

**STATE OF NORTH
CAROLINA
COUNTY OF STOKES**

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**OFFICE OF THE
COMMISSIONERS
STOKES COUNTY
GOVERNMENT
DANBURY, NORTH
CAROLINA
MONDAY AUGUST 12, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Nickelston called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners to order.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Morris delivered the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Nickelston lead the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance and invited those in attendance to join.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Mendenhall moved to to approve the agenda as presented.

Commissioner Morris seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

COMMENTS - Managers/Commissioners

Commissioner Morris welcomed those in attendance and those watching at home through YouTube and noted that he would not be holding his office hours this month and would resume next month.

Vice Chairman Walker welcomed those in attendance and those watching at home and noted that he was glad to see the representative from the Stokes News in attendance.

Commissioner Yontz welcomed those in attendance and watching at home and apologized for the late start to the meeting.

Commissioner Mendenhall welcomed those in attendance and those watching at home and noted that he always likes to see people participate in local government and noted that he would like to extend a welcome to the representative with The Stokes News.

Chairman Nickelston welcomed those in attendance and those watching at home and noted that it was good to have a representative from the newspaper at the meeting.

County Manager Oakley welcomed those in attendance and those watching at home. County Manager Oakley gave information to the Board from the Board of Elections regarding seminars being held to inform the public about voter ID Thursday August 29th at 2:00pm at the Walnut Cove Senior Center and another at 6:00pm at the King Public Library. County Manager Oakley noted that he attended the Cooperative Extension meeting in Pine Hall and noted that Interim Director Will

Strader has been named due to the resignation of former Director Carl Mitchell.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ellen Peric
Wheeler Smith Road
Lawsonvill, NC 27022

RE: Arts Update

Apple Gallery - August

Craig Richards is the founding member of Triad Outdoor Painters and one of two artists in residence at The Arts Place of Stokes. His paintings are in oils reflecting a style influenced by French and American Impressionists like Monet and Frederick Church. His subjects are often mountain views, streams, and landscapes though he also works with portraits. Joining Richards for this exhibit is ceramic artist Margaret Larson, whose work was recently featured at the Guilford College Art Department's senior thesis exhibition. She creates large hand-built ceramic pots with local North Carolina clay and uses painting and carving techniques to add enlarged floral imagery to the surfaces.

Reception was held August 10th at 6pm.

Portable Art Sit In – August 14th 3-5 pm

Bring your art with you and join others for an Art Sit In. This past Saturday Mike Davis turned spoons on location.

Danbury Songwriters – August 15th – 7 pm

The Danbury Songwriters welcome Jack Benedict and guests for a Songwriters Roundtable at The Arts Place.

This is his third appearance at ArtPlace and he considers it home. Joining Jack for the Songwriters Roundtable are Andy Baker and Joe Shields.

Films of the Triad Movie Night – King Central Park -8:15 pm

“Abundant Acreage Available” - After their father dies, a middle-aged brother and sister wrestle with legacy and ownership when three brothers, whose family farmed the land for generations, return after 50 years. Director and Writer: Angus MacLachlan / Stars: Steve Coulter, Max Gail, Francis Guinan / Filmed in East Bend. FREE Event.

Taylor Vaden & Memphis Thunder: Remembering Elvis

Aug 17th 7pm

Memphis Thunder is an authentic 1950's tribute band focusing on the early hits of Elvis Presley. The vintage look and sound of this band takes the audience back to the years when Elvis' career started and launched into stardom. The band consists of Brad Ford on drums, Todd Phillips on upright bass/background vocals, Scott Williams on lead guitar/background vocals and award-winning Elvis Tribute Artist Taylor Vaden on lead vocals/rhythm guitar.

Dress to impress for this show in your 1950's best, we will be having a costume contest for anyone who wants to enter!

Get your tickets early....Advanced tickets are \$10 for SCAC Members and 18& Under, \$15 Advanced General Admission. Day of Show admission is \$18.

August Barn Quilt Class – Sunday Aug 18th – 12:30 to 4:30 pm

Our next Barn Quilt Class with instructor Sarah Maddox is Sunday August 18, 2019 from 12:30 pm until 4:30 pm. Your instructor will guide you through the painting process, no prior painting experience is necessary. Light snacks will be provided.

Registration includes all materials – Birchwood Quilt Square and paints.

2 x 2 barn quilt square \$55 / 3 x 3 barn quilt square \$90 Register online or by calling 336-593-8159. Students may request a design (time provided) or choose from the designs posted on our website: www.stokesarts.org/classes

August 19th – Back To School with Essential Oils – 6:30 pm

Calling all students, parents and teachers!

Getting ready to go back to school is an exciting time. We want to make sure that you have all the tools you need to ensure your children have a successful school year.

Join us as we share how doTERRA can help your kids mentally, physically, and emotionally as they head Back to School!

Class is **FREE!**

Danbury Songwriters – Aug 22nd - Beth Lee – 7pm

Thursday, August 15, 2019 The Danbury Songwriters welcome Beth Lee to The Arts Place of Stokes.

Beth started writings songs in 2005 after moving to Austin, TX. The landscape and the people further stoked the fire that caused her to want to write a song – Willie Nelson, Bob Wills, Joe Ely, Jimmy Dale Gilmore, Butch Hancock, Ray Wylie Hubbard, Waylon Jennings – too many to list. She has since moved closer to her roots in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Western North Carolina, where so much of the music she loves was born and nurtured until it became part of the fabric of American Music.

Tickets are \$5 in advance and at the door.

Portable Art Sit In – August 24th – 10 am to 12 noon

Come see Art and Fine Crafts made!

August 24th - Joshua Shelton "20 Years of Guitars Ruin Lives" – 7pm

\$7 general admission, \$1 Eighteen and under with all proceeds benefiting the Stokes Junior Mountain Music Program.

August 25th Sunday 5 pm – Laurelyn Dossett

Our 2019 Come Hear NC music series continues with Stokes County resident and musician Laurelyn Dossett. She co-founded the roots country outfit Polecat Creek, and she's recently been on the road as part of Rhiannon Giddens' touring band. Laurelyn has collaborated with the late great Levon Helm, banjo virtuoso Joe Newberry, and the venerable North Carolina Symphony. She performs regularly at Merlefest, and has been featured on A Prairie Home Companion, The Los Angeles Times, elliptically evoking the landscape of the Piedmont, called Laurelyn's music "a breath of fresh, pine-scented air."

Laurelyn performs with her full band on Sunday, August 25, 2019 at The Arts Place of Stokes. Doors open at 4pm, music begins at 5pm.

Tickets are \$12 for SCAC members, \$15 general admission, \$5 for 18 and under.

CONSENT AGENDA

All attachments presented on the Agenda are available in the attachments of the Agenda on the County Website and are available upon request from the Clerk, with the exception of the minutes approved which are located on the County Website under the minutes tab.

Budget Amendments

Minutes

Commissioner Mendenhall moved to to approve the Consent Agenda as presented..

Commissioner Morris seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

INFORMATION AGENDA

E-911 Updates

Communications/E-911 Director Del Hall, and the E-911 Board presented the Board with information related to the next generation of 911 and numerous updates on the 911 network.

There was some discussion with the Board and the Board expressed their gratitude for the presentation.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

Tax Administration - Monthly Report

Tax Administrator Richard Brim presented the Board with the Tax Administration monthly report.

With full consensus of the Board the following items were moved to the Consent Agenda for the next meeting:

1. Real and Personal Releases more than \$100.00
2. Real and Personal Refunds more than \$100.00
3. Present-Use Value Late Application
4. Late Application Elderly Exemption and Late Application Disabled Veteran Exclusion
5. Agreement for SouthData for Online Listing Service and Resolution for Implementation
6. Imaging Service Agreement

The Mercer Group

County Manager Oakley introduced Phil Roberston with the Mercer Group to the Board of Commissioners and noted that he was here to answer any questions from the Board regarding the

Salary Study in which the Mercer Group was approved to conduct.

Commissioner Mendenhall confirmed with the Mercer Group that they would meet with each employee, and asked that orientation would be provided to all employees and noted that they are looking forward to working with them.

Phil Roberston confirmed that they would meet with every employee that wishes to meet, each employee would get a questionnaire and some would meet in a group if they have the same job title, and confirmed they would hold orientation to groups under 30 and hold as many as needed.

Commissioner Morris noted that we have a 7.5 hour work schedule, and asked if they would they have to normalize this or change to an 8hr ? Commissioner Morris also inquired if they would do questionnaires for full time elected officials? He also noted that he read that for a year after the study is complete the Mercer Group would consult at an hourly rate? He added that he wanted to be sure once we are up to date that he wanted to stay up to date.

Phil Robertson noted that there would not be an issue with the time. For elected officials the Mercer Group will make this part of the compensation study and not the classification study and noted that the County will receive free consultations for a year, and after that they can do consulting if requested.

Commissioner Yontz noted that he had reviewed the proposal thoroughly and had no questions at this time.

Vice Chairman Walker asked how comprehensive the market data is and would they be looking at the private sector data ? He also asked how if they see our county as a typical county they deal with and inquired if they would provide guidance as far as staffing? Vice Chairman Walker asked once the data is received if the Mercer Group would give assistance implementation.

Mr. Roberston noted that first of all they would want to know if Stokes County is losing employees to the private sector and if so they would like to survey those organizations. He noted that they are under no obligation to share and can be difficult to get information from. Mr. Roberston noted that If this is requested they would ask that a letter be sent on county letterhead to these organizations letting them know who they are and what they are doing. Mr. Robertson noted that typically your HR Director would know who you are losing people to. He noted that he does not identify any county as typical, what is important here, may not be important somewhere else. The most important thing with staffing is a strategic staffing plan from the Board. We can give you some guidance after the interview process on your strategic plan. Mr. Roberston assured the Board that the Mercer Group is here from start to finish and provide the guidance needed to implement.

Chairman Nickeston expressed his gratitude to Mr. Robertson for being at the meeting tonight and noted that he was looking forward to working with them in the future.

The American Legion- Department of N.C.

Chairman Nickelston presented the Board with information regarding a letter received from the American Legion Department of North Carolina.

Commissioner Mendenhall noted that he was in strong support of this.

Commissioner Morris noted that he was in support but would like to know how many other counties have contributed to this.

With full consensus of the Board this item was placed on the Action Agenda at the next meeting.

Water Project Committee

County Manager Oakley presented the Board with information regarding a Water Project Committee.

Chairman Nickelston opened the floor for nominations for 2 Commissioners for the Water Committee.

Vice Chairman Walker nominated Chairman Nickelston and Commissioner Mendenhall to serve on this committee.

Commissioner Morris nominated himself due to his background on the previous project and can provide knowledge on this. He also noted that the group suggested is cumbersome and would remove, Scott Aaron, Brandon Gentry, Mike Marshall, due to their busy schedules.

Commissioner Yontz noted that he had no issue with whoever wanted to serve on this committee and that the Board would be involved either way.

Vice Chairman Walker concurred with Commissioner Morris on the size of the group and noted that either County Manager Oakley or Assistant County Manager/Clerk to the Board Shannon Shaver could serve but would not see the need for both.

County Manager Oakley agreed that he would serve and that Mrs. Shaver could serve as an alternate if he were to be out.

Commissioner Morris also volunteered to serve as an alternate if he were not on the Committee.

Commissioner Mendenhall moved to to move the Water Project Committee Appointments to the Action Agenda at tonights meeting.

Commissioner Morris seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

ACTION AGENDA

RFQ Draft - Meadows Water

Chairman Nickelston entertained a motion on the item presented.

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

There was some discussion among the Board and Commissioner Morris requested that the RFQ be changed to reflect the following changes in the first paragraph of the RFQ:

Commissioner Morris noted that he would like to see the wording where it says grant funding and management changed to include administration and to aggressively pursue all available funding options to include but not limited to USDA Rural Development.

The changes requested are reflected below:

The County is seeking the services of a professional engineer or professional engineering firm to assist with the Preliminary Engineering Report, Environmental Report, USDA funding application, explore design, construction administration, grant funding, management / administration, inspection, and initial startup of the proposed project. The selected engineer or engineering firm will be expected to aggressively pursue all available funding options to include but not limited to USDA – Rural Development. The engineer or engineering firm must be licensed to practice engineering in North Carolina for this type of project.

Commissioner Mendenhall moved to to approve the RFQ.

Commissioner Yontz seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

Commissioner Mendenhall moved to to amend the motion to include the noted changes to the RFQ.

Commissioner Yontz seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

Purchase Agreement

Chairman Nickelston entertained a motion on the item presented.

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

Commissioner Mendenhall moved to to approve the purchase agreement on the Fulp property with the addendum and budget amendment #13.

Vice Chairman Walker seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

Appointments - Stokes County Voluntary Agricultural District Advisory Board

Chairman Nickelston entertained a motion on the item presented.

Chairman Nickelston opened the floor for any further nominations.

There were no further nominations.

With there being no further nominations, Chairman Nickelston entertained a motion to close the nominations.

Chairman Nickelston polled the Board:

Commissioner Morris- Robert Lindsay and George Cuthins
Vice Chairman Walker- Robert Lindsay and George Cuthins
Commissioner Yontz- Robert Lindsay and George Cuthins
Commissioner Mendenhall- Robert Lindsay and George Cuthins
Chairman Nickelston- Robert Lindsay and George Cuthins

Chairman Nickelston noted that Robert Lindsay and George Cuthins were unanimously approved by the Board for appointment to the Stokes County VAD.

Commissioner Mendenhall moved to to close the floor for nominations.

Vice Chairman Walker seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

Water Project Committee

Chairman Nickelston entertained a motion on the item presented at tonight's meeting.

Chairman Nickelston opened the floor for any further nominations.

Commissioner Morris noted that Finance Director Julia Edwards should be on the committee or Assistant Finance Director Lisa Lankford.

The Board was in agreement on the committee and the following individuals were appointed:

1. Andy Nickelston – Commissioner
2. Ronnie Mendenhall - Commissioner
3. Mark Delehant
4. Glenda Pruitt
5. Will Carter
6. David Sudderth
7. Brandon Joyce
8. Jake Oakley
9. Julia Edwards

Alternates will be: Rick Morris
Shannon Shaver
Lisa Lankford

Chairman Nickelston polled the Board and the members were unanimously approved.


Commissioner Yontz moved to to approve the Water Project Committee.

Vice Chairman Walker seconded the motion. The motion Passed.


Adjournment

Commissioner Mendenhall moved to to adjourn.

Commissioner Morris seconded the motion. The motion Passed.



Shannon Shaver
Clerk to the Board



Andy Nickelston
Chairman