

**STATE OF NORTH
CAROLINA**)
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COUNTY OF STOKES)

**OFFICE OF THE
COMMISSIONERS
STOKES COUNTY
GOVERNMENT
DANBURY, NORTH
CAROLINA
MONDAY NOVEMBER 8, 2021**

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met for a Regular Meeting in the Stokes County Administration Building in the Commissioners Chambers located in Danbury, North Carolina on Monday November 8, 2021 at 6:00 pm with the following members present:

Board of Commissioners Present: Chairman Andy Nickelston, Vice Chairman Sonya Cox, Commissioner Wayne Barneycastle, Commissioner Ronnie Mendenhall, and Commissioner Rick Morris

County Administration Present: Interim County Manager Shannon Shaver, Assistant County Manager/Clerk to the Board Amber Brown, and County Attorney Ty Browder

Absent: Finance Director Julia Edwards

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION

Chairman Mendenhall delivered the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Mendenhall moved to approve the agenda as presented.

Commissioner Barneycastle seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

Public Comments

Chairman Nickelston opened the floor for Public Comments at 6:02 pm.

There were no individuals signed up to speak.

With no individuals signed up to speak, Chairman Nickelston closed the floor for Public Comments at 6:02 pm.

COMMENTS - Managers/Commissioners

Vice Chair Cox commented:

- I'd like to thank everybody for being here in person and for all of the people who are watching online.
- We have some students here from a Civics class. I hope we don't bore you too much. Thank you for coming out tonight.
- I'd also like to remember all of the veterans this week as Ronnie mentioned.
- We just want to thank all of our local veterans and people who served and continue to serve.
- I'm just enjoying this beautiful fall weather; the drive up here today was magnificent.

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Veteran's Day is a very special day to me.
- I hope the United States of America appreciates all of our veterans and what they have done in the past and in the future.
- To me, freedom is so important. Right now, we're in a battle.
- I just want to say a special thank you.
- My two sons served. One served two stints in Afghanistan and the other was an MP.
- They've both served; and I want to say to them that I am proud of them.
- If you have family that served, I say thank you to you.

Commissioner Barneycastle commented:

- It's great to everybody tonight and everybody watching livestream.
- It's great to see these young ladies from school here showing some interest in local government.
- Our veterans, we commend them and we love them. We appreciate everything they've done for us in this country. Thank you all.

Commissioner Morris commented:

- I'd like to welcome everybody that's here participating here with us tonight and hopefully a lot of people online as well.
- I'm hearing from some of my former military folks that are still involved there that there are some real concerns these days with the woke movement that's going on in the military.
- This is not a positive thing and is not something that will help us win wars.
- Let's pray that we can change that before long with another election.

Chairman Nickelston commented:

- I'd also like to say thank you to everybody that has come out.
- Thank you to all the veterans for your service and all the ones who continue to serve for us.
- They are in our prayers daily.
- Welcome to the young ladies sitting up here in front. If you need some coffee, there's some in the back.

Interim County Manager Shannon Shaver:

- Thank you to everybody. It's nice to see everyone here.
- I know these kids are from South Stokes, I recognize some of you.
- Welcome to our meeting, and if you ever need any more information, feel free to reach out to our office as well.
- I'll touch on Veteran's Day too.
- My dad is a veteran and my grandfather was a veteran.
- It's a special week for those individuals and I appreciate all of the sacrifices they have made for our country.
- I also attended a nice event last week at the King Chamber of Commerce Business Leader of the Year dinner.

- All of the commissioners went as well, except for Mr. Mendenhall who was suffering from a root canal.
- Some local business leaders and students were honored at this event so that was nice.
- I hope we have a good, productive meeting.

Conflicts of Interest

Chairman Nickelston asked if any Board members had a conflict of interest with any of the items presented on the agenda for tonight's meeting or one that could be perceived as a conflict of interest.

With no commissioners stating any conflicts of interest, the meeting continued.

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.

Minutes

Budget Amendments

Tax Office Items for Approval

Grant Ordinance for ARPA funding

2021 Record Retention Schedules

Commissioner Mendenhall moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Barneycastle seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

INFORMATION 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.

RiverStreet Update

Chairman Nickelston turned the floor over to RiverStreet CEO Eric Cramer.

Mr. Cramer presented updates about RiverStreet and what their company has been doing in addition to what they can do with regards to internet and broadband.

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

Commissioner Morris requested that an item be placed on the Discussion Agenda for the next meeting to revisit this issue.

After some discussion, the Board moved on to the next item.

Register of Deeds Quarterly Report

Chairman Nickelston turned the floor over to Register of Deeds Brandon Hooker.

Mr. Hooker presented his quarterly report to the Board and gave updates about his office's performance.

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

After some discussion, the Board moved on to the next item.

DISCUSSION 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.

Request for Approval of 4 AEDs for Station 40

Chairman Nickelston turned the floor over to Interim County Manager Shannon Shaver.

Interim County Manager Shannon Shaver presented a request to approve four AEDs for Station 40, South Stokes Fire and Rescue. At the last meeting, emergency funds were approved for a boiler for Station 40. Four AEDs were also needed as part of this request that had been approved by the Fire Commission. Based on the Service District Requirements, approval by the Board of Commissioners was also needed. The estimate for the four AED's from Bound Tree was presented along with Budget Amendment 43 to appropriate these funds from the Service District Fund.

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

After some discussion and with full consensus of the Board, this item was moved to the Action Agenda for tonight's meeting.

VAYA Regional Board Appointments Request

Chairman Nickelston turned the floor over to Interim County Manager Shannon Shaver.

Interim County Manager Shannon Shaver presented information about two appointments to represent Stokes County for VAYA Health's Regional Board. The appointees to serve on this board were required to either be commissioners, designees by the Board, or a combination of both. The Board reached a consensus that the nominees should be DSS Director Stacey Elmes and Vice Chair Sonya Cox.

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

After some discussion, this item was moved to the Action Agenda for the November 22, 2021 Board of Commissioners meeting.

Approval of Water Tower

Chairman Nickelston turned the floor over to Interim County Manager Shannon Shaver.

Interim County Manager Shannon Shaver presented a request to formally approve the site for the water tower at 2320 Wall Loop Road. This spot was identified by LKC Engineering as the most ideal place for the elevated water storage tank as part of the Danbury/Meadows Water System Interconnection Project.

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

After some discussion, this item was moved to the Action Agenda for the November 22, 2021 Board of Commissioners meeting.

Offer to Purchase Surplus Property

Chairman Nickelston turned the floor over to Tracy Aaron from Finance/Purchasing.

Ms. Aaron presented an offer to purchase parcel numbers 598800984426 and 691602956062 of surplus property.

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

After some discussion, this item was moved to the Action Agenda for the November 22, 2021 Board of Commissioners meeting.

ACTION 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.

Civilian Member Fire Commissioner Appointment

At the last meeting, both Richard Arrington and Chris Smith were nominated to fill one vacancy for a Civilian Member Fire Commissioner position.

Chairman Nickelston opened the floor for any further nominations.

Commissioner Mendenhall moved to close the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Morris seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

Chairman Nickelston polled the Board.

Commissioners Morris and Barneycastle both stated Arrington.

Commissioners Mendenhall, Cox, and Nickelston all stated Smith.

Chris Smith was nominated to fill the vacancy for the Civilian Member Fire Commissioner position from October 2021 thru October 2023.

Request for Approval of 4 AEDs for Station 40

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

Commissioner Mendenhall moved to approve the request for four AEDs for Station 40 and Budget Amendment #43.

Commissioner Barneycastle seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

CLOSED SESSION

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

- 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 G.S. 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)
- To consider the initial employment or appointment of an individual to any office or position, other than a vacancy in the Board of County Commissioners or any other public body, or to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, and fitness of any public officer or employee, other than a member of the Board of Commissioners or of some other public body pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6)

Commissioner Mendenhall moved to enter Closed Session at 7:14 pm.

Vice-Chairman Cox seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

Adjournment

The Board reentered the open portion of the meeting at 8:26 pm.

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

Commissioner Mendenhall moved to adjourn at 8:27 pm.

Vice-Chairman Cox seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

Amber Brown
Clerk to the Board

Andy Nickelston
Chairman