

**STATE OF NORTH
CAROLINA

COUNTY OF STOKES**

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**OFFICE OF THE
COMMISSIONERS
STOKES COUNTY
GOVERNMENT
DANBURY, NORTH
CAROLINA
MONDAY FEBRUARY 28, 2022**

Regular Meeting

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 February 28, 2022 at 2:00 pm with the following members present:

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

County Administration Present: County Manager Shannon Shaver, Assistant County Manager/Clerk to the Board Amber Brown, Finance Director Julia Edwards, Assistant Finance Director Lisa Lankford, and County Attorney Ty Browder.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Cox called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners to order.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Nickelston delivered the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Cox led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance and invited those in attendance to join.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Cox entertained a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Commissioner Mendenhall requested that Item B under the Action Agenda, Abandonment Resolution Request for Victory Hill Church Road, be tabled until a later date. He always wants to do his due diligence and he nor the rest of the Board has received all of the information needed to make a justified decision.

Commissioner Morris concurred with Commissioner Mendenhall's request.

Commissioner Mendenhall moved to approve the agenda as amended to table Item B under the Action Agenda until a later date.

Commissioner Nickelston seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

Public Comments

Chair Cox opened the floor for Public Comments at 2:04 pm.

The following spoke during Public Comments:

Wayne Amos
6572 NC 704 Hwy E
Sandy Ridge, NC 27046

RE: Victory Hill Church Road Closure

Mr. Amos stated he was here to comment about the Victory Hill Church Road Closure, but since the item was tabled until a later meeting, he will come back then to comment.

Bobby Hickman
1409 Goinstown Road
Sandy Ridge, NC 27046

RE: Victory Hill Church Road Closure

Mr. Hickman opposed the Victory Hill Church Road Closure and presented several reasons for why it should stay open.

Anna Beliczky
741 Bennett Road
Stoneville, NC 27048

RE: Victory Hill Church Road Closure

Ms. Beliczky stated she was here to comment about the Victory Hill Church Road Closure, but since the item was tabled until a later meeting, she will come back then to comment. She also stated that the Board of Commissioners would have all of the documentation they requested.

With no other individuals signed up to speak, Chair Cox closed the floor for Public Comments at 2:07 pm.

COMMENTS - Managers/Commissioners

Commissioner Morris commented:

- I'd like to welcome everybody out to our meeting today, we appreciate you attending and participating in our local government.
- We always appreciate your advice on any issues we are working on.

Commissioner Nickelston commented:

- It's good to see everybody here. It's a beautiful day to be here at 2:00.
- I appreciate you spending your time here instead of outside and also keeping up on what is going on.
- As I said in the prayer, please keep our neighbors overseas in our prayers and hope that this matter resolves quickly and no more lives are taken.

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Thank you for being here today.
- I appreciate the people that come out to our meetings and participate in our governmental process.
- To everyone watching us on livestream, I appreciate y'all taking the time out of your day.
- By the next meeting, I promise you our Chairman will know my last name.

Vice Chair Barneycastle commented:

- It's great to see everybody.
- It's a beautiful day the Lord has blessed us with.
- As Commissioner Nickelston said, the people over in Ukraine and in foreign countries we need to remember these folks.
- We've been blessed here in this country, and always pray and think about our military.
- I hope things get better, I really do.
- Again, it's great to see everybody.

Chair Cox commented:

- It's great to see everybody here and everybody online that couldn't be here and everybody that came out on a beautiful day just to spend a little time with the governmental process.
- Thanks for being here.

County Manager Shaver commented:

- Welcome to everybody here.
- As always, if there's ever anything Amber or I can do to help you out in the community or you need anything from us or the commissioners, feel free to reach out.
- I want to take a minute to ask everyone to be in prayer for the family of Ann Vance.
- A lot of you knew Ann really well. She was a long time employee at DSS and she passed away on February the 7th.
- She has left quite a void at DSS, they're really missing her there.
- Just keep her and her family in your prayers.
- We asked the school system to send out a call for us and on social media and we sent out some calls asking people to take a broadband survey.
- If you have not gotten that call yet or don't have that information, reach out to our office and we can get you the link to that.
- It's really important to complete the survey, we're looking at expanding the broadband in the county.
- That survey will help to identify the unserved and underserved areas.
- The current map that has been submitted to the state is completely incorrect, it's got a lot of areas that show covered that are not covered.
- If you take that survey from home, it will test your speed, show what your current coverage is if you have any, and that submits the correct data to the state.
- Just take time to take that survey, it takes five minutes.
- If you need help getting that survey, just let us know.

Conflicts Of Interest

Chair Cox asked if any Board members had a conflict of interest with any of the items presented on the agenda for the 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

Commissioner Nickelston moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Mendenhall seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

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.

Tax Office Agenda

Chair Cox turned the floor over to Tax Administrator Richard Brim.

Tax Administrator Richard Brim presented the following to the Board:

1. Monthly Reports for the month of January 2022.
 - a. Tax Collections Status Report FY 2021-2022.
 - b. Real and Personal Releases less than \$100.00 per N.C.G.S. 105-381(b).
2. Real and Personal Refunds more than \$100.00.
3. Present Use Value late application.
4. Advertisement of the 2021 Tax Liens.
5. Update on County Surplus Property.

Chair Cox opened the floor for any discussion/questions/comments.

With some discussion, the below items were moved to the Consent Agenda for the March 14, 2022 Board of Commissioners Meeting:

1. Real and Personal Refunds more than \$100.00.
2. Present Use Value late application.
3. Advertisement of the 2021 Tax Liens.

The Board moved the Surplus Property to Town of Walnut Cove item to the Action Agenda for the March 14, 2022 Board of Commissioners meeting.

Revisions to Policy for Fire Commission and Use of Service District Funds

Chair Cox turned the floor over to Fire Marshal Scott Aaron.

Fire Marshal Scott Aaron presented information on revisions to the Policy for the Fire Service District and Fire Commission and Use of Service District Funds. The Fire Commissioners met on 12/1/21 to align on 22/23 Service District Budget Sessions and voted to make these policy revisions. There were only three changes requested that were highlighted in the attached document. The Stokes County Fire Commission respectfully requested that the Board of Commissioners review and approve these revisions to improve the process for all parties involved.

Chair Cox opened the floor for any discussion/questions/comments.

After some discussion, the Board moved this item to the Action Agenda for the March 14, 2022 Board of Commissioners meeting.

Tethering of Animals

Chair Cox turned the floor over to Candis Loy, Chair of the Animal Control Advisory Board.

Ms. Loy presented information on the tethering of animals in Stokes County. A short five-minute video was shown which reflected footage of a rescue group from Tennessee that helped assist a large animal confiscation in the county on Northview Church Road in Danbury. A tethering outline and copies of current ordinance texts about animal restraint and tethering were provided to the Board. Ms. Loy stated that there are recommendations from the Animal Control Advisory Board (ACAB) to ban 24/365 tethering by making edits to the Animal Control Ordinance for Stokes County. She asked that the Board let her know if they were interested in the ACAB taking the next step to change the ordinance to reflect the increased tethering ban. The Board of Commissioners gave a consensus that they would like to see what the advisory board comes up with regarding changes to the ordinance language.

Chair Cox opened the floor for discussion/questions/comments.

After some discussion, the Board moved this item tentatively to the Discussion Agenda for the March 14, 2022 meeting.

LifeBrite Community Hospital Wall Repair

Chair Cox turned the floor over to Public Works Director Stewart Easter.

Public Works Director Stewart Easter presented information on options to repair a wall that was badly damaged at LifeBrite Community Hospital. Decisions needed to be made to fix the wall and stop it from getting worse. There were other associated problems that needed to be addressed at some point too: drainage and roofing damage. Director Easter reached out to a company with these project needs and they presented several options with quotes to address it.

Chair Cox opened the floor for any discussion/questions/comments.

Commissioner Nickelston requested that all of the repairs needed be put out for bidding. The Board agreed and requested that Director Easter put together bid packages to put out with a concentration on the wall and roof repair.

After some discussion, the Board moved this item to a meeting in the near future when bids were received from companies to fix the issue and a final decision could be made.

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.

Board of Adjustment Reappointments

At the last meeting on February 14, 2022, the Board nominated Amos Elvis, Dennis Robinson, John Turpin, Marvin Cavanaugh, and Stephen Jessup to the Board of Adjustments.

Chair Cox opened the floor for any further nominations.

Vice-Chair Barneycastle moved to close the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Morris seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

Chair Cox polled the Board:

Chair Cox: List as presented

Vice-Chair Barneycastle: List as presented

Commissioner Mendenhall: List as presented

Commissioner Morris: List as presented

Commissioner Nickelston: List as presented

Amos Elvis, Dennis Robinson, John Turpin, Marvin Cavanaugh, and Stephen Jessup were reappointed to serve on the Board of Adjustments.

Abandonment Resolution Request for Victory Hill Church Road

This item was removed from the Action Agenda during the approval of the agenda when it was amended by Commissioner Mendenhall. The item was removed and tabled for a future meeting when more information could be provided by the parties involved.

Stokes Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee Appointment

At the last meeting on February 14, 2022, the Board nominated Scotty Hooker to the Stokes County Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee.

Chair Cox opened the floor for any further nominations.

Commissioner Nickelston moved to close the floor for nominations.

Vice-Chair Barneycastle seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

Chair Cox polled the Board:

Chair Cox: Scotty Hooker

Vice-Chair Barneycastle: Scotty Hooker

Commissioner Mendenhall: Scotty Hooker

Commissioner Morris: Scotty Hooker

Commissioner Nickelston: Scotty Hooker

Scotty Hooker was nominated to serve on the Stokes Adult Care Home CAC.

Deputy Finance Director Appointments

Chair Cox entertained a motion on the item as presented at today's meeting.

Commissioner Mendenhall moved to appoint Glenda Pruitt and Tracy Aaron as Deputy Finance Directors.

Commissioner Nickelston seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

CLOSED SESSION

Chair Cox 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)

Commissioner Mendenhall moved to enter Closed Session at 2:54 pm.

Vice-Chair Barneycastle seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

The Board reentered the open portion of the meeting at 3:47 pm.

After reentering the open portion of the meeting, Chair Cox called a Special Meeting of the Stokes County Board of Commissioners to be held on March 7, 2022 at 2:00 pm for the purpose of broadband.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, Chair Cox entertained a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Nickelston moved to adjourn at 3:47 pm.

Vice-Chair Barneycastle seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

Amber Brown
Clerk to the Board

Sonya Cox
Chair