

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

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**OFFICE OF THE  
COMMISSIONERS  
STOKES COUNTY  
GOVERNMENT  
DANBURY, NORTH  
CAROLINA  
MONDAY AUGUST 10, 2020**

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met for a Regular Session in the Stokes County Administration Building in the Commissioners Chamber located in Danbury, North Carolina on Monday August 10, 2020 at 6:00 pm with the following members present:

Board of Commissioners Present: Chairman Andy Nickelston, Commissioner Rick Morris, Commissioner Jimmy Walker, and Commissioner Ernest Lankford

Absent: Vice Chairman Ronnie Mendenhall

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

### **CALL TO ORDER**

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

### **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.

Chairman Nickelston noted that before he asked for a motion on the approval of the Agenda that he has a request to amend the agenda to add the Interlocal Agreement for Disbursement of Coronavirus Funds to the Discussion Agenda under item D. COVID-19 Funding Information. The Board was in concurrence to amend the agenda.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Morris moved to approve the amended agenda.

Commissioner Lankford seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

Absent: Mendenhall

### **COMMENTS - Managers/Commissioners**

Commissioner Morris commented:

- Welcome to everyone here and watching online.
- I will keep doing my office hours on the second Tuesday of the month from 4-7 pm by telephone if anyone wants to call me I will keep those hours open.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- I continue to be concerned about the peripheral damage being caused by the virus.
- Most people I talk to feel like the regulations are over restrictive and harmful.
- We have had three deaths in the county and the way those are reported are somewhat questionable.
- I am hearing strange things of tests that weren't even taken coming back positive.
- There is a wide extreme of views on this.
- We had three suicides in one week in our community and to me that is concerning.
- This as well as the increased drug use is collateral damage of this virus.
- People are frustrated and feel like a good part of there life has been taken away.

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Thankful to be here and appreciate everyone coming out.
- In these trying times I just give my problems to the Lord.
- I am concerned about a lot of these problems that we are having even though I know our Lord is in control.

Chairman Nickelston did not make any comments.

County Manager Oakley did not make any comments.

### **Public Hearing -Financing of EMS Station 1 and Public Works Maintenance Building**

Chairman Nickelston opened the Public Hearing at 6:08 pm.

Chairman Nickelston noted that the Notice of Public Hearing was advertised in the Stokes News on July 30, 2020 and on the County Website, and that the hearing is being conducted concerning the approval of the execution and delivery of the contract and financing of the county's construction of the EMS Station in Walnut Cove and the Public Works Maintenance Building.

Chairman Nickelston noted that there were no individuals signed up to speak and asked if anyone in attendance at the meeting wished to speak during the Public Hearing.

With no individuals signed up to speak and no one in attendance wishing to speak, Chairman Nickelston closed the Public Hearing at 6:09 pm.

## **Public Comments**

Chairman Nickelston opened the floor for Public Comments at 6:09 pm.

With no individuals signed up to speak during Public Comments, Chairman Nickelston closed the floor for Public Comments at 6:10 pm.

## **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

Resolution for Financing of EMS Station 1 and Maintenance Building

Lottery Fund Application

Commissioner Morris moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Lankford seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

Absent: Mendenhall

## **INFORMATION AGENDA**

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

## **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 Administration Monthly Report**

Tax Administrator Richard Brim presented the following information from the Stokes County Tax Administration:

1. Monthly Reports for the month of July 2020.
  - a. Tax Collections Status Reports FY 2020-2021.
  - b. Real and Personal Releases less than \$100.00 per N.C.G.S. 105-381(b).
  - c. Real and Personal Refunds less than \$100.00 per N.C.G.S. 105-381(b).
2. Real and Personal Releases more than \$100.00.
3. Real and Personal Refunds more than \$100.00.
4. Tax Administrator Appointment Request.
5. 2021 Revaluation Schedule of Values.
6. Minimal Taxes.
7. Minimal Refunds.
8. Late Applications for Elderly Exemption.

9. Late Application for Disabled Veteran Exclusion.
10. Present Use-Value Late Applications.

Tax Administrator Richard Brim requested that the Tax Administrator Appointment Request for a 4 year appointment be moved to the Action Agenda tonight for approval.

Tax Administrator Richard Brim noted that a Public Hearing would be advertised and held at the next meeting on August 24, 2020 for the 2021 Revaluation Schedule of Values.

The following items were requested to be moved to the Consent Agenda for approval at the next meeting on August 24, 2020:

1. Real and Personal Releases more than \$100.00.
2. Real and Personal Refunds more than \$100.00.
3. Minimal Taxes.
4. Minimal Refunds.
5. Late Applications for Elderly Exemption.
6. Late Application for Disabled Veteran Exclusion.
7. Present Use-Value Late Applications.

After some discussion and with full consensus of the Board the Tax Administrator's 4 year appointment request was moved to the Action Agenda at tonight's meeting and the other items requested were moved to the Consent Agenda for the next meeting on August 24, 2020.

### **Health Department / Board of Health COVID-19 Update**

Health Director Tammy Martin provided an update to the Board of Commissioners on the current situation in the county regarding COVID-19.

There was much discussion among the Board with no action needed on this item.

### **Board of Health Application**

Assistant County Manager/Clerk to the Board Shannon Shaver presented the Board with an application received from the Board of Health for Tori Phipps. It was noted that the application is for the vacant dental representative position and that the individual applying works at Mabe and Mabe Dental in Walnut Cove, NC.

Chairman Nickelston opened the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Morris nominated Tori Phipps.

Commissioner Walker moved to close the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Lankford seconded.

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

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

### **COVID-19 Funding Information**

County Manager Oakley and Assistant County Manager/Clerk to the Board Shannon Shaver presented the following information to the Board:

1. CARES ACT Funds Received
2. Municipality Funding
3. Grants to Small Businesses/Non-Profits with Proposed Application and Guidelines
4. COVID-19 Advisory Grant Review Committee
5. Public Works Utilities Waiver of Fees/Disconnections-North Carolina regulators have told the state's big for-profit electric, natural gas and water utilities to keep delaying disconnections through August as customers still struggle financially from COVID-19.

It was noted that the state Utilities Commission issued an order on July 29th, the same day a provision expired in Gov. Roy Cooper's separate executive order that prevented shutoffs for all residential customers. The expiration meant local governments and cooperatives could resume disconnections, but the commission wrote to say for-profit companies like Duke Energy and Dominion Energy must wait until at least Sept. 1st. The executive order on this ended on July 29th but Public Work Director Mark Delehant wanted to be sure the Board did not wish for him to extend this.

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

There was much discussion among the Board and some suggested changes regarding the Proposed Application and Guidelines and the Board agreed to have these items brought back to the next meeting for approval.

There was full consensus of the Board to give Public Works Director Mark Delehant the authority to resume normal operations for utilities payments.

### **Demolition of Old Prison Site**

Chairman Andy Nickelston and County Manager Oakley presented the Board with information on the demolition of the old prison property on Dodgetown Road. It was noted that this was in the proposed 19/20 budget with an estimated cost of \$120,000.00 but was removed from the budget before it was approved. It was noted that Perry Peterson had provided an estimated cost of \$403,000.00 in 2018 for complete demolition and site preparation but there were no formal bids received. County Manager Oakley requested that if the Board was interested in moving forward with receiving bids for this that he would recommend receiving bids for the demolition of the Bullins property on Dodgetown Road that the county purchased as well.

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

There was much discussion among the Board and with full consensus this item was placed on the Action Agenda at the next meeting.

### **Request to Abandon a Portion of Snyder Road- SR 1614**

County Manager Oakley presented information to the Board regarding a letter from the Department of Transportation on a request for the abandonment of a section of SR 1614 Snyder Road. It was noted that this request was assessed by the Tax Department and that this request does not create any issues blocking anyone's land or have any impact on emergency services or planning.

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

After some discussion and full consensus of the Board this item was moved to the Action Agenda at the next meeting.

### **Solar Farm Moratorium**

Commissioner Morris presented information to the Board regarding the Solar Farm Moratorium that has been discussed at past meetings. He noted that the Board could consider limiting the moratorium to farms 50 acres or more and set the length of time to state until the Planning Board can establish regulations.

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

After much discussion and full consensus of the Board this item was placed on the Action Agenda at the next meeting.

### **Hospital Operations Board Appointment Requests**

Commissioner Morris presented the Board with appointment requests for the Hospital Operations Committee and noted that the following applications were received and that these are being recommended by the members of the Board:

Greg Collins  
Olivia Shelton  
Debbie Vaden  
Kimberly Walker  
Dwayne Young

Chairman Nickelston opened the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Walker nominated the list as presented.

Commissioner Walker moved that the floor be closed for nominations.

Commissioner Lankford seconded.

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

Commissioner Morris noted that he would like to ask County Attorney Browder if the Committee could have alternates.

Assistant County Manager/Clerk to the Board Shannon Shaver noted that she would contact County Attorney Browder about the alternates.

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

### **Budget Review**

Assistant County Manager/Clerk to the Board Shannon Shaver presented the Board with some possible dates for a Budget Review for the FY 20/21 Budget. She noted that this was discussed during the budget meetings and a tentative date was set but that date has been ruled out due to

Commissioner conflicts.

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

After some discussion the Budget Review was set for Monday November 16, 2020 at 3:00 pm.

### **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.

### **Walnut Cove Planning Board Appointment Request**

Chairman Nickelston entertained a motion on the Walnut Cove Planning Board appointment presented at the last meeting and opened the floor for any additional nominations.

With no further nominations, Commissioner Morris moved that the floor be closed for nominations.

Commissioner Walker seconded.

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

With no discussion the motion Passed.

Chairman Nickelston polled the Board.

Commissioner Morris-Lisa Lee Hairston  
Commissioner Walker-Lisa Lee Hairston  
Commissioner Lankford-Lisa Lee Hairston  
Chairman Nickelston-Lisa Lee Hairston

Chairman Nickelston noted that Lisa Lee Hairston had been appointed to the Walnut Cove Planning Board as an ETJ Member.

Absent: Mendenhall

### **Tax Administrator Appointment**

Chairman Nickelston entertained a motion on the 4 year appointment of Tax Administrator Richard Brim as presented at the meeting tonight.

Commissioner Morris moved approve the reappointment of Tax Administrator Richard Brim for an appointment of 4 years.

Commissioner Walker seconded.

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

With no further discussion the motion Passed.

Absent: Mendenhall

**Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Nickelston entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 pm.

Commissioner Morris moved to to adjourn.

Commissioner Walker seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

Absent: Mendenhall

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**Shannon Shaver**  
**Clerk to the Board**

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**Andy Nickelston**  
**Chairman**