

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)
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COUNTY OF STOKES)
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OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS
STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT
DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA
AUGUST 28, 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 28, 2017 at 6:00 pm with the following members present:

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

County Personnel in Attendance:
County Manager Richard D. Morris
County Attorney Tyrone Browder
Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins
Finance Director Julia Edwards
Cooperative Extension Director Carl Mitchell
EMS Director Brian Booe

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

INVOCATION

Chairman Walker asked Vice Chairman Lankford to give the invocation.

Vice Chairman Lankford delivered the invocation.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT-GOVERNING BODY-PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Walker entertained a motion to approve or amend the August 28, 2017 Agenda.

Commissioner Booth moved to approve tonight's Agenda as presented. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.

County Manager Morris requested to add two (2) items to tonight's Discussion Agenda.

Commissioner Booth withdrew his motion to approve the Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Jones withdrew her second to Commissioner Booth's motion.

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

- A reclassification request from DSS Director Stacey Elmes – Substance Abuse Counselor to Social Worker II
- A request from Clerk to Superior Court Jason Tuttle for an appointment to the Stokes County Jury Commission

Chairman Walker opened the floor for discussion regarding the request from County Manager Morris to add two (2) items to tonight's Discussion Agenda.

The Board had no issues with adding the request from Manager Morris to add a reclassification for DSS and a Jury Commission appointment to tonight's Discussion Agenda.

Commissioner Jones moved to approve the August 28th Agenda as amended.

Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS - Manager/Commissioners

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

County Manager Morris commented:

- County Leadership Forum on Opioid Abuse – Rockingham County

- Rockingham County has invited the Board of County Commissioners from Stokes and Caswell Counties to attend their upcoming “County Leadership Forum on Opioid Abuse”
 - Event is to be held in Eden on Friday, September 29, 2017
 - Event will serve as an opportunity for elected officials and local leaders to come together and learn about the rapid increase of the use of prescription and non-prescription opioid drugs
 - Believe the intention is to allow both Stokes and Caswell Counties to attend the Rockingham Forum to possibly have one meeting instead of three (3) individual meetings
- Danbury Water System
 - Had a couple of water leaks this past weekend that have been repaired
- Stokes Stomp
 - Will be held Saturday, September 9th and Sunday, September 10th
- Forsyth Tech Classes
 - Attended several classes that have been provided jointly by Forsyth Tech and Cooperative Extension regarding agricultural related items – one class in particular that was very interesting was Permaculture
 - Working on another set of classes relating to agriculture for the winter months – encourage everyone to take a look at these upcoming classes
 - Even if you don’t farm, they are very interesting

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Would like to thank everyone for coming out tonight and being a part of the commissioners’ meeting; day this at every meeting and will continue to say this
- Thoughts and prayers go out to the people in Texas and Louisiana who are navigating through quite an extreme disaster
- Seems like they are working together and people are coming together to assist those in need

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Will bounce off Commissioner Mendenhall’s comments about the disaster in Texas
- I am always amazed that it always takes a catastrophic event to have people come together, it bothers me that it has to be that way
- Just want to let you know that I have another obligation on September 29th – can’t attend the Rockingham County Forum
- Attended one of the last Danbury Songwriters – Josh Shelton performed – excellent event – only have one (1) left this season
- Just wanted to let people know – had an isolated, seismic event at my house – no one else around me had it
 - The earth moved, the house moved, and the power supply from the road/pole separated leaving me with no power; still have no water three days later
 - It really happened
- Just a reminder – attended a workshop at a conference – the average individual has an attention span of only 27 seconds – just something to keep in mind when you are conveying information

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Would like to say welcome to everyone here tonight
- Thank everyone for being here
- Appreciate having some scouts in the audience tonight

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Ethics for Life – “Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgive one another, even as God and Christ forgave you” (Ephesians 4:12)
- See the people coming together in Texas – friends, strangers – coming together to help one another
- Attended the YVEDDI meeting this past Thursday
 - Head Start Director Ronda Wrenn sent word to the commissioners and administrative staff expressing her appreciation for the work done to help get the facility ready for her Head Start class which starts this week

Chairman Walker commented:

- Was unable to attend the YVEDDI meeting due to another obligation
 - Confirmed with Vice Chairman Lankford that the Stokes Connector Route was briefly discussed
 - Upcoming public meeting regarding the Connector Route will be held this week at the King Public Library
- Welcomed the following scouts from Troop 409 who were in attendance for tonight’s meeting:
 - Scout Joseph Ashby – Germanton
 - Scout Ethan Heath – Senior Patrol Leader for Troop 409
 - Scout Levi Ashby – King
 - Scout Master Thomas Levi Ashby - Coming tonight to learn about citizenship and the community

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:

Ellen Peric

1095 Wheeler Smith Road

Lawsonville, NC

Re: **Arts Update**

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

- Enjoy visitors coming to see what is happening with the Arts

- It was very nice to have Commissioner Booth and his wife visit The Arts Place and Higher Ground
- Now you can see how easy it is to put on a few pounds when that ice cream is constantly staring you in the face
- Would also like to thank Commissioner Jones for joining us again for the Danbury Songwriters
- Apple Gallery – September
 - Will feature Timothy Porter – a graduate of South Stokes High School
 - His show consists of watercolors and ceramics
 - He currently works for the Forsyth County School System
 - He is a high end artist and very talented
- Hanging Rock Gallery
 - Will feature Carol and Bill Bryant
 - Will be featuring oil paintings and photography through the end of September
- 2017 Stokes Stomp – Festival on the Dan
 - 43rd Stokes Stomp on the banks of the Dan River
 - September 9th and 10th
 - Will have a great line up of music, crafts, and food
- Reach the Peaks
 - Hiking challenge is scheduled for September 30th
 - Tickets are on sale now through Brown Paper Tickets
 - Over 350 people have already registered – had over 680 attend last year
 - Have people who have registered from Seattle, Washington, Florida, Georgia, and New York – people are coming from all over the country for this event
- Danbury Songwriters
 - Wraps up the series on August 31st at The Arts Place
 - This Thursday features Skip Staples, John Hartman, Kay Rickey, and Bruce Burgess
 - Last week's show featured Taylor Vaden and Laurelyn Dossett
 - There was a large crowd for their show
 - Wendi Uselton Spraker made a homemade chocolate cake for the door prize
- The Arts Place
 - Keep adding new products for sale
 - Have notified our artists and artisans to start preparing merchandise for the holiday season and hope to begin offering ornaments and gifts the first week of October
 - Just sold a very expensive birthday gift
 - Will open for Labor Day

Sri Ananda Sarvasri

1060 Tyler Road
Walnut Cove, NC

Re: Happiest, Healthiest, Greenest County in the Nation

Mr. Sarvasri read and presented the following to the Board of County Commissioners:
“Suggested Action Plan”

It's Been One Year Already

It's been one year since I inaugurated the proposal to make Stokes County "The Happiest, Healthiest, Greenest County in the Nation." If my suggestions had been acted upon from the beginning, crime and recidivism would have been reduced by 60 to 80%, the opioid epidemic would be on its way out, and an economic boom would be happening. Implementing just one of my ideas, a sheriff in another locale in North Carolina, by focusing on rehabilitation rather than enforcement, has already reduced crime by 40%. We could have done so much better.

Time for a Review and Action

Today, I am providing to you the complete package of all my presentations to date and a suggested action plan that holds the potential to completely transform the quality of life in Stokes County. These next 12 months need to be a time of action to make Stokes County the happiest, healthiest, greenest county in the nation. It doesn't take much effort, just a phone call to the heads of the departments endorsing this action plan and encouraging them to take action. Coming from you, these ideas will be taken seriously. Each department head should have a copy of all the presentations.

Presentations to the Departments

I am willing to make 2-3 hour presentations to each department to demonstrate the methods to restore physical, mental, and emotional health in Stokes County. The knowledge of how to restore physical, mental, and emotional health is the basis of rehabilitation and expansion of human potential and therefore the economic and social potential of Stokes County. The ability to think clearly, remain emotionally balanced, and physically healthy is the backbone of social, economic, and cultural progress. Everyone in Stokes County needs to know how to care for themselves in these ways. The most serious problems in Stokes County are "people problems" and that requires restoring our potential physically, mentally, and emotionally. Here's how...

Sheriff's Department

Focus more on rehabilitation than enforcement. Enforcement will never reduce crime. Jails need to become treatment centers. Train all personnel in rehabilitation and methods of restoring human potential. Inspire the potential for a better life.

Probation Department

Train all probation officers in methods of rehabilitation and methods of restoring human potential. It's not difficult, it's just awareness and choices. What we choose is based upon our knowledge.

Courts

Harsh sentences just cost money, a huge expense with little social value. Rehabilitation, job counseling, job training, and rehab can produce wonders. Restoring human potential adds the greatest value to society. No human being should have to live without fulfilling their human potential.

Health Department

Eliminate the junk food machines in the lobby and in the rest of Stokes County offices. Be an example of healthy alternatives. Change the TV in the waiting room from mindless commercial programming to health education programming. Train every worker and every participant in the methods of natural healthcare and how to restore and maintain health naturally.

Department of Social Services

Train all social workers in the methods of restoring health and human potential. They should pass these methods on to everyone they work with. We can upgrade the quality of life in Stokes County by healing those who are suffering the most.

Education Department

Train all administrators and teachers in the methods of restoring physical, mental, and emotional health. Create a syllabus for educating students at every level. Teach them how their mind works, how their mind creates emotions, both positive and negative. Teach them how their life is created by the quality of their thoughts. Teach them how to heal emotional scars that come from harsh internal or external environments. Empower all students to express their natural genius by training them to care for themselves physically, mentally, and emotionally. Teach students how to create a sustainable, healthy future for themselves and Stokes County. Revamp the food service to be all organic. Expand the organic Farm to Table program for the schools. Build solar greenhouses at every school. All this is already being done in other schools around the country. We are not keeping up.

Economic Development

Economic development is the natural result of human development. As we restore human potential, we build a new future for Stokes County. The most positive trend today is *Green Development, Sustainable Development*. Stokes County could become the leader in solar greenhouse development for local food self-sufficiency. Non-Toxic, probiotic, sustainable, organic agriculture can restore soils to high fertility without expensive fertilizers and poisonous chemicals. We could promote industrial hemp (no THC) as a native, fantastic building material and superior paper feedstock.

Let's Make Stokes County the Happiest, Healthiest, Greenest County in the Nation

We have the power to choose our future by our thoughts and actions. It is time to choose a more positive future. The leaders of the County have a special role in how Stokes county progresses. Each commissioner needs to be proactive in promoting a healthy, happy, and sustainable future for the County. It is not difficult, it is just a matter of picking up the phone and passing on to your department heads the vision you can now see for Stokes County as embodied in a year's worth of presentations you now have at your fingertips.

Study these presentations. Months and years of research has gone into them. They are a treasure that can form the basis of becoming the most successful county in the nation, if you so choose. It is up to the Commissioners to lead the way. I am available to help in any way I can. I have done much of the research for you, but there is always more that can be done. Just ask and I will help. My contact information is at the top of every presentation I have given.

Now my focus will turn to *Green Development*. There are so many ways to create economic abundance that are in tune with preserving our beautiful environment. Since I have a degree in Engineering Physics, I will explore new building technologies, greenhouse automation, materials science, and more. I will no longer attend Commissioners meetings except to occasionally report on these green developments.

Thank you so much for listening during the past year.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Minutes

- Minutes of August 14, 2017 - Regular Meeting

Health Department - Budget Amendment #4

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #4.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
Health Department				
100.5100.000	Salaries	\$512,510.00	\$(10,000.00)	\$502,510.00
Environmental Health				
100.5192.180	Professional Services	<u>\$6,000.00</u>	<u>\$10,000.00</u>	<u>\$16,000.00</u>
	Total	\$518,510.00	\$00.00	\$518,510.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

Health Department has lapsed salaries from two (2) vacant positions that we would like to transfer to Environmental Health for the purpose of contracting an Environmental Specialist to help with the workload until new staff are finished with training.

This will result in a **net increase** of **\$00.00** in the expenditures and other financial use to the County's annual budget. To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will increase. These revenues have already been received or are verified they will be received this fiscal year.

Health Title XIX Funds - Budget Amendment #5

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #5.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
Health Title XIX Fund				
110.5104.260	Departmental Supplies	\$17,500.00	\$10,000.00	\$27,500.00
110.5104.352	M&R – Building	\$00.00	\$5,750.00	\$5,750.00

100.5104.230	Medical Supplies	<u>\$7,500.00</u>	<u>\$6,349.00</u>	<u>\$13,849.00</u>
	Totals	\$25,000.00	\$22,099.00	\$47,099.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

The Health Department has received one-time funding from the State to be used for General Health Department purposes. These funds were budgeted thru Budget Amendment #74 in Fiscal Year 2016-17 in May and were not all spent. These funds had no restrictions for carry forward. Health Department was only able to spend \$7,753.00 prior to the fiscal year end.

This will result in a **net increase** of **\$22,099.00** 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
110.3991.000	Fund Balance	<u>\$97,600.00</u>	<u>\$22,099.00</u>	<u>\$119,699.00</u>
	Totals	\$97,600.00	\$22,099.00	\$119,699.00

Social Services - Budget Amendment #6

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #6.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
	Social Services			
100.5310.180	Professional Services	<u>\$75,000.00</u>	<u>\$(6,500.00)</u>	<u>\$68,500.00</u>
100.5310.510	Equipment	<u>\$45,887.00</u>	<u>\$6,500.00</u>	<u>\$52,387.00</u>
	Totals	\$120,887.00	\$00.00	\$120,887.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To transfer funds from Professional Services to Equipment to cover the cost of a server which is more cost effective than paying Go Daddy.

This will result in a **net increase** of **\$00.00** in the expenditures and other financial use to the County's annual budget. To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will increase. These revenues have already been received or are verified they will be received this fiscal year.

Sheriff's Department - Budget Amendment #7

Finance Director Julia Edwards submitted Budget Amendment #7.

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

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
Sheriff's Department				
100.4310.351	Maint. & Repairs – Auto	<u>\$93,500.00</u>	<u>\$616.00</u>	<u>\$94,116.00</u>
	Totals	\$93,500.00	\$616.00	\$94,116.00

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To appropriate insurance claim funds to repair vehicle

This will result in a **net increase** of **\$616.00** in the expenditures and other financial use to the County's annual budget. To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will increase. These revenues have already been received or are verified they will be received this fiscal year.

Account Number	Account Description	Current Budgeted Amount	Increase (Decrease)	As Amended
General Fund				
100.3839.850	Insurance Claims	<u>\$00.00</u>	<u>\$616.00</u>	<u>\$616.00</u>
	Totals	\$00.00	\$616.00	\$616.00

Tax Administration Report – July 2017

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 14th meeting for the Board's review with consideration at the August 28th 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
	Total Amount	\$1,995.36	

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 14th meeting for the Board's review with August 28, 2017

consideration at the August 28th meeting:

Name	Bill Number	Amount	Reason
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
Total Amount		\$1,297.22	

Write-Offs Request – EMS Billing

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Write-Off Request for EMS Billing at the August 14th meeting for the Board's review with consideration at the August 28th meeting:

Call Number	Date	Charge Amount	Reason
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
Total		\$ 2,435.70	

Commissioner Mendenhall moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Jones seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – INFORMATION AGENDA

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

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – DISCUSSION AGENDA

Funding Request – Cooperative Extension – Family & Consumer Science Position

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding the request from Cooperative Extension Director Carl Mitchell to fill the Family & Consumer Science position:

- This position has been previously discussed by the Board of County Commissioners
- At that time, the Board chose not to proceed with filling the position because there were no other counties to share the cost of the position
- Director Mitchell has received new information regarding funding for the position

- NC Cooperative Extension is working with the NC Association of County Commissioners to address opioid abuse and is utilizing Family & Consumer Science Agents to provide programming for parents and stakeholders to create communities that actively prevent drug use
- Request the Board consider Director Mitchell's request to fill the position due to the new information about funding

Cooperative Extension Carl Mitchell presented the following information regarding the request:

- Want to thank the Board for allowing my request on tonight's Agenda
- Request approval to hire a Family & Consumer Science (FCS) position
- Reiterated that the North Carolina Cooperative Extension is working with the NC Association of County Commissioners to address Opioid Abuse and is utilizing FCS Agents to provide programming for parents and stakeholders to create communities that actively prevent drug use
- Under the current fiscal year plan from NC State University, counties of similar demographics are provided funding for a shared position between counties
- NC State has agreed to fund 50% of the salary for our agent, although, this is not the standard practice for counties of our size
- Parenting used to be a much bigger part of the FCS position – this will be returning to the position
 - It is very difficult for counties to provide parenting courses for free
- County needs met by the FCS Agent:
 - Work with existing Extension & Community Association (ECA) groups that no longer meet
 - ECA groups:
 - Establish greater community bonds
 - Provide opportunities for individuals to come together to meet specific needs
 - Educational opportunities for adults, youth, and the elderly
 - Opportunities for community services and improvement
 - Community level child development
 - Drug prevention
 - Health
 - Provide educational programming for professionals including NC Safe Plates for the food industry professionals - HACCP Training – SAFESERV
 - Have a class scheduled for October 3rd and 4th – had to get specialists from Raleigh to conduct the class
 - Provide educational programming for seniors – steps to health, diabetes education, mental health education, nutritional education, financial security planning
 - Provide educational programming for adults and parents – cooking and health, financial security and planning, drug prevention, healthy living, and nutrition

- Provide canner testing and canning courses (high demand for these services and training)
- Provide health and food safety educational programming for youth through 4-H, school system, and homeschool groups
- Work with the Fair Board and stakeholders to improve fair participation and quality
- Work with civic and community organizations to provide educational components of drug prevention, healthy living, and healthy families
- Work with school personnel to enrich student learning
- Would like to touch on what specifically a FCS Agent can do for Stokes County:
 - Hear some very stunning things that are happening in the local school system
 - One thing that the school system is doing is moving towards a “Parenting Academy”
 - This will provide parents, who will have children going into the public schools, things they need to know
 - There are a lot of kids who enter kindergarten who do not know any of the alphabet nor basic life skills
 - Afraid that our culture has begun to look at our school system as the source of their education and not as a supplement to their education – this is a critical issue that I feel needs to be addressed
 - FCS Agent would be charged to help out with the “Parenting Academies”
 - Forsyth Tech is offering two-year courses along with adding the trade classes when the facility is completed – believe the FCS could work with Forsyth Tech to offer free parenting classes – lot of students in these two-year courses already have families
 - Want to preserve our culture as self-reliant people – the youth are not being taught to be self-reliant anymore
 - Parents doing their job and knowing how to do their job can help to stop the opioid crisis
 - As you know I was a teacher, still keep in touch with former students who sometimes post that they wish there was a class on “how to be an adult”
 - Believe the Cooperative Extension can meet those needs with the proper staffing
 - Reiterated that we don’t want to change our culture – want to preserve our culture
 - Feel we have lost knowing our community in which we live
 - Our society has access to all sorts of external information – the world and what is happening, yet we don’t know what is happening in our neighborhood – that is an issue that we can address to make a difference in the opioid crisis
 - Rural areas of the County (Sandy Ridge, Lawsonville, etc.) had very strong ECA Groups – those groups worked together with the community
 - We don’t need to reinvent the wheel, we just need to get “our” wheel turning
 - The need for a FCS Agent in Stokes County
- Staffing changes from the previous year will result in a reduction in the Cooperative Extension budget
- Remaining Fiscal Year 2017-18 County Cost = \$15,166.64
- Believe that NC State also sees the need for a FCS Agent in Stokes County

- Would like invite the Board to an upcoming Solar Energy Educational Meeting on August 29th at South Stokes High School Auditorium
 - Stokes County has been identified as a high potential area for commercial scale solar farms
 - Great event to get background information regarding solar energy

Chairman Walker opened the floor discussion/questions/comments.

Commissioner Jones commented:

- You are “preaching to the choir”
- These classes need to be for parents and grandparents
- Have a lot of people my own age that were worthless as parents and are worthless as grandparents and some that are hooked on opioids
- I was in support of this the first time
- Feel it is very generous of the state to fund 50% of the position
- You have 100% of my support for the position
- Have lost some great ECA leaders recently such as Madeline Watkins – losing that knowledge of gardening, canning, and taking care of ourselves has weakened our culture
- We have 1% of family members in the military where 50 years ago almost every family had someone in the military
- See adults fussing on facebook – what an example to be setting for our younger generation
- On board with this request – hate it has taken so long
- Glad the state has come through with funding

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Feel our culture is changing, but I think it is going to take more than just some classes to change the culture – not going to happen overnight
- Have been on this opioid issue – have supplied every possible resource that I know of that can be supplied to try to help eliminate the opioid crisis
- Our county maybe changing because of a lot of different reasons – not just because of the outside people and the social media – it is because parents and grandparents are not taking interest in what they should be taking interest in
- It appears to me they are more interested in doing personal activities rather than teaching their children
- Don’t understand why this is being requested – researched the Fiscal Year 2017-18 budget that was adopted – the FCS Agent was approved
- Don’t see any new information that would change my mind
- Confirmed with Director Mitchell that the following positions were included in the Cooperative Extension’s 2017-18 budget:
 - Extension Director/Livestock
 - Extension Agent 4-H
 - Administrative Secretary
 - Extension Agent – Agricultural (shared)
 - Extension Agent – Family & Consumer Science

- Extension Agent – Horticulture
- Don't see the request for the funding because the FCS Agent position was funded in the Fiscal Year 2017-18 budget

Director Mitchell commented:

- Change in this year's budget is the role of the director – last year the former director carried the role of the FCS Agent
- This year, I am carrying the role of the Livestock Agent along with being the director
- Directors have a dual component
- My understanding was the Board did not want this position hired unless there was a way to share the costs with other counties

County Manager Morris responded:

- Reiterated Director Mitchell's comments that it was the understanding that the Board did not want the FCS Agent hired unless there were other counties to help share the cost

County Finance Director Edwards responded:

- The position was included in the budget in case there was an opportunity this fiscal year to share the costs

Vice Chairman Lankford continued:

- Do not have any problems with filling a position in the budget that is vacant
- Confirmed again with Director Mitchell and Finance Director Edwards that this position was approved in the budget and is currently vacant

Chairman Walker confirmed with Finance Director Edwards that the position is in the approved Fiscal Year 2017-18 budget.

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Also reviewed the Fiscal Year 2017-18 budget that included the FCS Agent
- Confirmed with Director Mitchell that last year the Livestock Agent was funded by the county at 50% and that funding remains in the 2017-18 approved budget
- Don't see anything that needs to be done since the FCS Agent position is in the 2017-18 budget
- Confirmed with Director Mitchell that his request to fill the FCS Agent that was denied by the Board was in late March – prior to the adoption of the 2017-18 budget
- At the time of Director Mitchell's request, there were no other opportunities to share the cost of this position
- Confirmed with Director Mitchell that normally the state only provides 33% funding for the FCS position and that now the state is willing to share 50% of the cost
- The new information is that the state will now fund the FCS at 50%
- The County can use livestock funding no longer needed
- The position and funding have already been approved by this Board for Fiscal Year 2017-18

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Confirmed with Director Mitchell that the director position this year takes on the duties of the Livestock Agent and that last year the director position took on the duties of the FCS Agent
- Finance Director Edwards has confirmed that the funding has been appropriated for the position in this year's budget
- With this new combination of duties and the state paying 50% instead of 33% - the County is actually saving money (win/win situation)
- Favor in allowing Director Mitchell to approve the position

County Manager Morris commented:

- Under the impression that the Board did not want the FCS Agent filled unless there were sharing opportunities
- Being brought back to this Board because of the new information regarding the state providing 50% funding
- If there no issues from the Board, can proceed with filling the position

Chairman Walker confirmed with Finance Director Edwards that if the Board did not take any action, there is enough funding appropriated in the Fiscal Year 2017-18 budget to fill the FCS Agent position.

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Just wanted to confirm with Finance Director Edwards that there would be no need for any additional funding – budget same as last year except for approximately 1.5% general increase in salaries/benefits

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Would suggest that the Board give consensus for Director Mitchell to proceed with filling the FCS Agent (just for the record)

Commissioner Jones agreed with Commissioner Mendenhall's suggestion.

The Board unanimously agreed to allow Director Mitchell to proceed with filling the FCS Agent position that was approved in the Fiscal Year 2017-18 County Budget.

Chairman Walker directed Director Mitchell to proceed with filling the FCS Agent position.

Chairman Walker expressed appreciation to Director Mitchell for being proactive and bringing the new information to the Board.

Economic Development Director – Hiring Process

County Manager Rick Morris noted the Board needs to clarify their position on the hiring of the Economic Development Director along with further discussion of the hiring of department heads by the county manager.

County Manager Morris noted that County Attorney Browder had some additional information regarding the hiring of department heads by the county manager.

Chairman Walker requested the pleasure of the Board on proceeding with this Agenda item?

The Board unanimously agreed to hear County Attorney Browder's comments before any further discussion.

County Attorney Browder commented:

- As discussed at the last meeting, the County has approved the county manager form of government and designated the authority to the county manager to hire and fire all county employees other than those elected or appointed by the Board of County Commissioners
- Further discussed the issue with Diane M. Juffras, Professor of Public Law and Government at the School of Government
- Professor Juffras had previously stated that the Board could not request prior approval on specific department head positions, it had to be all or none
- In further discussion with Professor Juffras, it is her opinion that the Board may specifically designate which positions require the manager to get prior approval from the Board – example: Board may require the manager to get prior approval before hiring the Economic Development Director and no other positions or the Board may require the manager to get prior approval before hiring any department head

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

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Also did research on NC General Statute 153A-82 which states the manager shall appoint with the approval of the Board of County Commissioners and suspend or remove all county officers, employees, and agents except those who are elected by the people or whose appointment is otherwise provided for by law
- My position would be that the manager has to get prior approval from the Board of Commissioners on a group of people which would be department heads

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- I was one of the commissioners that was pretty adamant about my feelings on this item at our last discussion
- In my comments at that meeting, I think I used the wording – “perception is reality”
- I have also done a lot of homework on the issue since the last discussion by the Board
- Talked to several commissioners from other counties at the recent NC Association of County Commissioners annual conference
- My feelings have not changed
- Would like to require prior approval by the Board of County Commissioners for filling department head positions

Commissioner Booth commented:

- With the updated information from County Attorney Browder, I would also like to require prior approval by the Board of County Commissioners for filling department head positions
- Do not want to require prior approval for the daily workforce – do not want to slow down the operation of the county
- Filling of department head positions is quite different – some don’t become vacant for 5, 10 or 20 years
- Agree with Vice Chairman Lankford and Commissioner Mendenhall

Commissioner Jones commented:

- I think it is bizarre that we are looking at this
- We have had the current method way for a very long time
- It has not been a problem
- I have never heard a complaint
- By law, you are required to get the best, qualified candidate
- I see it as a liability for the commissioners to be involved with this
- I don’t think it is a good idea
- I believe in perception being reality but it does not make any difference in what you do – someone is going to have a negative perception
- I don’t think this is wise
- I will not go along with it
- We have been fine all these years – now, suddenly it is an issue
- Feels more like a control thing to me
- Just does not “pass my sniff test”
- Will not support this concept of prior approval by the Board of County Commissioners

Chairman Walker questioned County Manager Morris what questions he had or what direction he needed in order to staff this position?

County Manager Morris responded:

- If the Board wishes to have prior approval for department heads, would like guidance on the process
- My process for hiring department heads currently is:
 - Conduct, what I believe, is a very fair, structured process that identifies the most qualified candidate
 - Meet with those who did not get selected and discuss why they did not get selected in great detail
 - Make sure nothing is done that violates the Equal Opportunity Act (EOA) because we certify to all granting agencies that we are following the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission which enforces federal laws prohibiting workplace discrimination
 - My question would be if the Board wishes for me to follow the structured process and then tell the Board who I recommend and then allow the Board to approve my recommendation
- Would like to know what process the Board would like for me to follow

Vice Chairman Lankford responded:

- Think we need to work with the process before that becomes reality

County Manager Morris responded:

- My question to the Board would be to tell me the process the Board would like for me to follow and how it should be different than what I am doing

Chairman Walker commented:

- Have heard the manager's response
- Seems it needs direction on how to address this issue – current and future
- Still open for discussion

Commissioner Jones commented:

- The Economic Development Director position has been a point of contention and I believe this might be a tactic to stall the hiring of someone
- We need to be pragmatic and lead this County forward
- This has never been an issue until we got to this position
- I see this as putting commissioners on a more libelous stage by changing this process because we are certified to go by EOA
- Not one of us know all those rules
- That just puts another layer of expertise on us that we do not have and I can assure you that we will not have
- This is not wise to go this way
- We have requirements in place that tell us we have to get the best qualified candidate
- We have the EEOC that tells us what we can and can't do
- This is not something that we need to be dealing with as commissioners
- It is putting this county at risk
- If we did something wrong, it could cost us a lot of money and liability
- There is no sense in reinventing this wheel

- We have been doing fine
- Again, I think it is a tactic to stall particular hiring

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- I really don't make decisions on assumptions
- What I just heard Commissioner Jones say is pure assumption
- Commissioner Jones has an opinion just like everyone else has
- Saying that we don't know anything about what we can and can't do on hiring practices – I beg your pardon
- I wasn't a manager for 14-15 years to just sit on my can and do nothing
- I feel capable of knowing what we can and can't do according to the Employment Commission
- Not only that, us making this change, does not have anything to do with one position
- This is going to be all positions
- At the present time, we are already interviewing and doing five (5) positions and putting on 2-3 more is not going to make that much difference

Chairman Walker commented:

- According to our Agenda, this is strictly the hiring of the Economic Development Director
- At this time, it does not go beyond that position
- If desired by the Board, those other positions can be put on another Agenda

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- I want it to include all department head positions

Chairman Walker commented:

- Confirmed with County Attorney Browder that today's topic is specifically dealing with the Economic Development Director

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- I have made myself perfectly clear that the Economic Development Director's position does not have anything to do with the hiring of all department heads
- I feel very slighted by verbiage and usage of words like bizarre and other words that have been thrown out tonight
- I have only been on the Board for 8-9 months and certainly do not have any previous or prior knowledge of how this Board worked in the past
- I am looking at present and going into the future
- I certainly have an abundance of knowledge, of being the superintendent of the school system, of the process involved in hiring of staff - who has to approve it
- Therefore, I will not back off of what I said no matter what language or words are used in the comments
- I don't do that – I stay professional
- I think the Board understands my position – this position needs prior approval by the Board of County Commissioners

- I am in no way, by any means, delaying the hiring of the Economic Development Director
- To my memory, I am one of three that voted to approve the 2017-18 budget that included the full time Economic Development Director position – believe the minutes will document that vote
- I want a full time Economic Development Director
- I want a full time Economic Development Director as soon as possible
- I am not here to delay the hiring of this position
- I think I have made my point very clear

Chairman Walker commented:

- Before any further discussion, I would like to make a request to the Board
- This has nothing to do with any comment made by any particular commissioner at anytime
- I too sense this has almost gotten a little bit personal at times
- I want to redirect us as a Board to the item that is on the Agenda and suggest that the Board really look at that going forward
- Deal with the item, dispose of it or handle it in the most positive way possible
- Not referring to any comments made by Commissioner Mendenhall, Vice Chairman Lankford, or Commissioner Jones, just saying, collectively, we need to move forward and deal with what is on our Agenda

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Respect what Commissioner Mendenhall said and I have always said that when someone has something valid, they have something valid, but it does go two ways
- My concern here, we might have people on this Board (have all been in the business world) that do know something about this, but the Boards forthcoming may not
- My concern is, “is that really wise”
- The next Board may not have a member on it that has ever hired an employee
- It is something to be concerned about

Commissioner Booth commented:

- I was a supervisor for 38 years and did my own hiring for my department
- Whether another Board has that expertise and knowledge, that is not the question with this Board
- Three votes can change it back then
- This was placed on the Agenda before the other issue of hiring came up
- Think we need to approve a policy and then look at the hiring of the Economic Development Director

Chairman Walker requested if there is any further discussion on the issue.

Chairman Walker commented:

- Kind of curious about certain aspects of hiring the Economic Development Director

- If my memory is correct, have seen advertisements in the County Lines and the last time the position was vacant, it was advertised in various ways
- The question is do we follow the standard hiring process like other positions or do we open this up like we staffed it on previous occasions
- Confirmed with Manager Morris that is a question that he needed answered

County Manager Morris responded:

- Brought this up because of the uniqueness of this position – some counties have internal positions like ours and some have a completely standalone commission/corporation outside the county
- Think this is what got the discussion started with other department heads
- Wanted to get the Board's concurrence on the hiring of this position
- This is a very critical position that we need to get right when we do
- Wanted to make sure we are all on the same sheet of music

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Need to work the process out before the position is hired

County Manager Morris commented:

- Have been holding up the hiring of the Fire Marshal's position until this gets resolved
- Would like guidance on hiring of the Fire Marshal's position – can bring it to the Board if so desired by the Board
- Not comfortable in holding up the hiring of that position

Chairman Walker commented:

- No sure we can bring the Fire Marshal's position into the current discussion
- Confirmed with Attorney Browder that he feels this can be added to the discussion if there is consensus of the Board or can be limited to the Economic Development Director

Chairman Walker requested direction of the Board regarding County Manager Morris' request for direction in hiring the Fire Marshal's position.

Vice Chairman Lankford responded:

- Do not think the hiring of the Fire Marshal is a critical issue because the Assistant Fire Marshal is going a great job
- Don't see two more weeks will make any difference

Commissioner Jones responded:

- Think we should default to our original hiring plan and get that done
- Simply not fair to the candidate
- Puts us at potential liability and risk by postponing
- We need to get that off our plate
- We are already stuck on this position

- Don't see any point in being stuck on two positions

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Until we get the policy that this Board wants to do about department heads; we are just spinning our wheels
- Both of these positions are department heads
- Don't know what happened with the hiring of the last Economic Development Director – was not on the Board at that time

Vice Chairman Lankford responded:

- Was on the Board at that time
- The manager that we just hired at that time wanted to bring the Economic Development Director with him – that is where the discussion started and that is where it ended

Chairman Walker requested consensus from the Board regarding the following or any other options:

- Put this item on the next Action Agenda
- Consider Manager Morris's request to hire the Fire Marshal

County Manager Morris responded:

- What if I interview for the Fire Marshal and bring the recommendation to the Board for approval until this issue is decided on by the Board
- Down one person in the Fire Marshal's office
- Have critical inspections coming up – schools, Duke Energy, etc.
- When Brian Booe was hired as Fire Marshal – we were in the toilet regarding the inspections, need to not let ourselves get back into that situation
- Liability goes with not having fire inspections completed

Chairman Walker commented:

- Questioned what happens if the manager brings a recommended candidate for any particular department head position to the Board and the Board does not approve that recommendation?

County Manager Morris responded:

- If I have gone through a rigorous process that will stand external examination from an objective source that picked the best qualified candidate, then the Board rejected my recommendation, that is legal question for the County Attorney
- Not sure what the repercussions of that would be

County Attorney Browder responded:

- There are potential legal issues in the practical application of this policy which I am not prepared to discuss in open session

- If I may add, Commissioner Booth had an excellent suggestion – set the policy and then apply the policy

Chairman Walker commented:

- Where do we go from here?

Commissioner Booth commented:

- We need to get a policy set before doing anything else – set the policy and then apply the policy as recommended by County Attorney Browder

Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins confirmed with County Attorney Browder that this policy that was outlined in the County's Personnel Policy would need to be amended before any action could be taken.

Clerk Bullins noted that exact procedures, if changed by the Board, would need to be approved so that the Personnel Policy could be amended.

Chairman Walker requested Manager Morris to brief the Board on his current policy when hiring a department head.

County Manager Morris responded:

- Using the Fire Marshal for an example:
 - Would put together a 4-5 person panel with at least 1 or 2 outside individuals who did not know the candidates and who were in the Fire Marshal field
 - Would go through a 10-15 question interview process
 - Each panel member scores the candidate's answer from 1-10
 - At the end of the interview process, numbers would be tallied
 - Scores would be looked at for consistency between the panel members to take sure there were not any outliers, if so, get an explanation to their scoring
 - We have also started giving the candidate a particular question such as "Why do I want to be the next Fire Marshal for Stokes County"
 - Candidate prepares a one-page essay that is submitted after the interview
 - This helps me determine if the candidate can write, their desire for the position, etc.
 - That is scored and added to the interview score
 - High score gets the job
 - As I mentioned before, I bring in the candidates who did not get offered the job, discuss the scoring, their deficiencies if any, their strengths, what they can do different at their next interview, etc.
 - Normally, the panel members' scores are consistent regarding the best, qualified candidate
 - Always bring in outsiders for fairness and objectivity which really makes it difficult to challenge the process

- Those outside members are usually an expertise within their respective field
- You want to always throw out any favoritism, if there is any
- We always interview internal candidates first, if qualified, using the same process
- If you go outside when you have qualified internal candidates, that really affects morale and turnover
- If we don't find anyone internal, we go external after approval from the Board of County Commissioners

Chairman Walker commented:

- Confirmed with Manager Morris that all job descriptions have qualifications and requirements
- Asked Manager Morris what would he be looking for in an Economic Development Director?

County Manager Morris responded:

- Would make sure there were other Economic Development Directors from outside the county on the panel
- Would look at experience, business contacts, etc.
- Requirements and education listed on the job descriptions
- Would probably need to think about that question before giving a final answer

Commissioner Jones responded:

- Your question, Chairman Walker, hit it right on the nose of what I have been saying
- If you have three that say no, even though the process had been executed properly, the liability comes back to this Board; otherwise we are a rubber stamp
- I content that this is unwise
- I hope you guys will think about this seriously
- This is not wise, it could happen
- The manager could execute his process and follow all the rules, for whatever reason, three members could say no and that individual could probably sue us
- Like I said, otherwise, we are just rubber stamping
- I am just saying, this is unwise to change this policy

Chairman Walker commented:

- Have been on this topic for quite some time
- Going to poll the Board to see what each member would like to see happen

Commissioner Jones responded:

- Want it to go away
- This is just so unwise
- Will not vote for this
- Leave it as it is

Commissioner Booth responded:

- The hiring of the Economic Development Director position does not need to be put back on the Agenda until this Board decides on a policy

Commissioner Mendenhall responded:

- Think you understand my position – is very simple – have stated twice about the policy of hiring department heads - needs to be put back on the Agenda again

Vice Chairman Lankford responded:

- Need to get the hiring process approved before this is back on the Agenda

Chairman Walker responded:

- Would like to move forward as soon as possible in hiring an Economic Development Director
- Confirmed with Commissioner Mendenhall he is ready to move forward with hiring an Economic Development Director with provisions

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- You can tell the Board is not in agreement which each member has their right to their own opinion
- I certainly understand each person gets one vote
- I certainly want an Economic Development Director put in place
- I have explained that my belief does not go along with the current personnel hiring policy
- As mentioned by the Clerk, if the policy is changed, the personnel policy must be amended
- The current hiring policy was put in place by a previous Board who had that right, I have a different belief and believe I have the right to express that belief
- No action can be done tonight
- Respect everyone's else opinion, but as I have previously stated, I believe that after the interview process, the recommendation needs to be brought back to the Board of County Commissioners for approval
- I will not change my belief

Chairman Walker recommended Discussion Agenda for the next Agenda along with any requested information.

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Discussion Agenda for the next meeting

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Discussion Agenda for the next meeting
- I am sure there will be different opinions – that is what it is all about
- Always have the option to move the item to Action Agenda
- As noted by County Manager Morris – urgency in the Fire Marshal's position

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Discussion Agenda – Policy

Commissioner Jones had no comments.

Chairman Walker commented:

- Will go with the other three commissioners – Discussion Agenda for the next meeting

Clerk Bullins asked for clarification for the item – hiring process to include or not to include the Economic Development Director.

Chairman Walker noted that members could request additional information from the staff or County Attorney.

Clerk Bullins noted that current hiring personnel policy information could be included in next Agenda.

The Board members, excluding Commissioner Jones, agreed to place the item on the Discussion Agenda as Hiring Personnel Policy – Discussion.

Chairman Walker, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the item on the September 11th Discussion Agenda.

Proposed Resolution Exemption – Sole Source Purchase for Ambulance

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following proposed Resolution Exemption for the Sole Source Purchase for an Ambulance which was approved in the Fiscal Year 2017-18 Budget:

RESOLUTION

EXEMPTION FROM GENERAL STATUTES FOR FISCAL YEAR 17-18 AMBULANCE PURCHASE

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statutes 143-129 requires public bidding for the purchase of apparatus, supplies, materials, or equipment requiring an estimated expenditure of public money over a stated dollar amount and further provided that no contract may be awarded therefore, by any

board or governing body of the State, or of any institution of the State government, or of any political subdivision of the State, unless provisions of these statutes are complied with;

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute 143-129 contains the following exception;

(e) (6) Exceptions – The requirements of this Article do not apply to:

Purchases of apparatus, supplies, materials, or equipment when: (i) performance or price competition for a product are not available; (ii) a needed product is available from only one source of supply; or (iii) standardization or compatibility is the overriding consideration. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the governing board of a political subdivision of the State shall approve the purchases listed in the preceding sentence prior to the award of the contract.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners is convened in a regular meeting:

**NOW THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF STOKES COUNTY
RESOLVES THAT:**

The purchase of a Horton model 607 ambulance modular body mounted onto a Ford F450 4x4 chassis from FESCO Emergency Sales hereby be exempted from the provisions of North Carolina General Statute bidding requirements for the following reasons:

- Compatibility, standardization and product performance are major concerns to be taken into consideration for this purchase;
- Ambulance to be purchased will be manufactured utilizing the same specifications as the last two (2) ambulances purchased from FESCO Emergency Sales with the addition of a Engle 12-volt DC cooler for drug storage, front bumper with animal guard and a Stryker performance load cot mounting system with charging;
- Currently all of the County Ambulance fleet have been manufactured by Horton Emergency Vehicles;
- FESCO is currently the only licensed Horton Dealer in the State of North Carolina;

Adopted this __ day of _____ 2017.

Jimmy Walker - Chairman

Ernest Lankford – Vice Chairman

James D. Booth - Commissioner

Ronda Jones - Commissioner

Ronnie Mendenhall – Commissioner

Attest _____

Darlene Bullins

Clerk to the Board

County Manager Morris noted the following comments from Support Services Supervisor

Danny Stovall:

- Quote for the purchase of one (1) Horton Model 607 Ambulance body mounted to a 2017 F450 4x4 chassis with a diesel engine from FESCO Emergency Sales = \$209,148
- Since the County's last purchase on July 7, 2016, there has been a 7.5% manufacturers across the board cost increase
- Items that have been added by EMS to this ambulance specifications are an Engle 12 volt DC Cooler for drug storage, front bumper with animal guard and a Stryker performance load cot mounting system with charging
- NC Division of Purchase and Contract does not have a contract listed for ambulances that can be located
- NC General Statute 143-129 procedures for letting public contracts require public bidding for purchases or construction needs over a certain dollar amount
- Funding Source – Lease Purchase Agreement
- EMS Director Brian Booe and Services Supervisor Danny Stovall recommend to move forward with purchasing a 2017 Ford/Horton ambulance from FESCO Emergency Sales and declare this purchase as a sole source item for the following reasons:
 - Compatibility, standardization, and product performance are major concerns to be taken into consideration
 - Ambulance to be purchased will be manufactured utilizing the same specifications as our last two units purchased with the exception of adding an Engle 12-volt cooler for drug storage, front bumper with animal guard and a Stryker performance load cot mounting system with charging
 - All ambulances in the County fleet have been manufactured by Horton Emergency Vehicles
 - FESCO is the licensed Horton dealer for the State of North Carolina
- Request approval at the August 28th meeting

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

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Confirmed with County Manager Morris that with this purchase, all front line ambulances will have large boxes

Chairman Walker noted that EMS Director Brian Booe was in the audience and also confirmed that all front line ambulances would have large boxes.

Vice Chairman Lankford continued:

- At some point time, due to increased prices, would like to see the County bid out the ambulances

County Manager Morris responded:

- There are a couple of producers – prices are very close
- FESCO is the licensed Horton dealer for the State of North Carolina

Vice Chairman Lankford continued:

- Do not think it is fair to allow one company to increase their price 7.5% in one year
- Have to have some competition

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Confirmed with Manager Morris that the demo purchased last year was approximately \$184,000

County Manager Morris commented:

- The new ambulance has the new requirement that will be effective January 2018 – ambulance must stay attached to the floor if the ambulance overturns

Commissioner Booth continued:

- Confirmed with County Manager Morris that the budgeted amount for the ambulance includes a stretcher
- Confirmed with County Manager Morris that after next year, the County will be able to remount units
- Confirmed with EMS Director Booe that the ambulance boxes usually last around ten (10) years
- Remounts will be about half the price

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Requested permission to question EMS Director Booe
- Noticed it will take approximately 120 days for delivery
- Confirmed with EMS Director Booe that the Horton, in his opinion, is the top of the line in quality – “Cadillac in ambulances”

EMS Director Booe responded:

- Based on safety recommendations, Horton is one of the top manufacturers when it comes to safety
- This particular brand has been with Stokes County the entire span of the EMS
- County has stuck with Horton because of safety
- This unit will be line with what the County already has in its fleet
- Staff and garage are familiar with the unit

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Sounds like the due diligence was done
- On Board with the request

The Board unanimously agreed to place the item on the September 11th Action Agenda.

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

Social Services – Reclassification

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information from DSS Director Stacey Elmes regarding the reclassification:

- Substance Abuse Counselor resigned effective August 25th
- Director Elmes would like to reclassify this position to a Social Worker II
- Primary reason for this request is the discovery that a counselor type classification is not what will work best for this position
- Counseling services are available through other area providers
- The need for this position is more of a case management/liaison function for those who are struggling with behavioral health/substance abuse issues to help get them hooked up with the appropriate treatment and provide follow-up to ensure that treatment is being received
- The urgency with getting this request on tonight's Agenda is that we need to minimize the time this position is vacant so that momentum that has been gained will not be lost
- We are getting the name of our worker out to the public and he is quickly becoming busy with referrals to assist folks with opioid and other behavioral health issues
- Additional MOE funding has been approved for transportation and we need the position filled to effectively manage the use of that funding for transportation to providers
- The Substance Abuse Counselor position is a salary grade 69
- The Social Worker II position is a salary grade 68, so there would be less county dollars involved
- The counselor requires a Master's Degree, while the Social Work position requires a Bachelor's Degree which would make the position much easier to fill
- Office of State Human Resources has agreed with the county's assessment of this being reclassified to a Social Work position rather than a counselor position is correct
- Would appreciate the Board's consideration so that the department can maintain continuity with the new position and post the position internally beginning tomorrow and externally in a week if no trained applicants are received
- Believe we have made a good start with this position in the short time that it has been filled
- Very anxious to fill the vacancy and continue working with those who are burdened with opioid and behavioral health issues

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

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Glad the need to reclassify the position was discovered this early in the game
- Thought it was clear the position was to get people the needed treatment
- Not sure where the need for a counselor came from
- This is a good thing
- Like this recommendation – saves the County money
- Feel this classification will benefit the program much better
- On Board with the reclassification and moving the item to tonight's Action Agenda

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Good with the request

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Confirmed with Manager Morris that the new position (Social Worker II) will be a grade 68 instead of grade 69
- Confirmed with Manager Morris that this position will not require a Master's Degree and should be easier to fill
- Received some good news at the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council meeting – Youth Haven who is now seeing adults in Stokes County has transportation funding for their clients
- Youth Haven has offered to come to Stokes County, if there was an available space in the Health Department or DSS, to provide counseling services
- As I stressed with Cardinal, the need for more providers

Chairman Walker commented:

- As Sarvasri noted in his comments, it seems like more success is coming from rehabilitation than from prevention

Chairman Walker confirmed with County Manager Morris the need to place the item on tonight's Action in order to expedite the hiring process and getting the vacancy filled.

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

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

Appointments – Stokes County Jury Commission

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding an appointment for the Stokes County Jury Commission:

- Request from Clerk of Court Jason Tuttle – reappointment of Durward Bennett
- Durward Bennett has agreed to serve another term

- Clerk of Court Tuttle needs the appointment approved by September 15th, if at all possible

Chairman Walker opened the floor for nominations.

Vice Chairman Lankford nominated the following:

- Re-Appointment: Durward Bennett

Chairman Walker entertained a motion to close the nominations.

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

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

GENERAL GOVERNMENT - GOVERNING BODY – ACTION AGENDA

Proposed YMCA Recreation Contract – Fiscal Year 2017-18

Chairman Walker entertained a motion regarding the following proposed YMCA Recreation Contract for Fiscal year 2017-18 which was presented at the August 14th meeting:

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 31st and the second due on January 31st 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".

Curtis Hazelbaker
President/CEO
YMCA of Northwest North Carolina

Attest

Jimmy Walker
Chairman
Stokes County Board of Commissioners

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

Commissioner Booth moved to approve the YMCA Recreation Contract for Fiscal Year 2017-18. Vice Chairman Lankford seconded the motion.

Chairman Walker opened the floor for any further discussion.

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Confirmed with Manager Morris that the amount is the same as last year and that only the fiscal year dates have been changed

Chairman Walker commented:

- I can't support the proposed YMCA Recreation Contract because I do not feel like it is enough
- Feel we are deficient with our efforts in meeting recreation in the County
- This is nowhere near what needs to be done considering all the things happening in our County today
- I can't support relatively just adding a small amount and then just setting the contract aside
- I am not a supporter of the recreation center
 - It has not been used that much
 - It is sort of out of the way
- I just feel like the people in this part of the county and all parts of the county desire more than what they are getting
- I can't continue to just rubber stamp this same contract that has been in place, to me, way too many years without taking a good look at the whole set of recreational needs for this County

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Confirmed with Chairman Walker that the amount had not been increased in several years – more than a decade
- The recreation, opioid use, and all those things are all connected
- We need to make this really work
- I stand with the Chairman on this issue

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- My recommendation would be that Chairman Walker take on the process of getting a YMCA built in this part of the County
- You and ever who you need, put together a group to get a YMCA built in this area like the one in the southern part of the County

Commissioner Jones responded:

- Have already done the homework – don't have the density

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Chairman Walker is talking about recreation – I am just throwing out a recommendation

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Very simple to me
- No one at this Board knows this:
 - I graduated from Carolina in 1978
 - Most people think that my first job was a teacher at South Stokes High School
 - That is not true
 - My first job was Interim Recreation Director for Stokes County
 - Worked for the County for three (3) months –until a permanent director was hired
 - I am certainly aware of the recreational aspect including fitness
- I know that I have a vision for recreation for this County
- I am not going to go into details tonight
- I have been in touch with YMCA Director Derek Edwards
 - We have had a long conversation about the recreational needs on the northern side of the County (we are not dividing county – southern part of the County already has a YMCA)
 - Believe Director Edwards has the same vision
 - It is just not feasible at this moment to occur, but we both have the same vision that could possibly come about in approximately 2-3 years
- I am going to support this contract right now
- Some of you may be familiar with this same contract for more than a decade, but this is my first renewal for the YMCA services
- May have different feelings down the road, but can support this contract for this year
- Do know that Director Edwards does have a vision for the future

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Can support this contract right now
- Believe Director Edwards is very pleased with the new location for the Recreation Center which will be more visible to the highway (near LifeBrite)
- Believe there is some talk about the Pine Hall Facility (generously given by Ron Petree) possibly being used for recreational needs in the future

- Do not believe throwing more money right now is the answer

Chairman Walker commented:

- Totally agree with Vice Chairman Lankford
- The Recreation Center was not used, not easily accessible, and had worn out equipment
- How can we put this kind of money into the recreation center when we should be looking at all the needs across the county
- For the past 4-5 years, have been very uneasy about just rubber stamping this contract year after year
- Director Edwards talks a good story, have talked to Director Edwards, in fact, had a very heated interchange at one time
- He wants to continue the status quo and I want to move more in the direction of what Vice Chairman Lankford was describing because I think the people in this part of the County desire more
- The people all around the County deserve more
- We are fooling around and not getting started on anything
- We just keep doing the same thing each year – approving the same contract and the same amount
- This was started when the people in the County were very uneasy when the YMCA was started in the County – the YMCA picked the location
- It was not Stokes County that picked the location
- It was not King that picked the location
- It was the YMCA that picked the location
- I would like to see the County quit continuing something that doesn't seem to be working as good as it could be – not pointing fingers at the YMCA
- Just saying – we are missing the focus in our target
- Want to see something happen like what Vice Chairman Lankford recommended
- If the YMCA doesn't do it; we need to do it
- The County needs to start doing something
- Don't want to wait 2-3 years down the road, that is not fair to the people of Stokes County
- You know Commissioner Mendenhall, having been recreation director, know how broad and deep the recreation needs are in Stokes County
- We don't need to just continue to keep waiting – spinning our wheels
- Have no problems with the YMCA doing recreational activities in Stokes County
- Think the YMCA is equipped to do certain things very well
- We just need to be careful about what they are doing, how they are doing it and getting the broadest use of the funds that are being spent
- Would like to take this opportunity to say that we need to really get serious about making something happen for recreation that really matters somewhere in this area
- It could be Meadows – could possibly tie in with the Community College
- Don't think we can just sit around and wait for the YMCA to do it
- We, the people of Stokes County, are going to have to say that this is something we want enough to make something happen

- Good example is right here with us tonight – Horace and Texie
- When people get behind something and really work – things start to happen

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Was not thinking of increasing the contract by \$50,000- possibly looking at something in the range of a cost of living
- I did research the possibility of a YMCA on the northern side of the county – just do not have the density
- People were asking me about a YMCA on the northern side of the county eight years ago
- All for a vision as mentioned by Commissioner Mendenhall
- Thought the County could afford to increase the contract a little bit
- Don't expect approval tonight for an increase, just wanted to put something in motion for next year's budget

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- I agree with Commissioner Jones and Chairman Walker
- Live between Walnut Cove and Germanton, principal at Sandy Ridge Elementary, Nancy Reynolds Elementary and North Stokes High School – have strong connections to both sides of the County
- Had been in office only two weeks and was asked at the Walnut Cove Christmas Parade last year, “can you get us a YMCA”
- Going to take Director Edwards at his word regarding his recreational vision
- His vision does include the Meadows facility
- I am voting for what is in front us tonight – a contract for Fiscal Year 2017-18
- Can understand your comments regarding the contract – have not been in office and seen this same contract come back year after year
- If you think I am going to sit back and not work behind the scenes – you are wrong – I am not satisfied

Commissioner Jones requested permission to asked Commissioner Mendenhall a question.

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Have had this question since I was a teacher in the Stokes County School System
- Have often thought about the weight rooms and the track being a supplement YMCA for the community
- Could never understand why the auditorium could not be used for a movie night for the community
- Is it liability or is it that no one ever thinks of these type things
- Those spaces have so much time that there is no one using the space

Commissioner Mendenhall responded:

- During my seven (7) years as principal at North Stokes, I feel like North Stokes was the community center for the northern end of the county

- We worked together to make the facility – had hard workers like Gayle Tucker and Jane Priddy and could just keep going down the line, naming names of individuals who worked hard for North Stokes High School
- Made the facility open when they needed the space for events
- Wanted the community to be a part of the school

Chairman Walker commented:

- Would be good to have more principals and schools geared that way
- Would like to create a recreational study committee in this County to move things forward to getting more recreation resources in the parts of the County that need it the most
- Walnut Cove is so interested in having something in their area
- Would like to have one person from each municipality, one from the county and three not connected with government but very interested in the recreational needs of the county to start the process to get closer to where we need the need with providing recreational needs in this county and one of the focal points is to have a community center on this side of the county
- Took seven (7) years to get that YMCA in King
- County put money in the YMCA in King
- When it comes to a recreational center on this side of the County, need to look back and see how much county funding was allocated to get the YMCA in King and maybe look at what needs to be done for a community center on this side of the county
- Leaning towards a community center separate from the YMCA because it is so hard to get something going with the YMCA
- It was study after study done to get the YMCA in King
- Don't think it can happen in a low density area – don't think the YMCA will do it
- My question Commissioner Mendenhall, have known Director Edwards for many years – a fine man, if he is so interested in something happening like you are describing, how long has he been director in King and why hasn't something happened before now?
- I have asked these same question each year, "Why are we just getting starting now?"

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Having only been a commissioner for 8-9 months, you expect me to have an answer right now

Chairman Walker commented:

- That is a rhetorical question

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- That something that needs to be discussed at another meeting

Chairman Walker responded:

- It will – going to put it back on a future Agenda and also start looking for a facility on this side of the County as recommended by Vice Chairman Lankford

- Can count on it being on a future Agenda – Recreational Needs for Stokes County

Chairman Walker called the question.

The motion carried (3-2) with Chairman Walker and Commissioner Jones voting against the motion.

Proposed Breastfeeding Support Policy

Chairman Walker entertained a motion regarding the following proposed Breastfeeding Support Policy which was presented at the August 14th meeting:

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.

Vice Chairman Lankford moved to approve the Breastfeeding Support Policy.

Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.

Chairman Walker opened the floor for any further discussion.

Chairman Walker commented:

- Believe this is a fair and consistent policy

With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Proposed County Leadership Forum on Opioid Abuse

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

- Ronda Outlaw, Cardinal Innovations, attended the August 14th meeting when the discussion occurred about a possible countywide forum on opioid abuse
- Believe that Ms. Outlaw feels the need for a countywide forum on opioid abuse
- Have received information about a county forum in Rockingham County

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

Commissioner Jones moved to approve a County Leadership Forum on Opioid Abuse be scheduled since no date had been mentioned. Chairman Walker seconded the motion.

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

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Confirmed with Chairman Walker that several departments/agencies would have a part in the forum – Health, DSS, Cardinal Innovations, facilitator and many other agencies

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Questioned if there was not another agency that has already had some type of forum around the county?

Chairman Walker commented:

- There is a committee that has been formed, not sure that includes all the agencies such as Cardinal
- Their committee is somewhat different than what would be done in this forum
- This would be a leadership forum with all the local elected leaders to jointly learn about the effect of this issue on the county's citizens and to develop ideas that can be implemented in the county

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Confirmed with Chairman Walker that he had attended some of the committee meetings
- Attended a breakout session regarding this opioid issue at the NC Association of County Commissioners' Annual Conference

- Learned from that meeting, that Davidson County is nowhere near what Stokes County has done regarding this issue
- Know that everyone is involved in this issue
- County has approved funding for three new positions – a Liaison, a Detective, and a Dare Officer
- Did not hear of any other counties doing that much

Chairman Walker commented:

- Hope we are doing more

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Can share what Stokes County has done

Chairman Walker questioned what is the downside to this?

Commissioner Booth responded:

- Don't know how much more we can do

Chairman Walker responded:

- The forum would have the medical director from Cardinal, outside agencies, possibly Fred McClure, Davidson County Commissioner, elected county officials, etc.

Commissioner Booth continued:

- At the last meeting, suggested the County sent Commissioner McClure a letter stating what the County has already done regarding the opioid issue
- Don't really know what else we can do
- Understand this is a passion of Commissioner McClure, but my understanding is that they have only had one meeting
- We need to let them know what we have already done

Commissioner Jones commented:

- This would not kill us to participate
- There is a chance that we might learn something
- Don't see anything wrong with writing the letter as suggested by Commissioner Booth and possibly waiting to schedule a meeting
- This is an opportunity to share what we have done

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Think we have all supported the opioid issue and still do
- As Commissioner Booth and Chairman Walker did, I spoke to many at the conference regarding this issue
- We are way ahead of most of the counties that I spoke to
- Will continue to speak about this national emergency
- We need to stay focused
- Not sure if we need a forum at this time

- Believe a letter to include what we have done to this point to the other 99 counties would be a good suggestion
- Can go along with Commissioner Booth and Commissioner Jones

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Will go along with Commissioners Jones, Booth, and Mendenhall

Chairman Walker commented:

- Made a promise to myself along with a promise to the people of Stokes County that I would do everything I could possibly do to address this issue which I consider an emergency crisis for our county
- If I am asked if we have done everything we could do to address this issue and we have not called together a forum to better coordinate our efforts, I don't think that I could honestly say that we have

Commissioner Jones and Commissioner Mendenhall both responded that their suggestion did not say we would not have a forum, it simply said we would not have a forum at this particular time.

Commissioner Mendenhall added:

- We are not putting this to sleep
- We are just saying that we do not want to schedule one at this time

Vice Chairman Lankford noted that there have been several community forums across the county regarding this opioid issue.

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Need to compare where we are and then decide if a forum is needed
- Not saying I do not want a forum
- Just saying that I agree to send a letter right now

Chairman Walker responded:

- Not sure how the letter completely connects whether we have a forum or not
- If we want to let the other counties know what we have done – that is fine
- Not sure what the letter has to do with the County calling for a forum
- What I like best of what I am hearing is that the County will revisit the item regarding a possible forum in the future
- Suggest letting Rockingham County have their forum and see how it goes and then look at the item again

The Board agreed to see how the forum works in Rockingham County and then visit the item after that.

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Would still like to see a letter written to Commissioner McClure
- Would like for him to see what Stokes County has already done regarding the opioid issue

Chairman Walker stated that he saw no downside to sending a letter.

Commissioner Jones noted that she would withdraw her motion to schedule a forum.

Vice Chairman Walker declined to withdraw his second to Commissioner Jones' motion.

County Manager Morris noted the need to know if there were any Board members planning to attend the forum in Rockingham County.

Chairman Walker and Commissioner Mendenhall stated they would be attending the forum at Rockingham County on September 29th.

Chairman Walker called the question.

The motion to schedule a County Leadership Forum on Opioid Abuse failed (1-4) with Commissioner Booth, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Mendenhall, and Vice Chairman Lankford voting against the motion.

Chairman Walker entertained any other motion regarding the Agenda item.

Vice Chairman Lankford moved that the County would consider a County Leadership Forum on Opioid Abuse at the appropriate time. Chairman Walker seconded the motion.

Chairman Walker opened the floor for discussion.

With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Mendenhall requested clarification regarding the letter being written to Commissioner McClure.

The Board unanimously agreed to have staff prepare a letter for the September 11th meeting.

Chairman Walker, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place a draft
August 28, 2017

letter on the September 11th Action Agenda.

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

Chairman Walker opened the floor for comments/motion regarding the use of Francisco School Property for a Fall Festival by Our Communities of Northwest Stokes (OC).

Commissioner Jones moved to approve the use of Francisco School Property for a Fall Festival by our Communities of Northwest Stokes.

County Manager Morris noted that the County is in no position to commit to that motion.

Commissioner Jones withdrew her motion for further information.

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Confirmed with County Attorney Browder that the County is in no position at this time to make that commitment

County Attorney Browder responded:

- With the current process, the County may not own the facility at that time

Commissioner Jones noted that she did not understand why it gets to the Action Agenda and the same situation occurs that the County is in no place to make that commitment.

Chairman Walker responded:

- The item was placed on the Action Agenda at the Board's direction at the last meeting

County Manager Morris commented:

- The County is involved in an Economic Development Project that has been advertised with a public notice and until that is resolved, the Board is not in a position to approve a commitment

Chairman Walker requested permission from the Board to allow Horace Stimson address the Board.

The Board had no issues with allowing Mr. Stimson to address the Board.

Mr. Stimson commented:

- Simple way to deal with this issue is to approve the use of the facility providing the county owns the property at that time of the festival

- If you don't own property, then it will be up to the OC to work with the new owner

Chairman Walker commented:

- Questioned County Attorney Browder if a motion as suggested by Mr. Stimson would work?

County Attorney Browder responded:

- Do not know how a motion like that would give the OC any certainty

Chairman Walker commented:

- Thinks it would help the group by giving them a default position
- It would be left up to the OC Group to decide whether to move forward with planning the festival

County Attorney Browder responded:

- Can make a motion that approves the use of the property if the property is still owned by the County on the day of the event

Chairman Walker questioned the pleasure of the Board.

Commissioner Booth moved to approve the use of the Francisco School Property for a Fall Festival by Our Communities of Northwest Stokes if the property is still owned by the County at the time of the event. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded the motion.

Chairman Walker opened the floor for discussion.

With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Appointments – Stokes County Fire Commission

Chairman Walker noted the following were nominated at the August 14th meeting:

- Fire Service Member
 - Clifford Hall
 - Donnie Mabe
- Civilian Member
 - Steve Fagg

Chairman Walker opened the floor for any further nominations.

There were no further nominations.

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

nominations.

Vice Chairman Lankford moved to close the nominations. Commissioner Jones seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Walker polled the Board:

- Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Booth, Commissioner Mendenhall, Chairman Walker, and Vice Chairman Lankford:
 - Fire Service Member
 - Clifford Hall
 - Donnie Mabe
 - Civilian Member
 - Steve Fagg

Chairman Walker noted following were approved to serve on the Stokes County

Fire Commission:

- Fire Service Member
 - Clifford Hall
 - Donnie Mabe
- Civilian Member
 - Steve Fagg

Appointments -- Stokes County Planning Board

Chairman Walker noted the following were nominated at the August 14th meeting:

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

Chairman Walker noted that an appointment application from Landon McKinney had been received for the Yadkin Township.

Chairman Walker opened the floor for any further nominations.

Commissioner Jones noted that she had confirmed with Larry Snyder who serves the

Yadkin Township that he was still interested in serving since the County had received an appointment application from Landon McKinney.

Commissioner Jones noted that she would like to see the individual be placed on another Board in the future if possible.

There were no further nominations.

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

Vice Chairman Lankford moved to close the nominations. Commissioner Jones seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Booth confirmed with Clerk Bullins that Planning Director Sudderth had spoken to each member and that each member had requested to be considered for reappointment.

Chairman Walker polled the Board:

- Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Booth, Commissioner Mendenhall, Chairman Walker and Vice Chairman Lankford:
 - Snow Creek Township:
 - Steven Spencer
 - Yadkin Township:
 - Larry Snyder
 - Sauratown Township:
 - Ronnie Morris
 - Quaker Gap Township:
 - Gary Simmons

Chairman Walker noted the following were appointed to serve on the Stokes County

Planning Board:

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

- Gary Simmons

Department of Social Services – Reclassification

Chairman Walker entertained a motion regarding reclassification of a Substance Abuse Counselor to a Social Worker II which was presented at tonight's meeting.

Commissioner Booth moved to approve the reclassification of a Substance Abuse Counselor to a Social Worker II position along with approval to post external if needed as requested by DSS Director Elmes. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded the motion.

Chairman Walker opened the floor for any further discussion.

With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

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

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

Darlene M. Bullins
Clerk to the Board

Jimmy Walker
Chairman