

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA )  
 )  
COUNTY OF STOKES )  
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OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS  
STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA  
AUGUST 14, 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, August 14, 2017, at 1:30 pm with the following members present:

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

County Personnel in Attendance:  
County Manager Richard D. Morris  
Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins  
Finance Director Julia Edwards  
DSS Director Stacey Elmes  
Child Support Supervisor Lynn Whitaker  
Income Maintenance Administrator Cindy Joyce  
Tax Administrator Jake Oakley

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

#### **INVOCATION**

Chairman Walker asked Commissioner Booth to deliver the invocation.

Commissioner Booth invited those who wished to join in, to please do so.

Commissioner Booth 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  
August 14, 2017

Allegiance.

## **GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chairman Walker entertained a motion to approve or amend the August 14, 2017

Agenda.

Commissioner Jones moved to approve the August 14<sup>th</sup> Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Booth seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

## **COMMENTS – Commissioners/Manager**

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

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Ethics for Life “A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, loving favor rather than silver or gold.” (Proverbs 22:1)

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- So good to see everyone today
- As always, feel so honored to be serving Stokes County
- I say that the people in Stokes County are the people that mean so much to me
- When you are born, raised, and lived in Stokes County for sixty-one (61) years, it makes you feel gratified that you have citizens in this County that will come out and take part in our county government each and every meeting
- Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the Board’s Planning Meeting due to being on vacation
- Have not had a vacation in quite a while
- When you go from being the superintendent, where I missed three (3) years in a row of vacations, to campaigning where I missed another year, I feel it was my duty to take my wife on a vacation
- We visited New York City where we have already been 9-10 times – if you did not know, I am a diehard Yankee fan
- Visited New York about five (5) or six (6) months after 911 occurred and saw the devastation and the emptiness of where the North and South Trade Towers had stood
- Now that the 911 Museum has been completed, we wanted to see the museum in its entirety
- Took about three (3) hours to tour the 911 Museum
- If you have not been able to see the 911 Museum, you really need to go because you are missing something that is unbelievable
- You can pick up the phone and hear calls being made by passengers on the airlines to their families as the towers are going down; it will give you cold chills as you listen to the people speaking

- Took a quote from Virgil that is posted on the main wall in the 911 Museum which says “No day shall erase you from the memory of time”
- Not really sure if the people that endured that attack which was nineteen (19) participants that boarded the planes thought that that would deter the United States of America and make us a weaker nation
- Have always found out that the more other countries try to weaken us in a variety of ways, the stronger we always seem to unite
- Encourage each and every one, if the opportunity arises, to visit the 911 Museum
- It is one of the most unbelievable ventures that you will ever take
- Say to each of you today, regardless of why you are here and I know it is a variety of reasons, tour that facility if possible
- When you come out, you will have a different feel of the country you live in

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Welcome and thank you for being here today
- Attended the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC), along with Chairman Walker and Commissioner Mendenhall, this past Thursday, Friday, and Saturday in Durham; couple of commissioners were unable to attend
  - Had a very good conference
  - Enjoyed the networking with other commissioners – finding out how they do things, how they do their budget, etc.
  - Learned a lot from just talking to other commissioners
  - Enjoyed being the County’s voting delegate on Saturday – election of a vice president who was running unopposed (not a very difficult vote)

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Delighted to see everyone here today
- Glad to see commissioners have received their 2017 Annual Report from the Piedmont Authority Regional Transportation (PART) – currently serve on the PART Board
  - PART is doing some phenomenal things – Howard Coble Intermodal Transportation Center is complete and up and running
  - Route 6 (Surry County Express), which connects Mount Airy, Pilot Mountain, King and Winston Salem is being expanded – more times to catch a van
    - This helps to get to medical facilities
    - It helps with job creation in terms of opening up economic development just by the sheer fact that you can get some place
    - It also gets people to school
- Veterans Day will be the last Farmer’s Market for this year – will have been open six months of Saturdays this year
  - Very important to know that we have helped at least 10 or more families create income
  - For a grassroots effort, feel that it was phenomenal – very proud of that
- To speak to Commissioner Mendenhall’s comments regarding 911, was at the World Trade Center just weeks before it occurred

- My past husband, who was a volunteer fireman, and I had spent time with the firemen in the city, some I am sure that are not with us now
  - Very glad to hear about the 911 Museum
- Just want Commissioner Mendenhall to know that he does not have to apologize for taking a vacation
  - Everyone needs a vacation
  - We all work hard and need a vacation
- Was unable to attend the NCACC Annual Conference due to attending Continuing Education

Chairman Walker commented:

- Agree with Commissioner Booth, very good Commissioners' conference this year
  - Try to go every year
  - Reason that I put a high priority on attending the conference is to attend workshops on tuned in topics – schools, mental health, and solar photovoltaic facilities – economic development potential, etc.
  - So much of what we do as a Board is to balance good with whatever else might be involved – nothing is ever perfect
  - Workshops provided valuable information
- Welcome everyone today and appreciate you being here

County Manager Rick Morris commented:

- Telecommunicator Garrett Marshall, Telecommunicator Tiffany Curtis, and Telecommunicator Supervisor Atherton Jessup were recently honored by the NC 911 Board for their outstanding teamwork, professionalism, and commitment to Public Safety demonstrated on May 24, 2017 (when a tornado came through Stokes County) and for Striving to Make NC 911's System Excellent
- YVEDDI will be hosting a Public Awareness Meeting on September 7<sup>th</sup> at the King Public Library between 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm to announce the arrival of the Stokes County Connector Public Transportation Route
  - Connector will operate Monday – Friday (6:00 am to 6:00 pm) traveling around the Stokes County area (Danbury, King, and Walnut Cove)
  - Stokes Connector will officially begin transportation services on October 2<sup>nd</sup>

Chairman Walker commented:

- Saw an article in the NCACC's publication regarding Stokes County's E911 System recognition
- Always like to see Stokes County citizens, organizations, and departments being recognized in positive ways
  - Understand well deserved recognition for our 911 employees
- Glad to see those here today who are interested in seeing government first hand
- Welcome everyone

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Very excited about the Stokes Connector Public Transportation
- Been working toward something like this for a long time

Chairman Walker commented:

- Have joined Commissioner Jones' passion regarding the need for additional transportation in Stokes County
- Very good news about the Stokes Connector

## **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:

### **Julie Morgan**

1172 Hall Road

Westfield, NC

Re: **Arts in the Schools**

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

- Speaking today regarding funding for the elementary art positions in the school system for the 2017-18 school year
- I have been involved in art for over sixty (60) years
- I have seen firsthand, as a mother with my own children, as well as, my time as a teacher assistant at Pinnacle Elementary School the importance of arts education in our schools and also in my volunteer work with visual and performing arts
- While all students will not grow up to be professional artists, research shows that arts education boost literacy, advances math achievement, engages students in school, develops critical thinking skills and creativity
- In 1996, I helped to formed a SWAT Team – “Stokes Working for the Arts Together”
- This group was comprised of county leaders and when formed they had an educational partnership between our school district and the Stokes County Arts Council
- I firmly believe that every child in Stokes County deserves the opportunity to be exposed to arts education with the hopes of a brighter future
- I have witnessed firsthand the phenomenal results from students being involved with visual arts through my many years as a volunteer
- I know too that arts education is sometimes prescribed by therapists to help young people overcome suffering from emotional challenges
- Art is one thing that allows students an outlet for creativity whether they are going to evolve into professional artists or any trade/profession
- Employers continually remind us how desperate they are for people with critical thinking and creative skills
- My core believe is that art does fulfil a need that some students may not be exposed to at home
- It is that bridge to our curriculum and great success

- Want to provide the Board with a letter from my youngest daughter, Elizabeth, who wrote explaining why she feels so adamant about art in the schools
- Elizabeth took art in the Stokes County Schools and is now an architect
- I sincerely thank you for your time and pray the Stokes County students and families can count on your “yes” vote for such an important issue

**Ellen Peric**

1095 Wheeler Smith Road

Lawsonville, NC

RE: **Arts Update**

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

- I am here today to give you an update on the Arts in Stokes County
- July was a fantastic month for the Arts Council
- We were thrilled to mail out checks to the Artists and Artisans who had their work for sale at the Arts Place since our opening on July 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Arts Council paid out \$4,600 to around 30 artists
  - The amount they received depended on whether they chose to work eight (8) hours a month in the store or not – it is their choice
  - It was a great feeling for some people and it was a substantial check for some
  - These people who bring in the art work and handmade items are so talented
  - The Arts Place recently sold a table handmade by Mike Davis of Walnut Cove for \$1,100; it was a great feeling
- David Kirkland, Painter and Tony Farrar, Potter are exhibiting in the Apple Gallery this month
  - Both have sold a lot of their items and their Opening Reception was well attended
  - Lot of items made by Kirkland and Farrar have already been sold at The Arts Place
- Next month in the Apple Gallery will be Timothy Porter
  - Tim is a graduate of South Stokes High School who currently works for the Winston Salem School System
  - The free reception is August 25<sup>th</sup> and his works will be on display through September
  - He will be showing paintings, ceramics, and much more
  - He is so very talented
- Hanging Rock Gallery is featuring Brenda Eldridge’s photography through the end of August
- Are you ready for the 43<sup>rd</sup> Stokes Stomp on September 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> on the banks of the Dan River?
  - The dunking booth is back, as well as, the rubber duck race
  - Over fifty (50) craft vendors and eight (8) food vendors have already signed up
  - Will be as fantastic as usual
- Reach the Peaks
  - Hiking Challenge is scheduled for September 30<sup>th</sup>
  - Tickets are on sale now through Brown Paper Tickets online

- Have already registered over 200 people – they want to get a free T-Shirt and goody bags
- Danbury Songwriters
  - Continues every Thursday evening at The Arts Place
  - This Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, features Josh Shelton and Aaron Morris
- That is what is happening in the Arts
- Thank you

**John Hartman**

1065 Ernest Nelson Road

Danbury, NC

Re: **Arts Positions**

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

- Would first like to thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today
- Would like to thank the Stokes County School System, my son is a successful product of the Stokes County Public Schools and is getting ready to start his senior year at UNC-Asheville
- Very grateful for his education
- Want to speak on behalf of the elementary arts positions that you are considering funding for the upcoming school year
- I realize the political pendulum of the public schools is constantly in motion which has been swinging a long time from the arts and I believe it is time to change that
- Not because I expect Stokes County to produce the next Winslow Homer or Mary Cassatt, although we might
- Because we as a society seem to be getting to a place where we value art primarily as decoration and pay for art when it matches our couch which I think is unfortunate
- My feeling is that art is a way and maybe the best way to tell the world as individuals and as a society who we are, what we value, and perhaps most importantly, what we do and don't seek to become
- I think it is important that we send children a message early on that in a society spectators can be creators
- Thank you

**Sonya Cox**

5645 NC HWY 66

King, NC

Re: **Arts Positions**

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

- Since I have already had the opportunity to talk about this once, I will try to keep this short and brief
- Just have a few extra points that I would like to make
- Appreciate your willingness to put this topic on your Agenda and consider funding this for the school system

- When art was taken out sixteen (16) years ago, I was not on the Board of Education, but I remember it was told to us that hopefully one day we would get to add it back
- It was a budget situation and one day it would come back
- Sixteen (16) years later, it sadly has not
- When it was taken out sixteen (16) years ago, the classroom teachers had more time to do art projects with the students; there was not as much testing and assessments and all that going on then as it is now
- All the mandates that the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and the State have put on teachers today leaves very little time for art projects to be done by the classroom teacher
- We know that there is no doubt that art should be part of a well-rounded curriculum
- As a side note, was talking to Arts Director Eddy McGee and the State has cut their funding for arts programming that they were providing to the school system
- We relied heavily on those arts programming for the students; that programming will be sorely missed the year
- Sad to hear that kind of news
- Figuring out at an early age what a student is good at is very important
- It helps promote self-confidence and self-esteem in kids
- Some kids do not know they are good at art until they decide to take art in high school
- If you are a middle school student and want to take band, you do not have the opportunity to take art until high school
- Feel the earlier we recognize a child's gift and cultivate it, the more likely he/she will be to see their value to society
- This may keep them from going down the wrong path
- Arts education prepares our students to take more hands on classes
- It will enhance our career vocational classes
- As you well know, Stokes County will soon be getting a \$1.5 million grant for a new career and trades facility which will be placed at the community college site
- That will offer a lot of classes for our students
- The earlier we can get them geared in that direction (hands on classes), it will benefit those taking classes at the new trades facility
- Stokes County has a rich heritage of artisans and musicians
- Many former students are selling art work in the new Arts Place
- Some students have art pieces in museums
- Some are making a living as renowned tattoo artists which is a form of art
- Would like to brag on a few students – one works in the National Museum of Art and Archives –she is a doctor that uses a laser who works on priceless pieces of art
- We have musicians that come back to Stokes
- We have entrepreneurs that have their own stores
- Art draws people to our county and helps promote tourism
- It makes our county more appealing to new families who are wanting to move to Stokes County
- Arts and Culture are crucial to the quality of life that many find desirable

**Three-minute time limit was called.**



**Sri Ananda Sarvasri**  
1060 Tyler Road  
Walnut Cove, NC  
**Re: Happy, Healthy, & Green**

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

## **Solving Our Healthcare Emergency**

### **It's Officially Serious**

No president in history has ever had to declare a healthcare emergency.

"The opioid crisis is an emergency and I'm saying officially right now it is an emergency," Trump told reporters. "We're going to draw it up and we're going to make it a national emergency. It is a serious problem, the likes of which we have never had." – President Donald Trump

### **The Opioid Crisis is Not the Only Crisis**

The opioid crisis is the latest disaster to arise from our unhealthy American lifestyle. We also have an epidemic of obesity, heart disease, diabetes, cancer, and other degenerative diseases that did not exist 100 years ago.

This unprecedented healthcare emergency arises because we have never been taught how to care for ourselves physically, mentally, and emotionally. Instead, we have been led to believe that health and happiness come from prescription medications.

We've been told that the way to overcome pain is to numb ourselves with pain medications. The way to overcome depression is to take anti-depressants. The way to overcome high blood pressure is to take heart medications. We have been told a lie by the large pharmaceutical corporations, and we are paying for it.

The packaged food industry has also told us a lie in the form of junk foods. 86% of food expenditures are for junk foods that are high in sugar and virtually devoid of nutrition. This has led to the obesity and heart disease epidemics.

The agriculture industry has told us the lie that we must spray poisons on our food and fertilize our crops with artificial chemicals. This has led to the destruction of our soils, poor nutrition, and poisons in our food. It's the primary cause of the cancer epidemic.

We have a healthcare crisis because we have a lifestyle crisis. All these various crises exist because we have never been taught how to take care of ourselves. We've also never been taught how to defend ourselves from unscrupulous corporations that take advantage of us. It is a simple matter of greed. The ultimate cause of all the problems we face in this country is twofold, greed and ignorance.

The solution to ignorance is education. If the leaders in Stokes County care about the people in Stokes County, then we must launch an educational campaign that teaches people how to care for themselves physically, mentally, and emotionally. The people of Stokes County must learn that our large corporations and institutions all have an agenda and that agenda is to make money. They are not concerned with the consequences. We live in a culture of greed and corruption more than we realize.

Let the buyer beware, but buyers can only protect themselves if they are knowledgeable. For the past year I have presented solutions to these problems. Now is the time to act. Now is the time to

put those solutions to work. Now is the time for leadership. Don't expect that solutions will come from the Federal Government. The only thing that will come will be large corporations trying to make more money from the opioid epidemic, just like with all the other epidemics that are still with us.

**E. A. "Buddy" Timm**  
PO Box 573  
Walnut Cove, NC  
**Re: Traitors Within**

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

Like Cicero, my concern is over the traitors who appeal to baseness. He warned—"A nation can survive its fools, and even the ambitious. But it cannot survive treason from within. An enemy at the gates is less formidable, for he is known and carries his banner openly. But the traitor moves amongst those within the gate freely, his sly whispers rustling through all the alleys, heard in the very halls of government itself. For the traitor appears not a traitor; he speaks in accents familiar to his victims, and he wears their face and their arguments, he appeals to the baseness that lies deep in the hearts of all men. He rots the soul of a nation, he works secretly and unknown in the night to undermine the pillars of the city, he infects the body politic so that it can no longer resist. A murderer is less to fear."

George Washington spoke in his Farewell Address—"Towards the preservation of your Government and the permanency of your present happy state, it is requisite, not only that you steadily discountenance irregular oppositions to its acknowledged authority, but that you resist with care the spirit of innovation upon its principles, however specious the pretext. . . Of all the dispositions and habits, which lead to political prosperity, Religion and morality are indispensable supports.—In vain would that man claim the tribute of Patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great Pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of Men and Citizens."

Today, we need to discountenance the specious claim of the normalcy of perversion that Religion and morality forbid. The soul of our Nation is being rotted by traitors from within; and those political cowards with self-deceived minds.

Why is the Federal Government promoting the epitome of what is repulsive to a Republic—perversion—when the Constitution guarantees to the States, in Article IV, Section 4, a Republican form of government—naturally principled on Virtue? Now is not the time to be silent or fearful; especially for those who took an oath to the Constitution, and to those who claim allegiance to God, the Creator—who revealed His Word and Moral Law—championing Virtue—in the Bible's Holy Scriptures.

Therefore, harken—God our Creator is above all!—Church and State, and, all mankind will He summons to Judgement. Psalm 50—"The mighty God, even the LORD, hath spoken, and called the earth from the rising of the sun unto the going down thereof. . . Our God shall come, and shall not keep silent. . . Seeing thou hatest instruction, and castest my words behind thee. When thou sawest a thief, then thou consented with him, and hast been partaker with adulterers. Thou givest thy mouth to evil, and thy tongue frameth deceit. . . Now consider this, ye that forget God, lest I tear you in

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pieces, and there be none to deliver. Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I show the salvation of God.” Surely, whatever we do, or do not do, counts forever!

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

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- Minutes of June 7, 2017 – FY 2017-18 Budget Work Session
- Minutes of June 14, 2017 – FY 2017-18 Budget Work Session/Joint Meeting with the Board of Education
- Minutes of July 24, 2017 – Regular Meeting

## **Vehicle Maintenance - Budget Amendment #2**

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #2.

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>Vehicle Maintenance</b>				
100.4250.350	Maint. & Repairs - Equipment	<u>\$2,800.00</u>	<u>\$3,700.00</u>	<u>\$6,500.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$2,800.00</b>	<b>\$3,700.00</b>	<b>\$6,500.00</b>
<b>Capital Reserve Fund</b>				
201.4250.006	Vehicle Maintenance	\$123,434.00	\$(3,700.00)	\$119,734.00
201.9810.000	Transfer to General Fund	<u>\$12,500.00</u>	<u>\$3,700.00</u>	<u>\$16,200.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$135,934.00</b>	<b>\$00.00</b>	<b>\$135,934.00</b>

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To transfer funds from the Capital Reserve Fund to replace the ground connections and all four (4) anodes to meet the state and federal regulations due to an inspection on July 11, 2017.

This will result in a **net increase** of **\$3,700.00** 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>
100.3982.960	Transfer from Capital Reserve Fund	<u>\$12,500.00</u>	<u>\$3,700.00</u>	<u>\$16,200.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$12,500.00</b>	<b>\$3,700.00</b>	<b>\$16,200.00</b>

### **Proposed 2018 Holiday Schedule**

Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins presented the following proposed Holiday Schedule for the Board's review and consideration for approval at the August 14<sup>th</sup> meeting:

<b>Holiday</b>	<b>Day of Week</b>	<b>Date</b>
New Year's Day	Monday	January 1, 2018
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Monday	January 15, 2018
Good Friday	Friday	March 30, 2018
Memorial Day	Monday	May 28, 2018
Independence Day	Wednesday	July 4, 2018
Labor Day	Monday	November 12, 2018
Thanksgiving	Thursday	November 22, 2018
	Friday	November 23, 2018
Christmas	Monday	December 24, 2018
	Tuesday	December 25 2018

Floating Holiday-(1) day to be used by employees during the calendar year of 2018 upon approval of supervisor. Can't be carried over to calendar year 2019.

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

Chairman Walker opened the floor for discussion.

With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

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

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

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

### **Social Services Monthly Report**

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

- Metrics (As of July 2017):
  - Income Maintenance
    - NC FAST – In Compliance
      - Child care went live in June
      - CIP/LIEAP went live in July
    - WorkFirst – In Compliance
      - 67 open cases
      - \$13,644 in benefits delivered
    - FNS – In Compliance
      - 2,804 open cases
      - 4,890 participants
      - \$627,542 in benefits delivered
    - Adult Medicaid, Family & Children’s Medicaid – In Compliance
      - Medical Assistance
        - 8,378 open cases
      - Special Assistance:
        - 175 open cases
        - \$70,632 Special Assistance benefits delivered
  - Child Support – In Compliance
    - Serving 1,354 children with collections at \$218,701.13
  - Program Integrity – In Compliance
    - 190 open cases
    - Collected \$3,163.13 with \$620.16 of collections retained in the county
  - Child Day Care – In Compliance
    - Information unavailable at the time of reporting
  - Foster Care
    - Foster Care Services – In Compliance
      - Working with 111 children in custody
      - Monitoring eight (8) children that have been returned to their families
      - Three (3) have entered extended foster care
    - Foster Care Home Licensing – In Compliance
      - Currently have 20 licensed foster homes
      - Forty-eight (48) individuals received training this month
      - This area is green because we are in compliance; however, the need for foster homes in our county continues to be great
      - Orientation on August 13<sup>th</sup> for new foster parent class beginning in September
    - Adoptions – In Compliance
      - One (1)

- Child Protective Services
  - Investigations – In Compliance
    - Received forty-two (42) reports involving thirty-eight (38) children
    - There were twenty (20) reports accepted for investigation
      - Four (4) were found in need of services
    - Have thirty-three (33) active CPS investigations open
    - Offered services in two (2) cases
  - Case Management – In Compliance
    - Sixteen (16) open cases
  - Assists to other Counties
    - Six (6) assists
- Adult Services
  - Adult Protective Services – In Compliance
    - Received eleven (11) reports
    - Five (5) reports were screened in
    - Five (5) received an offer services visit
    - One (1) was transferred to another county
  - Guardianship – In Compliance
    - Currently have twenty-six (26) adult wards
  - SSBG/HCCBG/Payee/Adult Day – In Compliance
    - Twenty (20) open cases
  - Facility Monitoring – In Compliance
    - Monitor six (6) adult care facilities
    - Three complaints investigated this month
  - Family Caregiver Program – In Compliance
    - Fifteen (15) open cases
  - SA IH/MAC – In Compliance
    - Seventy-seven (77) open cases
  - CAP DA – In Compliance
    - Seventy-one (71) open cases
  - Intake – In Compliance
    - See any individual that comes into the agency needing assistance with anything from housing to utility assistance to other resources
  - Other – In Compliance
    - Two (2) offer services home visits (not APS related)
- Supervision (Staff/Supervisor Ratio) - In Compliance
  - State standard says one supervisor per five (5) child welfare social workers, so the need still exists for a supervisor position
- Staffing (Years of Service) – In Compliance
  - Three (3) vacancies
    - Social Worker – Foster Care (one vacancy)
    - Social Worker – Adult Care (two vacancies)
- Medicaid Transportation – In Compliance
  - 571 clients served

- 2,653 trips provided
- \$77,281.78 billed to Medicaid for these trips
- Clerical – In Compliance
  - 880 Walk Ins
  - Four (4) Fishing Licenses distributed

DSS Director Elmes noted:

- While I colored everything green (in compliance), I do not want you to think things are extremely “peachy”, but they are getting there
- We are working hard to get there
- Still have three vacancies – one Social Worker (Foster Care) and two Social Workers (Adult)
- Had a foster parent-type orientation at the office yesterday – had eighteen (18) people in attendance; very pleased about that
- Have nine (9) families scheduled to start our next foster care class in September; also pleased about that

#### **Miscellaneous – August: Child Support Awareness Month**

DSS Director Elmes noted that August is considered as Child Support Awareness Month.

DSS Director Elmes noted that Income Maintenance Administrator Cindy Joyce and Child Support Supervisor Lynn Whitaker were in attendance for today’s meeting.

DSS Director Elmes asked Child Support Supervisor Lynn Whitaker to provide the Board with information regarding Child Support.

Child Support Supervisor Lynn Whitaker provided the following comments:

Children are our future. Child Support Awareness Month is a time to recognize the critical role child support plays in the lives of our children. Child Support Awareness Month recognizes the importance of providing financial and emotional support to the lives of our children and families. August 2017 is the opportunity to promote child support services. It’s a national initiative to help inform families about child support and the services that are available to help them. For State Fiscal Year 2017, North Carolina Child Support Services collected over \$704 million dollars for children of North Carolina. Of the \$704 million Stokes County collected around \$2,600,000.00 (actual \$2,596,021.00). Stokes County serves around 1,350 children a month.

Child Support services are available to everyone that is responsible for a child, regardless of income. Families who receive WorkFirst and Medicaid are automatically referred to child support. Cooperation with efforts to pursue paternity and support is required as a condition of eligibility for this public assistance. If a custodial parent does not receive public assistance, they may apply for services by completing an application and paying an application fee.

The following services are provided:

1. Location of the absent parent
2. Establishment of paternity (Agents will attempt to get paternity and court order established voluntarily but if the non-custodial parent will not cooperate then court action is initiated).
3. Establishment of a court order (support, medical, and payment on arrears) (Agents will use the North Carolina Child Support Guidelines when determining the amounts of child support a non-custodial parent should be paying. The Guidelines were established by the Judges in North Carolina for all child support agents and attorneys).
4. Enforcement of court orders
5. Collection and distribution of support
6. Modification of existing orders

Child Support is not authorized to help with some issues that may seem similar to child support, such as custody, visitation or property settlements. The party would need to contact a private attorney to discuss these concerns.

Child Support Agents have many roles. Some of the roles are:

1. Gather all available information from individuals and other agencies.
2. Evaluate the case and determine support activities to be pursued.
3. Contracts with attorneys to represent cases in civil court actions. These attorneys represent the agency and not the individual client in a case.
4. Work with all parties in a case, providing information or explanation of case activities when appropriate.
5. Keeps information received by the agency confidential. Only information that is public records may be divulged.
6. Abide by federal and state laws and regulations in handling child support cases.
7. Is required to continue providing necessary services to all cases after termination of public assistance, unless the client requests that services not be provided and there are no amounts due and owing to the state.

Child Support Enforcement is required to provide the same services to persons seeking child support in interstate cases as in local cases. Since child support agencies in both states are involved, the processing of interstate cases may be a little different and more time consuming than in local cases.

The goal of the Child Support Enforcement Program is to ensure that children receive financial support from parents. To this end, the agency strives to work with all involved parties to provide information, reach solutions to problems, and take appropriate actions.

Motto: What you do shapes the future of our children we serve! What you do matters.....Be the Difference

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

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Don't want to use the word "relieved" but was encouraged that the number of 111 children in foster care was still 111 and had not increased to 117 or 120
- Very pleased with today's report



- Appreciate the hard work being done by your department

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- As you know, I serve on the Cardinal Innovations Board
- Confirmed with DSS Director Elmes that some DSS staff members receive training from Cardinal and sometimes staff meets with members from the Cardinal staff
- Would like to see information when and what type of training/meetings that DSS staff members receive from Cardinal

DSS Director Elmes and Commissioner Mendenhall agreed that the requested information regarding training/meetings could be included in the Social Services Monthly Report.

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Confirmed with DSS Director Elmes that the communication between Cardinal and Social Services is going very well – has improved
- Confirmed with DSS Director Elmes that the department has three (3) vacancies which have been approved for external posting
- Requested an update from DSS Director Elmes regarding the vacancies

DSS Director Elmes responded:

- Do not receive very many applications for the foster care position
  - Have received a few applications
  - Interviews have been done but have not found the right person yet
- Have some of the same issues with the adult services vacancies
  - Have three (3) interviews to be scheduled at the end of the week and hope one of those will be the right person for our jobs

Commissioner Booth continued:

- I realize it is all not perfect, but that is what we are working toward
- Glad to hear you have nine (9) families signed up for the upcoming foster parents class

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Very good detailed report by DSS Director Elmes that shows how DSS is performing
- Thanks

Chairman Walker commented:

- Very pleased to see no yellow this month
- Confirmed with DSS Director Elmes that it has probably been close to a year since all categories were green
- Proud of you and your staff for getting things to where they are
- Still have some work to do, but obviously making progress
- Requested DSS Director Elmes provide the Board with an update regarding NCFAST

DSS Director Elmes responded:

- It is okay, but still have some daily problems along with inaccurate reports
- Child Day Care went live – had issues with providers not getting paid for all their services
- Crisis Intervention Program is also live and have not had any problems
- Child Welfare has gone live in five (5) counties with Rockingham County being one (1) of the five (5)
  - Looking forward to sending some staff to Rockingham County to see how it is working – When Child Welfare goes live, it is going to be a huge change for our staff

Chairman Walker continued:

- Would like know the progress our DSS is making with NCFAST
- Would also like to know how Stokes compares to some of the other counties

DSS Director Elmes responded:

- As far as progress, we are doing very well
- Some days, there are no struggles with the system, but then some days there are plenty
- Often calling several times a day to the help desk
- As far as Stokes and other counties, did not hear one county say too much negative about NC FAST at the DSS Director's meeting – a good thing
- Think things are moving very good right now

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Confirmed with DSS Director Elmes that the issues where day care providers did not get the correct amount of pay was not the county's fault – it was a system glitch

Chairman Walker expressed appreciation to DSS Director Elmes and Child Support

Supervisor Whitaker for their reports.

### **Request for Mental Health (Maintenance of Effort) Funding for Transportation**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding the Request for Mental Health – Maintenance of Effort – (MOE) Funding for Transportation:

- DSS Director Stacey Elmes in is attendance to answer any questions regarding the request
- Requested Amount: \$20,000
- Monies will be used to provide transportation assistance to residents in Stokes County who do not have Medicaid and cannot access Medicaid Transportation Assistance
- Monies will assist Stokes County residents get to appropriate substance abuse and mental health treatment

- Assistance will be provided by gas voucher (if the individual has a vehicle or has someone who can provide the transportation)
- Gas vouchers are issued after the confirmation of appointment has been received and are issued based on the amount of mileage from the individual's home to the treatment provider and back to the home at 27 cents per mile
- If the individual does not have access to a vehicle, the option for using JD Cruise or YVEDDI exists
- This service will be available only to those who are receiving services from or are referred by the Substance Abuse Liaison
- This is the exact kind of use that this funding is designed for
- This would be allocated from FY 2016-17 unspent funding that was brought forward to FY 2017-18
- Would endorse DSS Director Elmes' proposal for use of MOE Funds to provide transportation access to substance abuse/mental health treatment
- Would recommend, as requested by Director Elmes, that this item be moved to today's Action Agenda in order to assist clients currently being served

Chairman Walker asked DSS Director Elmes if there was any other information that she would like to add to Manager Morris' comments.

DSS Director Elmes responded:

- Just want to let the Board know that the need is definitely there
- When we take custody of children, parents lose Medicaid services
- Nine (9) times out of ten (10), parents have substance abuse and/or mental health issues
- Those parents need transportation to get the needed treatment but do have any transportation because they have lost their Medicaid services

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

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Requested DSS Director Elmes if there is a system in place to monitor this type of a program

DSS Director Elmes responded:

- The referral would come through our substance abuse liaison or it would be a client that he is currently working with that has the need for transportation services

Vice Chairman Lankford continued:

- Feel that once the word gets out that gas vouchers are available at Social Services, it will definitely have to be watched

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Confirmed with DSS Director Elmes that before there was available funding and there was no type of program that offered to help people get the needed treatment

- Feel the County has put a lot towards the opioid epidemic – two new positions for the Sheriff's Department, liaison substance abuse counselor, NC211
- Wondering with all the monies being allocated from this fund, wonder if there will be anything left for other services such as the Opportunity Center
- The program changes at the Opportunity Center have not been to my satisfaction yet

DSS Director Elmes responded:

- These dollars are for substance abuse/mental health only – that is all they can be used for
- Know there are monies already allocated for the Opportunity Center

Commissioner Booth commented:

- With this \$20,000 allocation, it is probably \$79-\$80,000 going toward the opioid epidemic
- Confirmed with DSS Director Elmes that this is remaining unspent funds from FY 2016-17 and that the new liaison substance abuse counselor already has clients that definitely need transportation
- Confirmed with DSS Director Elmes that she would be monitoring this program
- Noted that this opioid epidemic is not only in Stokes County, but is being declared by President Trump as an emergency
- Attended workshops at the NCACC Annual Conference and some counties are just getting started; we are way ahead of some of the other counties
- Understand the state is allocating approximately \$20 million for the crisis and there should be federal dollars if it is declared a "national crisis"
- Don't want to get ahead too much and start using taxpayers' money
- I understand it is left over, but it is still taxpayers' money
- Just looking at the whole picture

County Manager Morris commented:

- There is approximately \$161,000 in the mental health fund balance
- There will be more funding at the end of FY 2017-18
- Do not think you would want to keep a huge amount in that fund balance where possibly someone could start looking at ways to pull that money back
- Believe the department has a definite need for these services
- Confirmed with DSS Director Elmes that if the people do not have transportation for the needed services, they will definitely have no other way to get the needed services unless the funding is there
- Feel this is a very good use for that specific type of funding to be used for

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

Commissioner Mendenhall moved to place the request for funding for transportation to today's Action Agenda. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.

Chairman Walker opened the floor for any further discussion.

Finance Director Edwards requested to add Budget Amendment #3 if the item is moved to today's Agenda in order for the funding to be available for use by DSS.

With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

### **Tax Administration Report – July 2017**

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following informational data for the July 2017 Report for the Board's review:

<b>Fiscal Year 2017-18</b>	<b>Budget Amount</b>	<b>Collected Amount</b>	<b>Over Budget</b>	<b>Under Budget</b>
<b>Current 2017 Taxes Percentage = 0.01%</b>	\$21,179,104.00	\$143,136.99		\$21,035,967.01
<b>New Schools F-Tech Fund Percentage = .01%</b>	\$1,366,394.00	\$15,088.90		\$1,351,305.10
<b>Prior Taxes County Regular &amp; Motor Vehicles Percentages = .16%</b>	\$500,000.00	\$81,477.05		\$418,522.95

### **NCVTS Motor Vehicle Billings & Collections Fiscal Year End Report – July 2016 – June 2017**

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following the NCVTS Motor Vehicle Billings and Collections Fiscal Year End Report (July 2016 – June 2017):

<b>Tax Code</b>	<b>Number of</b>	<b>Levy</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Adjustment</b>	<b>Billing</b>	<b>NC GAP</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Billing</b>
<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Vehicles</b>	<b>Billed</b>	<b>Paid</b>	<b>Made</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Collected</b>	<b>To Date</b>	<b>Cost Per</b>
<b>King City</b>	6,389	\$233,070	\$1,310	-\$1,327	-\$12,629	\$191	\$220,615	\$1.98
<b>King Car Fee</b>	5,932	\$29,660	None	-\$20	None	\$47	\$29,687	\$0.00
<b>Walnut Cove Town</b>	1,314	\$38,098	\$206	-\$376	-\$1,653	\$40	\$36,315	\$1.26
<b>Danbury Town</b>	166	\$2,512	\$7	-\$25	-\$116	\$2	\$2,380	\$0.70
<b>School Tax</b>	54,918	\$154,449	\$802	-\$660	-\$7,361	\$119	\$147,349	\$0.13
<b>King Fire</b>	8,419	\$47,002	\$275	-\$210	-\$2,246	\$29	\$44,850	\$0.27
<b>Rural Hall Fire</b>	1,592	\$9,169	\$34	-\$36	-\$435	\$4	\$8,736	\$0.27
<b>Walnut Cove Fire</b>	5,911	\$29,024	\$132	-\$70	-\$1,370	\$25	\$27,741	\$0.23
<b>General County</b>	54,918	\$2,393,922	\$12,578	-\$10,236	-\$114,135	\$1,852	\$2,283,981	\$2.08
<b>Service Fire</b>	31,293	\$152,343	\$753	-\$586	-\$7,289	\$126	\$145,347	\$0.23
<b>Totals</b>	<b>170,852</b>	<b>\$3,089,249</b>	<b>\$16,097</b>	<b>-\$13,546</b>	<b>-\$139,945</b>	<b>\$2,435</b>	<b>\$2,947,001</b>	
				<b>Total</b>	<b>Refunds</b>		<b>\$ (13,659)</b>	
							<b>\$ 2,933,342</b>	

Cost in the New VTS System is calculated in all areas of billing (staffing, contracting, postage, DMV, software, etc.)  
 by the Department of Revenue and prorated on each taxing district per bill  
 NC GAP Billing refers to vehicles that were renewed late. This is taxes due on months that the vehicle wasn't tagged  
 Billing Cost in car fees for the City of King are calculated in the King City Bills

Lowest Cost                      \$2.44  
 Billed  
 (County, School Fund, Service Fire - based on 54,918 cars)  
 Highest Cost  
 Billed                              \$4.29  
 (County, School Fund, King City - based on 6,389 cars)  
 Average cost  
 per bill                              \$2.68

### **Releases Less than \$100 – Real and Personal Property**

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Releases less than \$100 –  
 Real and Personal Property (July 2017) at the August 14<sup>th</sup> meeting for the Board's review:

Releases Less Than Name	\$100 Real/Personal Bill Number	Property Amount
Paul F Hutchins	7731-2017-2017	<u>\$58.17</u>
	<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>\$58.17</b>

### **Releases More than \$100 – Real and Personal Property**

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Releases more than \$100 –  
 Real and Personal Property (July 2017) at the August 14<sup>th</sup> meeting for the Board's review  
 with consideration for approval at the August 28<sup>th</sup> meeting:

Name	Bill Number	Amount	Reason
Austin Gray Lynch	10084-2015-2015	\$803.00	Personal Property sold 2016 per bill of sale
First Baptist Church of King	849821-2017-2017	\$482.57	Exempt Property billed due to software error
Gentry Farm HOA, Inc.	298469-2017-2017	\$216.40	Homeowners Asso. - common area property -tax exempt
	298465-2017-2017	<u>\$493.39</u>	Homeowners Asso. - common area property -tax exempt
	<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>\$1,995.36</b>	

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

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Refunds more than \$100 – Real and Personal Property (July 2017) at the August 14<sup>th</sup> meeting for the Board's review with consideration for approval at the August 28<sup>th</sup> meeting:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Bill Number</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Reason</b>
Bonnie Ross Beverley, Jr.	25011711	\$192.78	Vehicle moved out of state
Bonnie Ross Beverley, Jr.	25043799	\$160.86	Vehicle moved out of state
Anthony Thomas Hare	36505256	\$716.60	Vehicle Sold
James Ricki Stevens	37784694	<u>\$226.98</u>	Vehicle Sold
	<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>\$1,297.22</b>	

### **Tax Office – EMS Billings – Write –Off Requests**

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Tax Office – EMS Billings – Write – Off requests at the August 14<sup>th</sup> meeting for the Board's review with consideration for approval at the August 28<sup>th</sup> meeting:

<b>Call Number</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Charge Amount</b>	<b>Reason</b>
E16-05720	7/15/2016	\$ 459.90	Inmate - no insurance
E16-06358	8/4/2016	\$ 484.00	Inmate - no insurance
E16-09335	11/11/2016	\$ 737.80	Inmate - no insurance
E16-09833	11/26/2016	\$ <u>754.00</u>	Inmate - no insurance
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,435.70</b>	

Tax Administrator Oakley commented:

- Business is as usual in the Tax Department
- Requested the following be placed on the August 28<sup>th</sup> Consent Agenda:
  - Real and Personal Releases more than \$100.00
  - Real and Personal Refunds more than \$100.00
  - Write –Off Request – EMS Billing

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

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Looks great
- Doing a good job as usual

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Doing an outstanding job

Tax Administrator Oakley responded that he had a very dedicated staff.

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Is there any action being taken regarding delinquent EMS billing?

Tax Administrator Oakley responded:

- As far as the write-offs for inmates, it is my understanding that as long as the inmate is in the county's custody, the county is responsible for the medical services

Vice Chairman Lankford responded:

- Understand the write-offs for the inmates, specifically talking about all EMS billing write-offs

Tax Administrator Oakley responded:

- We use the enforcement of collection such as second notices and garnishments along with sending delinquents to a collection agency who places the account in debt setoff with the state (county receives state income tax refunds if possible)

Vice Chairman Lankford continued:

- Want the county to do everything we can to collect those EMS charges
- Some people just don't want to pay their bills

Tax Administrator Oakley responded:

- Will look to see if there are any options regarding inmate charges that the county could possibly do

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Agree with Vice Chairman Lankford regarding the collection of EMS bills
- Confirmed with Tax Administrator Oakley that collection of EMS bills is approximately 83% to 84% when you take in all the Medicare/Medicaid write-offs and other contractual obligations
- Confirmed with Tax Administrator Oakley that collection enforcement of EMS bills are being dealt with like the collection enforcement for taxes

The Board had no issues with placing the following on the Consent Agenda:

- Real and Personal Releases more than \$100.00
- Real and Personal Refunds more than \$100.00
- Write –Off Request – EMS Billing

Chairman Walker, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the following items on the August 28<sup>th</sup> Consent Agenda:



- Real and Personal Releases more than \$100.00
- Real and Personal Refunds more than \$100.00
- Write –Off Request – EMS Billing

Chairman Walker requested a brief update regarding the FY 2017-18 tax bills.

Tax Administrator Oakley responded:

- As of August 11<sup>th</sup>, the County has received approximately \$2.2 million in tax revenue
- Look for a lot more escrows to come in during the month of August
- August is usually about an \$8 to \$9 million month for the County

### **Board of Education – Request for Funding – Elementary Art Positions**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding a request from Dr. Brad Rice on behalf of the Board of Education (BOE):

- The Board of Education met with the Board of Commissioners for a joint budget work session on June 14<sup>th</sup>
- The Board of Education requested additional one-time funding in the amount of \$320,364 for six (6) elementary art positions for the 2017-18 school year
- The request was due to the guidance that the General Assembly would monitor school district funding on enhancement teachers during the Fiscal Year 2017-18 school year and provide the same funding for enhancement teachers starting in Fiscal Year 2018-19
- During the meeting, the Board of County Commissioners noted that they would need further information about the promise of future funding
- Since the joint budget work session, the General Assembly has passed the state budget
- Although the wording for future funding for enhancement teachers was not written in the budget, on 06-28-2017, House Bill 528: Budget Technical Corrections was passed
- In House Bill 528, it states the following:
  - Part II: Education:
    - Section 2.1 – If Senate Bill 257, 2017 Regular Session, becomes law, then Part VII of that act is amended by adding a new section to read:
    - Program Enhancement Teacher Funds
      - Section 7.14 – It is the intent of the General Assembly to use the data collected in accordance with the reporting requirements set forth in Section 2 of S.I. 2017-9 to fund a new allotment for program enhancement teachers for local school administrative units beginning with 2018-19
- School Superintendent, Dr. Brad Rice, is here today to provide additional information regarding the request

Chairman Walker allowed Dr. Brad Rice to provide any information he would like to provide to the Board of County Commissioners.

Dr. Brad Rice, School Superintendent, presented the following information.

Thank you for allowing me to speak to you today about the new information since the June joint work session and a wonderful opportunity for the youngest residents in Stokes County. If you have visited The Arts Place, you have seen some of the awesome work by many of our residents as stated earlier. I understand Stokes County has a long and proud history of being home to talented artists in many fields specializing in writing, visual arts, artisans, singing, music, and other performing arts.

Around 16 years ago, Stokes County Schools made a budget decision that has threatened that history as we go into the future. To balance the budget, Stokes County Schools made the tough decision to eliminate art teachers from the elementary schools until funding could be restored.

We do have art teachers in the secondary schools but instead of receiving an advanced education in those grades, the students are learning the basics. This deprives these students of receiving the education and experiences needed to become master artists. It also keeps students from exploring something when they are young and moldable, which may keep them from ever trying a subject in which they may excel.

Sadly, as noted by Board of Education Member Cox, funding was not restored to replace the art teachers in the elementary schools. We do have a chance to get it restored in the 2018-2019 school year if we take the actions needed in the 2017-2018 school year.

As part of the House Bill 13 (Session Law 2017-9) and Senate Bill 257: Appropriations Act of 2017, Superintendents across the state must submit two reports during the 2017-2018 school year. These reports must include:

- (1) For each class in each grade level at each school, the following:
  - a. The duties of the teacher.
  - b. The source of funds used to pay for the teacher.
  - c. The number of students assigned to the class, including all exceptions to individual class size maximums in kindergarten through third grade that exist at that time.
- (2) For each school, the following:
  - a. The number of program enhancement teachers. For the purposes of this subdivision, program enhancement teachers are teachers who teach any of the following:
    1. Arts disciplines, including dance, music, theater, and the visual arts
    2. Physical education and health programs
    3. World languages
  - b. The source of funds used to pay each program enhancement teacher.
- (3) The average class size for each grade from kindergarten through third grade in

- the local school administrative unit.
- (4) Any other information the Superintendent of Public Instruction may require.

This summer, the General Assembly Ratified House Bill 528: AN ACT TO MAKE TECHNICAL, CLARIFYING, AND OTHER MODIFICATIONS TO THE CURRENT OPERATIONS APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 2017.

It states in part:

PART II. EDUCATION

SECTION 2.1. If Senate Bill 257, 2017 Regular Session, becomes law, then Part VII of that act is amended by adding a new section to read: "PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT TEACHER FUNDS

"SECTION 7.14. It is the intent of the General Assembly to use the data collected in accordance with the reporting requirements set forth in Section 2 of S.L. 2017-9 to fund a new allotment for program enhancement teachers for local school administrative units beginning with the 2018-2019 fiscal year."

The intent of the General Assembly is to use the reports I mentioned as part of the HB 13 that are due this year to determine the funding spent this year on enhancement teachers and to then provide funding for the enhancement positions in the 2018-2019 school year and beyond.

Last week, I sent an email to the superintendents around the state asking for them to let me know if they did not offer art in the elementary schools. To date. (just checked my email during the break) I have not received one response to let me know they do not offer elementary art. The Board of Education and I are committed to making Stokes County Schools an advantage for our young people. We do not want to be the one school district in the state that does not offer art for our elementary students.

I am here today, on behalf of the Board of Education, to request a one-time funding request of \$320,364 for the salary and benefits of six elementary arts positions needed. It is my desire that our boards can come together to take advantage of this opportunity to serve our schools this year so our children can have this opportunity in the future.

I am happy to accept any questions you may have.

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

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Certainly glad that this has been worked out, wished it could have been done during the budget process. but better late than never
- It is good news
- It gives us an opportunity and very pleased with that

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Questioned if there are any monies now given to the schools to be used for enhancement from the state that is for elementary art

Dr. Rice responded:

- There is not a designated funding stream for art right now
- The state looks at an allotment formula
- The school system receives funding based on the number of students
- In the past, the school system has been given a great deal of flexibility with where they will say the funding is for 1-17 students in a class, but the class can have up to 24 in the class
- We maximize the class sizes and use that extra funding for enhancement teachers
- That is how we fund physical education and music and art up to sixteen (16) years ago
- The state has reduced that flexibility moving forward and that is why they are coming back and saying now they will provide a special line item budget for enhancement teachers
- The model is to see what we are spending this year so the state can provide the funding in the future
- That is why it is so important to get these in the funding formula now so that we can receive that funding reimbursement in the future

Commissioner Booth continued:

- Questioned if any of the funding for enhancement teachers is used for anything else?

Dr. Rice responded:

- There is no line item for enhancement teachers now

Commissioner Booth continued:

- Questioned if it is at the discretion of the school board/superintendent to use it wherever he/she needs it

Dr. Rice responded:

- Right now there is limited flexibility, but that is going away next year

Commissioner Booth continued:

- Confirmed with Dr. Rice that the technical correction has already been passed by the General Assembly (ratified at the end of June 2017)
- Confirmed with Dr. Rice that the language in the technical correction states that "it is the intent of the General Assembly to use the data collected in accordance with the reporting requirements set forth in Section 2 of S.L. 2017-9 to fund a new allotment for program enhancement teachers for local school administrative units beginning with the 2018-19 Fiscal Year"
- Confirmed with Dr. Rice that there is currently no line item for enhancement teachers
- Confirmed with Dr. Rice that there is currently no requirement that the school system has to have any enhancement teachers, but the school system does have enhancement teachers

Dr. Rice responded:

- The state wants to look at what the school system is currently using for enhancement teachers during the 2017-18 school year (Arts disciplines, including dance, music, theater, and the visual arts; Physical education and health programs; World languages)
- State wants to know how many positions there are, how much funding is being used and what the funding sources are to create a special allotment for those positions in the future

Commissioner Booth continued:

- My understanding from the legislator is that if funded next year, that funding will be designated for enhancement programs only and can't be used for anything else
- My understanding from the legislator is that this is not a done deal yet

Dr. Rice responded:

- Have also talked to legislators and been told that this is their intent and that language includes, as all budget do, in case of an economic downturn, budget priorities could be changed
- That is their intent today; this allows some wiggle room in case there is an economic downturn or a hurricane comes through and depletes stored funds, etc.
- For example, it is my intent to pay my house payment, but if something comes up, out of my control, things could change
- Understand it is their intent to fund a new allotment for program enhancement teachers for local school administrative units beginning with the 2018-19 Fiscal Year

Commissioner Booth continued:

- Can't understand why there has been no concern over art teachers during the past sixteen (16) years and if there had been any funding that could have been used for art teachers

Dr. Rice responded:

- Have only been with the school system for a year, it is my understanding there was not adequate funding for art teachers in the past
- Funding would have had to come from somewhere else in order to have art teachers
- There is 3.5 locally funded CTE positions
- If CTE programs were cut, that funding could go for art teachers
- Any time you move funding, you always look at the needs of the community, the needs of the school district, and that is when tough decisions have to be made
- This is an opportunity to take a one-time investment to get a multiple payoff
- Would like to reiterate as stated in the joint work session and other times, if the state does not come through with funding, we will not come back and ask for the county to fund these positions
- The only reason I am here asking for this today is because of the intent language – if we don't invest in this now with what I have been told – if you don't have them in the budget this year – the state will not add this type of funding to your budget next year

Commissioner Booth continued:

- Confirmed with Dr. Rice that if funding is not received by the General Assembly, the school system will follow their reduction in force policy regarding the six (6) art positions and deal with it at that point
- That will be another issue

Dr. Rice reiterated:

- It is guaranteed that if you don't have them this year, there will be no funding for next year

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Would not like to make any comments at this time
- Confirmed with Chairman Walker that there would be a second round to make comments
- I have several things that I would like to say in the second round

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- I have put a lot study into this and talked to the legislators
- It appears to me that we do have some different understanding about the potential of what could happen with this situation
- According to one legislator – about three years ago, the monies were put in state budget to reduce class size
- I know that it could be very serious if it had not been for HB 13
- The Bill 13 gives you a lot of flexibility with the number of teachers you have based on the flexibility of what Bill 13 does for you according to what some of the Board of Education members have said
- I think I would be addressing this primarily to the Board of Education because in our meeting together, the Board of Education stated that they would like to continue the services that were being provided this school year (2016-17)
- During the budget process, we looked at the monies, we come to an agreement to give the school system \$1.5 million for capital which to my understanding gets us way down the list doing projects that are needed for the school system
- Thought this was good
- We also provided an extra \$1 million for current expense – an extra \$1 million over last year's funding
- My understanding is that there will be less students than last year

Dr. Rice responded:

- Students show up in two (2) weeks and we will not have an exact number until then
- We do know that enrollment numbers during the summer have been up
- West Stokes High School has had many new students enrolling this summer
- Chestnut Grove Middle School has reported an increase of 23 new students
- Receiving other increases at some of the other schools
- As I stated, will not know the exact number of students until next week
- That extra million covers the amount of funding that was allocated from the school's fund balance to balance the 2016-17 budget and that money is not there anymore

Vice Chairman Lankford responded:

- Confirmed with Dr. Rice that the school system will not know exactly what is in the school system's budget until the audit is completed
- It could more than expecting or it could be less than expecting
- At this point, the commissioners agreed that the \$1.5 million for capital and the additional \$1 million for current expense would be something that the Board of Education would have to look at and that the Board of Education would have to make choices
- The Board of Education would have to make priorities in what to use the funding for
- Now it appears to me that the school board wants to bring it back to the commissioners
- This is the school board's obligation to do what they need to do to provide the education model for the students
- The reason I am saying that is because I was on the school board sixteen (16) years ago when the decision was made to cut out art teachers
- Think Dr. Rice gave a good description of what the arts teachers are, a lot of people thinks is it just pertains to art itself
- Arts teachers are way beyond just art
- Confirmed with Dr. Rice that he agrees that arts teachers are way and beyond just art
- I am getting the opinion that the word is being put out that this is just for art – you are talking about music, physical education, language – a lot of different things
- When this decision was made, the emphasis and Board Member Cox should know, not sure she does or not, that our focus at that time for the education system was promoting reading
- The money given and was applied to English being the second language
- We had to teach every student from a different country
- Emphasis was primarily on reading
- Had a lot of students who were not getting reading and there had to be some changes made – this is the best I can remember of the situation
- I am not saying that these positions are not needed
- I am just saying that the school board needs to take the allocation from the commissioners and make decisions and prioritize what they want – not for the commissioners to make that decision
- I think you will agree with me, NC Statute states that commissioners provide the finances and the school board makes the decisions on how it is spent – local and most of the state funding that is received
- Lot of the state money has flexibility so it can be moved around
- I don't mind making decisions, but I don't like making decisions that someone else has the accountability for – which is the school board
- The school board's accountability is to take this funding allocated and go back and work out their priorities
- I do not think it is my responsibility to do that
- I feel like even if we were going to provide some or all the money, we need wait to see how many students there are, how many classes are needed, and how many teachers are needed
- Confirmed with Dr. Rice the school system currently has a projection regarding the number of teachers needed

Dr. Rice responded:

- The school system is fully staff except for two (2) positions based on the projections
- We believe we have the staff based on the number of students that we have coming
- Everything will depend on the enrollments

Vice Chairman Lankford continued:

- Confirmed with Dr. Rice at the joint meeting, it was discussed being short 11 months for administrators
- There are different allotments for CTE positions, administrators, custodian, etc.
- From my viewpoint today, this has been said before, the commissioners have a job looking at the big picture that deals with everything for the county and the school board has the objective of looking at the school system
- Right now, I am at a point where I think you need to take this back and do some more research – talking to the school board – not the superintendent
- School board should do the research on what is their priority
- I know how much has already been provided for the school system this year
- I know there were some things such as the reduction in e-rate, charter schools, etc. but that did not come up to \$1 million
- These are my thoughts to school board

Chairman Walker commented:

- Referenced information in Dr. Rice's letter to the Board, that states that it is the intent of the General Assembly to fund a new allotment for program enhancement teachers for beginning Fiscal Year 2018-19
- Confirmed with Dr. Rice, the technical correction adopted by the General Assembly which included the language that it was the intent of the General Assembly to fund a new allotment for program enhancement teachers for beginning Fiscal Year 2018-19 is what brings the request back to the county commissioners today
- Would like to publically state that I support trying to work with our school board to help make this happen
- I look at it from this perspective, will we have a better school system and have better elementary schools with art teachers or without art teachers
- I am convinced that we will be a better school system, better schools, and better opportunities for our students if we have art teachers
- My ultimate goal is to help us, one of my reasons for being a commissioner, is to work toward having a better Stokes County – leave a better county for our kids and grandkids
- We need to keep improving things as we go along for that to happen
- If we have better schools, that helps us have a better county
- I support trying to work with our school board and school system to work toward helping to make this happen
- Asked Dr. Rice to elaborate on the following statement he made earlier in his presentation. "It is my desire that our boards can come together to take advantage of this opportunity to serve our schools this year so our children can have this opportunity in the future."



Dr. Rice responded:

- As stated earlier, our audit will not be completed for several months
- We are still receiving bills from last fiscal year
- We don't know exactly how much fund balance we will have left
- We do know that we will have to appropriate around \$69,000 out of fund balance to balance the Fiscal Year 2017-18 budget
- If we had the complete funds to pay our bills and fund these six (6) positions, we certainly would
- Reiterated that the amount of the school system's fund balance will not be known until the audit is complete
- I believe we could help along this process if given the opportunity
- We can't fund all of it
- If the commissioners could give us a number, we could see if we could meet it and work together to make this happen
- I don't have a dollar figure in mind
- Again, our fund balance is low to where it has been in the past and we will not know the exact figure until the audit is completed
- We would be happy to do what we can

Chairman Walker continued:

- I can tell you what I would like to see
- I am only one (1) vote of five (5) votes
- I would like to see a 50/50 effort
- I think that level of cooperation between the two boards would send a good message to our citizens
- I really believe this is a need
- I am convinced of that
- I would like to see a way to fund it
- If somehow the school board could find some funds from their end, I would certainly support finding some funds from our end
- I would like some clarification – should our board elect to proceed in the direction we are discussing, I understand that there is some urgency in this matter – hiring staff

Dr. Rice responded:

- Students show up in two(2) weeks
- Teachers start this Thursday
- First reporting kind of keeps moving from mid-September to first of October, do not have an exact date for the reporting period
- The goal would be to have the teachers in place by the first reporting period
- This would mean we would need to proceed on this as quickly as possible
- If someone hired is in a position, most teachers have a 30-day contract, it would be a month to get them on board
- We need to post for a week, review applications, interview candidates, have the Board of Education approve the hiring, and then bring them on board which could be immediately or a 30- day wait
- Time is of the essence

- When asked about a timeline in the joint meeting, we stated mid-July would be preferable and mid-August would be pretty late in the process – we are at that mid-August deadline

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Dr. Rice, I am going to go over a few items and if I say anything that is incorrect, you are welcome to correct me
- I don't think you will find anything to correct, but you are certainly welcome to correct me
- I know that this conversation is being streamed and probably people in the educational field is finding this information out as we speak
- I am going to be very careful to word what I say
- I served this school system for thirty-six (36) years and I did it for the children, the parents, the grandparents, all the citizens of Stokes County, the teachers, and the staff members
- Most of all, I had a love for children so there is the tug at my heart – money and children
- I was principal at two elementary schools during my career
- I was principal at one of those elementary schools when art went out (was actually transitioning from Sandy Ridge to Nancy Reynolds when this all unfolded)
- I have a very good history of what all happened
- Chairman Walker succinctly also gave my initial view at this time, after listening to everything, which is “the boards coming together”
- When I think of boards coming together, it is not just to talk, but to me, you are saying that the group (superintendent and Board of Education) have prioritized art as one of your top priorities
- Confirmed with Dr. Rice that the Board and Education/superintendent have prioritized art as one of their top priorities especially with this opportunity that has been given
- Confirmed with Dr. Rice that the Board of Education requested \$1,500,800 for capital expenditures and that air conditioning at North Stokes High School and South Stokes High School were 1 and 2 on the priority list
- Manager Morris, who can only recommend, recommended funding the entire \$1,500,000 as requested
- The Board of County Commissioners granted the Board of Education the entire \$1,500,800 for capital expenditures for Fiscal Year 2017-18
- Questioned Dr. Rice if he was accurate so far

Dr. Rice responded:

- That is correct, the Board of Education was granted \$1,500,800 for capital expenditures
- The Board of Education and I were very appreciative of that funding for capital expenditures

Commissioner Mendenhall continued:

- You said you were not sure of the amount that the Board of Education could possibly contribute for this request

- I would think that you would have a pretty good idea, with one Board member present for today's meeting, if they would be willing, as Chairman Walker stated, to divvy up and go half with the Board of Commissioners
- I am speaking for myself, each member of this Board has their own opinion
- If we had at least three members that would agree to provide 50% of the funding if the Board of Education would provide 50%, it would show me that your true concept is wanting to invest in the concept of bringing art back
- This is very important to me
- I truly believe that art is very important
- Don't get me wrong, it was part of the rotation sixteen (16) years ago – Spanish, Art, Physical Education and Music
- I remember it well, because when you are a principal at an elementary school, you know what enhancement courses you have
- The Board of Education at that time had to make a tough decision
- Two (2) courses were eliminated – Elementary Spanish and Elementary Art
- Elementary Physical Education and Elementary Music were kept
- Some of the things that I will say has already been said, but I think they need to be re-emphasized
- I know that Commissioner Jones has taught in the public schools
- I know that Vice Chairman Lankford served on the Board of Education for many years
- I know that all the other members of the Board of County Commissioners have served much longer than I have
- I don't think any member on this Board of Commissioners knows education any better than I do
- Capital Expenditures
  - The Board of Education requested \$1,500,800 for 37 capital expenditure projects
  - The Board of County Commissioners funded the entire \$1,500,800 for capital expenditures
  - I hope the Board of Education was very thankful for that amount
  - In my near five (5) years serving as superintendent, we never received the entire amount that was requested – not one time
  - I came before this Board several times requesting funding
- This Board graciously worked well with the Board of Education while I served as superintendent
- Current Expense
  - The County Commissioners funded an increase from last year's current expense appropriation to this year's current expense appropriation of \$951,520
  - The funding was \$10,968,860 with an additional \$100,000 above the county manager's recommendation
- The school system does have certain freedoms and flexibilities in categories, not all, there are some categories that have restrictions; however, the school system does have freedom and flexibility in many categories to maneuver monies to needed categories – not all but several

- All the information being provided is public knowledge that anyone can gather from Department of Public Instruction, school system, etc.
- An example would be:
  - The state allocated the school system's transportation department \$500,000 and the fuel cost was low that year
  - It only cost \$400,000 to operate the school system's transportation department that year due to fuel costs
  - There would be \$100,000 left over
  - This funding is flexible
  - That \$100,000 can be applied to other needs in the school system
  - Confirmed with Dr. Rice that the information regarding the school system's transportation funding is totally correct
- I will say this, hypothetically speaking, I am sure you have already received the preliminary test scores, because they are already on the DPI website, and I know that they are not made public until the state Board of Education does the final approval
- Once the state Board of Education approves the test scores, they become public knowledge
- Hypothetically speaking, one of the areas on the test scores suffered a little bit, Vice Chairman Lankford spoke earlier about reading
- I truly believe in my heart that reading, understanding, and comprehension of what your read are keys to being successful in every context or subject area
- Hypothetically speaking, if reading scores were not quite as good as they had been in the past, I would think some extra monies might need to go in that area
- Not knowing where you are going to come out until the final scores are released by DPI, I know you already have an idea
- Confirmed with Dr. Rice that he had an idea what subject areas need to be worked on
- Confirmed with Dr. Rice that elementary schools get Title I monies
- Would you engage the audience and tell them where Title I monies come from

Dr. Rice responded:

- Title I monies are federal dollars used for struggling students to help them academically – putting it very briefly
- A lot of that funding is used for reading to help supplement classrooms to help reading proficiency

Commissioner Mendenhall continued:

- Confirmed with Dr. Rice that Title I monies could be used hire additional teachers to reduce class sizes

Dr. Rice added:

- In most cases, funding is used to reduce class sizes, a large portion of the school system's Title I monies is used to reduce class sizes

Commissioner Mendenhall continued:

- Dr. Rice, you came to us with a 23.6% increase in current expense
- As much as I have worked in education, a 23.6% in a pretty substantial increase

Dr. Rice responded:

- Yes, a 23.6% increase is a substantial increase

Commissioner Mendenhall continued:

- Feel the Board of County Commissioners has worked very hard to give the Board of Education a big boost of funding this year
- You received close to \$1 million in current expense more this year
- I realize that your audit is not complete, but I am getting numerical numbers which you can't say at this time until you have a complete audit – estimates of a good amount of funding coming back into the school system's fund balance
- That is important to me – feel like if we ask for a match for this request from the Board of Education, we would not be draining the school system's fund balance
- I can't give you an exact number and I know that you nor your board members can give us an exact number
- I am hearing that it is going to be a good amount
- With all these things that I have named in ways that other monies can be secured and hopefully all elementary schools are using their Title I monies in ways that they think will benefit the children
- When I was superintendent, the motto that I asked the Board of Education to adopt, which they did, was “ Students First”
- Students First has always been my belief
- I also loved working with staff, teachers, parents, grandparents and the community - they all play a part in having a successful school system
- I feel that I have covered many ideas where we know that you can come up some extra monies
- I know that
- It is very important to me to know that you all are putting some “skin in the game”
- Therefore, I would like to echo Chairman Walker's statement – I would like to see the Board of Education, as you, Dr. Rice communicate with them, be willing to go at least 50/50 in order for us to go forward with this request

Dr. Rice commented:

- You gave me the opportunity to correct you if there was something, you gave no incorrect information
- The one thing that was stated hypothetically about fuel expense, I don't want anyone to leave here today thinking that was the case last year - \$100,000 extra in transportation
- If that were to happen, we would use that extra \$100,000 in needed areas
- We budgeted last year approximately \$100,000 to cover what the state did not cover in fuel costs and have had to allocate another \$100,000
- At the end of last year, we had almost a quarter of a million extra expenses that the state did not cover that had to be funded by the school system
- I understand you clearly stated it was a hypothetical, not a fact
- Just wanted everyone to understand there was no extra transportation funding

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- You are correct, Dr. Rice, it was a hypothetical

- But I wanted people to know that it could turn back around this year and fuel costs come in less – have seen it happen
- There are categories, departments, and pots of money that can be utilized in other areas – flexibility
- I think art helps make that elementary thing come all together
- I am going to be up front, I know what you read on paper as far as the bill, but let's all be up front
- I know of only one way to be with the citizens of Stokes County - honest
- I have spoken personally to Kyle Hall after you, Dr. Rice, contacted him
- Kyle could not give me any type of guarantee
- Kyle stated that you must remember the word “intent” is in the bill and that he could not give me a guarantee
- I did not speak to Senator Shirley Randleman personally, but I had someone that did call her – I was unable to call her because of attending the NCACC Annual Conference
- She basically said the same thing as Kyle Hall
- Both said the technical correction was approved and the technical correction did have the word “intent” in the language
- Neither one of them could say to me that they could guarantee the monies would be there next year
- That is another reason, along with Chairman Walker, could not allocate over 50%

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Feel like I have spent the better portion of an hour going through a trial for the school board
- It is a simple concept – we have a one-time opportunity to regain our art teachers within the intention
- We all know that Raleigh is never a guarantee
- We don't need to beat it in the ground
- We have an opportunity after sixteen (16) years to make our school system better
- During this extra \$1 million, nothing was ever mentioned about the ADM is so much lower which makes our current expense even greater because expenses are still the same
- Whether you agree with charter schools and home schools, we are a direct competition with these two (2) entities (this was not mentioned either) which our expenses for our public schools proportionally higher because we have less monies coming in from ADM – that was also never mentioned
- It is not your fault – you need extra money
- It does not mean that you are misplacing money or stealing funds from one pot to another because of something that needs to be done
- Although that wasn't said – it felt a little inferred and I did not like that
- I support these teachers
- We have this one opportunity
- You have already said that you will not come back if the intention does not come through
- I don't know why there is so much discussion
- We either want to help the schools and help our county or we don't

- On another note on a larger picture, this is a marketing tool to maybe regain some students, help some students who are having problems and maybe some help with substance abuse
- It goes way beyond creativity
- It helps with future jobs because they learn conceptual thinking
- This is much bigger than just \$320,000
- This has a greater payoff than most things such as the renovations for the Head Start facility for YVEDDI – it is not much difference in funding
- The return in value is going to be much greater and faster
- It is a “no brainer” to me that this needs to be done
- It is worth the chance
- I fully support the request and don’t need thirty (30) minutes to talk about it

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Confirmed with Dr. Rice that there was no leftover funding in fuel last year

Dr. Rice responded:

- Do not know about any other years other than last year due to me only being here for one (1) year

Commissioner Booth continued:

- When we did the budget, five (5) county commissioners said up front that we would not fund this because of the uncertainty of whether it is going to be funded or not
- I also talked to legislators after receiving the request from Dr. Rice
- I asked each legislator what had changed since we did our budget
- I got a specific answer “nothing has changed”
- I asked Director of North Carolina Association of County Commissioners about this technical correction
- NCACC lobbies for the counties
- The director stated he did not know anything about this and that he would get someone to get back to me
- I have not received any information from the NCACC yet
- I may not have a brain, but I do have more discussion
- As Commissioner Mendenhall quoted what the Board of County Commissioners had allocated this year to the Board of Education for the school system, it is considerably more than we normally do
- Talked to other commissioner chairmen about this at the NCACC Conference and they knew nothing about this
- Hope the citizens of Stokes County can look back and see what has been accomplished over the past eight (8) years
- We have done renovations, built new schools, built a new community college and getting ready to build a new trades facility
- Don’t think anyone can say that this Board is not for education
- This is not a sure thing
- Both legislators have stated that this is not a sure thing
- They are in Raleigh, we are in Stokes County
- Who do we listen to?

- Confirmed with Finance Director Edwards that the county appropriated additional monies in this year's allocation for the school system's fund balance to be \$250,000 (believe the amount appropriated was \$75,000)
- Confirmed with Manager Morris that the county appropriated \$1.3 million from the county's fund balance to balance the Fiscal Year 2017-18 county budget
- So we are taking county fund balance to add to the school system's fund balance
- Think the Board of Education needs to look at their priorities
- Listening to Commissioner Mendenhall's comments, we do not know what is going to go back into the school system's fund balance
- We know we added \$75,000 so that the school system's fund balance would not be so low – I thought that was a good idea
- Is this is funded, the \$320,000 request is not an accurate figure
- If the teachers have to work a 30-day notice, could decrease the amount - could take at least \$81,000 off depending upon when they started
- Confirmed with Dr. Rice, teachers are paid on a ten-month salary

Dr. Rice responded:

- Would say it could be at least one (1) month less if the teacher had to give a 30-day notice
- The teachers are paid for ten (10) months and can choose for their annual salary to be paid over a 10-month cycle or a 12-month cycle
- The salaries were calculated on a base teacher's salary, if we get a veteran teacher, it could cost more

Commissioner Booth continued:

- Confirmed with Dr. Rice that the state did not provide a line item for enhancement teachers
- If this does pass, the funds being used for enhancement teachers will be lost

Dr. Rice responded:

- This has passed and ratified
- The monies that we are using for enhancement teachers are going to be used for smaller classroom sizes
- They are now enforcing the actual allotment without flexibility
- We have not been in the trouble with class sizes as other districts have
- We are going to face an increased expense next year from the enhancement monies having to be used for reduction in class size

Commissioner Booth continued:

- This Board has been pro education
- We have spent between \$35 to \$40 million in school construction and renovations

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Would like for the school board to go back and do an assessment of what they think they can do and come back with that figure
- Come back to us and see if three people are going to do what they have said they would do



- Then a decision can be made at that time

Chairman Walker confirmed there were no more comments or questions from the Board.

Chairman Walker questioned the pleasure of the Board regarding this item.

Commissioner Jones stated that she would like to see this item placed on today's Action Agenda.

Chairman Walker confirmed with Commissioner Jones that this would be considered a motion to move the item to today's Action Agenda.

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Thought this was a consensus type item
- I asked that this not be placed on the Action Agenda

Chairman Walker noted the each member would be allowed to cast their vote.

Vice Chairman Lankford responded:

- I understand that
- I know how it is going to be
- I know all about it

Chairman Walker seconded the motion.

Chairman Walker called the vote.

The motion carried (3-2) with Vice Chairman Lankford and Commissioner Booth voting against the motion.

Chairman Walker, with a majority vote, directed the Clerk to place the item on today's Action Agenda.

### **YVEDDI Head Start Facility – Further Discussion**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding the YVEDDI Head Start Facility:

- Item was discussed at the July 24<sup>th</sup> meeting

- Clerk was directed by the Board to place the item back on today's Discussion Agenda for further discussion
- Decision before the Board today is whether to move forward with renovations to the former YMCA brick facility at an estimated cost of \$240,000 or to demolish the existing facility and construct a new facility at an estimated cost of \$276,000

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

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- There was supposed to be some additional information about the status of Head Start at this particular time provided to the Board
- Understood that YVEDDI needed the facility for a short period of time, the Board has not received that information
- Confirmed with Manager Morris that YVEDDI has indicated that they do need a facility for a short period of time

County Manager Morris responded:

- Possibly can provide a facility, but this item is whether to move forward with either renovations, a new facility, or no action

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- I needed to know the answer to make a recommendation for this building
- I hold the county manager responsible for what has happened up there
- The reason for this is during the Spring we had a lot of rain and had a roof that was leaking and evidently nothing was done to repair the leak, so all the rain came in; then nothing was done so the ceiling tiles fell in and it is still like it was 3 months ago
- I am in favor of not doing anything to that building
- I am in favor of not spending any money whatsoever on that building and just leave it up there like it is and let people go up there and see how it is

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- I really don't know what to say
- Vice Chairman Lankford surprised me with his comments
- At this point, I have no comments

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Deterioration of that building is not caused by a person
- It has been caused by other things
- We historically do not take care of all our buildings like we should in a timely manner
- I refuse to place blame on one individual
- We have an old jail that is falling and in disrepair in my opinion
- We appropriate for capital projects every year
- We just went through a recession, we postponed things
- There is plenty of blame
- We could blame a number of things

- I think it was inappropriate to make that accusation
- The fact of the matter is that we need to do something for Head Start
- I don't know if there is another place in the county that they could operate out of
- An estimate of \$276,000 for a new facility is not much more considering renovations would cost an estimate of \$240,000
- The return on the investment would be very slow considering the rent for YVEDDI is only \$400 per month
- We are here to take care of these type of programs
- To me, the building is not off the table
- Not sure we have any other facility that could be used for Head Start
- Would like to keep the possibilities open

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Would agree with Vice Chairman Lankford that it is not feasible to spend \$240,000 to renovate the facility
- It would take 60 years at \$400 a month to get the estimated \$240,000 renovation cost (that does not include utilities costs)
- That is not feasible and not a good financial thing to do for the taxpayers
- A new facility is estimated at \$276,000
- Agree that this should be off the table

Chairman Walker commented:

- Attended the YVEDDI Board (Commissioner appointed representative) Finance Meeting this past Tuesday
- Confirmed with YVEDDI that their position is that they are looking at two (2) alternative locations
- Not sure either will work out as a permanent location
- Believe one of the locations could be used as a temporary location
- Sounds like the next step would be to see how YVEDDI's search for an alternate location turns out
- Might be the best to go ahead and place this on the Action Agenda for the next meeting

Commissioner Jones commented

- Can agree with Chairman Walker – placing the item on the Action Agenda for the next meeting

Vice Chairman Lankford stated that he did not think we had enough information to make a decision.

Chairman Walker commented:

- Get any information needed to help make the decision at the next meeting
- If you can't get the needed information by the next meeting, can always move the item to the next agenda
- The item can be postponed
- Would like to see some closure

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Could table the item

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Just for information, I also serve on the YVEDDI Board of Directors
- Have been talking to the director of Head Start and they do need a facility for a short period of time in order to get the other facility licensed
- Thought that information was going to be shared with Administration, but evidently it was not
- That is why I stated what I stated
- We can just leave the building as it is and let YVEDDI do what they want

Chairman Walker questioned the pleasure of the Board.

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Confirmed with Chairman Walker that he had stated in a previous meeting that YVEDDI had no interest in providing any funding towards the renovation costs
- Have to look at 60 years to get back the investment which does not include the upkeep of the facility
- Agree with Vice Chairman Lankford

Commissioner Booth moved to table the item.

Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.

Chairman Walker opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Have toured the facility
- Do not like making any decision without seeing a facility that is in question
- In my opinion, it is in bad shape
- I want to make sure that Head Start is taken care
- Confirmed with Manager Morris that Head Start does not have a place right now

Chairman Walker responded:

- Received this information this past Tuesday
- YVEDDI is looking at two (2) alternative sites and are in the process trying to get the needed licensure
- Would need to get back with YVEDDI to get the final answer to where they think they will be able to go

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Confirmed with Chairman Walker that we do not know if YVEDDI Head Start has a place to start

Chairman Walker responded:

- Can't be responsible for all of YVEDDI's actions or of actions not done

- In all fairness, YVEDDI has been given ample notice regarding the situation
- Not sure if they responded quickly enough

Vice Chairman Lankford responded:

- Talked to Director of Head Start and she was calling the administration last Friday to get an update

Commissioner Jones commented:

- We are not the responsible party for this program
- The ball is in their court
- They have two alternatives
- Getting the needed certifications is not the county's responsibility

Commissioner Booth confirmed with County Attorney Browder that the item could be tabled and if a commissioner wanted it back on the Agenda, the commissioner could request the item be placed back on the Agenda.

With no further discussion, Chairman Walker called the question.

The motion carried unanimously.

### **Proposed YMCA Recreation Contract – Fiscal Year 2017-18**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following proposed YMCA Recreation Contract for Fiscal Year 2017-18 for the Board's consideration:

## **County of Stokes & Stokes Family YMCA**

### **RECREATION CONTRACT**

This contract for Recreation Services (herein the "Contract") is made by and between the Stokes Family YMCA herein known as the "YMCA", and the County of Stokes, herein known as the "County". For and in consideration of the mutual promises and covenants set forth herein, the parties agree as follows:

#### **Responsibilities of the YMCA**

The YMCA agrees to provide the following minimum services:

1. The YMCA shall administer and coordinate all current recreation and wellness programming to include Stokes County Youth Sports Programming, Summer Day Camp, Stokes County Easter Egg Hunt, other seasonal family special events, 5k event, Fitness Center operation and wellness services.

2. A Summer Youth Program shall be provided to the youth of Stokes County. This program shall be for the length of time specified each year in the Annual Budget (as herein defined). This program shall utilize school sites as well as YMCA and County facilities.
3. The YMCA shall provide recreation, wellness and social programs at a County facility, at the County's sole expense except for long distance telephone calls, in Danbury, North Carolina. The YMCA shall maintain regular office hours and Fitness Center hours of operation in said facility.
4. Stokes County Youth Sports Programming shall be provided to the youth of Stokes County. The programming shall last a minimum of seven weeks.
5. The YMCA shall host an annual 5k event.
6. New Programs shall be offered based on need and availability, such as additional summer camps, sports, recreation and wellness programs and social events.
7. The YMCA shall assume all liability insurance coverage for all YMCA staff and program offerings.
8. The YMCA shall administer the scheduling of shelter usage and special events to be held at Moratock Park, located in Danbury, North Carolina.
9. The YMCA shall collect all fees as set by the Stokes County Board of Commissioners for use of Moratock Park facilities and remit those funds back to the County as requested by the County.
10. The YMCA shall retain all revenues generated by program offerings, except those fees generated from Moratock Park shelter usage.
11. The YMCA shall provide a Stokes County Recreation Department Committee under the authorization of the Stokes Family YMCA volunteer Board of Management. The Committee shall consist of Stokes Family YMCA volunteers, Stokes County citizens and a designated representative of the Stokes County Board of Commissioners. The Committee will meet at least one time quarterly.

### **Responsibilities of the County of Stokes**

The County of Stokes agrees to the following responsibilities:

1. The County shall maintain ownership of Moratock Park located in Danbury, North Carolina. Further, the County shall provide maintenance and repair services for Moratock Park up to and including grounds maintenance, facility maintenance, insurance and utility costs.
2. The County shall provide a facility to serve as a Program Center to the YMCA in Danbury, North Carolina or other strategically placed locations at the County's sole expense except for long distance telephone calls. The County shall maintain ownership of said facility and

shall provide maintenance and repair services up to and including road maintenance, grounds maintenance, facility maintenance, insurance and utility costs.

3. The County shall provide, at its sole cost and expense, the YMCA staff in Stokes County with one (1) vehicle for travel solely within Stokes County in maintaining programs based in Stokes County and offered to Stokes County citizens.
4. The County shall allow the YMCA staff to purchase fuel at the Stokes County fueling facilities for use in the vehicle provided by the County.

#### **Cost**

The County hereby agrees to pay to the YMCA an amount equal to one hundred seventeen thousand and four hundred and eighty-four dollars (\$117,484) for the contract year. This contract sum shall be paid in two (2) equal installments with the first payment due on July 31<sup>st</sup> and the second due on January 31<sup>st</sup> of the contract term.

#### **Term**

The term of this contract shall be for a period of one year. This contract may be extended for additional periods upon the expressed written consent of both parties.

The Agreement shall be effective July 1, 2017 and shall remain in effect through June 30, 2018. If a new agreement has not been reached between the parties by July 1, 2018, the FY 2017-18 Agreement shall remain in force, unless it has been terminated in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.

#### **Contract Termination**

Either party wishing to terminate this contract may do so upon one-hundred and eighty days written notice to the other party.

#### **Hold Harmless Provision**

The YMCA hereby agrees to indemnify and hold the County harmless from all liability arising out of the provision of recreational programs and services as set forth herein.

The County agrees to indemnify and hold the YMCA harmless from all liability arising out of the provision of County maintenance and facilities.

#### **Contract Date and Signatures**

This contract for services shall commence as of July 1, 2017 and terminate on June 30, 2018. Contract term extensions are provided in the section of this contract titled "Term".

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**Curtis Hazelbaker**

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**Jimmy Walker**

August 14, 2017

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**President/CEO**  
**YMCA of Northwest North Carolina**

**Chairman**  
**Stokes County Board of Commissioners**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Attest**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Attest**

This Instrument has been pre-audited in the Manner as required by the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Julia Edwards, Finance Director**

Approved as to Form and Legal Sufficiency

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Tyrone Browder, Stokes County Attorney**

County Manager Rick Morris commented:

- Annual contract for recreational services by the YMCA
- Only changes are the dates for Fiscal Year 2017-18
- County Attorney Browder has reviewed the contract

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

The Board had no comments regarding the proposed YMCA Recreation Contract for Fiscal Year 2017-18 and unanimously agreed to place the item on the August 28<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda.

Chairman Walker, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the August 28<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda.

**Proposed Breastfeeding Policy**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following proposed Breastfeeding Policy for the Board's consideration:

**Proposed Breastfeeding Support Policy**

**Policy:**

The County of Stokes will strive to allow breastfeeding employees to express milk while at work under the guidelines listed below.



**Purpose:**

To support employees in providing their child with the healthiest food nature has to offer, their own mother's breast milk.

**Guidelines:**

1. Any employee who wishes to express milk in the workplace shall make a request to her supervisor so that appropriate accommodations can be arranged.
2. Breastfeeding employees shall be allowed a flexible schedule for nursing or pumping. The time allowed will not exceed the normal time allowed for lunch and breaks. For time beyond normal lunch and breaks, sick/annual leave will be used. Employees required to use holiday/compensatory time before any other time, will be required to follow the county requirements.
3. A confidential area will be provided where the breastfeeding mother can nurse or express breast milk to be stored for later use.
4. Breastfeeding mothers will be allowed to store breast milk if properly stored and labeled in a county refrigerator if available, otherwise, employees will be responsible to provide their own refrigeration such as a cooler for storing breast milk. Stokes County will not be responsible for the mother's stored milk in a county refrigerator.

**County Rick Morris commented:**

- Have had the issue come up and realized the need for a policy
- Proposed policy is based from policies of other counties
- In order to give proper guidance for operations within the county, we need to have a policy
- The proposed policy has been reviewed by County Attorney Browder and by the Health Department's Breastfeeding Coordinator

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

**Commissioner Jones commented:**

- Being a female, figure it might matter and have endured this

**Vice Chairman Lankford commented:**

- It doesn't

**Commissioner Jones continued:**

- Thank you for saying that because I disagree
- Think the proposed policy is fair, it is reasonable
- Have seen situations that were not reasonable and fair even in education – women having to use the bathrooms
- Believe anyone who reads this can see it is fair
- Believe it is fair to those who are not in the situation
- Fair and equitable
- Good with the proposed policy

Commissioner Booth commented:

- It is a guideline that we need
- It is fair and meets all the requirements
- Provides information about storage
- Also good with the proposed policy

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Well written policy
- Very clear
- Supportive of the policy

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- It is fair even though I may get accused of not thinking it is fair
- Need for a policy

The Board unanimously agreed to place the item on the August 28<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda.

Chairman Walker, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the August 28<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda.

### **Proposed County Leadership Forum on Opioid Abuse**

Chairman Walker presented the following information regarding a proposed County Leadership Forum on Opioid Abuse:

- Was contacted by a representative from the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) about a program they are offering
- Met with Clerk Bullins, Manager Morris, Senior Community Executive Ronda Outlaw from Cardinal Innovations, and DSS Director Elmes to discuss the recommendation of convening a leadership forum with all the local elected leaders to jointly learn about the effect of the opioid crisis on our county's citizens and to develop ideas that can be implemented in our county to help to reverse the trends
- Felt the best thing to do was place the item on the Agenda and let the Board of County Commissioners discuss and decide what to do
- Would like to give Executive Ronda Outlaw and County Manager Morris a chance to speak on the item
- Understand that this happened in at least two of the counties Executive Ronda Outlaw serves

Executive Ronda Outlaw, Cardinal Innovations, commented:

- This is an initiative that comes from the NCACC
- Fred McClure, NCACC President 2016-17 and Davidson County Commissioner, serves on the Cardinal Innovations Board

- Commissioner McClure is very passionate and interested in supporting these kinds of events to happen in each of the counties
- He has a vision that this would happen in every county across NC
- Davidson County was a pilot for having what is known as having an “Opioid in a Box” – public community forum with a goal of public awareness and a call for action to help educate communities about the opioid community – locally and national statistics including within each county the resources in place
- Part of the event is having attendees (targeting elected officials) come together and make recommendations of what additional things could be done within their county to address the issue
- Think Stokes County is ahead of the game, you have already given it a lot of thought
- There are funds through Maintenance of Efforts dollars for mental health that have been designated by this Board that could be used for this purpose
- Cardinal can provide support in terms of our medical director who in the other counties has provided clinical information and how Cardinal is strategically looking at this in regarding how Cardinal can support counties
- Cardinal, if desired by the Board, could help with the programming of the event

County Manager Morris commented:

- Believe Ronda did a good job providing the details of the initiative
- Be left up to the Board whether to hold the meeting
- In my opinion, believe it would be a good idea

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

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Sat in on Davidson County’s opioid breakout session at the NCACC conference this past weekend
- We are so far ahead of them, don’t know why they were not using Stokes
- We have already had meetings, implemented NC211, matched federal and state funding for a liaison position, put a new position for enforcement of drugs in the Sheriff’s Department, put a new position on education of drugs-DARE in the Sheriff’s Department
- I think we need to get the Clerk to write a letter to the Association detailing what has been going on in Stokes County to show that we are a long way ahead of the game

Chairman Walker responded:

- My understanding is that this is a way to coordinate resources within the county that our agencies are fully aware of what is happening in the county
- Association has done their part by providing the packet of materials to go by such as a sample Agenda
- Can consider any suggestion, consistent to our policy, place the item on the Action Agenda for the next meeting to make a decision

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Just wanted to let everyone know about the breakout session was held at the conference

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Good with Action Agenda for the next meeting

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Also good with Action Agenda for the next meeting
- In looking over the information provided, did see some redundancy because we have been doing some things but that does not mean we have solved anything
- We have no proof or data to backup anything that we have done
- We can always learn something, for example, in Nashville, North Carolina, a person who is own drugs can go straight to the police without punitive damages
- They do not have to worry about going to jail – this is a good program that is working – their crime rate is down like 49%

Executive Ronda Outlaw noted:

- As Chairman Walker commented, it is not about additional funding and where do you get it, it is about pulling together all the resources you already have and what can the various organizations and agencies bring to the table

Commissioner Jones added:

- More awareness and more networking

Executive Ronda Outlaw continued:

- Agree exactly with Commissioner Jones
- Things like this don't normally cost any money
- I think the thing missing in Stokes County is a comprehensive, strategic plan
- There has been discussion at the Community Partner's Meeting about such a plan that would detail all the things that are happening in Stokes County – bring it all together
- Updates could be brought back to the Board
- A plan could show what is being done, what else can be done and show the gaps and a plan to fill those gaps if possible
- Everyone is working together on the same plan
- Right hand knowing what the left hand is doing

Chairman Walker commented:

- Better coordination of effort with lesser redundancy

The Board agreed to place the item on the August 28<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda.

Chairman Walker, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the August 28<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda.

### **External Posting – Public Buildings**

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information from Public Works

Director Mark Delehant regarding a current vacancy in Public Buildings:

- Have a vacant custodian position in Public Buildings
- Position was advertised internally with no applications received
- Would request the Board of County Commissioners approve the position to be advertised externally
- Request the item be moved to today's Action Agenda in order to expedite the hiring process

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

Vice Chairman Lankford moved to place the item on today's Action Agenda.

Commissioner Mendenhall seconded the motion.

Chairman Walker opened the floor for any further discussion.

With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

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

### **Appointment – Stokes County Fire Commission**

County Manager Rick Morris provided the following information regarding three (3) vacancies on the Stokes County Fire Commission:

- Fire Service Members:
  - Clifford Hall
  - Donnie Mabe
- Civilian Member:
  - Steve Fagg
- All wished to be considered for re-appointment
- Request Action Agenda for the August 28<sup>th</sup> meeting

Chairman Walker opened the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Booth nominated:

- Fire Service Members:
  - Clifford Hall

- Donnie Mabe
- Civilian Member:
  - Steve Fagg

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

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

Chairman Walker, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the August 28<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda.

#### **Appointment – Stokes County Planning Board**

County Manager Rick Morris provided the following information regarding four (4) vacancies on the Stokes County Planning Board:

- Snow Creek Township:
  - Steven Spencer
- Yadkin Township:
  - Larry Snyder
- Sauratown Township:
  - Ronnie Morris
- Quaker Gap Township:
  - Gary Simmons
- All wished to be considered for re-appointment
- Request Action Agenda for the August 28<sup>th</sup> meeting

Chairman Walker opened the floor for nominations.

Vice Chairman Lankford nominated:

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

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

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

Chairman Walker, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the August 28<sup>th</sup> Action Agenda.

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

##### **Proposed Agreement – Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services for Protection, Development, and Improvement of Forest Lands in Stokes County for Fiscal Year 2017-18**

Chairman Walker entertained a motion regarding proposed Agreement – Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services for Protection, Development, and Improvement of Forest Lands in Stokes County for Fiscal Year 2017-18 which was presented at the July 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Commissioner Jones moved to approve proposed Agreement – Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services for Protection, Development, and Improvement of Forest Lands in Stokes County for Fiscal Year 2017-18 as presented. Commissioner Booth seconded the motion.

Chairman Walker opened the floor for any further discussion.

With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

##### **Proposed Agreement – Home & Community Care Block Grant for Older Adults Provision of County-Based Aging Services for Fiscal Year 2017-18**

Chairman Walker entertained a motion regarding the proposed Agreement – Home & Community Care Block Grant for Older Adults Provision of County-Based Aging Services for Fiscal Year 2017-18 which was presented at the July 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Commissioner Booth moved to approve the proposed Agreement – Home & Community Care Block Grant for Older Adults Provision of County-Based Aging Services for Fiscal Year 2017-18 as presented. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.

Chairman Walker opened the floor for any further discussion.

With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

**Use of Francisco School Property for Fall Festival by Our Communities of Northwest Stokes (OC)**

Chairman Walker opened the floor for further discussion regarding the Use of Francisco School Property for a Fall Festival by Our Communities of Northwest Stokes (OC).

Vice Chairman Lankford moved to approve the Use of Francisco School Property for a Fall Festival by the OC. Commissioner Booth seconded the motion.

Chairman Walker opened the floor for discussion.

County Manager Morris commented:

- The County is not in a position to guarantee anything at this point
- This is a work in process and not sure what the outcome will be
- Not sure the County can guarantee anything at this point

Chairman Walker commented:

- Very good observation
- Thought the same thing
- Is there anything that any board member can think of that can be done at this point regarding this request

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Can the motion be amended to add “given no foreseeable barriers” or something similar?

County Attorney Browder commented:

- Do not know how the Board can give a yes or no answer at this point

Chairman Walker commented:

- I think the spirit all along has been to try to work with the OC and try to make it happen so the OC could use the school for their event; however, there are extenuating circumstances, as pointed out by Manager Morris, that are between us and being able to make a clear decision at this point
- Confirmed with County Attorney Browder that the Board is not in a position to give a yes or no answer at this point
- Confirmed with Vice Chairman Lankford that he would withdraw his motion with some stipulations



Vice Chairman Lankford withdrew his motion.

Commissioner Booth withdrew his second to the motion.

Chairman Walker entertained any other motion at this time.

Vice Chairman Lankford, due to the circumstances, moved that the Board approve the use of the property with a definite answer in a week or so.

County Attorney Browder commented:

- My recommendation is to postpone until the next meeting

Chairman Walker commented:

- Understand there is a risk as to whether the OC has enough time to pull the event together if they can't have answer today
- Would request permission from the Board to allow Horace Stimson speak on behalf of the OC regarding waiting another two weeks for a definite answer

Mr. Horace Stimson responded:

- The community held a preliminary meeting last Sunday, just in case the Board had a definite answer today
- We have scheduled another meeting in hopes if the Board was not quite sure at today's meeting for next Sunday
- We are getting tight on time to get ads and sponsors
- Do not know how close the Board is on a decision, if possibly the Board had a sense of what might be going to happen – any direction
- Need to start raising money, but don't need to start that process unless there is a definite answer

Chairman Walker commented:

- Could possibly add to the motion subject to this Board receiving additional information it needs to make a clear decision on this request
- Confirmed with Vice Chairman Lankford that he is trying to help the OC and move this forward
- At the same time, our county attorney has pointed out very clearly and appropriately that the Board is limited due to needing some additional information

Vice Chairman Lankford withdrew his motion.

Vice Chairman Lankford noted that he did not want to wait until the next meeting.

Chairman Walker requested a legal opinion from County Attorney Browder.

County Attorney Browder responded.

- My recommendation is to postpone until the next meeting

Mr. Stimson questioned the Board if the Board might have enough information in a week's time to provide a positive response?

Chairman Walker responded:

- We might or we might not
- Cannot respond to Mr. Stimson's question whether the Board could respond at the next meeting in an effective way – it would be just a guess

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- I can't ever speak for the entire Board
- I am very supportive of hoping that the Board can work things out so that the OC can use the facility for a fall festival; however, due to legal situations, do not feel there is any way that this Board can make that decision today

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Since the consensus is a yes, is it possible to direct or give guidance to the county manager to let the OC know yes or no without having a motion and action by this Board in order to stay time, if this is legal
- Two weeks is a long time when you are trying to raise money

Chairman Walker commented:

- It appears that Commissioner Jones is asking if this Board can empower the county manager, if certain things happen in certain ways, to contact the OC and give them an okay to use the school grounds if the Board has made a motion at today's meeting
- Questioned County Attorney Browder if this is legal?

County Attorney Browder responded:

- I think the Board can state what the consensus of the Board is but I don't think the Board can make a definite decision at this time

Chairman Walker continued:

- The consensus would be that the manager could notify the OC when there was a clear decision whether the OC could or could not use the school property
- The way I understand this is that after Monday, the clock is ticking for the OC and after another week, it is a moot point
- Questioned Mr. Stimson, when is absolute final date the OC needs to know a definite answer?

Mr. Stimson responded:

- Like the way the discussion is going
- You lose attendance, you lose activities and lose financial support as it goes
- I suppose we could be somewhat flexible and lose out on some things – that is the reality
- I know we have a meeting on Sunday
- If we don't have an answer by then, we can tell ourselves this is how we proceed with the subject until hearing for sure the answer

- As soon as we can get an answer so we can pull some financial figures, that would helpful
- The route you are taking could be a helpful way for the OC

Chairman Walker continued:

- Confirmed with County Attorney Browder that there are too many contingencies to make a motion to give the manager the authority to act on behalf of the Board

Commissioner Jones continued:

- Consensus is that we want to see this happen if nothing unforeseen occurs, we just don't know the time line right now
- If we can't go this way, I guess we will just have to hold off until the next meeting
- Was hoping to streamline this

Chairman Walker commented:

- Think it is clear that the entire Board wants to work with this group but our hands are tied until the Board gets additional information

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Very supportive and want to see this event happen, but with the guidance of the county attorney, can't see a definite decision being made today
- A special meeting would have to be called to give the OC an answer if the Board had an answer in a week
- Will guess it will just have to wait until the next meeting

Chairman Walker, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the August 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Request for Mental Health (Maintenance of Effort - MOE) Funding for Transportation**

Chairman Walker entertained a motion regarding the request for Mental Health MOE funding for Transportation which was presented at today's meeting.

Commissioner Jones moved to approve the request for \$20,000 of MOE Funding for Transportation along with Budget Amendment #3 which allocates the funding.

### **Budget Amendment #3**

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #3.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
<b>Mental Health MOE Fund</b>				
111.5200.013	Transportation	<u>\$00.00</u>	<u>\$20,000.00</u>	<u>\$20,000.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$00.00</b>	<b>\$20,000.00</b>	<b>\$20,000.00</b>

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To appropriate funds from fund balance for transportation assistance to residents who do not have access to Medicaid Transportation assistance

This will result in a **net increase** of **\$20,000.00** 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
<b>Mental Health MOE Fund</b>				
111.3991.000	Fund Balance	<u>\$00.00</u>	<u>\$20,000.00</u>	<u>\$20,000.00</u>
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$00.00</b>	<b>\$20,000.00</b>	<b>\$20,000.00</b>

Chairman Walker seconded the motion.

Chairman Walker opened the floor for any further discussion.

With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

#### **Board of Education – Request for Funding – Elementary Art Positions**

Chairman Walker entertained a motion regarding a request to fund six (6) elementary art positions which was presented at today's meeting.

Commissioner Jones moved to approve the request for six (6) elementary art teachers with funding being 50/50 between the Board of Commissioners and Board of Education.

Commissioner Mendenhall seconded the motion at the 50% match.

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- I feel this is going to be a good thing, but when I think about it, I really feel that the Board of Education should make this decision and bring it back to us
- I feel strongly about that even though the Board of Education sent the superintendent to our meeting to be the spokesperson for the Board of Education

- The Board did not know anything about a 50/50 split and that is saying the county manager and the chairman of this board here are agreeing on something that the Board of Education has not had any say so on
- That is the reason I am not voting in favor of this today – I want to see what the Board of Education can do before voting

Commissioner Booth commented:

- My understanding from the superintendent today is that he can't guarantee that the funding can be split 50/50 because he does not know what is in the fund balance and will not know for several months
- Might have an indication of what it might be but not an accurate figure
- Have not heard any response from the Board of Education regarding the 50/50 split
- Don't see how we can say yes without that information, feel we are a little ahead of the game
- Need to know what the school board can do first

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Their concerns are valid
- The Board of Education would have to agree to the 50/50 split before it would happen
- So for the stake of time and the hiring process, I think it would be okay
- If the Board of Education does not agree to the 50/50 split, the deal is off
- The ball is in the Board of Education's court

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- I seconded Commissioner Jones' motion totally based on the Board of Education coming back and making the commitment of 50%
- If the Board of Education does not commit to the 50%, as Commissioner Jones stated, the deal would be off

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- I just think it is right and I can't say this enough
- I am not questioning the superintendent because I know he is doing what he was asked to do, but the Board of Education has not made the decision
- That is just like our Chairman can't make a decision for this Board without the Board making the decision
- I just think we are getting ahead of the game and we do not need to
- I don't see any urgency on it
- I will probably support it
- The only reason I won't support it today is because we do not know what the Board of Education will do

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- I certainly understand Vice Chairman Lankford's concerns, but being in the position of superintendent, I understand with school starting August 28<sup>th</sup> the requirements of posting the position, hopefully getting the right candidates, interviewing and then

getting the Board of Education's approval – there is a timeline if it is put off for two weeks that will put the school system behind the eight ball

- That is why I am seconded the motion
- Confirmed with County Attorney Browder that the motion on the floor is legal
- I know that timeline to a tee
- It is going to push the school system even if it is approved today by us

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Questioned the superintendent if he had the authority to say that the Board of Education will match the 50%?

Dr. Rice commented:

- The Board of Education has called a special meeting for tomorrow to discuss whatever the outcome was today by the Board of County Commissioners
- If at the meeting, the Board of Education votes no, we understand that there will be no funding
- If the Board of Education votes yes, will proceed with the process

Commissioner Booth commented:

- It is kind of like putting the cart before the horse
- Understand what Commissioner Mendenhall is saying about the timeline, we have talked about it already possibly being a month behind or even more for some of the teachers
- This motion of \$320,000 is not a correct amount anyway because funding will have to be taken away from the amount of \$320,000
- Everything is not clear, we don't know what the Board of Education is going to do – their meeting is tomorrow
- I am in the same position not being able to vote due to not knowing what the Board of Education will do tomorrow

Commissioner Jones commented:

- The amount may change but the motion did not include the amount of \$320,000, it approved the request for six (6) art teachers at 50% cost share

Chairman Walker confirmed with Clerk Bullins that the motion by Commissioner Jones approved the Board of Education's request for six (6) art teachers at 50%.

County Attorney Browder commented:

- Just want to add that this motion is contingent upon the Board of Education approving the recommended 50/50 split

Commissioner Jones agreed to add the County Attorney's suggestion of being contingent upon the Board of Education approving the recommended 50/50 funding split to her motion.

Commissioner Mendenhall agreed to add the County Attorney's suggestion of being contingent upon the Board of Education approving the recommended 50/50 funding split to his second.

With no further discussion, Chairman Walker called the question.

The motion carried (3-2) with Vice Chairman Lankford and Commissioner Booth voting against the motion.

### **External Posting – Public Buildings**

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

Commissioner Jones moved to approve the external posting for a vacant custodian position. Vice Chairman Lankford 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 August 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Adjournment**

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

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

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

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**Jimmy Walker**  
**Chairman**