

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)
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COUNTY OF STOKES)
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OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS
STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT
DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA
JUNE 26, 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, June 26, 2017 at 6:00 pm with the following members present:

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

Chairman Jimmy Walker – absent

County Personnel in Attendance:
County Manager Richard D. Morris
Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins
County Attorney Tyrone Browder
Finance Director Julia Edwards
Interim Economic Development Director David Sudderth
Director of Arts Eddy McGee
Economic Development Technical Analyst Tory Mabe

Vice Chairman Ernest Lankford called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.

Vice Chairman Lankford noted that he would be chairing tonight's meeting due to Chairman Walker being absent from tonight's meeting due to official business.

INVOCATION

Vice Chairman Lankford asked Commissioner Mendenhall to deliver the invocation.

Commissioner Mendenhall asked those in attendance to join him if they wished for the

invocation.

Commissioner Mendenhall delivered the invocation.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT-GOVERNING BODY-PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice Chairman Lankford entertained a motion to approve or amend the June 26, 2017 Agenda.

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

- Closed Session for Client-Attorney Privilege

Vice Chairman Lankford opened the floor for discussion regarding the request from Clerk Bullins.

The Board had no issues with adding a Closed Session to tonight's Agenda.

Commissioner Jones moved to approve the June 26th Agenda as amended.

Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and the motion carried (4-0) with Chairman Walker absent.

COMMENTS - Manager/Commissioners

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

County Manager Rick Morris commented:

- EMS Director Greg Collins announced his retirement today with his last day being July 31, 2017 after thirty plus (30+) years of service to Stokes County
 - Will start the internal advertising process for his replacement tomorrow
- Stokes County EMS has received the American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline Gold Award for implementing quality improvement measures for the treatment of patients who experience severe heart attacks
 - EMS has received two Silver Awards to date

- Receiving a Gold Award is somewhat rare for a rural county
- County offices will be closed on Tuesday, July 4, 2017 in observance of the holiday
- The Arts Place of Stokes County will be opening its retail sales operation this Saturday, July 1, 2017
- Support Services Supervisor Danny Stovall is in the process of removing the fuel tank located on the Francisco School property – funding from the sale of fuel in the tank will be used to help fund the project (Budget Amendment #88) with additional funding from the Francisco School Facility line item
 - Hope to have the tank removed by the middle of July

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Would like to thank everyone for coming out tonight and being involved in Stokes County Government
- Would like share a quote from Abraham Maslow that I ran across today that sort of struck me ironically that everything that is viewed is viewed in a perspective of each individual:
 - “To the man who only has a hammer, everything he encounters begins to look like a nail”
- That quote is quite a perspective from Author Maslow and perspective means everything

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Would like to say welcome to everyone here tonight

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Always happy to see people come out to our meetings
- Wish everyone a Happy Fourth of July
- Have a lot of items that I would like to defer to the next meeting

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Thank everyone for being here tonight
- Ethics for Life – “But my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Vice Chairman Lankford noted that the Board of Commissioners will hear Public Comments, but will not respond to Public Comments and that each speaker will be allowed three (3) minutes.

The following spoke during Public Comments:

Sri Ananda Sarvasri

1060 Tyler Road

Walnut Cove, NC

Re: **Happiest, Healthiest, Greenest County in the Nation**

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

- Just want to talk about a new Renaissance in Stokes County
- Happy is not a luxury, it is a necessity
- When we are unhappy, we make bad decisions – sometimes disastrous decisions
- Last time, I spoke about drug prevention for children and described how important it is for children to have access to positive activities
- Would like to describe a way to create a new Renaissance using internet technology
- For kids and teenagers to have more activities, we need a system
- How can parents create so many activities by themselves?
- It would be far more efficient if parents would connect with other parents locally
- Most of us do not even know most of our neighbors, much less, all the people that live within one mile from us
- We also do not know their talents and skills, so these skills and talents are going to waste when they could be enriching parents and children nearby through positive activities
- The same is true for economic development
- How do we find the people with the skills we need to start a new business – the same problem exists
- We need to connect with people nearby
- This is the function of a Community Information Network or utility – a data base on line that we can search for people and resources that we need
- The County IT Department could create an information resource on line to connect people and neighbors together to create Cultural Economic Renaissance (explained more in detail in the handout being provided to the Board tonight)
- The idea of the information utility would allow people to register their talents and skills that they would like share – other people could find them on the Community Information Network – such as someone who can play a musical instrument and teach a child who wants to learn to play a musical instrument
- The same is true in forming a business – we may need skills that we do not have
- If we had a skills data base, people would be able to search to find a person with the skills they need
- Very powerful idea
- Hope we can create one in Stokes County

Mr. Sarvasri provided the Board the following “A Community Information Network – To Create a Cultural and Economic Renaissance”

Turning Problems Into Opportunities

Can the current addiction crisis be turned into an opportunity? Could the opioid epidemic launch a new renaissance? The Italian Renaissance was a time of awakening – a flowering of art, science, and human potential. If we’re creative, the present crisis of addiction could jumpstart a new renaissance. We could transform the population and awaken a new flowering of potential. Addiction is just a sign that people are seeking more. People want to be happy and avoid pain. We can achieve this high quality pain-free life without drugs by awakening greater human potential. For example, one ability we all have (that virtually no one knows about) is the human capacity to heal ourselves, even eliminate pain directly with mind power. It’s a natural part of our human potential. With knowledge like this, we can turn the crisis of addiction into an opportunity for everyone to

reach their higher human potential. We all know that problems can also be opportunities. We can create cultural activities to promote and expand our human potential. Think about what caused the Italian Renaissance and how we could reproduce it rapidly with existing information technology. The initial surge of awakening out of the dark ages was created by the invention of the Gutenberg press. It allowed books to be printed rapidly and distributed to a large population over a wide region. Newly literate readers were seeking a better life. Books vastly expanded knowledge of the arts and sciences, and directly awakened human potential. If we understand how to use it, Internet technology can create a new renaissance much more rapidly. First, let's look at what caused the original Renaissance.

What Caused the Italian Renaissance?

It's worthwhile understanding what led to the great Renaissance that produced the modern era.

- Widespread Availability of New Knowledge Through Books
- Abandonment of Dogma – Hunger For New Ideas
- Focus On Creativity, Classical Beauty, and New Technologies In The Arts and Sciences
- Desire for Practical Inventions to Reduce Labor
- The Need For New Solutions in All Areas of Life
- Political Will and Economic Support
- Inspiration – A New Mindset – The Belief That Life Could Be Better
- Idea Sharing Through Salons – An Italian Invention for the Exchange of Ideas

Our society is obviously off course in many ways. We have widespread depression, fear, and drug addiction. Yet, we also have the same opportunities today that existed at the start of the Renaissance. What we need is new inspiration, a new hope for a better world, plus practical ways to create a new renaissance. Unlike the Italian Renaissance era, we already have vast access to knowledge online via the Internet.

Opportunity for A Cultural Renaissance

Today, we need a cultural renaissance to reset our social agenda. In the past few years, we've learned important things about social change in connection with addiction. For one thing, kids and teenagers need positive activities. Without fun and interesting things to do, they tend to get into trouble. Children also need inspiration and ways to explore their creative potential. They want to learn about life and how to find their future path. Likewise, adults need inspiration and economic opportunities. During the Renaissance, inspiration, access to knowledge, and new technologies created jobs and economic abundance for more people than ever. We can do the same with Internet technology today. It all depends upon the connections of families with other families.

Families Helping Families

In many neighborhoods, people hardly know their neighbors. Certainly, none of us know all the people who live even just one mile away. We don't know what skills or talents they have. They may have artistic or musical talents that they could offer to other families nearby. They may have technical skills to offer. We just don't know. These talents and skills are going unused, wasted. Today's information technology can easily solve this problem. It can bring us all together. All we need is a database connected to the Internet. For cultural enrichment, families could share their skills and post creative activities for children online. Other families could copy these ideas or come together to spread the fun. Older adults would feel valued by contributing their wealth of knowledge accumulated over the years. It's just a matter of connections. The more activities and connections,

the faster a new renaissance takes place. We need a way to come together for mutual benefits. Everybody wins.

For instance, activities for kids and teenagers could be posted by zip code or neighborhood for easy access by both parents and children. It's all a matter of creativity. Parents could get together and brainstorm tons of ideas using the Internet as a resource. Children could post the kinds of things they might like to do. By accessing a local skills database, people to conduct these activities could be easily found. (The document "Preventing Drug Addiction" lists lots of ideas for positive activities.) We simply use Internet technology to connect 1) families 2) activities and 3) skilled neighbors. It's a way to easily organize social and cultural activities for mutual enrichment within the community. An online forum can serve the function of a salon where people get together and discuss possibilities and new ideas.

How A Community Information Network Brings Cultural Enrichment

Here's how it works in practice.

- Parents and children come up with ideas for positive activities
- These activities are discussed on a local forum, the salon of the 21st century
- If parents have the skills, they post an activity for other families to participate in
- If a skill or talent is needed, the skills database is searched for people who can help
- Those people can then be contacted about sharing their talent or skill for the activity
- An activity is posted for community participation: **Activity-Time-Date-Location-Presenter** (A simple database)

The same thing can be done to foster economic development.

Opportunity for an Economic Renaissance

Community information networks can also create an economic resurgence. Consider what must be accomplished to achieve economic development: Basic resources such as materials, local skills, money, real estate, buildings, work space, natural resources, etc. must be identified, documented, categorized, quantified, and organized into a productive system. This information doesn't reside in any one person's head. It is the collective information of all the people and businesses in the community. A community information network can be a repository of this vital information. It takes planning to best utilize skills and resources. Effective community planning can be enormously facilitated through a community information network where ideas, plans, schedules, and material resources can be organized and accessed from any computer in the community. The Internet allows thousands of people to work together in new and powerful ways. In combination with a skills database, organizing power is multiplied manyfold. Basically, the idea is simple. We use an online database to store resources and a skills bank for the area. This allows anyone to find the resources and people-skills necessary to jumpstart new businesses. You can find what you need, whether resources or other people to help with business development.

The ability to utilize community resources is simply a set of databases tied to the Internet. For example:

Business Development Forums (a database of conversations on business development -- a salon for business incubation)

- New Business Opportunities
- Technology Assessments
- Funding Options
- Other forums as required

Local Government Forums

- Community leaders can talk and listen to members of the community
- Conduct straw votes on issues of interest

Community Scheduling Calendar

- Local events planning and scheduling
- Community agendas and meetings for all aspects of the community

Information Databases

- Skills and Talents
- Job Posting and Locating System
- Community Resources Inventory
- Community News & Information
- Community Needs Assessment
- Document Storage & Retrieval

A community information network can pull together the diverse talents in any community and in an integrating system that will inspire the talents of the community to work together in an entrepreneurial community spirit to create jobs, effectively utilize local resources, protect and restore the environment, and revive community interests, cohesion, and lifestyle. A Twitter account could be assigned to the network and to county and municipal governments for rapid notifications of news and special events.

Summary

We need to use 21st-century technologies to create a new cultural and economic renaissance. Social and cultural activities can be posted for all to enjoy. A resource inventory and a skills database can be the basis for the incubation of hundreds of small businesses. The technology already exists. Local governments could have their IT staff create these databases and interfaces to jumpstart a cultural and economic renaissance.

E. A. "Buddy" Timm

PO Box 573

Walnut Cove, NC

Re: **Russian Collusion**

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

Ramona and I are concerned with Russian Collusion.

Russian collusion has been going on with Americans in America and with others in many foreign countries to advance Communism for a very long time. Also, there appears to be collusion between the major media and leftist political leaders. That cooperation is becoming very obvious by the way the narrative of "News" and the politicians' statements complement each other on Globalism, Secularism, and Socialism (Communism's lower stage—Carl Marx).

The most notable exposure of Russian collusion was brought to light in the trial of Alger Hiss; remember? If not, google his name, and the Communist Party Member that was involved in espionage for the Russians, who turned witness against Alger Hiss, Whittaker Chambers (1949–1950).

Senator Joe McCarthy in the 1950's made many accusations of Communists working within the Federal Government, which provoked the Senate to censure him. Decades later we learned many of his accusations were correct, and larger than suspected.

In the 1950's Fidel Castro started his revolution in Cuba. The Press had asked him if he was a Communist, and he said he was a Freedom Fighter, so that is how he was identified in America. I remember riding home on the school bus and cheering with the rest of the children for Fidel the Freedom Fighter. Is it not strange the press did not investigate? Was our CIA and FBI unaware of Russian collusion with Fidel? Were we not aware of Russia brutally taking over the Eastern Block Countries? Is it not strange the Bay of Pigs Invasion was a horrific CIA debacle (with the wrong caliber ammunition given, and signals to the ships to bombard and the para-troopers to jump not happening)? My Cuban friends in Miami told me they were given instructions for the Invasion regarding the American Embassy and airport—nothing worked—they were caught and tortured. Another Cuban friend that I worked with came into work looking real bad; so I asked—what happened? He said, he was up all night crying and caring for his brother, who could not even feed himself. His brother was a basket case, since he had been tortured for over twenty years as a political prisoner. This was the time in the 1980's when Castro emptied out his prisons. The cruelty of the Communist Cuban soldier was revealed by a foreign report of Communist Angola using Cuban soldiers to secure an area of political prisoners called "The City of the Living Dead," where people looked like zombies (dead emotionally from atrocities).

Manning Johnson, a Black who should be recognized as a genuine American hero (was the Communist candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives in 1935, but later left the party) wrote *Color, Communism and Common Sense*; and testified before Congress' Committee on Un-American Activities more than once. In 1953 the Committee asked—"Was deceit a major policy of Communist propaganda and activity?" He answered, "Yes, it was. They made fine gestures and honeyed words to the church people which could be likened unto the song of the fabled sea nymphs luring millions to moral decay (spiritual death, and spiritual slavery). . . ." Some of the chapters in his book were "Subverting Negro Churches, Red Plot to Use Negroes, and Creating Hate." In his Farewell Address he questions "Has the NAACP helped the American Negro, or hindered him?" and spoke of "managed news and manipulated mass communications. . . ."

To be continued by Ramona Timm

Ramona Timm

PO Box 573

708 Summit Street

Walnut Cove, NC

Re: **Russian Collusion**

Ms. Timm presented and read the following comments to the Board of Commissioners: (continued from Mr. Timm's comments)

Julia Brown (my favorite Black female Hero of the 1950's) joined the Communist Party believing it was a Civil Rights Movement. When she realized the Communists were out to harm America she went to the FBI, and became an undercover agent. In 1962, she testified before Congress—which considered whether those Communists' activity ". . . attacks the principle of the form of government

as guaranteed by our Constitution. . . ;” which put eleven Communists behind bars. She testified of many other organizations connected to the Communist (a couple were “the Progressive Party” and “Protection for the Foreign Born”). (She wrote the book *I Testify*.)

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (in 1967) lead a crowd of 125,000 Vietnam War protesters in front of the United Nations building demanding “Stop the Bombing.” Buddy was flying reconnaissance for those that did the bombing, and King did not help the American cause of stopping the spread of Communist aggression to conquer the free South (which SEATO was formed to prevent). Martin Luther King Jr. like Alger Hiss was not a Communist Party Member, yet he associated with many Communists. Martin Luther King Jr., John Kerry, and Jane Fonda clearly aided the enemy, and should be tried for treason. Fifty eight thousand lives were lost in that war, and that does not included those that lost limbs, like Buddy’s brother who lost his leg from a land-mine explosion, nor is it realized—that the genocide of around a million freedom loving anticommunist Vietnamese happened—once America pulled out.

Buddy and I were frustrated with our government and News agencies in the eighties, as we sent many pictures and letters to our elected officials of innocent Blacks being burned alive in gas filled tires in order to get Blacks to follow the Communist Revolution lead by Mandela’s ANC in South Africa. All that we heard in America was—the conflict was about Apartheid.

The Bible Proverb 27:19 reveals: “As in water face answers to face, so the heart of man to man.” In other words—A man is known by the kind of friends he choses. (Words alone can be deceitful.)

Soviet collusion with others can be known by: their friends, what they do, and the principles and programs they espouse. Their principles of Socialism or Communism destroy the Freedom of others, and attacks the form of government guaranteed by our Constitution—limited, enumerated powers; Article IV, Section 4’s, “a Republican Form of Government” (which is historically based on Virtue) and our Bill of Rights from infringements. Their Revolution for the principles of Communist control and its equality never ends; and they know it takes insult, hate and violence to clinch the takeover.

Soviet collusion has collapsed many countries into Communist control, and people rarely escape its control, from the bottom up. Just look at Cuba; then question—Are people completely ignorant of the cruelty and wickedness of how Communists treat people?

Vice Chairman Lankford expressed appreciation to those who spoke at tonight’s meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Minutes

- Minutes of June 12, 2017 - Regular Meeting

Mental Health - Budget Amendment #83

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #83.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
Mental Health				
100.5200.682	ABC Bottle Tax	<u>\$3,000.00</u>	<u>\$325.00</u>	<u>\$3,325.00</u>
	Total	\$3,000.00	\$325.00	\$3,325.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To appropriate additional funds from ABC Bottle Tax which must go for Mental Health Services

This will result in a **net increase** of **\$325.00** in the expenditures and other financial use to the County's annual budget. To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will increase. These revenues have already been received or are verified they will be received this fiscal year.

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
General Fund				
100.3838.000	ABC Bottle Tax	<u>\$3,000.00</u>	<u>\$325.00</u>	<u>\$3,325.00</u>
	Total	\$3,000.00	\$325.00	\$3,325.00

Capital Projects Funds - Budget Amendment #84

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #84.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
Petree Project				
400.5919.600	Petree Project	<u>\$58,104.00</u>	<u>\$10,000.00</u>	<u>\$68,104.00</u>
	Totals	\$58,104.00	\$10,000.00	\$68,104.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To appropriate funds from Petree Grant Donation for additional work for the Petree Project.

This will result in a **net increase** of **\$10,000.00** in the expenditures and other financial use to the County's annual budget. To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will increase. These revenues have already been received or are verified they will be received this fiscal year.

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
Capital Projects Fund				
400.3821.000	Petree Grant Donation	<u>\$58,104.00</u>	<u>\$10,000.00</u>	<u>\$68,104.00</u>
	Totals	\$58,104.00	\$10,000.00	\$68,104.00

Stokes Reynolds Memorial Hospital Fund - Budget Amendment #85

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #85.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
Stokes Reynolds Memorial Hospital Fund				
500.5700.003	Stokes Rey. Mem. Hospital, Inc	<u>\$00.00</u>	<u>\$5,000.00</u>	<u>\$5,000.00</u>
	Totals	\$00.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To appropriate funds from Stokes Reynolds Memorial Hospital Inc. for expenditures.

This will result in a **net increase** of **\$5,000.00** in the expenditures and other financial use to the County's annual budget. To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will increase. These revenues have already been received or are verified they will be received this fiscal year.

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
Stokes Reynolds Memorial Hospital Fund				
500.3839.001	Stokes Rey. Mem. Hospital, Inc Revenues	<u>\$00.00</u>	<u>\$5,000.00</u>	<u>\$5,000.00</u>
	Totals	\$00.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00

Capital Projects Fund - Budget Amendment #86

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #86.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
Community College				
400.5916.690	Miscellaneous	<u>\$00.00</u>	<u>\$7,000.00</u>	<u>\$7,000.00</u>
	Totals	\$00.00	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To appropriate funds from investment income for the fees to extend the loan for three (3) additional months with PNC until USDA loan can be closed.

This will result in a **net increase** of **\$7,000.00** in the expenditures and other financial use to the County's annual budget. To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will increase. These revenues have already been received or are verified they will be received this fiscal year.

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
Capital Projects Fund				
400.3831.001	Investment Income	<u>\$00.00</u>	<u>\$7,000.00</u>	<u>\$7,000.00</u>
	Totals	\$00.00	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00

Emergency Medical Services, Finance, Sheriff's Department, Vehicle Maintenance, Transfers & Capital Reserve Fund - Budget Amendment #87

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #87.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
General Fund				
Emergency Medical Services				
100.4370.510	Equipment	\$237,959.00	\$(264.00)	\$237,695.00
Finance				
100.4130.510	Equipment	\$18,420.00	\$(2,173.00)	\$16,247.00
Sheriff's Department				
100.4310.510	Equipment	\$209,000.00	\$(3,953.00)	\$205,047.00
Vehicle Maintenance				
100.4250.510	Equipment	\$30,000.00	\$(30,000.00)	\$00.00
Transfers				
100.9820.960	Transfer to Capital Reserve	<u>\$197,842.00</u>	<u>\$36,390.00</u>	<u>\$234,232.00</u>
	Total	\$693,221.00	\$00.00	\$693,221.00

Capital Reserve Fund				
201.4130.000	Finance	\$00.00	\$2,173.00	\$2,173.00
201.4250.006	Vehicle Maintenance	<u>\$89,217.00</u>	<u>\$34,217.00</u>	<u>\$123,434.00</u>
	Totals	\$89,217.00	\$36,390.00	\$125,607.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To transfer funds to Capital Reserve Fund to purchase items funded by the financing of capital. These items have not been completed; therefore, there is a need to transfer the funding to Capital Reserve Fund.

This will result in a **net increase** of **\$36,390.00** in the expenditures and other financial use to the County's annual budget. To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will increase. These revenues have already been received or are verified they will be received this fiscal year.

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
General Fund				
200.3981.000	Transfer from General Fund	<u>\$197,842.00</u>	<u>\$36,390.00</u>	<u>\$234,232.00</u>
	Totals	\$197,842.00	\$36,390.00	\$234,232.00

Special Appropriations - Budget Amendment #88

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #88.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
Special Appropriations				
100.4520.493	Francisco School Facility	<u>\$35,000.00</u>	<u>\$5,798.00</u>	<u>\$40,798.00</u>
	Totals	\$35,000.00	\$5,798.00	\$40,798.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To appropriate funds from the sale of fuel at Francisco School to Hall Oil & Propane for the cost associated with the removal of the fuel tank.

This will result in a **net increase** of **\$5,798.00** in the expenditures and other financial use to the County's annual budget. To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will increase. These revenues have already been received or are verified they will be received this fiscal year.

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
General Fund				
100.3839.000	Miscellaneous Revenue	<u>\$10,000.00</u>	<u>\$5,798.00</u>	<u>\$15,798.00</u>
	Totals	\$10,000.00	\$5,798.00	\$15,798.00

Tax Administration Report – May 2017

Refunds More Than \$100 – Real and Personal Property

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Refunds more than \$100 – Real and Personal Property (May 2017) at the June 12th meeting for the Board's review with consideration at the June 26th meeting:

Refunds More Than Name	\$100 Real/Personal Bill Number	Property Amount	Reason
Carolyn M Holland	29800065	\$121.76	Vehicle Sold
Elmer Jones and Carolyn Holt Manuel	26944678	\$247.36	Vehicle Sold
Cleta Pitts Nixon	34808127	\$114.28	Registered in SC
Randy Bernard Scales	33070203	\$139.08	Vehicle Sold
Peggy Collins Welborn	20301563	\$156.18	Vehicle Sold
Grissom Properties LLC	293596-2016-2016	\$660.52	Assessed as Tower Site in Error
Grissom Properties LLC	293596-2015-2015	\$656.03	Assessed as Tower Site in Error
Grissom Properties LLC	293596-2014-2014	\$646.48	Assessed as Tower Site in Error
Grissom Properties LLC	293596-2013-2013	\$628.85	Assessed as Tower Site in Error
Grissom Properties LLC	293596-2012-2012	<u>\$456.13</u>	Assessed as Tower Site in Error
Total Amount		\$3,826.67	

Tax Administration – Present-use Value Late Application

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Present-Use Late Application at the June 12th meeting for the Board's review with consideration at the June 26th meeting:

- Taxpayer: Edward D. & Nicolette C. Makruski
 - Parcel: 6933-03-00-7505
 - Acreage: 82.44
 - Reason: Late Delivery
 - Tax Administration recommends approval by the Board of County Commissioners of this late application

Appointment Request – Tax Administrator of Stokes County

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley requested at the June 12th meeting that the Stokes County Board of County Commissioners reappoint him at the June 26th meeting as the Tax Administrator of Stokes County to serve as Tax Assessor and Tax Collector for a period of four (4) years effective July 1, 2017 as outlined in NC General Statutes 105-294(a) (Assessor) and NC General Statutes 105-349 (Collector).

Fireworks Display – The Vineyard Camp – East Coast Pyrotechnics

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following request from Fire Marshal Brian Booe at the June 12th meeting with consideration at the June 26th meeting:

- Application from East Coast Pyrotechnics for a Fireworks Display at The Vineyard Camp for July 7, 2017
- Fire Marshal Booe recommends that this application be approved by the Stokes County Board of County Commissioners

Commissioner Booth moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Jones seconded and the motion carried (4-0) with Chairman Walker absent.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – INFORMATION AGENDA

Tourism Update

Interim Economic Development Director David Sudderth provided the following comments regarding the Tourism Update:

- Economic Development Technical Analyst Tory Mabe will be presenting a powerpoint presentation tonight about our tourism marketing efforts
- Appreciate the opportunity to share our ideas
- This has been a collaboration between Technical Analyst Tory Mabe, Director of Arts Council Eddy McGee, County Manager Rick Morris and myself along with help from Park Superintendent Robin Riddlebarger and people in the community
- We have been trying to see what will work for tourism marketing for Stokes County
- Have been trying to think “outside the box” to come up with a vital marketing strategy that would “brand” Stokes County
- We chose to brand Stokes County as “Hanging Rock” with that being the main geographic feature in Stokes County

- Branding the County was very important if we wanted to get the message out about Stokes County
- Been to many conferences with people not knowing about Stokes County but knowing about and where Hanging Rock State Park is located
- Our logo “Hanging Rock” features the river and the mountains
- Working on copyrights with our logo
- Have been studying the demographics about where people come from and what they do when they visit Stokes County
- Technical Analyst Tory Mabe has taken the new app and ran with it – has done an excellent job and continues to improve the app
- The app is getting Stokes County around the world – actual inquiries coming from other countries and states
- Spoke to someone who had tourists from Germany visiting Stokes County
- Tourism numbers equate to dollars – sales tax revenue
- Hope to continue to increase our marketing efforts for tourism and also for business recruitment (have a great workforce)
- One of the best things about Stokes County is the quality of life in Stokes County which is also an important factor for our citizens who live in Stokes County

Economic Development Technical Analyst Tory Mabe presented the following power point presentation:

- Received a call today from someone in New York State wanting information about moving to Stokes County to retire
- Where do travelers go in Stokes County and where do they spend money?
 - Local businesses
 - Restaurants - 60 + locations
 - Coffee Shops
 - Evening Entertainment
 - Local Accommodations
 - 24 vacation rentals
 - 4 campgrounds
 - RV Parks
 - Historical Attractions
 - Art Venues
 - Agritourism Businesses
 - Local Farms
 - Hanging Rock State Park
 - Dan River
 - Golf Courses
 - Belews Lake
 - Wedding Venues
- Outdoor Adventure:
 - Hanging Rock State Park
 - Dan River
 - Dan River Company

- Danbury General Tubing
 - Hillside Tubing
 - Jessup Mill
- Bregman Horseback Riding
- Carolina Ziplines
- Golfing
 - Hemlock Golf Course
 - Riverside Golf Course
 - Stonewall Golf Course
- Fishing
 - Hanging Rock Lake
 - Jim Booths
 - B&B Carp lake
- Racing
 - Stateline G-Cart Track
 - 311 Speedway
- Rock Climbing
 - Hanging Rock State Park
- Mountain Biking
- Swimming/Boating/Water Adventures (Hanging Rock Lake & Belews Lake)
- Hanging Rock App includes:
 - Places to eat and stay along with information about entertainment and events, and much more
 - Event Calendar
 - Links to Video Tour, County Government & Tourism Websites, Local weather, municipalities and towns in Stokes County
 - Provides a way to contact Stokes County or a specific business directly
 - Provides turn by turn directions to local businesses at the tap of a button
 - Statistical information (have had 1,231 new downloads since last June) (have over 2,200 downloads)
 - 85% of people traveling are using smartphone apps
 - When they get to their destination, 98% use their smartphone apps for navigation
- From the Visit North Carolina website, there has been an increase every year since 2010 regarding travelers' spending in Stokes County (a traveler is classified as someone who travels more than 50 miles from their original destination to Stokes County)
- Hanging Rock State Park showed an 11% increase in visitation in FY 2015-16 with over 600,000 visitors each year
 - A record single day visitation, which was over 8,000 visitors, was set in 2016
 - The Park broke their single day visitation record on Memorial Day this year
 - Saturday – 6,327 visitors
 - Sunday – 6,197 visitors
 - Monday – 9,055 visitors
 - Park visitation is currently up by 5% over last year at this time
 - There has been nearly 250,000 visitors to Hanging Rock State Park this year
 - Believe our marketing and advertising efforts are doing some good work
- Have been doing some visitor surveys with 24 different states being represented

- Survey from 2015 revealed:
 - Most people heard about Hanging Rock State Park through friends and family
 - 25% are hearing about the Park through radio, magazine, or television advertising
 - More than half of the people who took the survey had visited the Park more than once and more than half are staying more than one day
 - More than half of the people who took the survey had downloaded the Hanging Rock app
- Surveys from 125 people in 2017 revealed:
 - 61% of the people surveyed are visiting Stokes County for one day with 12% staying for five days or more
 - 46% of the people surveyed reported spending at least \$25
 - 70% of the people surveyed reported visiting the Park one time a year
- Travel/Tourism website (HangingRock.com) includes the following information:
 - Lists all things to see and do in Stokes County
 - Hosts the same information available via smartphone app
 - Mobile friendly
 - Event calendar
 - Links to businesses
 - Hosts video content
 - Where to stay page is the most visited page
 - Where to eat page is the second most visited page
- Since January 2017, there has been over 13,000 hits to the Tourism website with Charlotte currently being the place that most people are from that are searching the website (last year Raleigh was the location where most people were from that was searching the website)
- Most people are visiting the website from a iPhone or android phone – only 66 people visited from a desktop personal computer
- Have had over 4,500 likes to the tourism facebook page during the past two years
- Have started an Instagram account to share photos – people are sharing our photos of Stokes County
- Social Media
 - Facebook
 - Instagram
 - Twitter
- Forms of advertisement methods:
 - Rack cards
 - Visitor Guide
 - App
- Just came on board with WXII/The Weather Channel – shows the Hanging Rock logo when they get on WXII to see the weather in the area –person can click on the logo to see what is happening in Stokes County
 - Target zip code advertising
 - Media partnership provides more value
 - Target college area zip codes in the triangle
 - Have previously targeted the Fort Bragg area

- Advertised on WRAL-TV “Out and About” in 2016 (three minute video about Stokes County)
- Advertised in the Panthers Yearbook
- Advertised in Southern Travel & Lifestyles Magazine and was an undiscovered destination in the Southeast (Hanging Rock will be featured in the August edition this year)
- Advertised in GuestQuest Magazine which targets the Charlotte and Raleigh area
- Advertising on radio stations – Charlotte, Raleigh
 - 88.5 WFDD
 - 89.9 WDAV
 - 91.5 WUNC
- Advertising in the Stokes News and Winston Salem Journal City Guide Magazine
- Have started advertising on digital billboards this year
 - Come Hang Around the Rock at Hanging Rock in Stokes County
 - Adventures for the Family – Dan River in Stokes County
- May be doing some Road Trippin Specials with Channel 2 (WFMY) in the future

Director of Arts Eddy McGee provided the following information:

- Work closely with David and Tory as far as enhancing the natural resources with the cultural arts
- We are finding as we try to market Stokes County as an undiscovered location, it is very, very well discovered – just look at the numbers of those who are visiting Hanging Rock State Park – from all parts of North Carolina and other states
- We have a great military presence from Fort Bragg who visit Hanging Rock State Park
- Those visiting Hanging Rock State Park are finding the cultural arts programs and events with the new Arts Place Venue
- We are having people from the Park at The Arts Place for the Danbury Songwriters every Thursday night
- As County Manager Morris mentioned, The Arts Place will open its retail market this Saturday – hope to be able to track the retail sales outside of Stokes County
- The Arts Council also partners to bring programs to the Park – gallery in the Visitor’s Center, concerts, theater, etc.
- Our number one cultural arts program which is also a natural recreation event is “Reach the Peaks”
 - Eleven states were represented last year as far as Massachusetts and Connecticut
- Also sponsor the “Polar Plunge” which had three states represented
- Those at the Park also attend events at Central Park in King which are sponsored by the Arts Council
- Looking at targeting the Fort Bragg area
- Know the cultural arts are enhancing the natural resources in Stokes County
- Stokes Stomp Festival on the Dan River is the longest running Arts Council sponsored event in North Carolina – brings in thousands of visitors each year
- Enjoy working with David and Tory strategizing and maximizing our advertising dollars to bring tourists to Stokes County along with providing a better quality of life for Stokes County residents which is the primary purpose of the Arts Council

Vice Chairman Lankford opened the floor for discussion/questions/comments.

Commissioner Jones commented:

- This was my request to have this information presented to the Board of Commissioners
- Felt that everyone needed to hear the statistical data
- Amazing at what has been accomplished by this group of individuals working together
- It is enriching the community, economic development, tourism, as well as, the cultural arts

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Would say “WOW” for the accomplishments that I have seen over the past two years by this group of individuals
- Expressed appreciation to Director Sudderth for his leadership to make this happen
- Appreciate the work that Tory has done to put all this information on the app and website
- Appreciation to Director McGee and the Arts Council – just look at what is happening in Danbury – The Arts Place is economic development along with other places within the County
- Just look at 11% increase in visitation at Hanging Rock State Park
- This is happening because of the leadership and what these individuals are doing to promote Stokes County
- Hanging Rock visitation is already up 5% this year
- Appreciate and commend the work being done to market and promote Stokes County

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Want to express a special thank you to all three of those presenting the information tonight – David, Eddy, & Tory
- Very good presentation tonight
- With their efforts, many more people know about Stokes County
- Appreciate the work and effort being done to promote Stokes County

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Also want to express my appreciation
- Naturally “three heads are better than one”
- You three have worked together to “think outside the box” to market Stokes County
- All these new ideas to market Stokes County has produced results – people visiting Stokes County
- Those who live in Stokes County love Stokes County
- I have travelled over 40 states and have yet to find any place like Stokes County
- Feel there is always room to improve
- My challenge to you all - bring in a hotel/motel/conference center
- If we had a facility with a conference center, you would have people staying more than one day in Stokes County
- Superintendent Riddlebarger is taking care of the Park – understand that every cabin is always full

- Confirmed with Superintendent Riddlebarger that Hanging Rock State Park was named the number one park in North Carolina in 2014
- Keep up the good work and keep bringing people to Stokes County

Interim Director Sudderth commented:

- A hotel/motel/conference center may not be so farfetched – there has been some talk, but it is a very long process
- I would be remiss if we didn't include County Manager Morris – there is not much done that is not run by Manager Morris
- Appreciate the support from Manager Morris and the Board of County Commissioners
- Very appreciative for the opportunity to present the information tonight
- Also want to thank the support from Park Superintendent Robin Riddlebarger who is great to work with and who wants to make Hanging Rock State Park the best possible destination in Stokes County
- There are also a lot of people throughout the County who helped
- Just want to let the Board know that all this advertising and marketing has come within budget parameters that were given by the Board
- Want to continue to “think outside the box”

Park Superintendent Robin Riddlebarger commented:

- Started at Hanging Rock State Park four (4) years ago
- Worked with former Economic Development Director Alan Wood who was great to work with
- Not to say anything bad about former Director Wood, but since these three have teamed up, there has been a ton of new things done – a million times better
- Appreciate being able to work with these three individuals

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Just wanted to mention the work, as mentioned by Director Sudderth, done by Manager Morris who took this on about two years ago and got it moving forward

Director McGee commented:

- Means a lot to have a manager that always has your back

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – DISCUSSION AGENDA

Proposed Energy Programs Outreach Plan

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding the proposed Energy Programs Outreach Plan:

- DSS Director Stacey Elmes requests the Board's approval for the FY 2017-18 Energy Programs Outreach Plan
- The plan outlines the procedures for use of Fiscal Year 2017-18 Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) and Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) funding

- CIP is a year-round program which runs from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 statewide
- LIEAP application taking will be from November 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018 annually statewide
- Proposed plan is presented to the Board of Commissioners for approval each fiscal year – no major changes in the plan
- Request the item be placed on the June 26th Action Agenda

Vice Chairman Lankford opened the floor for discussion/questions/comments.

The Board had no issues with the Agenda item and agreed to place the item on the June 26th Action Agenda.

Vice Chairman Lankford, with full consensus of the Board (Chairman Walker absent), directed the Clerk to place the item on the June 26th Action Agenda.

Francisco Elementary School Property – Our Communities of Northwest Stokes

Vice Chairman Lankford noted that Team Leader Texie Jessup would be presenting information to the Board regarding the Francisco Elementary School Property.

Team Leader Texie Jessup, Our Communities of Northwest Stokes (OC), read the following letter to the Board of County Commissioners: (executed copy presented to the Board of Commissioners)

June 26, 2017

Stokes County Board of Commissioners
Administration Building
1014 Main Street
Danbury, NC 27016

RE: Francisco School Repurposing Memorandum of Understanding

Dear Commissioners:

When the Francisco Elementary School closed in 2015, community members, under the umbrella of the Our Communities of Northwest Stokes initiative, started an effort to examine options for repurposing the facility. Our Communities' leaders held open meetings to engage the broader community in brainstorming sessions that generated ideas for potential uses of the School and grounds. In the spring of 2016, Our Communities reached an agreement of understanding with you that formalized terms of a collaborative effort with a goal of securing the transfer of Francisco

June 26, 2017

Elementary School from the county to the Our Communities of Northwest Stokes Foundation, a non-profit organization. The community's vision was of a vibrant regional center and public park that would further community and economic development, and provide a broad range of opportunities for Stokes residents and visitors.

In the months that followed, Our Communities' team leaders met regularly with you and other county representatives to discuss the progress of the research. We appreciate that during the period of the agreement the County provided financial support for upkeep of the building and grounds. The playground remained open to the community. Volunteers made repairs and improvements to the playground equipment, the baseball field, the basketball court, and the Ag Building. They created a walking trail, added an information kiosk and Little Free Library, and planted a garden. This work alone consumed more than 1,200 volunteer hours and was paid for entirely by private donations. We held two large, successful community events on the grounds, and throughout the year, area families enjoyed a beautiful place to meet and play. Despite the building being vacant, the School remained an asset.

During the June 15 Working Group meeting, it was agreed that the continued use of and public access to the playground (Francisco Community Park) would be discussed as an agenda item during this meeting. Specifically, OC requests that the BOCC approve continued public utilization of the FES playground (Francisco Community Park), in concert with OC, effective July 1, until such time as the FES property is disposed of by the county. OC suggests use of the same or similar terms as to outdoor uses as originally approved and effective under the MOU.

More than a year ago we embarked on an exploration of options for the repurposing that required thousands of volunteer hours and thousands of dollars. We reached out to local churches and organizations and to resource people in a wide variety of fields, from agriculture to the arts, to education, social services, law enforcement and construction. We worked with agencies and organizations at all levels in various ways. Here is just a sampling:

- Site Visits / Meetings: YVEDDI; Piedmont Triad Regional Council; U.S. Department of Agriculture; Preservation NC; Forsyth Tech; Stokes County Arts Council; NC Agricultural Extension; Stokes Partnership for Children; Seeds of Hope, and YMCA.
- Reuse Property Visits: Spencer-Penn Centre; L.H. Jones Resource Center; and Cedar Grove Park (Community Center).
- Forums: Construction Professionals Network Institute; State Library of North Carolina; NC Rural Economic Development Center.
- Consultations: UNC's Center for Community and Economic Development; NC Arts Council; Golden Leaf Foundation; NC Small Business & Technology Development Center; NC Department of Commerce; Appalachian Regional Commission; NC Department of Environmental Quality; NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

While some OC leaders were looking for partners, possible tenants, grants and other funding opportunities, others were working with construction professionals to assess the building and capital needs and conduct tests that were critical in evaluating the viability of the project. A three-person task force collected and analyzed all the data and information, reported progress at monthly community meetings and issued a draft report in May. Two meetings were held to discuss the draft and gain consensus, and, finally, community members voted.

After our extensive investigation, the community has reached the painful conclusion that Our Communities, acting alone, will be unable to realize the communities' dream of making the Francisco Elementary School campus a center for economic development, recreation, community events, and continuing education. Without the continued active participation of County government, we cannot underwrite the high costs associated with the repurposing of the School. Thus, Our Communities respectfully declines the transfer of the property to Our Communities of Northwest Stokes Foundation.

You all have voiced appreciation for the central place the School has held in the Francisco area for almost a century. Community members have worked tirelessly these past several years to assure that, in a different way, it will hold a similar place far into the future. We trust that whatever plans you develop for the disposition of the property, you will honor the goals of the effort and we entreat you to seek a buyer who will invest in the community and develop an enterprise in an industry that will contribute to sustainable economic progress and the betterment of Northwest Stokes County.

Sincerely,

Our Communities of Northwest Stokes

[Note: More information about our process and actions taken, along with the final OC FES Task Force Report, will be available on www.ocnwstokes.org, in July.]

Letter to Stokes Board of County Commissioners, dated June 26, 2017, is approved by Our Communities of Northwest Stokes:

Texie D. Jessup, Team Leader

Attest:

Paula C. Duggan, Lead Coordinator

Vice Chairman Lankford opened the floor discussion/questions/comments.

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- It has been a pleasure to work with this group for the past sixteen (16) months
- This group has given a 150% in making progress of what you wanted to do

- Unfortunately, sometimes the best plans that we can make just don't come through
- I want to say that I really appreciate everything that was done by the group and the community to try to give it every possible chance to succeed
- I know there has been a lot of hard work done by this group and the community
- I also want to thank those from the county that have worked alongside of you to provide information and help when possible to try to make things easier
- Want to thank everyone involved during this past sixteen (16) months

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Want to echo what Vice Chairman Lankford stated
- He stated almost exactly what I wanted to say
- Want to also personally thank the entire Francisco community
- Has been a pleasure working with the community since December 2016
- Appreciate very much all the hard work and effort

Commissioner Booth commented:

- I know the outcome is not what the community wanted and I would have liked to have seen it become like some of the other places you have visited
- As a community, you put everything you had in trying to make this happen, you did not leave a rock unturned
- I know it takes finances to get things started
- Commend the Francisco community for what has been done so far
- Want to see that the Francisco community (recreation area) continues if possible

Commissioner Jones commented:

- I know this has been quite the journey
- The Farmers Market had a great turnout at the Francisco location
- You all have done a phenomenal job – getting a non-profit status in ten days is unheard of
- There have been a lot of good things that have come out of this journey
- Just hope this painful decision of reality does not discourage you and the others in the community to not do other things similar to this
- Hope you can find another project to work on
- Appreciate all the effort
- Would have love to have seen it come to fruition, but it is always about the money

Texie Jessup, OC Member, responded:

- This will not stop this group from continuing to work with the community to make things happen
- We would have never been satisfied with ourselves if we had not done everything we could possibly do to try to make it happen

Horace Stimson, OC Member, commented:

- Would like for the Board to consider allowing the Our Communities Group use the grounds as outlined in the current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) until disposition of the property
- Would like for the Board to look at the MOU regarding:

- Item 6 – Use of the Grounds
- Item 8 – Insurance
- Item 9 – Operating Cost Cap
- Item 11 – Official Communications
- Item 18 – Water
- Item 19 – Immediate Actions Requested by OC
- Have been very pleased with working relationship with county staff and county commissioners
- FarmFest has been planned for October 7th and would need direction from the Board as early as late July about being able to use the park area – economic development being brought to the community
- We, as a group, are here to stay
- We have a mission to continue
- Looking forward to continuing to work with the county staff and the Board of County Commissioners

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Direct any questions to the County Manager

Horace Stimson, OC Member, commented:

- Would request the Board not let this park area close down after June 30th (MOU termination date)

Vice Chairman Lankford responded:

- This would need to be discussed by the Board

County Manager Morris commented:

- If there is nothing planned between now and July 10th, could bring a plan to the Board of Commissioners for the outdoor park area
- Confirmed with Mr. Stimson that there are no activities, other than people using the park on a daily basis, between now and July 10th

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- We hope there will be somebody to work with the community if the building is sold
- We have to work through the disposition of the property
- Would suggest putting this on the next Discussion Agenda

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Confirmed with County Attorney Browder that the Board could take Action tonight continuing the use of the grounds as outlined in the existing MOU that terminates on June 30, 2017 – move the item to tonight's Action Agenda

County Attorney Browder commented:

- The Board could move this to tonight's Action Agenda and approve the use of the outside grounds by the community with the understanding there would be no organized events or activities until a formal agreement has been approved by both groups (Commissioners and OC)

- Would need to consider the use of the AG Building and water if so desired by the Board

Commissioner Booth continued:

- Would like to see the Board discuss and possibly take action on allowing the community to be able to continue to use the grounds until an agreement can be discussed at the next meeting
- Have insurance on the facility – there will be no additional liability than what the County already has
- Would like to see this item moved to tonight's Action Agenda

Vice Chairman Lankford opened the floor for discussion regarding Commissioner Booth's recommendation to allow usage of the grounds until the next meeting and to move the item to tonight's Action Agenda.

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Want to echo Commissioner Booth's comments
- Agree at this point there should not be a ten-day break, especially with all the hard work that has been done to the grounds by the OC and the community
- Confirmed with County Attorney Browder that there would be no issues allowing the grounds to be used by the community with no organized events or use of the buildings

Commissioner Jones had no issues moving the use of the grounds to tonight's Action Agenda.

Vice Chairman Lankford, with full consensus of the Board (Chairman Walker absent) directed the Clerk to place the item on tonight's Action Agenda and to provide the Board with a proposed document for continued use of the grounds until disposition of the facility for the July 10th Discussion Agenda.

External Posting – Social Services

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding an external positing for two (2) vacant Social Work II positions which are being requested from DSS

Director Stacey Elmes:

- Social Work II positions are currently being advertised internally
- Internal posting closes on June 29th at 5:00 pm

- Need to expedite the hiring of these positions due to the workload
- Would request approval to post externally if no qualified applicant applies
- If approved, would be able to post externally on 07-03-2017 instead of after the 07-10-17 meeting
- Would request to move to tonight's Action Agenda to expedite the hiring process

Vice Chairman Lankford opened the floor for discussion/questions/comments.

Vice Chairman Lankford questioned what is the pleasure of the Board regarding moving this item to tonight's Action Agenda?

The Board (Chairman Walker absent) unanimously agreed to move the item to tonight's Action Agenda.

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

Appointments – Stokes County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC)

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following appointment recommendation from the Stokes County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council:

- Re-Appointees:
 - Robin Riddlebarger - Board of Commissioners Appointee – Term: 06-30-19
 - Amanda Dolinger – Board of Commissioners Appointee – Term: 06-30-19
 - Robin Testerman – Board of Commissioners Appointee – Term: 06-30-19
 - Doug Rose – Stokes County School Designee – Term: 06-30-19
 - Stephanie Tuttle – Non-Profit Representative – Term: 06-30-19
 - Darlene Bullins – County Manager Designee – Term: 06-30-19
 - Kathy Ford – Judges' Designee – Term: 06-30-19
 - Libby Reid – Sheriff's Department Designee – Term: 06-30-19
 - Tom Langan – District Attorney Designee – Term: 06-30-19
- Following have resigned from the Council:
 - Scott Lenhart – Stokes County Health Department
 - Allison Booth – Student Representative
- New Appointees:
 - Emily Naylor – Stokes County Health Department - Term: 06-30-19
- Following officers for Fiscal Year 2017-18:
 - Chairperson: Kim Palmer
 - Vice-Chair: Gina Calloway
 - Secretary: Tiffany Cone

- Request nominations for the JCPC recommendation and the item to be placed on the June 26th Action Agenda

Vice Chairman Lankford opened the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Booth nominated the following:

- Re-Appointees:
 - Robin Riddlebarger - Board of Commissioners Appointee – Term: 06-30-19
 - Amanda Dolinger – Board of Commissioners Appointee – Term: 06-30-19
 - Robin Testerman – Board of Commissioners Appointee – Term: 06-30-19
 - Doug Rose – Stokes County School Designee – Term: 06-30-19
 - Stephanie Tuttle – Non-Profit Representative – Term: 06-30-19
 - Darlene Bullins – County Manager Designee – Term: 06-30-19
 - Kathy Ford – Judges’ Designee – Term: 06-30-19
 - Libby Reid – Sheriff’s Department Designee – Term: 06-30-19
 - Tom Langan – District Attorney Designee – Term: 06-30-19
- New Appointees:
 - Emily Naylor – Stokes County Health Department - Term: 06-30-19

Vice Chairman Lankford entertained a motion to close the nominations.

Commissioner Jones moved to close the nominations. Commissioner Booth seconded and the motion carried (4-0) with Chairman Walker absent.

Vice Chairman Lankford, with full consensus of the Board (Chairman Walker absent), directed the Clerk to place the item on the June 26th Action Agenda.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT - GOVERNING BODY – ACTION AGENDA

Recreation Building Status

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding the

Recreation Building Status:

- Under the current YMCA/Stokes County Contract, the County is supposed to provide the YMCA a facility
- Everyone knows the current issues of the current facility where the YMCA was housed
- Director Derek Edwards has been working with LifeBrite Hospital Administrator Pam Tillman about the possible use of the triple wide modular unit located by the hospital
- Director Edwards has indicated that the YMCA could use the triple wide in its current configuration

- Hospital Administrator Tillman has stated that the modular unit could possibly be used 2 years before LifeBrite is ready to use the facility, if then
- Director Edwards would like to continue to discuss the use of the facility with Administrator Tillman; he feels this facility would be a better location for the programs being offered by the YMCA and could possibly bring new programs to the County
- Would like concurrence from the Board of Commissioners to allow Director Edwards to continue discussions with Administrator Tillman
- Could track the usage of the facility over the next year to determine the usage of the YMCA's program

Vice Chairman Lankford entertained a motion.

Commissioner Jones moved to allow YMCA Director Derek Edwards to continue discussions with LifeBrite Hospital Administrator Pam Tillman regarding the use of the triple wide modular unit. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded the motion.

Vice Chairman Lankford opened the floor for any further discussion.

Commissioner Booth confirmed with Manager Morris that no renovations will be needed so there would be no cost to the County.

Commissioner Booth noted LifeBrite may end up not even needing the facility.

With no further discussion, the motion carried (4-0) with Chairman Walker absent.

Appointments – Northwest Regional Library Board of Trustees – Walnut Cove Library Representative

Vice Chairman Lankford noted that Mary Kerley was nominated at the June 12th meeting to serve on the Northwest Regional Library Board of Trustees for the Walnut Cove Library Representative.

Vice Chairman Lankford opened the floor for any further nominations.

There were no further nominations.

With no further nominations, Vice Chairman Lankford entertained a motion to close the nominations.

Commissioner Jones moved to close the nominations. Commissioner Booth seconded and

the motion carried (4-0) with Chairman Walker absent.

Vice Chairman Lankford polled the Board:

- Commissioner Jones: Mary Kerley
- Commissioner Booth: Mary Kerley
- Commissioner Mendenhall: Mary Kerley
- Vice Chairman Lankford: Mary Kerley
- Chairman Walker: absent

Vice Chairman Lankford noted Mary Kerley was appointed to serve on the Northwest Regional Library Board of Trustees for the Walnut Cove Library Representative.

Appointments – Northwest Piedmont Workforce Development Board – Executive Committee

Vice Chairman Lankford noted that Monica Jackson-Buxton was nominated at the June 12th meeting to serve on the Northwest Piedmont Workforce Development Board – Executive Committee.

Vice Chairman Lankford opened the floor for any further nominations.

There were no further nominations.

With no further nominations, Vice Chairman Lankford entertained a motion to close the nominations.

Commissioner Booth moved to close the nominations. Commissioner Jones seconded and the motion carried (4-0) with Chairman Walker absent.

Vice Chairman Lankford polled the Board:

- Commissioner Jones: Monica Jackson-Buxton
- Commissioner Booth: Monica Jackson-Buxton
- Commissioner Mendenhall: Monica Jackson-Buxton
- Vice Chairman Lankford: Monica Jackson-Buxton
- Chairman Walker: absent

Vice Chairman Lankford noted Monica Jackson-Buxton was appointed to serve on the Northwest Piedmont Workforce Development Board – Executive Committee.

Francisco Elementary School Property – Our Communities of Northwest Stokes

Vice Chairman Lankford entertained a motion regarding the request from Our Communities of Northwest Stokes to use the outside grounds of the former Francisco School Property at tonight's meeting.

Commissioner Mendenhall moved that the Our Communities Group of Northwest Stokes be allowed the continued use of the grounds only at Francisco School for non-organized community activities in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding dated May 22, 2016 for the period from July 1, 2017 to July 10, 2017. Commissioner Booth seconded the motion.

Vice Chairman Lankford opened the floor for any further discussion.

With no further discussion, the motion carried (4-0) with Chairman Walker absent.

External Posting – Department of Social Services

Vice Chairman Lankford entertained a motion regarding the external posting for two (2) vacant Social Services Social Worker II positions which were presented at tonight's meeting.

Commissioner Jones moved to approve the external posting for two (2) vacant Social Services Social Worker II positions which were presented at tonight's meeting. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded the motion.

Vice Chairman Lankford opened the floor for any further discussion.

With no further discussion, the motion carried (4-0) with Chairman Walker absent.

Closed Session

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

- 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 moved to enter Closed Session for the following:

- 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 seconded and the motion carried (4-0) with Chairman Walker absent.

The Board re-entered the open session of the June 26th meeting.

Adjournment

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

Commissioner Jones moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and the motion carried (4-0) with Chairman Walker absent.

Darlene M. Bullins
Clerk to the Board

Ernest Lankford
Vice Chairman