

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF STOKES)
)

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS
STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT
DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA
JUNE 15, 2017

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met for Special Called Meeting in the Commissioners' Chambers of the Ronald Wilson Reagan Memorial Building (Administration Building) located in Danbury, North Carolina on Thursday, June 15, 2017 at 12:00 noon with the following members present:

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

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

Chairman Jimmy Walker called the Special Called Meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance today.

Chairman Walker noted the reason for the Special Called Meeting was for the Board to take certain steps in a timely and appropriate manner to secure grant funding from the Department of Agriculture (USDA) for The Arts Place Project (Phase II).

INVOCATION

Chairman Walker requested Vice Chairman Lankford to deliver the invocation.

Vice Chairman Lankford delivered the invocation.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT-GOVERNING BODY-PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Walker entertained a motion to approve or amend the June 15, 2017 Agenda.

Commissioner Mendenhall moved to approve the Agenda for the June 15th meeting as presented. Commissioner Jones seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Grant Application **The Arts Place**

County Manager Rick Morris introduced Area Specialist Joshua Carswell from the United States Department of Agriculture who was present for today's Special Called Meeting to present the grant application for funding for The Arts Place Project (Phase II) for the Board's review and consideration.

Area Specialist Carswell commented:

- Appreciate the Governing Body meeting today in order to execute the paperwork for Phase II which will give Director McGee a completed facility
- This is a Rural Business Development Grant Program
- This is a grant – not a loan
- The grant for The Arts Place (Phase II) is not to exceed \$184,800
- The County is involved with this because the funding must go through a non-profit, county or municipality
- Letter of Condition date is going to be for twelve (12) months
- Application forms are similar to the loan application forms used for the jail and community college
- Governing Body has 60 days to make a decision, but we hope we can finalize everything today
- This has thirty (30) years of useful life

Area Specialist Carswell presented the following information relating to grant applications to the Board of County Commissioners:

- Requirement for System For Award management (SAM)
 - Must be registered and active in the Award Management (SAM)

- Use of Funds
 - Funds will be used to construct a multi-purpose arts, entertainment, retail and tourism information center that will serve Stokes residents, local/regional artists, musicians, and small arts-related businesses
 - The project will support the development of small and emerging private business enterprises in rural areas in accordance with the application package as submitted for an enterprise or opportunity type project, or as amended and approved by the Agency
 - Any changes must be submitted in writing to the Agency
- Applicant Contribution
 - Must provide \$18,750 in matching funds to be applied to the project for eligible purposes
 - Arts Council has agreed to provide the \$18,750 match
 - Total project cost with the match equals = \$203,550

Arts Council Director Eddy McGee provided the Board with a quick overview of the

Phase II Project:

- Will be finishing a large classroom which can be used as a meeting room (basement)
- Pottery studio (basement)
- Prep kitchen (basement)
- Two (2) artist studios (second floor)
- Reception area
- Balcony
- Must have a vertical lift to the balcony

Area Specialist Carswell continued:

- Scope of Work
 - Scope of work must be followed – can request changes
- Grantee Insurance and Bonding
 - All insurance and bonding must be maintained
- Financial Management
 - All financial records must be completed relating to the grant
- Disbursement of Grant Funds
 - Will be disbursed by the Agency on a reimbursement basis as needed
 - Will work with the County & Arts Council regarding procedures
- Environmental Review
 - All provisions of any phased environmental review process must be completed
- Rural Area
 - Project must be located in a rural area
- Conflict of Interest
 - No conflict of interest or appearance of conflict of interest will be allowed

- Debarment
 - County must certify that it is not debarred or suspended from governmental assistance
- Drug-Free Workplace
 - Must meet Drug-Free Workplace Requirements (AD-1049)
- Equal Opportunity and Nondiscrimination Requirements
 - Must comply with Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
“Nondiscrimination in Federally Assisted Programs
 - 42 U.S.C 2000d, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act for Federally Conducted Programs and Activities
 - Age Discrimination Act of 1975
 - Americans with Disabilities Act
 - Equal Opportunity Agreement
 - Assurance Agreement
- Compliance Review
 - Maintain data
- Nondiscrimination Statement
 - Must post
- Reporting
 - Will be required on a quarterly basis
- Basis for Success or Failure
 - Must provide a basis for determining the success or failure of the main elements of the project
- Audits Based Upon Federal Financial Assistance Received
 - Expenditures less than \$750,000, recipient is exempt from Federal audit requirements, but must meet Local Government Commission requirements
- Grant Agreement, Procurement, and Property Management
 - Must comply
- Construction Management
 - Change order must be approved by Agency
- Title to Property
 - Will not take title to any property
- Start of Project
 - Can start the project once the grant agreement is executed
- Programmatic Changes
 - Must obtain approval
- Other Requirements
 - Responsible for any additional requirements of Federal, State or Local Governments that may apply
- Grant Monitoring and Servicing
 - Grant project will be monitored and services in accordance with RD Instruction 4280-E

Area Specialist Carswell noted he would be glad to answer any questions

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

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Do not have any questions
- Very detailed presentation
- Want Eddy to success
- On board with the grant application

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Appreciate the grant happening
- Confirmed with Joshua Carswell that grant funding is very hard to get

Area Specialist Carswell commented:

- Want the Commissioners to know that Eddy worked very hard on this grant application and believe that is the reason he received his funding
- There were only six grants funded in North Carolina
- Very fortunate to get this amount of grant funding
- Very hard competing with counties that were hit by the hurricanes

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Appreciate Eddy diligently working to obtain grant funding
- Appreciate the assistance from Joshua

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Appreciate the hard work done by both Eddy and Joshua in obtaining the amount of grant funding
- Appreciate all the work Eddy does for Stokes County
- Dealt with grants in the school system and know how much time it takes just in preparing the grant and then you have all the reporting to do
- This will put the finishing touches on what is already an outstanding facility

Chairman Walker commented:

- Would like to add my thanks to Eddy and Joshua for obtaining a grant of this size
- Know there were several in the running for funding
- Confirmed with Eddy that this will bring the project to total completion
- Quite an accomplishment
- Hope this will not be our last grant from USDA

Arts Council Eddy McGee commented:

- Josh has been a great partner to work with
- Josh wants to see rural areas exceed

Chairman Walker entertained a motion.

Commissioner Jones moved to approve the Letter of Conditions for the Rural Business

Development Grant for The Arts Place (Phase II) in the amount of \$184,800 as stated. Vice Chairman Lankford seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

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

Commissioner Jones moved to adjourn the Special Called Meeting. Vice Chairman Lankford seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Darlene M. Bullins
Clerk to the Board

Jimmy Walker
Chairman