

**STATE OF NORTH)
CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF STOKES)** **OFFICE OF THE
COMMISSIONERS
STOKES COUNTY
GOVERNMENT
DANBURY, NORTH
CAROLINA
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 28,
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 September 28, 2020 at 6:00 pm with the following members present:

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

Absent: Commissioner Ernest Lankford

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

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

Vice-Chairman Mendenhall moved to approve the Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Morris seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

Absent: Lankford

COMMENTS - Managers/Commissioners

Commissioner Morris commented:

- Welcome everybody here tonight.
- As I said during the prayer we need to keep all of our leaders in our prayer during this challenging election season with the problems that can happen with that.
- Hopefully it will be a smooth election.

Commissioner Walker commented:

- Welcome to everyone here this evening.
- We seem to have a pretty good crowd here this evening.
- Thank the Lord for this beautiful day.
- This is such a nice time of the year to be outside doing things if we can find the time.
- I would like to add my concurrence to some of the things that Commissioner Morris mentioned.
- This is a critical time for our nation.
- It seems like there is a lot of division among all of the different views.
- It would be nice if we could find a way for all of this to bring us closer together instead of further apart.
- We have the ability to come together in times like these.
- This is what makes our nation such a great place to live.
- Recently I was visiting someone and there was continuous shooting near their property.
- It was very bothersome.
- It was going on when I got there and after a fairly lengthy visit it was going on when I left.
- The folks that live there say this is a regular occurrence; particularly on Sundays.
- I am old fashioned but I don't like that on Sunday's.
- This is a new age and I am struggling to adjust with some of the things that go on now.
- There has got to be something we can do about this.
- I would like to ask the Board to consider having a review of our noise ordinance on the agenda at our next meeting.
- It is not fair for anyone to have to live in those conditions.
- It used to be that common courtesy, decency, and respect would take care of a situation like that.
- It used to be that you didn't have to pass a new law to keep these kinds of things from happening, but apparently those times have gone away.
- The person I was speaking with was telling me all of the steps they have already taken to try and correct the situation.
- Those steps included talking to some people with the county.
- I would like this on our next agenda.
- In the meantime, whatever our staff can pull together will be helpful.
- To me this is just the kind of thing that doesn't need to be happening.

Vice Chairman Mendenhall commented:

- Welcome to everyone at the meeting and watching us on livestream.
- I want to be sure and thank those watching online as they are an important part of our meetings.
- Thanks to each of you for taking time out of your busy schedules to be here.
- Life is hectic and people are on the go all the time.
- I say thank you for taking time to participate in your local government.
- I ask for the good Lord's guidance during this meeting.

Chairman Nickelston commented:

- I will echo what the rest of the Board has said and it is good to see everyone here tonight.
- It is good to see one of the candidates for County Commissioner at the meeting.
- Sonya Cox is here tonight.

County Manager Oakley commented:

- Welcome to everyone.
- Hope everyone is staying healthy.
- I would like to recognize Shannon on achieving the designation as a North Carolina Certified County Clerk.
- Shannon went several weeks last year working towards this at the School of Government.
- COVID cancelled her conference where she would have received her plaque and name plate that you see here.
- It was hard work.
- Congratulations.
- Anytime we have someone that achieves things through education and knowledge they should be recognized.

Public Comments

Chairman Nickelston opened the floor for Public Comments at 6:10 pm.

The following spoke during Public Comments:

Lisa Señeres and James Saunders
1106 Neal Road
Walnut Cove, NC 27052

RE: Walnut Cove Green Box Site

Ms. Señeres commented:

- We bought our property on Neal Road a little over a year ago.
- One of the main things that we love about it is that it is so private.
- We did realize that it bordered on county property.
- It is right behind the Monarch Community Center building but the rest of it is woods and we thought it would stay that way.
- It now looks like they are proposing to put the new green box site there.
- Last Monday we spoke with the surveyor that was there and asked him what was going on.
- We are concerned about having this in our back yard.
- Not only will it take away from the ambience of the place but we are also concerned about the smell, traffic, and noise.
- I took a 6 minute video that I tried to send to Shannon of the property so you all could take a look at it and see what it looks like back there.
- The file was too large to send so I will re-do and send it again.
- I would like to submit that for consideration.
- It will help you all to see exactly what it is going to look like.
- I don't know if this is going to be an appropriate site.
- It will affect our quality of life there and our property value.
- That is a big concern right now.

Mr. Saunders commented:

- I invite anyone to take a walk on the property.
- The ambience there is going to be ruined.
- The traffic flow is going to be overwhelming.
- I am really concerned about that.
- I had the surveyor mark an area where a beautiful old oak tree is located.

- It is on county property but it would be terrible to see it bulldozed.
- Bulldozers have no conscience.
- It is a beautiful place right now.
- If you put a trash dump next to this cabin built in 1943 the charm will be taken away.

With no other individuals signed up for Public Comments, Chairman Nickelston closed the floor for Public Comments at 6:14 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

Tax Administration Monthly Report-Items for Approval

Vice-Chairman Mendenhall moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Walker seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

Absent: Lankford

INFORMATION AGENDA

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

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.

Scenic Byway Resolution

Economic Development Tech Analyst Tory Mabe and Economic Development Director Will Carter presented the Board with a Resolution to extend the Scenic Byway with a future plan to apply to be a National Scenic Byway. It was requested that this item be moved to the Action Agenda at the meeting tonight to meet the application deadline by the end of the month.

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 tonight's meeting.

Paving Agreement and Budget Amendment #25

Public Works Director Mark Dehant presented the Board with the Paving Agreement between the NC D.O.T. and Stokes County with a request for approval at the meeting tonight. He noted that Budget Amendment #25 was included to appropriate the additional funding of \$8442,00.00 to the budgeted amount of \$25,000.00 bringing the total cost of paving to \$33,442.00. He also noted that the project consists of paving Hospice Drive where the new EMS Station is located and the lot at the Old Courthouse.

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 tonight's meeting.

Walnut Cove and Pinnacle Convenience Site Operating Hours

Public Works Director Mark Dehant presented the following information to the Board:

- As you may recall, a few years ago, the Commissioners requested that we extend the hours at both the Pinnacle and Walnut Cove Convenience sites on Fridays and remain open until 9:00 pm and then 8:00 pm during the winter after daylight savings time.
- The site workers maintain an hourly record of visits and based on this data, after 7:00 pm, the average number of visitors during these additional two hours is only 3.
- For that reason I am requesting that we return to the original hours of 7:00 am till 7:00 pm on Fridays like the 5 other sites.

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

After some discussion and full consensus of the Board this item was moved to the Action Agenda at the next meeting on October 12th.

Purchase Agreement - Pinnacle Green Box Site

County Manager Oakley presented the Board with the Purchase Agreement for the land in Pinnacle for the relocation of the Green Box site with a request for approval at tonight's meeting due to the agreement has been signed by the Fire Department and the work to be sure the site is suitable needs to begin.

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

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

Walnut Cove Green Box Site Location

County Manager Oakley presented the Board with the following information on the Walnut Cove Green Box Site:

- Along with County Staff and Perry Peterson; we have identified the site on Neal Road for the relocation of the Walnut Cove Green Box Site.
- This location is currently owned by the Stokes County Board of Education.

- At their meeting on Monday September 21st they unanimously voted to approve the transfer of 4.065 acres of land to Stokes County.
- We have contacted the Town of Walnut Cove and this will be on their Planning Board agenda on October 15th for approval.
- At this time we need the Board of Commissioners to accept this location as a suitable site so we can proceed with the necessary deed work.
- This can be moved to the next meetings Action Agenda if the Board chooses.
- This will give you time to look at the site and speak with the individuals at the meeting tonight with concerns about this site before you take action on this.
- I do understand their concerns and want them to be included in this process.

Public Works Director Mark Delehant commented:

- This is a recycling center that also collects household waste.
- If you look at the current site compared to what the new site will look like there is really no comparison.
- The amount of land is more than adequate so that will allow for a large buffer between other property.

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

After much discussion and full consensus of the Board this item was moved to the Action Agenda at the next meeting on October 12th.

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.

Equipment Financing

Chairman Nickelston entertained a motion on the item presented at the last meeting.

Commissioner Morris moved to approve the equipment financing with Zion Bancorporation with the lowest rate of 1.33%.

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

Absent: Lankford

Tax Office Restructuring and Budget Amendment #23

Chairman Nickelston entertained a motion on the item presented at the last meeting.

Commissioner Morris moved to approve the Tax Office restructuring as requested by Tax Administrator Richard Brim and Budget Amendment # 23.

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

Absent: Lankford

NC DOT Request for Addition of Sheraton Court and Dixieland Court

Chairman Nickelston entertained a motion on the item presented at the last meeting.

Vice-Chairman Mendenhall moved to approve the NC D.O.T. request for the addition of Sheraton Court and Dixieland Court to the secondary state road system.

Commissioner Walker seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

Absent: Lankford

Letter of Support

Chairman Nickelston entertained a motion on the item presented at the last meeting.

Commissioner Walker moved to discuss the approval of the letter of support.

Commissioner Morris seconded the motion.

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

After much discussion the motion Failed.

Nays: Mendenhall, Morris, Nickelston, Walker

Absent: Lankford

Commissioner Walker moved to bring a resolution back to the Board supporting the efforts made by Sarvasri to help Stokes County at the meeting on October 26th for discussion.

Vice Chairman Mendenhall seconded. The motion Passed.

Absent: Lankford

Scenic Byway Resolution

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

Vice-Chairman Mendenhall moved to approve the Scenic Byway Resolution as presented tonight.

Commissioner Walker seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

Absent: Lankford

Paving Agreement and Budget Amendment #25

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

Vice-Chairman Mendenhall moved to approve the Paving Agreement with the NC D.O.T. and Budget Amendment #25 as presented tonight.

Commissioner Morris seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

Absent: Lankford

Purchase Agreement - Pinnalce Green Box Site

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

Vice-Chairman Mendenhall moved to approve the Purchase Agreement for the Pinnacle Green Box Site as presented at the meeting tonight.

Commissioner Walker seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

Absent: Lankford

Adjournment

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

Vice-Chairman Mendenhall moved to adjourn at 7:16 pm.

Commissioner Walker seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

Absent: Lankford

Shannon Shaver
Clerk to the Board

Andy Nickelston
Chairman