

**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS
STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT
DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA
SEPTEMBER 11, 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, September 11, 2017, at 1:30 pm with the following members present:

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

County Personnel in Attendance:
County Manager Richard D. Morris
Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins
County Attorney Tyrone Browder
DSS Director Stacey Elmes
Public Works Director Mark Delehant
Tax Administrator Jake Oakley

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

INVOCATION

Chairman Walker delivered the invocation.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT-GOVERNING BODY-PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Walker entertained a motion to approve or amend the September 11, 2017
September 11, 2017 1

Agenda.

Commissioner Booth moved to approve the September 11th Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS – Commissioners/Manager

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

County Manager Morris commented:

- Arts Council Director Eddy McGee has been appointed to chair the Grants Committee for the newly created Military & Veterans Healing Arts Grant Program of the NC Arts Council
- This is a new program designed to support Art Projects focused on serving NC military servicemen, servicewomen, veterans, and their families

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Ethics for Life “He who trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like foliage”
- Requested a moment of prayer in honor of the 9/11 Anniversary

The Board observed a moment of prayer in honor of the 9/11 Anniversary.

Vice Chairman Lankford continued:

- Attended the Piedmont Regional Triad Council (PTRC) meeting last week
- Approval was given for PTRC to apply for a \$150,000 grant from the NC Department of Public Safety Rehabilitation Program & Services – this will serve all twelve (12) counties

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- To each and every person here today, I would like to thank you for coming out
- It is a blessing that we have people in Stokes County that want to take part in the governmental process
- Today is a special day for me as mentioned by Vice Chairman Lankford – 9/11 Anniversary
 - This is a day that I will never forget
 - This year has been unbelievable – have already had two hurricanes (Harvey and Irma) that has really devastated Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and Alabama
 - Many lives have been lost along with a lot of devastation of property
 - Feel that the governors of Texas and Florida have done an excellent job preparing ahead of time for the hurricanes
 - Visited the 9/11 Museum this summer in New York
 - Feel everyone in this room remembers where you were at on that day, I was principal of Sandy Ridge Elementary School

- Received a call to tell me to look at the TV to see what was happening in New York
- Feel that my two sons after seeing all the day's activities, who were only 12 and 15 at the time, decided that night they would join the military when they grew up, wanting to make sure America was save
- Have one son who joined the Army and was stationed in Guam for three years which at that time did not have a major problem, but look at it now with the North Korea situation
- Have another son who is still in the National Guard
- Think that event had a tremendous impact on their decisions to serve their country
- This will always be a special day for me
- Always want to express my appreciation for those who take their time to attend our meetings

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Would also like to thank each one for coming out today to our meeting
- Chairman Walker and I judged the Stokes Stomp Parade this past weekend – great event
- Great weather for the Stomp this year with a good turnout

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Always glad to see everyone here today
- As Commissioner Mendenhall mentioned, believe we all remember where we were at on 9/11
- Hated missing the Stomp this year – loved throwing out those toothbrushes to the kids
 - Being a working commissioner, I have to keep my license current for my job – attended continuing education that weekend
 - During my continuing education, took a renewal course of CPR
 - If you have not taken a recent CPR course, please look at taking a course because it has changed a lot since the last time I took a course
- Was placed on the Oil and Gas Commission last November by the Governor
 - This commission has been very quiet for the past months, but all of a sudden it is coming together
 - Will be attending a meeting on Wednesday, September 20th in Lee County
 - Will try to do the best I can for everyone
 - I have sat on many other different Boards, but this Board makes me a little nervous because it is a hard thing to try to do what is right for everyone
 - Lot of learning to be done
- Very glad of the grant the PTRC is pursuing
- Very proud of Arts Director Eddy McGee; art is so good for people's mental health
 - The military can use all the help they can get

Chairman Walker commented:

- Would also like to thank everyone for being part of the governmental process – for whatever reason brings you to our meeting today
 - Another great, positive event – Stokes Stomp – very well attended - 43rd year
 - Get people from all around coming to Stokes County for the Stomp
- Learned of the passing of Danbury Town Mayor Janet Whitt's mother this past weekend
- It is hard to believe it has been 16 years since 9/11 – a lot has happened in the past 16 years
- That was the most people killed possibly, with the exception of Pearl Harbor, in a single event in our country's history – the sad thing about 9/11 was the innocent people who died that day
- Pearl Harbor was a military action while 9/11 was an attack mainly on civilians which makes it especially sad
- We are a resilient country and have recovered from it pretty well
- Been very fortunate and am very thankful that nothing has happened like that again
- Very fortunate to have someone in Stokes County like Eddy McGee with his grant writing ability
 - Eddy was very effective in securing funding for The Arts Place - quite an accomplishment
 - Hope we can find ways in the future to use Eddy's grant writing ability for the arts as well as for the benefit of the county

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:

Robert Phillips

1626 Johnson Road

King, NC

Re: **Fracking**

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

- Have not been here lately, can't always get here
- Was unable to attend the Stomp, but did take my son to Hanging Rock State Park over the Labor Day weekend; it was so full of people that they were turning away cars – a lot of out-of-state license plates
- It was a wonderful thing having people to come from all over to visit our county and our natural resources
- Our natural resources are worth preserving
- I know the State has kind of tied our hands when it comes hydraulic fracturing
- It is still very much on my mind about what we can do to here in the county to help mitigate this problem

- I know the state is pretty tough on what we can and can't do, but I still think there are some things that we can accomplish to help preserve our way of life in Stokes County and preserve the health and wellbeing of the citizens, the water supply, and the environment
- Presented Board members with proposed Polluting Industries Development Ordinances that do not target fracking specifically
- The proposed ordinances addresses, in a way, any heavy or polluting industry interested in coming to Stokes County
- The proposed ordinances are not going to turn anyone away, but give them a set of guidelines and rules that we should all follow – for example: strict environment controls
- Thank you for the opportunity to speak

Ellen Peric

1095 Wheeler Smith Road

Lawsonville, NC

Re: **Arts Update**

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

- Only have a few notes this week – exhausted after the Stokes Stomp
- Stokes Stomp
 - 43rd Stokes Stomp is in the record books
 - It was one of the best attended Stomps in memory
 - We are not good on crowd count, but the comments from our vendors are the most important things for us, all the vendors stated that they had fantastic sales both days
 - We had record crowds
 - We would like to thank all the volunteers that helped set up, work booths, bake desserts, chase ducks, and tear down
 - A special thanks to Superintendent Brad Rice who braved the frigid cold dunking booth to raise an outstanding amount of money for the Arts
 - We also want to thank all our county organizations from Emergency Medical Services to the Sheriff's Department, as well as, the superb help of the Danbury Fire Department
 - The free shuttle from the Government Center continues to be a big hit with each shuttle being full coming and going
 - Added a bus stop at The Arts Place this year
 - Stokes Stomp is not a fundraiser for the Stokes Arts Council
 - The festival is put on for the folks of Stokes County
 - All money raised from the dunks to the ducks helps pay for the entertainment and event details
 - We appreciate the words of thanks from the folks who come out to enjoy the Stomp year after year; also appreciate the thanks on social media
- Apple Gallery – September
 - Features - Timothy Porter
- Hanging Rock Gallery
 - Features - Carol and Bill Bryant
- Reach the Peaks
 - Hiking Challenge is on for September 30th
 - Tickets on sale now through Brown Paper Tickets

- Have over 500 people already registered
- October Events
- Finalizing some great events for October

Ramona Timm

PO Box 573

Walnut Cove, NC

Re: **A Coup**

Ms. Timm read the following comments to the Board of Commissioners:

“Do we have a coup going on? The attacks against President Trump are relentless; and are based on the most twisted reasoning in the name of News. It is not News when the reporter comments beyond the facts – what happened and what was said. The News anchor’s opinion repeated and repeated insinuating degrading conjecture is manipulation.

When we have the major News media, the threatening rent-a-mob, a political party, and Hollywood all echoing the same mantra, no one, nor culture, can stand up to that. That antagonism is threatening – people can lose their job, corporate executives will go along to save the company and politicians will change the law even though the law is good and moral. It is as Joseph Stalin said, “The weakness of the capitalistic world which we can use are its insuperable antagonisms (impossible to overcome hostilities) – antagonisms which dominate the whole international situation.”

Soviet collusion has been going on for a long time since their goal is a borderless world of Communism. Look at their success in Russia, China, Cuba (our backyard), North Korea, Vietnam, many countries in Africa and around the world. Are we being fooled they are not at work in America?

Lenin and Stalin were masters of subversion; however, it took over a decade to from a revolutionary theory for America. Alan Stang wrote in, *“It’s Very Simple”*: “William Z. Foster and Gus Hall and other leading Communists have gone to great trouble to make clear not only that there is no contradiction between the two tactics the Communists in Moscow have developed for use in the United States – “self-determination” and “civil right”.

Mr. Timm will finish with his comments.

E. A. “Buddy” Timm

PO Box 573

Walnut Cove, NC

Re: **A Coup**

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

“Could our Civil Rights Laws have originated in Moscow? Our Civil Rights Laws are based on skin color, yet, they were passed under the echoing of – don’t judge on skin color, but on the content of character. Isn’t that dishonest, deceiving, and hypocritical? The contradiction is not strange because hard core Communists were associated with the Civil Rights movement. Alan Stang wrote about that. Also, my favorite black heroes who were former Communist Party members – Julia Brown, who authored *“I Testify”* and Manning Johnson, who authored *“Color, Communism, and Common Sense”* wrote, spoke, and testified of Communist activities within the United States.

George Orwell wrote “Who controls the past, controls the future. Who controls the present, controls the past” Is it not a coup of – hate the President. American monuments, America, and free speech to control the present by purging, with hate, America’s past history? Agitators of racism divide by race? – Principle and content of character do not.

Without America’s declared principles of freedom being honored – “We hold these Truths to be self-evident that all Men are created equal. . .” along with our Constitutional Republic and individuality, America’s free-society will collapse-to-their coup for Socialism – the gateway to Communism, with its abolition of private property, collectivism, and materialistic atheism – surreptitiously. Traitors to freedom self-identify by their attacks – revealing their treason! Their goal is, as Rodger Baldwin, the founder of the ACLU said – “Communism is the goal”.

Please remember in the name of benevolence socialism is convincing – like Public Transportation; however, its funding is the corruption of law – legalized plunder. It is law used to commit the crime that law is to prevent theft. It takes from one for the benefit of another. Sadly, our county will have to raise property taxes to pay for public transportation, which infringes on one’s right and ability to own property; and, it is Taxation Without Representation, since our elected county officials that tax us do not control it. Besides, there is no Constitutional authority for the Federal Government to tax us to give grants back to us.

Is a coup fooling us out of freedom?”

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Minutes of August 28, 2017 – Regular Meeting

Commissioner Jones moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – INFORMATION AGENDA

Cardinal Innovations Healthcare – Quarterly Update

Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners Darlene Bullins notified the Board that Senior Community Executive Ronda Outlaw, Cardinal Innovations Healthcare, had notified the County last Thursday that there might be a possibility that she would not be able to be at today’s meeting due to a mandatory staff meeting. Community Executive Outlaw noted that if she was unable to come to today’s meeting, she would reschedule for the September 25th meeting.

The Board had no issues with placing the item back on the Information Agenda for the September 25th meeting.

With Community Executive Outlaw not present for today's meeting, Chairman Walker directed the Clerk to place the Quarterly Update back on the Information Agenda for the September 25th meeting.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – DISCUSSION AGENDA

Social Services Monthly Report

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

- Metrics (As of August 2017):
 - Income Maintenance
 - NC FAST – In Compliance
 - Child care went live in June
 - CIP/LIEAP went live in July
 - WorkFirst – In Compliance
 - Seventy (70) open cases
 - \$14,031 in benefits delivered
 - FNS – In Compliance
 - 2,816 open cases
 - 4,571 participants
 - \$627,497 in benefits delivered
 - Food Stamps has had a 98% to 100% every time for our processing time (State requires the processing time to be above 95%)
 - Adult Medicaid, Family & Children's Medicaid – In Compliance
 - Medical Assistance
 - 8,511 open cases
 - Special Assistance:
 - 177 open cases
 - \$73,619 Special Assistance benefits delivered
 - Stokes County is passing the State Medicaid Report Card
 - Child Support – In Compliance
 - Serving 1,368 children with collections at \$216,051.17
 - Program Integrity – In Compliance
 - 193 open cases
 - Collected \$4,146.31 with \$774.00 of collections retained in the county
 - Child Day Care – In Compliance
 - June service paid in July - \$88,334
 - 141 children on the waiting list

- Foster Care
 - Foster Care Case Management – Needs Improvement
 - One hundred & eleven (111) children in custody
 - Monitoring two (2) children that have been returned to their families
 - Five (5) children are in voluntary placement agreements or extended foster care
 - MAPP Class starts tonight – with a full class expected – very excited
 - Foster Care Home Licensing – Needs improvement
 - Currently have twenty-two (22) licensed foster homes
 - Thirty-two (32) individuals received training this month.
 - This area is green because we are in compliance; however, the need for foster homes in our county continues to be great
 - New foster parent class begins September 11th.
 - Adoptions – In Compliance
 - Two (2) adoptions this month
- Child Protective Services
 - Investigations – In Compliance
 - Received fifty-one (51) reports involving fifty-two 52 children
 - There were twenty-seven (27) reports accepted for investigation
 - Nine (9) of these were found in need of services
 - Have thirty-nine (39) active CPS investigations open
 - Offered services in one (1) case
 - Case Management – In Compliance
 - Fifteen (15) open cases
 - Assists to other Counties
 - Six (6) assists
- Adult Services
 - Adult Protective Services – In Compliance
 - Received ten (10) reports
 - Five (5) reports were screened in
 - Five (5) received an offer services visit
 - Guardianship – In Compliance
 - Currently have twenty-five (25) adult wards
 - SSBG/HCCBG/Payee/Adult Day – In Compliance
 - Twenty-one (21) open cases
 - Facility Monitoring – In Compliance
 - Monitor six (6) adult care facilities
 - Three (3) complaints investigated this month
 - Family Caregiver Program – In Compliance
 - Fifteen (15) open cases
 - SA IH/MAC – In Compliance

- Seventy-six (76) open cases
 - CAP DA – In Compliance
 - Seventy (70) open cases
 - Intake – In Compliance
 - See any individual that comes into the agency needing assistance with anything from housing to utility assistance to other resources
 - Other – In Compliance
 - Five (5) offer services home visits not APS related
- Supervision (Staff/Supervisor Ratio) - Needs Improvement
 - State standard says one supervisor per five (5) child welfare social workers.
 - The department continues to need another Social Work Supervisor in the Child Welfare Department to meet state standards.
 - This continues to be a work flow and a liability issue for the Agency.
 - This area has remained green because we are making it work but making it work puts a huge burden on existing supervisory staff
 - This will be a budget request for the new budget year.
- Staffing (Years of Service) – In Compliance
 - Two vacancies
 - Social Work position (Foster Care)
 - Social Work/Substance Abuse Liaison
- Medicaid Transportation – In Compliance
 - (191) clients served
 - 1,685 trips provided
 - \$170,605.78 paid to vendors
- Clerical – In Compliance
 - (1,131) Walk Ins
 - Eight (8) Fishing Licenses distributed
- Miscellaneous
 - DSS Involvement with Cardinal Innovations – August 2017 as requested
 - August 8, 2017: Ronda Outlaw, Stacey Elmes, & Rick Morris met for a quarterly meeting to ensure communications are going well and needs are being met between Cardinal and DSS.
 - August 8, 2017: Permanency Planning Hearings at DSS for foster children. Cardinal staff in attendance.
 - August 15, 2017: Amanda Smith from the Wellness Center to DSS to provide in-service to social workers regarding programming at the Wellness Center.
 - August 17, 2017: Meeting between Juvenile Court Counselors and Cardinal staff. This was not a DSS meeting, but DSS staff was invited and did attend.
 - August 17, 2017: Stakeholders Meeting held at the Health Department. DSS staff attended.
 - August 29, 2017: Lunch and Learn held at the Wellness Center on “Employment and Stokes County.” Four DSS staff members attended.

- Our Foster Care Unit has two formal staff meetings each month to discuss cases. Cardinal staff either attends or is available by phone for these staff meetings to offer any guidance that may be needed regarding our children.
- Monitoring Information
 - Division of Health Service Regulation Quarterly Review and Annual Review for Adult Care Licensure Section found to be in compliance

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

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Confirmed with DSS Director Elmes that there were approximately nine (9) families enrolled in the MAPP Class
- Glad to see people interested in becoming a foster parent

Commissioner Booth confirmed the following two (2) departmental vacancies with DSS

Director Elmes:

- Social Work Foster Care position
- Substance Abuse Liaison position

Commissioner Booth confirmed with DSS Director Elmes that positions were gradually getting filled.

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Appreciate the information provided in our Agenda regarding Cardinal Innovations
- Appreciate your continued dedication

Chairman Walker commented:

- Still pleasantly surprised and encouraged about the absence of yellow and red on the metric report
- Confirmed with DSS Director Elmes that this is the second metric report with no yellow or red
- Requested information about becoming a foster parent

DSS Director Elmes responded:

- Have to be at least 18 - no other age limits
- Do not have to be married
- Must complete MAPP Training
- Must complete 10 hours of continued training each year
- Must have criminal record check, fingerprinting, etc.
- Must have a “big” heart and the willing to open it up to children who are so desperate to be loved and be a part of a family along with patience
- There are no time restrictions on how long a foster parent can foster a child

- We make sure that if there are issues with a child in a foster home, they are resolved immediately

Chairman Walker continued:

- Confirmed with DSS Director Elmes that the individuals who are interested in becoming foster parents have increased

DSS Director Elmes responded:

- Kimberly Clayton, who is our foster care licensing social worker, is a real go getter and has a huge heart
- Kim makes sure that foster parents get the resources they need
- Very fortunate to have Kim in this position

Chairman Walker expressed appreciation to DSS Director Elmes for the information provided at today's meeting and the continued dedication from the DSS staff.

Tax Administration Report – August 2017

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

Fiscal Year 2017-18	Budget Amount	Collected Amount	Over Budget	Under Budget
Current 2017 Taxes	\$21,179,104.00	\$11,141,240.61		\$10,037,863.39
Percentage = 0.53%				
New Schools F-Tech Fund	\$1,366,394.00	\$730,107.97		\$636,286.03
Percentage = .53%				
Prior Taxes				
County Regular & Motor Vehicles	\$500,000.00	\$150,751.73		\$349,248.27
Percentage = .30%				

Releases Less than \$100 – Real and Personal Property

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Releases less than \$100 – Real and Personal Property (August) at the September 11th meeting for the Board's review:

Releases Less than Name	\$100 Real/Personal Bill Number	Property Amount
Powell Marion Vaden	851826-2017-2017	\$25.90
Sallie Lolene D Vaden	851825-2017-2017	\$25.90
Pauline Tilley	306850-2017-2017	\$59.94
Baltic Amber Jewelry	6545-2017-2017	\$2.85

IBM Credit Corporation	229-2017-2017	\$1.72
	230-2017-2017	\$2.24
	231-2017-2017	\$11.18
Conterra Ultra Broadband c/o Marvine F Poer & Co.	849204-2017-2017	\$96.52
Annie Mae Kiser c/o William Kiser	321236-2017-2017	\$55.13
Rooster Rents LLC	5852-2017-2017	\$35.35
	5852-2016-2016	\$35.12
	5852-2015-2015	\$34.87
	5852-2014-2014	\$33.69
Muzak Inc	3709-2017-2017	\$1.40
	3710-2017-2017	\$1.75
	3711-2017-2017	\$8.41
	3713-2017-2017	\$2.35
Sylvia McKenzie	10106-2017-2017	\$1.63
Everin G. & Judy F Tucker	280662-2017-2017	\$12.95
Mariann L Roberson	9502-2017-2017	\$6.49
Donald R Hairston	283785-2017-2017	\$23.98
Larry O Biggs	852338-2017-2017	\$41.84
Joey G Moser	8578-2015-2015	\$4.02
	8578-2014-2014	\$3.88
Josephine J Hill	298335-2017-2017	\$49.01
	298335-2016-2016	\$48.68
	298335-2015-2015	\$45.65
	298335-2014-2014	\$39.29
Joshua C Hartgrove	7832-2017-2017	\$3.70
Thaxton J. Harrison	283333-2017-2017	<u>\$3.70</u>
Total Amount		\$719.14

Refunds Less than \$100 – Real and Personal Property

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Refunds less than \$100 –

Real and Personal Property (August) at the September 11th meeting for the Board's review:

Refunds Less Than	\$100 Real/Personal	
Name	Bill Number	Amount
Riley G Collins	281862-2017-2017	2.08
Josephine J Hill	298335-2013-2013	39.29
Josephine J Hill	298335-2012-2012	41.07
Larry Ray Watson	5999-2016-2016	33.86
Larry Ray Watson	5999-2015-2015	<u>32.85</u>
Total Amount		149.15

Releases More than \$100 – Real and Personal Property

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Releases more than \$100 – Real and Personal Property (August) at the September 11th meeting for the Board's review with consideration for approval at the September 25th meeting:

Releases More Than \$100	Real/Personal	Property	
Name	Bill Number	Amount	Reason
Powell Marion Vaden	305141-2017-2017	\$428.46	Double Billed due to Software Error
Sallie Lolene D Vaden			
Fairview Cemetery	850271-2017-2017	\$1,231.36	Exempt Property Billed due to Software Error
Alan Gray Boles	287909-2017-2017	\$241.98	Demolished Home and Well Value Removed
First Christian Church of King Cemetery	849573-2017-2017	\$805.01	Exempt Property Billed due to Software Error
Wendy H Lutz	286832-2017-2017	\$457.91	Home Construction Adjustment to 60%-incomplete
James W Himes			
Parkdale America LLC	320432-2017-2017	\$6,664.55	Amended Business Personal Listing
William Chad Dodson	4719-2017-2017	<u>\$199.43</u>	Boat Listed in Brunswick County
Crystal Heath Dodson			
	Total Amount	\$10,028.51	

Refunds More than \$100 – Real and Personal Property

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Refunds more than \$100 – Real and Personal Property (August) at the September 11th meeting for the Board's review with consideration for approval at the September 25th meeting:

Refunds More Than \$100	Real/Personal	Property	
Name	Bill Number	Amount	Reason
Thomas Mark Simmons`	39598369	<u>\$381.68</u>	Vehicle Sold
	Total Amount	\$381.68	

Present-Use Value Late Application

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following Present-Use Value Late Application at the September 11th meeting for the Board's review with consideration for approval at the September 25th meeting:

- Taxpayer: Karen Lou Patterson

September 11, 2017

- Parcel: 6914-02-39-2501
- Acreage: 10.56
- Reason: Late Delivery

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley noted that the Tax Office recommends approval for the Present-Use Value Late Application for Karen Lou Patterson.

Tax Administrator Oakley requested the following be placed on the September 25th

Consent Agenda for consideration of approval:

- Releases More than \$100 – Real and Personal Property
- Refunds More than \$100 – Real and Personal Property
- Present-Use Value Late Application

2017 Public Utility Values

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following 2017 Public Utility Values at the September 11th meeting for the Board's review and information:

Tax Districts		2016 Values	2016 Rate @	2017 values	2017 Rate @	Revenue Increase/Loss 2017 Tax Bill
General County	G01	\$583,143,906	0.620	\$574,875,572	0.62	-\$51,263.67
New School/Forsyth Tech Fund	E01	\$583,143,906	0.040	\$574,875,572	0.04	-\$3,307.33
Service Fire District	S01	\$544,894,345	0.075	\$535,030,245	0.08	\$7,891.28
King Fire District	F01	\$12,132,022	0.075	\$12,740,357	0.08	\$486.67
Walnut Cove Fire District	F03	\$11,248,747	0.075	\$11,866,150	0.08	\$493.92
Rural Hall Fire District	F02	\$2,848,278	0.075	\$2,893,380	0.08	\$36.08
City of King	C01	\$7,718,905	0.422	\$8,003,595	0.422	\$1,201.39
Town of Danbury	C04	\$1,224,804	0.270	\$1,359,894	0.27	\$364.73
Town of Walnut Cove	C03	\$4,301,559	0.400	\$4,341,846	0.4	\$161.15

Revenue Increase/Decrease are based on Current 2017 tax rates for each taxing districts
Public Utility Reports can be submitted upon request.

Two (2) Percent Discount (paid prior to September 1, 2017)

Tax Administrator Jake Oakley presented the following information regarding the 2% discount taken on all tax codes for early payment of taxes (prior to September 1st):

2013 Tax Bills		
General County	G01	\$208,349.26
New School/F-Tech Fund	E01	\$13,888.84
Service Fire District	S01	\$11,742.02
King Fire District	F01	\$3,341.76
Walnut Cove Fire District	F03	\$2,099.47
Rural Hall Fire District	F02	\$636.10
Dogs	D01	\$418.01
City of King	C01	\$26,312.13
Town of Danbury	C04	\$290.14
Town of Walnut Cove	C03	<u>\$4,315.97</u>
Total		\$271,393.70

2014 Tax Bills		
General County	G01	\$212,322.31
New School/F-Tech Fund	E01	\$14,152.99
Service Fire District	S01	\$11,899.41
King Fire District	F01	\$3,408.70
Walnut Cove Fire District	F03	\$2,315.81
Rural Hall Fire District	F02	\$631.19
Dogs	D01	\$345.48
City of King	C01	\$26,113.76
Town of Danbury	C04	\$290.78
Town of Walnut Cove	C03	<u>\$4,477.96</u>
Total		\$275,958.39

2015 Tax Bills		
General County	G01	\$213,809.19
New School/F-Tech Fund	E01	\$13,792.77
Service Fire District	S01	\$12,702.91
King Fire District	F01	\$3,534.83
Walnut Cove Fire District	F03	\$2,235.60
Rural Hall Fire District	F02	\$648.62
Dogs	D01	\$0.00
City of King	C01	\$26,086.32
Town of Danbury	C04	\$316.87
Town of Walnut Cove	C03	<u>\$3,985.32</u>
Total		\$277,112.43

2016 Tax Bills		
General County	G01	\$220,393.82
New School/F-Tech Fund	E01	\$14,216.97
Service Fire District	S01	\$13,958.09
King Fire District	F01	\$3,941.55
Walnut Cove Fire District	F03	\$2,440.16
Rural Hall Fire District	F02	\$748.91
Dogs	D01	\$0.00
City of King	C01	\$26,219.64
Town of Danbury	C04	\$303.62
Town of Walnut Cove	C03	<u>\$4,843.50</u>
	Total	\$287,066.26

2017 Tax Bills		
General County	G01	\$236,567.85
New School/F-Tech Fund	E01	\$15,260.54
Service Fire District	S01	\$15,743.09
King Fire District	F01	\$4,492.51
Walnut Cove Fire District	F03	\$2,741.89
Rural Hall Fire District	F02	\$855.37
City of King	C01	\$29,777.52
Town of Danbury	C04	\$484.28
Town of Walnut Cove	C03	<u>\$5,225.66</u>
	Total	\$311,148.71

Tax Administrator Oakley noted he would happy to answer any questions.

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

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Noted the \$11,141,204.61 revenue collection for the month of August
- Noted there was \$311,148.71 in all tax districts saved by our taxpayers for paying in August – 2% discount (\$236,567.85 was county only)
- Confirmed with Tax Administrator Oakley that the August 2017 collection is up approximately \$800,000 over August 2016 – feel this is due to the Revaluation and the increase in the fire tax this budget year along with new construction
- Confirmed with Tax Administrator Oakley that collections for Fiscal Year 2017-18 are on a good track

Chairman Walker requested information regarding the decrease in tax utility values.

Tax Administrator Oakley responded:

- Tax revenue from public utility values have decreased since last year

- Fire Districts Revenue increased due to the increase in the fire tax for Fiscal Year 2017-18
- County tax rate of \$.62 is estimated to lose \$51,263.67
- New School/F-Tech Fund rate of \$.04 is estimated to lose \$3,307.33
- Decrease for County and New School/F-Tech Fund is due primarily because of the coal inventory at Duke Energy according to the State
- If the inventory is high, utility values usually increase; if inventory is low, utility values usually decrease
- Values have increased the past two previous fiscal years

Chairman Walker, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the following on the September 25th Consent Agenda:

- Releases More than \$100 – Real and Personal Property
- Refunds More than \$100 – Real and Personal Property
- Present-Use Value Late Application

Proposed Support Letter for Stokes County Water & Sewer Authority – Merger/Regionalization Feasibility Grant Application

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following Letter of Support for Merger/Regionalization Feasibility Grant Application from the Stokes County Water & Sewer Authority:

Mr. John Hawkins, Chairman
Stokes County Water & Sewer Authority
1014 Main Street
Danbury, NC 27016

Re: Merger/Regionalization Feasibility Grant Application
Letter of Support
Stokes County / Stokes County Water & Sewer Authority

Mr. Hawkins:

The Stokes County Board of Commissioners acknowledges your request for participation and cooperation for the completion of a Merger/Regionalization Feasibility Study. We agree to participate in the review of our systems and completion of the study to further investigate potential options and alternatives for regionalization of utilities for the betterment of the residents of Stokes County and Water & Sewer Authority customers.

By submittal of this letter, we commit our willingness to participate and cooperate to the extent necessary to complete the Merger/Regionalization Feasibility Study for the purposes of ensuring

long-term viability of all systems involved. Our collaboration and support in these efforts does not bind us to act on recommendations and conclusions presented in the report.

We look forward to continuing our conversations with the Water & Sewer Authority on this matter. If you should need additional information, please feel free to contact me at the Stokes County administrative office.

Sincerely,
Jimmy Walker
Chairman, Stokes County Board of Commissioners

County Manager Morris commented:

- Public Works Director Mark Delehant and Water & Sewer Authority Chairman John Hawkins are both in attendance for today's meeting to answer any questions
- The objective for the grant is to have no match, but if there was any match, the Water & Sewer Authority would cover the match
- The Feasibility Study would provide information about the possibility of connecting the three (3) water systems in the County which could increase economic development within the county
- The deliverables from the study could be used for future strategic planning
- Would request Director Delehant to present additional information regarding the grant application

Public Works Director Mark Delehant presented the following information regarding the Request for the Letter of Support for the Stokes County Water & Sewer Authority Merger/Regionalization Feasibility Grant Application:

- Stokes County Water & Sewer Authority is interested in applying for a "Merger/Regionalization Feasibility Grant" made available through the NC Department of Environmental Quality Division of Water Infrastructure
- Some of the tasks and information that will be made available through the grant if awarded are listed:
 - Consolidate & update water system maps for each utility
 - Review rates for each system
 - Assessment of water supply components (wells, pump stations)
 - Review of any compliance or maintenance issues for each system
 - Determine future needs of individual systems
 - Summary report that discusses benefits and challenges associated with merging/connecting existing systems
 - Report will also include a description of needed infrastructure with alternatives, detailed cost estimates, and impact to user rates
- As part of the grant application, the Stokes County Water & Sewer Authority is requesting a letter of support from the Stokes County Board of County Commissioners

- There will be no cost to the county and all information derived as a result of this grant will be made available to Stokes County personnel

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

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Confirmed with Director Delehant that the feasibility study would be done by an engineering firm

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Believe this would be compatible with the County's Land Use Plan
- See no issues

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Like what the report will include such as needed infrastructure with alternatives, detailed cost estimates, and impact to user rates
- Feel the report would be very beneficial for future endeavors

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Agree, report would provide information for future projects
- No cost to the county
- Appreciate the staff and the Water & Sewer Authority for looking for grant opportunities

Chairman Walker commented:

- Know there was interest some years back in taking water from the Dan River for possible water up the 311 corridor
- Could this be included in this feasibility study?
- Confirmed with Director Delehant that this could be brought to the attention of the engineering firm, if successful in getting the grant
- Think there might have been a permit some time ago regarding the intake of water from the Dan River
- Confirmed with Director Delehant that connection to King has barriers such as the mountain, the geography, and the mileage; the main focus with this feasibility study would be the three (3) water systems within the County
- Confirmed with Director Mark Delehant that the feasibility study would include the Danbury Water System, Germanton Water System, and the Meadows Community Water System

Director Delehant noted that he was unaware of any permit for water intake from the Dan River.

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Confirmed with Director Delehant that the Town of Walnut Cove receives water from Winston Salem as an emergency connection
- Confirmed with Director Delehant that the wells at the community college have a good water supply and could be used for future expansion such as to Germanton

Chairman Walker confirmed with Director Delehant that it would be very helpful if the Letter of Support could be moved to today's Action Agenda since the deadline for the grant is September 27th.

The Board had no issues with moving the item to today's Action Agenda.

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

Proposed Resolution – Fiscal Year 2017-18 Equipment Financing

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following proposed Resolution for Fiscal Year 2017-18 Equipment Financing:

FORM OF AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION/EXTRACT OF MINUTES

At a duly called meeting of the governing body of **Stokes County, North Carolina** held in accordance with all applicable legal requirements, including open meeting laws, on the ___ day of **September 2017**, the following resolution was introduced and adopted:

A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF **STOKES COUNTY** AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A MASTER EQUIPMENT LEASE-PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH PNC EQUIPMENT FINANCE, LLC, AS LESSOR, AND SEPARATE LEASE SCHEDULES THERETO FOR THE ACQUISITION, PURCHASE, FINANCING AND LEASING OF CERTAIN EQUIPMENT WITHIN THE TERMS HEREIN PROVIDED; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF OTHER DOCUMENTS REQUIRED IN CONNECTION THEREWITH; AND AUTHORIZING ALL OTHER ACTIONS NECESSARY TO THE CONSUMMATION OF THE TRANSACTIONS CONTEMPLATED BY THIS RESOLUTION.

WHEREAS, **Stokes County, North Carolina** (the "*Lessee*"), a body politic and corporate duly organized and existing as a political subdivision, municipal corporation or similar public entity of the State of North Carolina is authorized by the laws of the State of North Carolina to purchase, acquire and lease certain equipment and other property for the benefit of the Lessee and its inhabitants and to enter into contracts with respect thereto; and

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Lessee (the "*Board*") has determined that a true and very real need exists for the acquisition, purchase and financing of certain property consisting of:

EMS – 1 Ambulance and installed equipment, 7 Stretchers, 9 Stretcher mounting tracks, 7 monitor defibrillators, 4 tough books

Sheriff – 6 patrol vehicles and installed equipment

Animal Control – 1 truck and installed equipment

September 11, 2017

Jail -- 1 van and installed equipment

Garage -- 1 truck and installed equipment

Landfill -- Vehicle weigh scales (collectively, the "*Equipment*") on the terms herein provided; and

WHEREAS, in order to acquire such Equipment, the Lessee proposes to enter into that certain Master Equipment Lease-Purchase Agreement (the "*Master Lease*") with PNC Equipment Finance, LLC, as lessor (the "*Lessor*"), substantially in the proposed form presented to the Board at this meeting, and separate Lease Schedules thereto substantially in the form attached to the Master Lease; and

WHEREAS, the Board deems it for the benefit of the Lessee and the efficient and effective administration thereof to enter into the Master Lease and the separate Lease Schedules relating thereto from time to time as provided in the Master Lease for the purchase, acquisition, financing and leasing of the Equipment to be therein more specifically described on the terms and conditions provided therein and herein;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT AND IT IS HERBY RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE LESSEE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. It is hereby found and determined that the terms of the Master Lease (including the form of Lease Schedule and Payment Schedule attached thereto), in the form presented to this meeting, are in the best interests of the Lessee for the acquisition, purchase, financing and leasing of the Equipment.

Section 2. The form, terms and provisions of the Master Lease (including the form of Lease Schedule and Payment Schedule attached thereto) are hereby approved in the forms presented at this meeting, with such insertions, omissions and changes as shall be approved by the **County Manager Richard D. Morris and Finance Director Julia Edwards** of the Lessee (the "*Authorized Officers*") executing the same, the execution of such documents being conclusive evidence of such approval. The Authorized Officers of the Lessee are each hereby authorized and directed to sign and deliver the Master Lease, each Lease Schedule thereto, each Payment Schedule relating thereto and any related exhibits attached thereto if and when required; *provided, however*, that, without further authorization from the governing body of the Lessee, (a) the aggregate principal component of Rent Payments under all Leases entered into pursuant to the Master Lease shall not exceed **\$917,822.00**; (b) the maximum term under any Lease entered into pursuant to the Master Lease shall not exceed **3** years; and (c) the maximum interest rate used to determine the interest component of Rent Payments under each Lease shall not exceed the lesser of the maximum rate permitted by law or **(1.62%)** per annum. The Authorized Officers may sign and deliver Leases to the Lessor on behalf of the Lessee pursuant to the Master Lease on such terms and conditions as they shall determine are in the best interests of the Lessee up to the maximum aggregate principal component, maximum term and maximum interest rate provided above. The foregoing authorization shall remain in effect for a period of two years from the date hereof during which the Authorized Officers are authorized to sign and deliver Leases pursuant to the Master Lease on the terms and conditions herein provided and to be provided in each such Lease.

Section 3. The Authorized Officers and other officers and employees of the Lessee shall take all action necessary or reasonably required to carry out, give effect to and consummate the transactions contemplated by the Master Lease and each Lease Schedule (including, but not limited to, the execution and delivery of the certificates contemplated therein, including appropriate arbitrage certifications) and to take all action necessary in conformity therewith, including, without limitation, the execution and delivery of any closing and other documents required to be delivered in connection with the Master Lease and each Lease Schedule.

Section 4. If any section, paragraph, clause or provision of this Resolution shall for any reason be held to be invalid or unenforceable, the invalidity or unenforceability of such section, paragraph, clause or provision shall not affect any of the remaining provisions of this Resolution.

Section 5. Effective Date. This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its approval and adoption.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the Board of the Commissioners on **September __, 2017.**

The undersigned further certifies that the above Resolution has not been repealed or amended and remains in full force and effect and further certifies that the Master Lease (including the form of Lease Schedule and Payment Schedule attached thereto) are the same as presented at said meeting of the governing body of Lessee, excepting only such changes, insertions and omissions as shall have been approved by the officers who executed the same.

Date: _____ 2017

(Secretary/Clerk)

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding the proposed Resolution:

- Presented the requested information regarding the individual amount of each item included in the proposed Resolution:
 - Animal Control Truck = \$28,207
 - Ambulance & equipment = \$230,000
 - Coaching Device = \$6,800
 - Defibrillators (4) = \$139,429
 - Stretchers (7) & Tracks (9) = \$215,006
 - Toughbooks (4) = \$33,200
 - Software for Toughbooks (4) = \$1,520
 - Jail Van = \$30,000
 - Sheriff's Department – Cars (4) = \$112,000
 - Sheriff's Department – SUV (2) = \$58,600
 - Vehicle Maint. Truck = \$23,060
 - Transfer Station Scales = \$40,000
 - Total = \$917,822
- Request for loan quotes were sent to the following:
 - Capital Bank
 - NewBridge Bank
 - PNC
 - SunTrust
 - BB&T

- Quotes received:
 - Bank: PNC
 - #of Payments: (3)
 - Fixed Rate: 1.62%
 - Annual Payment Amount: \$315,906.24
 - Interest Paid: \$29,896.72
 - Bank Charges: \$600.00
 - Payback Amount: \$948,318.72
 - Bank: BB&T
 - #of Payments: (3)
 - Fixed Rate: 1.68%
 - Annual Payment Amount: \$316,277.36
 - Interest Paid: \$31,010.08
 - Bank Charges: \$00.00
 - Payback Amount: \$948,832.08
 - Bank: SunTrust
 - #of Payments: (3)
 - Fixed Rate: 1.785%
 - Annual Payment Amount: \$316,927.16
 - Interest Paid: \$32,959.47
 - Bank Charges: \$250.00
 - Payback Amount: \$951,031.48
 - Bank: FNB Leasing
 - #of Payments: (3)
 - Fixed Rate: 2.88%
 - Annual Payment Amount: \$323,968.53
 - Interest Paid: \$54,083.59
 - Bank Charges: \$584.00
 - Payback Amount: \$972,489.59
 - Bank: First Community
 - #of Payments: (3)
 - Fixed Rate: 3.39%
 - Annual Payment Amount: \$329,591.09
 - Interest Paid: \$60,951.27
 - Bank Charges: \$700.00
 - Payback Amount: \$989,473.27
 - Capital Bank did not provide a quote
- Lowest interest rate – PNC – 1.62%
- Request to move to today's Action Agenda in order to have paperwork done with County Attorney Browder for closing at the end of September

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

Commissioner Jones commented:

- From memory, this looks consistent to what was approved in the Fiscal Year 2017-18 budget

- Confirmed with Finance Director Edwards that this was what was approved in the Fiscal Year 2017-18 budget

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Expressed concerns about not knowing what equipment comes with the ambulance
- Discussion was done during the budget work sessions about the ambulance along with equipment

County Manager Morris commented:

- Do not have a complete list of the equipment – all ambulances come with standard equipment but believe there is always equipment that must be purchased separately

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Believe this ambulance purchase included a stretcher
- Just wanted to make sure that the ambulance purchase does include a stretcher

Clerk Bullins confirmed with Commissioner Mendenhall that his request was to purchase (7) stretchers during the final work sessions.

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Confirmed with Manager Morris that there are five (5) frontline ambulances
- Confirmed with Manager Morris that there are ten (10) ambulances in service that are being currently being used
- Was not sure that the ambulance purchase included a stretcher
- Did not realize it was seven (7) stretchers along with the one being included with the ambulance purchase which would make eight (8) purchased in Fiscal Year 2017-18

Chairman Walker confirmed with County Manager Morris that the item needed to be moved to today's Action in order to close at the end of September.

Commissioner Jones made a recommendation to move the item to today's Action Agenda.

The Board had no issues with moving the item to today's Action Agenda.

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

Proposed Resolution – Extension for Temporary Financing with PNC for Community College

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following proposed Resolution – Extension for Temporary Financing with PNC for the Community College:

EXTRACTS FROM MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, North Carolina, was duly held on September 11, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioner's Chambers on the 2nd Floor of the Administration Building located at 1014 Main Street, Danbury, North Carolina. Chairman Jimmy Walker presiding.

The following members were present:

The following members were absent:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section 2. Approval, Authorization and Execution of Amendment and Any Additional Amendments Needed. The County hereby approves extension of the maturity date of the Interim Contract to December 28, 2017 and authorizes the Finance Director to approve any additional extensions as may be needed should the execution and delivery of the Long-Term Contract be delayed further, provided notification is given to the North Carolina Local Government Commission. The County also hereby approves the form, terms and content of the Amendment, which is in all respects authorized, approved and confirmed, and the Chairman, the County Manager, the Finance Director of the County and the Clerk to the Board or their respective designees are authorized, empowered and directed to execute and deliver the Amendment and any future amendment that may be necessary for and on behalf of the County, including necessary counterparts, in substantially the forms attached hereto, but with such changes, modifications, additions or deletions therein as shall to them seem necessary, desirable or appropriate, their execution thereof to constitute conclusive evidence of their approval of any and all such changes, modifications, additions or deletions, and that from and after the execution and delivery of the Amendment and any future amendment, the Chairman, the County Manager, the Finance Director of the County and the Clerk to the Board or their respective designees are hereby authorized, empowered and directed to do all such acts and things and to execute all such documents as may be necessary to carry out and comply with the provisions of the Amendment and any future amendment as executed.

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

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

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

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

AYES:

NAYS:

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

I, DARLENE M. BULLINS, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, North Carolina, ***DO HEREBY CERTIFY*** that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of a resolution entitled: **"RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF STOKES, NORTH CAROLINA, APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO AN INSTALLMENT FINANCING CONTRACT AND DELIVERY THEREOF AND PROVIDING FOR CERTAIN OTHER RELATED MATTERS"** was adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, North Carolina, at a meeting held on the 11th day of September, 2017.

WITNESS my hand and the corporate seal of the County of Stokes, North Carolina, this the 11th day of September, 2017.

(SEAL)

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

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding the proposed Resolution:

- May need to extend the temporary financing with PNC again for the Community College if the USDA Loan does not close by the due date
- Will not extend the financing unless absolutely necessary
- Need to move the item to today's Action Agenda in order to have the documentation ready for submission to PNC if needed

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

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Confirmed with Finance Director Edwards that the USDA Loan for the community college is scheduled to close on September 22nd, if not, would need another extension and would not have to be taken back to the Local Government Commission for approval if this resolution is approved

Finance Director Edwards commented:

- Hope to not have to use the extension, but will be ready if needed
- USDA is working with County Attorney Browder
- There was an issue with some items that had not been completed by the USDA representative which has now been completed by Josh at USDA

County Attorney Browder noted that he had received the loan packet from USDA and that the

closing documents will be ready for the September 22nd closing.

Commissioner Booth recommended moving the item to today's Action Agenda.

The Board had no issues with moving the item to today's Action Agenda.

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

County Personnel Hiring Policy – Discussion

Chairman Walker noted this item was for continued discussion from the August 28th meeting.

Chairman Walker confirmed with County Manager Morris and County Attorney Browder that they both did not have any additional information regarding the Agenda item.

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

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Believe the basic discussion at the last meeting was the Board of County Commissioners being able to hire department heads, as the Board of County Commissioners currently hire/appoint seven (7) positions (county manager, finance director, clerk to the board, tax administrator, county attorney, social services director, and health director)
- Do not have the authority currently to hire department heads such as EMS, E911, Planning, Fire Marshal, Economic Development, Senior Services, etc.

Chairman Walker commented:

- Confirmed with the Clerk that on the previous Agenda, the item was titled as Economic Development Director –Hiring Process and that on today's Agenda, the item is titled as County Personnel Hiring Policy – Discussion

Clerk Bullins responded:

- The minutes from the August 28th meeting reflect that it was the consensus of the Board, excluding Commissioner Jones, that the item be placed back on the Discussion Agenda as County Hiring Personnel Policy-Discussion

Commissioner Booth commented:

- It was also discussed at the last meeting that the county personnel policy would have to be amended if changes were to be made regarding the hiring process
- Also believe County Attorney Browder at the last meeting agreed that the Board should set the policy and then follow the policy

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- My preference is to make it universal
- Think it was mentioned at the last meeting, there could be a legal discrepancy if the manager hired some department heads and the Board hired some department heads, so to get rid of that discrepancy, my opinion would be the commissioners do all the interviewing and hiring of all the directors

Chairman Walker questioned the Clerk if the policy like Vice Chairman Lankford described had ever been used by the County?

Clerk Bullins responded:

- Believe several, several years ago, the name of the person being hired was brought to the Board of County Commissioners – back possibly in the eighties – not sure about the answer to that particular question

Chairman Walker questioned County Attorney Browder if he recalled at any time a policy

was followed like Vice Chairman Lankford's description by the Board of County Commissioners?

County Attorney Browder responded:

- Do not recall any type of policy
- There is no legal authority for the Board of County Commissioners to do the hiring which was discussed previously
- Discussed this issue again today with Attorney Diane Juffras, Institute of Government
- The hiring comes under the management of the county manager
- The decision of the Board is whether the Board wants to have prior approval before the manager hires an employee/department head
- Once the manager makes the decision of who to hire, the Board can require the manager to submit his selection to the Board for prior approval or you can waive the requirement for prior approval
- The Board does not have any authority to actually do the hiring
- The Board only has the authority per statute to hire/appoint those named by statute – county attorney, county manager, clerk to the board, finance director, tax collector, social services director and health director

Chairman Walker questioned County Attorney Browder how the prior approval process would work?

County Attorney Browder responded:

- The manager would go through the hiring process and select the most qualified candidate for the position
- The manager would then have to submit that name for approval prior to offering the candidate the position
- The Board of Commissioners would have to approve the candidate before the manager would have the authority to hire the candidate
- If you don't require prior approval, then the manager would go through the hiring process and then hire the most qualified candidate (current policy)

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Would like to know what the counties around us are doing because we need to be consistent with all the other counties
- Would like a defined answer: if we have to approve the selection before the manager hires the candidate – that is just rubber stamping; hence, why would we change it?
- What liabilities are going to occur if three members on this Board say no to the manager's most qualified candidate? – see that has a problem
- Once the manager goes through the process and picks the most qualified candidate, what justification are we going to use, unless it is sometimes truly legal which should have already been caught in the process, to not approve the manager's selection?
- Would like for people to think about this as we move forward with this discussion

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Guess, I want to limit my comments on this go around because of what I know is going to occur later
- Don't think we can get to far into it at this point
- Will speak to a few comments
- Would like to direct these comments to County Attorney Browder and other Board members
- Was hoping Amanda from Stokes News would be here today, but I know she is a very busy person
- Amanda had put the following in the Stokes News last week: "Ty Browder, the county's attorney provided the Board with legal research earlier this summer and concluded along with an expert from the School of Government that appointments should be part of the county manager's duties
- However, in the minutes of August 28th on page 17, County Attorney Browder commented that 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 positons or the Board may require the manager to get prior approval before hiring any department head
- Also on page 17 of the August 28th minutes, Vice Chairman Lankford commented that he 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 by law
- I am not going to sit here and say I know what every county around us does; however, when I was at the NC County Commissioners Annual Conference, I sat at a table with commissioners from two (2) other counties who stated that they required the manager to get prior approval from their board
- I know that some counties do not require prior approval, but I do know that there are some that do require prior approval
- There are certainly discrepancies throughout the state with some requiring prior approval and some not requiring prior approval
- As far as previous Stokes County Board of Commissioners interviewing candidates, one former commissioner, Buster Robertson, who is currently in the hospital, told my wife before he entered the hospital that when he was a commissioner, the board did the interviewing and hiring
- I did not personally speak to former Commissioner Robertson about this and was unable to do so before our meeting due to his hospitalization
- Confirmed with County Attorney Browder that former Commissioner Robertson served as commissioner during the late eighties and early nineties
- Will stop right now

Chairman Walker confirmed with Commissioner Mendenhall that he did not know

the exact positions that former Commissioner Robertson was speaking about to his wife.

Chairman Walker questioned if anyone else knew what positions former Commissioner Robertson was talking about?

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- The only discussion I have heard in reference to that group of commissioners regarding hiring was that group of commissioners did hire the economic development director

Chairman Walker questioned if anyone knew the process that was done when the economic development director was hired?

Clerk to the Board Bullins responded:

- When Planning Director Sudderth and former Economic Development Director Morgan were hired by that Board, it was because at that time those two (2) positions were considered as “appointed positions” like the county manager, county attorney, etc.
- When former commissioner, Dr. Ron Carroll, came on the Board, those two (2) positions were questioned and determined to not be “appointed positions” and both positions were placed back under the hiring authority of the county manager

Chairman Walker commented:

- When Alan Wood was hired as economic development director, the Board went through the interview process and the whole works
- Questioned Vice Chairman Lankford, who was also on the Board when Alan Wood was hired, how he remembered the process?

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- That is correct
- The county manager recommended to the Board that there would be discussions about this particular candidate because he was the economic development director where the county manager had come from
- The commissioners negotiated back and forth and it was finally approved to hire the candidate and what to pay the candidate

Chairman Walker commented:

- Believe the manager and former economic development director came from different counties, not sure which really doesn’t matter in this situation

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Was not on the Board when the two positions mentioned were changed back to be under the hiring and firing authority of the manager

- Confirmed with Clerk Bullins that former commissioner, Dr. Ron Carroll, brought the information to the Board of County Commissioners that the planning director and the economic development director positions were not statutorily appointed positions and were changed from appointed to non-appointed positions
- Confirmed with Vice Chairman Lankford that former commissioner, Dr. Carroll, was serving as a commissioner when the last economic development director was hired

Commissioner Jones commented:

- It seems to me that all things indicate that we need some serious forensics because we are hearing that this happened then, I think this is the way it happened, not sure if this is the way it happened, etc.
- We really need to get to digging to find the chronological facts if this is something that is truly going to be entertained, not just going by this memory or that memory

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- I am not asking the questions
- I am just saying that if we want to change the personnel policy, we can, if there is three (3) members that want to change it

Chairman Walker questioned Commissioner Mendenhall if he had any further comments?

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- I am not going to keep repeating myself, I feel repetitious at this point
- You know the answer before asked, but I will say that my position has not changed from the very beginning
- I stated at the beginning that I thought we needed a change in the hiring process
- I am not going to repeat my comments because my viewpoint has not changed

Chairman Walker commented:

- I seem to be understanding that there is interest among some of our board members to change the hiring process
- Not completely sure what the preference is to change it to
- I am trying, at this point, to determine what steps we need to take to move this item further along and reach a decision of how we are going to deal with it
- Not sure we have all the information that we need, think I have picked up on that
- I know there is some steps that we need to take that will provide more information
- My question to this Board at this time is "what is your preference regarding how we deal with this issue ongoing?"

Chairman Walker opened the floor for recommendations, as far as, what the next steps need to be or where do we go from here?

Chairman Walker continued:

- Guess our options are: Action Agenda for the next meeting, Discussion Agenda for the next meeting, Action Agenda for this meeting

- I am not suggesting any of these, just looking at what options there are
- What is the pleasure of the Board regarding this item?

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Information Agenda – we need to do research to get a chronological order
- If we are considering going back to appointing those that are not statutorily appointed, I want to know where we stand – liability
- There has been changes with legislation since that time
- Don't think any of us are experts

Chairman Walker responded:

- Think it would be a departure from our normal procedures to go back to Information Agenda when we could possibly go to Discussion Agenda

Commissioner Jones responded:

- Hard to discuss when you are lacking information

Vice Chairman Lankford responded:

- I am ready to place the item on the Action Agenda for the next meeting

Commissioner Mendenhall responded:

- We absolutely know for a fact, coming from the County Attorney, that we can require prior approval regarding the hiring the department heads
- Confirmed with County Attorney Browder that is a true statement, this Board can require prior approval regarding the hiring of department heads
- Knowing that we can require prior approval regarding the hiring of department heads, I could go with placing it on the next Action Agenda
- I know what my opinion is and it seems this has just been drug out or just trying to delay it
- There have been some comments about delaying the hiring of the economic development director
- I do not want to delay the hiring of the economic development director
- I do not want to delay the hiring of the fire marshal
- I can go with the Action Agenda next meeting

Commissioner Booth commented:

- I think I am getting two thoughts – one thought from one commissioner and one thought from another commissioner and then it goes back to County Attorney Browder's comments regarding actual interviewing and hiring
- Confirmed with County Attorney Browder that the statute does allow for the Board to require that the manager must have prior approval before the hiring of department heads
- Confirmed with County Attorney Browder that the Board can choose who the manager must get prior approval from the Board of Commissioners before hiring the candidate
- Do not want do all employees, just department heads

- Confirmed with County Attorney Browder that the statement read by Commissioner Mendenhall from the Stokes News was his first legal opinion; however, after discussing the issue further with Attorney Juffras, the legal opinion is that the Board can require the manager to bring his selection to the Board for approval
- Confirmed with County Attorney Browder that the Board can pick and choose who they wish to require prior approval on
- Ready for Action Agenda, but need to know what would be the issue on Action – requiring prior approval or doing the complete process including interviewing which the statute does not allow

Chairman Walker commented:

- If I can offer some insight, which I could be wrong, but the answer to Commissioner Booth last question would be whoever makes the motion
- Because whoever makes the motion and gets two (2) other votes, then that is the action that this Board has endorsed
- What happens depends on the motion and if the motion passes or fails

Commissioner Booth continued:

- Another question that I have is whether the Board of County Commissioners can interview the applicants if they are not statutorily required like those appointed positions – county manager, county attorney, clerk, etc.

County Attorney Browder responded:

- In my opinion, that is part of the hiring process and that comes under the authority of the county manager
- The statute does not make any distinction between hire and appoint; they are used interchangeably so it does not matter whether you refer to “appointing” or “hiring”
- In statutory appointments, the statute directs the Board to appoint or hire, but it is the county manager’s responsibility/duty to “hire” employees which include department heads and directors
- Based on my reading of the statute and Attorney Diane Juffras’ opinion, the Board would not have any authority to hire or appoint anyone other than those statutorily named positions
- The Board’s authority would be limited to either approving or not approving the manager’s selection

Commissioner Booth continued:

- Confirmed with Attorney Browder that if the manager’s selection was not approved by the Board, then the manager would have to go back through the hiring process and bring another candidate for the Board’s consideration

County Attorney Browder responded that he saw that being problematic.

Commissioner Booth questioned Commissioner Mendenhall and Vice Chairman Lankford if they were on the same page on what we are talking about regarding approving versus interviewing?

Vice Chairman Lankford responded:

- I am not sure that the information that we are getting from our attorney is absolutely what we can and can't do, just being honest
- If we can interview and hire statute appointment people, I don't see anywhere in my information that I got that it says you can't do others

County Attorney Browder responded:

- The legal opinions that I am providing is based on the experts from the School of Government

Vice Chairman Lankford responded:

- They have already changed their mind one time – their opinion changed again

County Attorney Browder responded:

- The first position did not reference hiring – it was referring to prior approval
- Ms. Juffras' position has always been that the Board did not have any authority to hire or appoint any positions other than those statutorily required
- Ms. Juffras' changed her position with respect to prior approval whether the Board could pick and choose the positions that they required prior approval
- Ms. Juffras' position is that the Board can pick and choose who they require the manager to get prior approval before hiring

Commissioner Booth continued:

- Confirmed with County Attorney Browder the Board can require prior approval for all positions, only certain positions or all department heads, only certain department heads and that the county manager hires the position other than those statutorily required

Chairman Walker commented:

- Believe I have Action Agenda from Vice Chairman Lankford, Commissioner Mendenhall, and Commissioner Booth
- Believe Commissioner Jones wants Information Agenda or Discussion Agenda
- I can go with Action Agenda because even when it is on Action Agenda, this Board still has options
- The Board can take action, take no action, or postpone it
- It depends what motion is made and what motion gets three (3) votes

Chairman Walker directed the Clerk to place the item on the Action Agenda for the

September 25th meeting.

Make a Difference in King (MADIK) – Request for Participation in Construction of Playground

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding a request from MADIK to participate in the construction of the new community playground in King:

- MADIK is a local non-profit organization working with the community on a great adventure to create our first community built playground
- Local students have contributed “dream” designs for the playground and the company Play by Design, LLC has incorporated these dreams into an extraordinary masterpiece
- This “dream” playground will find its home at Recreation Acres and will be built by the community the week of September 26th – October 1st
- In order to make the dream a reality, volunteers are needed to participate in the construction of the playground
- No construction experience is necessary as there will be construction captains who will be directing volunteers on how to help
- Request the County send a team of county employees, family, friends, etc. to contribute to building our playground
- Believe the County could allow employees to be off and take some type of leave
- The question for the Board is whether the Board would want the county to send employees as a team from Stokes County during their work hours
- If the County did send a team of employees from Stokes County during work hours, it would be setting a precedence with non-profits
- It would also pull employees from other assigned duties

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

Chairman Walker commented:

- Noted the email stated employees, friends and families – need for volunteers
- Could we notify the employees about the event and information how to volunteer if they desired?

The Board had no issues with notifying employees about the event and receiving information about volunteering.

Clerk Bullins noted that by sending employees from the county, it could result in a possible worker’s comp. claim.

Chairman Walker, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to email the information to all county employees.

Appointments – Forsyth Technical Community College – Board of Trustees

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding a request

from Forsyth Technical Community College – Board of Trustees for one (1) appointment to the Board of Trustees from Stokes County:

FORSYTH TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE Board of Trustees Information and Guidelines

The Forsyth Technical Community College Board of Trustees is established by the North Carolina General Assembly by General Statute 115D-20 to ensure the effective governance of the institution. The purpose of the Board of Trustees is also to provide community representation and leadership for the college. With the appointment of a Stokes County representative, the Board will have 13 appointed, voting members and one non-voting member (the student representative).

Board Responsibilities

The Board is charged with the selection of the President of the College (subject to State Board of Community College approval) and the evaluation of the performance of the President. The President is responsible for the employment of all other employees. The Board is also responsible for approval and monitoring of the College's budget; the purchase, construction, of maintenance of college land and/or facilities; the establishment of policy for student admissions and completion; the provision of the instructional program consistent with state policy and accreditation standards; the receipt of gifts, donations, and devises on behalf of the College; and the establishment of private, non-profit corporations for the benefit of the College (e.g., the Forsyth Tech Foundation). The Forsyth Tech Board meets bimonthly, and Board attendance and participation is critical to successful Board service.

Board Appointments

Each year, the Nominating Committee of the Board of Trustees reviews upcoming Board appointments to ascertain the interest of Board members (whose terms expire) in reappointment and to consider recommendations for reappointment and new appointment to the appropriate appointing authority. This communication is a recommendation to the appointing authority only and is respectful of its authority to make the appointment.

Board Qualifications

While the appointing authority chooses the Board member that will represent the interests of their area, the following characteristics of successful Board members at Forsyth Tech may provide some helpful insight:

- Board members are knowledgeable of the community and value the role of education generally, and community college education in particular, in the community;
- Given the central role of the College in economic development and preparation of the workforce, Board members often have experience with business or organizational management;
- Board members are subject to the North Carolina Ethics Law and certification by the State Ethics Commission; thus, appointing authorities should be sensitive to potential conflicts of interest related to College financing and budget issues.

County Manager Morris also presented the following current membership to the

Board of Trustees:

Ann Bennett-Phillips, Vice Chair
Owner / Operator
Capital Development Services, Inc

John A. Cocklereece, Jr.
Attorney
Bell, Davis, Pitt

Tammy L. Duggins
Company Secret
D. S. Duggins Welding

A. Edward Jones
Retired
Deputy County Manager (Forsyth)

Andrea D. Kepple
Retired Educator
Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools

Kenneth M. Sadler, DDS
President, Winston-Salem Dental Care
Sadler and Associates

Camille Simmons
Ex-Officio Member
SGC President

J. David Branch, MD
Vice President Campaign Group
James D. Branch Ophthalmology

John M. Davenport, Jr.
President/Owner
DAVENPORT

Nancy W. Dunn
Founder (Retired)
Aladdin Travel

Dana Caudill Jones
President / Owner
Caudill's Electric

R. Alan Proctor, Chair
Senior Vice President
Wells Fargo

Paul M. Wiles
Retired, CEO
NovantHealth

County Manager Morris commented:

- With the investment that the County has made with the community college, the Forsyth Tech Board of Trustees would like to have one (1) Board of Trustee member from Stokes County
- Dr. Green has also stated that there would be another appointment requested next year so that the terms could be staggered

Chairman Walker opened the floor for nominations.

Chairman Walker nominated Commissioner Ronnie Mendenhall with all his background in education along with his interest in education.

Commissioner Mendenhall stated that he would accept the nomination.

Chairman Walker entertained a motion to close the nominations.

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

Chairman Walker, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the nomination on the September 25th Action Agenda.

Clerk Darlene Bullins confirmed with the Board that this appointment did not have to be advertised externally due to it being a request to the commissioners from Forsyth Tech.

Appointments – Stokes County Voluntary Agricultural District Advisory Council

County Manager Rick Morris presented the following information regarding appointments to the Stokes County Agricultural District Advisory Council:

- Stokes County Agricultural District Advisory Council request the appointment of Ryan Clark and Kay Jones to replace Manley Stovall and David Hartman whose terms have expired
- Term is for three (3) years

Chairman Walker opened the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Booth nominated Ryan Clark and Kay Jones.

Chairman Walker entertained a motion to close the nominations.

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

Chairman Walker, with full consensus of the Board, directed the Clerk to place the nomination on the September 25th Action Agenda.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – ACTION AGENDA

Proposed Resolution – Exemption – Sole Source Purchase for Ambulance

Chairman Walker entertained a motion regarding the following proposed Resolution – Exemption – Sole Source Purchase for Ambulance which was submitted at the August 28th

Meeting:

September 11, 2017

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

Commissioner Booth moved to approve the Resolution – Exemption – Sole Source Purchase for Ambulance. Commissioner Jones seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Appointments – Stokes County Jury Commission

Chairman Walker noted that Durward Bennett was nominated at the August 28th meeting to serve on the Stokes County Jury Commission.

Chairman Walker opened the floor for any further nominations.

There were no further nominations.

With there being no further nominations, 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 polled the Board:

- Commissioner Jones – Durward Bennett
- Chairman Walker – Durward Bennett
- Commissioner Booth - Durward Bennett
- Commissioner Mendenhall – Durward Bennett
- Vice Chairman Lankford – Durward Bennett

Chairman Walker noted that Durward Bennett was unanimously approved by the Board for appointment to the Stokes County Jury Commission.

Proposed Letter – Opioid Epidemic in Stokes County

Chairman Walker entertained a motion regarding the following proposed letter which detailed what has been done regarding the Opioid Epidemic in Stokes County which was requested by the Board of County Commissioners at the August 28th meeting:

September 11, 2017

The Honorable Fred D. McClure
Davidson County Commissioner
PO Box 1067
Lexington, North Carolina 27293

Re: **Opioid Epidemic**

Dear Commissioner McClure:

On behalf of the Stokes County Board of County Commissioners, we commend your efforts in addressing this significant opioid health threat to all citizens in North Carolina. We all agree that the opioid epidemic directly and indirectly affects everyone in our county and state.

Just as North Carolina has seen an increase in the number of reported drug overdose deaths, so has Stokes County.

The Stokes County Board of County Commissioners has been fully committed to do as much as possible to fight this terrible epidemic.

The Stokes County Board of County Commissioners unanimously voted at their August 28th meeting to let all counties know what Stokes County is doing to fight this opioid epidemic.

The Stokes County Board of County Commissioners supports the following groups who are dedicated to fight the opioid epidemic:

- **Stokes County Concerned Citizens** – Formed in February 2017 to begin a “war on drug use” in Stokes County. The group has held several forums across the county to make citizens aware of the issue along with providing information about rehabilitation programs available for those in need.
- **Stokes Citizens for Safe and Healthy Communities** – Mission is to work to bring education and awareness to Stokes County Citizens regarding proper use, storage and disposal of prescription drugs and other medication, ultimately creating a safer, healthier environment in our homes and community. This group also sponsors Operation Medicine Drop which is a safe way to get rid of unwanted medications which in turn helps prevent accidental poisoning and drug abuse along with protecting the water quality. Since 2010, Operation Medicine Drop has collected 1,549,378 doses of unused medicine with 269,025 doses being collected in 2017.

- **Stokes Stakeholders Meeting** – Group formed and sponsored by the county’s mental health local management entity, Cardinal Innovations. Group is comprised of several representatives from county departments and outside agencies who collaborate on mental health/substance abuse issues that affect Stokes County.

The Stokes County Board of County Commissioners has appropriated funding for the following:

- **Fiscal Year 2016-17:**
 - Purchase of medication storage/lock boxes
 - Implementation of NC 2-1-1 along with advertising to let citizens know how NC 2-1-1 can help them locate drug treatment programs and mental health referrals
 - Funding for substance abuse prevention/treatment for adolescents
- **Fiscal Year 2017-18:**
 - Health Department – Educational material for the public regarding drug issues
 - Purchase of additional medication storage/lock boxes for distribution to citizens
 - Continuation of NC 2-1-1
 - Narcan Kits for Law Enforcement and EMS
 - New position - Substance Abuse Liaison position for the Department of Social Services who will assist individuals in getting the right resources for treatment
 - New Position – Detective for Sheriff’s Department for enforcement dealing with drug abuse
 - New Position – DARE Resource Officer for Sheriff’s Department for providing prevention information to Middle School Students
 - Continued funding for substance abuse prevention/treatment for adolescents
 - Transportation for individuals needing assistance getting to/from treatment for substance abuse issues
 - Training for Health Department’s clinical staff on dealing with opioid abuse
 - Materials concerning opioid addiction and substance abuse
 - Cooperative Extension – Filling of the Food & Consumer Science Agent position who will be providing programming for parents and stakeholders to create communities that actively prevent drug abuse

The Stokes County Board of County Commissioners supports the following efforts being done by other departments:

- Senior Services – Distributing medication/lock boxes to home bound seniors
- Fire Marshal – Carry Narcan on trucks to provide emergency response if need
- Sheriff’s Department, Health Department, Emergency Medical Services, Department of Social Services, District Resource Center, and Fire Marshal - Distributes information to help with opioid abuse

As you can see, the Stokes County Board of County Commissioners is committed to join its citizens in the fight against drug abuse in Stokes County.

Thank you once again for your efforts in addressing this opioid epidemic.

Sincerely yours,

Jimmy Walker
Chairman
Stokes County Board of County Commissioners

Chairman Walker opened the floor for comments regarding the proposed letter.

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Reviewed the letter and the letter covered all aspects except for another provider locating in Stokes County to provide mental health/substance abuse services along with providing transportation and that the provider would locate in the Health Department or the Department of Social Services if space was available

Chairman Walker entertained a motion regarding the proposed letter as amended by Commissioner Booth.

Commissioner Booth moved to approve the proposed letter regarding the Opioid Epidemic in Stokes County as amended. Vice Chairman Lankford seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Proposed Support Letter for Stokes County Water & Sewer Authority – Merger/Regionalization Feasibility Grant Application

Chairman Walker entertained a motion regarding the proposed Support Letter for Stokes County Water & Sewer Authority – Merger/Regionalization Feasibility Grant Application which was presented at today's meeting.

Commissioner Jones moved to approve the Support Letter for Stokes County Water & Sewer Authority – Merger/Regionalization Feasibility Grant Application. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Proposed Resolution – Fiscal Year 2017-18 Equipment Financing

Chairman Walker entertained a motion regarding the Proposed Resolution – Fiscal Year 2017-18 Equipment Financing which was presented at today's meeting.

Commissioner Booth moved to approve the Proposed Resolution – Fiscal Year 2017-18 Equipment Financing which was presented at today’s meeting. Commissioner Jones seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Proposed Resolution – Extension for Temporary Financing with PNC for Community College

Chairman Walker entertained a motion regarding the Proposed Resolution – Extension for Temporary Financing with PNC for Community College which was presented at today’s meeting.

Commissioner Jones moved to approve the Proposed Resolution – Extension for Temporary Financing with PNC for Community College. Commissioner Booth seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session

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

- To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged pursuant to GS 143-318.11(a)(3).
- To consider the initial employment or appointment of an individual to any office or position, other than a vacancy in the Board of County Commissioners or any other public body, or to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, and fitness of any public officer or employee, other than a member of the Board of Commissioners or of some other public body pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(6)

Commissioner Booth moved to enter Closed Session for the following:

- To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged pursuant to GS 143-318.11(a)(3).
- To consider the initial employment or appointment of an individual to any office or position, other than a vacancy in the Board of County Commissioners or any other public body, or to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, and fitness of any public officer or employee, other than a member of the Board of Commissioners or of some other public body pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(6)

Commissioner Jones seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The Board re-entered the open session of the September 11th meeting.

Fire Marshal

Chairman Walker entertained a motion.

Commissioner Jones moved to authorize a \$250 stipend per pay period for Scott Aaron, retroactive to 08-01-2017, for serving as Acting Fire Marshal since August 1st and until a fire marshal is hired. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

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