

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA )  
 )  
COUNTY OF STOKES )  
 )

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS  
STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA  
MAY 22, 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, May 22, 2017 at 6:00 pm with the following members present:

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

County Personnel in Attendance:  
County Manager Richard D. Morris  
County Attorney Tyrone Browder  
Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins  
Finance Director Julia Edwards

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

#### **INVOCATION**

Chairman Walker asked Commissioner Booth to deliver the invocation.

Commissioner Booth 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 May 22, 2017

Agenda.

County Manager Rick Morris requested to add the following item to tonight's Discussion

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Agenda:

- External Posting for Social Services (Processing Assistant III)

Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins requested to add the following item to tonight's

Discussion Agenda:

- Appointment to the NC A&T – Strategic Planning Board

The Board had no issues with adding the requests from County Manager Rick Morris and Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins to tonight's Discussion Agenda.

Chairman Walker directed the Clerk to add Manager Morris' request as Item (d) and Clerk Bullins' request as Item (e) (Discussion Agenda).

Commissioner Booth moved to approve the May 22<sup>nd</sup> Agenda as amended.

Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

#### **COMMENTS - Manager/Commissioners**

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

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Stokes Future Farmers Market opened this past weekend
  - The Market is located this year at the Hanging Rock State Park Visitors Center each Saturday from 10:30 am until 1:30 pm
  - Having a great year
  - This is our sixth year – looks like we are going to actually make it
- Just returned back from my recent trip to New Zealand
- Attended the Howard Coble Intermodal Transportation Center Ribbon Cutting which was held on May 17<sup>th</sup>
  - The Center will be the main hub for PART Express Bus Routes and Airport Area Shuttles that connect the Piedmont Region to PTI Airport, Greyhound, and City Transit Agencies and is quite a masterpiece
  - Will be a great addition to the region
  - Might even benefit Stokes County one day

Chairman Walker commented:

- Glad to see everyone here tonight
- See some new faces
- For whatever reason you are attending tonight's meeting, hope you will feel welcomed and that your time is well spent

- Being here, you are a part of the local government process – seeing firsthand how decisions are made
- Enjoyed the Soil and Water Awards Banquet held this past week
  - Commissioner Booth is very instrumental in putting together the awards banquet
  - Have very talented students in our County
  - Very nice event

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Would like to welcome everyone to tonight's meeting
- Stokes County Soil and Water Conservation District recently held the Annual 2017 Environmental Awareness Day for all Stokes County 5<sup>th</sup> grade students at Hanging Rock State Park
  - All students receive information at various stations located in the Park:
    - Life Functions of the Human Body
    - Forest Ecology
    - Honey Bees
    - Weather
    - Soil Conservation and Erosion
    - Water Cycle
    - Plant/Animal Ecology
    - Wildlife Habitat
- Soil and Water Awards Banquet, mentioned by Chairman Walker, honors the winners of the Stokes County Soil & Water Speech, Essay and Poster Contest along with Conservation Educator of the Year
- Recognized members of the several Boy Scout Troops and Leaders who spent over 100 hours doing volunteer work on the department's No-Till Drill (each Boy Scout received a Farm Mechanics Merit Badge) which helped out the department tremendously

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Would like to thank each person for being here tonight
- Good to see a lot of familiar faces
- Enjoyed the Soil and Water Banquet last week
- To all those who come out each week to speak, I would like to say thank you for being a part of Stokes County Government

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Ethics for Life – “I have become all things to all people, so that by all possible means I might save some ” “I do all things for the sake of the gospel so that I may share in its blessings” (Corinthians 9:22-23)

County Manager Morris commented:

- Reminders:
  - First Board of County Commissioners' Budget Work Session for Fiscal Year 2017-18 will be held tomorrow, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 pm – third floor conference room
  - There will be no June 6<sup>th</sup> Board of County Commissioners' Planning Meeting

Chairman Walker confirmed with County Manager Morris that the RiverStreet Ribbon

Cutting is tentatively scheduled for some time during the first two weeks in July – will be scheduling a definite date very soon.

## **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:

### **Dean Priddy**

3277 NC 8 South

Walnut Cove, NC 27052

**RE: South and North Stokes High School – Air Conditioning**

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

- Here tonight to speak about the need for air conditioning in the South and North Stokes High School gyms
- Go to a lot of athletic events in different counties
- Have talked to people who confirmed that air conditioning can be placed in both gyms
- North Surry and East Surry High Schools have put air conditioning in older schools
- Believe every school in Surry County has air conditioned gyms, most all high school gyms have air conditioning
- Attend a ball game or an inside graduation when the weather is hot, you will quickly see the need for air conditioning in both gyms – South and North Stokes
- Even though these high schools are 50 years old, the facilities need air conditioning
- Have been trying to get this done for a long time
- Both high schools need air conditioning in the gyms
- Thank you for your time

### **Ellen Peric**

1095 Wheeler Smith Road

Lawsonville, NC

**Re: Arts Update**

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

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- Here tonight speaking as the President of the Stokes County Arts Council Board of Directors
- On May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, the Stokes County Arts Council (SCAC) presented “Steel Magnolias” at The Arts Place
  - It was performed by the Nonesuch Playmakers from Mount Airy
  - There were 74 guests for the first night and 37 guests for the second night
  - It was well received by attendees
  - The Higher Grounds Coffee Shop had a long line of customers before each performance and several folks dined at Artists Way Creations before the show
- Would like to provide the Board with the following upcoming events:
  - May 25<sup>th</sup>
    - Chestnut Grove Middle School and West Stokes High School Jazz Band Concert at The Arts Place (7 pm)
    - Admission - free
  - May 26<sup>th</sup>
    - Artist reception at the Apple Gallery from 5:30-8:00 pm for Ken Bridle
    - Ken’s watercolors will hang in the gallery for the month of June
    - Admission - free
  - May 26<sup>th</sup>
    - Miles Davis Jazz Celebration – The Arts Place (8 pm)
    - Admission - free
  - May 28<sup>th</sup>
    - Memorial Day Program –King Central Park (5 pm)
    - Admission - free
  - June 1<sup>st</sup>
    - The Danbury Songwriters Season Debut (7 pm)
    - Admission - \$5
    - This will be a weekly event every Thursday throughout the summer
  - June 3<sup>rd</sup>
    - Artshine – to be held at Luna’s Trail Farm and Event Center (2-5:30 pm)
    - Heavy Hors’douvres served by Chef Adam Andrews of Jeffrey Adams and the Fourth Street Filling Station
    - Music by Andrea Templon and Friends
    - Silent and Live Auction and live demonstrations throughout the day
    - This is a fundraiser for Phase 2 of the Arts Place
    - Admission - \$50
    - Every ticket holder receives a \$20 voucher on any purchase of a Live Auction item
  - June 4<sup>th</sup>
    - Hanging Rock State Park – Gallery Reception for Justine Luzwick (2-4 pm)
    - Justine Luzwick is the featured artist
    - Justine is one of our Stokes County Art Teachers and her work includes photography as well as paintings
    - Justine also teaches at our Stokes Uncorked Series
    - Admission – free
- Thank you

**Candice Nelson**  
170 Lakeside Drive  
Walnut Cove, NC  
Re: **South Stokes Air Conditioning in the Gym**

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

- Here to speak about the need for air conditioning in the gym at South Stokes High School
- My daughter plays volleyball for South Stokes High School
- During the summer, she has gotten nauseated several times due to the heat in the gym
- They try to start early in morning, but it gets really hot very quickly in the gym during the summer months
- It is also very hot for those attending those volleyball games
- Also support air conditioning for North Stokes High School
- Thank you

**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 County Commissioners:

- Just wanted to bring the Board of Commissioners an update regarding the opioid crisis
- Recently met with the Director of the Federal Government Drug Enforcement Agency located in North Carolina
  - Shared my information with the director
  - The director was very interested in the information
  - Director's focus is on enforcement rather than treatment/prevention
  - Chairman Walker attended the meeting
- Stokes County Concerned Citizens will be meeting tomorrow night
- What I see needs to be done in Stokes County is basically a cultural renaissance
- Albert Einstein said that "you can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking that created them"
- We really need new knowledge which is what I am trying to bring to Stokes County - new knowledge about treatment and prevention of drugs through a shift in neurochemistry of people
- If people practice the techniques that are included in "The Guide", people can shift their inner and emotional framework – changing their neurochemistry to be more peaceful and stable
- If there were a lot more peacefulness and stability in people, there would be no more need for drugs
- WXII recently presented a special regarding meditation which showed people using meditation how to get off all opioid medications – information about meditation included in the "The Guide"
- Lot of new information in "The Guide"
- Encourage everyone to read, study and use it - bring new knowledge to Stokes County to help solve these problems

Mr. Sarvarsi provided the Board with his letter to the Editor that was published in the Stokes News - "A Practical Solution to the Opioid Epidemic":

## **The Stokes News (Walnut Cove, NC)**

May 7, 2017

### **A Practical Solution to the Opioid Epidemic**

Dear Editor, when you do the numbers, it becomes obvious that we can't solve the opioid crisis 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%. Accordingly, with 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 percent are also dealing, we couldn't even imprison 500 dealers. Where would we put them? To build enough prison cells would cost \$32 million. To incarcerate them for 20 years would cost \$500 million. 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 any reasonable number of therapists or hospital beds have any impact at all? How could we treat 5000 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 3-5 percent after 13 months. A dismal failure. These types of programs often need to be repeated 6-7 times before there is any significant level of success. 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 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, it still requires 1,250 beds for three months per group. Most private rehabilitation centers charge about \$10,000 per month on average at a minimum, (luxury rehab centers can cost as much as \$185,000 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 DARE is ineffective in reducing the use of alcohol and drugs and is sometimes even counterproductive — worse than doing nothing." One study produced alarming results with D.A.R.E. — with students showing a 29 percent 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 filed 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 incidence 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** - Experience and research indicate that 96 percent of people with addictions never seek help. They are invisible unless arrested or hospitalized. They have no good options. The two most common interventions, counseling and treatment drugs, do not work. Plus, it can be socially and professionally disastrous to

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admit addiction. Even if treatment facilities and therapists were available, they would not be used by the 96 percent. To be successful, any treatment option should be both discreet and effective. It should also be "invisible."

**Use What Works** - Scientific studies show that normalizing neurochemistry reduces addiction by 80-95 percent. It is the only approach with a proven track record. There are over 15 natural methods to change brain chemistry that can be learned and used by anyone. How can we make them available and also discreet and invisible? Simply distribute them over the internet and let families use them directly. 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 study guide. This approach ensures 1) availability where it is needed, 2) discreet, and 3) invisible to those outside the family. Families caring for families is the only cost effective, practical approach for eliminating addiction. Plus, the study guide can be used for more than serious addiction. It could vastly improve health in the County.

**A Solution is Available Now** - A study guide for this very purpose already exists. It's a guide for families, but it's 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 actually easy to train families to administer this program. The study guide is very readable and is available for free online to read or as an ebook. All we need to do is to promote this study guide. It is theoretically possible that we could eliminate the vast majority of drug use within 90 days if we can get this guide to everyone in Stokes County. The 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> Copyright © 2017, The Stokes News, All Ri

**Mitch Adams**

126 Glen-Oaks Drive

King, NC

**Re: South and North Stokes High Schools - Air Conditioning**

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

- I am the Athletic Director at South Stokes High School
- Here tonight to speak about the need for air conditioning for both South and North Stokes High Schools
- I am a teacher and a coach at South Stokes and an advocate for Stokes County
- Both high schools need air conditioning in the gyms for the safety and well-being of our athletes and students as well as spectators
- Want to speak about one game in particular held at South Stokes which I think Commissioner Mendenhall attended
  - It was a game against West Stokes and we had a very big crowd
  - This was an extremely warm night in January
  - Probably the hottest game I have ever had to coach or be a spectator
  - It was so bad that the gym floor started sweating
  - There were several stoppage of plays because athletes were slipping and falling on the wet gym floor
  - When you looked in the stands, all you saw was people fanning themselves trying to stay cool
  - It was a miserable night
  - That is just one example, there are several, several more
- Volleyball, for example, starts in the middle of August
- It is very hard for our athletes to compete in extreme hot temperatures
- Being a physical education teacher, I work in the gym every day



- This past week, it was extremely hard to be in that gym due to the outside hot temperatures
- It may be an old school, but we have great facilities at South Stokes
- Hear lots of great compliments about our facilities, but always hear the complaints about the fact that the gym does not have air conditioning
- It is time to enhance those facilities
- Asking for the Board of County Commissioners' support for air conditioning at both South and North Stokes High Schools
- Appreciate the opportunity to speak to the Board of County Commissioners

**Jason Clark**

1025 Serenity Heights Drive

Germananton, NC

**Re: South and North Stokes High Schools - Air Conditioning**

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

- Much like most of the Board, I grew up in Stokes County – “I am a lifer “
- I attended South Stokes High School
- Fortunate to be teaching and coaching at South Stokes High School
- Stokes County is a great county – that is why I have chosen to live here
- I do not want to be selfish, but both South and North Stokes High Schools deserve to get air conditioning in their gyms
- Realize that West Stokes is a newer school and has air conditioning
- Agree with everything that Coach Adams stated about that one particular night at South Stokes in January
  - Was also coaching that night
  - Was soaked from head to toe and that is no exaggeration
  - It was unbearable for everyone – athletes, coaches, spectators
- I hold several activities during the summer months in the gym
- Have a summer kids' camp scheduled this year with approximately 50 kids (K-8<sup>th</sup> grade) from 8:00am to 1:00pm
- It is very hot for these kids to endure
- All the proceeds go back into the athletic programs at South Stokes
- Believe we could get more kids if the gym had air conditioning
- Feel those camps help to keep kids occupied during the summer – keeps them out of trouble
- A place that kids can be mentored by other kids in a safe environment
- I know that North Stokes also holds a kids' camp
- I am sure both programs would have more participation if the facilities had air conditioning
- Also do a jamboree during the last part of June
  - Started out seven (7) years ago having 16 teams each day from Guilford, Forsyth and surrounding counties
  - The one complaint received was – no air conditioning
  - Numbers have decreased each year
  - More schools are doing similar activities and schools are going to the facilities that have air conditioning
  - Some of the schools even advertise “air conditioned gyms”
  - Very hard for kids to focus when they are extremely hot

- There are a lot of summer activities held in the gyms
- One thing coming up very soon – graduation
- Graduation is a very special moment for students, parents, grandparents and to have to attend one in a gym with 90 degree temperatures and no air conditioning, it is just not a good memory
- We owe it to our students, faculty, and our county
- Please support funding for air conditioning for both North and South Stokes High Schools

**Three-minute time limit called.**

**E. A. “Buddy” Timm**

PO Box 573

Walnut Cove, NC

Re: **Health Care**

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

My concern is over the Federal Government staying in the Health Care business.

“The Republican Congress promised to repeal and replace Obama Care; yet I find no place in the Constitution where the Federal Government was delegated a power over health care. Some say from the Constitution’s Article 1, Section 8, the Federal Government is to: “provide for the . . . general welfare of the United States.” James Madison objects to that in Federalist Paper, No. 41, “. . . shall one part of the same sentence be excluded altogether from a share in the meaning; and shall the more doubtful and indefinite terms be retained in their full extent, and the clear precise expressions be denied any signification whatsoever? For what purpose could the enumeration of particular powers be inserted, if these and all others were meant to be included in the preceding general power? Nothing is more natural nor common than first to use a general phrase, and then to explain and qualify it by a recital of particulars;” and in No. 14, “In the first place it is to be remembered that the general Government is not charged with the whole power of making and administering laws. Its jurisdiction is limited to certain enumerated objects . . . .”

Thomas Jefferson adds clarity in his 1798 Kentucky Resolution, “VII. Resolved, That the construction applied by the General Government (as is evidenced by sundry of their proceedings) to those parts of the Constitution of the United States which delegate to Congress a power ‘to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises; to pay the debts, and provide for the common defense, and general welfare of the United States,’ and ‘to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof,’ goes to the destruction of all the limits prescribed to their power by the Constitution—That words meant by that instrument to be subsidiary only to the execution of the limited powers, ought not to be construed as themselves to give unlimited powers, nor a part so to be taken, as to destroy the whole residue of the instrument . . . .”

The Constitution’s Tenth Amendment supports enumerated powers—for how else are powers delegated except through enumeration?—“The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.” Therefore powers are either delegated or reserved.

Unlimited and unlisted alleged powers are premised on necessity—"Necessity is the plea for every infringement of human liberty; it is the argument of tyrants; it is the creed of slaves," spoke William Pitt. Even from necessity, Health Care is a huge, unconstitutional, socialistic grab of power over our lives; displacing freedom.

Everyone, and especially those that have taken an oath to the Constitution, should be exclaiming: Repeal Obama Care—turn Health Care over to the Free Market!

Chairman Walker expressed appreciation to those who spoke at tonight's meeting.

### **Presentation of Fiscal Year 2017-18 Recommended Budget**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following Budget Message along with his recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2017-18: (County Manager Morris expressed appreciation to Finance Director Julia Edwards, Clerk Darlene Bullins, County Department Heads, and other staff members who worked very hard as they usually do to help put this recommended budget together.)

### **Budget Message**

Fiscal Year 2017/18

TO: **The Honorable Chairman and Commissioners**  
Stokes County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)

FROM: Richard D. Morris, County Manager

DATE: May 22, 2017

SUBJECT: **Fiscal Year 2017/18 Recommended Budget**

### **Introduction**

In accordance with the North Carolina Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act (G.S. 159-8), I hereby present and submit for your review and adoption a proposed balanced budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017/18. A mandatory Public Hearing for the proposed FY 2017/18 Budget has been scheduled for 7:00 pm in Courtroom "A" of the Stokes County Government Center on Monday, June 5, 2017.

### **Executive Summary**

The total recommended Stokes County Budget for FY 2017/18 is \$49,365,491. This is a 7.36% (\$3,383,741) increase over last year's approved budget.

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Without the recommended funding for the following, the increase would only be 4.6%:

- The School System to cover their depleted Current Expense Fund Balance
- The purchase of new voting machines
- A new filing system for the Clerk of Court
- And a COLA for county employees

This recommendation contains no Ad Valorem tax increase, per budget guidance, and uses \$1,293,800 from the County's General Fund Balance to balance the budget. The 7.36% increase in this year's recommended budget, over last year's adopted budget, was driven by the following major contributors which are listed below:

- \$724,255 that was provided to the School System to cover the amount spent last year from their Current Expense fund balance that was not available this year from their fund balance plus \$75,000 was recommended to bring their Current Expense fund balance up to \$250,000 per this year's budget guidance.
- The non-recurring cost to replace the County's voting machines
- Structural increases built into the budget for personnel such as longevity and medical / dental premiums and the county's contribution to the retirement system for county employees
- The cost of equipment and supplies required to perform the county mission of providing services to the public
- The incorporation of a 2% COLA per the budget guidance

The County's personnel turnover rate remains high with my estimate being an approximate 15% turnover rate this year for full-time personnel and 20% if part-time workers are factored in. The County's overall annual budget expenditures remain significantly lower than the average of like counties based on data provided by the Local Government Commission (LGC). All recommendations for the FY 2017/18 proposed budget were made after careful consideration of the content, spirit and intent of the BOCC budget guidance that was provided. This recommended budget attempts to balance the needs of all organizations requesting funds by giving them what they need to operate along with strict compliance to the budget guidance provided by the BOCC.

### **Budget Guidance**

Prior to development of this recommended budget, several budget guidance sessions were held with the county manager and staff where specific direction was provided by a majority of the BOCC on how the budget should be prepared. A list of specific budget guidance items is shown below:

- No Ad Valorem (property tax) increase should be considered
- A .5 cent Fire Tax increase should be considered
- No new positions that would grow government should be considered unless the need for the new position could be justified as a very urgent or easily justifiable need
- No new reclassifications of personnel should be considered unless needed to remain legal from the standpoint of complying with current labor laws

- Requirement for the County General Fund Balance to remain at or above 20% with a goal of keeping it in the range of 24 to 25% or higher
- Allow the School System to maintain a Current Expense Fund Balance of \$250K
- Include a 2% cost of living adjustment (COLA) for full and part-time county employees
- Use a 97.25% collection rate per recommendation of the Tax Administrator and consensus of the BOCC

In preparing my budget recommendation, I strictly adhered to the budget guidance items shown above to ensure that I met the BOCC's intent and compliance with specific budget guidance that was provided. In the development of my recommendations if I have inadvertently misinterpreted the intent or specific guidance from the BOCC on any item, the Board can easily make changes during the budget review and approval process where additional information can be provided by the county manager & staff, the public hearing comments and the joint meeting with the Board of Education (BOE).

### **Budget Requests from County Departments**

The department heads were conservative in their budget requests. They continue to operate on very lean budgets, as evidenced by the relatively low amount of dollars the County was able to recoup during quarterly financial execution reviews of the FY2016/17 Budget. Structural increases in the proposed budget, across all departments were primarily for longevity increases, retirement contributions and health / dental insurance premiums.

**Other specific budget requests from the departments are addressed below:**

### **Equipment Requests:**

Requests were submitted for a variety of equipment to include computers and vehicles. All computer requests were reviewed by the Information Technology Department and only computers at the end of their life were approved, unless they were funded by other than county dollars. With respect to vehicles, I have attached to this message a list of county vehicles (Attachment #5) for the Board to use as a reference document as you evaluate my recommendation for vehicle purchases. The vehicle list shows age, mileage, etc. of the County's vehicles. Equipment items requested and my recommendations are shown by department on Attachment #2 to this budget message. The total dollar amount requested for equipment by the county departments was \$2,585,579. The total dollar amount recommended for approval was \$1,832,875. For every item requested, I based my recommendation on two things, (1) my determination of the urgency of need and (2) did my recommendation comply with the budget guidance provided by the BOCC. The equipment that I recommended fell into two funding categories which were (1) financed equipment and (2) equipment paid directly from the General Fund. Of the \$1,832,875 amount of equipment that I recommended for approval, \$1,616,954 of that amount would be financed. It should be noted that the County will be paying off two capital loans this year for equipment purchased in earlier budget years, so the debt payment for capital will remain at approximately the same level as the new financing is offset by the payoff of the earlier loans. In summary, the total amount recommended for equipment in this budget is \$1,832,875 with \$1,616,954 of that amount to be financed. The financing will cover vehicles, new voting machines, stretchers, Lifepaks, computers, station scales at Solid Waste site and a filing system for Clerk of Court Office. The purchase of the voting

machines was recommended by the Board of Elections. Other funding sources for equipment are Register of Deeds Technology funds, New Schools / Forsyth Tech Fund (4 Cent Fund), Capital Reserve fund and state & federal funds. Only \$136,955 will be required in the FY 2017/18 Budget directly from the General Fund for recommended capital equipment purchases.

### **Personnel Requests:**

A variety of personnel requests were received from the county departments. They are summarized below along with my recommendations. A detailed list of the requests and my recommendations is included in this message as Attachment #3. My recommendations represent my best judgment on what the County needs are plus I have attempted to comply with my understanding of the direction contained in the Board's budget guidance and the Board's intent for the budget guidance as I could best interpret it.

### **Elections Department**

The Board of Elections requested a two-step pay increase for their two employees. I do not recommend approval of the increase until a salary study is completed for the county that would include a position classification evaluation to determine what the pay level should be for these positions.

### **Finance Department**

The Finance Director requested one new position with a classification grade of 62, and the reclassification of four employees, which includes the Finance Director position. It should be noted that the County's latest audit contained a finding that we did not have adequate separation of duties related to our payroll function. An additional person, most likely under Human Resources, would be a solution to this finding though we are now using a work around that was approved by the LGC. I do not recommend approval of the reclassifications or new position until a salary study is completed for the county that would include a position classification evaluation to determine what the pay level should be for these positions.

### **Forsyth Tech**

A new position of Custodian / Maintenance / Security Technician Supervisor was requested for the new Forsyth Tech Campus. I do not recommend the addition of this position based on this position not meeting the threshold for the Board's budget guidance on not adding new positions.

### **Public Buildings Department**

The following requests were submitted by the Public Buildings Department:

- A new position for a Custodial Supervisor was requested by Public Buildings for the Government Center Main Campus. I do not recommend the addition of this position based on this position not meeting the threshold for the Board's budget guidance on not adding new positions.

- Public Buildings also requested to fill a Maintenance / Road Sign Worker to replace a Maintenance /Road Signs / Water & Sewer Technician position that was requested to be converted to 100% Water & Sewer duties. Also requested was a Maintenance Technician I to replace the other Water / Sewer Maintenance Technician who was also requested to be converted to 100% Water & Sewer duties. My recommendation is that the two Water & Sewer technicians both be moved to 100% water and sewer duties, but only replace them with one Maintenance Technician I that was requested, and not fill the Maintenance / Road Signs position that will be left vacant by these changes.
  - My recommendation for converting more time to the water and sewer work is driven by the increased scope of work required with the additional water and sewer infrastructure that has been added to the County's water and sewer systems and the increased visibility that is present at this time with the operation of water and sewer as evidenced by the events last year in Flynt Michigan. This is a risk reduction measure for the county should any issues ever arise with the water and sewer system.
- I also recommended the reclassification of one Maintenance / Road Sign / Water & Sewer Worker to a Water and Sewer Maintenance Technician. This is one of the two positions discussed above in the second bullet. This reclassification is recommended because this worker has now earned all of the required certifications and is performing the exact same duties as the County's other Water & Sewer Maintenance Technician.

#### **Register of Deeds Department**

The Register of Deeds requested one additional position, a Deputy Register of Deeds I. I do not recommend the addition of this position based on this position not meeting the threshold for the Board's budget guidance on not adding new positions.

#### **Sheriff's Department**

The Sheriff requested the addition of two new positions, a Narcotics Detective and a Deputy Sheriff for the DARE Middle School Program. I do not recommend the addition of these positions based on the positions not meeting the threshold for the Board's budget guidance on not adding new positions.

#### **Department of Social Services (DSS)**

The following requests were submitted by DSS:

- The reclassification of two Processing Assistant IIIs to Income Maintenance Is. I recommended approval of these reclassifications because with changes to the NCFASST System and the resulting changes in their responsibilities it is clear, without a classification study, that their duties have changed to that of an Income Maintenance Worker I where they now have to determine eligibility of applicants.
- The reclassification of three Processing Assistant IIIs to Processing Assistant IVs who are doing IV level work. I did not recommend approval of these reclassifications until a salary

study is completed for the county where a classification evaluation can be done to determine what the pay level should be for these positions.

- The reclassification of two Social Worker IIs to Social Worker IIIs because they are doing III level work. I did not recommend approval of these reclassifications until a salary study is completed for the county where a classification evaluation can be done to determine what the pay level should be for these positions.
- DSS requested a new Social Worker II Position to replace two contract workers. I recommended approval of this position because it provides a worker who can perform a greater variety of tasks with more flexibility and it saves the County \$8,010 over the annual cost of contracting for this work. Also, contractors are currently limited to 29 hours per week because of the Affordable Care Act.
- A new Social Worker III Supervisor position was requested to complete the organizational realignment that was approved during FY2016/17 to address child welfare and foster care issues. I did not recommend approval of this position that I had earlier supported due to budget guidance not to add new positions and until the organizational changes that were made earlier can be further evaluated to determine their success in solving child welfare and foster care issues.

### **Tax Administration**

The Tax Department requested the reclassification of a Listing Appraiser position and a Personal Property Appraiser position. I did not recommend approval of these reclassifications until a salary study is completed for the county where a classification evaluation can be done to determine what the pay classification level should be for these positions.

### **Summary of Personnel Requests & Recommendations**

The total amount of funds required for the recommended personnel changes in this budget proposal is \$52,817 of which \$31,154 comes from federal or state funds. The funding impact of approving my personnel recommendations would be an increase of approximately \$21,663 county dollars annually.

### **Employee Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)**

Per the BOCC's budget guidance, this budget includes the recommendation for a 2% employee COLA for all full and part time employees and to be applied to the current grade and step table. The COLA would also apply to the BOCC, the Sheriff and the Register of Deeds. The estimated cost for the COLA to the County is \$270,000 including fringe benefits, where the General Fund portion will be \$142,534. A COLA was not recommended in last year's budget proposal in lieu of a salary study that was approved by the BOCC. I have begun some initial research on the salary study that was approved in this year's budget. I will update the BOCC on the salary study and will be making some recommendations to the BOCC during the Board's budget discussions in June. If I don't get the funding obligated during this fiscal year, my recommendation is to move it to Capital Reserve until it can be obligated.



## **Board of Education (BOE) Requests**

Though the BOE requests appear to be valid and reasonable, affordability still has to be factored into the budget recommendation process in an attempt to provide a recommended budget that is balanced between the School System and other entities receiving county funding. New school construction and renovation have added significant debt in previous budgets. The budget strategy should now shift to the repair, modification and maintenance of the existing schools. Additional funds for capital are available this year and will increase next year because school debt is being retired, which will provide additional funds that are mandated by general statute to be used by the School System for capital expenditures.

### **Current Expense**

The Current Expense budget request from the BOE for FY 2017/18 county funding was \$12,108,251. This is a 23.6% increase over last year's approved budget. This is a \$1,308,554 or 12.1%% increase over last year's BOE request. After last year's School System budget was approved, the BOCC added an additional \$90,938 through a budget amendment to cover one half of the teacher supplement plus matching funds for an SRO grant. Last year's BOE budget appropriated \$724,255 of their Current Expense fund balance to balance their Current Expense budget and in this year's request the BOE had no remaining Current Expense fund balance to appropriate for this purpose. For FY 2017/18, the School System will also experience a 20% reduction in E-rate reimbursement for telephone expense which equals \$147,417 and an increase of \$14,780 for the charter school requirement. My recommendation addresses all of these shortfalls. My budget recommendation also provides \$75,000, which when added to the estimated School System's remaining Current Expense fund balance, it will equal the \$250,000 Current Expense fund balance level that the BOCC approved as part of their budget guidance for the FY 2017/18 Budget. The \$75,000 amount is based on a remaining fund balance of \$175,000 at the School System, and it should be noted that this remaining fund balance is an estimate that will likely go up or down when the School System audit is completed later this year based on their actual expenditures.

My recommendation is to provide the BOE a total of \$10,868,860 for Current Expense. The basis for this recommendation is to provide the Board of Education sufficient funding to operate the school system at the same level that was approved last year by the BOCC. To accomplish this, my recommended Current Expense amount takes last year's approved Current Expense budget and makes adjustments for additional cost increases to the School System such as E-Rate reimbursement reductions and charter school cost increases. My adjustments also factor in the \$90,983 that was added to the School System budget by county Budget Amendment #24 dated 9/12/2017. My Current Expense recommendation is \$1,239,391 less than the amount requested by the BOE for Current Expense. The majority of the additional amount requested, but not recommended, was requested to fund an increase of the teacher supplement from 4% , figured on 2013/14 salaries, to 4% figured on current salary levels and to increase the number of locally funded teachers from the current level of five to eleven. The BOE would also like to add one assistant principal and six elementary art teachers on a one-time appropriation. The additional positions and increase to the supplement were not recommended based on budget guidance from the BOCC on not

adding positions plus affordability, given the current level of revenue available for the entire county to produce a fair and balanced budget. As I understand it, the additional funding requested by the BOE for locally funded positions, but not recommended in this budget proposal, would be used to prevent larger class sizes and additional combination classes. The BOE should be able to address funding impacts with more clarity and detail during your joint meeting on Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. As stated earlier, the BOE is also requesting a one-time appropriation of \$320,364 to hire six elementary art teachers. This request could also be addressed at your joint meeting. As I understand it, if these teachers are approved this year the State Legislature is considering picking up the cost for them beginning next year. I think grant funding is also being researched to cover some or all of the cost for these teachers. I did not recommend approval in my budget recommendation for these positions due to affordability and budget guidance on additional positions.

My recommendation also includes \$94,570 to the BOE for Current Expense to pay for operations & maintenance expenses for the Poplar Springs Elementary School. This funding will continue to come from the 4 Cent Fund and will not impact the County's General Fund.

### **Capital Outlay Expense**

The BOE Capital Outlay request for this budget was \$1,500,800. My recommendation is to provide the BOE \$1,500,800 for capital expenditures plus \$828,773 to retire the remaining General Obligation debt for West Stokes High School and Piney Grove Middle School. All of this funding will come from the School System's Capital Outlay and Capital Reserve Fund. The updated BOE Five-Year Capital Plan includes the funding for the air conditioners for North and South Stokes High School Gyms. My recommendation includes enough funding for the air conditioners but does not take the \$400,000 for the South Stokes air conditioner from the funding pool that was diverted earlier from transfer to the 4 Cent Tax Fund to do the Chestnut Grove roof and other capital projects. It returns the remaining \$400,000 to the fund balance of the 4 Cent Tax Fund. My recommendation uses \$503,073 from the School-Capital Outlay and Capital Reserve Fund which will leave it with approximately \$5,115 estimated fund balance until it is replenished with additional funds from Articles 40 & 42 sales tax. As in previous years, my recommendation is to continue prioritizing the capital funding toward the retirement of debt from earlier school construction, which will require \$828,773 in the proposed FY 2017/18 Budget. This annual debt payment for General Obligation bonds (West Stokes and Piney Grove Schools) will be paid off this year and the additional \$828,773 will become available next year for school capital projects. For clarification, all of the funding I have recommended in this budget recommendation for Capital Outlay Expense is required by general statute to go to the School System for capital expenditures or debt service and cannot be used for other purposes. If the BOCC has a concern about the low fund balance generated by my recommendation in the School-Capital Outlay and Capital Reserve Fund, the option of not transferring all the remaining \$400,000 back to the 4 Cent Tax Fund would be an option for funding the BOE capital request; however, as stated earlier that is not my recommendation.

### **Health and Dental Insurance Costs**

My recommendation includes a major change this year for health insurance where the County will move to a self-insured model with a new provider that caps the County's premiums at a monthly amount of \$508.41 per full-time employee. This will amount to a 2.6% increase in premiums. This new health insurance model maintains acceptable risk for the County while providing a much cheaper premium option than continuing with the approach that has been used in the past.

Dental insurance will continue with a new provider under the current model used by the County and will experience a 14% increase in premiums based on the County's experience rate.

### **Enterprise Funds**

The County has three enterprise funds which are described below:

- **"Stokes Reynolds Memorial Hospital Fund"** – This fund will now be used in conjunction with the new hospital operator LifeBrite. All budget items related to LifeBrite are in accordance with the terms and conditions of the County's amended lease with LifeBrite. The County is also using this fund to manage all "accounts receivable" and "accounts payable" remaining from the County's prior operation of the hospital, after the transfer back from Baptist Hospital, and before Pioneer and LifeBrite took over. This fund will also be used to execute the financial agreements with LifeBrite in accordance with the amended lease. This includes the \$1 annual lease payment to the County, the remaining indigent care commitment from the original Pioneer lease and the \$10,000 annual payment from LifeBrite to the County for future capital improvements or studies.
- **"Regional Sewer Fund"** – This fund remains financially sound with no rate increases.
- **"Danbury Water Fund"** – This fund is financially sound. My budget recommendation includes replacement of the old water lines on Hanging Rock Forest Road to improve water pressure and quality for those customers.

### **General Fund Balance**

Under my recommended budget, \$1,293,800 will be required from the County's General Fund to balance the budget. An estimate of approximately \$1,263,540 will be returned to the County's General Fund Balance on June 30, 2017 from appropriated General Fund dollars in the FY 2016/17 Budget that will not be expended. An estimated amount of \$1,000,000 dollars of the amount appropriated from the General Fund for FY 2016/17 will likely be expended. The net result of the unspent General Fund appropriation for FY 2016/17 along with other actual revenues and expenditures this year will produce an estimated General Fund balance of 28% for my recommended budget, which will exceed the General Fund balance goal of 24 to 25% that was expressed in the BOCC budget guidance discussions.

### **Interest Earnings /Rates**

Interest earnings on idle funds invested by the county remain negligible due to continued low market rates but have been increased slightly. Interest rates are projected to increase slightly but remain low through the next fiscal year.

### **Sales Tax Receipts**

Sales tax receipts for the "General Fund" are up by \$1,449,875 over last year, as of March 31, 2017, which is a 47.72% increase. This increase is due to the new sales tax Article 44\*524, which amount to \$1,157,960 as of March 31, 2017. Also up are Article 40 and 42 sales tax receipts, where a proportion goes to the school system. Articles 40 and 42 sales tax receipts are up by \$95,111 over last year for the same time period, which is a 7.89% increase. Even though sales tax receipts are up from last year, they remain significantly lower than the levels received prior to 2008. The opening of the new Walmart had minimal impact this year but is expected to provide a significant increase in sales tax in FY 2017/18. The County also continues to benefit from the change in sales tax distribution by the State Legislature where the county is receiving approximately \$1,543,689 per year as promised with the legislation.

### **Ad Valorem Taxes**

Ad Valorem taxes are the main source (51%) of revenue for the county budget. Based on the last Stokes County audit, the FY 2015/16 actual collection rate was 97.54%. This proposed budget uses a more conservative collection rate of 97.25%. Should the BOCC desire to do so, the collection rate could be raised as high as 97.54%, though I do not recommend going above 97.25% per the Tax Administrator's recommendation. Approximately 45.1% of the Ad Valorem tax revenue goes to fund the School System's Current Expense budget.

### **Legal Services**

This proposed budget has no increase in retainer fee for the County Attorney. Currently, the County contracts with two attorneys, one of which is dedicated to providing specific legal services to the Department of Social Services (DSS), plus the County Attorney who provides both general legal services to the County and separate specific legal services to DSS. The total legal budget for the County Administration is \$78,000 which also includes an allocation for litigation and outside legal services that would not fall under the scope of the County Attorney's contract. Additional funding in the amount of \$110,000 is also included in the DSS Budget for the DSS attorney, of which \$42,707 is county funds.

### **Cardinal Innovations Maintenance of Effort (MOE)**

Cardinal Innovations has introduced a new process for the management of MOE funding where the County is given complete discretion on the management of these funds for mental health services. This will result in the County managing a portion of the MOE funds and Cardinal Innovations managing the balance of the funds. This will also allow the BOCC to take a greater role in how the total MOE funding allocation is used. To address the changes, Stokes County has established a new mental health MOE fund to separately manage and track these funds and how they are used. My

MOE recommendation for FY 2017/18 was given to the BOCC at a recent regular board meeting to be discussed further during the ongoing budget process.

### **Animal Control**

The Animal Control Department has been moved under control of the Sheriff's Department. Animal Control also participated in a recent program review conducted by the State Animal Welfare Section. The report, when received, will provide guidance on changes that need to be made to keep the Animal Control Department in compliance with all regulatory requirements related to Animal Control. Until this report is received, it's difficult to know how much to budget for the Animal Control Department. Given these circumstances, my budget recommendation funds basic personnel costs and equipment needs for the department and places \$50,000 into the misc. contractual services line that can be spent to ensure compliance with any new requirements that are called out in the report from the program review when it is received. Any of these funds that are not needed would be recouped and placed back in the General Fund. One possible recommendation that might be in the program review report would be increasing the dog tax on dogs that are not spayed or neutered. An amount of \$50 per dog has been recommended in the past by the Animal Advisory Council. The Board may want to look at this and other options during your budget discussions in May and June to further incentivize spay and neutering of dogs.

### **Economic Development**

This budget proposal leaves in place the current interim organizational structure for the Economic Development Department for an additional year. At some point, the BOCC will need to revisit the earlier decision to not fund the Director's position. In accordance with the budget guidance, I did not recommend funding the Director's position this year because it would be the funding equivalent of adding a new position, which would not comply with the BOCC budget guidance. Also included in the Economic Development budget is the second \$600,000 payment of the three-year contractual obligation for grant funding to RiverStreet for the new fiber optic network and customer service facility that will begin operation in July 2017.

### **Grant Program for County Parks**

This budget recommendation again does not fund the previous grant program to improve county parks but does continue the funding of operational costs at \$2,000 per year to assist the parks that are approved to receive these funds.

### **Francisco School**

This budget recommendation includes \$18,000 to cover insurance and utilities at the Francisco School Property, while the BOCC goes through the disposition process for the property. This assumes that the disposition process will be completed within six months. If it is completed earlier the remaining funds can be returned to the General Fund. If it takes longer, additional funds will be added by budget amendment. This appropriation does not imply any extension of the MOU with Our Communities of Northwest Stokes.

## **Fire Departments and Fire Tax**

My budget recommendation increases the Fire Tax by one half cent which complies with the BOCC decision to increase the Fire Tax for one-half cent per year over a three year period. This is the third and last year of the period that was covered by the motion to accomplish this incremental increase. This will raise the Fire Tax to 8 cents for the Service District and municipal fire departments that receive Fire Tax from the County.

## **Revenue Neutral Calculation**

In compliance with North Carolina General Statute 159-11(e), the General Fund "revenue neutral" tax rate would be 59.95 cents per \$100 of property value. The General fund "revenue neutral" tax rate would produce \$23,245,899 of revenue. The General Fund property tax revenue used in this year's recommended budget with no property tax increase is \$23,441,960 including motor vehicles, which is derived using the 97.25% collection rate for property and 100% for motor vehicles, and is not included in the "revenue neutral" number above. The "revenue neutral" amounts are also required for the 4 Cent Fund and the individual fire district fire tax funds. These calculations are included as part of this message in Attachment #4.

For this recommended budget, one cent in property tax equals \$378,096 including motor vehicles revenue at the 97.25% collection rate for property and 100% for motor vehicles. For clarification, the revenue neutral calculation includes a .50% average growth percentage and reflects a collection rate of 100%.

## **Status of Revenue**

The County continues to experience a revenue shortage even though the sales tax formula for North Carolina has been changed to provide a partial solution to this problem and the opening of the new Walmart Store in the City of King will also produce additional sales and Ad Valorem taxes. Last year's LGC data reported that like counties to Stokes in population size were expending \$52 to \$59 Million on their budgets and this year's LGC data does not show a range but does show an average expenditure of \$57 Million for like counties, which is slightly skewed because it includes Dare County with its \$104 Million budget. Stokes County's current budget expenditure level is approximately \$44,289,145.

## **Summary**

In summary, my recommended budget attempts to place the county in the best possible position to provide the required services to the county residents and to the best of my understanding comply with the budget guidance provided by the BOCC.

- **What this recommended budget does not do.....**
  - Does not increase or reduce Ad Valorem taxes
  - Does not furlough or lay off any county employees
  - Does not eliminate or reduce any existing services to county residents

- **What this recommended budget does do.....**
  - Appropriates County General Fund dollars to balance the budget
  - Keeps the projected County General Fund Balance in close proximity to the desired level expressed in the budget guidance from the BOCC
  - Funds capital equipment needed by the County and School System
  - Continues to pay 100% of employees' health and dental care premiums with no benefit changes
  - Provides a 2% COLA for all full and part time employees, the Sheriff, Register of Deeds and the BOCC

### **Recommendation**

**It is my formal recommendation that the BOCC adopt my recommended budget of \$49,365,491 for the FY 2017/18 Fiscal Year.**

**Note:** This budget message includes the following five attachments:

- **Attachment #1** is a graphic comparison of revenues and expenses in the current and recommended budget
- **Attachment #2** is a list of the capital equipment requested by each department head and which items were recommended in my budget proposal
- **Attachment #3** is a list of personnel requests from the department heads and the requests that were recommended for approval in the budget proposal
- **Attachment #4** is the revenue neutral calculations for the 4 Cent Tax Fund and the Fire Departments
- **Attachment #5** is the county vehicle list

Chairman Walker commented:

- Just to let everyone know, the Board has officially received the manager's recommended budget for Fiscal Year 2017-18
- The Board does not have any discussion regarding the manager's recommended budget until the budget work sessions (first work session (open to the public) is tomorrow at 1:00 pm)

Chairman Walker expressed appreciation to County Manager Morris for his presentation.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Consent Agenda:

### **Minutes**

- Minutes of May 8, 2017 - Regular Meeting

### **Sheriff's Department - Budget Amendment #78**

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #78.

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

<b>Account Number</b>	<b>Account Description</b>	<b>Current Budgeted Amount</b>	<b>Increase (Decrease)</b>	<b>As Amended</b>
<b>Sheriff's Department</b>				
100.4310.290	Miscellaneous	<u>\$3,000.00</u>	<u>\$940.00</u>	<u>\$3,940.00</u>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,000.00</b>	<b>\$940.00</b>	<b>\$3,940.00</b>

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To purchase items for DARE.

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.

<b>Account Number</b>	<b>Account Description</b>	<b>Current Budgeted Amount</b>	<b>Increase (Decrease)</b>	<b>As Amended</b>
<b>General Fund</b>				
100.3301.413	State Fines & Forfeitures	<u>\$10,295.00</u>	<u>\$940.00</u>	<u>\$11,235.00</u>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,295.00</b>	<b>\$940.00</b>	<b>\$11,235.00</b>

### **Mental Health - Budget Amendment #79**

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #79.

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

<b>Account Number</b>	<b>Account Description</b>	<b>Current Budgeted Amount</b>	<b>Increase (Decrease)</b>	<b>As Amended</b>
<b>Mental Health</b>				
100.5200.680	Mental Health	\$385,820.00	\$(64,303.00)	\$321,517.00
100.5200.681	SOC Transportation	\$10,000.00	\$(1.00)	\$9,999.00
100.9820.993	Mental Health MOE	<u>\$00.00</u>	<u>\$64,304.00</u>	<u>\$64,304.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$395,820.00</b>	<b>\$00.00</b>	<b>\$395,820.00</b>
<b>Mental Health MOE Fund</b>				
111.5200.000	Mental Health	<u>\$00.00</u>	<u>\$64,304.00</u>	<u>\$64,304.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$00.00</b>	<b>\$64,304.00</b>	<b>\$64,304.00</b>



This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To transfer MOE Funds for Mental Health to the new Mental Health MOE Fund for appropriation.

This will result in a **net increase** of **\$64,304.00** 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.

<b>Account Number</b>	<b>Account Description</b>	<b>Current Budgeted Amount</b>	<b>Increase (Decrease)</b>	<b>As Amended</b>
<b>General Fund</b>				
111.3982.000	Transfer from General Fund	<u>\$00.00</u>	<u>\$64,304.00</u>	<u>\$64,304.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$00.00</b>	<b>\$64,304.00</b>	<b>\$64,304.00</b>

**Capital Projects Fund - Lawsonville Elementary School Project) –  
Budget Amendment #80**

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #80.

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

<b>Account Number</b>	<b>Account Description</b>	<b>Current Budgeted Amount</b>	<b>Increase (Decrease)</b>	<b>As Amended</b>
<b>Lawsonville Elementary School Project</b>				
400.5913.600	General Contract	<u>\$37,415.00</u>	<u>\$8,785.00</u>	<u>\$46,200.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$37,415.00</b>	<b>\$8,785.00</b>	<b>\$46,200.00</b>

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To appropriate additional funding for the picnic shelter at Lawsonville Elementary School. The cost of transferring land, engineer, and the bid for the shelter including a walkway from the school will be more than the \$25,000. Total Cost = \$46,200

This will result in a **net increase** of **\$8,785.00** 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.

<b>Account Number</b>	<b>Account Description</b>	<b>Current Budgeted Amount</b>	<b>Increase (Decrease)</b>	<b>As Amended</b>
<b>General Fund</b>				
400.3831.001	Investment Income	<u>\$00.00</u>	<u>\$8,785.00</u>	<u>\$8,785.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$00.00</b>	<b>\$8,785.00</b>	<b>\$8,785.00</b>

## **Tax Administration Report – April 2017**

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

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Refunds more than \$100 – Real and Personal Property (April 2017) at the May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting for the Board's review with consideration at the May 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting:

Refunds Mores Than Name	\$100 Real/Personal Bill Number	Amount	Reason
First Baptist Church Of Walnut Cove	29384440	\$591.44	Religious Exempt
Scotty E. Shelton	34204616	\$179.03	Vehicle Sold
Kenneth G. Sharp Jr Westmoreland	16525696	\$304.25	Vehicle Sold
Construction Co. Inc. Lamer D. Martin, Jr.	35539987	\$399.66	Change of County
Melissa A. S. Martin	2121-2016-2016	<u>\$112.66</u>	Double Listed
	<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>\$1,587.07</b>	

### **Tax Administration – Late Application for Religious Exemption for 2016**

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Late Application for Religious Exemption for 2016 at the May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting for the Board's review with consideration at the May 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting:

- Taxpayer: First Baptist Church of Walnut Cove
  - Bill number #29384440
  - Owns: 2016 American Bus
  - Assigned Tax Value = \$55,796
  - Requesting a late application for the year 2016 for religious exemption
  - Review of the application and accompanying documents indicate that First Baptist Church of Walnut Cove qualify for the exemption and a full refund of \$591.44
  - Tax Administration recommends approval by the Board of County Commissioners of this late application

### **Proposed Proclamation – Emergency Medical Services Week**

Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins presented the following proposed Proclamation Emergency Medical Services Week (May 21 -27, 2017) for the Board's review and consideration May 22, 2017

at tonight's meeting (May 22<sup>nd</sup>) which was requested by EMS Director Greg Collins:

**STOKES COUNTY**

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK 2017**

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

**WHEREAS**, The State of North Carolina has proclaimed May 21-27, 2017 as "EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK"; and

**WHEREAS**, Stokes County's Emergency Medical Services system is a vital public service; and

**WHEREAS**, the members of the Emergency Medical Services teams are ready to provide life-sustaining care to those in need twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week; and

**WHEREAS**, over the years, the quality of emergency care has dramatically improved the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury; and

**WHEREAS**, the residents and visitors to Stokes County benefit daily from the dedicated efforts, knowledge and skills of the emergency medical teams, career and volunteer; emergency medical technicians; paramedics; emergency nurses; emergency physicians; rescue squad workers; fire fighters; public safety telecommunications personnel; emergency administrators; emergency response educators; disaster response personnel, and others who received specialized training and continuing education to enhance and maintain their lifesaving skills; and

**WHEREAS**, injury prevention, public safety education and the appropriate use of the Emergency Medical Services system will help reduce health care costs; and

**WHEREAS**, to recognize the value and accomplishments of the Emergency Medical Services teams, we set aside a special period to observe the contribution of these men and women to the citizens of Stokes County.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE STOKES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS** do hereby proclaim **May 21-27, 2017**, as "**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK**" in Stokes County, and call upon all citizens to observe this period with appropriate programs and activities.

Adopted this the **22<sup>nd</sup>** Day of **May, 2017**.

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**Chairman Jimmy Walker**

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**Vice Chairman Ernest Lankford**

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**Commissioner James D. Booth**

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**Commissioner Ronda Jones**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Commissioner Ronnie Mendenhall**

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Darlene M. 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**

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

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

#### **Proposed Resolution – Extension of State 2016 Interim Installment Financing Contract for the Community College**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following proposed Resolution - Extension of State 2016 Interim Installment Financing Contract for the Community College for the Board's review:

#### **EXTRACTS FROM MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, North Carolina, was duly held on May 22, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioner's Chambers on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of the Administration Building located at 1014 Main Street, Danbury, North Carolina. Chairman Jimmy Walker presiding.

The following members were present:

The following members were absent:

\_\_\_\_\_ presented the following resolution, copies of which having been made available to the Board of Commissioners, for adoption:

#### **RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF STOKES, NORTH CAROLINA, APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO AN INSTALLMENT FINANCING CONTRACT AND DELIVERY THEREOF AND PROVIDING FOR CERTAIN OTHER RELATED MATTERS**

**WHEREAS**, the County of Stokes, North Carolina (the "*County*") is a validly existing political subdivision of the State of North Carolina, existing as such under and by virtue of the Constitution, statutes and laws of the State of North Carolina (the "*State*");

**WHEREAS**, the County has the power, pursuant to the General Statutes of North Carolina to (1) purchase real and personal property, (2) enter into installment financing contracts in order to finance the purchase of real and personal property used, or to be used, for public purposes, and (3) finance the construction of fixtures or improvements on real property by contracts that create in the fixtures or improvements and in the real property on which such fixtures or improvements are located a security interest to secure repayment of moneys advanced or made available for such construction;

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, North Carolina (the "*Board of Commissioners*"), has previously determined that it was in the best interest of the County to (a) enter into an Installment Financing Contract (the "*Interim Contract*") with PNC Bank, National Association (the "*Bank*") in order to obtain funds sufficient to construct a satellite campus of Forsyth Technical Community College in the County (the "*Project*") and (b) enter into a deed of trust and security agreement (the "*Interim Deed of Trust*") related to the County's fee simple interest in the real property on which Project will be located (the "*Site*");

**WHEREAS**, the County expects to discharge this Interim Contract upon completion of the construction of the Project, at which time the County will enter into an installment financing contract with either the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the County's financing corporation or a financial institution to be determined (the "*Long-Term Contract*," and together with the Interim Contract, the "*Contracts*") and execute and deliver a deed of trust, security agreement and fixture filing (the "*Long-Term Deed of Trust*," and together with the Interim Deed of Trust, the "*Deeds of Trust*") securing the County's obligations under the Long-Term Contract;

**WHEREAS**, the County and the Bank have agreed to extend the maturity date of the Interim Contract to September 28, 2017;

**WHEREAS**, there has been presented to the Board a form of Amendment to the Interim Contract (the "*Amendment*"), a copy of which is attached hereto, which the County proposes to approve, enter into and deliver, as applicable, to effectuate the extension of the final maturity, all as further specified in the Amendment;

**WHEREAS**, it appears that the Amendment is in appropriate form and is an appropriate instrument for the purpose intended;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF STOKES, NORTH CAROLINA, AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1. Ratification of Prior Actions.** All actions of the County, the County Manager, the Finance Director of the County and the Clerk to the Board and their respective designees in effectuating the proposed amendment are hereby approved, ratified and authorized pursuant to and in accordance with the transactions contemplated by the Amendment.

*Section 2. Approval, Authorization and Execution of Amendment.* The County hereby approves extension of the final maturity to September 28, 2017 and the form, terms and content of the Amendment is in all respects authorized, approved and confirmed, and the Chairman, the County Manager, the Finance Director of the County and the Clerk to the Board or their respective designees are authorized, empowered and directed to execute and deliver the Amendment for and on behalf of the County, including necessary counterparts, in substantially the forms attached hereto, but with such changes, modifications, additions or deletions therein as shall to them seem necessary, desirable or appropriate, their execution thereof to constitute conclusive evidence of their approval of any and all such changes, modifications, additions or deletions, and that from and after the execution and delivery of the Amendment, the Chairman, the County Manager, the Finance Director of the County and the Clerk to the Board or their respective designees are hereby authorized, empowered and directed to do all such acts and things and to execute all such documents as may be necessary to carry out and comply with the provisions of the Amendment as executed.

*Section 3. Repealer.* All motions, orders, resolutions, ordinances and parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

*Section 4. Severability.* If any section, phrase or provision of this Resolution is for any reason declared to be invalid, such declaration does not affect the validity of the remainder of the sections, phrases or provisions of this Resolution.

*Section 5. Effective Date.* This Resolution is effective on the date of its adoption.

On motion of \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, the foregoing resolution entitled: **“RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF STOKES, NORTH CAROLINA, APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO AN INSTALLMENT FINANCING CONTRACT AND DELIVERY THEREOF AND PROVIDING FOR CERTAIN OTHER RELATED MATTERS”** was duly adopted by the following vote:

AYES:

NAYS:

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA            )  
  )  
COUNTY OF STOKES                    )        SS:

I, DARLENE M. BULLINS, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, North Carolina, **DO HEREBY CERTIFY** that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of a resolution entitled: **“RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF STOKES, NORTH CAROLINA, APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO AN INSTALLMENT FINANCING CONTRACT AND DELIVERY THEREOF AND PROVIDING FOR CERTAIN OTHER RELATED MATTERS”** was adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, North Carolina, at a meeting held on the 22nd day of May, 2017.

**WITNESS** my hand and the corporate seal of the County of Stokes, North Carolina, this the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of May, 2017.  
(SEAL)

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**Darlene M. Bullins**  
**Clerk to the Board of Commissioners**  
**County of Stokes, North Carolina**

County Manager Rick Morris continued:

- The County is waiting for the Closing of the USDA Loan for the Community College
- The Interim Installment Financing is due to be paid by June 30, 2017
- Financial Advisor Andrew Carter recommends the County extends the current loan with PNC to September 28, 2017
- This will keep the County from having to pay the loan off or refinance the loan
- Request the item be moved to tonight's Action Agenda in order to meet the Local Government Commission's Agenda in early June

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

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Confirmed with County Manager Morris that the item needed to be moved to tonight's Action Agenda

The Board of County Commissioners had no issues with the Agenda item.

The Board of County Commissioners had no issues with moving 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.

#### **Head Start/YMCA Building Status – Continued Discussion**

County Manager Rick Morris presented additional information regarding the Head Start/YMCA Building status: (item first presented at the May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting)

- As you know, the YMCA staff has already vacated the facility
- Staff presented information regarding the renovation costs for the old Day Care Building located at the hospital and the existing facility at the May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting
- Legal review (as requested by the Board of Commissioners) indicates that the old Day Care Facility is listed on Exhibit C of the Lease with Pioneer Health Services which has been transferred to LifeBrite

- LifeBrite has the exclusive right to the use, possession, and control of the old Day Care Building for the duration of the lease term
- Stokes County has no right to use the old Day Care Building without authorization from LifeBrite
- CEO Pam Tillman has indicated that LifeBrite does have plans to use the Old Day Care Building that was looked at (possibly a medical facility)
- One facility located on the hospital campus that does appear to be available for Head Start and/or YMCA is the triple wide modular unit (facility would require renovations which has not been looked at)
- Will be glad to research the triple wide modular unit at the Board's request

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

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- At the last meeting, I spoke about the old Day Care Facility not being a part of the lease with Pioneer and LifeBrite
- I did not have the Exhibit C which detailed the facilities included in the lease
- Confirmed with County Manager Morris that the only facilities available are the triple wide modular unit, current facility, and the double wide currently being used for storage
- Would like for both the double wide and the triple wide to be looked at for possible usages
- Confirmed with County Manager Morris that CEO Tillman had indicated that the County could use the triple wide for some period of time – not sure if a permanent situation could be arranged
- Very much in support of keeping the Head Start Program in Danbury because it is needed

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Toured the triple wide with Commissioner Mendenhall and county staff
- The triple wide has approximately 12 examining rooms which could be divided for both Head Start and YMCA
- Do not think it would take much renovation
- Glad to know that LifeBrite has intentions of using the old Day Care Building for some type of medical usage
- Would like to know when they are planning on using the facility
- Can see the potential in the triple wide for Head Start and/or YMCA with the least expense to the County
- Don't think it will cost much to renovate for both organizations

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- There is an urgency for Head Start so renovations will need to be started quickly – out of school June 5<sup>th</sup> and back in school August 22<sup>nd</sup>
- County Manager Morris needs to get this checked out as soon as possible



Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- In my tour, we toured three facilities
- The triple wide modular unit was in, by far, the very best shape
- Do not foresee a lot of renovations needed
- Feel that configurations could be done to accommodate both organizations
- Know there are stipulations for Head Start that will have to be looked into
- Reiterated that there is a very short window for completing the renovations for Head Start to be back in operation by August 22<sup>nd</sup>

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Have not been able to tour the facilities due to being out of the country
- Confirmed with County Manager Morris that the triple wide modular has approximately 2,700 sq. ft.
- Will be interested to see what the manager has to report at the next meeting

Chairman Walker commented:

- Before a lot of time is spent checking out these facilities, would like to know what LifeBrite has for any future plans for the triple wide
- Feel if LifeBrite has intentions to use the triple wide down the road, it takes it out of the mix
- Confirmed with County Manager Morris that the County had not received the requested information from the YMCA
- Before I am ready to push the button to start giving out space, I would like to know how the current facility was being used by the YMCA
- It could be the YMCA only needs office space
- Believe the YMCA staff member is working from home
- Directed Clerk Bullins to find out when the information will be available from the YMCA about programs/usage
- Need to be sure there is no issue with both Head Start and YMCA being in the same facility

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

The Board unanimously agreed to place the item back on the Discussion Agenda for the June 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Chairman Walker, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the June 12<sup>th</sup> Discussion Agenda.

Commissioner Booth added:

- There may be more usage for YMCA activities if it was located closer to HWY #89
- Believe there was low turnout for the YMCA due to the condition of the current facility

Chairman Walker responded:

- There was time in years past that the current YMCA facility was being used, just not sure right now – need information from the YMCA

### **Proposed Fire Contracts – Service District and Walnut Cove Vol. Fire Department**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding the proposed Fire Contract Renewals for the Service District and the Walnut Cove Vol. Fire Department:

- Fire Contracts for the Service District and the Walnut Cove Vol. Fire Department were last approved in 2015
- Fire Contracts currently have a two-year timeframe
- The proposed renewal changes the language in Item 1 –the two-year timeframe changes to automatic renewal
- Changes to Item #1
  - This agreement shall commence effective July 1, 2017 and shall continue from fiscal year to fiscal year in accordance with the annual protection and rescue services within the Service District and to the extent funds are appropriated to continue this agreement and may be terminated by one or both of the parties hereto in accordance with Section 6 of this agreement
- This would save valuable time for county and fire department staff and paper
- Item #12 was placed in the contract during the renewal process in 2015
- At that time, there were no issues from any of the fire departments
- When renewal of the fire contracts were discussed with fire chiefs, Item 12 became an issue
- Item #12:
  - In the event of dissolution of the Fire Department and/or Rescue Squad of the Department's failure to continue to render the protection and services to the District as provided in this agreement, the Department agrees that it will convey to the County or such successor organization as the County may designate all the assets of the Fire Department subject to any liens against said property, to be used for providing fire protection and ambulance/rescue services within the District or as other provided by law
- Some of the fire departments feel Item #12 conflicts with their bylaws
- Those concerned have requested that Item #12 be removed from the agreement
- According to County Attorney Ty Browder, any non-profit has to have a charter that must have a clause that outlines what happens if the non-profit dissolves (per General Statutes)
- Would request the change to Item #1 and delete Item #12 until agreeable language can be agreed upon
- Can be approved at the June 26<sup>th</sup> meeting

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

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Have no problem taking out Item #12, but would like to know that the County does have a say so if a department is dissolved

Chairman Walker requested a legal review regarding Item #12 from County Attorney

Browder.

County Attorney Browder responded:

- A non-profit, in order to maintain a non-profit status, has to have a provision in its bylaws/charter that upon dissolution, the assets will be distributed to another non-profit qualifying 501(c) 3 – non-profit corporation
- There is no requirement upon dissolution that the assets be distributed to the County
- It cannot go to the benefit of the members

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- All fire departments' charter needs to be checked

Commissioner Mendenhall confirmed with County Attorney Browder that each fire department should have a charter that includes a provision for dissolution.

County Attorney Browder confirmed with County Manager Morris that all the fire departments in question are incorporated.

County Attorney Browder commented:

- A copy of each department's charter should be on the Secretary of State's website

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Have received a few calls from individual fire departments who are very concerned about Item #12
- They would like it removed or changed to state upon dissolution, the assets would be distributed according to the department's charter

County Attorney Ty Browder responded:

- In order to dissolve the non-profit, the non-profit would have to adopt a plan of dissolution
- As part of that plan, the department would have to decide where the assets would be distributed and to which non-profit
- According to General Statutes, the assets would have to be distributed to another non-profit
- The department would have sole discretion in where the assets would be distributed to

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Confirmed with County Attorney Browder that if Item #12 is deleted, the fire department would have sole discretion in where the assets would be distributed even though the taxpayers have contributed funding for the purchase of those assets
- Fire tax this year is recommended to be levied at 8 cents
- Confirmed with County Attorney Browder that if Item #12 is removed, the fire department, if the standard clause is in the department's charter, could give the assets to another 501(c) 3 that has nothing to do with a fire department

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Sounds convoluted
- The taxpayers have paid for the assets, but it is a non-profit and if their charter has the standard language, the department can distribute their assets to any non-profit
- This just does not make sense
- Ok with taking out Item #12 as long as the Board knows exactly what the situation is going to be
- Needs clarification

County Manager Morris commented:

- Suggest Fire Marshal Brian Booe work with the fire departments to see if Item #12 could be rewritten to satisfy everyone

Chairman Walker commented:

- Hearing from the Board that further work needs to be done with Item #12 of the agreement
- Take the County Manager Morris' suggestion to rewrite Item #12 to get closer to satisfying the needs of the fire department as well as this Board
- Concur with our other commissioners, do not want to just give them carte blanche
- Don't know who will be making the decisions in the future if something were to happen
- Need something in the contract that has the interest of the people in the county, the county, and hopefully be able to have something that the fire departments would be comfortable with

The Board unanimously agreed to place the item on the June 12<sup>th</sup> Discussion Agenda.

Chairman Walker, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the June 12<sup>th</sup> Agenda.

### **External Posting – Social Services**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding an external positing for a vacant Processing Assistant III position which is being requested from DSS

Director Stacey Elmes: (item added to tonight's Discussion Agenda)

- Position is currently being advertised internally
- Internal posting closes on May 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm
- Need to expedite the hiring of this position due to the workload
- Would request approval to post externally if no qualified applicant applies
- Would request to move to tonight's 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?

Vice Chairman Lankford confirmed with County Manager Morris that the vacancy occurred due to a resignation.

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 – NC A&T – Strategic Planning Board**

Clerk Darlene Bullins presented the following request from Stokes County Cooperative Extension Director Carl Mitchell: (item added to tonight's Discussion Agenda)

- Received a request today from Cooperative Extension Director Carl Mitchell regarding a request from NC A&T for our county to be represented on their Strategic Planning Board
- NC A&T is requesting that a current or former county commissioner, if possible, be selected to serve on the Board
- A representative is needed by the first week of June
- Meetings are expected to be held at NC A&T
- June 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> have been selected as orientation dates (Board of County Commissioners already have a Budget Work Session – Joint Meeting with Board of Education scheduled for June 14<sup>th</sup>)
- Did not have any further information

Chairman Walker questioned if there were any volunteers from the Board to serve on the Strategic Planning Board.

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Hard to volunteer with so little information such as the number of meetings, length of meetings, etc.

Chairman Walker noted that there were no Board members wishing to serve on the Strategic Planning Board due to other commitments.

Chairman Walker suggested looking for a former commissioner to serve on the Board.

The Board had no issues with directing the Clerk to contact former commissioners to see if there were any interest in serving on the Strategic Planning Committee.

Chairman Walker, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to contact former commissioners to see if there is any interest and contact Director Mitchell if there is no one available to serve.

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

### **Funding Allocation Recommendation for Fiscal Year 2016-17 (Maintenance of Effort (MOE) for Behavioral Health Services**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following change to the Recommended Funding Allocation for Fiscal Year 2016-17 (Maintenance of Effort) which was requested from DSS Director Stacey Elmes: (recommendation was presented at the May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting – changes underlined)

<b>Fiscal Year 2016-17</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>YTD July – Dec. Expenses</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Projected Annual Expenses</b>
<b>Insight Human Services</b>	\$56,000	\$23,696	\$32,304	\$56,000
<b>Monarch</b>	\$156,259	\$78,130	\$78,129	\$156,259
<b>NC 2-1-1</b>	\$10,000		\$10,000	\$10,000
<b>Narcan Kits for Law Enforcement/EMS</b>	\$5,000		\$5,000	\$5,000

<b>Behavioral Health/ Substance Abuse</b>				
<b>Case Manager</b>	\$7,000		\$7,000	\$7,000
<b>Media/Education</b>	\$2,500		\$2,500	\$2,500
<b>Medication Storage</b>				
<b>Lock Boxes</b>	\$2,500		\$2,500	<u>\$5,000</u>
<b>Critical Incident Training</b>	<u>\$0.00</u>		<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>Transportation - Members</b>				
	\$10,000		\$10,000	\$10,000
<b>Total Stokes County Discretionary Funding</b>				
	<b>\$249,259</b>	<b>\$101,826</b>	<b>\$147,433</b>	<b><u>\$249,259</u></b>
<b>Balance carrying Forward</b>				
	<b>\$144,561</b>			

County Manager Morris explained the rationale for the changes:

- Request #1
  - Delete the amount of \$5,000 for Critical Incident Training due to there is not enough participants for a class – a class is being scheduled for Fiscal Year 2017-18
  - Would like to add \$2,500 to the Medication Storage/Lock Boxes to make that allocation \$5,000 – need more than what has been recommended – very important for this opioid epidemic
- Request #2
  - Allow DSS to use some portion of the remaining undesignated \$144,561 that is being transferred to Fiscal Year 2017-18 to help pay for a sitter for a foster child who has to have 24 hour coverage
  - The foster child has been in emergency room since last week
  - Everyone is working on trying to find a placement for the child
  - Currently, we have two (2) social workers who spend their day staying with the child and a paid sitter at night
  - The paid sitter is getting very expensive - \$18.50 per hour during the week and \$19.50 per hour during the weekend
  - Most of the funding is going to be county funding

Chairman Walker opened the floor discussion/questions/comments.

Chairman Walker noted that he had a discussion recently with Director Cindy Tuttle.

Director Tuttle is concerned that the group will not be able to spend all the \$10,000 appropriation by the Board of County Commissioners for NC 2-1-1. Director Tuttle noted that all marketing cannot be done by 06-30-2017.

County Manager Morris noted that any of the MOE funding not expensed will fall directly back into the MOE account.

Finance Director Edwards noted that the funding could be reallocation after July 1, 2017.

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Confirmed with County Manager Morris that the Lock Boxes are used by people who take opioid prescriptions and want to be sure the drug is restricted from young people and other adults
- Confirmed with Fire Marshal Brian Booe that the lock boxes are approximately \$25 to \$30 a piece and come in different sizes and that the lock box is provided to that individual at no cost
- Confirmed with County Manager Morris that DSS Director Elmes wishes to add an additional \$2,500 making the total budget request for lock boxes at \$5,000

Fire Marshal Booe commented:

- The goal is put lock boxes at each medicine drop off location

Vice Chairman Lankford continued:

- Do not want to use any of the \$144,561

County Manager Morris responded:

- Using MOE funding for the care of the foster child is an allowable expense – behavioral health issue
- Funding is going to have to either come from the DSS budget or the MOE Funding
- Have no idea when a placement will come available
- Funding is not reimbursable
- It could get very expensive
- DSS Director Elmes can always come back to this Board for additional funding

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Confirmed with County Manager Morris that there is \$144,561 that will be carried over into Fiscal Year 2017-18
- Confirmed with County Manager Morris that there will also be a portion of the \$398,000 allocated for mental health for Fiscal Year 2017-18 that will be placed in the special MOE fund
- Confirmed with County Manager Morris that actually the County can be responsible for allocating all the \$398,000 if so desired



- Confirmed with County Manager Morris that Cardinal Innovations is currently responsible for funding for Insight and Monarch
- Confirmed with County Manager Morris that the Board will decide during the Fiscal Year 2017-18 budget work sessions the recommendation for MOE Funding usage
- Do not want to use all the MOE Funding which is county funding, would rather use funding from the DSS budget that can pull down state and federal funding
- Can see using a small portion of the MOE Funding for Director Elmes' request
- Funding could be gone very quickly paying \$18 -\$19 per hour for 24/7

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Could there be a timeline established such as 7 days?

County Manager Morris responded:

- Any amount could be appropriated - \$5,000, \$7,500, etc.

Commissioner Jones continued:

- Have to realize that once DSS Director Elmes runs out of budgeted funding in the DSS budget, she will have to come to this Board for additional funding which would have to come out of Contingency or General Fund
- Confirmed with County Manager Morris that MOE Funding can't be used to replenish the DSS Budget

County Manager Morris commented:

- Reiterated the MOE Funding is in a separate fund which can be allocated by the Board of Commissioners for any mental health need
- This request is a true mental health need

Chairman Walker recapped the request:

- The County has \$144,561 undesignated funding that must be used for mental health needs – MOE Funding
- DSS currently has a foster child, who is in the emergency room waiting for placement, that must be supervised 24/7
- County can fund the cost of supervising the child from the DSS Budget or allocate a certain amount of MOE Funding
- County also has the option to totally fund the expenses incurred by DSS for 24/7 supervision from the MOE Funding

Chairman Walker requested what direction the Board wished to take with DSS Director

Elmes' request as far as the care of the child?

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Recommend not funding any additional amount for the lock boxes (remains at \$2,500) and use the \$5,000 currently recommended for Critical Incident Training for the cost of supervising the child who is still in the emergency room

County Manager Morris commented:

- Reiterated that as long as the social workers are sitting with this child, there is social work not being done for other children
- Could have to pull social workers from the situation and pay outside sitters 24/7

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Would agree to place a cap on the spending - \$5,000
- Do not know how long this could go on before placement of the child

The Board agreed with Commissioner Booth's recommendation to use the Critical Incident Training amount of \$5,000 for carrying of the foster child.

Chairman Walker entertained a motion regarding the Fiscal Year 2016-17 Recommendation that has been amended:

<b>Fiscal Year 2016-17</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>YTD July – Dec. Expenses</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Projected Annual Expenses</b>
<b>Insight Human Services</b>	\$56,000	\$23,696	\$32,304	\$56,000
<b>Monarch</b>	\$156,259	\$78,130	\$78,130	\$156,259
<b>NC 2-1-1</b>	\$10,000		\$10,000	\$10,000
<b>Narcan Kits for Law Enforcement/EMS</b>	\$5,000		\$5,000	\$5,000
<b>Behavioral Health/ Substance Abuse Case Manager</b>	\$7,000		\$7,000	\$7,000
<b>Media/Education</b>	\$2,500		\$2,500	\$2,500
<b>Medication Storage Lock Boxes</b>	\$2,500		\$2,500	\$2,500
<b><u>Supervision for Foster Child</u></b>	\$5,000		<u>\$5,000</u>	<u>\$5,000</u>
<b>Transportation - Members</b>	\$10,000		\$10,000	\$10,000

<b>Total Stokes County</b>				
<b>Discretionary Funding</b>	<b>\$254,259</b>	<b>\$101,826</b>	<b>\$152,434</b>	<b>\$254,259</b>
<b>Balance carrying</b>				
<b>Forward</b>	<b>\$144,561</b>			

Commissioner Booth moved to approve the amended recommendation for MOE Funding Allocation for Fiscal Year 2016-17 which allocates \$5,000 originally allocated for Critical Incident Training to the supervision of a foster child. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**Trades Facility – Forsyth Tech Community College – Annual Operating Commitment**

Chairman Walker entertained a motion regarding the Annual Operating Commitment in the amount of \$44,000.00 for estimated yearly operating cost of the proposed Trades Facility at the Forsyth Tech Community College which was presented at the May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Commissioner Jones moved to approve the Annual Operating Commitment in the amount of \$44,000.00 for estimated yearly operating cost for the proposed Trades Facility at the Forsyth Tech Community College. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded the motion.

Chairman Walker opened the floor for any further discussion.

Commissioner Booth confirmed with County Manager Morris that the \$44,000 is estimated and the County will only pay actual operating costs.

Vice Chairman Lankford noted that he would like to know what courses are going to be taught in the proposed Trades Facility.

With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

The Board unanimously agreed to have County Manager Morris execute the NCCCS3-1 form and return to Forsyth Tech Community College.

**Proposed Resolution – Extension of the 2016 Interim Installment Financing Contract with PNC for Community College Satellite Campus in Stokes County**

Chairman Walker entertained a motion regarding the Proposed Resolution for the Extension of the 2016 Interim Installment Financing Contract with PNC for the Community College Satellite Campus in Stokes County which was presented at tonight's meeting.

Commissioner Booth moved to approve the proposed Resolution for the Extension of the 2016 Interim Installment Financing Contract with PNC for the Community College Satellite Campus in Stokes County. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.

Chairman Walker opened the floor for any further discussion.

With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously

**External Posting – Department of Social Services**

Chairman Walker entertained a motion regarding the external posting for a vacant Social Services Processing Assistant III position which was presented at tonight's meeting.

Commissioner Jones moved to approve the external posting for a vacant Social Services Processing Assistant III position which was presented at tonight's meeting. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded the motion.

Chairman Walker opened the floor for any further discussion.

With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

**Closed Session**

Chairman Walker entertained a motion to enter Closed Session for the following:

- To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the County pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4)
- To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3)

Commissioner Booth moved to enter Closed Session for the following:

- To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the County pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4)
- To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3)

Commissioner Jones seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The Board re-entered the open session of the May 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

### **Adjournment**

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

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

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

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**Jimmy Walker**  
Chairman