

**STATE OF NORTH
CAROLINA

COUNTY OF STOKES**

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**OFFICE OF THE
COMMISSIONERS
STOKES COUNTY
GOVERNMENT
DANBURY, NORTH
CAROLINA
MONDAY DECEMBER 9, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

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 9, 2019 at 6:00 pm with the following members present:

Board of Commissioners Present: Chairman Andy Nickelston, Vice Chairman Ronnie Mendenhall, Commissioner Rick Morris, Commissioner Jimmy Walker, and Commissioner Jamie Yontz

County Administration Present: County Manager Jake Oakley, Assistant County Manager/Clerk to the Board Shannon Shaver, Finance Director Julia Edwards, and County Attorney Ty Browder

INVOCATION

Chairman Nickelston delivered the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Organization of the Board of County Commissioners

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Election of Chairman

Assistant County Manager/Clerk to the Board Shannon Shaver opened then floor for nominations for the election of Chairman of the Stokes County Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Yontz nominated Commissioner Nickelston.

Commissioner Morris nominated Commissioner Walker.

Commissioner Walker declined to accept the nomination for Chairman.

With no further nominations Assistant County Manager/Clerk to the Board Shannon Shaver entertained a motion to close the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Mendenhall moved to close the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Morris seconded.

Assistant County Manager/Clerk to the Board Shannon Shaver opened the floor for discussion/questions/comments.

With no further discussion then motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Assistant County Manager/Clerk to the Board Shannon Shaver polled the Board:

Commissioner Morris: Nickelston
Commissioner Walker: Nickelston
Commissioner Yontz: Nickelston
Commissioner Mendenhall: Nickelston
Commissioner Nickelston: Nickelston

Assistant County Manager/Clerk to the Board Shannon Shaver noted that Commissioner Nickelston had been elected as Chairman of the Stokes County Board of Commissioners and turned the meeting over to him.

Election of Vice-Chairman

Chairman Nickelston opened then floor for nominations for the election of the Vice Chairman of the Stokes County Board of Commissioners.

Chairman Nickelston nominated Commissioner Mendenhall.

Commissioner Walker nominated Commissioner Yontz.

Commissioner Yontz declined to accept the nomination for Vice Chairman.

Commissioner Walker inquired with Commissioner Morris on if he would be interested in serving as Vice Chairman and he declined to be nominated.

With no further nominations Chairman Nickelston entertained a motion to close the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Yontz moved to close the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Morris seconded.

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

With no further discussion then motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Chairman Nickelston polled the Board:

Commissioner Morris: Mendenhall
Commissioner Walker: Mendenhall
Commissioner Yontz: Mendenhall

Commissioner Mendenhall: Mendenhall
Commissioner Nickelston: Mendenhall

Chairman Nickelston noted that Commissioner Mendenhall had been elected to serve as Vice Chairman of the Stokes County Board of Commissioners.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Nickelston entertained a motion on the approval of the Agenda.

Vice Chairman Mendenhall made a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Commissioner Yontz seconded.

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

With no further discussion and a full consensus of the Board the Agenda was approved with a 5-0 vote.

COMMENTS - Managers/Commissioners

Commissioner Morris welcomed those in attendance and those watching at home through YouTube and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Commissioner Walker welcomed those in attendance and those watching at home through livestreaming and noted that he is glad we are able to offer that service. Commissioner Walker commented that the King Parade was well attended and enjoyable and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year.

Commissioner Yontz welcomed those in attendance and watching at home and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Vice Chairman 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 hoped everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and hopes everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Chairman Nickelston welcomed those in attendance and those watching at home and noted that he hopes everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Chairman Nickelston noted that he wanted to clarify that the Board of County Commissioners have nothing to do with the Superintendent. There seems to be some miscommunication on this subject and we have tried as a Board to keep the public involved and want to be sure they are getting the correct information. Commissioner Morris is blessed with the time to keep a blog of meetings and inform the public about things. I received some calls on this about Dr. Rice's evaluation being complete and just want to clarify that we do not have anything to do with this.

County Manager Oakley welcomed those in attendance and those watching at home and noted that he hoped everyone has a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Commissioner Morris noted that in regards to his blog if anyone has questions to please reach out to him directly and noted that if other Commissioners receive questions to refer those individuals to him. He also noted that this is an editorial blog and he strives to be sure it is accurate.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Philip and Tammy Barber
1630 Merridon Drive
Pinnacle, NC

RE: Sauratown Trail Association -Make -A-Wish

We are members of the Sauratown Trail Association and back in April I came and spoke to you about an event we have been putting on for the past 4 years called the Trail Blaze Challenge. This event is hosted by the Make -A-Wish Foundation of Eastern North Carolina. We had hoped to be able to raise a million dollars by the end of 2019. Last week we received a letter from Make -A-Wish informing us that since 2016 hundreds of people had taken on the 26.5 mile challenge raising over \$1.17 million dollars and granting over 150 local wishes. I had a misconception that wishes were a vacation but this is so much more than that. These wishes are motivation to keep fighting and we are so glad to be part of this.

Chairman Nickelston noted that the Board does not usually speak during public comments but that he on behalf of the Board wanted to thank them for all that they do for this organization.

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

Vice Chairman Mendenhall made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Morris seconded and noted that he had some questions.

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

Commissioner Morris requested clarification on the Budget Amendments from Finance Director Julia Edwards.

Finance Director Julia Edwards noted that the budget amendment for the Command Center was using funds from Emergency Management and some money set aside in Capital Reserve and that the budget amendment for the carport was using funds budgeted in FY 18/19.

Commissioner Morris inquired if there would be a 6 month budget review completed in January.

Finance Director Julia Edwards responded that she will be completing this and getting the monthly

reports completed as well.

With no further discussion the motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

INFORMATION AGENDA

Chairman Nickelston noted that there were no items on the Information Agenda at tonight's meeting.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

Tax Administration Monthly Report

Tax Administrator Richard Brim presented the Board with information on the Tax Administration's Monthly Report with a request for the following items to be placed on the Consent Agenda at the next meeting:

1. Real and Personal Releases more than \$100.00
2. Younts Wine Farm LLC, Business Personal Property Discovery

With no discussion and full consensus of the Board, these items were placed on the Consent Agenda for the next meeting.

Voting Equipment Resolution

Elections Director Jason Perry presented the Board with a resolution of approval of the voting equipment that was approved in the budget and let the Board know about the change in some polling places throughout the county.

There was favorable discussion among the Board related to the request.

With no further discussion and full consensus of the Board this item was moved to the Action Agenda at the next meeting.

Propane Vehicles

County Manager Jake Oakley presented information on behalf of the Sheriff on converting 8 more vehicles in the Sheriff's Department to propane and noted that if the Board elected to move forward with an RFP it will need to be approved by the Board and sent out to vendors.

There was favorable discussion among the Board on converting the additional vehicles and developing an RFP.

With no further discussion and full consensus of the Board this item was moved to the Action Agenda at the next meeting.

LKC Letter Agreement for Engineering Services

County Manager Jake Oakley and Public Works Director Mark Delehant presented the Board with the LKC Letter Agreement for Engineering Services.

There was favorable discussion among the Board.

With no further discussion and full consensus of the Board this item was moved to the Action Agenda at the next meeting.

(Chairman Nickelston called for a short recess at 7:00 pm)

(Chairman Nickelston called the meeting back to order at 7:10 pm)

Architectural/Engineering Services EMS Station W/C

Support Services Supervisor Glenda Pruitt presented information to the Board related to the approval of Architectural/Engineering Services for the EMS Station W/C with a request to enter into a contract with Peterson and Gordon Architects.

There was favorable discussion among the Board related to the request.

With no further discussion and full consensus of the Board this item was moved to the Action Agenda at the next meeting.

Architectural/Engineering SolidWaste/Scale House

Support Services Supervisor Glenda Pruitt presented information to the Board related to the approval of Architectural/Engineering Services for the Solid Waste/Scale House with a request to enter into a contract with Peterson and Gordon Architects.

There was favorable discussion among the Board related to the request.

With no further discussion and full consensus of the Board this item was moved to the Action Agenda at the next meeting.

LifeStar Agreement

County Manager Jake Oakley presented the Board with the LifeStar Agreement and noted that the agreement included is for 2 years for LifeStar to continue providing service to the county. This was discussed in the budget concerning bringing this service back in house. If the Board is still considering this the contract may need to be revised to change the length of the contract or to have a clause to end the contract with appropriate notice. If no changes are needed the request from EMS Director Brandon Gentry is to move this item to the Action Agenda at the meeting tonight and bring this contract current as it is out of date. The letter of approval from County Attorney Browder is included.

There was favorable discussion among the Board and full consensus to move this item to the Action Agenda at tonight's meeting.

Reagan Building Flooring Quotes

County Manager Oakley presented the Board with quotes received for replacing the flooring at the Reagan Building and noted that at a meeting a while back the Board was presented with some preliminary costs to replace the flooring in the Reagan Building and at this meeting the Board directed the County Manager and staff to bring quotes back to the Board for consideration. The attached memo has information related to the quotes received. There were only 2 quotes received although Support Services Supervisor Glenda Pruitt solicited bids from several vendors.

There was some discussion among the Board regarding replacing the carpet in the Commissioners Chambers with vinyl plank flooring and there was some concern of the look and noise of this. The Board directed staff to gather information on this and obtain a quote for carpet for this space.

With no further discussion and full consensus of the Board this item was moved to the Action Agenda at the next meeting with the information requested to be presented at the meeting.

Department of Social Services Board - Appointments Request

Assistant County Manager / Clerk to the Board Shannon Shaver presented the Board with information regarding the DSS Board applications and noted that we have been accepting applications for the DSS Board. This has been advertised on the county website. The state has 2 applications for consideration. The Commissioners appoint 3 members of the 5 member Board; one of which is a Commissioner. We have received 2 applications. Katie Tedder and Greg Collins have applied. There could be a possible conflict with one applicant who serves as a Guardian Ad Litem and it was requested that the Board give the applicant consideration to chose between the Boards if she is nominated. The Board will need to nominate these two individuals if they are in agreement as well as a Commissioner to serve on the DSS Board.

There was discussion among the Board on re-opening the application period due to some Board members received requests from other individuals wishing to apply that did not realize these applications were being taken.

Chairman Nickelston opened the floor for the Commissioner appointment to the DSS Board.

Commissioner Morris nominated Commissioner Walker to serve on the DSS Board.

Vice Chairman Mendenhall moved to close the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Morris seconded.

With no further discussion the motion passed.

Chairman Nickelston polled the Board.

Commissioner Morris-Walker
Vice Chairman Walker-Walker
Commissioner Yontz-Walker
Vice Chairman Mendenhall-Walker
Chairman Nickelston- Walker

With no further discussion and full consensus of the Board this item was moved to the Action Agenda at the next meeting on December 23rd.

Closed Session Policy and Procedures

Chairman Nickelston noted that a request was received to place this item on the Agenda.

There was discussion among the Board on establishing a policy for Closed Session's and Closed Session Minutes. The Board requested that staff work with County Attorney Browder in creating a policy and bringing it to the Board at a future meeting.

ACTION AGENDA

King Library Board Appointment

Chairman Nickelston entertained a motion on the item presented.

At the meeting on November 25th a request from the King Library Board was received to appoint Sabrina Gatewood to the King Public Library Board to replace Scott Tedder who has stepped down. The request was received from Joan Sherif with the NWRL.

Sabrina Gatewood was nominated and this item was moved to the Action Agenda at the meeting on December 9th.

Chairman Nickelston opened the floor for any further nominations.

Vice Chairman Mendenhall moved to close the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Yontz seconded.

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

With no further discussion the motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Chairman Nickelston polled the Board:

Commissioner Morris-Sabrina Gatewood
Commissioner Walker-Sabrina Gatewood
Commissioner Yontz-Sabrina Gatewood
Vice Chairman Mendenhall-Sabrina Gatewood
Chairman Nickelston- Sabrina Gatewood

Chairman Nickelston noted that Sabrina Gatewood had been appointed to the King Public Library Board.

Resolution Approving Financing Terms

Chairman Nickelston entertained a motion on the item presented.

This Resolution is a formality for the 19/20 FY Financing of Equipment. The financing options were presented at the first meeting in November and approved at the last meeting. This Resolution just needs to be approved to go along with the previously approved documents.

Commissioner Morris moved to approve the Resolution for the 19/20 Financing of Equipment.

Vice Chairman Mendenhall seconded.

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

With no further discussion the motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

LifeStar Agreement

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

Vice Chairman Mendenhall moved to approve the LifeStar Agreement as presented.

Commissioner Yontz seconded.

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

With no further discussion the motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

CLOSED SESSION

Assistant County Manager/Clerk to the Board Shannon Shaver read the rationale for entering Closed Session:

- To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged pursuant to GS 143-318.11(a)(3)
- To consider and take action with respect to the position to be taken by the county in negotiating the price or other material terms of an agreement for the acquisition or lease of real property pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5)

Chairman Nickelston entertained a motion to enter Closed Session

Commissioner Morris made a motion to enter Closed Session.

Commissioner Walker seconded.

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

With no further discussion the motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Adjournment


With no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Nickelston entertained a motion to adjourn.

Vice Chairman Mendenhall made a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Morris seconded.

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

With no further discussion the motion carried with a 5-0 vote and the meeting was adjourned at 9:06 pm.



Shannon Shaver
Clerk to the Board



Andy Nickelston
Chairman