

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA )  
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COUNTY OF STOKES )  
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OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS  
STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA  
THURSDAY APRIL 11, 2019

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met for a joint meeting with the Rockingham and Caswell County Boards of County Commissioners at the Pine Hall Community Campus located at 6853 US 311 North Pine Hall, NC on Thursday April 11, 2019 at 6:30 pm with the following members present:

**Stokes County Board of County Commissioners**

Vice Chairman Jimmy Walker  
Commissioner Ronnie Mendenhall  
Commissioner Rick Morris  
Commissioner Jamie Yontz  
(Chairman Andy Nickelston was absent from the meeting)

**Stokes County Personnel**

County Manager Jake M. Oakley  
Assistant County Manager / Clerk to the Board Shannon Shaver  
Register of Deeds Brandon Hooker  
Economic Development Director Will Carter

**Caswell County Board of Commissioners**

Chairman Rick McVey  
Vice Chairman Jeremiah Jefferies  
Commissioner David Owen  
Commissioner Steve Oestreicher

**Caswell County Personnel**

County Manager Bryan Miller  
Clerk to the Board/Public Information Officer Paula Seamster

**Rockingham County Board of Commissioners**

Chairman Reece Pyrtle  
Vice Chairman Mark Richardson  
Commissioner Charlie Hall

**Rockingham County Personnel**  
County Manager Lance Metzler  
County Attorney John Morris  
Clerk to the Board Kelli Watkins  
Roy Sawyers, Video, Rockingham Update

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

Caswell and Rockingham County called their meeting to order.

### **INVOCATION**

Commissioner Mendenhall delivered the invocation.

### **GENERAL GOVERNMENT-GOVERNING BODY-PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

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

Vice Chairman Walker requested that Commissioner Morris give a brief overview of the Pine Hall Community Campus before the approval of the agenda.

Commissioner Morris provided a brief overview of the Pine Hall Community Campus built completely with donations from Mr. Ron Petree and his sister Ann.

Vice Chairman Walker entertained a motion to approve or amend the April 11<sup>th</sup> Agenda.

Commissioner Mendenhall moved to approve the April 11<sup>th</sup> agenda as presented.

Commissioner Morris seconded the motion.

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

With no further discussion and full consensus of the Board the April 11<sup>th</sup> Agenda was approved.

### **County Updates/Open Discussion**

#### **Caswell County**

Caswell County provided the following updates:

- Codification of Ordinances

- Completed a Strategic Economic Development Plan
- Economic Development Incentive Plan aligned with the County, Town of Milton, and Town of Yanceyville

#### Library Grand Opening May 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00am

- 15,000 square feet
- Makers space
- Large meeting room with dividing walls
- Career center
- Quiet study rooms
- Separate teen space

#### Co-Working Space

- Affiliate with HQ Greensboro
- Approximately 9,000 square feet
- Collaboration
- 12 offices
- 3 conference rooms
- Dedicated office space
- Shared office space
- Open share co-working space
- A gig of internet service coming in
- Contractor bid opening on May 9<sup>th</sup>
- Substantial completion by October
- Over \$1 million in grant funding received
- \$300,000 from the County
- \$30,000 from the town
- Ag Tech Anchor Tennant

#### Agribusiness/Technology Campus

- Connect NC Bond Funds - \$1.45 million
- 15,000 square feet
- 78 acres from an industrial park site in the Pelham Community
- Farm Incubator Space
- Campus for PCC
- Possible Country Store
- Possible farm to table restaurant- future phase
- Aggregation facility
- Adjacent to future Interstate 785
- Completing a facilities and operations plan for the project – completed by the end of the month

#### High School

- \$35,100,000.00 Bond Referendum passed by the voters

- USDA Financing
- RFQ out for Architects and Engineers-opening April 19<sup>th</sup>.

### Rockingham County

Rockingham County provided the following updates:

#### Economic Development

- Senator Berger got \$10 million approved for our county to extend the water lines
- Easy access to the highway now that the loop has opened up
- Looking to extend sewer lines
- Working with a firm out of Greensboro to develop the Southwest portion of the county
- 2 projects going on, one with a company that will convert natural gas to electricity
- Regional Industrial Park creating 24 jobs
- \$5 million investment
- Hired a new Director of Economic Development and she is doing a great job
- Also have a new County Attorney
- Updating our land use policy and Economic Development Ordinance
- Hired a new Planning Director and she is also doing a great job

#### Other Updates

- All Sheriff's vehicles are finally up to date with mobile data
- Started a major litter prevention program
- There will be citations issued and there is a hotline to call to report
- Currently closing and capping a landfill cell
- At the same time we will be building a new landfill cell
- This will be about \$7 million and will hopefully last us for a long time
- Looking for ways to expand broadband
- Our I.T. Director has been working with the same group as Caswell County to come up with ideas to improve this
- Particularly in the dead areas
- We have 8 to 9 areas with no service at all
- The kids have chrome books and some have no internet access at home to use them
- We are going through a revaluation
- Out of 57,000 parcels, and I believe we have only had around 900 appeals which is unheard of
- I think people are realizing that things are changing
- We are hoping for a successful revaluation

There was a brief discussion between the Boards concerning the opioid crisis that affects everyone.

## Stokes County

Stokes County provided the following updates:

- Three new Board members came on this year
- Commissioner Yontz and Commissioner Morris who are here tonight
- Chairman Nickelston is new to the Board as well and absent tonight due to the death of his father-in-law
- Jail Expansion is just about complete
- New Trades building will be open soon at FTCC on Dodgetown Road
- Major paving project getting ready to be underway
- Providing more parking in Danbury
- Entered into a new fleet management program with Enterprise
- We are now live streaming our meetings beginning the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April
- We are working on the budget and glad to have a group of Commissioners ready to move the county forward
- Looking at reinstating the Board of Health and DSS Board
- Looking to try and capitalize on natural resources such as Hanging Rock
- Our Arts Place is complete and a wonderful facility
- The retail store has unique items that are locally produced
- Offering classes and holding concerts

## Next Joint Meeting

Stokes County Vice Chairman Walker noted that the next meeting will be held in Caswell County.

## Video/Audio

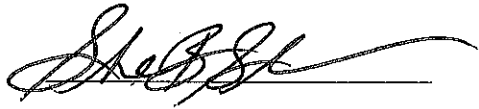
The Boards expressed their thanks to Roy Sawyers with Rockingham Update for making the meeting available to the public. The link for this meeting will be available on the Rockingham County Website.

## Adjournment

Each respective Chairman adjourned the joint meeting.

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

Commissioner Mendenhall moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Morris seconded and the motion carried unanimously.



**Shannon Shaver**

**Clerk to the Board**



**Andy Nickelston**

**Chairman**