

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)
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COUNTY OF STOKES)
)

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS
STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT
DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA
APRIL 24, 2017

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met for regular session in the Commissioners' Chambers of the Ronald Wilson Reagan Memorial Building (Administration Building) located in Danbury, North Carolina on Monday, April 24, 2017 at 6:00 pm with the following members present:

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

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

County Manager Richard D. Morris – absent

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

INVOCATION

Chairman Walker asked Commissioner Mendenhall to deliver the invocation.

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

GENERAL GOVERNMENT-GOVERNING BODY-PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Walker entertained a motion to approve or amend the April 24, 2017 Agenda.

Commissioner Booth moved to approve the April 24th Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Jones seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS - Manager/Commissioners

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

Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins commented:

- County Manager Rick Morris sends his regrets, his flight was cancelled last night and he did not get to leave California until this morning
- The Board of Education has confirmed June 14th (3:00 pm) for the joint meeting with the County Commissioners regarding the Fiscal Year 2017-18 budget
- County will be hosting a blood mobile tomorrow, April 25th from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm
 - Everyone is invited

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Stokes Future Farmers Market opened this past weekend
 - It was the biggest and best yet
 - There were eleven (11) vendors
 - Had musicians performing at the opening
 - Have more vendors coming next weekend
 - The Market will be running longer this year – from Earth Day to Veterans Day
 - This is our sixth year and I believe it has started “to grow legs” this year which is a very good thing
 - The Market is at the Hanging Rock State Park Visitor’s Center
- Danbury Songwriters were at the Market and they are having events from June 1st to August 31st – tickets are \$5 or \$50 for the entire summer
 - They are looking for night sponsors
- Will be leaving for New Zealand tomorrow

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Would like to welcome everyone to tonight’s meeting
- Appreciate citizens taking an interest in our meetings

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Would like to thank each person for being here tonight
- It shows you have an interest in Stokes County Government when you come out on such a rainy night
- Hope everyone will come back again

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Ethics for Life – “Bless the Lord, O my soul; O Lord my God, thou art very great, Thou art clothed with honour and majesty”
 - A knowledge of biblical doctrine
 - It provides a foundation for your Christian life

- It shapes your belief
- Provides a framework for your value system
- It provides principles for ethical choices
- It guides your actions
- It helps you withstand the contrast of false teaching
- Stokes Partnership for Children will be sponsoring the “Little Folks Festival” this Saturday, April 29th (10:00 am to 2:00 pm) at Mount Olive Elementary School
 - Fun and food for everyone
 - Everyone is invited

Chairman Walker commented:

- Welcome everyone tonight

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: Happiest, Healthiest, Greenest County in the Nation

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

- Here again to talk about Stokes County being the Happiest, Healthiest, and Greenest County in the Nation which I have been promoting for the past several meetings
- When you start looking at things like the opioid crisis, you realize that happy and healthy is a very good idea
- If people were happy and healthy, there would not be so much of an opioid crisis that we have
- Want to talk about solutions
- Provided the Board members a sheet of tear offs that can be given to friends and neighbors; the tear offs provide information on how to get “The Guide” free online at <http://RebuildHealth.com/guide>
- Basically, the solutions that I have been promoting for the opioid crisis are scientific, proven solutions
- Fifteen solutions are included in “The Guide”
- Announcing today, that the ebook version of “The Guide” is now available online
- Can be downloaded to your computer, your laptop, your phone or your iPad
- Want to suggest other ways of promoting the solutions in “The Guide”:
 - Tax bills that are mailed out in August by the County Tax Department – an announcement about the “The Guide” be included with each tax bill
 - Place Ads in every issue of the Stokes News

- Don't have the funds for placing these ads, but possibly it is something that the County could do
- The solutions, which have been validated, should be in the Stokes News for everyone to see
 - Could theoretically get rid of addiction in Stokes County in 90 days if the information could be put in the hands of every family
- The only practical solution is to empower the families to heal their own families
- There is not enough money for counselors
- There is not enough money for residential treatment
- It would cost hundreds of millions of dollars, no one has that kind of money
- One thing that would really help would be an endorsement of the solutions from the Board of County Commissioners
- Will be approaching Duke Energy to ask Duke Energy to promote the idea of the solutions for the opioid crisis by placing something in the electrical bill each month
- If the County Commissioners would endorse the solutions, I am sure it would carry some weight with getting Duke Energy to participate
- Would appreciate talking about an endorsement by the County Commissioners
- Hope everyone reads "The Guide"; it has a lot of information
- Know that Chairman Walker thinks it has too many changes for the person's lifestyle, but there are a lot of things in the book that do not require change
- Let's see if we can be proactive and get this information out to the citizens of Stokes County
- Appreciate the Board's time
- It is now time to get the solutions promoted

Three-minute time limited was called

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Consent Agenda:

Minutes

- Minutes of April 10, 2017 - Regular Meeting

Public Building & Capital Reserve - Budget Amendment #69

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #69.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
Public Buildings				
100.4190.510	Equipment	<u>\$47,786.00</u>	<u>\$6,800.00</u>	<u>\$54,586.00</u>
	Total	\$47,786.00	\$6,800.00	\$54,586.00
Capital Reserve Fund				
201.4190.013	Public Buildings	\$210,410.00	\$(6,800.00)	\$203,610.00
201.9810.000	Transfer to General Fund	<u>\$221,233.00</u>	<u>\$6,800.00</u>	<u>\$228,033.00</u>
	Totals	\$431,643.00	\$00.00	\$431,643.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To transfer funds for a 5 ton heat pump for an EMS station.

This will result in a **net increase** of **\$6,800.00** in the expenditures and other financial use to the County's annual budget. To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will increase. These revenues have already been received or are verified they will be received this fiscal year.

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
General Fund				
100.3982.960	Transfer from Capital Reserve	<u>\$221,233.00</u>	<u>\$6,800.00</u>	<u>\$228,033.00</u>
	Total	\$221,233.00	\$6,800.00	\$228,033.00

Emergency Management - Budget Amendment #70

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #70.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
Emergency Management				
100.9820.960	Transfer to General Fund	<u>\$134,884.00</u>	<u>\$17,958.00</u>	<u>\$152,842.00</u>
	Totals	\$134,884.00	\$17,958.00	\$152,842.00
Capital Reserve Fund				
201.4330.001	Emergency Management	<u>\$17,919.00</u>	<u>\$17,958.00</u>	<u>\$35,877.00</u>
	Totals	\$17,919.00	\$17,958.00	\$35,877.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To transfer EMGP Funds to the Capital Reserve Fund for capital purchases for Emergency Management.

This will result in a **net increase** of **\$17,958.00** in the expenditures and other financial use to the County's annual budget. To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will increase. These revenues have already been received or are verified they will be received this fiscal year.

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
General Fund				
100.3301.262	Emergency Management	<u>\$79,000.00</u>	<u>\$17,958.00</u>	<u>\$96,958.00</u>
	Totals	\$79,000.00	\$17,958.00	\$96,958.00
Capital Reserve Fund				
201.3981.001	Transfer from General Fund	<u>\$134,884.00</u>	<u>\$17,958.00</u>	<u>\$152,842.00</u>
	Totals	\$134,884.00	\$17,958.00	\$152,842.00

Special Appropriations – Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) – Budget Amendment #71

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #71.

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 Appropriations				
100.5830.690	Stokes Friends of Youth	\$100,784.00	\$3,500.00	\$104,284.00
100.5830.691	Step One	\$33,098.00	\$1,100.00	\$34,198.00
100.5830.695	SCAN	<u>\$28,522.00</u>	<u>\$816.00</u>	<u>\$29,338.00</u>
	Totals	\$162,404.00	\$5,416.00	\$167,820.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To appropriate additional JCPC Discretionary Funding.

This will result in a **net increase** of **\$5,416.00** in the expenditures and other financial use to the County's annual budget. To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will increase. These revenues have already been received or are verified they will be received this fiscal year.

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
General Fund				
100.3301.361	Juvenile Crime Prevention Council	<u>\$136,010.00</u>	<u>\$5,416.00</u>	<u>\$141,426.00</u>
	Totals	\$136,010.00	\$5,416.00	\$141,426.00

Mental Health – Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Funding & Capital Reserve – Budget Amendment #72

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #72.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
Mental Health MOE Fund				
111.5200.004	NC 211	<u>\$00.00</u>	<u>\$10,000.00</u>	<u>\$10,000.00</u>
	Total	\$00.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To appropriate funds for the NC 211 Project - \$4,000 for setup and \$6,000 for advertising.

This will result in a **net increase** of **\$10,000.00** 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
General Fund				
111.3829.000	Miscellaneous Revenue	<u>\$00.00</u>	<u>\$10,000.00</u>	<u>\$10,000.00</u>
	Total	\$00.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00

Tax Administration Report – March 2017

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 at the April 24th meeting:

Refunds Mores Than \$100 Real/Personal Name	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	

Tax Administration – Present Use Value Late Application

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Present Use Value Late Application at the April 10th meeting for the Board's review with consideration 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

Proposed Proclamation – Older Americans Month– May 2017

Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins presented the following proposed Proclamation Older Americans Month – May 2017 for the Board's review and consideration at tonight's meeting (April 24th) which was requested by DSS Director Stacey Elmes:

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH 2017 A Proclamation

Whereas, Stokes County includes older Americans who richly contribute to our community; and

Whereas, we acknowledge that what it means “to age” has changed—for the better.

Whereas, Stokes County is committed to supporting older adults as they take charge of their health, explore new opportunities and activities, and focus on independence; and

Whereas, Stokes County can provide opportunities to enrich the lives of individuals of *all ages* by:

- involving older adults in the redefinition of aging in our community;
- promoting home- and community-based services that support independent living;
- encouraging older adults to speak up for themselves and others; and
- providing opportunities for older adults to share their experiences.

Now therefore, we the Board of County Commissioners of Stokes County do hereby proclaim May 2017 to be Older Americans Month. We urge every resident to take time during this month to
April 24, 2017

acknowledge older adults and the people who serve them as influential and vital parts of our community.

Dated this **24th** day of **April, 2017**.

Chairman Jimmy Walker

Vice-Chair Earnest Lankford

Commissioner James D. Booth

Commissioner Ronda Jones

Commissioner Ronnie Mendenhall

Clerk to the Board Darlene M. Bullins

Proposed Proclamation – National Foster Care Month – May 2017

Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins presented the following proposed Proclamation –
National Foster Care month – May 2017 for the Board’s review and consideration at tonight’s
meeting (April 24th) which was requested by DSS Director Stacey Elmes:

**National Foster Care Month, May 2017
A Proclamation**

Whereas, the family, serving as the primary source of love, identity, self-esteem and support, is the very foundation of our communities, and

Whereas, nationally there are more than 400,000 children and youth in foster care, more than 10,500 in North Carolina and 115 in Stokes County, and

Whereas, all young people in foster care need and deserve a meaningful connection to someone who can be a support and lasting presence in their lives, and

Whereas, foster, kinship, and adoptive families who open their hearts and homes to children whose families are in crisis, play a vital role in helping children and families heal and reconnect thereby launching young people into successful adulthood, and

Whereas, dedicated foster families frequently adopt foster children resulting in a greater need for more foster families, and

Whereas, there are numerous individuals, public and private organizations who work to increase public awareness of the needs of children in and leaving foster care as well as the enduring and valuable contribution of foster parents and the foster care “system” is only as good as those who choose to be part of it,

Now therefore, the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Stokes do hereby proclaim May as National Foster Care Month in Stokes County, North Carolina and urge all citizens to come forward and do something positive that will change a lifetime for a young person in foster care.

Dated this 24th day of **April, 2017**.

Chairman Jimmy Walker

Vice-Chairman Ernest Lankford

Commissioner James D. Booth

Commissioner Ronda Jones

Commissioner Ronnie Mendenhall

Clerk to the Board Darlene M. Bullins

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

Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins presented the following request from Fire Marshal Brian Booe, which was presented at the April 10th meeting, for approval of a fireworks display application from Jeff Hale/Hale Artificer Inc. at Luna’s Trail on May 6, 2017.

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

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

Commissioner Booth noted the following proclamations were included in tonight’s Consent Agenda:

- Older Americans Month – May 2017
- National Foster Care Month – May 2017

Chairman Walker called the question.

The motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – INFORMATION AGENDA

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

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – DISCUSSION AGENDA

Cooperative Extension – Request for Family and Consumer Science Agent

Clerk Darlene Bullins presented the following information for County Manager Rick Morris regarding a request from Cooperative Extension to fill a vacant Family and Consumer Science Agent:

- County Manager Rick Morris received a request from NC Cooperative Extension (Director Jim Cowden) to fill a vacant Family/Consumer Science (FCS) Agent at a 50/50% funding level
- Former Cooperative Extension Director Debbie Cox did the duties of a FCS Agent while serving as director
- Current Cooperative Extension Director Carl Mitchell performs the livestock duties while serving as director
- At this time, there is no other county within our area that Stokes County could share this position with; so the state has agreed to do a 50/50 share with expectations that there will be some surrounding counties who have employees retiring in the near future
- County's 50% share could potentially be 25/25 or 33/33/33 split with other counties
- Provided the following information from Cooperative Extension Director Carl Mitchell detailing the duties of a Family/Consumer Science Agent
 - Work with existing ECA groups and rebuild community groups that no longer meet. ECA groups: establish greater community bonds; provide opportunities for individuals to come together to meet specific needs; educational opportunities for adults, youth, and the elderly; opportunities for community service and improvement; community level child development, drug prevention, and health
 - Provide educational programming for professionals including: NC Safe Plates for food industry professionals; HACCP training; SAFESERV
 - Provide educational programming for seniors: Steps to Health; diabetes education; mental health education; nutritional education; financial security planning
 - Provide educational programming for adults and parents: cooking and health; financial security and planning; drug prevention; healthy living; and nutrition
 - Provide canner testing and canning courses (high demand for this service and training).
 - Provide health and food safety educational programming for youth through 4-H, the school system, and homeschool groups
 - Work with the Fair board and stakeholders to improve fair participation and quality
 - Work with civic and community organizations to provide educational components of drug prevention, healthy living, and healthy families
 - Work with school personnel to enrich student learning
 - Under the current fiscal plan from NC State University, counties of similar

demographics are provided funding for a shared position. Normally, our county would cover 86% of the salary for the FCS agent for a nonshared position. NC State has agreed to fund 50% of the salary for our agent. Staffing changes from the previous year will result in a reduction in the Cooperative Extension budget including this position

- County Manager Morris requests direction from the Board regarding this request

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

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- This is a position that we have had in the past that has always been done by the directors
- I don't see any reason why we need to add another position to perform these services
- Our current director has a science degree
- We also have Forsyth Tech Community College that is going to have programs like this that can educate anyone
- If we have groups of people who need to know about food consumer science, I am sure that our Forsyth Tech Community College can provide the instructors and training to take care of that
- I personally don't see adding another position in Cooperative Extension

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Questioned, historically, has there been a position for these duties?
- I don't remember the directors before Debbie Cox doing those duties

Vice Chairman Lankford responded:

- It was done by directors before Debbie Cox

Finance Director Julia Edwards responded:

- There has always been a FCS position in Cooperative Extension

Commissioners Jones responded:

- Do not remember Michael Hylton doing those duties

Finance Director Edwards responded:

- Betty Pendleton and Janelle Kent both occupied that position

Commissioner Booth commented:

- I have a tendency to go along with what Vice Chairman Lankford is saying
- I think it can be worked out without adding a full time position

Commissioner Mendenhall declined to comment at this time.

Chairman Walker commented:

- Confirmed with Clerk Bullins that it would be a 50/50 split between the County and the State

- Confirmed with Clerk Bullins that Director Cowden had noted to Manager Morris there could possibly be sharing between other counties down the road, but at the current time, there are no other counties to share the position with

Chairman Walker requested what was the pleasure of the Board regarding this item?

Vice Chairman Lankford suggested that the Board take no action and leave it as it is.

Commissioner Booth commented:

- I believe we should leave it like it is
- At one time, we did not have a county to share a position regarding cattle, haven't seen that come around yet and this is a similar thing

Chairman Walker commented:

- Questioned Clerk Bullins regarding the request from Director Cowden and his indication there might be a sharing opportunity down the road?

Clerk Bullins responded:

- Director Cowden noted there could be a sharing opportunity down the road, but currently there are none within our area
- Director Cowden requested the manager take this 50/50 split to the Board of County Commissioners for their consideration

Chairman Walker continued:

- Confirmed with Clerk Bullins that the duties submitted by Director Mitchell were handled by former Director Cox

Clerk Bullins responded:

- Former Director Cox had the expertise with the FCS duties, while Director Mitchell's expertise is in livestock thus leaving a void in the department
- This position could also work with other departments in dealing with the opioid issue

Chairman asked if there were any comments from commissioners who had not spoken yet regarding this Agenda item?

Commissioner Jones commented:

- I know how this is going to go, but I am going to voice my opinion anyway
- I think it is a shame when a rural county, such as ours, doesn't have a fully staffed extension agency
- In years past, I have heard complaints because people were spread so thin that they could not be effective
- I don't have a lot of faith that the community college is up and running on food science at this given time
- This is going to be an impact in our county
- I think this is something that we need in our rural county

- Unless we continue to get directors that have multiple degrees, it is going to continue to come up
- I know it is a money thing, as it always is, but we are a rural county
- I think we should have a strong extension agency

Chairman Walker commented:

- Based on this list and see the niche it fills, it goes beyond what the community college can offer
- It seems like, with the duties on this list, there is going to be a void in the county if we don't fund this position
- It seems there are some very good things on this list that will not be happening without this position
- My position is that we do look at funding this position; however, we continue to look at the possibility of sharing this position – when possible, share the position with other counties

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- In an ideal world, we would have finances to make sure every single position was covered which would be wonderful
- Feel we all know that would be wonderful
- This is like the placement of an elementary school principal who has only taught at the high school level or only been a high school principal; they have no elementary school curriculum experience
- The superintendent is not going to give that new elementary school principal an assistant principal who has elementary school experience because the budget can't handle that added position
- The expectation of the new elementary school principal, with no experience, would be to go and get some in-service training
- I was a middle school teacher/guidance counselor with high school teaching/coaching experience when I got my first position as an elementary school principal
- I had never been an elementary school teacher and was not given an assistant principal with elementary school experience
- I had to get the necessary training to be able to perform the duties of an elementary school principal
- I don't think we can financially work this in the budget right now

Chairman Walker commented:

- Appears the majority of the Board is interested in putting this on hold for now and taking no action

Chairman Walker confirmed with the Board that the majority of the Board wished to place this on hold for now and take no action.

Proposed Health and Dental Insurance Rates for FY 2017-18

Clerk/Personnel Officer Darlene Bullins presented the following information regarding the proposed Health and Dental Insurance Rates for Fiscal Year 2017-18 for County Manager Rick Morris:

- County staff has been meeting and discussing our Fiscal Year 2017-18 Health and Dental Insurance Benefits for several weeks with our insurance broker, **Employee Benefit Advisory, Inc. (EBA)**.
- **Medical Health Insurance**
 - EBA placed the county health insurance out for bids. The rate came back from BCBS with a 15.7% increase which would amount to approximately **\$268,000** employer increase to cover the total cost for employees and retirees for Fiscal Year 2017-18.
 - According to our insurance claims data, the county had a very good year and did not warrant the 15.7% increase, but all insurance providers seemed to be trying to make up for costs incurred from the Affordable Care Act.
 - On the recommendation of **EBA**, I would propose that we go with self (level)-funding that will only have a 2.6% increase which amounts to approximately **\$46,368** increase for the county. Transitioning to self (level)-funding would mean no change in benefits, but would take on a new provider – **Medcost** which the county has had before with no issues. Included in the self (level)-funding plan, there would be stop loss insurance so that the county would not go over the annual premiums that have been estimated.
 - The table below details the annual estimated increase for employer/employee dependent coverage:

Current Plan no benefit change	BCBS	Medcost	Approximate Annual Increase
Employee	\$495.53	\$508.41	\$46,368.00
Spouse	\$588.71	\$604.02	\$183.72
Child	\$188.28	\$193.18	\$58.80
Children	\$416.23	\$427.06	\$129.96
Family	\$1,137.68	\$1,167.25	\$354.84

- **Dental Insurance**

- Our dental claims experience did not do as well as our health claims experience this past year. **EBA** also went out for bids for our dental coverage.
- Assurant came back with a 37.50% increase for the upcoming fiscal year which would amount to **\$33,789.60** annual increase to cover the employee cost. On the recommendation of **EBA**, I propose the county go with **Delta Dental** which is a 14% increase in premiums which amounts to approximately **\$13,235.40** annual cost. Dental office references noted no issues with claim processing and there would be no benefit changes.
- The table below details the annual estimated increase for employer/employee dependent coverage:

Current Plan no benefit change	Assurant	Delta	Approximate Annual Increase
Employee	\$27.75	\$31.62	\$13,235.40
Spouse	\$32.75	\$37.30	\$54.60
Child	\$33.25	\$37.88	\$55.56
Children	\$33.25	\$37.88	\$55.56
Family	\$80.25	\$91.42	\$134.04

- **EBA** has been back and forth trying to get the county the best possible rate as late as this past Friday.
- I would respectfully request this item be moved to tonight's Action Agenda in order to allow county staff as much time as possible for this transition.
- **Fiscal Year 2017-18 (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018) Recommendation**
Health Insurance – Medcost – Self (level) Funding – 2.6% increase
Dental Insurance – Delta Dental – 14% increase

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

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Confirmed with Clerk/Personnel Officer Bullins that the increase would 15.7% if the County chose to continue the same plan with Blue Cross and Blue Shield for Fiscal Year 2017-18
- Questioned Clerk/Personnel Officer Bullins regarding the plan being quoted by Medcost for health coverage?

Clerk/Personnel Officer Bullins responded:

- On the recommendation of **EBA**, the County should go with self (level)-funding that will only have a 2.6% increase which amounts to approximately **\$46,368** increase for the county
- Transitioning to self (level)-funding would mean no change in benefits, but would take on a new provider – **Medcost** which the county has had before with no issues
- Included in the self (level)-funding plan, there would be stop loss insurance so that the county would not go over the annual premiums that have been estimated
- As County Manager Morris noted the County had a very good claims experience this past year and did not warrant a 15.7% increase, but all insurance providers seemed to be trying to make up for costs incurred from the Affordable Care Act by increasing their premiums
- County has had Medcost before and had no issues with the providers and worked well with the Medcost staff

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Confirmed with Clerk/Personnel Officer Bullins that the County had considered self-funding before but never seen this much savings to consider
- Believe there was approximately a 10-12% increase this Fiscal Year 2016-17 with Blue Cross and Blue Shield
- Confirmed with Clerk/Personnel Officer Bullins that the cost of the stop loss insurance is included in the Medcost quote
- Confirmed with Clerk/Personnel Officer Bullins that the County has an opportunity to save funding if the County has another good claims year, but the stop loss insurance will cover the County in case of a bad claims year

Clerk/Personnel Officer Bullins commented:

- If there are savings this year, it could be used for wellness programs, reduced premiums next year, etc.

Commissioner Booth continued:

- It is my understanding that with a self-funded plan, you have the option to change the plan benefits if desired
- Confirmed with Clerk/Personnel Officer Bullins that the County has never been self-insured and with the amount of savings, the stop loss protection, the recommendation from our insurance broker who works in the insurance field daily, it is time to change
- Could possibly have saved funding last year if the County had been self-insured

Clerk/Personnel Officer Bullins responded:

- There could be a little different provider directory with Medcost, but do not remember any issues with providers when the county employees were covered by Medcost a few years ago
- Definitely remember the good working relationship with the Medcost staff

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Believe the staff and insurance broker have looked at all angles

- Can't believe the increase in the dental premiums with Assurant
- Confirmed with Clerk/Personnel Officer Bullins that the huge increase in the dental premium is based on prior usage – high claims
- Confirmed with Clerk/Personnel Officer Bullins that the County would be changing dental insurance from Assurant to Delta Dental
- Believe the decision has already been made – self funded with Medcost as the health provider and Delta Dental for Fiscal Year 2017-18

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Confirmed with Clerk/Personnel Officer Bullins that the current rate for employee dental coverage with Assurant is \$27.75 per month and that the Delta quote was \$31.62 for employee dental coverage per month
- Confirmed with Clerk/Personnel Officer Bullins that she had called a couple of dental offices that stated they had no issues with Delta Dental
- Confirmed with Clerk/Personnel Officer Bullins that deductibles/co-pays for providers and co-pays for prescriptions would be the same

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Believe all my questions have been answered
- See no option when you look at the difference between a 15.7% increase and a 2.6% increase in health premiums and no choice in the dental as well
- Have had Delta Dental before and had no issues
- Financially, see no option but to consider going with Medcost for Health and Delta for dental with benefits being the same

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Just want to reiterate that with the stop loss insurance, the County will be protected along with the potential of saving funding with a good year
- If we have a good year, we could benefit
- In two years, there has been approximately a 27% increase from Blue Cross and Blue Shield
- Have to try to do something to bring this in line with hopes that the federal government will step in soon

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Arizona has a 116% increase in their premiums
- Federal government has got to do something

Clerk/Personnel Officer Bullins commented:

- Insurance Broker EBA will help the County with all the transition
- Hearing from several other counties that are also getting anywhere from 16 -25% quote increases

Commissioner Booth continued:

- Confirmed with Clerk/Personnel Officer Bullins that the county's insurance broker feels that self-insured is where everyone is going and we will be ahead of the game

Chairman Walker requested the pleasure of the Board regarding the request to move the item to tonight's Action Agenda.

The Board discussed moving the item to tonight's Action Agenda in order to expedite the transition process of changing providers.

Commissioner Booth recommended moving the item to tonight's Action Agenda.

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

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

Proposed General Liability, Automotive, and Workers' Compensation Insurances for Fiscal Year 2017-18

Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins presented the following information for County Manager Rick Morris regarding the proposed General Liability, Automotive, and Worker's Compensation Insurances for Fiscal Year 2017-18:

- Rates for Fiscal Year 2016-17 for General Liability, Automotive, & Worker's Compensation:
 - Worker's Compensation = \$397,516
 - Liability, Property, Automotive = \$216,242
 - Multi pool discounts = \$(10,255)
- Quotes for Fiscal Year 2017-18 for General Liability, Automotive, & Worker's Compensation:
 - Worker's Compensation = \$395,194
 - Liability, Property, Automotive = \$226,658
 - Multi pool discounts = \$10,430.00
- Deductible amounts
 - Property Loss Claims - \$1,000
 - Auto Liability - \$0.00
 - Crime - \$1,000
 - Law Enforcement - \$5,000
 - Boiler/Machinery - \$1,000
 - General Liability - \$00.00
 - Auto Physical Damage - \$1,000
 - Public Officials - \$5,000
 - Employment Practices - \$5,000
 - Cyber Liability - \$5,000

- Structures added during Fiscal year 2016-17
 - Arts Council Expansion
 - Forsyth Tech Community College
 - Pine Hall Community/Medical Center
- Support Services Supervisor Danny Stovall and Manager Morris both recommend the Board of County Commissioners stay with the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Risk Management Insurance Pool for Fiscal Year 2017-18
- Request the item be placed on the May 8th Action Agenda

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

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Think I reported to the Board at the last meeting that the NCACC insurance rates for Fiscal Year 2017-18 would be about a “wash”
- The increase reflects the structure additions during Fiscal Year 2016-17
- Worker’s Compensation rate is actually lower this year
- Feel the Pool has kept the cost down as much as possible
- The Counties with multi insurances receive the best deal – Stokes County will receive a \$10,430 discount
- Can justify the increase with the number of added structures

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Agree with Vice Chairman Lankford that the increase can be justified with the additional structures that have been added to the policy (approximately \$9 million)
- Believe I asked the question about replacement cost for ambulances at the last meeting

Clerk Bullins responded:

- Recently provided the information to the Board that emergency vehicles (ambulances older than 4 years old) will default to actual cash value in the event of a loss

Commissioner Booth continued:

- That could be very costly to the County – could be several hundred thousand dollars

Vice Chairman Lankford responded:

- That should give them motivation of not having any accidents
- Supposed to be having training on accident prevention – drivers’ training
- NCACC provides drivers’ training at no cost
- Need to get all the training that we can for the drivers

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Rate seems very reasonable for Fiscal Year 2017-18

Commissioner Mendenhall had no issues with the proposed rates.

Chairman Walker requested the pleasure of the Board regarding this Agenda item.

Commissioner Booth suggested Action Agenda for the next meeting.

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

External Posting – Health Department

Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins presented the following information for County Manager Rick Morris regarding an external positing for a vacant Public Health Nurse II – Pregnancy Care Management position which is being requested from Health Director Emily Naylor:

- Position was advertised internally and no applications were received
- Fully funded by NC Community Care Network
- Need to expedite the hiring of this position due to the program
- Would request to move to the Action Agenda to expedite the hiring process

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

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

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

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

External Posting – Planning Department

Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins presented the following information for County Manager Rick Morris regarding an external positing for a vacant Code Enforcement Officer II position which is being requested from Planning Director David Sudderth:

- Position is being advertised internally and if no qualified applications are received, would request approval to be posted externally
- Spring time is the beginning of building season and our activity level has already started to increase significantly
- Need to expedite the hiring of this position
- Would request to move to tonight's Action Agenda in order to expedite the hiring process

- Can advertise both positions – cost saving

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

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

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

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

Appointments – Stokes County Planning Board

Clerk Darlene Bullins presented the following request from Planning Director David Sudderth regarding the following four (4) vacancies on the Stokes County Planning Board:

- Yadkin Township - Larry Snyder
- Sauratown Township – Ronnie Morris
- Snow Creek Township – Steven Spencer
- Quaker Gap Township – Gary Simmons

Chairman Walker opened the floor for nominations.

Vice Chairman Lankford nominated the following for re-appointment to the Stokes County Planning Board:

- Yadkin Township - Larry Snyder
- Sauratown Township – Ronnie Morris
- Snow Creek Township – Steven Spencer
- Quaker Gap Township – Gary Simmons

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 May 8th Action Agenda.

Appointments – Walnut Cove Senior Center Advisory Council

Clerk Darlene Bullins presented the following request from Senior Services Program Director Vicky East regarding the following vacancy on the Walnut Cove Senior Center Advisory Council:

- Member Margie Bullins recently submitted her resignation
- Angie Welch has submitted her appointment application for the vacancy

Chairman Walker opened the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Booth nominated Angie Welch for appointment to the Walnut Cove Senior Center Advisory Council.

Chairman Walker entertained a motion to close the nominations.

Vice Chairman Lankford 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 May 8th Action Agenda.

Proposed Resolution – Requesting Restoration to Counties of the Statutorily Authorized Appropriation of Lottery Funds

Chairman Walker presented the following proposed Resolution – Requesting Restoration to Counties of the Statutorily Authorized Appropriation of Lottery Funds for the Board’s consideration:

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING RESTORATION TO COUNTIES OF THE STATUTORILY AUTHORIZED APPROPRIATION OF LOTTERY FUNDS

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 18C of the North Carolina General Statutes “the North Carolina State Lottery Act and the 2005 Appropriations Act was signed into law establishing the North Carolina Education Lottery. The act created the nine member North Carolina Lottery Commission to initiate, supervise and administer the education lottery”; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Education Lottery was promoted and supported on the basis of proceeds enhancing local governments’ ability to adequately provide for education expenses; and

WHEREAS, the distribution to counties budgeted from proceeds in FY 2015-2016 has been drastically reduced to \$100 million in contrast to \$253 million at the previous statutory funding rate of 40%, which amounted to \$434,523 in Stokes County in contrast to \$1,063,225 at the 40% rate; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to state law, the lottery funds that are allocated to the counties can be used for education for capital outlay projects, including the planning, construction, enlargement, improvement, repair, or renovation of public school buildings and for the purchase of land for public school buildings or for equipment to implement a local school technology plan (NCGS 115-546.2); and

WHEREAS, it is extremely difficult for the Boards of Commissioners and Boards of Education across this State to plan for improvements in school buildings and for technology equipment with the reduction of lottery funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the **Stokes County Board of Commissioners** respectfully requests that the Governor and the North Carolina General Assembly support the allocation to counties at their statutorily authorized portion of educational lottery funds to be used for capital needs and technology.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution are forwarded to the Local Legislative Delegation to the North Carolina General Assembly, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners and to the other 99 North Carolina counties.

Adopted this the ____ day of ____, 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

Chairman Walker commented:

- Some other counties have already adopted the proposed resolution with others considering the proposed resolution
- Originally the percentage from the lottery going to the Counties was 40%, now that percentage is approximately 17%

- The lottery was designed to be much more of an educational lottery than it is turning out to be
- Feel the counties, through this resolution, are trying to send a message to the General Assembly that the counties are not happy on how this educational lottery has went and would appreciate them keeping their word as it was originally promised to the counties

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

Commissioner Jones commented:

- This may only end up being symbolic
- The whole lottery funding has been a “bait and switch”
- See no harm in the proposed resolution
- Feel we should make our voices heard in writing – can’t do any harm
- Feel it is important that we do this

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Agree with Commissioner Jones
- We built all our recent school construction projects (approximately \$30 million) with our debt service set up to include this 40% (approximately \$800,000)
- It is now down to 17% with the County losing approximately \$450-\$500,000 that the County had to find from other resources
- Would suggest putting this on tonight’s Action Agenda so that it can get to the legislators while they are in session

Commissioner Jones responded:

- Move to tonight’s Action Agenda due to the urgency of the matter

Vice Chairman Lankford also responded:

- Move it to tonight’s Action Agenda due to the urgency of the matter.

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Agree with my fellow commissioners that it definitely needs to be moved to tonight’s Action Agenda and presented to the legislators
- When you sell something to the public in a certain manner, I feel it is up to those who sold the product to keep their word on how they sold it
- We all know how this was sold
- Sold as the educational lottery with the county getting a certain percentage
- Several things have changed since it was passed
 - Sold as 40% - now getting approximately 17%
 - Sold primarily for school construction - being used for other things
- Feel the citizens of North Carolina have been misled

Commissioner Booth commented:

- For the public’s interest, the distribution to counties budgeted from proceeds in FY 2015-2016 has been drastically reduced to \$100 million in contrast to \$253 million

- With that reduction in FY 2015-16 the County should have gotten \$1,063,225 but only received \$434,523

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

Chairman Walker extended appreciation to Commissioner Jones who requested the Board consider the proposed resolution.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT - GOVERNING BODY – ACTION AGENDA

Opioid Issue in Stokes County – Further Discussion

Chairman Walker introduced Senior Community Executive Ronda Outlaw and Regional Manager for Community Engagement Melissa Bunker, Cardinal Innovations Healthcare, who serve the Triad Region - Stokes, Rockingham, Davie, & Forsyth Counties.

Regional Manager Melissa Bunker presented the following information regarding Community Engagement and the Specialist Role:

- Our Team
 - Cardinal Innovations Healthcare manages twenty (20) counties
 - My Community Engagement Department has representation in all 20 counties
 - Mike Bridges manages the entire department with two other managers like myself
 - I manage the Triad Region which includes Stokes, Rockingham, Davie, and Forsyth Counties
 - Each manager has from 4 to 8 people working as a team for Community Engagement
 - I have a team of 4 people that work for me to serve my Triad Region
 - We all work together as a team
 - Katie Lee Langan is the Community Engagement Specialist that specializes in Stokes and Rockingham Counties
 - The other three teammates serve Davie and Forsyth Counties
 - I have one other person who works in all counties
 - Each member can work in different counties if needed
 - With the short period of time that I have spent in Stokes County when I first started, it made me feel that it was very important to have someone serving Stokes County that was from the community
 - Very lucky to find Katie Lee Langan
 - Katie Lee Langan normally stays in the Stokes and Rockingham area

- Departmental Objectives
 - Build – relationships with stakeholders
 - Share – all about sharing who Cardinal Innovations is with the stakeholders in the community
 - Raise Awareness – we are charged with raising awareness of the individuals that we serve at Cardinal Innovations
 - Educate – try to educate people about things that maybe are misunderstood about people with behavioral health, substance use disorders, or intellectual disabilities; our whole role is to sort of educate individuals on what the lives of those individuals are like
 - Connect - connect stakeholders to what care is available from Cardinal Innovations
 - Provide Hope – provide hope that recovery is possible for individuals who do have mental illness or a substance use disorder and that with help and the proper support recovery is possible
- Stakeholders
 - Local Community Leaders – such as yourselves
 - County DSS, Health Departments
 - County Judicial System – judges, clerk of courts, magistrates
 - First Responders – Sheriff's Department, Police, Fire, EMS
 - Colleges and Schools
 - Providers, including hospitals
 - Non-profit Organizations – mental health association
 - Faith Based Organizations
- Specialist Duties
 - Katie Lee Langan's main job is to educate the community and stakeholders along with community collaboration
 - Community Education
 - Have a very set, specific list of trainings that are provided by Cardinal Innovation to the community
 - Provide to any stakeholder that requests training
 - Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) – 40 hour class
 - Two weeks prep per class
 - 15-18 speakers for different topics
 - 2-3 classes per county, per year
 - Exceptional training for First Responders to learn how to work with individuals who have mental illness, substance use or an intellectual disability
 - Training teaches them how to deescalate the situation and to recognize that someone does have a mental illness; hopefully teach them how to work with that person rather than initially feeling like they need to use force
 - Katie Lee Langan is charged with doing 2-3 (40 hour) training classes per year per county (Stokes and Rockingham Counties)
 - Participants receive a pin to wear to indicate that the individual has CIT training

- Mental Health First Aid – 8 hour class
 - Requires Certification
 - 3 days prep per class
 - Katie Lee Langan is charged with doing 6-10 classes per year
 - Two hour classes – Katie Lee Langan’s responsibility
 - Trauma Informed Career
 - Psychosis Simulation
 - Question, Persuade, and Refer (QPR)
 - One hour classes - Katie Lee Langan’s responsibility
 - Introduction to Cardinal Innovations
 - Introduction to NC Innovations Waiver
 - Stigma
 - Would welcome the opportunity to do any of these above trainings for the Board of County Commissioners – you are exactly the type of group that we would like to provide training to
- Community Collaboration
 - Facilitate Community Partners Meetings – Chairman Walker regularly attends these partner meetings
 - We all come together with other stakeholders in the community
 - We solve problems and issues
 - We try to identify gaps in the systems
 - We try to make changes in the communities
 - Katie Lee Langan is very involved in the community partner meetings
 - Represent for committees, advocacy meetings
 - Katie Lee Langan also attends various other meetings in Stokes County such as Concerned Citizens Group, Suicide Prevention Task Force, Opioid Task Force, Transportation Task Force, etc.
 - Sponsorships – Festivals, Rotary Clubs - Usually attend the Little Folks Festival – trying to provide information to those in the community on who Cardinal Innovations is and how to connect with Cardinal Innovations for services
- Closing
 - Community Engagement is all about Training, Education, and Stakeholder Collaboration
 - Will be happy to answer any questions

Chairman Walker asked Senior Executive Ronda Outlaw if she had anything to add to Regional Manager Bunker’s presentation before the Board begins its discussion.

Senior Executive Ronda Outlaw commented:

- Our department is called Community Operations
- Community Operations is a stool with three legs

- One leg of the stool is my position, Community Relations, which works with county management, elected officials, and the CEO level responses for our community partners
- Second leg of the stool is Community Engagement which Melissa Bunker just presented
 - These two departments work together quite a bit on the kind of things that Melissa spoke about in her presentation that is really front facing for the community, responding to the community, helping to be sort of the boots on the ground, figuring what the local needs are and reporting, and advocating internally within our organization when we hear from those in the community about needs
- Third leg of the stool is Member Engagement
 - Member Engagement members work specifically one on one with clients and families
 - Members can provide a navigation service for those who are having difficulty accessing services
- Community Engagement's role is primarily around training and education, targeting for the most part, Community stakeholders, such as yourself, and other key partners, along with some training for providers

Chairman Walker commented:

- Know you have been working with some people in the county regarding the opioid situation
- Know you have also heard about the liaison position the Board is considering tonight
- Confirmed with Senior Executive Outlaw that she had discussed the liaison position with DSS Director Elmes
- Questioned if either Regional Manager Bunker or Senior Executive Outlaw had any thoughts that they would like to share with the Board before the Board's discussion regarding this liaison position and how it fits with the Cardinal organization as it is currently configured

Regional Manager Bunker responded:

- Think that position would be very key to our community partners' meetings that are held once a month
- That position would work with Katie Lee Langan in helping that individual navigate how our company works and also connecting that new position to other departments within Cardinal Innovations that would work specifically with members and families

Chairman Walker continued:

- The job description states that the primary purpose of the position is geared toward assisting the citizens of the county with accessing appropriate levels of community care for individuals who may be experiencing a behavioral health or substance use crisis or urgent situation
- Confirmed with Regional Manager Bunker that doesn't sound like anything that Katie Lee Langan is involved in currently; her job duties are more community outreach, more dealing with organizations, classes, training, etc.

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

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Katie Lee Langan is very valuable and did not have to be justified to me
- Heard from the presentation that she is training our employees in EMS and the Sheriff's Department
- Confirmed with Regional Manager Bunker that the liaison will have information on how to access services within the Cardinal organization
- Confirmed with Regional Manager Bunker also that the liaison can have direct contact with management and the providers in order to access services
- Confirmed with Regional Manager Bunker that there are not enough providers in Stokes County for those in need for substance abuse
- Have been studying what is in Stokes County pertaining to services
- Confirmed with Senior Executive Outlaw that Daymark provides services for mental health and substance abuse in Stokes County
- Confirmed with Senior Executive Outlaw that InSight Human Services also works in the school system for substance abuse
- Confirmed with Senior Executive Outlaw that Youth Haven, which is primarily a mental health provider, does have substance abuse expertise that works in the school system (anyone under the age 18)
- Understand that Youth Haven does serve adults in Rockingham County

Senior Executive Outlaw responded:

- Youth Haven does serve young adults in Rockingham County

Commissioner Booth continued:

- Understand that Youth Haven has been working with adults in Rockingham County for about 2 years and has about 40% of adult clients
- Understand that the liaison would be able to refer individuals to Daymark in Stokes County for hourly sessions or day treatment

Regional Manager Bunker responded:

- Services provided are based on the individual's needs

Commissioner Booth continued:

- Sounds like to me that we need to increase the services
- Don't need to get the cart before the horse, but we definitely need more providers in Stokes County so that the liaison will have someone to refer clients to in Stokes County for the services the individual needs

Senior Executive Outlaw responded:

- I think Commissioner Booth is correct
- Our Network Development Department is very aware of the need for additional substance use treatment services, not just in Stokes County, but particularly in rural counties
- One of the issues is the volume of need, although it is tremendous when someone needs it, but often not enough to support a provider

- That is part of the reason why we have a limited number of providers who can provide those services
- Melissa and I are very hesitant to speak for DSS Director Elmes and how she views this position, wish she could have been here
- It is my understanding that her view of the liaison position is that the position would be more of a go to person that would be able to do some navigation with individuals and families who come to into departments such as Social Services and Health Department and focus on that population so that you have someone on site and present to help navigate the systems
- That person would then be able to link with Cardinal
- That person would be an integral part of the Community Partners' Meetings and other initiatives within the county

Commissioner Booth continued:

- Understand that there will be meetings for the liaison to attend, but meetings do not get more providers which are what is needed in Stokes County

Senior Executive Outlaw responded:

- Meetings are how you make it happen
- Community Partner Meetings have been a forum where we at Cardinal have been able to learn what the real needs are
- We know that all the rural counties need more substance use treatment
- Need to know what is specifically needed in your county
- Need to know if it is prescription drugs that kids are getting from their parents' medicine cabinet or is it opioid
- It really helps us to drill down and to understand what is really needed and it helps us to work with others in the community to develop a solution for the issue
- It is not just to identify what is wrong, it is also trying to put together how we bring resources from various agencies together to try to make an impact and make a difference
- There is never enough money and there are a lot of needs

Commissioner Booth continued:

- If you put in another provider, there is revenue for that provider from Medicaid, private insurance and the State
- Understand that Daymark is in King five days a week and comes to Danbury two times a month
- Sounds like to me, we need more providers in the County
- As a stakeholder, I am saying that we need more providers in Stokes County
- If you do have a liaison and that liaison does not have the providers to refer individuals to, the liaison will be spinning their wheels all the time
- How can the liaison position be measured so we can see what the position is really doing?

Senior Executive Outlaw responded:

- Feel that our role would be to link up with Social Services or the Health Department or wherever the position ends up

- We would coordinate and interface our work and our responsibility with this position – the goal, I would think, for us and I am sure for the liaison is that there would not be duplication, rather the two entities working together to further services and support what is needed in the community

Commissioner Booth continued:

- Have been thinking about the Maintenance of Efforts (MOE) monies that have to be used for behavioral health services
- Have been wondering how those monies built up when we are supposed to be providing mental health and substance abuse services for our citizens and with the county being in a need for more providers
- Is the reason we don't have enough providers because we are not spending the money?

Chairman Walker commented:

- Our topic is the opioid issue
- Can we kind of refocus a little bit on the opioid issue

Commissioner Booth responded:

- I am talking about the opioid issue
- I have been speaking about the opioid issue and the liaison position
- Talking about how the money is going to be used for the liaison position
- How am I not talking about the topic?
- How do you know where I stand on the position?

Chairman Walker commented:

- This liaison position started from a request from the Concerned Citizens Group several weeks ago
- You are right on target, Commissioner Booth, with that part of it
- One request was the need for more providers in the County
- The other request – the liaison position which is almost universally supported from community groups, Social Services, Cardinal Innovations, and others
- Requested Commissioner Booth to please tie it together

Commissioner Booth directed Chairman Walker to move on to another commissioner.

Commissioner Jones commented:

- We had this discussion scheduled to clarify Katie Lee Langan's role with Cardinal and if she could or could not be the liaison position
- I think that question has been answered – she can't do this liaison position
- Now it is back on the table, do we approve the liaison position or not?
- Understand that is what we are to decide tonight

Chairman Walker commented:

- Recall there were some questions of the Board if this could be added to Katie Lee Langan's job duties

- Thought that is why Regional Manager Bunker and Senior Executive Outlaw were in attendance to answer that question and feel that has been answered
- Did not mean to offend Commissioner Booth when he was talking about providers
- If you have never had to deal with a mental health issue, it is scary, you don't know what to do
- You go to the hospital and get sent back home
- I would have a lot of comfort if there was someone that could help me if I were involved in that process more than I have been to help guide me through the issue
- That is where I thought we were working toward

Regional Manager Bunker responded:

- I don't have too much control over things, but I can tell you that Katie Lee Langan can't do this liaison position
- I will say that straight up
- The other thing that I think is key to mention is that this is a fight that the smaller & larger counties have had for many years – is there ever enough providers in a small county
- We hear you
- Our Network Management Department, along with us as advocates from what we have learned from community, are screaming loud and clear – need more services in Stokes County
- We understand that it is not easy for someone who needs services to have to drive for thirty minutes to see a provider
- But in the interim, I would say that this position that you are questioning, is going to be in a position to work with our team to help an individual who is desperately in need of care – that position can help that individual to recognize that if they can go 30 to 40 minutes away, they can get help, they can recover
- They have to understand that they have to put in time and effort toward their own wellness
- This position can help with that

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Understand the rationale for the position but I also know that it is going to take a lot more than just one position to get control of this issue in Stokes County
- When you were talking about the stakeholders, I think that is where the concentration needs to be to identified with the different type of stakeholders for everyone to get involved with this so we can multiply one up to hundreds of people in our county
- That is what I am looking for - numbers
- Your presentation included local community leaders, DSS, Health Department, Judicial System, first responders, colleges, schools, hospitals, non-profit organizations, and the faith based organizations
- I think we are lacking in the Judicial System because our Sheriff's Department is bringing them in and they are getting out before the paperwork is finished which is not helping the situation
- We had a group of faith based organizations at our last meeting who spoke out very favorable on what they are doing to help this issue – that is just one group

- It is going to take the schools, county employees, a lot of different people and a lot of different stakeholders to make this a very positive thing in the end
- Have said from the beginning that one position is not going to cure this, but I think it will help to get others to buy into it through training and education
- With all those getting involved, I think we can show some progress with this issue in our county
- Appreciate the very informative presentation

Senior Executive Outlaw responded:

- Feel Vice Chairman Lankford is correct that it is a problem that impacts all the agencies and people in many, many families
- If someone is using opioids, they are not able to care for their kids and they end up in the custody of DSS which means they need treatment that comes back to us
- It is impacting all the systems and it is going to take all of us working together to do anything that can make a difference
- Appreciate the support

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- When we first started discussing this issue and allowed the Board to do due diligence on this issue, I believe every commissioner did their homework
- We have speakers, public comments, and information regarding this issue
- Appreciate the pastors coming in and providing the information as to what some of them are going
- I do believe in teamwork
- Teamwork is essential to me
- As Vice Chairman Lankford stated, I also believe that it is going to take many different agencies working together to try to get a handle on this situation
- Can one person totally make all the difference in the world, I think that one person being put in a mix of stakeholders may be able to help contribute to working toward fixing this problem
- That means the list of people provided by Regional Manager Bunker – stakeholders working as a team
- In my opinion, one member of this five-person Board, adding this one position would definitely benefit this situation

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Been working on this a long time
- Need to make our decision and move forward
- Feel the Board has done their due diligence

Chairman Walker asked what is the pleasure of the Board regarding this issue?

Commissioner Booth moved to approve the liaison position (Clinical Substance Abuse Counselor) with the county's share being funded from MOE funding and at least quarterly, the Board looks at this position's accomplishments along with a detailed report. Commissioner Jones

seconded the motion.

Clerk Bullins requested clarification as to where the position would be housed?

Commissioner Booth noted the federal and state funding with the position being housed in DSS.

The Board discussed the federal and state funding if the position was housed in DSS.

The Board unanimously agreed that the position needed to be housed in DSS.

Commissioner Booth added to his motion that the position would be placed under DSS. Commissioner Jones agreed to Commissioner Booth adding where the position would be housed to his motion.

Chairman Walker opened the floor for additional discussion.

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Do not think this position will take care of the problem totally, but I hope it helps
- We definitely need to keep a check on this position as noted in my motion
- Definitely need more providers in our County
- Believe we can get more providers – there is Medicaid, private insurance and state funding to pay providers
- Believe we are fifth in the State for overdoses – that shows that we need more providers
- This opioid issue started in the nineties when doctors and the FDA stated that these prescriptions were not addictive and was allowed to give out as much pain medicine as they wanted - you can see where we are at now
- Then it goes to heroin
- Have said it from the start, we have got to get it off the streets
- Have got to keep the drug cartel from coming into the United States
- It is not just a problem in Stokes County, it is a problem all over the nation
- As Vice Chairman Lankford stated about our court system, I am also disappointed in our court system
- As long as I can remember, former Sheriff Joyce and Sheriff Marshall send their employees out there putting their lives on the line to get these drug dealers off the streets
- When it goes to the court system, it gets reduced from a felony to a misdemeanor and then they are allowed back on the streets to sell again to our kids, brothers, sisters, etc.
- It is a big problem
- Like Vice Chairman Lankford stated, agree that this one position is not going to fix the problem

- It will help, but we need to see what the position is doing on a regular basis
- Need to cut the snake's head off at the ground
- We have got to keep the drugs off the street and don't know how that can be done
- Afraid with legalization of marijuana all over the nation, it is just going to lead to other things just as the opioid issue did
- Afraid we are going to find down the road that there is still a big problem

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Just want to say that this has been a strong, opinionated issue amongst our five member board
- Think President Trump is going to create a TaskForce concerning this issue
- That shows me the cruciality and importance of this issue in our lives at this time
- It made me feel good tonight to hear all five commissioners say that they feel good about bringing in this new position and that it would be a help to the situation
- We understand that one person can't solve this issue, but bringing that person in to work with others can make a difference
- In my personal opinion, it will help the situation
- I dealt with a situation while coaching baseball and wrestling
- I have seen drugs devastate these kids' lives and their families
- Will do anything I can do to try to help get these drugs off the streets
- I want to see this improved
- I lost one of my former wrestlers to drugs – suicide
- He was one of those kids who you think would never do drugs, but drugs destroyed him
- This is dear to my heart
- I hope we can make an impact on this situation

Chairman Walker called the vote.

The motion carried unanimously.

Clerk Bullins requested consensus from the Board to allow county staff to post externally without coming back to the Board, if no qualified candidates apply internally- saving time.

The Board had no issues with expediting the process in order to get a person in the position.

Chairman Walker, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to move forward with the hiring process without having to come back to the Board for external approval.

Chairman Walker commented:

- Feel we have made some progress with approving the liaison position
- Have personally gotten a little frustrated with this one since it was taking so long
- Seemed so easy to me to just approve the position

- Remind myself, I am only one vote on a five-person Board and do respect each person's right to deal with it in their own way
- As far as more services in the county for mental health, we have a budget coming up and that would be the time to do it

Vice Chairman Lankford noted it was time to move on.

Commissioner Booth noted that there were surplus monies that could be considered during the budget process.

Proposed Resolution – Stokes County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)

Chairman Walker entertained a motion regarding the following proposed Resolution for the Stokes County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) which was presented to the Board for consideration at their April 10th 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

Commissioner Booth moved to approve the Stokes County Comprehensive Transportation Plan. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.

Chairman Walker opened the floor for any further discussion.

With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Appointments – Yadkin Valley Economic Development District Inc. – Board of Directors

Chairman Walker noted that Vice Chairman Ernest Lankford was nominated at the April 10th meeting to serve on the Yadkin Valley Economic Development District, Inc. – Board of Directors.

Chairman Walker opened the floor for any further nominations.

With no further nominations, 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 polled the Board:

Vice Chairman Lankford: Vice Chairman Lankford
Commissioner Mendenhall: Vice Chairman Lankford
Commissioner Booth: Vice Chairman Lankford
Chairman Walker: Vice Chairman Lankford
Commissioner Jones: Vice Chairman Lankford

Chairman Walker noted that Vice Chairman Lankford was unanimously re-appointed to serve on the YVEDDI – Board of Directors.

Proposed Health and Dental Rates for Fiscal Year 2017-18

Chairman Walker entertained a motion regarding the proposed Health and Dental Rates for Fiscal Year 2017-18 which was presented at tonight's meeting.

Commissioner Booth moved to approve the County go self-insured with Medcost for health coverage and Delta for dental coverage for Fiscal Year 2017-18. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.

Chairman Walker opened the floor for any further discussion.

With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

External Posting for Planning Department and Health Department

Chairman Walker entertained a motion regarding the external posting for a vacant Public Health Nurse II (Health Department) and a Code Enforcement Officer II (Planning Department) which were presented at the April 10th meeting.

Commissioner Jones moved to approve the external posting for a vacant Public Health Nurse II (Health Department) position and a Code Enforcement Officer II (Planning Department) position. Vice Chairman Lankford seconded the motion.

Chairman Walker opened the floor for any further discussion.

With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Proposed Resolution – Requesting Restoration to Counties of the Statutorily Authorized Appropriation of Lottery Funds

Chairman Walker entertained a motion regarding the Proposed Resolution – Requesting Restoration to Counties of the Statutorily Authorized Appropriation of Lottery Funds which was presented at tonight's meeting.

Commissioner Mendenhall moved to approve the Resolution – Requesting Restoration to Counties of the Statutorily Authorized Appropriation of Lottery Funds. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.

Chairman Walker opened the floor for any further discussion.

With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

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

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

Darlene M. Bullins
Clerk to the Board

Jimmy Walker
Chairman