34,345 cars)
Highest Cost
Billed \$4.35
(County, School Fund, King City - based on 3,936 cars)
Average cost
per bill \$2.78

Tax Administrator Oakley commented:

- There is a new column in the State Motor Vehicle Billing – NC Gap Billing Collected
- This is new – state is now putting a fine on individuals who are late – a small amount of new revenue
- Down the road, this collection rate will not be that great
- These unpaid bills will be garnished and most likely commissioners will receive a lot of complaints
- These regulations are required by the State

Interstate Credit Collections – DataMax

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Interstate Credit Collections –

DataTax for the Board’s review:

NC Debt Set-Off for Property Tax & EMS Accounts

Cumulative Total to Date Collected -NC Debt Setoff **\$277,881.19**

Cumulative Totals

Cumulative Total to Date Collected-Motor Vehicles \$145,843.26

Cumulative Total to Date Collected- Property Taxes \$54,115.85

Cumulative Total to Date Collected - EMS \$424,013.89

Grant Total to Date Collected - All categories \$623,973.00

Releases Less than \$100 – Real and Personal Property

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

Real and Personal Property (March 2017) at the April 10th meeting for the Board’s review:

Releases Less Than	\$100 Real/Personal	Property
Name	Bill Number	Amount
Matthew Manley	6770-2015-2015	\$89.91
	6770-2015-2014	\$95.39
Edward Herman	851505-2016-2016	\$5.66
	851505-2016-2015	\$6.14
	851505-2016-2014	\$6.42
	851505-2016-2013	\$6.91
	851505-2016-2012	\$7.41
	851505-2016-2011	\$7.90
Charlie Scales	6077-2016-2016	\$56.96
Jason J Health	320338-2016-2016	\$60.51
Andrew J Miller	8055-2016-2016	\$43.33

Matthew Scritchfield	10848-2016-2016	<u>\$11.00</u>
Total Amount		\$397.54

Refunds Less than \$100 – Real and Personal Property

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Refunds less than \$100 – Real and Personal Property (March 2017) at the April 10th meeting for the Board's review:

Refunds Less Than Name	\$100 Real/Personal Bill Number	Property Amount
Katherine Duncan	282072-2016-2016	\$5.88
	282072-2015-2015	\$5.72
Jackie Wayne Johnson	7598-2016-2016	\$5.77
	7598-2015-2015	\$5.73
	7598-2014-2014	\$2.55
	7598-2013-2013	\$2.58
	7598-2012-2012	\$2.57
Jason Heath	320338-2015-2015	\$58.73
	320339-2013-2013	\$86.82
	320339-2012-2012	\$59.48
Trina Richelle Taylor	8233-2016-2016	\$33.49
	8233-2015-2015	<u>\$36.14</u>
Total Amount		\$305.46

Refunds More than \$100 – Real and Personal Property

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Refunds more than \$100 – Real and Personal Property (March 2017) at the April 10th meeting for the Board's review with consideration for approval at the April 24th meeting:

Refunds Mores Than Name	\$100 Real/Personal Bill Number	Amount	Reason
MTC Transport Inc	33665774	\$220.10	Vehicle Sold
Jeffrey Speaks	10773364	<u>\$116.24</u>	Vehicle Sold
Total Amount		\$336.34	

Present Use Value Late Application

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Present-Use Value Late Application

(March 2017) at the April 10th meeting for the Board's review with consideration for approval at the April 24th meeting:

- Taxpayer: Bennie Joyce Sizemore
 - Parcel – 697700107762
 - Acreage – 30 acres
 - Reason – Late Delivery
- Taxpayer: Charles M Brewer, Jr.
 - Parcel – 6923012872398 and 692301295437
 - Acreage – 2.85 acres and 5.50 acres
 - Reason – Late Delivery
- Tax Office is recommending approval for both Sizemore and Brewer

Tax Administrator Oakley requested the following be moved to the April 24th Consent

Agenda:

- Refunds More than \$100 – Real and Personal Property
- Present-Use Value Late Application

Chairman Walker opened the floor for discussions/questions/comments.

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Confirmed with Tax Administrator Oakley that the department, through March has collected 98.23% of the budgeted amount
- Noticed the dog collection is down to 84.71%

Tax Administrator Oakley responded:

- Department has been working on dog fee collections
- Normally runs lower than the ad valorem collections
- Have issued a couple of garnishments regarding dog fees

Chairman Walker, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the following on the April 24th Consent Agenda:

- Refunds More than \$100 – Real and Personal Property
- Present-Use Value Late Application

Tax Administrator Oakley reminded the Board members of the following E&R scheduled meetings:

- Wednesday, April 12, 2017 – 1:00 pm
- Monday, April 17, 2017 – 5:00 pm

Tax Administrator Oakley noted that the advertisement for unpaid 2016 taxes will be published in this week's Stokes News.

Board of E& R Meeting

Chairman Walker noted that Commissioner James Booth would be excused from the E&R Meeting on Wednesday, April 12, 2017.

Feed Stokes – Request for Funding

Commissioner Ronda Jones, who requested the item be placed on today's Agenda turned the floor over to Zollie Smith who had requested funding for Feed Stokes.

Mr. Zollie Smith presented the following comments:

- Just want to tell the Board of County Commissioners of something very positive in Stokes County
- Feed Stokes is a group of individuals who put on an event the second Saturday of March each year; this is the 8th year for the event
- Started out the event around the City of King – for the first five (5) years, the run was always in the city limits of King
 - City of King bought into the event from the very beginning
 - They handle the police, insurance, etc.
- The event has grown to other parts of the County
- Participants are charged a fee to participate
- With help from the King Rotary, Walnut Cove Rotary, local Boy Scouts, different church and community groups, we sponsored a half marathon and 5k race with the proceeds being divided between East Stokes Outreach, King Outreach, and North Stokes Food Pantry
- With the half marathon, this takes us outside the city limits of King
- During the past 8 years, we have raised and donated over \$40,000
- This year's event raised enough funding to provide each Outreach and Pantry \$4,000 for each agency
- This year's event had 287 participants, 41% were from outside of Stokes County and from 5 different states in addition to North Carolina
- Several years ago started a Jock Lloyd Challenge with the schools – school with the most participation gets trophy
 - It is based on percentage of school's population which allows the smaller schools to be competitive
 - Meadowbrook has won the challenge all three (3) years
- The funding raised has a positive economic impact on our area
- Feed Stokes is requesting funding from Stokes County in order to help us to continue to grow

- Would like to publicize the event through the county website, economic development, and any other area the commissioners and staff think would be helpful
- With this event continuing to grow, we decided to purchase one-day event insurance
- We hire deputies from the Sheriff's Department to cover intersections outside the city limits of King
- Feed Stokes is requesting \$1,000 to cover the cost of paying Sheriff Deputies who work the intersections and to also cover the cost of event insurance that the half marathon has led to
- There are not many half marathons in the area – need volunteers
- Had a lot of young students and church groups provide numerous volunteers
- Would like to make this event a premier destination event
- Would appreciate any funding, but we are committed to growing this event
- Hope the Board will join Feed Stokes
- Appreciate any promotion of the event
- Would be happy to answer any questions

Chairman Walker opened the floor for discussion/questions/comments.

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- This is a very good thing for Stokes County
- Commend those who started and continue to grow the event
- Confirmed with Mr. Smith that the group receives a lot of volunteer man hours from the clubs and organizations that participate with Feed Stokes

Mr. Smith responded:

- Rotary Club of King cooks hundreds of pancakes for participants each year
- County businesses such as Edward Jones, Burroughs Funeral Home, Food Lion, Animal Hospital of Walnut Cove, West Window, Mitchell Nursery, Jerry Wilson Electric, Pilot Floor Care, just to mention a few, that are great sponsors
- The reason we are able to do so much is the donations from local businesses in Stokes County
- Foothill Eye Care has been a supporter - collecting cans of food

Vice Chairman Lankford continued:

- I am sure there are several businesses and clubs on the northern side of the county who would like to participate

Mr. Smith responded:

- North Stokes High School always brings a lot of runners

Vice Chairman Lankford continued:

- Feel this event is a total volunteer event
- Support the food pantry each year
- Don't feel funding should come from taxpayers' dollars

- As far as hiring deputies from the Sheriff's Department, I feel the County can work with you regarding their participation with the event
- Not in favor of providing county funding

Mr. Smith responded:

- That is reasonable- working with the Sheriff's Department would really help
- Our group is committed to growing this event
- We are having the course certified which should bring more serious runners from Charlotte, Raleigh, etc.

Vice Chairman Lankford continued:

- Belong to the Ruritans, there are 4-5 groups in the County
- I am sure they would like to participate
- Commend you on what you are doing for Stokes County

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Great cause
- Appreciate what you are doing
- I am involved with the Farmer's Appreciation Event which started approximately 18 years ago
- At that time, the County was providing some funding – approximately \$500
- The group worked to eliminate any county funding
- The entire event is paid for from business donations
- Don't see why this can't be put on the county website and the economic development application for tourism
- Spoke to Sheriff Marshall about the event
- Sheriff Marshall works with non-profit organizations
- Feel if you speak to Sheriff Marshall, he will try to work with you
- Agree with Vice Chairman Lankford regarding no taxpayer funding
- Commend the group for what they are doing to help feed Stokes County residents

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Tremendous event
- Have worked with Mr. Smith while serving as school superintendent
- Worked closely with Mr. Smith in getting the schools involved with the challenge
- Meadowbrook always participated strongly – winning each year
- Very worthwhile event
- Lots of volunteers
- Spoke to the Rotary Club in King about the event
- Do not know what has been done in the past with a request such as this one
- I support this event
- I have been there and seen firsthand what an outstanding event this is for Stokes County

Commissioner Jones commented:

- I see everything on different angles
- Theoretically, really in reality, would like to sponsor any tried and true event that goes on in this County which shows our support
- Understand it is taxpayer dollars, but it is only a \$1,000, especially when you spread that amount across 46,000 people
- Would be good if the Sheriff could work with the group
- Confirmed with Manager Morris that this event could not be covered under the county's insurance
- Have a nonprofit and know how hard it is
- Would love to see the county support the event since it is an insignificant amount of money
- I am sure I will be out voted on this one, but maybe we can get the help from the Sheriff and place the item on the county website

Chairman Walker commented:

- Appreciate all the work being done to continue to grow this event
- This type of event promotes our county in a good way
- Seemed to be hearing from the Board that there seems to be interest in the Sheriff providing assistance, not sure I am hearing interest in allocating funding except from Commissioner Jones
- There may be some time that we might have funding in a budget to help with causes such as yours – not aware of any funding available now
- Unless there is objection from the Board, my suggestion would be to get back with us when the event gets closer and remind us there was positive discussion about the Sheriff assisting with this event

Mr. Smith commented:

- Always go the King City Council before the event and make sure they are still on board; can do the same with the county commissioners

Chairman Walker expressed appreciation to Mr. Smith and his group for their continued efforts to help feed Stokes County residents.

External Posting – Emergency Medical Services

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding a request to externally post a vacant Paramedic position:

- Stokes County EMS respectfully request to advertise the vacant Paramedic position
- Have recently posted internally another vacant Paramedic position with no qualified applicants who were interested; interviews from outside applications for that vacant position are scheduled

- Request the item be moved to today's Action Agenda in order to expedite the hiring process

Chairman Walker opened the floor for discussion/questions/comments.

The Board had no issues with the item.

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

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

Fireworks Display – Jeff Hale/Hale Artificer Inc. – Luna's Trail

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding an application from Jeff Hale/Hale Artificer Inc. to perform a fireworks display:

- Jeff Hall/Hale Artificer, Inc. is requesting approval for a Fireworks Display at Luna's Trail on May 6, 2017 for a wedding
- Fire Marshal's Office has reviewed the application and recommends the application from Mr. Hale be approved
- If approved, the Fire Marshal's Office will complete the application process and inspect the site prior to the issuance of a permit as approved by NC Fire Code
- Request consideration for approval at the April 24th meeting

Chairman Walker opened the floor for discussions/questions/comments.

The Board had no issues with the request.

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

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

Appointments – Yadkin Valley Economic Development District, Inc.

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following appointment for the Yadkin Valley Economic Development District, Inc. – Board of Directors:

- Received a request from Executive Director Kathy Payne for the re-appointment of Vice Chairman Ernest Lankford who currently serves on the Board of Directors
- In the event that Vice Chairman Lankford does not wish to be considered and no other commissioner is willing to serve, the Board of County Commissioners may

appoint a representative such as the county manager, town manager, social services director, health director, board of education member, etc.

- Vice Chairman Lankford's term will expire April 2017

Vice Chairman Lankford noted that he was willing to be considered for re-appointment.

Chairman Walker opened the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Booth nominated Vice Chairman Ernest Lankford.

Chairman Walker entertained a motion to close the nominations.

Commissioner Booth moved to close the nominations. Commissioner Jones seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

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

Scheduling of Budget Sessions for Fiscal Year 2017-18 Budget

Chairman Walker presented the following information regarding the upcoming budget work sessions for Fiscal Year 2017-18:

- County Manager Rick Morris will be presenting his recommended Fiscal Year 2017-18 budget at the May 22, 2017 meeting
- A mandatory public hearing can be scheduled any time on or after June 5th

Chairman Walker confirmed with Clerk Bullins that the Board had four (4) scheduled work sessions, one (1) public hearing, and four (4) recessed work sessions for Fiscal Year 2016-17.

Chairman Walker opened the floor for possible dates/times.

The Board of County Commissioners discussed several dates for work sessions.

The Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved the following schedule for upcoming sessions regarding the Fiscal Year 2017-18 Budget:

- Public Hearing
 - Monday, June 5, 2017 – 7:00 pm - Courtroom "A"
- Work Sessions:
 - Tuesday, May 23, 2017 – 1:00 pm - third floor conference room – Reagan Building

- Wednesday, May 31, 2017 – 10:00 am - third floor conference room – Reagan Building
- Wednesday, June 7, 2017 – 1:00 pm - third floor conference room – Reagan Building
- Wednesday, June 14, 2017 - 3:00 pm - third floor conference room – Reagan Building
- Monday, June 19, 2017 – 1:00 pm - third floor conference room – Reagan Building
- The Board agreed to offer the dates of June 7th and June 14th for a joint meeting with the Stokes County Board of Education

Chairman Walker, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to offer the dates June 7th and June 14th to the Board of Education for a joint meeting.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – ACTION AGENDA

Opioid Issue in Stokes County – Further Discussion

Chairman Walker provided the following short history regarding the opioid issue in Stokes County:

- One of the biggest challenges that our county has faced in quite a while
- Stokes County is not alone, counties across the state are dealing with the same issue
- Have had some suggestions
- Suggestions from the Concerned Citizens Group were:
 - Liaison position to help people who have an emotional, mental or drug need find the services that best match their need
 - More treatment options in Stokes County
- A job description for the liaison position has been provided to the Board of County Commissioners which does not tie the position to Social Services
- Have one complication for this discussion – Ronda Outlaw from Cardinal was unable to be at today's meeting
- Minutes reflect several individuals who support this liaison position

Chairman Walker opened the floor for any action the Board wished to take regarding this item for questions/discussion.

Commissioner Booth commented:

- As noted by Chairman Walker, this is not just in Stokes County and as Commissioner Mendenhall noted in a previous meeting that it is important that we get it right
- With Ronda Outlaw from Cardinal not able to be at today's meeting, I would like to hear her comments regarding finances before taking any action

- Understand Ms. Langan can be at the next meeting, I would like to hear what her job duties entail and how her position relates directly to providing assistance to Stokes County
- Would like to discuss funding with Ms. Outlaw

Chairman Walker entertained a motion regarding the Agenda item.

Commissioner Booth moved to place the item to April 24th Action Agenda when Ms. Outlaw and Ms. Langan can be present for the meeting. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.

Chairman Walker commented:

- Would like to see this liaison position be implemented as soon as possible
- Was hoping this position could be approved at today's meeting
- Funding is available from Cardinal MOE Funding

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Feel like Chairman Walker, but if we can get some clarity so that the entire board is in favor of the position, that would be a good thing

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Don't think this is like boiling water that is going to spill over, this is not going to be a fast success
- House Bill 243 is being considered by the General Assembly that could help with this issue
- The MOE funding is not going away, it can be put back into a fund and spent later so there is no issue there
- If the position is put in DSS, federal and state funding can help pay for the position
- There are a lot of options to consider
- Feel we need to make sure that we are doing it right

Chairman Walker commented:

- Understand where other members of the Board are coming from and how they are viewing this issue
- If totally up to me, would do it today
- Have been working on it for over a month
- Don't want to lose any opportunity to help someone who really needs the help
- If it were just me, would approve, give to the county manager to implement and work out the funding

Commissioner Jones responded:

- See it like Chairman Walker, but that is just not reality today

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- After reviewing the proposed job description, don't understand why the position has to have a Master's Degree especially if the Board approves the NC 211

Chairman Walker, with no objection from the Board, directed Vice Chairman Lankford's question to DSS Director Elmes who drafted the job description.

DSS Director Elmes responded:

- The job description does not require a Master's Degree, but would be desired if possible
- The job description requires a Bachelor's Degree

Vice Chairman Lankford responded:

- Would like to start with lower than a Master's Degree
- We are "plowing new ground" and need to see what the results are going to be

Chairman Walker called the question.

The motion carried (4-1) with Chairman Walker voting against the motion.

Chairman Walker directed the Clerk to request the presence of Ronda Outlaw and Katie Langan for the April 24th meeting.

North Carolina 211

Chairman Walker entertained a motion regarding the funding of North Carolina 211.

Commissioner Jones moved to approve up to \$10,000 for NC 211 from Cardinal Mental Health MOE funding with implementation as soon as possible. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Booth noted that he would have liked to discuss the motion.

Chairman Walker confirmed with the Clerk/Attorney that the motion had been approved and would have to be rescinded before any further action.

Chairman Walker extended his apologies for not noticing that there was someone wanting to discuss the motion.

Proposed Audit Contract – Fiscal Year 2016-17

Chairman Walker requested Finance Director Julia Edwards to provide information that has been received from Martin Starnes that was requested by the Board at the March 27th meeting.

Finance Director Edwards commented:

- As requested by the Board, contacted Martin Starnes regarding the current offer of \$53,300 for both Fiscal Year 2016-17 and Fiscal Year 2017-18
- The amount of \$53,300 can't be guaranteed by Martin Starnes because of not knowing what else the state may require them to do for Fiscal Year 2017-18
- Explained to Martin Starnes that if they could not guarantee this rate for two years, the County would be going out for bids for Fiscal Year 2017-18

Chairman Walker opened the floor for discussion/questions/comments.

Commissioner Booth confirmed with Finance Director Edwards that when the audit services are bid out, the contract is usually for three (3) years.

Chairman Walker entertained a motion.

Vice Chairman Lankford moved to approve Martin Starnes to perform audit services for Fiscal Year 2016-17 at a fee of \$53,300 and to plan to bid out audit services for Fiscal Year 2017-18. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Agree with Vice Chairman Lankford – if they can't go with two years, then definitely bid the services out next year

Commissioner Jones commented:

- The firm does not know what the state will come up with next year
- They were told up front – bid out next year

Chairman Walker called the question.

The motion carried unanimously.

External Postings – Emergency Medical Services

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

Vice Chairman Lankford moved to approve the external posting for the vacant

Paramedic position. Commissioner Booth 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. Commissioner Jones seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Darlene M. Bullins
Clerk to the Board

Jimmy Walker
Chairman