

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF STOKES)
)

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS
STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT
DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA
MONDAY DECEMBER 17, 2018

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, December 17, 2018 at 1:30 pm (rescheduled from December 10, 2018 due to inclement weather) the following members present:

Chairman Ronnie Mendenhall
Vice Chairman Andy Nickelston
Commissioner Rick Morris
Commissioner Jimmy Walker
Commissioner Jamie Yontz

County Personnel in Attendance:
County Manager Jake M. Oakley
Clerk to the Board Shannon Shaver
County Attorney Ty Browder
Finance Director Julia Edwards
Support Services Supervisor Glenda Pruitt
Economic Development Director Will Carter
Register of Deeds Brandon Hooker

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

INVOCATION

Commissioner Walker delivered the invocation.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT-GOVERNING BODY-PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Mendenhall entertained a motion to approve or amend the December 17th Agenda.

Chairman Mendenhall requested to add an item to the Discussion Agenda.

1. Budget Amendment #44 to the Consent Agenda.
2. Health Insurance Benefits for Commissioners to the Discussion Agenda.
3. Resolution added to the NC DOT/ Town of Danbury request to Item C. on the Discussion Agenda.
4. Aerial Photos to the Tax Administration Monthly Report which is Item A. on the Discussion Agenda.

Vice Chairman Nickelston moved to approve the amended December 17th Agenda.

Commissioner Yontz seconded the motion.

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

With no further discussion the amended December 17th Agenda was approved unanimously.

COMMENTS - Manager/Commissioners

County Manager Oakley commented:

- First of all Merry Christmas.
- I hope you will all have a very prosperous New Year, and that 2019 will be good to all of you.
- I want to thank everyone for the abundance of prayers.
- You can feel it in your spirit.
- It has meant so much to myself and my family.
- I appreciate all of the cards, and phone calls I have received with people being concerned.
- A person really finds out how much they mean to people when something bad happens in their life.
- You have to put it in God's hands and let him handle things.
- I want to thank you for your support, thoughts, and prayers.
- My best wishes goes out to Stokes County and all of their citizens, that you will be well blessed.
- With that I would like to say that I am going to let your Acting County Manager take care of things here today.
- If you have questions I have been out of the loop for a little while and I am sure she can take care of everything for you.
- I am going to sit here and if I do not start hurting too bad I will stay for the whole meeting.
- If you see me leave you will know why.
- I figured if it was good enough for Commissioner Walker it is good enough for me.

- I knew I was going to have to come if he was.
- It is good to see Mr. Walker here.
- I am glad you are doing well.

Chairman Mendenhall commented:

- It is good to see everyone.
- Thanks to everyone for being here.
- I always love to see people come out to our meetings.
- It is awful good to have Mr. Oakley back sitting here.
- Commissioner Walker you have been in our prayers as well as Mr. Oakley.
- We are glad to see you back.
- We also have a close friend, Jo Elvis, who had a stroke over the weekend.
- I hope you all will keep Jo in your prayers.
- Let's just hope we don't have another 16 inch snow anytime snow where we have to reschedule another meeting.
- Thanks again to all of you all for coming.

Vice Chairman Nickelston commented:

- It is good to see a full room here.
- It is also good to see Mr. Oakley and Mr. Walker back.
- I have been looking forward to working with these guys.
- It is a blessing and God's grace that they are here.
- I thank the Lord for that.
- I am looking forward to getting the New Year started and working for the county.
- By all means to all of you out there listening if there is anything we can ever do for you please do not hesitate to ask.
- Thank you all and Merry Christmas.

Commissioner Yontz commented:

- I won't reiterate what has already been said.
- If it doesn't get you excited to walk in a room and see Mr. Oakley and Commissioner Walker sitting here you may not have a pulse.
- I have been looking forward to this.
- I did not think these two guys would be here.
- It is great to see you guys.
- It is going to be an honor to work with you both.
- Merry Christmas to everyone in the room.
- I am looking forward to doing the work for the County.
- Anything that anyone needs please present it to us.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- It is good to be here.
- Welcome to everyone.
- It is always good to see people here taking an interest in our meetings.

- No matter what your reason is for being here.
- I hope you will come again.
- Jake is pretty sharp for letting Shannon continue to do what she is doing throughout the meeting.
- She is pretty sharp too.
- It is an honor for me to serve with our new Board.
- We have a variety of backgrounds.
- We have something that not many counties have with a previous county manager on our Board.
- I don't think you will find that very often throughout the state.
- It is a little bit unusual.
- Good to be serving with all of you.
- I hope I won't cause too much trouble.
- I am checking my list and it is hard to read.
- I want to say that through this rather difficult time I have had the benefit of people's thoughts and prayers.
- It has made all the difference.
- They tell me I am doing well.
- The wheelchair will be here another eight weeks.
- I was released from physical therapy under the condition that I be under supervision.
- The person they put over me is Brenda.
- I am having to listen very carefully to anything she suggests or says because she is my supervisor.

Commissioner Morris commented:

- Thank you and good to see everybody here.
- I want to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
- I have a couple of comments I want to repeat from our first meeting.
- First of all as far as local government goes and Facebook, I am not planning to do any local government business on Facebook.
- I mentioned that at our last meeting.
- I have an email and a phone with good traceability by using those means of communication for business I conduct.
- Please keep that in mind and don't assume that I have seen something because you put it on Facebook.
- One exception to that is messenger.
- If someone contacts me through messenger I will definitely get back to them just like I would with a phone call.
- I have converted my website from a candidate website to a Commissioner website.
- The other thing I want to do that I mentioned during the campaign is establish office hours.
- I am hoping to get that done sometime in January as soon as I can work out the details with the staff here.
- Maybe in room 325 upstairs if it is still free.

- I would have some evening and daytime hours if folks would like to come and talk to me about anything.
- Like I said before I will go to them if they do not wish to come to the government center complex.
- I would like to join the other guys in welcoming Commissioner Walker and Jake back.
- Shannon and I were out at the accident scene that night with Jimmy.
- I was really concerned that he would ever be back after seeing that situation and hearing about the injuries he had sustained.
- I think God has blessed him to have him sitting back here with us.
- I am glad you are here.
- I am going to blog each meeting on my website.
- Probably by noon on Tuesday after we have a meeting on Monday I will put a blog post up that will give a summary of what I think was important during the meeting.
- It will also have some editorial comments if I feel those are needed.
- While you are waiting for the minutes to go through the approval process feel free to check that website out and look for the latest post.
- I will make an effort to get those done by noon on Tuesday for those of you that don't have better things to do than track local government, you can check that out.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

The following spoke during Public Comments:

Ellen Peric
1095 Wheeler Smith Rd.
Lawsonville, NC 27022

RE: Arts Update

The Apple Gallery – December

Stokes Arts welcomes Frank Duncan back to the Apple Gallery. Frank is always a hit at Christmastime.

An artist meet and greet and reception was held during Christmas in Historic Danbury.

The Jayebird Gallery at Hanging Rock State Park – Nov /Dec

The Stokes County Arts Council presents the works of artist Anthony Miller at The Jayebird Gallery at Hanging Rock State Park. His exhibit of digital art will be on display in November and December.

Miller's interest in digital art began in 2005, when he discovered the ability to draw as one would with pencil or paint, only in a computerized environment. His work is primarily fantasy oriented with painted landscapes, cartooning, and explorations of the abstract psyche.

Born in Baltimore, Maryland, Miller and his family relocated to North Carolina in 2006, finally settling in Walnut Cove in 2013. Diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome at age 5, Miller says, "My personal interests and thought processes were a complete mystery to everyone around me. I discovered that I had a knack for drawing and decided to start cultivating that skill from 1998 onwards. My parents began to homeschool me in middle school and have allowed me to cultivate my interest in art, teaching me to draw with more finesse and better style."

Miller is currently studying toward earning a degree in Digital Effects and Animation at Forsyth Technical Community College.

An opening reception and artist meet and greet was held on Sunday, November 4th.

Decembersongs –Nov 30th Friday 7pm

The Stokes County Arts Council hosted Decembersongs Holiday Concert on Friday, November 30th at The Arts Place of Stokes. The concert included critically-acclaimed songwriters Amy Space, Rod Picott and Doug & Telisha Williams (of Wild Ponies).

Rod Cate Book Signing and Speaking Engagement- Dec 1st

At age 15, South Stokes student Rod Cate went from athlete to quadriplegic in the blink of an eye. GET BACK UP is a motivational book written to inspire you to put aside life's sometimes devastating twists and turns and stay focused on your quest for an incredible life.

Stokes Arts welcomed Rod back to North Carolina and South Stokes High School on Saturday, December 1st. We quickly sold out of all the book copies we had on hand.

Christmas in Historic Danbury – Dec 2 2-5pm

The Stokes County Arts Council, Town of Danbury, Stokes County Historical Society and Artist's Way Bakery hosted "Christmas in Historic Danbury". Everyone had a great time watching performances at all venues, kids created a holiday craft, everyone shopped and ate and then watched the tree lighting ceremony.

Goodfellers Holiday Concert –FREE- The Arts Place – Dec 15th 6pm

Stokes Arts welcomed the GoodFellers to The Arts Place for a night of holiday themed bluegrass.

Expect the unexpected when it comes to the GoodFellers. Their award winning traditional bluegrass chops just don't tell the whole story. With a sound shaped by a variety of musical backgrounds and highlighted by rock flavored vocals, the GoodFellers move seamlessly through different styles, making each GoodFellers show unique, and entertaining.

Oxford American Southern Music Issue

This hit the stands on Nov 30th – each year a different Southern State is featured and this year it is North Carolina. Stokes Arts is featured on a 2 page spread. This magazine comes with a CD of music from our State and is treasured by music lovers everywhere.

Polar Plunge – 4th Annual – Tuesday -New Year's Day 2-5pm

If you're looking for a different kind of adventure to bring in the 2019 New Year, then look no further than the 4th annual Hanging Rock Polar Plunge scheduled for January 1 at the Hanging Rock State Park Lake.

All event festivities will originate from the Historic Bathhouse, with registration beginning at 2pm, costume parade at 3:15pm, and the plunge at 3:30pm, with musical entertainment provided throughout the afternoon.

Participants brave enough to "take the plunge" will enjoy endless food and beverage consisting of hot dogs, chili, chicken stew, coffee and hot chocolate, as well as a refreshing dip into the spring fed lake . Participants are also encouraged to dress in costume with prize categories including best youth, best individual, and best group awards. Concessions will also be available for purchase for non-participant spectators.

\$25 Advance Registration, Day of Event \$35

Ages 14 & Up

Under 18 must have consent of parent/guardian

Stokes Arts receives the Joy Pope Foundation Award

Eddy and I traveled to Raleigh last week for a luncheon to celebrate organizations that received grants. We were recognized at the event for receiving \$100,000 to finish The Arts Place Building. We made a lot of connections and welcomed folks to come visit us and see what has been achieved.

UPCOMING EVENTS

In the coming weeks I will be telling you about our Winter Dessert Theater lineup, an outstanding music series and more.

Andy Stevens
157 Old Garner Drive
King, NC 27021

RE: Topics for Consideration

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice-Chair, Commissioners, Staff, and the public at large. My name is Andy Stevens and I reside in that far away forsaken place called King. 157 Old Garner Drive.

I say "Far away and forsaken" because it appears nothing good happens in Stokes County unless it's done anywhere but King. Now start the clock! Three minutes goes fast and Chairman Mendenhall always holds me to the second.

Five topics for your consideration.

1. On October 15th the old County Commission engaged in yet another Special Called Emergency Session and awarded taxpayer funds to Life-Brite of \$20,000 per month for 3 months. That \$60,000 is almost double the savings realized when Commissioners revoked the County lease on property in that faraway forsaken place called King. I see no mention of this in today's agenda. Was the "emergency" averted or not?
2. FOSS reported to you in October that its private Animal Rehoming Facility is under construction, but only six of the community braved an early morning volunteer meeting to show support. Will this facility ever achieve a "continuously manned" status as required by its agreement with the County? The current County Animal Control Facility remains inadequate and obsolete, sitting amongst the County trash at the transfer facility. Let's get out of the trash dump and replace it with a facility the County can be proud of.
3. In a surprise last month taxpayers woke up to a new \$4.2 million Community Wellness Center to be built not as far away as that forsaken place called King. An exercise facility without showers. Really? Another dubious use: A place to meet and hold events. The Stokes County Watchdog clique doesn't like competition. I'm surprised they're not here with their BMW's over this. Regardless, let's pause on this and see if the new School Board consolidates schools and frees up County owned facilities that might be repurposed. This ill-advised, hasty decision will come back to bite this current Board if not paused now.
4. Create a new meeting schedule for 2019. If you want a meeting no one attends, by all means schedule it in the middle of the afternoon. Our incoming Commissioners all ran on platforms stressing accountability and transparency. Please schedule all County meetings at 6 pm or later in the evenings. Eliminate "Special Called Emergency Closed Sessions." Pay yourselves for your service by the month and not by the meeting.
5. Provide Live streaming of County Commission meetings. Another campaign promise of our freshman group. Keep your word and professionally stream, record, retain, and transmit County Commission and School Board meetings so the Stokes County Public at large can see our open and transparent public governance in action. Don't make citizens wait weeks if not months to review meeting minutes to learn what you're up to and doing on our behalf.

And always, please remember Taxation is theft. Don't pick our pockets unnecessarily.

Merry Christmas!

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Mendenhall entertained a motion to approve or amend the following items on the Consent Agenda.

Minutes

Minutes of November 29, 2018 – Recessed Meeting

Minutes of December 3, 2018 – Organizational Meeting

Budget Amendment #44 – General Fund

Account Number	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	CURRENT BUDGETED AMOUNT	INCREASE (DECREASE)	AS AMENDED
	Debt Service			
100.9100.805	Equipment-Principle	\$ 133,465.00	\$ 8,140.00	\$ 141,605.00
				\$ -
	Total	\$ 133,465.00	\$ 8,140.00	\$ 141,605.00
This budget amendment is justified as follows:				
To appropriate funds for the partial buyout on lease purchase agreement for a totaled Sheriff vehicle. This buyout is to receive title for the insurance company.				
This will result in a net increase of \$8,140.00 in the expenditures and other financial use to the County's annual budget. To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will increase. These revenues have already been received or are verified they will be received in this fiscal year.				
Account Number	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	CURRENT BUDGETED AMOUNT	INCREASE (DECREASE)	AS AMENDED
	GENERAL FUND			
100.3831.450	Interest on Investment	\$ 315,714.00	\$ 8,140.00	\$ 323,854.00
				\$ -
	TOTALS	\$ 315,714.00	\$ 8,140.00	\$ 323,854.00

Commissioner Morris moved to approve the Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Walker seconded.

Chairman Mendenhall opened the floor for any discussion/questions/comments.

With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATION AGENDA

RiverStreet Communications – Live Streaming Commissioners Meetings

Chairman Mendenhall noted that RiverStreet CEO Eric Cramer was unable to attend tonight's meeting but would like to reschedule at an upcoming meeting.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

Tax Administration – Monthly Report

Chairman Mendenhall turned the floor over to Tax Administrator Richard Brim.

Tax Administrator Richard Brim commented:

- It is good to see Jake and Commissioner Walker here.
- Welcome to Mr. Mendenhall, as well as the new Commissioners.
- Welcome Commissioner Nickelston, Commissioner Morris, and Commissioner Yontz.

TAX COLLECTION STATUS REPORT

TOTAL AMOUNT COLLECTED BY MONTH FY 2018-2019

CURRENT 2018 TAX	COUNTY REG & MV	SCHOOL OPERATING EXP	USE VALUE TAX BILLS	INTEREST PEN & FEES	DOGS	KING (FIRE)	RURAL HALL (FIRE)	WALNUT COVE (FIRE)	SERVICE (FIRE)	CITY OF KING	TOWN OF WALNUT COVE	DANBURY	EDU DEBT BLDG FUND
JULY	185,092.57	185,292.92	3,003.38	482.80	751.97	7,649.15	639.00	3,566.71	27,478.69	41,922.78	4,379.95	884.14	24,117.44
AUGUST	5,452,692.52	5,452,178.49	6,745.59	1,083.62	12,536.82	210,398.58	38,874.07	116,442.81	739,246.70	1,342,016.38	242,022.07	16,682.05	704,046.95
SEPTEMBER	359,522.21	360,648.59	13,744.25	2,287.76	2,229.93	13,679.65	4,005.31	7,983.37	47,835.89	103,642.80	7,244.00	1,153.49	47,488.78
OCTOBER	280,429.83	279,440.24	8,038.97	1,422.67	952.42	10,161.38	2,125.67	5,636.41	38,774.07	76,175.37	10,330.25	748.08	36,746.98
NOVEMBER	234,378.92	234,684.83	3,946.28	697.39	854.74	7,965.31	1,414.61	8,442.72	34,386.81	36,914.51	8,982.92	322.13	30,577.06
DECEMBER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
JANUARY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FEBRUARY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MARCH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
APRIL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MAY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
JUNE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SUB TOTAL	\$ 6,512,116.05	\$ 6,512,245.07	CONT'D	CONT'D	\$ 17,325.88	\$ 249,854.07	\$ 47,058.66	\$ 142,072.02	\$ 887,722.16	\$ 1,600,671.84	\$ 272,959.19	\$ 19,789.89	CONT'D
BUDGET AMT	\$ 10,670,525.00	CONT'D	CONT'D	CONT'D	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 330,363.00	\$ 64,206.00	\$ 230,278.00	\$ 1,641,470.00				CONT'D
BALANCE	\$ 4,158,408.95				\$ 12,674.12	\$ 80,508.93	\$ 17,147.34	\$ 88,205.98	\$ 753,747.84				
PERCENTAGE	61.03%				57.75%	75.63%	73.29%	61.70%	54.08%				
PRIOR	COUNTY REG & MV	SCHOOL OPERATING EXP	USE VALUE TAX BILLS	INTEREST PEN & FEES	DOGS	KING (FIRE)	RURAL HALL (FIRE)	WALNUT COVE (FIRE)	SERVICE (FIRE)	CITY OF KING	TOWN OF WALNUT COVE	TOWN OF DANBURY	EDU DEBT BLDG FUND
JULY	65,031.50	-	-	12,461.78	96.65	716.89	122.44	686.23	5,555.76	3,544.63	2,922.89	138.46	4,578.54
AUGUST	66,589.39	-	275.20	13,907.53	50.85	858.95	32.67	1,199.15	5,441.46	4,487.33	522.00	136.12	4,880.03
SEPTEMBER	40,630.59	-	-	12,504.38	82.55	306.86	42.94	436.34	3,875.47	2,053.36	82.97	144.76	2,546.53
OCTOBER	53,274.43	-	-	13,182.50	55.63	231.58	123.87	835.09	4,063.29	8,439.16	312.36	-	4,063.42
NOVEMBER	45,551.69	-	-	12,715.10	48.00	474.61	32.59	818.84	3,474.11	3,969.68	327.52	135.00	3,374.76
DECEMBER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
JANUARY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FEBRUARY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MARCH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
APRIL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MAY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
JUNE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SUB TOTAL	\$ 271,077.60	\$ 6,512,245.07	\$ 35,753.67	\$ 70,745.53	\$ 333.68	\$ 2,588.89	\$ 354.51	\$ 3,975.65	\$ 22,410.09	\$ 22,494.16	\$ 4,167.74	\$ 554.34	\$ 862,420.49
BUDGET AMT	\$ 550,000.00	\$ 10,670,525.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 5,200.00	\$ 42,000.00				\$ 1,376,842.00
BALANCE	\$ 278,922.40		\$ (753.67)	\$ 129,254.47		\$ 2,411.11	\$ 645.49	\$ 1,224.35	\$ 19,589.91				\$ 514,421.51
PERCENTAGE	49.29%	61.03%	102.15%	35.37%	33.37%	51.78%	35.45%	76.45%	53.36%				62.64%

STOKES COUNTY TAX ADMINISTRATION RELEASE REPORT FOR NOVEMBER, 2018

REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY RELEASES LESS THAN \$100 PER NCGS 105-381(b)

NAME	ADDRESS	BILL NUMBER	AMOUNT
MARTIN, CURTIS ANSLEY SR	1185 GUERNSEY RD, MOUNT AIRY, NC 27030	9871-2018-2018	\$6.11
		9871-2018-2017	\$7.46
		9871-2018-2016	\$10.59
		9871-2018-2015	\$14.11
		9871-2018-2014	\$17.13
		9871-2018-2013	\$20.64
SIZEMORE, CONNIE	151 DONNA LOOP, STOKESDALE, NC 27357	9178-2018-2018	\$26.24
		9178-2017-2017	\$26.16
		9178-2016-2016	\$25.99
		9178-2015-2015	\$24.37
		9178-2014-2014	\$23.08
		9178-2013-2013	\$22.12
SANER-PLOWMAN, WILLIE	1400 BEASLEY SCHOOL RD, SANDY RIDGE, NC 27046	4952-2018-2018	\$49.24
ATKINS, ROBERT CHRISTOPHER	3743 BEASLEY SCHOOL RD, SANDY RIDGE, NC 27046	10259-2018-2018	\$46.14
SULLIVAN, DAVID WAYNE	1020 GUTTER RD, WALNUT COVE, NC 27052	854493-2018-2018	\$5.28
		854493-2018-2017	\$6.61
		854493-2018-2016	\$8.13
HAWKINS AUTOMOTIVE	308 CREEK RIDGE DR, KING, NC 27021	5540-2018-2018	\$28.46
		5540-2017-2017	\$28.47
TOTAL AMOUNT			\$396.33

STOKES COUNTY TAX ADMINISTRATION REFUND REPORT FOR NOVEMBER, 2018 (1 OF 2)

REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY REFUNDS LESS THAN \$100 PER NCGS 105-381(b)

NAME	ADDRESS	BILL NUMBER	LEDGER NO	AMOUNT
NEWSOME, LINDA	1079 BUENAVISTA DR PINNACLE, NC 27043	11092-2018-2018	100.3100.160	\$19.58
			112.3100.160	\$19.58
			209.3100.160	\$5.06
			211.3100.160	\$2.53
NEWSOME, LINDA	1079 BUENAVISTA DR PINNACLE, NC 27043	11092-2017-2017	100.4140.390	\$39.06
			209.3100.160	\$5.04
			211.3100.160	\$2.52
			100.3839.012	\$4.76
NEWSOME, LINDA	1079 BUENAVISTA DR PINNACLE, NC 27043	11092-2016-2016	100.4140.390	\$39.06
			209.3100.160	\$4.72
			211.3100.160	\$2.52
NEWSOME, LINDA	1079 BUENAVISTA DR PINNACLE, NC 27043	11092-2015-2015	100.4140.390	\$36.88
			209.3100.160	\$4.17
			211.3100.160	\$2.38
NEWSOME, LINDA	1079 BUENAVISTA DR PINNACLE, NC 27043	11092-2014-2014	100.4140.390	\$35.00
			209.3100.160	\$3.79
			211.3100.160	\$2.33

STOKES COUNTY TAX ADMINISTRATION REFUND REPORT FOR NOVEMBER, 2018 (2 OF 2)

REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY REFUNDS LESS THAN \$100 PER NCGS 105-381(b)

NAME	ADDRESS	BILL NUMBER	LEDGER NO	AMOUNT
SANER-PLOWMAN, WILLIE	1400 BEASLEY SCHOOL RD SANDY RIDGE, NC 27046	4952-2017-2017	100.4140.390	\$36.69
			209.3100.160	\$4.74
			211.3100.160	\$2.37
			100.3839.012	\$4.46
SANER-PLOWMAN, WILLIE	1400 BEASLEY SCHOOL RD SANDY RIDGE, NC 27046	4952-2016-2016	100.4140.390	\$37.44
			209.3100.160	\$4.53
			211.3100.160	\$2.42
			100.3839.012	\$4.43
SANER-PLOWMAN, WILLIE	1400 BEASLEY SCHOOL RD SANDY RIDGE, NC 27046	4952-2015-2015	100.4140.390	\$34.65
			209.3100.160	\$3.91
			211.3100.160	\$2.24
			100.3839.012	\$4.07
SANER-PLOWMAN, WILLIE	1400 BEASLEY SCHOOL RD SANDY RIDGE, NC 27046	4952-2014-2014	100.4140.390	\$33.53
			209.3100.160	\$3.63
			211.3100.160	\$2.24
			100.3839.012	\$3.94
			112.3100.160	\$1.20

STOKES COUNTY TAX ADMINISTRATION REFUND REPORT FOR NOVEMBER, 2018

REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY REFUNDS MORE THAN \$100 PER NCGS 105-381(b)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>BILL</u> <u>NUMBER</u>	<u>LEDGER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>REASON</u>
CITY OF KING	PO BOX 1132 KING, NC 27021	45131402	100.3100.113 100.2130.068 211.3100.001	\$175.52 \$124.47 \$11.32	EXEMPT
CITY OF KING		45131414	100.3100.113 100.2130.068 211.3100.001	\$191.46 \$135.31 \$12.35	EXEMPT
CONNER, RUTH SPENCER	1200 AMOSRIDGE RD SANDY RIDGE, NC 27046	31571650	100.3100.113 209.3100.112 211.3100.001	\$117.41 \$15.15 \$7.57	VEHICLE SOLD
TOTAL AMOUNT				\$790.56	

Stokes County Foreclosure Policy

Date: December 3, 2018

To: Stokes County Board of Commissioners

From: Richard T. Brim, Tax Administrator

Reference: Stokes County Foreclosure Policy

In order to provide fair, consistent and equitable treatment to all taxpayers it is imperative to establish a Foreclosure Policy. I have attached a Foreclosure Policy that has been drafted by the Stokes County Tax Administration and reviewed by Nicholas Overby, Attorney at Law. If adopted by the Board of County Commissioners this policy will help ensure consistency throughout the entire delinquency process.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.



COUNTY OF STOKES TAX ADMINISTRATION

Post Office Box 294 • 1014 Main Street • Administration Building • Danbury, NC 27016
Phone (336) 593-2811 • Fax (336) 593-4019

Stokes County Foreclosure Policy

It is the goal of the Stokes County Tax Administration to establish a Foreclosure Policy that is fair and equitable to all involved parties. The below detailed outline will provide clarity and transparency through the entire delinquent collection process. After a property has been delinquent for two years and no acceptable effort has been made by the taxpayer to satisfy the delinquent taxes the account will be given to the County Attorney to proceed with foreclosure. It will be the determination of the Stokes County Tax Administration if an acceptable effort by the taxpayer has been made. The Tax Administration will review each case and consider all factors and circumstances before rendering a decision.

- Taxpayer will be mailed a second notice letter in March after the taxes become delinquent on January 6th.
- Delinquent Real Property Owners will be advertised in the Stokes News each year sometime between March 1 and June 30 in accordance with NCGS 105-369. We normally advertise the second week of April (associated fees will be applied).

- Notice of Attachment and Garnishment will then be served on the taxpayer by either personal service or certified mail (delivery restricted to the taxpayer), giving the taxpayer 10 days to comply.
- Foreclosure Warning Letter will be mailed to the delinquent taxpayer giving them 30 days to pay in full or set up a payment arrangement.
- A demand letter will be mailed by certified mail from the County Attorney, giving the taxpayer 30 days to comply (associated fees will be applied).
- County Attorney conducts title search to determine proper parties (associated fees will be applied).
- County Attorney drafts and files Complaint for Tax Foreclosure (associated fees will be applied).
- County Attorney obtains service of the Summons and Complaint on all parties (associated fees will be applied).
- County Attorney conducts hearing to obtain judgment allowing foreclosure (associated fees will be applied).
- County Attorney conducts foreclosure sale of the subject property at courthouse (associated fees will be applied).
- Sale is subject to 10-day upset bid period. If upset, new 10-day period begins.
- Following final bid, sale is confirmed by the Court.
- Following confirmation by the Court, winning bidder arranges for closing out of which taxes owed to the county will be paid or if county is the winning bidder, property is transferred to the county.

All existing delinquent accounts of two years or more will be expedited and sent a final notice via the certified mail, giving the taxpayer 30 days to satisfy the account or make the appropriate arrangements with our Collection Staff or the account will be turned over to the County Attorney to begin Foreclosure.

In closing, it is never the desire or initial intent to foreclose on a taxpayer's property. Foreclosure is the final option and will only be implemented after all other means of collection have been exhausted. The entire process will be handled in a professional, tactful and courteous manner. Each case will be given a thorough review by our Delinquent Tax Collections Supervisor and Tax Administrator before turning the account over to the County Attorney for Foreclosure.

The applicable North Carolina General Statutes are 105-374, 105-375, 105-376, 105-377 and Article 12 Chapter 16A.

Sincerely,

Richard T. Brim
Stokes County Tax Administrator

Approval _____

Denial _____

Ronnie Mendenhall
Chairman, Board of Commissioners

Date

Late Application For Elderly Exemption -2018

Date: December 4, 2018

To: Board of Commissioners

From: Richard Brim

Re: Kaye Harris

Late application for elderly exemption for 2018

Abstract No: 297016

Parcel No: 6091-00-02-1447

The above taxpayer owns 4.60 acres of land and a dwelling located at 1095 Troy Joyce Rd, Sandy Ridge. She is requesting acceptance of a late application for the year 2018 for the elderly exemption. A review of her application and accompanying documents indicate that she qualify for the exemption.

North Carolina General Statute 105-282.1(a1) states "...Upon a showing of good cause by the applicant for failure to make a timely application, an application for exemption or exclusion filed after the close of the listing period may be approved by...the board of county commissioners...as appropriate. An untimely application for exemption or exclusion approved under this subsection applies only to the property tax levied by the county or municipality in the calendar year in which the untimely application is filed."

Due to the circumstances of this request, and discussion with Ms. Harris, the Tax Administration recommends approval by the Board of this late application.

Approval_____

Denial_____

Date_____

Richard Brim
Stokes County Tax Administrator

Ronnie Mendenhall
Chairman, Board of Commissioners

Time for Listing and Appraising Property for Taxation

Date: December 3, 2018

To: Stokes County Board of Commissioners

From: Richard T. Brim, Tax Administrator

Reference: Time for Listing and Appraising Property for Taxation (NCGS 105-285)

Scheduled dates for 2019 Property Tax Listing Forms

- Listing forms prepared for property owners, week of December 10th
- Listing forms shipped to South Data (Vendor) for production, week of December 17th
- Advertisement run in Stokes News (Newspaper), December 20, 2018
- Individual/Business Personal Property Listing Forms mailed to Taxpayers, December 27th
- Listing Period, January 1, 2019 through January 31, 2019 (Unless extended Per NCGS 105-307)

Date: December 14, 2018

To: Stokes County Board of Commissioners

From: Richard T. Brim, Tax Administrator

Reference: The adoption of the new 2018 Digital Aerial Photography Maps

I am requesting the approval, by the Stokes County Board of Commissioners, of the new 2018 Digital Aerial Photography Maps. These maps were produced and furnished to the County free of charge by the North Carolina E-911 Board for public and private use. The GIS/Mapping Department has reviewed these aerial photographs and is in full acceptance of their quality and accuracy. I have attached two maps, the first map is the new 2018 aerial and the second is the 2014 aerial that is currently being used on the public web. If you need to see additional maps for comparison, I will be more than happy to arrange a demo by our GIS/Mapping Department.

Tax Administrator Richard Brim noted the four items that he requested be placed on the next meetings Consent Agenda.

1. Real and Personal Refunds more than \$100.00
2. Stokes County Foreclosure Policy
3. Late Application for Elderly Exemption for 2018
4. Adoption of the new 2018 Digital Aerial Photography Maps

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

Commissioner Walker commented:

- I continue to appreciate the work you are doing with our tax department.
- I am trying to remember the last complaint I received on the tax department.
- It certainly was not when your predecessor was there.
- As important as what the public says, it is just as important what they do not say.
- This means you are doing a good job.
- This seems like business as usual.
- The department is operating smoothly.
- Thank you for what you are doing.

Commissioner Morris commented:

- If I am not mistaken does the general statute allow for all of the releases and refunds under \$100.00 to be approved at a level below the Commissioners like with our Finance Director?

Tax Administrator Richard Brim responded:

- Every month I go to Julia and she signs off on all releases and refunds under \$100.00.
- The Board signs off on anything over \$100.00.

Commissioner Morris continued:

- The reason I am asking the question is that if the statute allows us to delegate that to you then I don't see any reason not to.

- If that is the case if you can verify that I would like to have the Board discuss that at some point, as to why we would need to be doing that when we have perfectly competent and experienced employees that can do it.
- On the foreclosure policy are the changes you are making triggered by anything?

Tax Administrator Richard Brim responded:

- As you know I am new to the job.
- I have been dealing with each sector of the position.
- I have talked with Cheryl, and Jake.
- It was something that needed to be done and we all agreed that it was a good time to move on it and get something put into place.
- There were no particular instances.

Commissioner Morris continued:

- It just needs to be applied consistently.
- Other than that I have no problem with what you have proposed.

County Manager Oakley commented:

- It is being applied consistently.
- He goes through the Department of Revenue.
- They advise all of the tax offices throughout the state on how the charge of his office is to enforce collections while being consistent.
- You are exactly right in being consistent.
- The Department of Revenue makes sure of this so that everyone and every situation is treated the same.

Chairman Mendenhall commented:

- Thank you for being proactive on the foreclosure policy.
- This is something that is needed and has been well thought out.
- Thank you for the timeline that you put out.
- People are always asking when things are due.
- It is good to get it out ahead of time.
- Thank for the continued good job.

With no further discussion and full consensus of the Board the Chairman directed the Clerk to place Real and Personal Refunds more than \$100.00, Stokes County Foreclosure Policy, Late Application for Elderly Exemption for 2018, and Adoption of the new 2018 Digital Aerial Photography Maps.

Child Fatality Prevention Team – Annual Report/Approval of Team Members

Chairman Mendenhall turned the floor over to DSS Director Stacey Elmes and Health Director Tammy Martin.

DSS Director Stacey Elmes and Health Director Tammy Martin presented the following information to the Board:



Stokes County
Department of Social Services

Post Office Box 30
Danbury, North Carolina 27016

www.co.stokes.nc.us

(336)593-2861 • Fax (336)593-9362 • Courier # 09-16-01

Stacey S. Elmes
Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Shannon Shaver, Interim County Manager

FROM: Stacey Elmes, Director, Stokes County Department of Social Services
Tammy Martin, Director, Stokes County Health Dept./Family Health Center

DATE: December 1, 2018

RE: Stokes County Community Child Protection and Child Fatality Prevention
Team, Annual Report – 2018

In accordance with North Carolina General Statutes, please find attached the Annual Report for 2018 for the Stokes County Community Child Protection and Child Fatality Prevention Team. General statute require that this report be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners annually.

We would ask that the attached list of team members be officially appointed by the Board of County Commissioners so we request that this aspect of the report be placed on the action agenda for the December 26th meeting.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

**Stokes County Community Child Protection and
Child Fatality Prevention Team
Annual Report 2018**

Prepared November 26, 2018

Introduction

The Community Child Protection Team and the Child Fatality Prevention Team formally merged in November 2011. During 2018, the CCPT/CFPT team met four times. All meetings were held at the Stokes Family Health Center in Danbury. On average, twelve people attended each meeting.

Related North Carolina General Statutes

N.C.G.S.7B-1406 provides for Community Child Protection Teams (CCPTs) to be established in each county. Such teams were established as one means for the state and local communities to form a partnership to strengthen child protection.

Per statute, each CCPT shall: (1) Review, in accordance with the procedures established by the director of the county department of social services under G.S. 7B-1409:

- a. Selected active cases in which children are being served by child protective services;
- b. Cases in which a child died as a result of suspected abuse or neglect, and 1. A report of abuse or neglect has been made about the child or the child's family to the county department of social services within the previous 12 months, or 2. The child or child's family was a recipient of child protective services within the previous 12 months.

Each CCPT shall submit annually to the Board of County Commissioners recommendations, if any, and advocate for system improvements and needed resources where gaps and deficiencies may exist.

N.C.G.S. 7B-1407 identifies who shall comprise the CCPT. Each local team shall consist of representatives of public and nonpublic agencies in the community that provide services to children and their families and other individuals who represent the community. Local teams that review the records of additional child fatalities are required to have five additional team members. [Attached to this report is a list of team members for Stokes County.]

Local Team Strengths

- Low turnover rate among team members.
- Low turnover rate among team leadership.
- Strong team participation by appointed members.
- Diverse membership from multiple disciplines.

Meeting Highlights

During case reviews, it was evident that there continues to be problems with lack of transportation, lack of substance abuse/mental health treatment nearby, and lack of helpful and timely services for alcohol abusers. As far as transportation, there has been quite a bit of assistance through funds at the Department of Social Services and YVEDDI in order to help folks get to mental health appointments or substance use appointments. Getting folks to take advantage of available resources is a problem.

The team spent quite a bit of time discussing the drug epidemic and the impact that it is having on our families and children in Stokes County. Funding has been appropriated by our Board of County Commissioners for the following: medication storage/lock boxes, implementation of 2-1-1, funding for substance abuse prevention/treatment for adolescents, naran kits for law enforcement and EMS, a new detective position with the sheriff's department for enforcement dealing with drug abuse, and a new position with the Department of Social Services to assist individuals in getting the right resources for treatment. While these are all steps in the right direction, we still have a long ways to go.

The team reviewed zero fatalities between the months of January 2018 and October 2018.

Number of Children	Cause of Death

The following recommendations continue to be important:

- Stokes County residents could benefit from better/easier access to substance abuse and mental health assessment and treatment. Transportation to/from this treatment is also a huge barrier. YVEDDI has started a commuter route in the county to assist citizens in getting to places they need to go.
- All social workers working in the county will continue to educate new parents on safe sleeping for newborns, specifically discouraging the practice of placing any items in a crib with a newborn.
- Stokes County Department of Social Services and Stokes Family Health Center will work on increasing awareness for county residents of resources available at both departments.
- Awareness in the schools regarding suicide, alcohol, drugs, mental health issues, driver safety, etc. needs to be of utmost importance.

Recommendations Made to the State Community Child Protection Team Coordinator

- Assistance in developing resources in rural counties.
- Information on how local gaps in services can be addressed beyond what the local team has already done.
- Regional CCPT meeting held quarterly or twice a year to share ideas among local agencies.

Recommendations for the Board of County Commissioners

- Continue to support efforts by service providers to make resources such as transportation and mental health/substance abuse treatment available to Stokes County citizens.
- Formally appoint the individuals listed on the attached sheet to serve on the team, as required by N.C.G.S. 7B-1407.

Conclusion

In conclusion, our Community Child Protection and Child Fatality Prevention Team remains focused on the task of identifying system deficiencies in Stokes County as they relate to child abuse and neglect. We continue to be satisfied with the merger of the Community Child Protection and Child Fatality Prevention Teams and are confident that our joint efforts will make an even greater impact on our ability to enhance child safety in our community. Our goal is to make Stokes County a safer place for all of our children and families. We welcome your input and, most importantly, your continued support.

Respectfully Submitted,



Stacey Elmes
Director, Department of Social Services
Co-Chair, CCP&CFP Team



Tammy Martin
Director, Stokes County Health Dept./Family Health Center
Co-Chair, CCP&CFP Team

Attachments

The following members need to be appointed:

Stacey Elmes – Co- Chair
Tammy Martin – Co- Chair
Marsha Marshall
Sheriff Mike Marshall or Detective Libby Reid
Ricky Bowman or Representative
Jeannie Easter
Brad Rice
Kimberly Morgan
Jaime Kehoe
Dr. Sam Newsome
Brandon Gentry
Judge Tom Langan
Ronda Jones
Susan Hairston
Commissioner Representation
Rusty Slate or Jeana Barneycastle
Tamara Veit
Pam Hooker
Sheila Bowen
Joanie Spencer
Stephanie Tuttle

Team Coordinator : Wanda East

DSS Director Stacey Elmes requested that this item be placed on the Action Agenda at the next meeting.

Chairman Mendenhall opened the floor for any discussion/questions/comments.

With no further discussion and full consensus of the Board the Chariman directed the Clerk to place the appointments for the Stokes County Child Protection and Fatality Prevention Team on the Action Agenda at the next meeting.

Town of Danbury/N.C. D.O.T. Request – Danbury Pedestrian Safety Project

Chairman Mendenhall turned the floor over to Acting County Manager Shannon Shaver.

Acting County Manager Shannon Shaver presented the following information to the Board:

- I received a request from the Town of Danbury and the NC DOT.
- As part of the Pedestrian Safety Project the NC DOT is requesting permission from the County to approve the removal of the stairways on both sides of Main Street, and for the County to grant a temporary construction easement on both sides of Main Street.

- They have requested this approval in the form of a letter or Resolution.
- I have provided a Resolution for your review.
- The Town of Danbury has been attempting for years to develop and implement pedestrian safety improvements on Main Street.
- Improvements will include marked crosswalks at both ends of Courthouse Circle, ADA curbs and ramps, pedestrian activated rapid flashing beacons at both crossings and sidewalk stubs for future sidewalk projects.
- In order to receive the final approval from NC DOT, the mid block stairways on both sides of Main Street must be removed.
- If the stairways are allowed to remain, it would continue as a pedestrian path defeating the purpose of the project.
- In order to receive the final approval NC DOT needs approval from the County.
- There are letters of support for this project from Sheriff Mike Marshall, and Arts Director Eddy McGee.
- Public Works Director Mark Delephant and Superintendent Bead Rice have no objection to the removal of the stairway.
- They have requested that upon approval from the Board that this item be moved to the Action Agenda at today's meeting.

Chairman Mendenhall opened the floor for any discussion/questions/comments.

Commissioner Morris commented:

- I am in favor of this project.
- I have already been briefed on this when I attended their Town Council Meeting recently.
- I would recommend moving this to Action today.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Has there been any opposition to this from anyone involved?

Acting County Manager Shannon Shaver responded:

- No there has not been any opposition.
- Everyone is in favor of this project because of safety.
- There has been a significant increase in activity in that area due to the events at the Arts Place.

Commissioner Walker continued:

- It sounds like a good project.
- I am certainly in favor of it.
- I am sometimes a stickler for following procedure.
- I understand there is no opposition but has it been advertised and has everyone been informed that would need to know about this?

Acting County Manager Shannon Shaver responded:

- NC DOT takes care of all of that before they get to this point.

- This includes anything having to do with historical guidelines in dealing with a building such as the Courthouse.

Commissioner Walker continued:

- One of my goals for this Board is to minimize the number of times we move something to Action at the same meeting.
- That is just my opinion and I am certainly not trying to tell this Board what to do, as I am one of a five member Board.
- I thought previously there was pressure put on our Chairman to move things to Action rather quickly.
- I want to see that change for the public's sake.
- We have a procedure and certain protocol for this Board.
- Even on a good project like this that I am certainly in support of I am going to be very wary of moving things from Discussion to Action at the same meeting.
- That is where I stand.

Commissioner Yontz commented:

- I am certainly not in opposition to this.
- My concern is the stairway to access the Old Courthouse.
- What will be in place of the stairways and how will they take care of that?

Acting County Manager Shannon Shaver responded:

- From what Mike has let me know they are going to take the stairs and repair the ground area and retaining wall as part of that project.

Commissioner Yontz continued:

- My biggest fear is that by removing the stairway that when people park there they will be having to run to either side while watching for traffic rather than being able to use the stairway currently in place.
- I would like to see them move the wall back leaving more room for parking.
- I know this would greatly increase the scope of work on this project.
- This would be a concern for me with taking away the centralized staircase.
- I just have to wonder if there is a better way to deal with that.

Acting County Manager Shannon Shaver responded:

- I am unsure about moving the wall.
- On the other side where the wall is being removed to create more parking the wall is having to be removed and replaced which is a major project.
- I would hope that with the new spaces there the street parking would be used less.
- I am not sure if the DOT would move the wall.
- We can certainly ask Mike if that has been considered.

Commissioner Yontz continued:

- That is pretty much what I am offering as suggestion.

- Just want to know that if we are putting these other spots in on the West side, then maybe we should just do away with parking in front of the Courthouse.
- This would hopefully alleviate the parking situation there if the street parking went away.
- Again I am certainly not in opposition of this project, I am just thinking of safety.
- I would just like to reach out to them with this concern.

Acting County Manager Shannon Shaver responded:

- I am sure that the Town of Danbury and the NCDOT would have no issue with the Board waiting to act on this until the next meeting.
- I can reach out to the Town Manager for more clarification on the parking and I am sure he would even be willing to come to the meeting on the 26th and speak to that, and answer any questions you all may have.

Commissioner Nickelston commented:

- Commissioner Yontz has brought up my concern on the street parking.
- I have had a close encounter there before with someone not obeying the speed limit.
- Anything we can do to make this area safer, I am all for it.

Chairman Mendenhall commented:

- I believe we can certainly put this off until next week.
- We all know that when a project of this nature is done it has to go through Pat Ivey.
- If you read the letter from Mr. Barsness it explains the process the NCDOT goes through in working on a project like this.
- Of course we have all of the letters of support as well.
- I like the comments made by Mr. Walker concerning moving items from Discussion to Action.
- There are three key words involved in moving items on the same day and that is time sensitive nature.
- I feel like this may be a time sensitive item but I am good with waiting to get more clarification on this item.
- I will have our Acting County Manager Mrs. Shaver bring us some more information back next week before we act on this.
- If I can get consensus to move this item to the Action Agenda next week I am good with that.

Acting County Manager Shannon Shaver responded:

- I have been in contact with Mr. Barsness.
- He states that he is certainly willing to talk about the parking.
- It is something that details can be worked out on later.
- For today the issue is the steps to get approval from the NCDOT.
- At the present time removing the parking is not part of this plan.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- How are we involved in this at all?
- I want to be sure we are offering the public transparency.

- This would be a big change for Danbury.

Acting County Manager Shannon Shaver responded:

- They need your permission because the County owns the property.
- If you are uncomfortable with it, it can certainly wait until next week so it does not hold everything up for today.
- It is not going to change the world if it has to wait until next week.

Commissioner Morris commented:

- With the way this is designed it will channel you to the top or bottom of the hill.
- This prevents people from crossing in the middle of the street.
- You have to take the steps out or they will cross in the middle.
- That is why they are requesting we do that.
- I do not see any reason to hold them up.
- Crossing the street in the middle is where there is a chance of an accident.

Commisisoner Yontz commented:

- My concern is that people will be walking further on the road if the steps are removed.
- There is no sidewalk there.

Commisisoner Morris commented:

- I feel like if there is room to open a car door then there would be room to walk parallel with the cars to either crosswalk.

With no further discussion and the full consensus of the Board, the Chairman directed the Clerk to place this item on the Action Agenda at the next week and to provide the Board with more information regarding concerns anout the parking.

EMS Hazardous Material Resolution

Chairman Mendenhall turned the floor over to Fire Marshal Scott Aaron.

Fire Marshal Scott Aaron presented information regarding a Resolution for Emergency Response to Hazardous Material Discharges to the Board:

- EMS Director Brandon Gentry and I met with our Emergency Coordinator for the region recently.
- We were trying to be sure all of our paperwork was complete and up to date.
- In doing this we realized that we did not have a Hazardous Materials Ordinance in place to cover the county.
- We worked with some of our other local counties comparable to our size, and our state level Emergency Coordinator to create a Hazardous Material Ordinance.
- This ordinance is backed up by NCGS 143-215.82 and 153A-140.
- If we have a hazardous material incident this would protect the county.

- It will allow the Stokes County Office of Emergency Management to coordinate the response.
- It would protect the county financially with the responsibility of cost being placed on the individual or individuals who caused the incident.
- We cannot be billed for this under this ordinance.

Chairman Mendendhall opened the floor for any discussion/questions/comments.

Commissioner Yontz commented:

- I appreciate you bringing this to us.
- It is much needed.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- It sounds as if you have thoroughly researched this.
- It seems to be working for other counties and I am sure it will work for us.
- I am on board with this.

Commissioner Morris commented:

- Has Ty already approved this?
- Does he need to approve this?

Fire Marshal Scott Aaron responded:

- He has received a copy.

County Attorney Browder responded:

- I do not believe I have a copy of this.

Acting County Manager Shannon Shaver commented:

- EMS Director Brandon Gentry and I sent a copy.
- I have not received the memorandum of approval yet.
- I was going to have them take a look at it and once the approval is received put it in for approval.
- I can certainly resend it.

Commissioner Morris continued:

- I have a couple of questions.
- It reads that if the payment is not received within 30 days we have a right to levy a lien upon the land or premises where the hazardous material response arose.
- Are we going to actually do that?
- Would this have any negative impact on private businesses that do hazardous material clean up in the county?
- Are we putting ourselves in any kind of competitive position with them?
- We are not going to be doing more of this once this is in place are we?

Fire Marshal Scott Aaron responded:

- No, this would not put us in any type of competition.
- This just allows us to bill for anything the county does.
- It will allow us to bill for resources used by the county.
- It keeps the individual parties from billing the county as well.
- We do not have the resources to do the clean up.
- We have the resources to do decontamination and containment.
- We have no desire to do any type of cleanup.

With no further discussion and full consensus of the Board the Chairman directed the Clerk to place this item on the next meetings Action Agenda.

2019 Meeting Schedule

Chairman Mendenhall turned the floor over to Acting County Manager Shannon Shaver.

Acting County Manager Shannon Shaver presented the following information to the Board.

- The schedule is updated for 2019.
- At the present time I have left the meetings at 1:30 pm on the second Monday and 6:00 pm on the fourth Monday.
- Other meetings are listed as well.
- There are a couple of noted changes due to Holidays.
- Planning meetings are scheduled and if they are not needed they are cancelled and this is advertised as well.
- The League of Government meetings are held with the local municipalities at different locations.
- These are just suggestions based on what has been done historically.
- At the current time the Commissioners meet as the DSS Board and the Health Board on the third Monday of the month, with the exception of Holidays.
- If a Holiday falls on the third Monday the meeting is to take place the next business day.
- The DSS Board currently meets at 1:00 pm in the conference room at DSS, and the Board of Health at 3:00 pm in the conference room at the Health Department.
- This began in September and a public notice was posted in the paper.
- I will need to add these meetings to the schedule once the Board decides on the meeting schedule.

PUBLIC NOTICE

2019 COMMISSIONERS' MEETINGS SCHEDULE

**The Stokes County Board of Commissioners will meet each month on the
2nd (Second) Monday at 1:30 pm and 4th (Fourth) Monday at 6:00pm**

2nd MONDAY

January 14, 2019
February 11, 2019
March 11, 2019
April 08, 2019
May 13, 2019
June 10, 2019
July 08, 2019
August 12, 2019
September 09, 2019
October 14, 2019
November 12, 2019
December 09, 2019

4th MONDAY

January 28, 2019
February 25, 2019
March 25, 2019
April 22, 2019
May 28, 2019
June 24, 2019
July 22, 2019
August 26, 2019
September 23, 2019
October 28, 2019
November 25, 2019
December 23, 2019

*May 27th Meeting changed to Tuesday, May 28th (Due to Holiday)

*November 11th Meeting changed to Tuesday, November 12th (Due to Holiday)

The Board of Commissioners will conduct its regular meetings in the Commissioners' Chambers at the Administrative Building in Danbury. The Board will consider invitations to meet at different locations throughout the County at the invitation of community groups that wish to host a meeting.

Commissioners' Meeting (Planning) – First Tuesday of every other month 6:00 pm

Planning meetings are held as needed- the meeting will be advertised prior to the dates listed below: Held in Commissioners' Chambers

February 5, 2019 (as needed)
April 2, 2019 (as needed)
June 4, 2019 (as needed)
August 6, 2019 (as needed)
October 1, 2019 (as needed)
December 3, 2019 (as needed)

Stokes County League of Governments – 6:30 pm

Meeting with Town of Danbury, Town of Walnut Cove, City of King and Stokes County

January 17, 2019 – Town of Walnut Cove

April 18, 2019 – Town of Danbury

July 18, 2019 - City of King

October 17, 2019 – Stokes County

Any other change in Date, Time, or Place will be advertised and placed on the County Web Page – www.co.stokes.nc.us

**Shannon Shaver
Clerk to the Board**

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

Vice Chairman Nickelston commented:

- My biggest concern is the second Monday meeting.
- I would like to consider moving those to the evening.
- I have had a lot of people with concerns about the time and being able to attend.
- Of course it doesn't show today with all the people here.

Commissioner Yontz commented:

- I will echo that as well.
- I would like to see these moved to the evening so that the general public can more easily attend.
- I would also like to see those moved to the evening so that anyone who entertains running for a public office can have that opportunity in the future.
- Those are the two reasons for me on that.
- At some point I would like to see us look at the DSS Board and Health Board as to whether or not we should proceed with those as is, or put the committees back together and have them report to us.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- I am interested in what Commissioner Yontz had to say about the DSS Board and Health Board.
- I believe everyone is well aware that this has been my feeling all along.
- We have plenty to do as a Board of Commissioners.
- We cannot give the attention that a separate board could give.
- I am very interested in following up on this.
- We have the 1:30 meeting because it is much more convenient for our staff.
- There also many be people who could not come to a 6:00 pm meeting.
- That being said if the Board prefers two 6:00 pm meetings I am not going to oppose it.

Commissioner Morris commented:

- I will go through these one at a time.
- For the reasons listed by Commissioner Yontz, I too would prefer to have all of the meetings in the evening.
- I love the staff but I think transparency of this local government is critically important.
- I would support moving the meetings to the evening.
- On the planning meetings I have one suggestion the Board may consider.
- We used to do all meetings at 7:00 pm.
- We changed the Commissioner version to 6:00 pm.
- This lends to a little confusion to those going through zoning issues.
- It might be beneficial to have the times the same at 7:00 pm.
- This is only for the Commissioners Planning meetings.
- As far as the DSS Board and Board of Health, the bigger issue and one of the things I campaigned on is actually putting these boards back in place.
- I don't want to discuss that today because it has not been advertised.
- I could make a pretty good argument for why that may be a good idea.
- Until then I have all the time in the world to meet in the daytime.

- I understand that these guys with full time jobs are unable to do that.
- For that reason maybe we can have DSS and the Health Department as part of our regular meetings until we can sort out the other issue.
- On the League of Government meetings I am fine with the schedule.
- Another subject we need to discuss in a different form is the value of those meetings.
- These need to be more than a get together for dinner and to tell one another what we have been up to.
- These are four elected Boards and should be working together.
- I am good with the schedule but would like to look at the content of those.

Chairman Mendenhall commented:

- I certainly understand everyone's opinion after listening to them.
- I am glad to go with what the Board decides on this.
- I am going to work with you either way.
- I am retired.
- I look at this two ways.
- The afternoon meetings were partly related to the staff.
- Also when we talk about people coming to these meetings and being transparent, I asked Mrs. Shaver to look up the number of public speakers we have had at both meeting times this year.
- There were 22 speakers that spoke at the 6:00 pm meeting and 20 at the 1:30 pm meeting.
- The second thing is, are we giving everyone an equal opportunity to come to the meetings by having them all at 6:00 pm?
- My father has passed away now and he worked at RJ Reynolds Tobacco Company for 30 years and he worked second shift.
- If we have both meetings at 6:00 pm those people in our county that work second shift will never be able to attend a meeting.
- I would prefer to leave them as they are and give everyone an opportunity to come to a meeting.
- The great thing about our government and how it works is everyone has their own opinion.
- I will be fine with what the Board wants to go with on the meeting times either way.
- We can all think about it and vote on it at the next meeting.

With no further discussion and full consensus of the Board, the Chairman directed the Clerk to place this item on the Action Agenda at the next meeting.

Salary Study

Chairman Mendenhall turned the floor over to Commissioner Yontz and Commissioner Morris.

Acting County Manager Shannon Shaver commented:

- I just want to check with our County Attorney on this and be sure we are handling this item correctly.
- This item was tabled at a meeting on February 12, 2018.

- Does anything need to specifically be done before this item is discussed other than making a motion to take this item off the table?

County Attorney Browder responded:

- I think proper procedure would be getting a motion to take the item off the table.

Chairman Mendenhall entertained a motion to take the Salary Study off the table.

Commissioner Yontz motioned to take the Salary Study off the table.

Commissioner Morris seconded.

Chairman Mendenhall opened the floor for any discussion/questions/comments.

With no further discussion the motion carried unanimously and the Salary Study was taken off the table and open for discussion.

Commissioner Morris commented:

- The three of us new Commissioners all campaigned on one common theme, which was stabilizing the work force in the county government and the school system.
- This salary study addresses that campaign promise as far as the county employees are concerned.
- I am in the unusual position of having worked on this before when I was County Manager.
- I have included some documents previously obtained for the Board's review to make this process easier.
- The first one is an excerpt from one of my earlier budget messages.
- It states the root cause of most turnover and personnel retention in the county is the non-competitive salaries.
- An objective outside pay study has not been conducted in Stokes County since 2000.
- An updated, objective, outside pay study is now needed to re-baseline the county's salary plan and make Stokes County's salaries competitive enough to keep turnover rates to an acceptable level.
- It is recognized that increasing salaries to a more competitive level is a major budget issue, but until a realistic salary study is completed, no framework exists for addressing this issue.
- A good outside salary study would define the competitive salary requirements and form the foundation for developing a funding plan to address salary shortfalls where they exist.
- The funding plan could be phased in over time and not necessarily executed immediately.
- This could have a positive impact on keeping personnel long term that might be looking at moving on for higher salaries.
- For these reasons, I included \$45,000 in my budget recommendation for an outside salary study from an organization such as the PTRC.

- I did not recommend a bonus or COLA for employees in the 16/17 budget .
- The employees went without a cost of living adjustment to pay for the salary study.
- There ended up being no salary study.
- I would not recommend any type of internal salary study because, by definition, there is an organizational conflict of interest that often limits the objectivity of such internal reviews of this nature.
- These reviews are best completed by experts who are familiar with current market conditions.
- There were five items requested when I sent out for proposals.

1. Quote for doing the entire county at the same time, not a phased approach.
2. County personnel policy updated and priced separately.
3. All job descriptions updated with the exception of the Health Department jobs that have recently been updated for accreditation.
4. Salary comparison between Stokes County and surrounding counties/businesses as well as other counties with similar population.
5. Recommendation on how the county should implement the salary study after it is completed.

- One thing that I did not include then that we might want to consider is obtaining information on a merit based pay plan.
- When I first came to work here as County Manager, Stokes County had the highest turnover rate of any place I had ever worked.
- Our Human Resources folks did a calculation for me for this year.
- I have had this done every year for previous budget messages.
- This years full time turnover rate is 12.6%.
- If you add the part time it is about 19%.
- Normal turnover in most countries is 5% to 7%.
- Our rate is unacceptable.
- One of the companies proposals actually included an algorithm that once they completed the study you could plug your own data in and update the study without having to pay for it again.
- These are the kinds of things I would look for in a company.
- We can take the three proposals if they are still in business and have them updated.
- I would want to check with our County Attorney on that.

Commissioner Yontz commented:

- Commissioner Morris did a great job of explaining this and took a lot of what I was going to say.
- This is one of the main things I campaigned on.
- This doesn't mean we are going to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to get everyone where they need to be compared to the counties around us.
- However there is always a first step.
- The first step needs to be a salary study.
- We can look at it and implement a plan.

- I may be a five year plan.
- I could even be a ten year plan.
- At least we would have a starting point.
- We can look at the long range on how we can accomplish this goal.
- With roughly a 20% turnover rate, going forward we need to sure that up and get our county employees where they need to be.
- That was my emphasis for getting this on the agenda today.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- I have been a tentative supporter of a salary increase for the past few years.
- There are good and bad parts to a salary study depending on who you ask.
- Just ask Jake for instance if he would like to give input on this.

County Manager Oakley responded:

- If you are going to do a salary study I recommend that it is completed in an area where your work force is being recruited.
- Not some county that is far away with the same population.
- They are being recruited to Forsyth, Rockingham, Guilford, and Surry County mostly.
- If you want to do a salary study that does something for the employees where you bring them up to where they need to be then this is the way I recommend going about it.
- I have been through a few salary studies that spent money and did not accomplish anything.
- Some employees received a 3 cent increase in pay which is humiliating to employees.
- This result did not help with moral.
- Some were even told they were overpaid and were frozen.
- I believe what Commissioner Morris has gotten started here with these three companies is a viable option.
- You will have to look at what you want to be do, look at the money, and make a decision on how you want to go about it.

Commissioner Walker continued:

- I agree with Commissioner Morris on this.
- I have been a supporter of merit for many years.
- I believe in giving raises to the people who earn them.
- We can keep the longevity system.
- Under the current system let's say we have one really good worker and one worker barely meeting the requirements to keep from getting fired.
- When it comes time to get a raise they get the same amount.
- What kind of motivation is that to our good workers?
- I did ask that question once and was told the reason it would not work was that it put supervisors, managers, and directors in charge of who got a raise and who did not.
- My response was the supervisor, manager, and director have the authority to terminate an employee which is the most serious personnel decision, but they cannot give an employee a raise.
- I hope this can be part of the salary study.

- Did you notice in your research that there are certain departments where the turnover is really high?
- Those are EMS, Sheriff's Department, and DSS.
- If you take those out of the 20% then our numbers do not look so bad.
- We cannot compete salary wise with some counties.
- We can make Stokes County the best possible place to work.
- I hope that is already being done.
- Thank you to Commissioner Morris and Commissioner Yontz for the work you have done on this.

Commissioner Nickelston commented:

- As you heard Commissioner Morris say, all three of us ran on this in our campaigns.
- This is something I do believe in.
- I agree that this will need to be phased in over time.
- We are talking about dealing with consultant firms.
- I deal with this everyday and some are not worth dealing with.
- They can be a waste of money.
- You have to look at something like this very carefully, especially when you are talking about using taxpayers dollars.
- We offer a quarterly bonus in our company which has increased production.
- This has worked well in our company.
- I would like to see something like this happen.
- There are some people in the departments here that do deserve a raise for what they do.
- I want to look into this very carefully.

Chairman Mendenhall commented:

- First I want to thank Commissioner Morris and Commissioner Yontz for their work on this.
- You might ask 50 people about this and get 50 different answers, or you could receive total consensus and unity.
- I am just not sure.
- The people I have talked to in the county have different opinions.
- I am going to be honest, I have never been through a salary study.
- We did not do this in the school system.
- The only difference in pay is the local supplement.
- They all receive the same state base pay.
- The supplement can vary greatly.
- I have studied over this information.
- Some are very positive about having a salary study and others are not.
- I have nothing against it.
- I am basing a lot of it on what I am gathering from the county employees that have been through a salary study.
- We can think about it this week and place it on the action agenda next week.

With no further discussion and full consensus of the Board, the Chairman directed the Clerk to place this item on the next meetings Action Agenda.

Wellness Center

Chairman Ronnie Mendenhall presented the following information to the Board:

- Our County Attorney has brought NCGS 153A-45 to my attention requiring this item to come before the Board at this meeting.
- Mr. Peterson has been so kind as to come back and present the information on the Wellness Center to the new Commissioners as well as Commissioner Walker who was unable to be at the November 26th meeting.
- We have 100 days to act on this.
- After all of the information has been presented we can decide whether to put it on the Action Agenda at the next meeting or wait.

County Attorney Browder commented:

- It is 100 days from the first introduction of the ordinance which was November 26th.

North Carolina General Statute 153A-45 Adoption of Ordinances

To be adopted at the meeting at which it is first introduced, an ordinance or any action having the effect of an ordinance (except the budget ordinance, any bond order, or any other ordinance on which a public hearing must be held before the ordinance may be adopted) must receive the approval of all the members of the board of commissioners. If the ordinance is approved by a majority of those voting but not by all the members of the board, or if the ordinance is not voted on at that meeting, it shall be considered at the next regular meeting of the board. If it then or at any time thereafter within 100 days of its introduction receives a majority of the votes cast, a quorum being present, the ordinance is adopted. (1963, c. 1060, ss. 1, 1 1/2; 1965, cc. 388, 567, 1083, 1158; 1967, c. 495, s. 2; 1969, c. 36, s. 1; 1971, c. 702, ss. 1-3; 1973, c. 822, s. 1.)

Chairman Mendenhall turned the floor over to Perry Peterson with Peterson Gordon Architects.

Architect Perry Peterson presented the following information to the Board:

- The Board has been working on this project for about a year.
- It is my job as an architect to take this idea and turn it into a building that everyone can use.
- The other thing I have to do is try and project how much this building will cost.
- The first thing everyone asks when they see something nice is how much will it cost.
- The projected costs and details of the building are:
 - Gross Building Area- 19,186 square feet (sf)
 - Statement of Probable Cost
 - Building
 - \$158 per sf Subtotal

- Building Total 19,186 area x \$158 = \$3,031,388
 - Site Work
 - Site Work Total \$403,000
 - Building/Site Summary
 - Building- \$3,031,000
 - Site Work \$403,000
 - 5% Contingency \$170,000
 - Total- \$3,604,000
 - Other Costs (Fees, Surveying, Internet)
 - Other Costs Total \$331,000
 - Total Project Probable Cost \$3,935,000
-
- A large amount of land has been left towards the back so that down the road if there does need to be addition to the building there will be the land to do it on.
 - There is a hallway leading to the back of the building that would make this possible.
 - We are not only building what we want to do today but are hopefully planning ahead for the future.
 - You may want to add a swimming pool or more exercise space.
 - There are a tremendous amount of things that could happen.
 - There would be a high school sized gym with a walking track above it.
 - There could be many activities going on at once.
 - There are windows on the top level as well, so as you are walking you can view what is going on outside.
 - The floor plan for the facility has a lobby that 50 or 60 people could comfortably be in at once.
 - The other thing that the lobby offers is a reception area that is built to act as kind of a gate keeper so that one or two people can basically run the building.
 - This design would eliminate having a large staff to run the building.
 - This is centrally located so they can keep an eye on what is going on in the facility.
 - There will also be a spectator and child care area.
 - The building will be multiuse with a yoga, dance, and exercise studio.
 - It could also double as another large meeting room.
 - There is a door to the parking lot for convenience if there were to be caterers coming in for events or meetings.
 - There is a large space for exercise equipment.
 - We envision this being a large room with lots of windows.
 - There will be an area for free weights.
 - For the number of people, there is a fairly large amount of restrooms.
 - Also as required by code there is a family restroom.
 - There are dressing rooms.
 - We are not doing any kind of showering facility because that requires a whole different level of supervision.
 - If you decided to do a swimming pool, there would need to be some showers.

- Our goal was to keep the building under 20,000 square feet while providing as much program space as possible.
- The numbers I provided for the cost are probably some of the highest I have ever done in my career.
- The \$3.9 million does not include exercise equipment but everything else you would expect in a turnkey project would be included.
- There are of course numerous grant opportunities available I am sure.
- Some of which have been discussed during our planning sessions.

Chairman Mendenhall opened the floor for any discussion/questions/comments.

Commissioner Nickelston commented:

- I am still doing a lot of research on this.
- Truthfully I am on the fence about it.
- The biggest thing for me is that this is coming out of taxpayer's money and I see a lot of other things that need to be done in the county right now.

Commissioner Yontz commented:

- I applaud the former Commissioners for having the foresight to start this.
- In the future I can see that this is something that is needed.
- There are a few things I am concerned about.
- The first thing being how are we going to maintain this property?
- What you have done is great.
- My concern is that we build it to what we need now without adding on in the future.
- I would like to see a rough idea of what the aquatic center would cost to add to the project?
- If down the road we are looking at entertaining that.
- Historically Stokes County has done a poor job at adding on.
- That all being said there are other priorities for me that are above this.
- Infrastructure is important to me; water, and sewer connectivity.
- I also want to take care of our employees.
- For me it is just not as important as those are right now.
- I will leave it at that for now.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- I am interested to know what your other priorities are and how they compete.
- We always need to take that into account.
- That is an important factor.
- I think this would be an asset for the county.
- It would particularly be an asset for this part of the county.
- Not many people can tell you where the recreational facility is here.
- It is over by the hospital in a manufactured building where doctors' offices used to be and last I heard there were about 6 people a day using it.
- The people in this part of the county have gone way to long with too little.

- The Y has 650 members in the Walnut Cove area and I am sure they see this center as taking some of that business away.
- I think we need to talk about adding some things especially the showers.
- I agree with Commissioner Yontz on the aquatic center.
- We need to really talk about financing.
- We have 2 million dollars sitting there and I do not think we should just jerk that out cart blanc.
- We may need to talk about this in our Budget Goals sessions
- I was interested in a group that is in the business of prison flipping at the Commissioners Conference.
- I wonder if they help obtaining funding or grants.
- I gave that information to Shannon.

Acting County Manager Shannon Shaver responded:

- I actually contacted them months ago at the same time I reached out to the Charters of Freedom Organization.
- Just a few days ago I received an email from them apologizing for the delayed response.
- I have not contacted them due to I was waiting to see what is decided on this.
- I did not want to waste their time.
- If you are speaking of repurposing the old prison, I am not sure there is much to work with.
- From all I have spoken with the consensus is that it needs to be demolished.

Commissioner Walker continued:

- The subject of a feasibility study continues to come up.
- I am not sure how reliable that is.
- I did feasibility studies for years at work.
- Did we do a feasibility study on the arrangement we have with the Y now?
- We have spent almost 3 million dollars over the years on that.
- We need to decide how this project aligns with other projects.
- The USDA is willing to do a loan on this at a very nominal interest rate.
- I want us to take some time as a Board and really look at this.
- I feel like this is important but not urgent.
- We have an opportunity here if we put our heads together and work on this.

Commissioner Morris commented:

- I think many people would agree that there is a requirement for additional recreational opportunities throughout the county.
- The question then becomes how the priority of this project compares with other spending priorities in the county.
- It's my position that to answer that question this project would need to compete with other spending requirements during the annual county budget process and that no funding should be spent on it until it goes through the budget process and complies with other standard business practices used to evaluate a project of this significant scope.

- My definition of competing in the budget process for a project like the wellness center would probably be whether to approve funding for a feasibility study.

To focus more specifically on this wellness center project, I have several concerns which are listed below:

- No feasibility study has been conducted for the project.
- I would never vote to approve a project of this scope without a comprehensive feasibility study conducted by experts.
- I feel to do so would be irresponsible.
- It's my understanding that the Stokes YMCA submitted a memorandum of intent that offered their support in staffing and sustainability of the center and I think they also offered to perform a feasibility study.
- I don't believe the offer from the YMCA was accepted by the committee that was evaluating the project.
- The proposed location for this project is not good.
- According to the drawings that were presented, it would be constructed on the most valuable piece of commercial property the county owns.
- I would refer you to the Stokes County 2035 plan, page # 102, section 2.3 where the Prison Camp and other adjoining properties at the Meadows Intersection of Highways 8 and 89 are addressed.
- The narrative in this section states that the county should "*Capitalize on expected growth at Meadows and create a zoning overlay district to ensure high-quality and dense development that provides a return on recent infrastructure investments*".
- In my opinion this project does not meet this requirement and has little to do with economic development.
- I would suggest that the priority for the Meadows economic development node is to complete a public water system to go with the existing public-sewer, so the value of this property will be maximized, and no further individual wells will be required by interested new businesses.
- I campaigned on the development of a strategic plan for the use of the Prison Camp property which I think is needed before any further development is contemplated for the county owned property that is located there.
- I don't believe that the staffing, sustainability or building design of the proposed wellness center has been well thought out.
- To my knowledge, no public hearings have been conducted on the project, which I consider a mandatory step for a project of this scope.
- The design requires a large expenditure and it does not even include an indoor pool or children's daycare facility.
- These are all items that would be addressed in a feasibility study, which should include public hearings.
- The project is not fully funded as only one half of the funding was designated to come from the county's General Fund Balance.

- Given my first-hand experience obtaining grant funding for projects like the sewer project to Meadows, I think there is a low probability that the additional funding for the project could be obtained by grants in any reasonable time frame.
- My approach would be to have the grant funding identified and locked in before committing fund balance or other county funding to the project.
- The day after this was approved I had 15 to 20 calls with only one in support of this project.
- In closing, I would propose that the Board of County Commissioners consider a budget amendment that returns the wellness center project funding to the county's General Fund and take whatever additional steps are necessary to unapprove this project until it can be further evaluated in the annual county budget process.

Commissioner Walker responded:

- I do not remember a feasibility study or public hearing being completed for our arrangement with RiverStreet and we gave them \$1.8 million.
- I don't remember doing a feasibility study for the agreement with the YMCA, or Forsyth Tech.
- If this was done I am not aware.
- This is new ground as far as I am concerned and I am not sure why we need to jump through all the hoops for this project when we did not do it for the other projects.
- I have not had one person in opposition.
- Please tell those calling you opposing this to call me.
- I want to talk with them and hear their concerns.
- I agree with Commissioner Morris on the fact that I do not see a lot of grant funding for this project.

Vice Chairman Nickelston commented:

- With the comment made about me being on the fence, I want to respond.
- What I mean is that this is a big decision.
- You would not go buy a car or a house without doing some research and being sure you were making the best decision.
- My biggest concern is the cost to maintain a building like this.
- I don't want to see us build this and 10 years down the road it is another vacant building because we could not afford to keep it open.

Chairman Mendenhall commented:

- There are many things in this county that have high priorities.
- We have 25 departments in the county.
- If you want to be fair and consistent you give them all your upmost vision of what can help them be better.
- I am sure there are some people that are not 100% or maybe they do not want this at all.
- It is almost impossible to have a project that every person in Stokes County wants.
- I have talked to a lot of people in the community and the general consensus that I am getting is that many of them would love to have a facility of this nature on this side of the county.

- We deal with many important issues.
- Everything that you get involved in does not work.
- Sometimes you are just taking a chance.
- There is no such thing as a sure thing.
- We have a jail expansion going on.
- Our Sheriff brought that to us and we approved based on the information provided.
- I still think it could help with Economic Development by making this area attractive to those considering moving here.
- RiverStreet has been brought up and we recently sat through a meeting and were told that after 5 years they have 121 accounts.
- I am not trying to be critical of RiverStreet but I think there is a marketing issue.
- I feel like this has not been as successful as the Board that approved that might have thought it would be.
- Nobody can say what will happen for sure 10 years from now.
- We have 100 days to adopt this ordinance.
- When would that be approximately?
- Do me the favor of thinking this through and we can vote on it.
- I will respect the decision of the Board either way.

Acting County Manager Shannon Shaver responded:

- March 6, 2019 would be 100 days from November 26, 2018 when the Capital Project Ordinance was first introduced.

Commissioner Yontz commented:

- I need to clarify something.
- I agree with Commissioner Walker and Commissioner Yontz on we do not know what is going to happen in 10 years.
- It is very premature to spend this kind of money on a project of this nature.
- I think we should retract putting \$4 million towards this project at this time.
- There are a lot of unknowns.

Commissioner Morris commented:

- I am also for it.
- I live here and would use it.
- The location is a non-starter for me as I explained earlier.
- On the subject of RiverStreet when Eric gets a chance to come and speak with us about the live streaming, I would like to dig in with him with some questions on this matter.
- Everyone is focused on the number given out at the meeting they were at recently.
- The thing they didn't focus on is the fact that RiverStreet has put 200 miles of cable in.
- They have hired people, built a building, and are paying property taxes.
- The project is just where you would expect it to be considering they did not get the school bid which was included in the business model.
- They did not get the contract with Pioneer Hospital because at that time they were in bankruptcy.

- I was a program manager before I got into local government and wish I would have had a company with as few problems as RiverStreet.
- They are in great shape.
- The big years are coming as everything starts to connect.
- I would ask that you not draw too many conclusions.

Acting County Manager Shannon Shaver commented:

- Will there be any action taken on this at the next meeting?
- Julia may need some guidance on the budget amendment appropriating the funds and if that is to be returned.
- We also need an idea on the old prison as far as the demolition.
- The asbestos removal cost was taken from public buildings.
- Are we planning to wait until the budget goals meetings begin to discuss this more?

Chairman Mendenhall responded:

- At this time we do not have a concrete answer.
- Could I get an agreement from all five Board members to start the Budget Goals Work Sessions earlier this year, possibly February or even January?

With no further discussion and full consensus of the Board, the Chairman directed the Clerk to select some possible dates for Budget Goals Work Sessions in January and that the Wellness Center will be taken up for discussion at a later date.

Appointments – Commisisoner Representation on Boards/Committees

Chairman Mendenhall turned the floor over to Acting County Manager Shannon Shaver.

Acting County Manager Shannon Shaver presented the following information to the Board:

- There are several Boards and Committees that need Commissioner representation.
- There are several vacancies with three Commissioners going off and three coming on.
- If anyone sees a Board or Committee that has been overlooked please let me know.

The Board along with the Clerk went over the list and made verbal commitments to Boards and Committees they would be able to serve on.

BOCC Boards and Committees

Piedmont Authority Regional Transportation – Commissioner Yontz with Vice Chairman Nickelston as back up.

Stokes County Child Protection/Fatality – Chairman Mendenhall / Commissioner Walker

Hanging Rock State Park Advisory Committee - Vice Chairman Nickelston

JCPC – Commissioner Walker

Human Services Advisory Board – Commissioner Yontz

FTCC/Stokes County Advisory Committee – Commissioner Walker / Commissioner Morris

Stokes Partnership for Children – Chairman Mendenhall

PTRC – Commissioner Morris

YVEDDI – Commissioner Yontz / Commissioner Walker

NCACC Insurance Pool – Commissioner Morris

Cardinal Community Advisory Board – Vice Chairman Nickelston

Winston Salem Urban Area Transportation Authority Advisory Committee – Commissioner Morris

FTCC Board of Trustees – Chairman Mendenhall

Surry Housing Consortium – Vice Chairman Nickelston

Cardinal Triad Advisory – Chairman Mendenhall

Chairman Mendenhall opened the floor for any discussion/comments/questions.

With no further discussion the Clerk to the Board noted that the appointments would be brought back to the Board at an upcoming meeting for approval once meeting schedules can be identified and confirmed to be sure the Boards and Committees selected by the Commissioners work with their schedule.

Commissioner Health Insurance

Chairman Mendenhall provided the following information to the Board:

- I have asked that this item be added to today's agenda due to the subject has come up and I would like to go ahead and take care of it now.

Chairman Mendenhall turned the floor over to Commissioner Morris.

Commissioner Morris commented:

- One of the things I had in my campaign was the organizational conflict of interest in the way the Commissioners are paid by the meeting.
- The bigger issue is what structure are we going to use to pay Commissioners?
- When you look at pay you have health care as a cost to the taxpayers if the Commissioner chooses to accept the health insurance.
- I don't have any particular issue with the health insurance, my issue is with how the Commissioners are paid by the meeting.
- This is a discussion that needs to be advertised as well.
- I am not for or against the insurance.

- I have not ever used county benefits but I know some do.
- My point is that it is part of the benefit package paid to Commissioners and we cannot let that go.

Chairman Mendenhall opened the floor for any discussion/comments/questions.

Commissioner Yontz commented:

- I feel like before we point out who is going to use it or not use it we just leave it the way it is.
- I will say if I take it I would be double insured so I do not need it but if someone does it should be left how it is.

Vice Chairman Nickelston commented:

- How long has this been like this?

Commissioner Walker commented:

- It has been like this for the entire 14 years I have been on the Board.
- It is pretty much like this across the state.

Chairman Mendenhall confirmed with County Attorney Browder that there is no action necessary on this item since no changes were made.

ACTION AGENDA

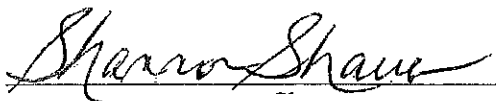
Chairman Mendenhall noted that there were no items on today's Action Agenda.

Adjournment

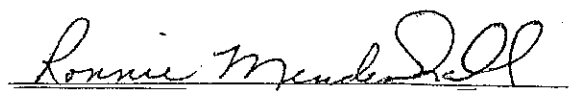
There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Mendenhall entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Walker moved to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Yontz seconded and the motion carried unanimously.



Shannon Shaver
Clerk to the Board



Ronnie Mendenhall
Chairman