

AGENDA



Keith Wood, Chairman
Wayne Barneycastle, Vice Chairman
Brad Chandler, Commissioner
Sonya Cox, Commissioner
Rick Morris, Commissioner

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Tuesday, May 27, 2025
1014 MAIN STREET
DANBURY, NC 27016
2:00 PM

Call to Order

Invocation

Pledge of Allegiance

I. Approval of the Agenda

II. Public Comments

III. Comments - Managers/Commissioners

IV. Conflicts Of Interest

V. Consent Agenda

- a. Budget Amendments**
- b. Tax Office Agenda**
- c. Minutes**
- d. Resolution Authorizing Badge of Retiring Member of Law Enforcement**

VI. Discussion Agenda

- a. Request to Amend the Stokes County Animal Control Ordinance**
- b. Board of Health Reappointments**
- c. Outdoor Fireworks Display**

VII. Action Agenda

- a. Vehicle Use Policy**
- b. America 250 Committee Resolution**
- c. Creation of New Animal Control Advisory Board and Bylaws**
- d. Outdoor Fireworks Display**

VIII. Adjournment

*Anyone with a disability(is) who needs an accommodation to participate in this meeting is requested to inform us 48 hours prior to the scheduled time of the affected group meeting

*Attachments may be delivered before or at the time of the meeting

*Times may vary due to times preset for agenda items



Board of County Commissioners
May 27, 2025
2:00 PM

Item number: V.a.

Budget Amendments

Contact: Tammy Keaton, Finance Director

Summary:

Budget Amendment #77 To appropriate funding for CIP

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Upload Date	Type
Budget Amendment 77	5/23/2025	Cover Memo



Stokes County
Department of Social Services

Post Office Box 30
Danbury, North Carolina 27016

www.co.stokes.nc.us

(336)593-2861 • Fax (336)593-9362 • Courier # 09-16-01

Stacey S. Elmes
Director

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Commissioners

From: Lee Richardson/Stacey Elmes, DSS Director *SE*

Date: May 15, 2025

RE: Budget Amendment
CIP (Crisis Intervention Payment)

This amendment will increase monies for the CIP expenditure account, based on 5/14/25 State's Funding Authorization schedule. We will be reimbursed from the STATE for the appropriation of funds.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you.

HELPING OTHERS HELP THEMSELVES

STOKES COUNTY-BUDGET AMENDMENT

BE IT ORDAINED by the Stokes County Board of Commissioners that the following amendment be made to the annual budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

Section 1. To amend the General Fund, the expenditures are to be changed as follows:

Account Number	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	CURRENT BUDGETED AMOUNT	INCREASE (DECREASE)	AS AMENDED
100-5310-5041007	Crisis Intervention	\$ 100,275.00	\$ 17,600.00	\$ 117,875.00
	TOTALS	<u>\$ 100,275.00</u>	<u>\$ 17,600.00</u>	<u>\$ 117,875.00</u>

This budget amendment is justified as follows:

To appropriate funding for CIP (Crisis Intervention Payment) based of State's Fund Authorization.

This will result in a net increase of \$17,600 monies in the expenditures and other financial use to the County's annual budget and increase revenue from the State. Rec'd 5/14/25 DHHS Fund Authorization schedule.

Account Number	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	CURRENT BUDGETED AMOUNT	INCREASE (DECREASE)	AS AMENDED
100-3301-3301202	SS County Federal	\$ 3,285,793.00	\$ 17,600.00	\$ 3,303,393.00
	TOTALS	<u>\$ 3,285,793.00</u>	<u>\$ 17,600.00</u>	<u>\$ 3,303,393.00</u>

SECTION 2. Copies of this amendment shall be furnished to the Clerk of the Board of Commissioners, Budget Officer and to the Finance Director.

Adopted this day of may, 2025.

Verified by the Clerk of the Board

Stacey Elmes
Department Head's Approval

5/16/25
Date

[Signature]
County Manager's Approval

5/16/25
Date

Danny E. Keeton
Finance Director's Approval

5/16/25
Date



Board of County Commissioners
May 27, 2025
2:00 PM

Item number: V.b.

Tax Office Agenda

Contact: Richard Brim, Tax Administrator

Summary:

Tax Administration Monthly Report

1. Monthly Reports for the month of April 2025.
 - a. Tax Collections Status Report FY 2025.
 - b. Real and Personal Releases 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. Late Application for Present-Use Value.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Upload Date	Type
Tax Office Agenda	5/19/2025	Cover Memo

TAX COLLECTION STATUS REPORT
TOTAL AMOUNT COLLECTED BY MONTH FY 2024-2025

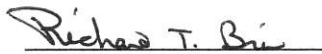
CURRENT 2024 TAX	COUNTY	SCHOOL OPERATING EXP	USE VALUE TAX BILLS	INTEREST PEN & FEES	OCCUPANCY TAX	KING (FIRE)	RURAL HALL (FIRE)	WALNUT COVE (FIRE)	SERVICE (FIRE)	CITY OF KING	TOWN OF WALNUT COVE	DANBURY	EDU DEBT BLDG FUND
JULY	1,028,852.63	969.40	2,396.11	437.48	8,053.36	19,134.45	2,839.18	13,049.18	76,170.52	163,710.07	29,054.16	640.83	61,695.23
AUGUST	14,842,662.46	1,053.11	3,460.57	493.87	11,048.51	338,315.43	49,512.86	186,727.81	1,097,668.68	2,060,502.08	371,619.50	17,887.62	886,470.93
SEPTEMBER	1,092,635.72	795.51	21,118.77	2,973.35	10,029.22	29,453.83	3,039.88	10,902.46	85,961.29	137,087.36	26,968.22	524.64	66,752.77
OCTOBER	515,030.39	465.92	3,289.10	1,130.06	10,032.22	11,912.39	2,128.10	6,571.99	41,960.28	58,157.50	7,576.66	126.39	31,019.90
NOVEMBER	626,521.34	205.30	696.77	161.96	9,701.58	9,011.14	1,810.73	11,629.26	54,587.61	62,003.38	12,467.96	1,059.18	37,548.29
DECEMBER	2,830,470.36	720.50	6,448.44	957.06	8,689.46	47,062.24	8,178.15	51,089.41	223,168.24	353,442.73	67,427.42	5,414.95	169,504.20
JANUARY	7,523,806.38	761.53	2,207.73	10,059.93	7,072.87	43,604.64	6,972.63	61,337.97	952,409.65	197,049.96	62,119.82	3,952.32	449,913.03
FEBRUARY	290,675.32	367.67	143.59	10,059.50	7,979.24	4,297.92	870.35	3,973.40	27,649.61	26,646.96	3,759.11	29.59	17,888.86
MARCH	629,700.05	1,253.54	25,053.17	30,287.13	8,074.67	14,187.00	2,423.95	10,693.87	59,238.90	41,282.25	8,486.52	1,461.46	40,874.69
APRIL	167,815.64	1,040.69	3,606.27	9,201.03	9,568.69	1,881.96	696.79	3,174.68	16,050.26	16,281.44	1,496.65	401.43	10,769.23
MAY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
JUNE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SUB TOTAL	\$ 29,548,170.29	\$ 7,633.17	CONT'D	CONT'D	\$ 90,249.82	\$518,861.00	\$ 78,472.62	\$ 359,150.03	\$2,634,865.04	\$3,116,163.73	\$ 590,976.02	\$31,498.41	CONT'D
BUDGET AMT	\$ 29,776,629.00	\$ -	CONT'D	CONT'D		\$517,320.00	\$ 79,562.00	\$ 368,325.00	\$2,646,073.00				CONT'D
BALANCE	\$ 228,458.71	\$ (7,633.17)				\$ (1,541.00)	\$ 1,089.38	\$ 9,174.97	\$ 11,207.96				
PERCENTAGE	99.23%					100.30%	98.63%	97.51%	99.58%				

PRIOR	COUNTY	SCHOOL OPERATING EXP	USE VALUE TAX BILLS	INTEREST PEN & FEES	DOGS	KING (FIRE)	RURAL HALL (FIRE)	WALNUT COVE (FIRE)	SERVICE (FIRE)	CITY OF KING	TOWN OF WALNUT COVE	TOWN OF DANBURY	EDU DEBT BLDG FUND
JULY	34,571.29	27,868.19	-	14,008.20	6.00	935.49	366.15	1,332.83	4,224.27	4,829.13	2,048.09	63.03	4,626.53
AUGUST	30,901.17	23,781.18	-	15,072.63	6.00	251.31	281.19	1,355.14	4,163.85	5,235.63	618.24	80.20	4,207.46
SEPTEMBER	22,653.64	20,044.95	-	6,896.92	-	716.78	149.02	282.80	3,768.66	2,829.29	750.53	1,155.67	3,040.24
OCTOBER	31,145.99	24,141.67	63.32	12,755.34	6.00	1,495.97	143.79	850.44	4,266.26	1,157.89	695.10	-	4,209.57
NOVEMBER	16,637.57	12,202.64	-	9,996.44	42.00	172.21	32.93	309.98	2,332.52	2,812.44	1,645.35	-	2,082.41
DECEMBER	24,731.84	21,118.41	-	14,310.61	12.00	1,269.82	8.51	441.24	3,739.10	1,717.03	1,129.13	-	3,602.87
JANUARY	15,375.53	12,205.22	276.13	8,952.80	-	232.39	87.03	509.21	2,533.65	675.71	571.54	-	2,227.97
FEBRUARY	15,118.81	11,968.47	-	9,121.65	5.91	146.79	159.47	493.69	2,074.23	1,729.13	1,982.86	-	2,158.33
MARCH	40,048.54	35,711.45	-	21,101.00	23.01	454.11	257.12	1,805.13	6,342.49	2,736.33	2,932.62	3.04	5,839.64
APRIL	20,331.18	17,546.01	-	13,984.59	-	372.21	78.26	411.28	3,368.65	3,101.96	1,286.85	-	3,116.99
MAY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
JUNE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SUB TOTAL	\$ 251,515.56	\$ 206,588.19	\$ 68,759.97	\$191,961.55	\$ 100.92	\$ 6,047.08	\$ 1,563.47	\$ 7,791.74	\$ 36,813.68	\$ 26,824.54	\$ 13,660.31	\$ 1,301.94	\$ 1,807,549.14
BUDGET AMT	\$ 265,000.00	\$ 235,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,600.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 35,000.00				\$ 1,777,709.00
BALANCE	\$ 13,484.44	\$ 28,411.81	\$ (28,759.97)	\$ 8,038.45	\$ (100.92)	\$ (447.08)	\$ (563.47)	\$ (791.74)	\$ (1,813.68)				\$ (29,840.14)
PERCENTAGE	94.91%	87.91%	171.90%	95.98%		107.98%	156.35%	111.31%	105.18%				101.68%

STOKES COUNTY TAX ADMINISTRATION RELEASE REPORT FOR APRIL 2025

REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY RELEASES LESS THAN \$100 PER NCGS 105-381(b)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
KIM, JOHN KEVIN	1361 DELTA CHURCH RD SANDY RIDGE, NC 27046	880032-2023-2023	\$2.53
KIM, JOHN KEVIN	1361 DELTA CHURCH RD SANDY RIDGE, NC 27046	880032-2024-2024	\$2.05
CRAVER, DUSTIN LEE	1105 FROSTY LN - LOT 17 KING, NC 27021	9923-2023-2023	\$76.54
CRAVER, DUSTIN LEE	1105 FROSTY LN - LOT 17 KING, NC 27021	9923-2024-2024	\$81.96


RICHARD T. BRIM
TAX ADMINISTRATOR

5/19/25
DATE

TOTAL AMOUNT \$163.08

STOKES COUNTY TAX ADMINISTRATION RELEASE REPORT FOR APRIL 2025

REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY RELEASES MORE THAN \$100 PER NCGS 105-381(b)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>BILL NO.</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>REASON</u>
FERGUSON, JOHN E	466 WINCHESTER DR KING, NC 27021	281717-2022-2022	\$115.95	UNREGISTERED MOTOR VEHICLES NO LONGER OWNED
FERGUSON, JOHN E	466 WINCHESTER DR KING, NC 27021	281717-2023-2023	\$55.94	UNREGISTERED MOTOR VEHICLES NO LONGER OWNED
FERGUSON, JOHN E	466 WINCHESTER DR KING, NC 27021	281717-2024-2024	\$58.42	UNREGISTERED MOTOR VEHICLES NO LONGER OWNED

TOTAL AMOUNT \$230.31

Richard T. Brim
RICHARD T. BRIM
TAX ADMINISTRATOR

5/19/25
DATE

KEITH WOOD
CHAIRMAN-STOKES COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

DATE

STOKES COUNTY TAX ADMINISTRATION REFUND REPORT FOR APRIL 2025

REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY REFUNDS MORE THAN \$100 PER NCGS 105-381(b)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	<u>LEDGER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>REASON</u>
BULLINS, ROSEMARY SUE	8822 NC 704 HWY MADISON, NC 27025	75925491	100-3100-3100113	\$141.80	VEHICLE SOLD
			209-3100-3100112	\$21.16	
			211-3100-3100001	\$8.47	
GALLIMORE, BRIAN WAYNE	1175 FIDDLERS LN WALNUT COVE, NC 27052	83553085	100-3100-3100113	\$120.27	VEHICLE SOLD
			208-3100-3100112	\$17.95	
			211-3100-3100001	\$7.18	
GALLIMORE, BRIAN WAYNE	1175 FIDDLERS LN WALNUT COVE, NC 27052	83553093	100-3100-3100113	\$102.18	VEHICLE SOLD
			208-3100-3100112	\$15.25	
			211-3100-3100001	\$6.10	
LATORRE, JAMES SAMUEL	3271 MOIR FARM RD SANDY RIDGE, NC 27046	78230382	100-3100-3100113	\$134.67	VEHICLE SOLD
			209-3100-3100001	\$20.10	
			211-3100-3100001	\$8.04	
SEVIER, CYNTHIA HIGGINS	2693 FLAT SHOALS RD GERMANTON, NC 27019	76794099	100-3100-3100113	\$195.37	VEHICLE SOLD
			209-3100-3100112	\$29.16	
			211-3100-3100001	\$11.66	
SURRY COUNTY TAX OFFICE	PO BOX 588 DOBSON, NC 27017 RE: TAYLOR, PATRICK KEVIN	83626703	100-3100-3100113	\$179.29	VEHICLE PROPERTY TAX CHANGE OF COUNTY
			209-3100-3100112	\$26.76	
			211-3100-3100001	\$10.70	
TATUM, MATTHEW JULIAN TATUM, TABATHA NICHOLE	5083 MCDANIEL RD PILOT MOUNTAIN, NC 27041	77506911	100-3100-3100113	\$99.50	VEHICLE SOLD
			209-3100-3100112	\$14.85	
			211-3100-3100001	\$5.94	

TOTAL AMOUNT

\$1,176.40

Richard T. Brim
RICHARD T. BRIM
TAX ADMINISTRATOR

5/19/25
DATE

KEITH WOOD
CHAIRMAN-STOKES COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

DATE

COUNTY OF STOKES

Richard T. Brim
Tax Administrator



Phone (336) 593-2811 **TAX ADMINISTRATION** **Fax** (336) 593-4019
Post Office Box 294 • 1014 Main Street • Government Center • Danbury, NC 27016

May 1, 2025

To: Stokes County Commissioners
From: Richard T. Brim, Tax Administrator
Subject: Present-Use Value Late Application

Per NCGS 105-277.4(a1), "Late Application.....an application may be approved by the board of equalization and review or, if that board is not in session, by the board of county commissioners."

We have one (1) Present-Use Value Late Application for Year 2025 on which the Tax Office is recommending approval:

<u>Taxpayer(s)</u>	<u>Parcel</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Reason</u>
GRIFFIN, ROCK E. GRIFFIN, MONYA C.	6061-00-23-3300	42.52 Acres	Late Delivery of Forestry Present-Use Application
APPROVAL _____ DENIAL _____			

Date 5/19/25

Date _____

Richard T. Brim
Richard T. Brim
Tax Administrator

Keith Wood-Chairman
Stokes County Board of Commissioners



Board of County Commissioners
May 27, 2025
2:00 PM

Item number: V.c.

Minutes

Contact: Olivia Jessup, Clerk to the Board

Summary:

Minutes for Approval:

- November 25, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes
- January 13, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes
- February 10, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes
- March 10, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Upload Date	Type
Minutes11.25.24	5/23/2025	Cover Memo
Minutes01.13.25	5/23/2025	Cover Memo
Minutes02.10.25	5/23/2025	Cover Memo
Minutes03.10.25	5/23/2025	Cover Memo

STATE OF NORTH
CAROLINA

COUNTY OF STOKES

)
)
)
)

OFFICE OF THE
COMMISSIONERS
STOKES COUNTY
GOVERNMENT
DANBURY, NORTH
CAROLINA

MONDAY NOVEMBER 25, 2024

Regular Meeting of the Stokes County Board of Commissioners

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 25, 2024 at 2:00 pm with the following members present:

Board of Commissioners Present: Chairman Brad Chandler, Vice-Chairman Keith Wood, Commissioner Sonya Cox, and Commissioner Rick Morris.

County Administration Present: County Manager Jeff Sanborn, Assistant County Manager/Clerk to the Board Amber Brown, Assistant Finance Director Tracy Aaron, and Assistant County Attorney Jennifer Michaud.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Chandler called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION

Chairman Chandler invited those in attendance to join the Board in the Invocation, if so desired.

Commissioner Mendenhall delivered the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Chandler invited those in attendance to join the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Chandler entertained a motion to amend or approve today's agenda.

Commissioner Mendenhall moved to amend the agenda to add Item f. "Forsyth Tech Board of Trustees Commissioner Appointment Update" under the Discussion Agenda.

Vice-Chairman Wood seconded the motion to amend. The motion Passed.

Chairman Chandler then entertained a motion to approve the agenda as amended for today's meeting.

Commissioner Cox moved to approve. Vice Chairman Wood seconded the motion. The motion Passed unanimously.

Public Comments

Chairman Chandler opened the floor for public comments.

With no speakers signed up, the floor for public comments was closed by Chairman Chandler.

COMMENTS - Managers/Commissioners

Chairman Chandler opened the floor for comments from the manager and commissioners.

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- I think everybody knows, I speak off the cuff - I speak from my heart and that's why I never need a written speech.
- I didn't want to miss anything today with it being my last meeting.
- I was at the kitchen bar this morning taking notes. I think it sort of surprised her because I could speak in front of superintendents of school systems, I could speak in front of our thousand teachers and assistants with no notes.
- I knew what needed to be said and I didn't like reading. I like speaking without maybe missing a word here or there.
- I did want to say two things on Veterans Day that I missed that meeting, and then I'm going to talk about our governmental employees and how fortunate I've been to be here for the last eight years to be a part of serving this county.
- I don't think there's a better county anywhere than Stokes County; and I don't think we have any counties that can compare to our people here that works for us.
- I always talked about my dad on Veterans Day.
- My dad fought in the Korean War; he was in the Army.
- He probably saved hundreds of lives one time. They were being overrun in the Korean War by the North Korean and Chinese group.
- My dad gave me all of his military stuff before he passed away.
- He passed away on November 26th, so sort of a special day in all ways.
- He won the Bronze Star for his heroism in that action because communications were down, and they asked him to try and get to the place and reconnect communication so they could get an air strike, which they did.
- I had Frank Duncan frame this for my mother; he always does a great job.
- Sometimes you can say things, but when you see it in live it's better.

Commissioner Mendenhall showed the Board and the meeting attendees the framed materials from his dad's military service. He shared what each section and photograph in the frame meant.

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- It's been an honor to serve all the citizens and constituents of Stokes County for the past eight years as your county commissioner.
- My firm belief when I was elected to this position in 2016 was to serve the entire county, all areas of the county, because my thought process was the meaning of these words: Stokes County Commissioner.
- I truly believe that I can say that I did succeed in that goal.
- There have been so many accomplishments that has helped our county tremendously over the last eight years.
- These have resulted due to a team effort from our employees, to volunteers, to citizens, and to our Board of Commissioners.
- I dare try not to list them all for I know I would miss some; however, a few things pop in my mind are the following:
 - A new EMS station in Walnut Cove with the land that was donated by David and

Susan Mecum

- A variety of new equipment for the EMS department
- The new jail
- The new Board of Elections building
- Beginning construction of the expansion of the Courthouse
- Maintenance of a good working relationship with our public safety departments including the Sheriff's Department, 911 Communications, Fire Marshal's Office, the Fire Departments, the Health Department, Social Services.
- The way we were able to utilize and use our ARP monies to help with the opioid epidemic
- Working with the Northwest Communities with the land which was donated by Mark Black
- New Green Box Sites in Pinnacle and Walnut Cove
- Revamping the Green Box site on Sizemore Road
- Promotion of Economic Development investments countywide while at the same time keeping our natural heritage and beauty of our county
- Not forgetting our farmers and their importance
- The future new Animal Shelter
- Increasing new technology in many departments in our county government that was needed
- Redoing salary pay scale for our employees, both part time and full time
- Increasing both capital and current monies allotted to the school system, after all the children are our future
- Future hospital negotiations ongoing
- I've worked with five different county managers: Commissioner Morris, Jake Oakley, Shannon Shaver, Amber Brown, and now our new county manager Jeff Sanborn.
- I want to thank each of those five county managers for the work they've done.
- I want to say a thank you to all of our employees and our current department heads.
- Our department heads are our leaders in our departments, but if they don't have good employees working underneath them, the department isn't going to work.

Commissioner Mendenhall then read over the list of every department head for Stokes County.

- I think we have an outstanding group of department heads. Always remember, keep it in your mind, treat the people that work for you like you would want to be treated.
- To all 480 to 500 employees for Stokes County Government, I say to you, job well done. Job well done.
- I worked with three Sheriff's really close. One of them was not in this position.
- I will say it was one of my best friends, Mike Joyce.
- Mike Joyce was Sheriff when I was principal of those three schools. He would come up on Fridays and sit down, we'd talk.
- It was more than talking with Mike. This is not to offend anyone that hates Washington Redskins. Mike and I were both staunch Redskins fans because the Carolina Panthers didn't have a team at that time.
- Mike and I would go up on Sundays and watch the Redskins play. Two or three times a year we'd take a bus tour. Go up on Saturdays, spend the night and watch the game on Sunday.
- What's funny is that my family is so divided. My brother that's going to help look after my mother the next two years together, he pulls for the Steelers.
- Nothing like Pittsburgh to him. My brother that passed away, he was a Dallas Cowboys fan so we really hammered each other.
- Mike Joyce was more than a Sheriff to me. He was my friend. We went so many places together.

- The second Sheriff was Mike Marshall. Mike was Sheriff when I was superintendent of the school systems. Also, when I was county commissioner.
- We could always ask Mike to help us out in situations and he always was willing to help.
- Now we have Joey Lemons. Joey's wife is a teacher, but we never talk business when we sit next to each other. We talk about his dad umpiring ball games and things like that.
- I've known all three of the Sheriff's very well.
- The judges, Angela Puckett, Bill Southern. Very close to both of them.
- I think we work very well with the three municipalities: King, Danbury, and Walnut Cove. Think we have a good working relationship with all three groups and that's important.
- I've worked with many different county commissioners. I'm the senior member on the team right now after eight years. I'm going to show you how well my memory is right now.
- For each county commissioner that I've worked with, I'm going to name them without looking at the pictures or paper.
- First four: Ernest Lankford, James Booth, Jimmy Walker, Ronda Jones.
- Next election cycle: Jimmy Walker, Rick Morris, Andy Nickelston, and Jamie Yontz.
- Jamie Yontz had to give it up due to work reasons and we had Ernest Lankford and Wayne Barneycastle come in and take his place.
- Now, this is our current board. Commissioner Cox, Commissioner Wood, Commissioner Chandler, and Commissioner Morris.
- To all the commissioners that I've worked with, I give you kudos to all. Every one of you.
- Do we always agree on everything, no. But you know what, you work together because what is our common goal. It's to make Stokes County better.
- To improve Stokes County as much as possible.
- I feel like every board even though they had different personalities in different groups, we all had that common goal to improve Stokes County.
- We have five commissioners that are all Republicans. So, I go to two people that have been our two chairpersons during my eight years on the Republican Party.
- First, Virginia Smith. She was the chairperson when I ran in 2016, and she had been chairperson for the party for about 20 years. She gave up the chair position a couple years ago, and now we have Gary East. I've worked well with both of them.
- I thank Virginia. Gary, I wish you the best. The next two years, I made a promise to my brother. That's why I didn't run for reelection.
- My mother's health is beginning to fail, and he has taken care of my mom for the past eight years. He's not married, and he lives with her.
- I gave him my word, and I'm a man of my word. I told him I would not run and help him take care of her for the next two years.
- The last person I'm going to thank is my wife. I want to especially thank my wife. She has stuck with me through thick and thin. All the meetings I've gone to, she never did say anything negative in any way. She was always supportive. So, to you, thank you.
- I am planning at this time to run for public office, a public office, in 2026. However, there are four different offices, so y'all can't narrow it down to anything.
- I've had four different offices, both statewide and locally, that I've had people come to me and ask me to consider running for.
- The next two years, I wish y'all the best. I thank all of y'all and all the employees here in this County.

Commissioner Morris commented:

- I'd like to welcome everybody that's participating in our meeting today.
- I wish all of our citizens in the county a Happy Thanksgiving this week.
- Very excited about the cabinet that President Trump has put together. I've never seen anything quite like it but I'm really looking forward to it operating.
- One of the things I hope they will do is shine a light on Western North Carolina because I

think they're kind of being forgotten a little bit.

- But if you check in and see what's going on up there, there's a lot of work to be done and a lot of people that are in a bad way.
- I'm hoping President Trump will take notice of that and do some extraordinary things when he gets in office to help those folks.
- Last of all, congratulations to Commissioner Mendenhall. I wish you a very happy and healthy retirement, a real retirement.

Vice Chairman Wood commented:

- Ronnie, I enjoyed every word of your speech. All the stuff you have accomplished. You're getting ready to take on something you will never regret.
- The biggest achievement I've done is that I'm officially retired everybody from public work.
- After 52 years. But the biggest accomplishment of my life was looking after my parents and keeping them from going to a rest home.
- So, you'll never regret that.
- I would like to mention - reasons I'm thankful for Stokes County. Number one is that this group here.
- Number two is the Arts Council is second to none in the state. I thought it was going to be in the Stokes News, but it was in an email I got concerning some award they just recently won.
- They were number one in the state, and they went to Ashville for an award.
- The soup deal they had Saturday was a big crowd, and they just keep accomplishing everything.
- If you're not attending events there, you're missing out.
- The 60+ I always give an update. Last Thursday in nice cool weather, we helped 135 families. I'm proud of that because it's a need and we're trying to make it happen.

Commissioner Cox commented:

- The Arts Council, that's one thing that we worked hard to achieve.
- I served with Ronnie for a long time as a school board member when he was principal and then when he was superintendent.
- I'll talk more about it when we get to his recognition at the end.
- We go way back, and I do appreciate Commissioner Mendenhall's service on this board as well as his service to our community and our school system.
- That was a huge thing that when I ran for school board that I wanted to accomplish. Getting arts education back into elementary schools. We were able to do that, and the Arts Council was instrumental in helping us accomplish that.
- I am very pleased and proud of that award. We can't say enough good about the Arts Council - they're top notch.
- I want to thank everybody that's tuning in and watching and those here today. I wish everybody a Happy Thanksgiving.
- Still praying for those in the western part of the state that was mentioned that are still struggling and have needs.
- I too hope that we can get some more help. I know our state just passed a bill that will help them a lot. Just hope the money is gets to where it's needed most there.

County Manager Jeff Sanborn commented:

- Last week, Amber and I met with Brian Booe, representing the combined ABC Board to try and figure out what our next steps were with regard to the referendum success from this past election.
- We're pleased to learn that it looks pretty simple moving forward from here.
- We really just need to provide a copy of the resolution that you all adopted to put that on the ballot and then a copy of the certified election results and send that to the ABC commission.

- Once we get the response back from that we'll be ready to go.
- Applications from our various businesses in the county that might want to take advantage of that will go straight to the commission and will play a supporting role with regard to inspections that have to take place on the premises in order to complete the applications.
- Second thing is that it is Thanksgiving week, and I want to remind the public that our offices will be closed on both Thursday and Friday.

Chairman Chandler commented:

- I just want to welcome everyone here and especially the ones in attendance today.
- It was a real pleasure and honor to serve with you, Ronnie.
- Even though, as you mentioned, sometimes we may not see 100% but I know you had a lot of valuable insight, and you had reasons behind why you were voting the way you did.
- I didn't ever think you didn't have the best heart for Stokes County because you're a true believer and you continually work with the youth.
- I mean you know about everybody coming from the school system, the parents, and that says a lot.
- You spent a lot of years in public service.
- It does put a lot of drain on you, your family, because you can't please everybody and if you do, please everybody, you have a hard time being a good leader.
- When you do the right thing and you have Stokes County at heart, I think you win 99.9% of the time.
- I hope everybody has a really good Thanksgiving coming up and it's all about the family.
- Of course, you know I'm a strong advocate for Public Safety and while you're enjoying dinner, remember that you have 24/7 deputies and state troopers out there.
- You have the City of King officers out there working 24/7 and while they're out there, their families aren't enjoying their time with their husband or wife.
- Also remember our volunteer firefighters, they may be enjoying the turkey but if that whistle goes off, they'll be leaving their families as well.
- We appreciate our Emergency Medical Service. Top notch equipment. Top notch training, but again they are away from their families while they're out here running calls to whatever emergencies come up.

Conflicts Of Interest

Chairman Chandler asked if any Board member had a conflict of interest with any of the items on the agenda for today or one that could be perceived as a conflict of interest.

No conflicts of interest were stated by the Board.

CONSENT AGENDA

Budget Amendments

Tax Office Agenda

Chairman Chandler entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda which included the following:

- Budget Amendments #38-40
- 1. Monthly Reports for the month of October 2024.
 - a. Tax Collections Status Report FY 2024-2025.
 - 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. Late Applications for Elderly/Disability Exemption.
5. Late Application for Disabled Veterans Exclusion.

Vice Chairman Wood moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Mendenhall seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

INFORMATION AGENDA

Introduction of Peer Support Specialist

Chairman Chandler turned the floor over to Opioid Prevention Coordinator Savannah Hayes.

Opioid Prevention Coordinator Hayes introduced Crystal Hutchens to the Board, the new Peer Support Specialist. Ms. Hayes shared that this position was hired as a contract position as part of the Stokes County Opioid Prevention Effort team using the opioid settlement monies the County received.

Peer Support Specialist Crystal Hutchens shared a few comments about her background and her intentions to improve things in Stokes County concerning opioid use.

The Board welcomed Crystal to Stokes County and shared encouraging words.

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

Register of Deeds Quarterly Report

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

Register of Deeds Hooker presented the quarterly report for his office for the 3rd Quarter of the 2024 Calendar Year (and the 1st Quarter of the FY 24/25). Mr. Hooker shared key numbers for the quarter including recording fees, excise and sales tax revenues, total revenue, and numbers of different recorded documents.

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

After some discussion, the meeting continued with the next Information item on the agenda.

Vaya Health Update

Chairman Chandler turned the floor over to Cara Townsend Dohner, Vaya Regional Director of Community Relations.

Director Dohner presented an update from Vaya Health on their latest work in Stokes County. The following were some of the items discussed during the presentation:

- Innovations services eligible members (Aug. 2024)
- Members served by age group and diagnosis group (Apr-Jun 2024)
- Providers by members served (Apr-Jun 2024)
- Community hospital inpatient admissions
- Emergency department admissions

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

After some discussion, the meeting continued with the first item on the Discussion Agenda.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

Pay and Benefits Policy

Chairman Chandler turned the floor over to Assistant HR Director Donna Rogers.

Assistant Director Rogers presented a Pay and Benefits Policy for the Board's review and consideration. She shared that the policy aimed to provide a complete list all authorized positions with Stokes County and the benefits associated with those positions. Rogers also noted that it provided basic salary ranges for each regular full-time and part-time position approved by the Board.

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

After some discussion, this item was moved to the Action Agenda for the commissioners meeting on December 9, 2024.

Fund Balance Policy

Chairman Chandler turned the floor over to Assistant Finance Director Tracy Aaron.

Assistant Finance Director Aaron presented a Fund Balance Policy for the Board's consideration on behalf of the Finance Department and the County Manager's Office. The policy presented included details on associated objectives, definitions, fund balance levels, use of excess fund balance, and use of fund balance below policy limits in dire circumstances. Assistant Director Aaron also shared a spreadsheet that reflected the County's budgeted fund balance, actual fund balance, total fund balance, and unassigned balance from 2018 through 2023 with projections for 2024 and 2025.

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

After some discussion, this item was moved to the Action Agenda for the December 9, 2024, commissioners meeting.

Resolution Approving Financing Terms

Chairman Chandler turned the floor back over to Assistant Finance Director Tracy Aaron.

Assistant Director Aaron presented the resolution approving financing terms for equipment in the amount totaling \$883,337.00. She noted that during the FY 24/25 budget process, equipment and capital needs were approved to be financed by the Board of Commissioners and these were included in the proposed financing. Assistant Director Aaron also shared that the First National Bank was being presented as the lending institution with a fixed interest rate of 4.59% not to exceed 48 months.

There were also a few items noted that were not included in the financing terms that were originally. These items fell into the category of "real property" and were recommended to be funded directly instead of being financed. Assistant Director Aaron shared that a budget amendment for these real property items would be presented at the next commissioners meeting for approval.

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

After some discussion, this item was moved to the Action Agenda for today's meeting.

Performance Evaluation Tools for the Manager

Chairman Chandler took the floor.

Chairman Chandler presented introductory information on the performance evaluation process for the County Manager. He shared several examples of evaluation questions from other counties and agencies for the Board to review and to be thinking about.

Chairman Chandler brought up the question of when the performance evaluation for the manager would be done annually. County Manager Sanborn recommended that it should be done based on the fiscal year since some of the performance measurements used for the evaluation would come after the fiscal year ended.

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

After some discussion, this item was tabled to a future meeting for further discussion giving the board members time to review the sample evaluations.

Strategic Planning

Chairman Chandler took the floor.

Chairman Chandler presented information about a future strategic planning session and asked the Board to start thinking about possible dates to hold the session. He shared that last year the County held a Financial Planning Session with the NC Association of County Commissioners and that helped prepare the County for the first strategic planning session this fiscal year.

Chairman Chandler asked the Board to think about the planning session and stated that the department heads should attend in addition to Dr. Rice, if possible.

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

After some discussion, the Board decided to set two days for strategic planning and schedule those once looking at their calendars.

Forsyth Tech Board of Trustees Commissioner Appointment Update

Chairman Chandler turned the floor over to Commissioner Mendenhall.

Commissioner Mendenhall presented information about the Forsyth Tech Board of Trustees and how the appointment process had changed from state legislation. He shared that the board had 14 members on it and which agencies appointed certain members and how many.

Commissioner Mendenhall read a letter of resignation he had written to present to the Board requesting approval of his resignation from the Forsyth Tech Board of Trustees effective November 25, 2024. In the letter, he shared the reason for the resignation being that he was going off the Board of Commissioners with this meeting being his last.

The Board discussed whether the individual that would fill the vacancy had to be another commissioner or whether it could be a designee that the Board appointed. Clerk to the Board

Brown shared that she had reached out to several parties requesting clarification on this point but had not heard back.

Chairman Chandler instructed Clerk Brown to place the Forsyth Tech Board of Trustees Appointment on an upcoming meeting agenda to discuss and appoint a new representative. After some discussion, this item was placed on the Action Agenda for today's meeting to vote on accepting the resignation of Commissioner Mendenhall from the Board of Trustees.

ACTION AGENDA

Fire Commission Request

Chairman Chandler turned the floor over to Assistant County Attorney Jennifer Michaud to present a few details gathered since the last meeting.

Assistant Attorney Michaud presented new information that answered outstanding questions on the apparatus purchase.

Chairman Chandler then entertained a motion to approve the fire commission request on the apparatus purchase for Sauratown Volunteer Fire and Rescue.

Commissioner Cox moved to approve the item as presented.

Vice Chairman Wood seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

Resolution Approving Financing Terms

Chairman Chandler entertained a motion on the item as presented at today's meeting.

Commissioner Mendenhall moved to approve the Resolution Approving Financing Terms not to exceed \$883,337.

Vice Chairman Wood seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

Forsyth Tech Board of Trustees Commissioner Appointment Update

Chairman Chandler entertained a motion to approve the item as presented at today's meeting.

Commissioner Mendenhall moved to approve Commissioner Mendenhall's resignation from the Forsyth Tech Board of Trustees.

Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

RECESS

Chairman Chandler called for a brief recess of the meeting at 4:25 pm.

Chairman Chandler called the meeting back to order at 4:33 pm.

Recognition of Outgoing Commissioner Mendenhall

Chairman Chandler took the floor for the Recognition of Outgoing Commissioner Ronnie Mendenhall.

Chairman Chandler presented Commissioner Mendenhall a plaque on behalf of the Board of Commissioners that read *"Presented to Ronnie Mendenhall in appreciation and recognition of the dedicated service and commitment to Stokes County from 2016-2024."*

Chairman Chandler then turned the floor over to NC House Representative Kyle Hall.

Representative Hall shared a few words about Commissioner Mendenhall including congratulations. He then presented Commissioner Mendenhall with The Order of the Long Leaf Pine award. Representative Hall shared that this award was given by the governor of North Carolina and was the highest honor bestowed by the governor of North Carolina.

He then read the proclamation aloud and presented Commissioner Mendenhall with the award. The proclamation read --

*State of North Carolina, Roy Cooper, Governor
Reposing special confidence in the integrity, learning and zeal of
James Ronald Mendenhall
I do by these presents confer
The Order of the Long Leaf Pine
with the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary privileged to enjoy fully all rights granted
to members of this exalted order, among which is the special privilege to propose the following
North Carolina Toast in select company anywhere in the free world:
Here's to the land
of the long leaf pine.
The summer land
where the sun doth shine.
Where the weak grow strong
and the strong grow great.
Here's to "down home,"
the Old North State!*

Commissioner Mendenhall shared words of thanks and gratitude.

The other four members of the Board of Commissioners each shared words of thanks and appreciation for Commissioner Mendenhall.

Adjournment

Chairman Chandler entertained a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Mendenhall moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 pm.

Vice-Chairman Wood seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Amber Brown
Clerk to the Board

Brad Chandler
Chair

STATE OF NORTH
CAROLINA

COUNTY OF STOKES

)
)
)
)

OFFICE OF THE
COMMISSIONERS
STOKES COUNTY
GOVERNMENT
DANBURY, NORTH
CAROLINA

MONDAY JANUARY 13, 2025

Regular Meeting of the Stokes County Board of Commissioners

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, January 13, 2025 at 6:00 pm with the following members present:

Board of Commissioners Present: Chairman Keith Wood, Vice-Chairman Wayne Barneycastle, Commissioner Brad Chandler, Commissioner Sonya Cox, and Commissioner Rick Morris.

County Administration Present: County Manager Jeff Sanborn, Assistant County Manager/Clerk to the Board Amber Brown, Director of Finance Tammy Keaton, Accounting Manager Lisa Lankford, and Assistant County Attorney Jennifer Michaud.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Wood called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION

Chairman Wood invited those in attendance to join the Board in the Invocation, if desired.

Commissioner Cox delivered the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Wood invited those in attendance to join the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Wood entertained a motion to amend or approve tonight's agenda.

Commissioner Chandler moved to approve the agenda as presented.

Commissioner Morris seconded. The motion Passed.

Public Comments

Chairman Wood noted that there were no individuals signed up to speak tonight in Public Comments.

COMMENTS - Managers/Commissioners

Chairman Wood opened the floor for comments from the manager and commissioners.

Commissioner Cox commented:

- I'd just like to thank everybody for being here and those watching on the livestream. Like I said, we want to do a special remembrance of Officer Horan who was killed in the line of duty, and the Greensboro Police Department and all they're dealing with. And all of our first responders who have been working through all this bad weather and our 911 people, fire, police, emergencies services and all. I know they've been stressed and everything that goes into an emergency and weather-related things like this. We really appreciate all their hard work.
- We will say that we have received some calls about the roads. Some are getting scraped quicker than others. Overall, I think DOT has done a good job. All the roads getting here from King were in good shape. I know there's no school tomorrow, another remote day. Maybe we can get these kids back in school soon. If you do have any questions about your roads getting scraped, you can refer to the Stokes DOT, that's who takes care of that.

Vice-Chairman Barneycastle commented:

- It's good to see everybody tonight and everybody watching the livestream. Sonya said everything I was thinking. Busy weekend for the fire departments and EMS. I want to thank them. The grace of the good Lord, we always get it done. We always manage to come through for everybody. Keep those folks from California in your thoughts and prayers as well. I couldn't even fathom what they're going through right now. We had a mountain that burned 400 acres, and I can't imagine what those folks are going through. Prayers and thoughts to all those fire personnel out that way as well.

Commissioner Morris commented:

- I'd like to welcome everybody and wish everybody a happy New Year. I think we're all looking forward to doing the County's business in 2025. We got a lot of moving parts and I'm very optimistic about where we're going to end up at. I'd also emphasize to keep the people of California and Western North Carolina in your prayers and thoughts. I think, especially this California thing, really emphasizes the importance of local government and what can happen when they don't do their jobs. Good lesson for all of us to keep in mind. I actually lived in Los Angeles for four years so it's kind of personal. I know where all those places are that they're talking about.
- I got a sheet I handed out to all the commissioners and it's a little summary of the return on investment for the Piedmont Triad Regional Council. Jeff has some extra copies if anyone else wants to see or get one of those.
- I guess the last thing I'll say is January 20th can't get here fast enough and I'm not talking about the football game.

Commissioner Chandler commented:

- I'd like to welcome everybody on the livestream today. I guess a lot of stuff I was going to say has been covered. Real quick, I do want to recognize the 9th of January was Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. It's a national recognition starting in 2015. I just want to make sure we don't take our law enforcement for granted, especially here in Stokes County. Officer Horan from Greensboro PD lost his life, and GPD has had a rough year because Sgt. Nix was killed approximately a week and a half later. That time period is the holidays, and it's supposed to be a festive spirit, and we have family members that are going to the funeral of a law enforcement officer that gave his life. As I've always said, it doesn't just impact one generation. It changes lives of a lot of different generations. It's another indication of what our society is coming to. No one's perfect in any occupation that we do, but to be gunned down like Sgt. Nix was and Officer Horan was, is just another indication that when you're walking up to a vehicle or in the last case with a suspicious person with a gun, the

officer did things the right way and he paid the ultimate price for that. So again, I ask that you keep the families in your prayers and support local law enforcement, and don't take our law enforcement officers in Stokes County for granted. Because if they wanted to go somewhere they could go somewhere and make a lot more money than they are making here. I also just want to remember the public safety and the firefighters, especially with the winter we have here. IT makes me very grateful to be in Stokes County because we still have a lot of community involvement with the volunteer fire departments and the law enforcement. So, I just ask that we don't take that for granted.

Chairman Wood commented:

- I agree with a lot that the other commissioners said. We need to thank the good Lord every day that we live in Stokes County. If you don't believe it, then turn on the news and watch it for a while. You don't have to watch national news; you can look at state news. We are blessed. My hat's off to all the people that had to get out in this weather, the snow. It's a tough job. Sonya, I appreciate your comments about DOT because my grandfather used to work for them. I remember when it snowed, we didn't see him for weeks. It's a tough job and they do the best they can. We have nothing to complain about. Nothing.
- I would like to thank Joey and his department for getting their app. I've went to it a couple times, it's pretty impressive. It's pretty new, they've had it maybe a week. Our Animal Control has a new website, so thank them. We are so close for a new site to enable to get building permits online. They are going through testing of the software right now so my hat's off to them. But I want to thank all our county workers. I appreciate what y'all are doing.

County Manager Jeff Sanborn commented:

- I've got a couple things to say. I would like to comment on the storms and the impact on our county. The great that our staff around the county reacted to it, but our residents as visitors as well. I think everybody took it in stride. Indications that I'm getting is that while there were some people sliding off the roads into ditches, there weren't any serious wrecks. Hat's off to everybody for reacting to the situation in an appropriate way.
- The other thing I want to comment on is that we have a new member of our team with us here tonight. I want to welcome Tammy Keaton, sitting back there in the back row. Tammy is our new Finance Director. She comes to us from Press Glass in Rockingham County, where she was working as their controller. She has a lot of great finance background but included in that she had about 12 years of progressive experience in county finance in Rockingham and Guilford counties. So, we're really excited to have her join our fantastic department and look forward to good things to come in the future.

Assistant County Manager Amber Brown commented:

- I don't have a lot. Just welcome everybody. Thank you for being here and watching the livestream. To echo what everybody said, thank you to DOT first of all but also public safety for keeping us safe and working hard for us out there.

Conflicts Of Interest

Chairman Wood asked if any Board member had a conflict of interest with any of the items of the agenda for tonight or one that could be perceived as a conflict of interest.

No conflicts of interest were stated by the Board.

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

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.

Chairman Wood entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, which included the below:

- Minutes
- Budget Amendments

Commissioner Morris moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Vice-Chairman Barneycastle 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.

~~Fire Commission and Use of Service District Funds Policy Renewal~~

Chairman Wood turned the floor over to Fire Marshal Scott Aaron to present the Fire Commission and Use of Service District Funds Policy Renewal.

This item was discussed at the last meeting and was moved back to discussion for this meeting. Fire Marshal Scott Aaron again presented the Policy for Fire Commission and Use of Service District Funds and informed the Board that it needs to be approved by the new Board of Commissioners. The document states that the policy needs to be approved every even-numbered year within 90 days of the new Board members being seated.

With no discussion, the Board moved this item to the Action Agenda for tonight's meeting.

Performance Evaluation Tools for the Manager

Chairman Wood turned the floor over to Commissioner Brad Chandler to present the Performance Evaluation Tools for the Manager.

Commissioner Chandler presented information for the Board's discussion surrounding performance evaluation tools for the County Manager. The Board discussed modifications to the Evaluation Tools and recommended timeframe for the evaluation to be completed.

After some discussion, the item was moved to the Discussion Agenda for the next meeting.

Forsyth Tech Board of Trustees Appointment

Chairman Wood turned the floor over to Commissioner Rick Morris to present the Forsyth Tech Board of Trustees Appointment.

At the last commissioners meeting in November, Commissioner Mendenhall resigned from the

Forsyth Tech Board of Trustees since he did not run for reelection this year and would be going off the Board of Commissioners. Stokes County has two appointment slots on the Forsyth Tech Board of Trustees -- one was previously filled by Commissioner Mendenhall and the other is currently filled by Walnut Cove Town Manager Kim Greenwood.

It has been confirmed that one appointment *can* be a commissioner but that it doesn't have to be. The following text received from the State includes the requirements: "Four trustees elected by the board of commissioners of the county in which the main campus of the institution is located, one of whom may be a county commissioner. In addition, each board of commissioners of any other county in the administrative area that provides plant funds to the institution shall elect two additional trustees to the board, one of whom may be a county commissioner."

Eddy McGee is interested in serving in this role and is being recommended to fill the vacancy on behalf of the County.

Chairman Wood opened the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Morris moved to nominate Eddy McGee to serve on the Forsyth Tech Board of Trustees.

Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

Chairman Wood opened the floor for nominations.

Chairman Wood entertained a motion to move this item to the Action Agenda.

Commissioner Chandler moved to move the Forsyth Tech Board of Trustees Appointment to tonight's Action Agenda.

Commissioner Morris seconded the motion. The motion passed.

With no discussion, the item was moved to the Action Agenda for tonight's meeting.

Northeast Stokes Fireman's Relief Fund Appointment

Chairman Wood turned the floor over Assistant County Manager Amber Brown to present the Northeast Stokes Fireman's Relief Fund Appointment.

The Northeast Stokes Firemen's Relief Fund Board of Trustees has a vacancy and is in need of a new member. There are five members on the board: two elected by the fire department, two appointed by the Board of Commissioners, and one appointed by the State Fire Marshal. Mr. Adam Mitchell was serving in this capacity but is no longer with the department.

Northeast Stokes VFD and Rescue made a recommendation for an individual to fill this role - Mr. Ryan Clark. They have requested this item be moved to the Action Agenda for approval if possible - certification of their rosters is required within the first 15 days of the new year. Mr. Mitchell parted ways with the department only recently.

Chairman Wood opened the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Chandler moved to nominate Ryan Clark to serve on the Northeast Stokes Fireman's Relief Fun Board of Trustees.

Vice-Chairman Barneycastle seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Chairman Wood closed the floor for nominations.

Chairman Wood entertained a motion to move the item to the Action Agenda.

Commissioner Cox moved for the Northeast Stokes Fireman's Relief Fund Board of Trustees Appointment to be moved to tonight's Action Agenda.

Commissioner Chandler seconded the motion. The motion passed.

With no discussion, the item was moved to the Action Agenda for tonight's 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.

Lease Agreement Amendment with Forsyth Technical Community College - Stokes Campus

Chairman Wood entertained a motion to approve the item as presented.

Commissioner Morris moved to approve the Lease Agreement Amendment with Forsyth Technical Community College - Stokes Campus.

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

JCPC Appointment Request

At the last meeting, Ms. Stacey Worthington was nominated to serve on the JCPC.

No other applications have been received.

Chairman Wood polled the Board. All stated Worthington.

Fire Commission and Use of Service District Funds Policy Renewal

Chairman Wood entertained a motion to approve the item as presented.

Vice-Chairman Barney castle moved to approve the Fire Commission and Use of Service District Funds Policy Renewal.

Commissioner Chandler seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

Forsyth Tech Board of Trustees Appointment

Chairman Wood entertained a motion to approve the item as presented.

Commissioner Chandler moved to approve the Forsyth Tech Board of Trustees Appointment.

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

Northeast Stokes Fireman's Relief Fund Appointment

At this meeting, Mr. Ryan Clark was nominated to serve on the Northeast Stokes Firemen's Relief Fund Board of Trustees.

Chairman Wood polled the Board. All stated Clark.

Adjournment

Chairman Wood entertained a motion to adjourn.

Vice-Chairman Barneycastle moved to adjourn at 6:31 pm.

Commissioner Chandler seconded. The motion Passed.

Amber Brown
Clerk to the Board

Keith Wood
Chair

STATE OF NORTH
CAROLINA

COUNTY OF STOKES

)
)
)
)

OFFICE OF THE
COMMISSIONERS
STOKES COUNTY
GOVERNMENT
DANBURY, NORTH
CAROLINA

MONDAY FEBRUARY 10, 2025

Regular Meeting of the Stokes County Board of Commissioners

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 10, 2025 at 6:00 pm with the following members present:

Board of Commissioners Present: Chairman Keith Wood, Vice-Chairman Wayne Barneycastle, Commissioner Brad Chandler, Commissioner Sonya Cox, and Commissioner Rick Morris.

County Administration Present: County Manager Jeff Sanborn, Assistant County Manager/Clerk to the Board Amber Brown, Director of Finance Tammy Keaton, and Assistant County Attorney Jennifer Michaud.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Wood called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION

Chairman Wood invited those in attendance to join the Board in the Invocation, if desired.

Chairman Wood delivered the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Wood invited those in attendance to join the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Wood entertained a motion to amend or approve tonight's agenda.

Vice-Chairman Barneycastle moved to approve the agenda as presented.

Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

Public Comments

Chairman Wood noted that there were no individuals signed up to speak tonight in Public Comments.

COMMENTS - Managers/Commissioners

Chairman Wood opened the floor for comments from the manager and commissioners.

Commissioner Cox commented:

- I'd just like to welcome everybody here and thank you for being here in person. For those watching online, thanks for your participation as well. I would like to take a moment to remember some families in our community that have had fires this past week. The Sheltons and the Southernns, had a fire last night. So, we want to remember them in prayer as well as a couple of losses in our community.
- Wish everybody a Happy Valentine's Day this week.

Vice-Chairman Barneycastle commented:

- Just to reiterate a little of what Commissioner Cox said, it's great to see everybody and the everybody watching the livestream. A special prayer to a lot of people in our county tonight, a lot of sickness and death. Lots has happened in our county in the last two weeks and when you're in the fire department, you get to see a lot of it. My heart goes out to a lot of these people tonight so remember these folks in your prayers. I appreciate everybody being here.

Commissioner Morris commented:

- I'd like to welcome everybody also to the meeting. We really value the participation of our constituents here in the county as we try to do this job. Much appreciated.

Commissioner Chandler commented:

- Welcome everybody, those in person and also on YouTube. Thank you especially for participating in local government. I think that means a lot to us and a lot to the community. The only thing I want to mention is every once in a while I get a few phone calls from King or that area and a lot of the complaints lately are infrastructure, especially the roads. About how the traffic isn't the same as it used to be and some of them I've heard have turned into road rage. So in taking the time to talk to them and then referring them to the proper people, I was reading some of our emails on the Stokes County website and I saw where the NC DOT have a transportation improvement program. Federal government mandates it to be completed every four years and then the state does it every two years. From what I understand, it's in 10 year increments and so I would like to remind everybody that now is the time. I think this body will do our due diligence as well to get with the King area especially and see what we can do about the roads are supposedly very congested. I just want to make sure you know what projects in Stokes County are currently on the list for funding and that we encourage our citizens to contact us or the website. If you actually want to go to a meeting, we're in division 9 in Winston-Salem on March 3-7 from 8:00-5:00. You can go there any time between those hours and they will be there. The office is at 375 Silas Creek Parkway.
- I ask our illustrious if there's any way we can get with the King area since that's where I'm getting the complaints from traffic and make sure we help them if they've identified areas that they're putting in for, I'd like to put our weight behind that as well.

County Manager Jeff Sanborn had no comments.

Assistant County Manager Amber Brown commented:

- As you know, Stokes County along with Davie Construction is working on the courthouse. They're doing the renovation and expansion of that building so on February 12th, this Wednesday, the Stokes County Government Center, DSS, and the Regan Building will be closed. We have to cut off the water to patch the new water lines into the system so they'll be closed that day, but all other county offices will be open. It's posted on our website and on Facebook if you want to know exactly which offices that pertains to. Plan to open on 10 am on Thursday.

Chairman Wood commented:

- I'd like to welcome everyone also. I appreciate the ones that took the time to come out and the ones viewing. We live in a great county, and I want to fuss at people a while. Keep the litter in your car till you get home. There's no reason to throw it out. There is so much trash they pick up in a small amount of time is unbelievable. So just keep it in your vehicle because there is a lot of traffic. It's not only King, but I've also noticed a difference in Danbury.
- On February 1st, me and my wife got an invite and went to Virginia Foxx's opening of her Mayodan branch office. It is open five days a week on 208 West Main Street, and it is staffed. So, if you've got any federal problems, they will take care of it, and we'll be happy to help you.
- It was very interesting. This young guy comes up to me and says, "We got to be kin." His last name was Wood, and little did I know he was one of the people that Trump pardoned. On January the 6th, he was there. We had some interesting conversations.

Conflicts Of Interest

Chairman Wood asked if any Board member had a conflict of interest with any of the items of the agenda for tonight or one that could be perceived as a conflict of interest.

No conflicts of interest were stated by the Board.

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

Chairman Wood entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, which included the below:

- Budget Amendments

Commissioner Chandler moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Vice-Chairman 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 Wood turned the floor over to Greg Coltrain to present an update from RiverStreet on their broadband projects.

Greg Coltrain with RiverStreet gave an update on their broadband projects in Stokes County. The North Carolina Great Grant was awarded to RiverStreet in 2022, becoming effective in September of 2023.

Projected Passings include:

- 1,301 Residential
- 18 Businesses

Proposed Routes:

- 124.61 Miles

The planned end of construction is currently September of 2025. The grant amount was \$4,000,000.00 and the County and RiverStreet each matched \$1,263,315.50. Total project costs are \$6,526,631.00.

After some questions and discussion, the Board moved to the first item on the Discussion 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.

Parks and Recreation Steering Committee Creation

Chairman Wood turned the floor over to Tourism and Marketing Coordinator Tory Mabe to present Parks and Recreation Steering Committee Creation.

Stokes County Economic Development has been working with the Piedmont Triad Regional Council to kick off a Parks and Recreation Master Plan project, which was funded in the current fiscal year budget. The PTRC suggested forming a local Stokes County Steering Committee for this project. The committee doesn't have to include all residents. It is the recommendation of the Economic Development Department to include someone from each township or postal code area of Stokes County. Representatives from the necessary County departments who will be assisting with management of County Parks and Recreation facilities should also be included. The steering committee would help to lead community interest meetings, form the survey that would be sent out to residents, and collect or collaborate over information gathered at in person community meetings. The committee would meet as needed or scheduled and would collaborate with County Staff and PTRC planners on the development of a final Master Plan.

Economic Development would like to advertise this Steering Committee for Appointments this month and set a deadline in advance of an upcoming Commissioners Meeting where committee members would be nominated and appointed to the "Parks and Recreation Steering Committee". It is being recommended that the committee be made up of nine community members and two members from the County. From the received appointment applications, nominations of members could be selected from around the county with recommendations of being from the different areas of Danbury, Germanton, King, Lawsonville, Pine Hall/Belews Lake area, Pinnacle, Sandy Ridge/Madison area, Walnut Cove, and or Westfield/Francisco area.

After some discussion, the item was moved to the Action Agenda for tonight's meeting.

Collection Retainer Fee for Municipalities

Chairman Wood turned the floor over to Tax Administrator Richard Brim to present Collection Retainer Fee for Municipalities.

The Stokes County Tax Office collects property taxes for all three of the municipalities located in Stokes County. Stokes County currently charges the municipalities a rate of 1%, based upon their levy, to provide this service. The Tax Office recently polled every county in North Carolina and received responses from 74 counties. The median percentage that other counties charge their municipalities to provide collection services is 1.75%.

It is the recommendation of the Stokes County Tax Office to increase "Collection Retainer Fee for Municipalities" to 1.75% of the municipalities' levy.

After some discussion, the item was moved to the Action Agenda for the next meeting.

FY 2026 Operating Plan Priorities

Chairman Wood turned the floor over to County Manager Jeff Sanborn to present FY 2026 Operating Plan Priorities.

During the planning retreat on January 16-17, the Board of Commissioners agreed to several funding and planning priorities relevant to the next five years. As a follow-up to that discussion, County Manager Sanborn presented an overview to the fiscal year 2026 operating plan priorities, which included:

- Priority Opportunities for Improvement (OFIs) identified during the planning retreat
- Revenue neutral tax rate and inflation adjusted revenue neutral tax rate
- Updated five-year financial forecast
- Discuss \$0.04 School Capital Fund (211)

After some discussion, this item was moved to the Discussion Agenda for the next 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.

Parks and Recreation Steering Committee Creation

Chairman Wood entertained a motion to approve the item as presented.

Commissioner Chandler moved to approve Parks and Recreation Steering Committee Creation.

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

CLOSED SESSION

Chairman Wood entertained a motion to enter closed session at 7:40 pm.

Commissioner Cox moved to go into closed session for the following rationales:

- To prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to the law of this State or the United States, or not considered a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1)
- 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 Chandler seconded the motion.

With no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

The Board entered closed session.

Adjournment

The Board reentered open session.

Chairman Wood entertained a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Cox moved to adjourn at 8:18 pm.

Commissioner Morris seconded. The motion Passed.

7

Amber Brown
Clerk to the Board

Keith Wood
Chair

**STATE OF NORTH
CAROLINA

COUNTY OF STOKES**

)
)
)
)

**OFFICE OF THE
COMMISSIONERS
STOKES COUNTY
GOVERNMENT
DANBURY, NORTH
CAROLINA
MONDAY MARCH 10, 2025**

Regular Meeting of the Stokes County Board of Commissioners.

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, March 10, 2025 at 6:00 pm with the following members present:

Board of Commissioners Present: Chairman Keith Wood, Vice-Chairman Wayne Barneycastle, Commissioner Brad Chandler, Commissioner Sonya Cox, and Commissioner Rick Morris.

County Administration Present: County Manager Jeff Sanborn, Assistant County Manager/Clerk to the Board Amber Brown, Director of Finance Tammy Keaton, and Assistant County Attorney Jennifer Michaud.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Wood called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION

Chairman Wood invited those in attendance to join the Board in the Invocation, if desired.

Commissioner Chandler delivered the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Wood invited those in attendance to join the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Wood entertained a motion to amend or approve tonight's agenda.

Commissioner Chandler moved to approve the agenda as presented.

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

Public Comments

Chairman Wood opened the floor for public comments at 6:07 pm.

The following individuals signed up to speak in public comments:

Sally Knox

1107 Manning Road
RE: Taxes
Yielded her time to Glen Knox.

Glenn Knox
1107 Manning Road
RE: Taxes
Knox brought up concerns of taxes in Stokes being raised.

Ronda Jones
1930 Snowy Hill
RE: Taxes
Jones voiced concerns of property revaluations and taxes.

Marsha Marshall
1055 Watt Stevens Road
Danbury, NC
RE: Taxes

Michael Spencer
2957 Mountain Road
RE: Taxes
Spencer brought up how taxes need to go up to cover services and thanked the Commissioners for their job.

Chairman Wood closed the floor for public comments at 6:11 pm.

COMMENTS - Managers/Commissioners

Chairman Wood opened the floor for comments from the manager and commissioners.

Commissioner Cox commented:

- I'd just like to thank everybody for being here tonight and for those who spoke during public comments for expressing what you feel. I don't disagree with most everything that was said. I know we've got some things to look at and fix during budget. Hopefully we can reach some good conclusions there and I just appreciate y'all coming out and expressing thoughts and participating in the process. I'm excited to recognize our eagle scouts tonight. I appreciate them and the things that they're doing.

Vice-Chairman Barneycastle commented:

- It's good to see all of you here tonight. Like Commissioner Cox said, I like seeing people come out and voice their opinion about different things. That's what we're here for, to hear your concerns. I hope on the tax part that we're able to do something that will be neutral for all the citizens. I didn't know the exact number until Ronda spoke, but I knew there were several elderly people that lived in our county. I didn't realize the number was that high, 25%. They definitely are on fixed incomes and those folks need our help. That's what we're here to do is to help these folks.
- I'd like to send a special prayer out today to several families in our county. Being with the fire service, you get to hear more of it than other commissioners. There's been a loss of life in our county this past week. I've been to four different funeral homes and they're right here in our county. It's been a tragic week; we lost lives from young people to elderly people. I just want to send up a special prayer to those families. Lord touch them and heal them and comfort them that they'll find peace in their hearts.

Commissioner Morris commented:

- I'd like to welcome everybody. It's great to see a big crowd here tonight and as the others said, we always appreciate your input and your opinions whether we agree with them or not. I think the Board's made it clear we're into free speech in a big way and we will continue to be.
- Glenn, I appreciate you bringing hard copies of this. I only ever got one copy of the top one and I lost it. I've given or thrown away all my little ones too so that'll make it a little more helpful. It'll make it a little bit easier for me to refer to.
- I'm going to take a little more time than everyone else, so you guys are just going to have to get used to that. I decided to do a little thing called the No Spin Zone at the last meeting. The reason I did that was to refute misinformation that's being posted about our commissioner board members on social media platforms. It's been going on now for a couple of years, pretty much unchallenged. I think it's time for that to stop.
- My No Spin Zone brought the Spin Doctors out as I kind of expected. I think I'll continue again this week with the theme of misinformation for this second edition of the No Spin Zone. I'd like to start by reading a post from Ms. Shelley Hightower Carter that was put out since our last meeting. She says: "It has come to my attention that County Commissioner Rick Morris has chosen to address me indirectly from his official platform, using his position to advance political rhetoric. He has suggested that an unnamed individual has misrepresented his campaign promised, accusing them of duplicity. Those familiar with my character will recognize that this approach may not have been the wisest course or action on his part. For those who attended Monday's meeting, Mr. Morris asserted that he never pledged to refrain from raising taxes. However, evidence suggests to the contrary which I can provide. This behavior exemplifies the archetype of a conventional politician. Whoever felt compelled to show him my last post, please show him this and let him know there will be handouts available for everyone at the next commissioners meeting." So, I assume you're working for Shelley, Glenn, and you brought the handouts. I appreciate that.
- First of all, let me talk about the cards that are represented on this handout. The first card, I mentioned that I only received one of them because in reality none of those candidates had anything to do with that card. This card, if you'll notice, the side of it is cut off and also the on the little card you got for me, is where you'd probably find the information of who paid for it. This card was put out by some sort of PAC here in Stokes County. By the way, it is illegal for us to participate or interact with a PAC. So, we have nothing to do with that top card. However, I will go through it for the folks who can't see it. It has pictures of the three of us down the side with a little bit of biographical information. Then it says "Their Plan" is the title of it. If I had been wording it, I would say "Their Goals" probably instead of "their plan." But like I said, I had no knowledge or involvement with this card. The next is the bullets under it, says "lower taxes and support existing businesses." That should be a goal for any Republican, I would say. "Fight to keep prayer before commissioner meetings" and "keep Stokes County a Second Amendment sanctuary." That's another good goal. "Countywide broadband," that's my number one goal and has been for the last several years. "Attack drug and overdose problem," another great goal and one that we have signed up to try to address. "Keep the hospital in Danbury open and keep the 24/7 emergency room in King."
- Then I'll go down to the second card that Glenn included on the hanout and the title of it is "My Plan for a Second Term" and this card I did pay for, and it does reflect my true intentions and beliefs as to what I plan to do as a commissioner. The first bullet on it says, "Lower the property tax rate." It doesn't say "lower property taxes." Lower the property tax rate, that what we can do as commissioners. It says, "Build a new hospital in Danbury." It says, "Build a 24/7 emergency room in King." It says, "Finish internet expansion now for the unserved." It says, "Attack drug and overdose problem in the county." And that's all of the things we've been working on and, I think, quite successfully.

- So now let me shift over to another item. As you folks are probably aware, every time we run, we go to interact with the Stokes News, and they ask us a series of questions that they put in the paper to help voters understand where we're coming from and what our priorities are and so forth. I'm a big believer that if you give the voters the correct information, they are really smart and they always make the right decision if they get the facts. So let me read you my response from question #7 from the Stokes News whenever we ran the last time. It says, "Would you plan any changes in current taxes?" And my response said, "Yes, I would like to see some changes. I support the elimination of the dog tax that is currently levied by Stokes County. I would also like to lower the property tax rate in 2026 when the next reevaluation occurs, where property values are formally updated. I do not think that the property tax rate can be lowered before then. I would like to keep it the same as it is now until then. I would like to look at the fire tax separately and make any adjustments to it based on the justification submitted by the County's Fire Commission. I would support a one-quarter cent sales tax increase if the citizens voted for it in a referendum. My support for a voter-approved increase in sales tax would be to help reduce the property tax. Sales tax reduces the burden on landowners by collecting more tax from outside visitors and the county, who also buys things here.
- So let me unpack this answer just a little bit. It says I would like to have kept the tax rate the same until the reval. I did, my first year, vote for that budget. In the second year, I voted to increase taxes even though I'd hoped not to do that, but there were several factors involved in that. First of all, we have an unfunded mandate to expand the courthouse over here and the cost of that went from 8 million to 11 million dollars. So, things like that are the reason I said last week as I was explaining the reval tax, that I would never promise to lower taxes because I don't have a crystal ball and I couldn't see that these kinds of things were going to happen. That we were going to have a big increase there. We also had issues with Emergency Service, EMS, and fire service that needed to be addressed. We had personnel turnover challenges that needed to be addressed. We were dealing with Biden inflation. So that's the reason I never promised to reduce taxes. You never know what's going to happen. Anybody that guarantees you they're going to reduce property tax; I never vote for them because it means they don't have a clue what they're getting into. Given that, I think everybody should be pretty clear on what my position has been all along on taxes and property tax.
- Let me move on to some additional misinformation that was not mentioned at the last meeting. This is a post I want to read from Mr. Andy Nicholson. This refers back to the second bullet on this card that the PAC put out, I think. I'll read it to you again, it says "Fight to keep prayer before the commissioners' meetings and keep Stokes County a Second Amendment sanctuary." Here is Mr. Nicholson's post: "Let me explain the prayer part on their flyer. When I became Chairman of the Board, Rick came up to me after a meeting and asked me to bring up taking prayer out of the meetings. That it could bring a lawsuit. I responded that the day we do that is the day I leave the Board. He saw he had a losing battle so the next thing you know we have an atheist group from Wisconsin contacting our attorney, demanding we stop doing the prayer (coincidence? I think not), At the polls, when they threw everything but the kitchen sink at me, I informed people how I fought to keep prayer in the meetings and got their vote. Just before election day, this flyer came out. When I confronted Rick about the lie, he laughed." I would tell you that if I brought that up to Andy and I probably did, it was probably because the attorney had already told me that someone else was challenging our prayer policy. I can't think of any other reason I would have mentioned it to Andy. Since I've been County Manager and then also here as commissioner, we've had numerous challenges to our prayer policy from various organizations and lots of discussion on it. My position has always been to keep the prayer on the agenda. You can verify that with Jimmy Walker and other previous commissioners, on what my stance has been. These challenges do raise the question of possible litigation and the potential cost to taxpayers if we had to do that litigation. What I'm saying is that it's come up many times over the time I've

been associated with the local government. My position has always been the same on it and we're still praying at the meetings as you heard from Brad. If I'm not mistaken, the School Board has already changed their policy to remove prayer from the agenda just for the reason of avoiding possible litigation. I think I'm correct on that. They still pray but they don't have it on the agenda, they do it ahead of time. So, for the record, I would consider this post from Mr. Nicholson as an attack on my religious freedom and Christianity. One of the first and fondest memories I have of Stokes County was about 65 years ago and I used to come up here and make the trip with my mother from Kernersville to go to the Buffalo Primitive Baptist Church on Saturdays and Sundays. We had all day meetings with a big lunch, and it made quite the impression on me because me and my mother were tight when it came to our religion. If you check with my wife, you will find out that my normal Sunday routine is to avoid work as the Bible tells us to do and I listen to three sermons every Sunday. I listen to one at 9:00 on 98.1 from Galax, a sermon that comes out of Cincinnati, Ohio. Then I go to Danbury Baptist Church with Keith and other folks that are in the room here tonight, and I listen to a sermon there. Then I rush home from church to listen to a third sermon from a church I used to go to out in Austin, Texas. Their sermons are on the internet every Sunday and that is the highlight of my week. So, I just ask you, does that sound like a person who wants to remove prayer from the agenda. Well, the answer is no. I don't now and never have.

- Okay, now let's look at one additional misinformation post that also includes Ms. Shelley Hightower Carter again. This one starts out and it's from Sherry Nicholson and it starts out: "Well you can bet sweet butts that bunch has done nothing to help our businesses. Matter of fact there was secret meetings, or so they thought it was secret, and the main purpose was to get all of our businesses out of Stokes County. We have decided to expand. We will be in a Wytheville location. The tax rates are much cheaper than they are here now. I don't see how trying to kick businesses out of Stokes County is moving forward." Then Shelley Hightower says, "Wow. That may be why they raise property tax rate, to offset the losses from Nicholstone. They crapped in their own yard doing that to y'all." Then Ms. Nicholson replies back: "We will keep what is here and not move that, but any expansions will be done elsewhere." Then our good friend, Glenn Knoxx chimes in and says, "I've heard the same thing for several other groups. There has to be some hidden reason why they are trying to get everyone out except RiverStreet." So, Glenn I would just say if you have any details you'd like to provide us on your comment or evidence to prove it, we would be happy to have to back to speak to us and present that.
- In closing, I would like to inform the 16,000+ registered Republicans in Stokes County that we held the annual Republican County Convention this past Saturday. About 150 people attended the convention and about 100 of them elected Ms. Shelley Hightower Carter as the Chair of the Stokes County Republican Party for the next two years. She ran on the platform of uniting the party. Go figure. Since their massive loss in the past election, there is nothing that Brad, Keith, and I could do to obtain her group support. It would be harder than President Trump getting the Democrats to stand up at his meeting that he did at the joint session of Congress a week or so ago. I would guess that of the almost 17,000 Republicans that are in the county, I would say that 16,000 of them probably weren't aware that we were having a convention this past weekend. That's a big problem and one we need to address.

Commissioner Chandler commented:

- I want to welcome everyone here tonight. It's good to see a good crowd and I look forward to the Eagle Scouts presentation. That's good stuff. I always kind of pay attention to public safety and I got to say that the past two weeks here in North Carolina we've had two officers physically attacked, shot. Those two are in Charlotte. From my former department, we've had an officer attacked Friday night/early Saturday morning with a firearm. Luckily the guy missed, but the officer didn't. He got away with some scrapes and even though he came out the victor in the battle, he and his family with suffer mentally for going through that traumatic

event. You know in Fayetteville you stop for speeding, 100 mph, and he comes out with a handgun to kill the police officer. So again, I want to make sure that everyone keeps are prayers and thoughts here in Stokes County for our Public Safety officials. I ran in my campaign that it was one of my priorities. So, the tax rate stuff, I don't take anything personal. Back in fiscal year 22 when the previous Board gave their budget recommendation, they had the public hearing, and I was the only person that showed up and talked. So, I know where y'all are coming from and my thing was that I wanted to go revenue neutral. By law you have to consider it, but it didn't really seem to me that they were going to consider it. The only thing I got was that they were going to keep the tax rate the same. Sound familiar? So then when they passed the budget, they passed it just under the revaluation. In other words, that was when the four-year revaluation prices went up. Guess what else went up? Taxes went up. But I swear I didn't see anybody show up here saying those things and going back to a campaign about this and that. We didn't hear that our taxes went up that year, but they kept the tax rate the same. Now we're trying to bring the tax rate down as much as possible to revenue neutral. I don't like paying taxes either. My taxes went up a little over 45%. I don't get any special break being a commissioner. I'll pay the same taxes as everybody else and I'm not wealthy. I had to work a lot of jobs and go through a lot of headaches to go up the chain of command to get promoted. If it wasn't for the money, I'd say a patrol officer is the best job to have because you don't have the politics, you just follow the law. Then when you get up higher you get in positions of sitting in these seats, and it's a hard job. When I first took a seat here and I was actually able to see things and ask questions that I got responses to, I was shocked at the lack of financial support for the Sheriff's Office, for the jail, for the EMS, and our fire departments. I got seated and one of the first things, and what I'm about to say has nothing to do with the employees of Stokes County. It's about the restraints or constraints they were put under. So, one of the first things that became so obvious and so dramatic at times was the lack of an IT network. The network was patched up there. There was no training provided to our IT people. They were understaffed and overwhelmed, so we were immediately tasked as a Board to take action. I'm talking about almost every department head I didn't even know would come up and one of the first things they would say is "we've really got problems with this and that." The most important thing that really I knew I had to do was look into the computer system in the Sheriff's Office. The network itself was not up to date with proper module updates so in effect 2021, 2022 you're looking at probably the last update where Stokes County paid any money for the company to do the police network was probably in 2010 or 2011. It was horrible. Our deputies did have a laptop but when they go take a report, they just free write it, they had no internet connectivity. Then they would go back into the office and instead of the report being done, and the supervisor proofreading and approving it and it goes into the network, the RMS system. It goes to a clerical person at the Sheriff's Department, and they sit and type it.

- So, I got to know Glenn because what we did immediately is, the County Manager at the time came to us and said, "Hey we have an opportunity with somebody that is really an expert. It's his field, he works for the state currently, he's already worked with the Board some with IT projects." And I'm thinking, okay, okay. So, Glenn was working for the state and long story short, he says, "Hey I would like to give back to Stokes County. I live here, you know, I'll leave the state." So, we did a special contract for him. We paid Glenn \$98,000 to come work here. We gave him benefits, health insurance, sick time. We created a little office for Glenn over here and I would come in. I was just trying to get used to everything, and of course every time I come in the building, your department heads and the County Manager, they're typing whatever happened yesterday. There were no plans. I would go into Glenn's office, and we would sit and talk about the nightmare that we were in. The lack of support here in Stokes County and so I'm not going to go into every department and tell, because it's documented if you want to go read some reports. When we first got seated,

every department head came in front of us to say where we're at and what we need and where we've been and there was not one department that was in any decent shape. The first budget I looked at had \$4,000 for public safety training, it's not a lot of money, but what's worse is that they never spend \$4,000 on training. They always had to spend it on file cabinets, paper, instead of software. Every time I would ask a question to the department heads, "Why do we do it this way?" "It's always been done in Stokes County."

- When I went back and looked at some prior budgets, I don't know what they spend the money on. Wasn't salaries. Sure wasn't equipment. Do y'all realize that Stokes County was the only county in the state of North Carolina that was still using the old website. The state finally had to tell the county they weren't supported that network anymore. We did actually do like every other county and actually spend a few dollars and at least got a website. But even then, it still lacks a lot and Glenn knows that. We could talk on and on and on, but if you don't have an IT network especially in these days, you're not supporting your workforce. Especially not supporting public safety, because that's a lifeline for public safety. That stuff costs money. So, we started to plan and have to spend money to improve Stokes County. Just to get it up to a level to where we feel like we have safety and security for employees, especially our public safety people. The difference between then and now is that number one, we have strategic plan. For the past two budget years, we come in around this time and the first thing that the manager says is, "well what is each member looking for?" I think one year we were going back and forth and then it just goes from there. Then when I took the seat in '22 and I'm not blaming the previous Board for this, the state told them, "Hey you're going to add to the courthouse." And I'm not saying they need it, or they don't, but they were told to add on the courthouse. Okay, well we don't have the money to pay for it without raising taxes. And we had other things going on too. Y'all I could go on and on, but what I'm trying to say is if there's a better way- if you want to cut the Sheriff's Office, let me know how many deputies you want cut. If you want to cut EMS, tell me how many paramedics you want us to cut. And you're going to get the opportunity to do that because if you've been watching what the manager has been putting together and proposing, there'll be surveys going out. There's going to be accountability to the funds and your input will be greatly appreciated because we'll do what you want and if there's certain levels of service you don't need then duly noted we can reduce that service tax. I'll say this again, residential development does not pay for itself.
- I live in the northern part of the county; I didn't want to live in an urban area. One of the reasons I came to Stokes County: rural county, good people. But I get that people own lands, and you can't tell them what to do with that land and I hate that, I really do. So, I try to do what is best for the county, I love this county. It's got to move forward and I'm not a politician, I hate that word, but I'm going to tell you how I feel and I'm going to do the right thing and it's very easy for people to always vote no for tax increases, especially if they know other people are going to vote yes. I can't, I'm not one of those people, I'm just not. I've been told that I will never get elected in the county again and that person might be right. All y'all will get a chance to vote me out and I'll congratulate the winner, and I'll go back to my farm. Because doing this is very hard and I'm just telling you why we're in bad shape when it comes to still getting caught up with training equipment, we can't fill positions, we have a hard time filling jail officer positions, positions in DSS. The state says we have to provide these positions.
- I'll do everything I can to keep the tax rate low and going back to revenue neutral. If you go on our webpage, you'll see our five-year plan. Read it and if anybody has any idea of what slots to cut, let us know. Most of them are mandated by the state. I don't like paying the tax rate that I do either and it really upsets me when I pay for taxes, but I don't get the service when I pick up the phone and call. That's what irritates me, and I got a feeling it irritates a lot of people because I get a lot of phone calls about that, especially with fire service during the week. Whether or not we're going to fix it, I don't know. We're going to try, ut just burying

our head in the sand and saying that everything's hunky dory, we're a rural county, there's no problems- there are problems here in Stokes County. Just because you don't hear of murders in Stokes County, yeah, they're having murders in Stokes County. It's just that Stokes County hasn't reported crimes to the state in years. I think the last time they reported crime is when Sheriff Marshall was the sheriff and the reason I got when I asked about it was, "We don't have the software to do it." We're so far behind our neighbors that the new system was supposed to be in play three years ago. Things aren't cheap and things aren't free. You're not going to complain until you call 911 and the sheriff says all my deputies are busy on the North side and they got to go to Pine Hall. What do you do? You wait. Maybe they're only running two deputies at night because of set call, time off. So, all I ask is just keep it policy driven please. I'll stand on policy. I don't hate anybody in this room. I was at the County Convention. I don't hate anybody at the county. I mean some people would walk by me and I used to say hi to them, but they would never say anything. Anybody I walk by, I smile and say hi even though I know what they say on social media or what. I don't care; I'm used to that. I'm a cop. You can't go to a call and please everybody. You do what's right and then be safe and go home and that really my outlook. I really do hope that our new chair does bring the party together because we need the party together.

- We hear you. Thanks for coming and you know we're doing the best we can but it's not like we don't have things that we're trying to play catch up on, just like our schools in disrepair for the amount of populations. That's another story that has to be told, but no one wants to address that stuff because it ruins political careers. You have to take a stand and people with political careers don't want to take a stand. But I hear you with your taxes, thank you. I'll do whatever I can, but I'm not laying off any Sheriff's deputies, I'm not laying off any paramedics. I may get outvoted, but I'm going to do the right thing. I'm not going to not put SROs in elementary schools. All that stuff costs money and we are actually ahead of the game with that because a lot of counties don't do that. There're certain hills I'm willing to die on and public safety is a hill I'm willing to die on. Thank you.

Commissioner Morris commented again:

- I just have a couple things, very, very short. The news answer I gave I said I was going to try to lower the property tax rate in the reval and based on what I've seen from Jeff so far and we'll see how it all comes out with the budget discussion; we may lower the tax rate lower than it's ever been lowered in Stokes County. Based on the preliminary information I've seen, I'm planning on doing that. I'm planning on the biggest rate reduction I can make, just as I promised.
- Second thing is really important, and I overlooked it because I was in a hurry, but this Board, none of these members are having any secret meetings to run businesses out of the county. That is the absolute dumbest thing I have ever heard. We're not having secret meetings period. If three of us were to have a secret meeting, it would be illegal and we're not voting, we aren't breaking any laws and having illegal secret meetings.
- Just to follow up on one thing Brad said, the County Manager is going to give us a really good, proposed budget shortly here and we're going to have a public hearing on it, just like we are required to do every year. Most of them I've been to be had nobody there, maybe one person would come. It would be really nice to have all the people that have all this criticism to show up at that public hearing and tell us what you would like us to do with the budget. That's all I have, thank you.

Chairman Wood commented:

- Welcome everybody. I'm not going to say another word. I have something I want to read, but I'm going to save it for next meeting. It's about the growth in this state. I read an article this week. It just scares me, but I'm going to save it for the next meeting.

County Manager Jeff Sanborn commented:

- Just one thing I'd like to comment on. We are on pace and on schedule with our budget development. Earlier today we wrapped up the budget review with all our internal departments, the Sheriff's Office, the Register of Deeds, and Cooperative Extension, and I want to publicly thank all of our department heads. I think the work they put into this analysis really facilitated a healthy discussion by and large across the Board. We don't really know exactly how it all came up yet, we haven't had the time to fully analyze that, but it looks like to me the results on the expenditure side are going to be a little bit better than what was presented to you in the forecast for FY 26 a couple of weeks ago. As you recall, we are also working on a comprehensive review of our fees and charges across county government and we're getting closer to completing that task as well. That's also going to help on our revenue side so more to follow, but it all looks pretty good right now.

Assistant County Manager Amber Brown had no comments.

Conflicts Of Interest

Chairman Wood asked if any Board member had a conflict of interest with any of the items of the agenda for tonight or one that could be perceived as a conflict of interest.

No conflicts of interest were stated by the Board.

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

Chairman Wood entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, which included the below:

- Budget Amendments

Commissioner Chandler moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Vice-Chairman 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.

Recognition of Eagle Scouts

The Stokes County Board of Commissioners recognized five scouts who have completed their "eagle" level and are part of troops located in Stokes County.

The below individuals have achieved the level of Eagle Scout and are listed with their corresponding eagle project:

- Taylor Jones - King, NC
 - Blessing Box - Capella Church of Christ
- Jake Petree - Pinnacle, NC
 - Food and Book Donation Boxes - Chestnut Grove Church
- Nathan Martin - Danbury, NC

- Hanging Rock State Park Campfire Addition
- Matthew Dodson - Walnut Cove, NC
 - Stokes Early College High School Sign Landscaping
- Taylor Thornton - Madison, NC
 - Free Little Library

The Board congratulated the Eagle Scouts on their hard work.

The Board proceeded to the next item on the Information Agenda.

Presentation of the FY 23/24 Audit

Chairman Wood turned the floor over to Kelly Gooderham to present the Stokes County FY 23/24 audit.

Kelly Gooderham with Martin Starnes and Associates presented the Stokes County FY 23/24 audit.

After some discussion, the Board proceeded to the first item on the Discussion 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.

Parks and Recreation Steering Committee Appointments

Chairman Wood turned the floor over Assistant County Manager Amber Brown to present the Parks and Recreation Steering Committee Appointments.

At the February 10th Board of Commissioners meeting, the “Parks and Recreation Steering Committee” was created. The committee will be made up of nine community members and two members from the County. From the received appointment applications, nominations of members could be selected from around the county with recommendations of being from different areas. Eleven individuals have applied to serve on the committee and there are only nine approved slots for public community members. The below individuals have applied to serve on the steering committee:

- Randy Ingram
- Derek Edwards
- Adam Rutledge
- Randy Honeycutt
- Kathryn Converse
- Anna Wheeler
- Bart Stone
- Kim Schott-Schwiegeraht
- Marcie Privetts
- Sid Wise
- Jae Furman

Commissioner Morris motioned to nominate all the applicants listed.

Vice-Chairman Barneycastle seconded. The motion Passed.

With no discussion, the item was moved to the Action Agenda for the next 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.

JCPC Appointment Request

At the last meeting, Kayla Bohannon and B.G. Haynes were nominated to serve as the Health Department designee and the King PD designee, respectively, on the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council.

No more applications were received since the last meeting.

Chairman Wood polled the Board to approve the appointments as presented.

All stated Bohannon and Haynes. Both Kayla Bohannon and B.G. Haynes were appointed to serve on the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council.

Resolution Proclaiming Farmer Appreciation Day in Stokes County

Commissioner Cox read the following proclamation aloud:

RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING FARMER APPRECIATION DAY IN STOKES COUNTY

Whereas, the County of Stokes, the Stokes Soil & Water Conservation District, the Cooperative Extension, Farm Service Agency, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the NC Forest Service desire to host the Farmer Appreciation Day to recognize the contributions of our farmers to Stokes County; and

Whereas, the Board of Commissioners recognizes that the county's farmers contribute greatly to Stokes County's economic base; and

Whereas, the Board believes that all county citizens benefit from farming activities in some manner; and

Whereas, the Board agrees that a Farmer Appreciation Day would show our county's support for the existing farming community and honor past activities that have contributed so much to the culture and heritage of Stokes County; and

Whereas, the Board recognizes and appreciates the local businesses within the County that provides funding for a BBQ and Chicken Dinner with live entertainment to be held at North Stokes High School with all Stokes County citizens invited.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT The Stokes County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims **Thursday, April 10, 2025** as **Farmer Appreciation Day** in Stokes County and extends its appreciation and gratitude to the county's farmers for their many contributions to Stokes County.

Adopted by the Stokes County Board of Commissioners this 10th day March, 2025.

Chairman Wood entertained a motion to approve the item as presented.

Vice-Chairman Barneycastle moved to approve the Resolution Proclaiming Farmer Appreciation Day in Stokes County.

Commissioner Morris seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

Adjournment

Chairman Wood entertained a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Cox moved to adjourn at 7:27 pm.

Commissioner Chandler seconded. The motion Passed.

Amber Brown
Clerk to the Board

Keith Wood
Chair



**Board of County Commissioners
May 27, 2025
2:00 PM**

Item number: V.d.

Resolution Authorizing Badge of Retiring Member of Law Enforcement

Contact: Glenda Pruitt, Purchasing/Project Manager

Summary:

Captain Terry Dalton will be retiring from the Sheriff's Office on May 31, 2025. I am requesting the approval of this resolution to allow the Sheriff to present Captain Terry Dalton with his issued badge. This is allowed per NCGS 17F-20.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Upload Date	Type
Resolution	5/20/2025	Resolution Letter
NCGS 17F-20	5/20/2025	Backup Material

**Resolution authorizing badges and service side arms of deceased or retiring members county law enforcement agencies
(North Carolina General Statute 17F-20)**

WHEREAS, Captain Terry Dalton retired from the Stokes County Sheriff's Office on May 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Captain Terry Dalton has been a dedicated law enforcement officer for 20 years; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute 17F-20 permits Stokes County to donate the badge worn at no cost; and

THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF STOKES COUNTY RESOLVES THAT:

1. The Sheriff of Stokes County is authorized to present to Captain Terry Dalton his Stokes County Sheriff's Office issued badge at no cost.

Adopted this the 27th day of May, 2025

Keith Wood- Chairman

Wayne Barneycastle-Vice Chairman

Sonya Cox- Commissioner

Rick Morris- Commissioner

Brad Chandler – Commissioner

Attest:

Olivia Jessup –Clerk to the Board

§ 17F-20. Badges and service side arms of deceased or retiring members of State, city, and county law enforcement agencies; weapons of active members.

(a) Surviving spouses or, if unsurvived by a spouse, surviving children of members of North Carolina State, city, and county law enforcement agencies who are killed in the line of duty or are members of these agencies at the time of their deaths and retiring members of these agencies shall receive, upon request and at no cost to them, the badge worn or carried by the deceased or retiring member. Upon determining that a person requesting a service side arm is not ineligible to own, possess, or receive a firearm under State or federal law or that the service side arm has been rendered incapable of being fired, the governing body of a law enforcement agency may, in its discretion, also award to a surviving spouse or child or to a retiring member, upon request, the service side arm of the deceased or retiring member at a price determined by the governing body. As used in this subsection, "governing body" means the following:

- (1) For county and local alcohol beverage control officers, the county or local board of alcoholic beverage control.
- (2) For all other law enforcement officers with jurisdiction limited to a municipality or town, the city or town council.
- (3) For all other law enforcement officers with countywide jurisdiction, the board of county commissioners.
- (4) For all State law enforcement officers, the head of the department.

(b) Active members of North Carolina State, city, and county law enforcement agencies, upon change of type of weapons, may purchase the weapon they wore or carried prior to the change at a price equal to the average yield to the State, city, or county from the sale of similar weapons during the preceding year.

(c) For purposes of this section, certified probation and parole officers are considered members of a North Carolina State law enforcement agency. (1971, c. 669; 1973, c. 1424; 1975, c. 44; 1977, c. 548; 1979, c. 882; 1987, c. 122; 2013-369, s. 19; 2016-77, s. 9(b); 2021-116, s. 1.3; recodified from N.C. Gen. Stat. 20-187 by 2023-46, s. 4.)



Board of County Commissioners
May 27, 2025
2:00 PM

Item number: VI.a.

Request to Amend the Stokes County Animal Control Ordinance

Contact: Tommy Reeves, Animal Control Director

Summary:

Animal Control Director Tommy Reeves is presenting for consideration an Amended Animal Control Ordinance for Stokes County. Director Reeves is also requesting approval of Amended Animal Control Advisory Board (ACAB) bylaws. Both documents have been reviewed and approved by legal.

The ordinance and bylaws were first introduced at the Board of Commissioners Meeting on March 24th, 2025. Since its introduction, a few small changes have been made to the recommended new ordinance - they are highlighted in red within the body of the document.

Attached for viewing is the current Animal Control Ordinance, recommended new Animal Control Ordinance, current bylaws for the ACAB, and the recommended new bylaws for the ACAB.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Upload Date	Type
Current Animal Control Ordinance	3/21/2025	Cover Memo
New Amended Animal Control Ordinance	5/9/2025	Cover Memo
Current ACAB Bylaws Page 1	4/11/2025	Cover Memo
Current ACAB Bylaws Page 2	4/11/2025	Cover Memo
Current ACAB Bylaws Page 3	4/11/2025	Cover Memo
Amended Animal Control Advisory Board Bylaws	3/24/2025	Cover Memo

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)	AN ORDINANCE CREATING A STOKES COUNTY
)	ANIMAL CONTROL DEPARTMENT, PRESCRIBING
)	THE DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT,
)	REGULATIONS REGARDING ANIMAL,
)	AND PROVIDING FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF
COUNTY OF STOKES)	SAID REGULATIONS

ARTICLE I. GERERAL

Section 1. Definitions.

As used in this ordinance, the following words mean:

Acceptable restraint: To tether an animal to a running line, pulley, or trolley system using a properly fitting buckle-type collar, or body harness (cannot be made of metal, rope, wire or any material that would be hazardous to the animal's health) Any tethering device used shall be at least ten feet in length and attached in such a manner as to prevent strangulation or other injury to the animal or entanglement with objects. It must have swivels on both ends and does not exceed ten percent of the animal's body weight. All collars or harnesses used for the purpose of the lawful tethering of an animal must be made of nylon or leather. The tethering device must not deprive the animal full access to adequate food, water and shelter.

Adequate Shelter for Dogs: The shelter shall have access that is suitable for the species, age, condition, size and type of animal. It shall consist of 4 walls, a roof, a raised / elevated floor, be structurally sound and in good repair. It must protect the animal from the elements (wind/rain/ice/sleet/snow/sun). The structure should be provided with a sufficient quantity of suitable bedding material consisting of straw, cedar or pine shavings or equivalent to help provide protection against cold and promote retention of body heat. When sunlight is likely to cause heat stroke of an animal tied or confined outside, sufficient shade by natural or artificial means (not to include the dog house) must be provided to protect the animal.

Animal Control Officer: The person designated by the Stokes County Board of Commissioners to enforce this Ordinance and carry out such other duties with respect to Animal Control as may be designated by the Board.

Agricultural operation: means an activity that is necessary for the commercial growing and harvesting of crops or the raising of livestock or poultry.

Animal Shelter: Any premises designated by the County for the purpose of impounding and caring for all animals found running at large or otherwise subject to impounding in accordance with provisions of this ordinance.

At Large: Any animal shall be deemed to be at large when he is off the property of his owner and not under the control of a competent person.

Exposed to Rabies: An animal has been exposed to rabies within the meaning of this ordinance, if it has been bitten by, or exposed to, any animal known or suspected to have been infected with rabies.

Dangerous Dog: A dog that:

- a) Without provocation has killed or inflicted severe injury on a person; or
- b) Is determined by the Animal Control Officer to be potentially dangerous because the dog has engaged in one or more of the behaviors listed under “Potentially Dangerous Dog”.
- c) Is owned or harbored primarily or in part for the purpose of dog fighting, or any dog trained for dog fighting.
- d) When unprovoked: (a) Inflicts severe injury on a human being on public or private property; or (b) kills a domestic animal or livestock while off the owner's property; or (c) has been previously declared potentially dangerous and the owner having received notice of such declaration and the dog subsequently aggressively bites, attacks or endangers the safety of humans or domestic animals or livestock.

Kennel, Dealer, Breeder or **Pet Shop:** Any person, group of persons, partnership or corporation engaged in buying, selling, breeding, or boarding pet animals on a commercially zoned property.

Neutered Male: Any male which has been operated upon to prevent reproduction.

Nuisance: Any animal is deemed a public nuisance and a threat to public health, safety, welfare, and tranquility if it repeatedly:

- a) Chases pedestrians, bicycles, animals, or motorized vehicles; or
- b) Snaps at people; or
- c) Roams in packs; or
- d) Fights with other animals; or
- e) Barks or howls; or
- f) Destroys or defaces lawns, shrubs, trees, agricultural crops, or other property; or
- g) Scatters garbage out of cans or other containers; or
- h) Takes personal property from where it belongs; or
- i) Creates a nuisance in any other way

Owner: Any person, group of persons, firm, partnership or corporation owning, keeping, having charge of, sheltering, feeding, harboring or taking care of any animal. The owner is responsible for the care, actions and behavior of his animals.

Potentially Dangerous Dog: a dog that the Animal Control Officer determines to have:

- a) Inflicted a bite on a person that resulted in broken bones or disfiguring lacerations or required cosmetic surgery or hospitalization; or
- b) Killed or inflicted severe injury upon a domestic animal when not on the owner's real property; or
- c) Approached a person when not on the owner's property in a vicious or terrorizing manner in an apparent attitude of attack.

Restrain: Any animal is under restraint within the meaning of this ordinance if it is controlled by means of a tether or leash or it is within a vehicle being driven or parked; or is within a secure enclosure.

Restraint of a dangerous or potentially dangerous dog: Confinement in a securely enclosed pen or other structure having a roof, cement floor, and secured by a padlock. When this type of dog is outside this pen or structure, it must be restrained and held by the owner, or one who is in direct control, by an adequate leash, and the dog must be muzzled with a humane muzzle at all times. At no time shall restraint of this type of dog be accomplished by tethering it outside the pen or structure.

Running at Large: A dog or cat is considered to be running at large if it is off the premises of its owner and not under the control of the owner or some other person.

Spayed Female: Any female which has been operated upon to prevent conception.

Stray: Any dog or cat that appears stray, homeless or unwanted, and any dog that is not displaying a valid rabies tag, except when the dog is being displayed or performing at a show, hunting, performing at obedience trials, tracking tests, field trials, schools or other similar events sanctioned and supervised by a recognized organization.

Tethering: Attaching an animal to a stationary object by means of a chain, cable, rope, or similar device that has swivels on both ends that is of appropriate size for the animal so not to obstruct its ability to move freely.

Vicious Animal: An animal that has made an unprovoked attack on a human by biting or in any manner causing abrasions or cuts of the skin that requires a visit to the doctor, urgent care or hospital; or one which habitually or repeatedly attacks farm stock and other pets.

Section 2. Establishment and Composition of an Animal Control Department, Appointment, and Compensation of Department Employees

There is hereby created an Animal Control Department of the county, which shall be composed of such employees as shall be determined by the Board of County Commissioners. Such employees shall be hired and compensated in accordance with the policies of the County of Stokes Personnel Policies Handbook.

Section 3. General Duties of Animal Control Department

The Animal Control Department shall be charged with the responsibility of:

- a) Enforcing in this county, all state and county laws and ordinances relating to the care, custody, and control of animals
- b) Cooperating with the Health Director and assisting in the enforcement of laws of the state with regard to animals and especially with regard to vaccination of dogs and cats against rabies and the confinement or leashing of vicious animals
- c) Investigating cruelty or animal abuse with regard to all animals.
- d) Making such canvasses of the county, including the homes in the county, as it deems necessary for the purpose of ascertaining that all dogs are duly and properly listed for tax purposes, and that all dogs, cats and ferrets are vaccinated against rabies
- e) Operating the Animal Control Shelter pursuant to policies of the Board of County Commissioners and the State of North Carolina.

Section 4. Records to be kept by the Animal Control Department

It shall be the duty of the Animal Control Department to keep or cause to be kept, accurate and detailed records of:

- a) Impoundment and disposition of all animals coming into animal shelter
- b) Bite cases, violations and complaints, and investigation of same.
- c) All monies belonging to the county which were derived from impoundment fees, penalties, adoptions and sales of animals.

- d) All other records deemed necessary by the county manager.

Section 5. Animal Control Advisory Council

There is hereby created an Animal Control Advisory Council to advise the Board of County Commissioners and the county manager with respect to animal control matters. The Animal Control Advisory Council shall be composed of members appointed by the Board of County Commissioners to serve at the pleasure of the Board.

Section 6. General Duties of Keepers of Animals

It shall be unlawful for any person to keep animals under unsanitary or inhumane conditions or to fail to provide proper food and fresh water daily, proper shelter from weather and reasonably clean-living quarters for such animals, or to fail to provide proper medical, attention for sick, distressed, or injured animals, as well as adequate inoculation against disease, according to the species of animals kept.

Section 6.1 Adequate Shelter for Dogs

The shelter shall have access that is suitable for the species, age, condition, size and type of animal. It shall consist of 4 walls, a roof, a raised / elevated floor and be structurally sound and in good repair and must protect the animal from the elements (wind/rain/ice/sleet/snow/sun). The structure should be provided with a sufficient quantity of suitable bedding material consisting of straw, cedar or pine shavings or equivalent to help provide protection against cold and promote retention of body heat. When sunlight is likely to cause heat stroke of an animal tied or confined outside, sufficient shade by natural or artificial means (not to include the dog house) must be provided to protect the animal.

Section 7. Cruelty to Animals

It shall be unlawful for any person to molest, torture, torment, deprive of necessary sustenance, cruelly beat, needlessly mutilate or kill, wound, injure, poison, abandon or subject to conditions detrimental to its health or general welfare of any animal, or to cause or procure such action. The words "torture" and "torment" shall be held to include every act, omission or neglect whereby unjustifiable physical pain, suffering or death is caused or permitted; but such terms shall not be constructed to prohibit lawful shooting of birds, deer, or other game for humane food; nor to prohibit the animal control department or its agents or veterinarians from destroying dangerous, unwanted or injured animals in a humane manner. (reference- N.C.G.S. 14-360)

Section 8. Confinement, Muzzle, and Control of Vicious or Dangerous Dogs or Animals

It shall be unlawful for any owner to keep any vicious, fierce, dangerous, or potentially dangerous dog or animal within the county, unless it is confined within a secure building, pen or enclosure as defined in this Ordinance, or unless it is securely muzzled and under restraint by a competent person who, by means of a secure leash, and have such animal firmly under control at all times.

Violators of this section shall be guilty of a Class Three (3) Misdemeanor under N.C.G.S. 14-49(a) and shall be fined not more than \$500 per violation.

Section 9. Animals Creating Nuisance Subject to Specific Security Measures

- a) If an animal is reported to an Animal Control Officer as being a nuisance, the Animal Control Officer shall investigate to determine whether the animal in question falls within the definition of Nuisance in Section 1. If the Animal Control Officer finds that the animal is a Nuisance, the Animal Control Officer shall order the animal to be secured and subject to the following specific security measures:
- b) Specific Security Measures Required:
 - 1) While the animal is outside unsupervised, the animal must be secure on the owner's property in a 10 ft. x 10 ft. kennel with a solid floor and solid roof with padlock on kennel door. While outside the animal still must be in compliance with all county and North Carolina State Laws regarding proper housing and life sustaining substances.
 - 2) While the animal is outside being supervised, the animal may be on a non-retractable leash controlled by someone at least 18 years of age who has full control of the animal at all times.
 - 3) Animal must be current on Rabies Vaccinations at all times as outlined in North Carolina General Statue 130A-185. A vaccination – the owner of a cat, dog, or ferret over 4 months of age shall have the animal vaccinated against rabies.
 - 4) The animal's owner may not sell, give away or in any way move the animal from the location where the animal lives without 24 hours prior notification to the Stokes County Animal Control Department.
- c) In addition to criminal penalties, any person violating the order set forth in subsection (a) above shall be subject to the following civil penalties:
 - 1) First Offense – Written Warning
 - 2) Second Offense - \$100 civil penalty
 - 3) Third Offense - \$200 civil penalty
 - 4) Fourth Offense - \$300 civil penalty
 - 5) Fifth Offence - \$400 civil penalty
 - 6) Sixth Offense and subsequent offense - \$500 civil penalty and seizure of the animal
- d) The animal's owner shall comply with the ORDER no later than the due date specified by implementing the specified security measures which must be approved by Stokes County Animal Control Department unless a written appeal is filed within three (3) days of service of the order with the Stokes County Manager at the Stokes County Administrative Building, 1014 Main Street, Danbury, NC 27016.

Section 10. Dog Privilege Tax Tag

- a) It is the purpose of this Section to supplement State Law by providing a procedure for the enforcement of laws and requiring dogs to wear a privilege tax tag
- b) It shall be unlawful for any dog owner or keeper to fail to provide his dog with a dog privilege tax tag to be issued annually by Stokes County and to take such action as is necessary to ensure that said privilege tax tag is worn by said dog at all times except as otherwise provided in this ordinance.
- c) It shall be the duty of the Stokes County Tax Department to provide the animal shelter with a privilege tax list so that tags may be mailed. The tag is to contain a number or other designation, and a record is to be kept of the person whom the tag has been mailed or otherwise deferred. After the initial mailing by September 1, dog tags may be obtained at the animal shelter only.
- d) In addition to all other penalties prescribed by law, a dog is subject to impoundment in accordance with the provisions of this ordinance if the dog is found not to be wearing a currently valid dog privilege tax tag. Provided, however, that the provisions of this section shall not apply to any dog being kept in any governmental facility or veterinary hospital.

- e) It shall also be unlawful for any individual moving into Stokes County who has or keeps a dog to fail to obtain a valid rabies tag and dog privilege tax tag within (30) days of moving into the County.
- f) The fee for the privilege tax tag shall be six dollars (\$6.00) per animal. In the event the tag is lost or stolen, a replacement tag can be obtained at the animal shelter for six dollars (\$6.00) per animal.

Section 11. Exemptions from Ordinance

Hospitals, clinics, and other premises operated by licensed veterinarians for the care and treatment of animals and exempt from of the provisions of this ordinance, except Sections 6,7,8,9.

Section 12: Interference with Enforcement of Ordinance

It shall be unlawful for any person to interfere with, hinder or molest the animal control department or its agents or animal control officers or veterinarians in the performance of any duty authorized by this ordinance, or to seek to release any animal in the custody of such agents, except as otherwise specifically provided.

ARTICLE II. RABIES CONTROL

Section 13. Compliance with State Law; Article as Supplement to State Law

- a) It shall be unlawful for any dog, cat, or ferret owner to fail to comply with the state laws relating to the control of rabies. A civil penalty for non-compliance of one hundred (\$100) shall be imposed if owner does not comply within 72 hours of a written warning. (G.S. 130A-192)

Section 14. Inoculation of Dogs, Cats and other Animals

- a) It shall be unlawful for an owner to fail to provide current inoculation against rabies (hydrophobia) for any dog, cat or ferret four (4) months of age or older. Should it be deemed necessary by the County Health Director or the State Public Health Veterinarian that other pets be inoculated in order to prevent a threatened epidemic or to control an existing epidemic, it shall be unlawful for an owner to fail to provide current inoculation against rabies for that animal.
- b) A dog, cat, or ferret that has not been previously vaccinated against rabies is considered “currently vaccinated” against rabies 28 days after the date of the initial, or primary, rabies vaccination.

Section 15. Inoculation Tag for Dogs

- a) Upon complying with the provisions of Section 14, there shall be issued to the owner of the dog inoculated a numbered metallic tag, stamped with the number and the year for which issued, and indicating that the dog has been inoculated against rabies.
- b) It shall be unlawful for any dog owner to fail to provide his dog with a collar or harness to which a current tag issued under this section is secure attached. The collar or harness, with attached tag, must be worn at all times, except during the time the dog is performing at shows, obedience trials, tracking tests, field trails, training schools or other events sanctioned and supervised by a recognized organization.
- c) It shall be unlawful for any person to use for any dog a rabies inoculation tag issued for a dog other than the one using the tag.

Section 15.1 Evidence of Inoculation of Cats and Ferrets

Cats and Ferrets shall not be required to wear the metallic tag referred to in Section 15, but the owner of the cat or ferret shall maintain sufficient written evidence to prove that his/her cat or ferret has a current rabies inoculation

Section 16. Reports and Confinement of Animals Biting Persons or Showing Symptoms of Rabies.

- a) Every animal which has bitten any person or which shows symptoms of rabies shall be confined immediately and shall be promptly reported to the animal control department, and thereupon shall be securely quarantined, at the direction of the animal control department, for a period of ten (10) days, and shall not be released from such quarantine except by written permission from the animal control department.
- b) Animals quarantined under this section shall be confined in a veterinary hospital or at the county animal shelter, at the expense of the owner; provided, however, that if any animal control officer determines that the owner of an animal which must be quarantined has adequate confinement facilities upon his own premises, the animal control officer shall authorize the animal to be confined on the owner's premises, the animal control officer shall revisit the premises for inspection purpose at approximately the middle of the confinement period and again at the conclusion of the confinement period.
- c) In the case of stray animals whose ownership is not known, the supervised quarantine required by this section shall be at the county animal shelter.
- d) If rabies does not develop within ten (10) days after an animal is quarantined under this section, the animal may be released from quarantine with the written permission of the animal control department. If the animal has been confined in the county animal shelter, the owner shall pay the sum equal to ten dollars (\$10.00) for each day of confinement to defray the cost of feeding, upon reclaiming the animal.

Section 17. Destruction or Confinement of Animal Bitten by Rabid Animal

In accordance with General Statute 130A-197 when the local health director reasonably suspects that an animal required to be vaccinated under this Ordinance has been exposed to the saliva or tissue of a rabid animal or animal reasonably suspected of having rabies, the animal shall be considered to have been exposed to rabies. An animal exposed to rabies shall be destroyed immediately by its owner, the county Animal Control Officer or a peace officer unless the animal has been vaccinated against rabies in accordance with this Ordinance for more than 28 days prior to being exposed, and has been given a booster dose of rabies vaccine within five days of the exposure. As an alternative to destruction, the animal may be quarantined at a facility approved by the local health director for a period up to six months, and under reasonable conditions imposed by the local health director.

Section 18. Area-wide Emergency Quarantine

- a) When reports indicate a positive diagnosis of rabies, the county director of public health shall order an area-wide quarantine for such period as it deems necessary. Upon invoking of such emergency quarantine, no animal shall be taken into the streets or permitted to be in the streets during such period. During such quarantine, no animal may be taken or shipped from the county without permission of the animal control department, each member of the animal control department and the police and sheriff's department hereby fully authorized, during such emergency, to impound any animal found running at large in the county.

During the quarantine period, the animal control department or the local health authorities shall be empowered to provide for a program of mass immunization by the establishment of temporary emergency rabies vaccination facilities strategically located throughout the county.

- b) In the event, there are additional positive cases of rabies occurring during the period of quarantine, such period of quarantine may be extended at the discretion of the county director of public health.

Section 19. Postmortem Diagnosis

- a) If an animal dies while under observation of rabies, the head of such animal shall be submitted to the state laboratory in Raleigh for diagnosis.
- b) The carcass of any dead animal exposed to rabies shall be surrendered to the Animal Control Department. The head of such animal shall be submitted to the state laboratory in Raleigh for diagnosis.

Section 20. Unlawful Killing or Releasing of Certain Animals.

It shall be unlawful for any person to kill or release any animal under observation for rabies, any animal suspected of having been exposed to rabies, any animal that has bitten a human, or to remove such animal from the county without written permission from the animal control department and the county director of public health.

Section 21. Failure to Surrender Animal for Quarantine or Destruction

It shall be unlawful for any person to fail or refuse to surrender any animal for quarantine or destruction as required in this article, when demand is made therefore by the animal control department.

ARTICLE III. IMPOUNDMENT

Section 22. General Provisions

- a) Any animal which appears to be lost, strayed or unwanted, or which is found to be not wearing a currently valid rabies vaccination tag, as required by state law or this ordinance, or which is found at large or not under restraint in violation of this ordinance shall be impounded by the animal control department and confined in the animal shelter in a humane manner. Impoundment of such an animal shall not relieve the owner thereof from any penalty which may be imposed for violation of this ordinance.
- b) It shall be unlawful for any owner or his agent to permit a female animal to run at large or be tethered or kept where more animals can breed during estrus. Any such animal must be kept in an enclosure that cannot be breached or have accessible openings of 1" or more or be, at all times, under restraint or direct control of the owner or agent.
- c) Any person violating the order set forth in subsection (b) above shall be subject to the following civil penalties:
 - 1) First Offense – Written Warning
 - 2) Second Offense - \$100 civil penalty
 - 3) Third Offense - \$200 civil penalty
 - 4) Fourth Offense - \$300 civil penalty
 - 5) Fifth Offense - \$400 civil penalty

- 6) Sixth Offense and subsequent offense - \$500 civil penalty and seizure of the animal

Section 23. Notice to Owner

Immediately upon impounding an animal, the animal control department shall make reasonable effort to notify the owner and inform such owner of the conditions whereby the animal may be redeemed. If the owner is unknown, notice of such impoundment shall be posted for 72 hours, or until the animal is disposed of, on a bulletin board at the animal shelter, and the time and place of the taking of such animal, together with the time and date of posting the notice shall be stated therein.

ARTICLE IV. FEES

Section 24. Redemption by Owner

The owner of an animal impounded under this article may redeem the animal and regain possession thereof within seventy-two (72) hours (three days) after notice of impoundment is given or posted, as required by Section 23, by complying with all applicable provisions of this ordinance and paying a redemption fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) plus a boarding fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) for each day the animal is held at the animal shelter. Valid proof of ownership is required for redemption of animal. Examples of valid proof of ownership could be but is not limited to current rabies vaccination certificates, vet records, current county tax tag, or receipt of purchase. The owner of an animal impounded and not redeemed within the required holding period shall be responsible for the fees incurred, whether or not the animal is claimed.

Redemption Fee	\$25.00
Boarding Fee	\$10.00
Rabies vaccination	\$10.00
County Taxes	\$6.00

Section 24-1. Kennel Permits

Any individual who operates a breeding kennel that has five (5) or more female breeding dogs must acquire breeding permit from the Animal Control Department. The fee for this breeding permit applies per year per location used for housing breeding animals. The permit allows inspection by animal control Monday-Friday (8:30 am to 5:00 pm). The fee for a permit is as follows:

0 – 50 dogs	\$300.00
51 – 75 dogs	\$500.00
76 – 100 dogs	\$850.00
100 + dogs	\$850.00 plus \$5.00 per dog over 100

Section 25. Destruction or Adoption of Unredeemed Animals

- a) If an impounded animal is not redeemed by the owner within the period prescribed in Section 24, it may be destroyed in a humane manner or offered for adoption by any responsible adult who is willing to comply with this ordinance. Such animal may be adopted by an approved adopter and pays an adoption fee. There will be no tag required for cats or out of county dogs. The services included in the adoption fee for dogs are as follows:

1. Spay or neuter
2. Heart worm test
3. Rabies shot or voucher
4. Stokes County taxes for current year
5. Parasite treatment
6. First dhpp shot

The services included in adoption for cats are as follows:

1. Spay or neuter
 2. Rabies shot or voucher
 3. FIV & Feline leukemia test
 4. FVRCP & leukemia shots
 5. Parasite treatment
- b) Any person that elects to surrender an animal that they have had in their custody and care for at least 72 hours (3 days) to the animal shelter, shall pay a fee of forty dollars (\$40.00). Also, any person that elects to surrender a litter of puppies or kittens shall pay a fee of forty dollars (\$40.00) and will receive forty dollars (\$40.00) voucher towards the spay or neuter of an animal.
- c) No dog owner may be permitted to adopt his own dog under the provisions of this section, but he must comply with the provisions of Section 24, in order to reclaim a dog that has been impounded pursuant to state law or this article.
- d) No animal which has been impounded by reason of being a stray, unclaimed by its owner, shall be allowed to be adopted from the animal shelter during a period of emergency rabies quarantine invoked pursuant to Section 18, except by special authorization of the public health officials.

ARTICLE V. TETHERING

Section 26. Tethering

- a) No person shall tether, fasten, chain, tie, or restrain an animal, or cause an animal to be tethered, fastened, chained, tied, or restrained, to a structure, tree, fence, or any other stationary object, except as specifically set forth in this Article V.
- b) During periods of acceptable restraint, no animal shall be tethered to a running line, pulley, or trolley system by means of a pinch, choke, or prong collar. No tow chains or logging chains are permitted. The line connecting the animal to the trolley system must have a swivel at each end. No more than one animal may be tethered to one restraint device at one time.

- c) No person shall tether or restrain an animal outdoors by any means during extreme weather (at or below freezing temperatures/ high heat) or during periods of driving rain, tornado, hurricane, or periods when a severe weather warning has been issued for the area where the animal is located.
- d) No person shall tether outdoors an animal who is severely sick, diseased, injured or a puppy under the age of 6 months.
- e) Under no circumstances may the tethering device itself be placed around the animal's neck.
- f) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), a person may do any of the following:
 - 1. Tether an animal pursuant to the requirements of a camping or recreational area, not to exceed 7 days.
 - 2. Tether an animal while engaged in, or actively training for, an activity that is conducted pursuant to a valid license issued by the State of North Carolina if the activity for which the license is issued is associated with the use or presence of an animal. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to prohibit a person from restraining an animal while participating in activities or using accommodations that are reasonably associated with the licensed activity.
 - 3. Tether an animal while actively engaged in any of the following:
 - i. Conduct that is directly related to the business of shepherding or herding cattle or livestock.
 - ii. Conduct that is directly related to the business of cultivating agricultural products, if the restraint is reasonably necessary for the safety of the animal.
 - iii. Conduct involving law enforcement activities.
- g) Nothing in this Article shall be construed to prohibit a person from walking a dog with a hand-held leash.
- h) The minimum enclosure size for dogs must be 100 square feet per dog up to 50 pounds. Dogs 51 pounds or more must have 200 square feet per dog per kennel. Excrement must be removed daily from any dog enclosure.
- i) Violations:
 - 1. A person who violates this Article is guilty of a violation or a misdemeanor as defined by Section 31 of this ordinance.
 - 2. Notwithstanding subdivision (f), animal control may issue a correction warning to a person who violates this chapter, requiring the owner to correct the violation, in lieu of a civil violation or misdemeanor, unless the violation endangers the health or safety of the animal, the animal has been wounded as a result of the violation, or a correction warning has previously been issued to the individual.
 - 3. A correction warning must be in writing and can be no longer than 3 days to correct unless it is not safe for the animal and then corrective measures must be immediately taken.

ARTICLE VI. RUNNING AT LARGE

Section 27. Running at large

- a) It shall be unlawful for:
 - 1. a female dog or cat to be at large during its estrus period. During this period, the owner must restrain the animal in a manner that will prevent it from coming in contact with a male of its

species. This sub-section shall not be construed to prohibit the intentional breeding of animals on the premises of the owner of the animal.

b) Exceptions.

1. A dog or cat which is not dangerous may be at large in the course of a show, obedience school, tracking tests, field training or other events sanctioned or supervised by a recognized organization. Hunting dogs may be at large in the course of hunting, provided they are under the control of the owner.
 2. A dog or cat that is running freely and remains on the owner's property.
 3. A dog in a designated dog park, school, building or other area approved for dogs to run off of a leash. The dog must have a current rabies vaccination. Proof of a current rabies vaccination must be with the dog or cat at all times as required by Article II Section 15 of this ordinance.
 4. This exception does not exempt an owner from otherwise complying with any other provision of this Chapter.
- c) Animal Control shall impound at the county animal shelter any dog or cat found to be at large in violation of this section.
- d) A dog or cat impounded for running at large may be reclaimed by its owner only upon the owner's agreement to have the animal microchipped at the owner's expense within thirty days of the date the animal is reclaimed. Proof of microchipping the animal impounded must be provided to Animal Control. Animal control may microchip the animal at the owners request and expense.
- e) Dogs and cats shall be vaccinated by the animal shelter when reclaimed at the owner's expense or written proof of rabies vaccination must be provided at the time of reclamation by the owner.
- f) A dog or cat impounded for running at large for a second or subsequent time may be reclaimed by its owner only upon the owner's agreement to have the animal altered at the owner's expense within thirty days of the date the animal is reclaimed. Notwithstanding this requirement, a dog or cat impounded for running at large a second or subsequent time will not be required to be altered provided the owner has notified the animal shelter of the missing animal within three (3) business days of impoundment.

Section 28. Procedure with Respect to Redemption or Adoption of Unvaccinated Animals

- a) Unless proof of a current rabies vaccination can be furnished, every person who either adopts or redeems an animal at the animal shelter shall be given a "proof of rabies vaccination card" at the time of the redemption or adoption. This card shall be stamped with the date stating the maximum time limit allowed to take the animal to the veterinarian of such person's choice for rabies vaccination. The time limit for dogs and cats four (4) months and older will be forty-eight (48) hours, with Sundays and Holidays excluded. For puppies and kittens under four (4) months, the time limit will vary according to their age.
- b) The proof of rabies vaccination card will be completed and returned to the animal shelter by the veterinarian. If this card is not returned to the animal shelter within the time specified on the card, an animal control officer will be dispatched to retrieve the dog or cat.
- c) Payment for the rabies vaccination provided for in this section will be the responsibility of the person redeeming or adopting the dog or cat.
- d) The adoption fee includes rabies vaccine or voucher.

Section 29. Suspected Rabid Animals Not to be Redeemed or Adopted

Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, an animal impounded which appears to be suffering from rabies shall not be redeemed or adopted, but shall be dealt with in accordance with Article II of this Ordinance.

Section 30. Destruction of Wounded or Diseased Animals

- a) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this article, any animal impounded which is badly wounded or diseased (not a rabies suspect) and has no identification shall be destroyed immediately in a humane manner. If the animal has identification, the animal control department shall attempt to notify the owner before disposing of such animal, but if the owner cannot be reached readily, and the animal is suffering, the animal control department may destroy the animal at its discretion in a humane manner.
- b) If an animal is determined by the animal control officer or any law enforcement officer to pose an immediate danger to the health and safety of any person, the animal may be destroyed on-site with or without prior notification to the owner if all other means of capture have been unsuccessful, or if trying to capture the animal would put the officer in a dangerous situation.
- c) If the animal control officer and/or law enforcement officer does destroy an animal on site, he/she shall submit a written report of the incident to the Chief Animal Control Officer within twenty-four (24) hours (weekends and holidays excluded) of the incident and shall make a good faith attempt to notify the owner of the destroyed animal. The Chief Animal Control Officer will review the incident with the County Manager.

Section 31. Penalties

- a) Criminal Penalties – Persons violating this ordinance shall be guilty of a Class Three (3) Misdemeanor and shall be fined not more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500). Each day of a violation shall constitute a separate offense. The payment of a fine imposed in criminal proceedings does not relieve the person of liability for any taxes, fees, costs or civil penalties otherwise imposed by this ordinance.
- b) Civil Penalties – In addition to criminal penalties, persons who violate this ordinance shall be subject to civil penalties for each violation in the amount established by this Ordinance. Each day of a violation shall constitute a separate offense. (References- Section 22. General Provisions(c))
- c) Citations – The Animal Control Officer is authorized to issue criminal and civil citations to violators of this ordinance. All civil penalties must be paid within 72 hours. No impounded animal may be redeemed until all civil penalties, fees and costs are paid in full.
- d) Civil Action – Civil penalties may be recovered against violators in a civil action by the County. In addition to the civil penalties, the County may recover court costs including reasonable attorney fees incurred by the County.
- e) Equitable Remedies – Enforcement of this ordinance may also be by appropriate equitable remedy, injunction or order of abatement issued by the District Court of Stokes County.

Section 32. Severability

If any section or part of this ordinance should be held invalid for any reason, such determination shall not affect the remaining sections or parts, and to that end the provisions of this ordinance are severable.

Section 33. Effective Date

This ordinance shall become effective May 1, 1975 as adopted by the Stokes County Board of Commissioners on April 7, 1975 and readopted on September 12, 1977, and amended on December 16, 1985, December 21, 1987, February 7, 1994, June 21, 2001, July 1, 2004, May 24, 2010, June 27, 2012, February 9, 2015, December 28, 2015, February 8, 2016, November 12, 2019, and April 12, 2021

Andy Nickelston, Chairman
Stokes County Board of Commissioners

ATTESTED BY: _____
Shannon B. Shaver
Clerk to the Board

Animal Control & Animal Welfare Ordinance

Stokes County, North Carolina

ARTICLE I: ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

SECTION 1: TITLE AND PURPOSE

- a. Title. This Ordinance shall be known as the Stokes County Animal Control & Animal Welfare Ordinance.
- b. Purpose. The purpose of this Ordinance is to:
 - 1) Protect the people of Stokes County from dangerous, exotic or uncontrolled animals; and
 - 2) Supplement, but not supersede, the North Carolina Rabies Control Statutes; and
 - 3) Ensure the humane treatment of animals within the county.
 - 4) Supplement, but not contravene, any animal control laws of the State of North Carolina or the Federal Government.

SECTION 2: DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Ordinance the following terms, phrases, words, and their derivations shall have the meaning defined herein, unless the context clearly indicates that another meaning is intended. Words used in the present tense include the future and past tense; words in the plural number include the singular number; words in the singular number include the plural number; and words in the masculine gender include the feminine gender. The definitions within this Section are not exclusive and other terms may be defined within additional Sections of this Ordinance.

- a. Abandon: To intentionally, knowingly, or negligently leave an animal at any location for more than (48) consecutive hours without providing for the animal's continued care.
- b. Adequate Food: The provision on a daily basis of a quantity of wholesome foodstuff suitable for the species and age, sufficient to maintain a reasonable level of nutrition in each animal, as well as maintain the animal in good health and comfort. Such foodstuff shall be served in a receptacle, dish, or container that is physically clean and from which agents injurious to health have been removed or destroyed to a practical minimum.

- c. Adequate Shelter: An enclosure which is structurally sound, has a minimum of **four** sides, is large enough for the animal to turn around, is maintained in good repair, and constructed in such a manner that is water and wind resistant. **If plastic barrel is used it must be elevated off the ground.** The enclosure shall not have a metal floor nor be a metal barrel. An adequate shelter provides some shade from the direct rays of the sun and assures adequate ventilation and light.
- d. Adequate Water: Constant access to a supply of clean, fresh water, provided in a sanitary manner. In near or below freezing temperatures, the water must be changed frequently so as to prevent freezing.
- e. Aggression-Trained Dog: A dog that has been trained or conditioned to bite, attack, or exhibit aggressive behavior toward humans or other domestic animals for any purpose. This includes but not limited to, the security of business property and personal security.
- f. Animal: Every vertebrate non-human species of animal, wild or domestic, including but not limited to dogs, cats and ferrets.
- g. Animal Control Department: The Stokes County Animal Control Department as established in this Ordinance.
- h. Animal Control Officer (ACO): A County employee designated as an animal control, rabies control officer, rabies control official, or other designated County representative or agent, whose responsibility includes rabies and animal control.
- i. Animal Shelter: Any premises operated by the County for the purpose of impounding and caring for all animals found running at large, or otherwise subject to impounding in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance, or any other County ordinance, directive, or State law.
- j. At Large. An animal shall be deemed to be “at large” when it is off the property of its owner and not under the restraint of a competent person.
- k. Breeding Kennel: A facility where dogs or cats are raised, in which five (5) or more litters per year are produced.
- l. Cat: A domestic feline of the genus and species *Felis catus*.
- m. Complaint: A formal allegation against a party, in written or verbal format.
- n. County: The County of Stokes.
- o. Dog: A domestic canine of the genus, species, and subspecies *Canis lupus familiaris*.

- p. Estrus: The period of maximum sexual receptivity of a female animal, commonly called “heat” or “rut”.
- q. Fenced Enclosure: Any enclosed area surrounded by a fence which is reasonably adequate to secure an animal, so as to prevent it from escaping from property owned or leased by, or under the constructive possession of, the animal’s owner. This definition includes properly operating radio controlled and wireless controlled underground fence installation.
- r. Feral Cat: An unowned cat which is not an identified animal, as defined in paragraph (u) below, and which is not socialized.
- s. Ferret: A domestic mammal of the genus, species, and subspecies *Mustela putorius furo*.
- t. Guard Dog: A dog on premises specifically for the purpose of protecting said premises from any intruder, and for attacking a person coming in the vicinity of the dog.
- u. Identified Animal: An animal with an identification tag, tattoo, microchip or other marking on which is inscribed the owner’s name, address, and telephone number.
- v. Investigation: Inquiry by the Animal Control Officer, Director or their designee, upon complaint of a violation of an article of this ordinance to determine whether such violation has occurred and whether impoundment of an animal is appropriate or required under the provisions of this Ordinance. Investigations may include, but are not limited to, the interviewing of witnesses and taking of written statements, inspection of premises where an animal is owned or held, reasonable examination of a person or property to determine if injury or damage has been inflicted by an animal under the provisions of this Ordinance, reasonable examination of an animal being investigated, and such other steps as shall be determined to be necessary or appropriate in carrying out investigations of violations of this Ordinance.
- w. Owner: Any person, group of persons, firm, association, partnership, corporation, or other entity owning, keeping, having charge of, sheltering, feeding, harboring, or taking care of any animal, or allowing the animal to remain on or about their property for (30) days. The owner is responsible for the care, actions, and behavior of his animals. This definition shall also apply to the term “ownership” as used in this Ordinance.
- x. Person: Any individual, partnership, corporation, organization, trade or professional association, firm, limited liability company, joint venture, association, trust, estate, or any other legal entity, and any officer, member shareholder, director, employee, agent, or representative thereof.

- y. Public Nuisance Animal. Any animal that unreasonably annoys humans, endangers the life or health of domestic animals or persons, or substantially interferes with the rights of citizens, other than its owner, to enjoyment of life or property. Further definition is contained in Article IV Section 1 herein.
- z. Restraint. An animal is under restraint within the meaning of this Ordinance if it is:
 - (i) On or within a vehicle being driven or parked and secured in such manner as to prevent the animal from escaping or causing injury to persons approaching or passing by the vehicle; provided, that an animal shall not be deemed to be under restraint if it is in the back of an open-bed pickup, regardless of whether or not it is secured therein;
 - (ii) Under the control of a competent person utilizing a leash or lead;
 - (iii) within a secure enclosure, as defined in paragraph (aa) below; or
 - (iv) within the boundaries of an above ground fence in good repair and/or a properly operating radio controlled or wireless underground fence installation.
- aa. Secure Enclosure. A structure designed to securely house and restrain a dog that has been determined to be a potentially dangerous dog under Article V, Section 3(b) of this Ordinance.
- bb. Severe Injury: As defined in N.C.G.S. 67-4.1(a) Any physical injury that results in broken bones or disfiguring lacerations or requires cosmetic surgery or hospitalization.
- cc. Stray: As defined in N.C.G.S. 130A-184(6a) An animal that meets both of the following conditions: (a.) Is beyond the limits of confinement or lost. (b.) Is not wearing any tags, microchips, tattoos, or other methods of identification.
- dd. Tethering: Attaching an animal to a stationary object by means of a chain, cable, rope, or similar device that has swivel on two ends that is of appropriate size for the animal so not to obstruct its ability to move freely.

SECTION 3: ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD

- a. Creation and Purpose: The Animal Control Advisory Board is hereby created, the purpose of which shall be to:
 - (i) Advise the Stokes County Animal Control Department with respect to rabies control and other animal related matters.

(ii) Hear any appeals regarding the determination of a potentially dangerous dog by Animal Control in accordance with N.C.G.S. 67-4.1.5(c); and

(iii) Carry out such other functions as may be established under this Ordinance.

(iv) To review and evaluate, on an ongoing basis, animal-related issues, needs and services in Stokes County.

- b. Composition: The Animal Control Advisory Board shall be composed of five (5) members for two-years rotating terms in compliance with the Stokes County Animal Control Advisory Board By-Laws established and approved by the Stokes County Board of Commissioners. The Board shall have the authority and responsibility conferred by said by-laws. Members shall be appointed by the Stokes County Board of Commissioners in accordance with said by-laws.

ARTICLE II: ANIMAL CONTROL DEPARTMENT

SECTION 1: ANIMAL CONTROL DEPARTMENT

- a. The Animal Control Department of Stokes County, hereinafter referred to as the Animal Control Department, is composed of the Stokes County Animal Control Director and employees in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in this Ordinance.

SECTION 2: ENFORCEMENT

- a. The Stokes County Health Director may designate employee(s) of the Stokes County Animal Control Department to enforce the rabies Vaccination laws as required by NCGS 130A-185. In the performance of said duties, any ACO, as defined in Section 2(h) shall have all the powers, authority and immunity granted under this Ordinance and by the general laws of this state to enforce the provisions of this chapter, and the General Statutes of North Carolina as they relate to the care, treatment, control, or impoundment of animals.
- b. The Stokes County Animal Control Director shall coordinate with the Stokes County Health Director in conducting at least one rabies vaccine clinic per year in accordance with NCGS 130A-187.
- c. Except as may be otherwise provided by statute, local law, or ordinance, no officer, agent or employee of the county charged with the duty of enforcing the provisions of this chapter or other applicable laws shall be personally liable for any damage that may accrue to persons or property as a result of any act required or permitted in the discharge of such duties unless he acts with actual malice.
- d. The Animal Control Department shall assist Stokes County municipalities

experiencing animal control issues. In those areas over which municipal animal control departments are not applicable, the Animal Control Department shall apply, and assist each municipality enforcement of their regulations.

- e. The Animal Control Department may, if necessary, request the assistance of the Stokes County Sheriff's Office or municipal police in impounding any animal as permitted under the provisions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 3: OBJECTIVES OF ANIMAL CONTROL DEPARTMENT

The Animal Control Department shall be charged with the responsibility of:

- a. Enforcing, in this county, all state and county laws, ordinances and resolutions relating to the care, custody, and control of animals.
- b. Assisting in the enforcement of the laws of the state with regard to animals, especially with regard to vaccination of animals against rabies and the confinement or leashing of dangerous animals, dangerous dogs and exotic animals.
- c. Investigating all reported animal bites or other human physical contact with suspected rabid animals.
- d. Investigating allegations of cruelty, neglect, or abuse of animals.
- e. Making such canvasses of the county, as is deemed necessary for the purpose of ascertaining that all animals are vaccinated against rabies as required by local ordinance or state statute.
- f. Operating the county animal shelter pursuant to policies of the Stokes County Animal Control division and as defined in NCGS 19A Section 3 & 02 NCAC 52J.
- g. Seizing and impounding, where deemed necessary, any animal involved in a violation of this or any other county ordinance or state law.
- h. Placing live-capture animal traps on private property, with the consent of the landowner, or on public property, in order to trap and remove stray, at large, abandoned, or nuisance domestic animals.

SECTION 4: RABIES CONTROL OFFICER

Any ACO may be designated by the Stokes County Health Director as the Rabies Control Officer for Stokes County and shall have such powers, duties, and responsibilities as are provided by the provisions of the North Carolina General Statutes; however, such powers, duties, and responsibilities as the Rabies Control Officer shall not conflict with or supersede the powers, duties, and responsibilities of the Health Director; or rabies inspectors appointed under the

provisions of the North Carolina General Statutes.

If an ACO is designated as a Certified Rabies Vaccinator by the Health Director, the vaccinator shall complete the training course required by the State Division of Public Health; shall vaccinate only in Stokes County shall vaccinate only for business related to the animal control department; and shall not vaccinate personal animals or outside any parameters defined by the Animal Control Department.

ARTICLE III: LOST OR STRAY ANIMALS

SECTION 1: IDENTIFICATION OF ANIMALS

Every owner of an animal shall provide the same with an identification tag, tattoo, microchip identification, or other marking on which is inscribed the owner's name and phone number.

SECTION 2: IMPOUNDMENT

Any domestic animal which, in the sole discretion of the ACO, appears to be lost, a stray, unwanted, abandoned, or in imminent danger, shall be impounded by the Animal Control Department and confined in the Stokes County Animal Shelter as governed by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture. Impoundment of such an animal shall not relieve the owner thereof from any penalty which may be imposed for a violation of this Ordinance.

SECTION 3: AUTHORITY TO TRANQUILIZE OR DESTROY

An ACO may, when attempting to impound an animal which cannot otherwise be captured for impoundment, tranquilize said animal. If attempts to tranquilize the animal are unsuccessful, and all other reasonable efforts at impoundment have failed, the ACO may destroy said animal.

SECTION 4: NOTICE TO OWNER

Immediately upon impounding an identified animal, the Animal Control Department shall make reasonable efforts to notify the owner and inform such owner of the conditions under which the animal may be redeemed. Such conditions include, but shall not be limited to, the charging of those fees as are described in Section 5 below. Pursuant to NCGS 19A-32.1 if, after 72 hours, the owner is unknown or cannot be located, or if the owner has not contacted the Animal Control Department, the animal shall then become the property of the Stokes County Animal Shelter as described in Section 6 (a).

SECTION 5: REDEMPTION BY OWNER

The owner of an animal impounded under this Article may redeem the animal and regain possession thereof at any time during normal business hours within 72 hours after notice of impoundment is given, by complying with all applicable provisions of this

Ordinance and paying such redemption fee and daily boarding fee as may be established by the County. The Owner also must show proof of ownership and proof of a valid Rabies vaccination.

SECTION 6: DISPOSITION OF UNREDEEMED ANIMALS

- a. Failure to Redeem. If an impounded animal is not redeemed by the owner in compliance with Article III, Section 3, it may be disposed of in accordance with North Carolina Statute 19A-32.1.
- b. Rabies Quarantine. No impounded animal shall be allowed to be adopted from the Animal Shelter during a period of rabies quarantine as invoked by the Stokes County Health Director or their designee.

SECTION 7: REDEMPTION OF UNVACCINATED DOG OR CAT

Payment for the required rabies vaccination will be the responsibility of the person redeeming the animal at the time the animal is redeemed.

SECTION 8: RABID ANIMAL NOT REDEEMED OR ADOPTED

Notwithstanding any other provision of the Article, an impounded animal which appears to be suffering from rabies shall not be redeemed or adopted and shall be destroyed in a humane manner and sent to the state lab for testing.

SECTION 9: INJURED, SICK, OR DISEASED ANIMALS

When the owner of an injured, sick, or diseased animal can be located, it shall be the owner's responsibility to provide veterinary care for the animal or authorize Animal Control to humanely euthanize the animal. If the animal is determined by an ACO to be severely injured, sick, or diseased, the animal shall be destroyed in a humane manner.

SECTION 10: PENALTY FOR VIOLATION

The penalty for a violation under this Article III shall be as set forth in Article IX.

ARTICLE IV: ANIMALS CREATING A NUISANCE

SECTION 1: "PUBLIC NUISANCE ANIMAL" DEFINED

For purposes of this Article, "public nuisance animal" is defined as follows:

- a. An animal that is repeatedly found at large and off the property of its owner or keeper and not under physical restraint.
- b. An animal that continuously barks for one hour from the hours of 6:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. and/or for twenty minutes from 11:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m.)

- c. An animal that habitually or repeatedly chases, snaps at, attacks, or harasses persons or other domestic animals and livestock. "Persons" includes, but is not limited to, pedestrians, joggers, and persons operating vehicles or other modes of transportation.
- d. An animal that repeatedly tips over garbage cans or damages yards, gardens, flowers, vegetables, or other personal property.
- e. An animal that repeatedly interferes with, molests, or attacks persons or other animals while off its own property.

SECTION 2: DETERMINATION OF PUBLIC NUISANCE ANIMAL AND SUBSEQUENT PROCEDURE

- a. If, after adequate investigation of a Complaint, the ACO reasonably determines that an animal is a public nuisance animal the ACO shall notify the owner of same and shall instruct the owner to always keep the animal under restraint at all times.
- b. If an animal previously deemed to be a public nuisance animal is determined to have engaged in the same behavior under Section 1 above which led to the initial determination of the animal as a public nuisance animal, the ACO may issue a citation for violation of this Section.

SECTION 3: ESTROUS ANIMAL

It shall be unlawful for any person owning or having possession, charge, custody or control over a female dog or female cat to allow that animal to be at large during its estrous period.

- a. Procedure: If, after investigation of a complaint, the ACO determines that a female is or has been at large during estrous, the ACO shall notify the owner of such animal and shall instruct the owner to keep the animal in such a manner that it will prevent the animal from coming in contact with a male of its species.
- b. Subsequent Violations: If the ACO thereafter determines, upon investigation of a subsequent complaint, that the animal is or has been at large again during estrous, the ACO shall issue a misdemeanor citation for violation of this section.
- c. Non-Identified Estrous Animals: Notwithstanding the foregoing, if upon any investigation the ACO determines that a female animal which is or has been at large during estrous is not an identified animal, the ACO may impound said animal and may hold and dispose of the same in accordance with the provisions of said Article III. This Section shall not be construed to prohibit the intentional breeding of animals on the premises of the owners or keepers of the animals involved.

SECTION 4: AUTHORITY TO TRANQUILIZE OR DESTROY

An Animal Control Officer, when attempting to impound an animal under Article IV which cannot otherwise be captured for impoundment, may tranquilize said animal or, if attempts to tranquilize and all other reasonable efforts at impoundment have failed, may destroy said animal.

ARTICLE V: DANGEROUS, POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS, OR VICIOUS DOGS

SECTION 1: PURPOSE

The purpose of this Article shall be to supplement the provisions of the North Carolina General Statutes governing dangerous and vicious dogs, and more specifically G. S. 130A-200 and Article IA of Chapter 67.

SECTION 2: DEFINITIONS

- a. Dangerous Dog – Pursuant to N.C.G.S 67-4.1(a)(1), a dangerous dog is one that:
 - (i) Without provocation has killed or inflicted severe injury on a person; or
 - (ii) Is determined by the person or Board designated by the county or municipal authority responsible for animal control to be potentially dangerous because the dog has engaged in one or more of the behaviors listed in N.C.G.S. 67-4.1(a)(2)
- b. Potentially Dangerous Dog – Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 67-4.1(a)(2), a potentially dangerous dog is a dog that is determined to have:
 - (i) Inflicted a bite on a person that resulted in broken bones or disfiguring lacerations or required cosmetic surgery or hospitalization; or
 - (ii) Killed or inflicted severe injury upon a domestic animal when not on the owner's real property; or
 - (iii) Approached a person when not on the owner's property in a vicious or terrorizing manner in an apparent attitude of attack.
- c. Secure Enclosure. A structure designed to securely house and restrain a dog that has been determined to be a potentially dangerous dog under Article V, Section 3(b) of this Ordinance. Said structure shall comply with each and every one of the following requirements:
 - (i) The structure shall be located on property owned or leased by, or under the constructive possession of, the dog's owner, shall be a minimum size of 15 feet by 6 feet by 6 feet, and shall be enclosed by a floor, walls, and roof. The floor shall consist of a concrete pad at least 4 inches thick. If more

than one dog is to be kept in the enclosure, the floor area shall provide at least 45 square feet for each dog. The walls and roof of the structure shall be constructed of chain link fencing of a minimum thickness of 9 gauge, supported by galvanized steel poles at least 2½ inches in diameter. The vertical support poles shall be sunk in concrete filled holes at least 18 inches deep and at least 8 inches in diameter. The chain link fencing shall be anchored to the concrete pad with galvanized steel anchors placed at intervals of no more than 12 inches along the perimeter of the pad. The entire structure shall be freestanding and shall not be attached or anchored to any existing fence, building, or structure. The structure shall have no more than one entrance door, which shall be secured by a child resistant lock that must remain locked at all times except when the dog's owner or an authorized veterinarian enters to feed, water, clean, or treat the dog.

- (ii) A perimeter fence shall be constructed around the entire structure, no less than 3 feet from the interior fencing walls of the structure itself. The perimeter fence shall be at least 6 feet in height, shall be of chain link construction with a minimum thickness of 9 gauge, shall be anchored to concrete along the entirety of all four sides in the same manner as the interior fencing walls (except for a single door as specified below), and shall be topped by chain link fencing which shall be of a minimum thickness of 9 gauge and which shall cover the entire area between the top of the perimeter fence and the top of the structure. A single door shall be located in the perimeter fence, on the opposite side from the entrance door to the structure. The door to the perimeter fence shall be secured by a child resistant lock and shall remain locked at all times except when the dog's owner or an authorized veterinarian enters to feed, water, clean, or treat the dog. The door to the perimeter fence shall be locked from the inside before the entrance door to the structure is opened.
- (iii) Provided there is no conflict with applicable zoning regulations, a warning sign of at least 120 square inches but no more than 240 square inches shall be visible from each exposure of the perimeter fence which is visible to any adjoining property. Each sign shall have a graphic representation of an appropriate animal such that the dangerousness or viciousness of the animal housed within the structure is communicated to those who cannot read, including young children. In the event of a conflict with applicable zoning regulations, the warning sign shall comply with the requirements of this subdivision (iii) as nearly as shall be practicable under said regulations.
- (iv) The owner of the dog shall be responsible for ensuring that the structure and perimeter fence are always maintained in such condition as to meet the requirements stated herein. The structure and perimeter fence shall be inspected and approved by the Stokes County Building Inspections Department and an Animal Control Officer for compliance with this Ordinance and any applicable state or local building codes, and the owner shall pay any fees in connection

therewith, before the same may be used to house a dog hereunder.

SECTION 3: DETERMINATION

Pursuant to G. S. 67-4.1 (c), the Stokes County Animal Control Director, or their designee, is hereby designated as the person responsible for determining when a dog is a “dangerous dog” or a “potentially dangerous dog” under Article 1A of Chapter 67 of the North Carolina General Statutes. The Animal Control Advisory Board is further designated as a “separate board” as contemplated by G.S. 67- 4.1 (c) which shall hear any appeal from a determination of the Director or his designee pursuant to NCGS 67 - 4.2c.

SECTION 4: IMPOUNDMENT OF “DANGEROUS DOGS”; AND “POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS DOGS”; DISPOSITION

In addition to the remedies provided in Article 1A of Chapter 67 of the North Carolina General Statutes, the Director or his designee shall impound a “dangerous dog” or a “potentially dangerous dog” as defined under G. S. 67-4.1 (a) (1) or (2), as follows:

- (i) Impoundment of Dangerous Dog: If, following investigation of a complaint under Article IX below, a determination is made by the Animal Control Director or his designee that the dog is a dangerous dog under either G.S. §§67-4.1(a)(1)a.1. or 67-4.1(a)(1)b., or both of said sections, such dog shall be impounded immediately upon delivery to the owner of the written notification as required under G.S. §67-4.1(c), which statute shall apply under this subsection (a) the same as in cases involving potentially dangerous dogs.
 - a. Appeals: Such dog shall be held at the Animal Shelter pending the resolution of all appeal proceedings pursuant to the Stokes County Animal Control Advisory Board By-Laws and G.S. §67-4.1(5)(c).
 - b. Destruction: In the event of a final determination that the dog is a “dangerous dog” under either or both of said sections, the dog shall be destroyed by the Animal Control Department.
- (ii) Impoundment of Potentially Dangerous Dog: If, following investigation of a complaint, a determination is made by the Animal Control Director or his designee that the dog is a potentially dangerous dog, the owner shall receive written notification as required under G.S. §67-4.1(c).
 - a. Appeals: In the event of an appeal, such dog shall be held at the Animal Shelter pending the resolution of all appeal proceedings under the Stokes County Animal Control Advisory Board By-Laws and G.S. §67-4.1(5)(c).
 - b. Release and Redemption: In the event of a final determination that the dog is neither a “dangerous dog,” nor a “potentially dangerous dog,” such dog shall immediately be released to its owner upon compliance by the owner with all applicable provisions of this Ordinance, and payment of

such redemption fee and daily boarding fee as may have been established by the County.

- c. Procedure after Determination of Potentially Dangerous Dog: In the event of a final determination that the dog is a "potentially dangerous dog," such dog shall be disposed of as follows:
1. If the owner of the dog is not known, shelter staff/director will make individualized determinations as to whether the animal is unadoptable due to temperament. If so determined, dog shall be destroyed by the Animal Control Department after required 72-hour hold.
 2. Where said final determination is based on one or more of the behaviors described in G.S. §67- 4.1(a)(2)a then, if the owner of the dog is known, said owner may redeem the dog by payment of such redemption fee and daily boarding fee as may have been established by the County provided, that it shall be an express condition of any such redemption that the owner at all times thereafter keep the dog within a secure enclosure as defined in Article V, Section 2, Paragraph (c) above. The dog may not be redeemed until the secure enclosure has been completed, inspected, and approved, as provided above.
 3. The Animal Control Department may establish a deadline for completion, not to be less than sixty (60) days, after which, if said secure enclosure is still not sufficiently completed to allow for inspection and approval, the dog may be destroyed by the Animal Control Department. If a dog is destroyed pursuant to any of the provisions of this subdivision (i), the owner shall be responsible for payment of such daily boarding fee as may have been established by the County and as shall have accrued between the time of impoundment and the time of destruction.
 4. The owner shall at all times be and remain in compliance with the requirements of Article V, Section 2, Paragraph (c) as to any secure enclosure required and upon failure to comply the owner shall be subject to such civil penalties as are permitted under Article IX below.
 5. It shall be a further express condition of redemption under this subdivision that, within thirty (30) days after redemption, the dog must be spayed or neutered and fitted with microchip identification, at the owner's expense. Prior to release rabies vaccination shall be current. The Animal Control Department may require written evidence, in the form of receipts or other records from a licensed veterinarian, confirming that this condition has been satisfied. If the owner of the dog fails to satisfy this condition within the time stated, the Director or his designee shall issue a citation to the owner for such civil penalties as are permitted under Article IX below.
 6. If, within thirty (30) days after issuance of the citation, the

condition still has not been satisfied and the civil penalty paid, the dog shall be destroyed by the Animal Control Department.

7. Upon redemption under this subdivision, the Animal Control Department shall serve upon the owner a notice of final determination which shall state that the dog has been determined to be a potentially dangerous dog under G.S. §67- 4.1(a)(2)a. and that the dog and its owner are subject to all of the requirements hereunder.

- d. Where said final determination is based on one or more of the behaviors described in G.S. §67-4.1(a)(2)b. or 67- 4.1(a)(2)c., then, if the owner of the dog is known, said owner may redeem the dog by payment of such redemption fee and daily boarding fee as may have been established by the County; provided, that it shall be an express condition of any such redemption that the owner at all times thereafter keep the dog in a secure enclosure as defined in Article V, Section 2, Paragraph (c), or under restraint as defined in Article I, Section 2, Paragraph (z). Provided that, however:

1. It shall be a further express condition of redemption under this subdivision (ii) that, within thirty (30) days after redemption, the dog must be spayed or neutered and fitted with microchip identification, at the owner's expense. The Animal Control Department may require written evidence, in the form of receipts or other records from a licensed veterinarian, confirming that this condition has been satisfied.
2. If the owner of the dog fails to satisfy this condition within the time stated, the Director or his designee shall issue a citation to the owner for such civil penalties as are permitted under Article IX below.
3. Upon redemption under this subsection, the Animal Control Department shall serve upon the owner a notice of final determination which shall state that the dog has been determined to be a potentially dangerous dog under G.S. §67- 4.1(a)(2)b. or G.S. §67-4.1(a)(2)c., as the case may be, and that the dog and its owner are subject to all of the requirements hereunder.

- e. **Violations of Secure Enclosure or Restraint Provisions** - If, after redemption of a potentially dangerous dog as set forth above, the Director or his designee makes a determination following investigation of a complaint that said dog has not been kept within a secure enclosure by the owner at all times, or has not been kept under restraint at all times, the following actions shall be taken:

1. **First & Second Violation:** The Director or his designee shall issue a citation to the owner for such civil penalties as may be applicable.

2. Third Violation: The subject dog shall be impounded immediately. Such dog shall be held at the Animal Shelter pending the resolution of all appeal proceedings under G.S. §67-4.1(c). In the event of a final determination that the owner did not in fact fail to keep the dog within a secure enclosure at all times or under restraint at all times, as the case may be, such dog shall immediately be released to its owner in compliance with and under the requirements of subdivision (i) or subdivision (ii) above, whichever is applicable. In the event of a final determination that the owner did in fact fail to keep the dog within a secure enclosure at all times or under restraint at all times, as the case may be, the dog shall be euthanized by the Stokes County Animal Control Department.
- f. Additional Determination of Potentially Dangerous Dog - If, after redemption of a dog deemed to be a potentially dangerous dog as set forth in either subdivision (i) or subdivision (ii) above, the Director or his designee makes a determination following investigation of a separate and new complaint that the dog has engaged in any of the behaviors prohibited under G.S. §67-4.1(a)(1) or (2) following said redemption, the dog shall be impounded immediately upon delivery to the owner of the written notification. Such dog shall be held at the Animal Shelter pending the resolution of all appeal proceedings under G.S. §67-4.1(c), which statute shall apply under this subdivision (vi) the same as set forth elsewhere in this subsection (b). In the event of a final determination that the dog did not in fact engage in any of said behaviors, such dog shall immediately be released to its owner in compliance with and under the requirements of subdivision (i) or subdivision (ii) above, whichever is applicable. In the event of a final determination that the dog did in fact engage in any of said behaviors, the dog shall be destroyed by the Animal Control Department.
- g. Release - In the event of a final determination that the dog is neither a "dangerous dog," nor a "potentially dangerous dog," such dog shall immediately be released to its owner upon compliance by the owner with all applicable provisions of this Ordinance, and payment of such redemption fee and daily boarding fee as may have been established by the County.
- h. Copy of Ordinance and Proof of Receipt - Whenever the Director or his designee is required by the terms of this Section to deliver to the owner of a dangerous or potentially dangerous dog the written notification as set forth under G.S. §67-4.1(c), the Director or his designee shall simultaneously deliver to the owner a copy of this Ordinance and shall obtain from said owner a signed receipt as to both.

SECTION 5: REGISTRATION OF POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS DOGS

- a. Registration Required. A current registration shall be maintained by the Stokes County Animal Control Department as to every dog for which a final determination has been issued that the same is a potentially dangerous dog under this article. The owner of said dog is responsible for ensuring that the dog is registered hereunder. Registrations required under this Section 4 shall be made upon issuance of the final determination and shall include the name and address of the owner, identifying information concerning the dog, and such other information as the Stokes County Animal Control Department may reasonably request. Thereafter the owner shall register the dog annually with the Animal Control Department during the month of January unless the dog has died, has been sold, or its ownership has been transferred to any other person, in which event the provisions of subsection (b) below shall apply.
- b. Sale, Transfer, or Death of Dog.
 - (i) Sale or Transfer of Dog to New Owner Residing Within County. The sale or transfer of any dog for which a registration is required under Section 5 shall be subject to prior approval by the Animal Control Department if the new owner resides within the County. The following procedure shall apply:
 - a) The owner of the subject dog shall first notify the Animal Control Department. Said notification shall include the information as required under subsection (a) above as to the new owner.
 - b) The Animal Control Department shall have a period of thirty (30) days from receipt of said notification in which to contact the new owner and investigate and determine whether said new owner has the capability to comply with the requirements of this Ordinance concerning potentially dangerous dogs. As a part of said determination, the Animal Control Department shall, no later than ten (10) days after receipt of notification from the current owner, deliver a copy of this Ordinance to the new owner and request from said new owner a signed written statement, on such form as shall be approved by the Animal Control Department, certifying that said new owner has received such copy and will at all times be and remain in compliance with the requirements of the same.
 - c) The new owner shall furnish a signed written statement to the Animal Control Department within the ten (10) days, and shall cooperate with and provide such further information to the Animal Control Department as may be

reasonably requested in connection with the proposed sale or transfer of the dog.

- d) If the Animal Control Department, upon timely receipt of said written statement and completion of the investigation required hereunder, determines that the new owner is able and willing to comply with the requirements of this Ordinance, the Animal Control Department shall so notify both the current owner and the new owner in writing within the above stated ten (10) day period. Thereafter the sale or transfer of the dog may take place, and the new owner shall thereupon be responsible for compliance with the provisions of this Section 4 and for compliance with all other requirements of this Ordinance. If the new owner fails to timely furnish the signed written statement as required herein, the Animal Control Department shall not approve the proposed sale or transfer until such time as the same has been furnished.

- (ii) Sale or Transfer of Dog to New Owner Residing Outside County. In the event the owner of a dog for which a registration is required under this Article intends to sell or transfer the same to a person residing outside the County, the following procedure shall apply:

- a) The selling or transferring owner shall notify the Animal Control Department as to the same prior to such sale or transfer.
- b) As soon as practical following receipt of said notification the Animal Control Department shall notify the Animal Control Department of the county of residence of the new owner, by registered or certified letter, return receipt requested, as to the sale or transfer of said dog and as to its designation under this Ordinance as a potentially dangerous dog, together with such other information as the Animal Control Department may deem appropriate.

- (iii) Bringing Dog into County. In the event a dog which has been determined by another county or jurisdiction to be a dangerous dog or potentially dangerous dog under Article 1A of Chapter 67 of the North Carolina General Statutes, or under similar provisions of any other applicable statute, ordinance, or law of any other jurisdiction, is sold or transferred to an owner residing within the County, or is brought into the County for any reason (other than temporary veterinary care), the following procedure shall apply:

- a) The owner to which said dog is being sold or transferred, or

the person responsible for bringing said dog into the County, shall immediately notify the Animal Control Department as to the same and shall cause said dog to be registered in accordance with the requirements of this Section 4. Any dog which is registered or required to be registered with the Animal Control Department under this subdivision (iii) shall be deemed to be a dangerous dog or potentially dangerous dog under this Article V, as the case may be, and the owner of said dog shall comply with all of the applicable requirements hereof within such times as shall be established by the Animal Control Department, but in no event less than thirty (30) days.

- (iv) Death of Dog. In the event a dog for which a registration is required under subsection (a) dies, the owner shall immediately notify the Animal Control Department as to the same and shall, within twenty-four (24) hours of said dog's death, present the dog's body for scanning as to the microchip identification required under this Article V. Said scanning may be performed either by a licensed veterinarian or by the Animal Control Department. A licensed veterinarian performing a scan under this subdivision (iv) shall report the results of the same to the Animal Control Department, which shall maintain a written record of all scans performed hereunder for the purpose of verifying the death of potentially dangerous dogs registered pursuant to this Section 4. Payment of all fees and expenses for compliance with the foregoing requirements shall be the responsibility of the dog's owner.

- c. Penalty for Violation. The penalty for a violation of any of the requirements under this Section shall be as set forth in Article IX below.

ARTICLE VII: ANIMAL WELFARE

SECTION 1: PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION

It is the purpose of this section to supplement Article 47 of the North Carolina General Statutes, and all other state laws regarding animals for which the Animal Control Division has enforcement authority pursuant to Article II, Section 3.

SECTION 2: CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

It shall be unlawful for any person to abuse, molest, maim, disfigure, torture, torment, deprive of necessary sustenance, cruelly beat, mutilate or kill, wound, injure, poison, abandon or subject to conditions detrimental to the health or general welfare any animal, or to cause or procure such action. As used in this section the words "torture", "torment"

and “cruelty” include or refer to any act, omission or neglect causing or permitting unjustifiable physical pain, suffering or death is caused or permitted; but such terms shall not be construed to prohibit lawful taking of animals under the jurisdiction and regulation of the Wildlife Resources Commission; nor to prohibit the Animal Control Department or persons duly authorized by the County of Stokes or veterinarians from destroying dangerous, unwanted or injured animals in a humane manner; nor to prohibit the lawful use of pesticides for control of insects, rodents, or household and farm pests.

SECTION 3: ANIMAL WELFARE

- (a) Food, Shelter & Water: Owners of animals must provide the animals with adequate food, shelter, and water as defined in Article I.
 - 1. When animals are tethered or in a lot in direct sunlight it should have adequate shade from natural or artificial means other than its shelter to provide protection.
 - 2. The bedding needs to consist of straw, shavings or organic materials to help protect from cold and promote retention of body heat.
 - 3. The Owner shall maintain the area where the animal is kept in a sanitary condition as to promote good health and to help prevent sickness or disease in the animal.
 - 4. If the animal is in a lot, it should be in a size appropriate for the animal that is a commercially available size or larger.

- (b) Tethering or Trolley Systems: Tethering or trolley systems must be at least ten feet in length. The tethering device must be attached in such manner as to prevent strangulation or other injury to the dog and entanglement with objects. Tethers must be made of rope, twine, cord, chain or similar material with a swivel on two ends and which does not exceed 10% of the dog's body weight. All collars or harnesses used for the purpose of the lawful tethering of a dog must be made of nylon or leather. No person shall tether a dog with a chain or wire or other device to, or cause such attachment to, any collar other than a buckle type collar or body harness. No person shall tether with a chain or a wire or other device to, or cause such attachment to, a head harness, choke-type collar or pronged collar to a dog. No person shall tether with a chain, wire or other device to a dog where the weight of the tethering device and the collar combined exceeds 10% of the dog's body weight. No person shall tether with a chain or wire or other device a dog in such a manner that does not allow the dog access to adequate food, water or shelter. No person shall tether a sick, diseased and/or injured dog or an estrous dog.

SECTION 4: REGISTRATION OF BREEDING KENNEL

Current registration shall be maintained by the Animal Control Department for each

breeding kennel located within the County. The owner or operator of said breeding kennel is responsible for ensuring that the same is registered hereunder. Registrations and a \$500.00 permit fee are required under this Section shall be made no later than thirty (30) days following the effective date of this Ordinance and shall thereafter be renewed in January of each year. All registrations shall include the name, address, and telephone number of the owners and/or operators of the same, the address and physical location of the breeding kennel, and the number of dogs over the age of six (6) months being kept at the breeding kennel as of January 1 of the year for which the registration is made.

SECTION 5: IMPOUNDMENT

- (a) General Provision: If the Animal Control Department determines in its discretion that an animal's life is in immediate danger due to a violation of any of the provisions of this Article, the Animal Control Department may impound the same.
- (b) Non-Exclusive Remedy: Impoundment under this subsection (a) shall not affect the application or imposition of such penalties as may be authorized under Article below.
- (c) Holding and Redemption: An animal impounded hereunder shall be held for three full business days and disposed of in accordance with the provisions of Article III above, provided that no right of redemption by the owner shall be allowed if the animal was impounded due to the owner's violation of any of the provisions of this Article; and provided further, that the owner shall be liable for the costs of impoundment, boarding, care, and disposition of the animal, as incurred by the Animal Control Department, which costs may be recovered by the County in the form of additional civil penalties as set forth under Article IX below.

SECTION 6: PENALTY FOR VIOLATION

The penalty for violation under this Article shall be as set forth in Article IX below.

ARTICLE VIII: RABIES CONTROL

SECTION 1: RABIES CONTROL

The owner of every dog and cat over four (4) months of age shall have the animal vaccinated against rabies and shall comply with all of the terms and provisions of Part 6 of Article 6 of Chapter 130A of the North Carolina General Statutes pertaining to rabies control.

SECTION 2: RABIES VACCINATION TAGS

It shall be unlawful and a violation of this Ordinance for the owner of any dog to cause or permit the same to fail to wear at all times a valid rabies vaccination tag as required under the provisions of G.S. §130A-190. Pursuant to the authority of G.S. §130A-

190(a), this Section 2 shall apply only to dogs and shall not apply to cats or ferrets.

SECTION 3: IMPOUNDMENT OF DOGS NOT WEARING REQUIRED RABIES VACCINATION TAGS

- (a) **Duration of Impoundment.** The duration of impoundment for a dog impounded by an Animal Control Officer pursuant to G.S. §130A-192 shall be seventy-two (72) hours. At the expiration of said time, if the dog has not been reclaimed by its owner, it shall be disposed of as authorized by G.S. §130A-192.
- (b) **Impoundment Fee.** A dog impounded by an Animal Control Officer pursuant to G.S. §130A-192 shall not be returned to its owner until the owner shall have paid to the Animal Control Shelter such impoundment fee as has been established by the County.

SECTION 4: PENALTY FOR VIOLATION

The penalty for a violation under this Article VIII shall be as set forth in Article IX below.

ARTICLE IX: PENALTIES AND ENFORCEMENT

SECTION 1: PENALTIES

- (a) **Misdemeanors.** Notwithstanding any civil penalties which may be assessed under subsection (b) below, any person violating any of the provisions of this Ordinance may be found guilty of a Class 3 Misdemeanor under G. S. 14-4 and 153A-123.
- (b) **Non-Exclusivity of Penalties:** Civil penalties and criminal penalties are not mutually exclusive in application under this Ordinance.
- (c) **Civil Penalties.** In addition to, and not in lieu of, the criminal penalties and other remedies provided by this Ordinance or by State law, a violation of any of the provisions of this Ordinance may also subject the offender to the civil penalties hereinafter set forth.
- (d) **Continuing Violation:** For a continuing violation, each day's violation shall be deemed to be a separate offense.
- (e) **Issuance of Citation:** The ACO shall be authorized to issue a citation to such person, giving notice of the violation. Citations so issued may be delivered in person or mailed by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, to the person charged if such person cannot otherwise be readily located.
- (f) **Time for Payment/Failure to Pay:** The civil penalty or penalties set forth in the citation must be paid within Thirty (30) days of the receipt of the citation

and shall be paid to the Animal Control Section. The Animal Control Section shall forward all such penalties collected to the Finance Office for the County of Stokes for application as by law provided. If the person charged fails to pay the civil penalty within the time prescribed, a criminal summons shall be issued against such person charging a misdemeanor violation of this Ordinance under subsection (a) above and upon conviction, such person shall, in addition to the penalties prescribed for said misdemeanor violation of this Ordinance, be punished as the court prescribes for failure to pay the civil penalties imposed hereby.

- (g) Civil Penalty Schedule: The civil penalties for a violation of this Ordinance shall be assessed as follows:
- i. For a violation of any provisions of Article III, IV, V, VI, VII, or XI, the civil penalty shall be:
 - First Offense - One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)
 - Second Offense - Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00)
 - Third or Subsequent Offense - Four Hundred Dollars (\$400.00)
 - ii. For the following specific violations of Article V, Section 4, the civil penalty shall be the following:
 - Failure to receive prior approval for sale or transfer of Potentially Dangerous Dog to new owner by current owner - \$500.00 fine to new owner and current owner.
 - Failure to submit required signed written statement to Animal Control Department within 10 day period by new owner - \$500 fine to each the new owner and current owner.
 - iii. For the following specific violations of Article VIII, the civil penalty shall be the following:
 - Tampering with traps - \$25;
 - Stealing traps - Replacement Value

SECTION 2: EQUITABLE REMEDY

This Ordinance may be enforced by an appropriate equitable remedy issuing from a court of competent jurisdiction.

ARTICLE X: ANIMAL SHELTER FEES

The Stokes County Board of Commissioners shall set the fees to be assessed by the Animal Shelter. The director of said Department is given the discretion to waive, change, or reduce these

fees to assist in the adoption of animals or to help citizens with financial needs related to animal care and welfare.

**ARTICLE XI:
REGULATION OF OWNERSHIP, KEEPING OF AND HARBORING OF
INHERENTLY DANGEROUS EXOTIC ANIMALS**

SECTION 1: PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY

The purpose of this Article is to protect the public against health and safety risks that inherently dangerous exotic animals pose to the community and to protect the welfare of the individual animals held in private possession. By their very nature, certain exotic animals are wild and potentially dangerous, do not adjust well to a captive environment, and present a genuine threat to the safety and well-being of the public.

It is a further purpose of this Article to complement those rules already in existence in the State of North Carolina with respect to the regulation of wild animals by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, which includes animals such as raccoons, skunks, foxes, bats, and others, that present a danger to the safety and well-being of the public through their inherently dangerous nature, through carrying rabies, or otherwise. Accordingly, the County intends to exempt from this Article those wild animals which are subject to said rules.

For the reasons set forth above, and pursuant to the authority granted in G.S. §§153A-121, 153A-131, and 113-133.1, the County enacts and adopts the regulations set forth herein.

SECTION 2: DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this Article, the following terms, phrases, words, and their derivations shall have the meaning defined herein, unless the context clearly indicates that another meaning is intended. Words used in the present tense include the future and past tense, words in the plural number include the singular number, words in the singular number include the plural number, and words in the masculine gender include the feminine gender. These definitions are in addition to, and not in lieu of, those definitions set forth in Article I of this Ordinance; provided, that the scope of this Article shall be as set forth in Section 3 below.

- (a) **Inherently Dangerous Exotic Animal:** Any mammal, reptile, or arachnid which is a member of a species that, due to the inherent nature of the species, may be considered dangerous to humans; provided, however, that expressly excluded from this definition are animals which are indigenous to Stokes County and which are subject to the requirements for captivity permits under the rules of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission as contained in 15A N.C.A.C. 10H Section .0300 or any successor rules or regulations thereto. Inherently dangerous exotic animals specifically include, but are not limited to, any or all of the

following orders and families, whether bred in the wild or in captivity, and any or all hybrids. The animals listed in parentheses are intended to act as examples and are not to be construed as an exhaustive list or limit the generality of each group of animals, unless otherwise specified:

(1) Class Mammalia:

(i) Order Artiodactyla (such as hippopotami, giraffes, and camels, but not cattle, swine, sheep, goats, llamas, or alpacas);

(ii) Order Carnivora:

(a) Family Felidae (such as lions, tigers, panthers, leopards, jaguars, ocelots, and servals, but not domestic cats);

(b) Family Canidae (such as wolves and jackals, but not domestic dogs);

(c) Family Ursidae (all bears);

(d) Family Mustelidae (such as weasels, martins, and minks, but not ferrets);

(e) Family Procyonidae (such as coatis);

(f) Family Hyaenidae (all hyenas);

(g) Family Viverridae (such as civets, genets, and mongooses);

(iii) Order Edentalia (such as anteaters, armadillos, and sloths);

(iv) Order Marsupialia (such as kangaroos and wallabies);

(v) Order Perissodactyla (such as rhinoceroses and tapirs, but not horses, donkeys, or mules);

(vi) Order Primates (such as lemurs, monkeys, chimpanzees, baboons, gorillas, and all other non-human primates);

(vii) Order Proboscidae (all elephants);

(viii) Order Rodentia (but not guinea pigs, rats, mice, gerbils,

hamsters, prairie dogs, or chinchillas);

(2) Class Reptilia:

(i) Order Squamata:

- (a) Family Varanidae (only water monitors and crocodile monitors);
- (b) Family Iguanidae (only rock iguanas);
- (c) Family Boidae (only those whose actual length exceeds eight (8) feet);
- (d) Family Colubridae (only boomslangs and African twig snakes);
- (e) Family Elapidae (such as coral snakes, cobras, mambas, etc.) - all species;
- (f) Family Natrixidae (only keelback snakes);
- (g) Family Viperidae (such as cottonmouths, etc.) - all species;
- (h) Family Helodermidae (such as gila monsters and Mexican beaded lizards);
- (i) Family Crotalidae (pit vipers);
- (j) Family Atractaspididae (burrowing asps);
- (k) Family Hydrophilidae (sea snakes);

(ii) Order Crocodilia (such as crocodiles, alligators, caimans, gavials, etc.) – all species.

(3) Class Arachnida:

- (i) Order Araneae (only spiders which are venomous, but excluding tarantulas);
- (ii) Order Scorpionida (all scorpions).

- (b) Owner: The term “Owner” shall have the same meaning as defined in Animal Control Ordinance Article 1 Section 2. As used with Exotic

Animals, Owner also includes one who allows an exotic animal to remain in, be lodged, fed, given shelter or refuge within the Owner's home, store, yard, enclosure, out-building, abandoned vehicle or building, place of business, or any other premises in which the person resides or over which the person has control.

SECTION 3: PROHIBITIONS

- (a) It shall be unlawful to own, possess, keep, or harbor, bring into the County, have in one's possession, act as a custodian for, or have custody of an inherently dangerous exotic animal within the County; provided, that the Owner of any inherently dangerous exotic animal as defined in this Ordinance who owned, possessed, kept or harbored or be fed or be given shelter or refuge within the person's home, store, yard, enclosure, outbuilding, abandoned vehicle or building, place of business, or any other premises on which the person resides or over which the person has control such inherently dangerous exotic animal on or before the effective date of this Ordinance shall remove said animal(s) from the County within one (1) year following the adoption of this Ordinance.
- (b) It shall be unlawful and a violation of this Ordinance for any person who violates subsection (a) of this Section 6 to release or abandon an inherently dangerous exotic animal, in such manner as to cause or permit the animal to be at large in the County, for the purpose of evading prosecution under said subsection (a).

SECTION 4: EXEMPTIONS

This Article shall not apply to:

- i. Veterinary clinics in possession of such animals for treatment or rehabilitation purposes;
- ii. Institutions regulated by the USDA;
- iii. Institutions accredited by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association;
- iv. Animal control authority or law enforcement officers acting under authority of this Act;
- v. Persons temporarily transporting such animals through the County, providing that such transport shall not be longer than 24 hours, and the animal is at all times maintained within a confinement sufficient to prevent it from escaping.
- vi. Any licensed or accredited research medical institution or educational institution.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, any such exempt entity or person from which an inherently dangerous exotic animal escapes or is released for any reason whatsoever (without regard to fault) shall be liable for the costs of capturing said animal as provided

in Section 6(a) below.

SECTION 5: ENFORCEMENT OF ARTICLE

The Animal Control Department and its Officers and employees, and any law enforcement agency having authority within the territorial jurisdiction of this Ordinance, shall be empowered to enforce the provisions of this Article.

SECTION 6: IMPOUNDMENT AND/OR DISPOSITION OF INHERENTLY DANGEROUS EXOTIC ANIMALS

The following provisions shall govern the impoundment and/or disposition of inherently dangerous exotic animals present in the County in contravention of this Article:

- (a) The Animal Control Department may immediately take up and impound an inherently dangerous exotic animal if the Animal Control Department determines in its discretion that it has facilities sufficient to safely house the animal and that the impoundment can be undertaken without injury to persons or property. The possessor is liable for the costs of capture, placement, and care for the inherently dangerous exotic animal from the time the attempt to capture begins or impoundment occurs (whichever happens first) until the time the animal has been relocated to an approved facility as set forth hereunder, or has been returned to the possessor (in the case of an exempt entity or person), or has been destroyed. Said costs may be recovered by the County in the form of additional civil penalties as set forth under Article IX of this Ordinance.
- (b) If an inherently dangerous exotic animal is impounded as set forth above, the possessor must, within seventy-two (72) hours of impoundment, post a security bond or cash deposit with the Animal Control Department in an amount sufficient to guarantee payment of all reasonable expenses incurred and expected to be incurred in capturing, caring and providing shelter for the animal.
 - (i) **Reasonable Expenses** - Reasonable expenses shall include, but are not limited to, the estimated cost of feeding, medical care, and boarding for at least thirty (30) days, plus the cost of relocating the animal as set forth hereunder.
 - (ii) **Relocation** - Said security bond or cash deposit shall not prevent the Animal Control Department from relocating the animal at any time; provided, that upon such relocation the Animal Control Department shall recover under the security bond or cash deposit only those sums actually incurred in connection with the above listed expenses;
 - (iii) **Extension of impoundment** - The Animal Control Department may,

in its discretion, keep the animal under impoundment for a period of up to sixty (60) days if the possessor has posted a security bond or cash deposit sufficient to cover such period.

(iv) **Calculation of Amount of Bond or Deposit** - In all cases the amount of the security bond or cash deposit shall be determined by the Animal Control Department and shall be based on the current rate to feed, provide medical care for, and house the animal, plus the expected cost of relocating the animal, plus costs already incurred for the same and for capturing the animal. The form for security bonds as required herein shall be approved by the Animal Control Department.

- (c) If an inherently dangerous exotic animal is impounded as set forth above, and the possessor of said animal complies with the bond or cash deposit provisions listed above; the Animal Control Department shall, attempt to find proper and safe housing for the animal outside the County through placement of the animal with an institution or location accredited by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA).
- (d) If said security bond or cash deposit is not timely posted, or if the possessor of the animal is unknown or cannot be located, the Animal Control Department may nonetheless, in its discretion, attempt to find proper and safe housing for the animal outside the County as stated above; provided, that if the possessor is subsequently identified or located, said possessor shall be liable for all costs of placement and care incurred by the Animal Control Department as set forth in subsection (a) of this Section.
- (e) The provisions of subsections (b) and (c) of this Section shall not apply to an exempt entity or person as set forth in Section 4 above and Animal Control Department shall allow the exempt entity or person to recapture the animal or, if the animal is impounded, shall return the same to the exempt entity or person upon payment in full of all costs of capture as provided hereinabove, only if all of the following criteria are met;
 - (i) The impounded animal escaped or was released from an exempt entity or person as set forth in Section 4 above; and
 - (ii) The animal can safely be impounded and returned to the exempt entity or person or can safely be recaptured by said entity or person; and
 - (iii) The exempt entity or person has taken reasonably sufficient steps to assure that the animal will not escape or be released in the County again; and
 - (iv) The animal has not previously escaped or been released in the

County.

- (f) If the Animal Control Department determines in its discretion that an inherently dangerous exotic animal cannot be captured and impounded within the requirements of subsection (a) above, the Animal Control Department may authorize and direct the possessor to retain the animal and, within a fixed period of time not to exceed sixty (60) days, relocate the animal to proper and safe housing outside the County through placement with an institution or location accredited by the AZA.
 - (i) The foregoing provision shall apply only if the Animal Control Department determines, in its discretion, that the animal has not caused injury to persons or property and that the possessor has facilities sufficient to safely house the animal and prevent it from escaping or causing such injury during the period when it is being relocated.
- (g) The decision of the Animal Control Department to proceed under this Section shall in no way affect the applicability or imposition of civil penalties as to the possessor for violating the provisions of Section 2 above, and during any period of relocation hereunder the civil penalties so imposed shall continue until the possessor presents documentation or other satisfactory proof to the Animal Control Department that the animal has been relocated as required herein.
- (h) Unless otherwise prohibited by the Federal Endangered Species Act or other applicable Federal or State law, the Animal Control Department may immediately destroy an inherently dangerous exotic animal in a humane manner if:
 - (i) The Animal Control Department determines, in its discretion, that the animal cannot be taken up and impounded within the requirements of subsection (a) above, and further determines in its discretion not to proceed under the provisions of subsection (e) above; or
 - (ii) The possessor of the animal fails to timely post the security bond or cash deposit as required therein; or
 - (iii) proper and safe housing cannot be found for the animal as set forth therein; or
 - (iv) The animal has escaped or been released from an exempt entity or person but does not fall within the provisions of subsection (d) above.

SECTION 7: PENALTY FOR VIOLATION

The penalty for a violation under this Article shall be as set forth in Article IX above.

ARTICLE XI: COMPLAINTS

SECTION 1: COMPLAINT TYPES & PROCEDURES

- (a) Emergency Complaint - Any person may in the case of an emergency make a verbal complaint through the County Communications Center or directly to Animal Control or his designee, of a violation of Article III, IV, V, VI or VII above. Determination of whether or not the complaint qualifies as an emergency shall be in the discretion of the investigating ACO.
- (b) Verbal Complaint - Any person may make a verbal report to the County of a violation of Article II, III, IV, V, VI, VII and VIII of this Ordinance, all such reports shall be made by telephone to the Animal Control Department, County Communications Center, by telephone or in person to the Animal Control Department. Telephone reports received by the County Communications Center shall be relayed to the Animal Control Section or appropriate municipal police for such action as may be authorized or appropriate under this Ordinance.
- (c) Written Complaint - Any person may make a complaint to the County about a violation of Article IV, V, VI or VII of this Ordinance. All such complaints shall be written and shall be on a form prescribed by the County. Such complaints shall be presented as follows and may not be third party:
 - (d) Article IV, V, VI or VII Complaints - A written complaint of a violation of Article IV, V, VI, or VII shall be presented to the Animal Control Department. The Animal Control Department shall develop a written complaint form and shall maintain **copies of same for three years**, which shall be made available for inspection upon request to any person. The form shall require such information as shall be deemed sufficient by the Animal Control Section to permit a sufficient investigation to determine if a violation of Article IV, V, VI or VII has occurred, along with any other information deemed appropriate by the ACO.

ARTICLE XII: GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1: PROHIBITIONS

- (a) No person shall interfere with, hinder or molest the Animal Control Officer or any officers or employees of the Animal Control Department, or the Stokes County Public Health Director or his designee, in their performance of any duties

under this Ordinance, nor shall any person seek to release any animal in the custody of the same or of the Animal Shelter unless otherwise specifically authorized by law. The penalty for a violation of this Section shall be as set forth in Article IX above.

- (b) No person shall conceal any animal from Animal Control, for the purpose of evading the requirements of this ordinance.
- (c) No person shall refuse to show proof of a rabies vaccination to any member of the Animal Control Division upon demand.
- (d) No person, other than a member of the Animal Control Section, shall remove any animal from a live-capture animal trap placed on private or public property by the Animal Control Section. It shall also be unlawful for any person to damage, destroy, move or otherwise tamper with a trap placed by the Animal Control Section on private or public property.

SECTION 2: SEVERABILITY

If any part of this Ordinance or any portion or provision hereof, or the application hereof to any person or condition, is held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining parts of this Ordinance or their application to any other person or condition, and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.

SECTION 3: IMPOUNDMENT AND DESTRUCTION STATE LAW

All provisions of this Ordinance with respect to the impoundment or destruction of animals shall be subject to the requirements of State law concerning the same, including but not limited to all State statutes and regulations pertaining to rabies control.

SECTION 4: SUPERSEDES ALL PREVIOUS ORDINANCES

This ordinance supersedes Animal Control & Animal Welfare Ordinance as set forth in Stokes County Ordinance Book adopted April 07, 1975 and became effective May 01 1975 and readopted on September 12, 1977, and amended on December 16, 1985, December 21, 1987, February 07, 1994, June 21, 2001, July 01, 2004, May 24, 2010, June 27, 2012, February 09, 2015, December 28, 2015, February 08, 2016, November 12, 2019, and April 12, 2021.

SECTION 5: EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force upon adoption by the Stokes County Board of Commissioners.

Guidelines for Establishment and Operation Of the Stokes County Animal Control Advisory Council

Article 1: Name and Purpose

The Stokes County Board of County Commissioners desires to appoint a body to be called the Stokes County Animal Control Advisory Council, (Advisory Council). The purpose of which will be to provide review and evaluation of animal-related issues, needs and services on an ongoing basis and provide recommendations related to these matters to the Stokes County Board of County Commissioners.

Article 2: Duties

The Advisory Council shall review and evaluate animal-related issues, needs and animal control services in Stokes County.

The Advisory Council shall assist the Stokes County Chief Animal Control Officer in the development of a Strategic Plan for the Stokes County Animal Control Department and provide proposed policy recommendations related to the plan for submission to the Stokes County Board of County Commissioners. Recommendations related to budget and capital improvements must also be submitted to the Stokes County Manager for review and consideration.

The Advisory Council shall monitor trends involving changes in animal populations, programs, demands for service, licensing activities and fees related to animals and report their findings to the Stokes County Board of County Commissioners as appropriate.

The Advisory Council shall coordinate its activities with other agencies and boards involved with animal welfare and control issues in order to provide the best utilization of community resources.

The Advisory Council or an authorized subcommittee of the council shall work with the County Manager as needed to review monetary donations made for the benefit of the Stokes County Animal Shelter and make expenditure recommendations for such funds.

The Advisory Council shall not be responsible for nor have authority over the day-to-day operations of the Stokes County Animal Control Department.

Article 3: Membership

The Advisory Council shall consist of nine (09) members and they will be appointed by the Stokes County Board of County Commissioners and in accordance with the approved county appointment procedure. Appointments should fulfill the following affiliations and categories:

- a) One member employed by the Stokes County Sheriff's Office.
- b) One member employed by the Stokes County Health Department.
- c) A licensed Veterinarian.
- d) Stokes County Chief Animal Control Officer.
- e) One member from an Animal Rescue Organization.
- f) Four private citizens living in a separate geographical quadrant of Stokes County.

Terms of Appointment

In forming the Advisory Council, the Stokes County Board of County Commissioners shall appoint half of the non-county employee appointments to a term of one year, and the remaining non-county employee appointments to an initial two-year term. Thereafter, all non-county employee members shall be appointed for two-year terms. County employee appointments will be made as needed.

Vacancies

If a vacancy occurs, the Stokes County Board of County Commissioners shall appoint someone to fill the unexpired term in accordance with the position designation and approved county appointment procedure. A vacancy may be declared by the Advisory Council Leader when a council member has two (2) consecutive unexcused absences from regular meetings, or the member fails to provide the Advisory Council Leader or Stokes County Chief Animal Control Officer prior notice that they will need to be absent. When prior notice is properly provided, the Advisory Council Leader will determine if the absence is excused or unexcused.

Officers

At a minimum, the Advisory Council shall elect one member as Leader and one member as Assistant Leader. Other officers may be established as deemed necessary by the Advisory Council. However, the Advisory Council shall have a member to record minutes of each meeting and all resolutions, recommendations, or adopted actions of any sort and such minutes will be available to the public within a reasonable period of time.

Election of Officers

During the first established meeting of a majority of Advisory Council members and during the first meeting held in January of each year, the meeting will be opened by the Stokes County Chief Animal Control Officer. The Chief Animal Control Officer will call

for the members present to make nominations for the office of Leader. Upon the close of nominations, the Chief Animal Control Officer will have the members present vote until a Leader has been elected by a majority vote of those present. Upon election, the Chief Animal Control Officer will turn the meeting over to the Leader who will take charge of the meeting and call for the nomination of an Assistant Leader and follow the nomination and election process noted above. Any additional officer(s) the Advisory Council deems necessary will be nominated and elected following the nomination and election procedure.

Meetings

The Advisory Council shall conduct a minimum of four regular meetings each year and all meetings will be open to the public and conducted in a manner so as to properly comply with the North Carolina Open Meetings law and proper notice of all meetings will be properly completed.

A meeting of the Advisory Council can only take place if it is in proper compliance with the Open Meetings law and a majority of members are present. The meeting will be conducted by the Leader, if absent, by the Assistant Leader. If both the Leader and Assistant Leader are absent and a majority of members are present, they may elect a Temporary Leader to conduct the meeting in order to carry out the purpose of that meeting.

Stokes County Animal Control Advisory Board By-Laws

Article 1: Name and Purpose

The Stokes County Board of County Commissioners desire to establish a body to be called the Stokes County Animal Control Advisory Board. The purpose of which will be to provide review and evaluation of animal related issues and to hear appeals of potentially dangerous dog notices.

Article 2: Duties

The Advisory Board shall have the following specific duties and responsibilities as have been directed by the Stokes County Board of County Commissioners:

- a. To hear appeals on dangerous and/or potentially dangerous dog determinations.
- b. To review and evaluate, on an ongoing basis, animal-related issues, needs and services in Stokes County.
- c. To report to the Stokes County Board of Commissioners upon request, on animal services issues within Stokes County.

The Advisory Board shall not be responsible for and shall have no authority over the day-to-day operations of Stokes County Animal Control.

Article 3: Membership

The Advisory Board shall consist of five (5) members who shall be appointed by the Stokes County Board of County Commissioners in accordance with the approved county appointment procedure. Appointments shall attempt to fulfill, but are not limited to, the following affiliations and categories:

- a. One member shall be the Stokes County Health Director or Designee appointed by the Stokes County Health Director.
- b. One member shall be a member of an Animal Advocacy Organization
- c. Three members at large, who are Stokes County residents living in separate geographic areas of Stokes County.

a. Terms of Appointment

In forming the Advisory Board, the Stokes County Board of County Commissioners shall appoint two of the non-county employee members to a term of one year and the remaining two non-county employee members to a two-year term. Thereafter, all non-county employee members shall be appointed for two-year terms.

b. Vacancies

If a vacancy occurs, the Stokes County Board of County Commissioners shall appoint someone to fill the unexpired term in accordance with the position designation and approved county appointment procedure.

A vacancy may be declared by the chair of the Advisory Board when any member misses two (2) consecutive regular meetings without notifying the Animal Control Director or the chair of the Advisory Board; or when a member resigns from said appointment.

c. Officers

The Health Director or the Health Director's designee shall be the chair of the advisory board. The chair shall assign one appointed member to keep the minutes of the meeting and all resolutions and recommendations.

d. Meetings

1. The Advisory Board will meet semiannually. The dates to be voted on by the board.
2. The board can be called to hear appeals on dangerous and/or potentially dangerous dog determinations when an appeal has been made.
3. The Board can be called for an emergency meeting upon request of the County Commissioners, County Manager, or Director of Animal Control.
4. All meetings of the Advisory Board shall be open to the public and the Advisory Board will give public notice of these meetings consistent with the provisions of the open meetings law.
5. A majority of the voting board members serving shall constitute a quorum.

6. The Advisory Board shall keep a written record of meetings, resolutions, recommendations, findings, etc... which shall be a public record.
7. In the absence of the chair, an acting chair shall be appointed by the board members present.

ARTICLE 4: Appeals

The Advisory Board shall hear any appeals regarding the determination of a dangerous or potentially dangerous dog by Stokes County Animal Control in accordance with N.C.G.S. 67-4.1.5(c), subject to the following provisions:

- a. The owner of a dog that has been declared dangerous or potentially dangerous pursuant to Article V, Section 3 of the Stokes County Animal Control Ordinance has the right to appeal the determination by filing a written objection, stating the grounds for appeal, with the Stokes County Animal Control Director within three business days of the receipt of the dangerous or potentially dangerous dog determination letter.
- b. Within ten business days of a duly filed written objection, the Advisory Board shall hold an appeal hearing. The appeal hearing shall be open to the public, and the person requesting the appeal may be represented by an attorney.
- c. The person requesting the appeal will be notified in writing of the decision of the Advisory Board within ten business days after the conclusion of the appeal hearing.
- d. Any appeal from the final decision of the Advisory Board shall be to Superior Court by filing a notice of appeal and petition for review within ten business days after the receipt of the final decision of the appellate board. This written notice must be served on the Animal Control Director as well as the Clerk of Superior Court.

Adopted by the Stokes County Board of Commissioners -



Board of County Commissioners
May 27, 2025
2:00 PM

Item number: VI.b.

Board of Health Reappointments

Contact: Tammy Martin, Health Director

Summary:

The terms for four members of the Board of Health will expire soon and need to be revisited. The members are B. Ross Kiser, Ashley L. Osteen, Chad E. Jarvis, and Keith R. Lawson. All members are willing to continue serving if appointed again. Attached is a letter from Chairman Jarvis and reappointment methodology.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Upload Date	Type
Board of Health Reappointment	5/23/2025	Cover Memo

23 May 2025

Chad E. Jarvis, Chairman
Stokes County Board of Health
306 Summit Street
Walnut Cove NC 27052-9353

Stokes County Board of Commissioners
Ronald Regan Administrative Building
1014 Main Street, Danbury, NC 27016

Honorable Commissioners:

On 20 May 2025, the Board of Health made a unanimous consensus to approve and forward recommendations for the following reappointments:

B. Ross Kiser, PharmD (Pharmacist)

This is a “working” board and Ross exemplifies this term. His committee contributions to policy revision, seeking innovative ways for the citizens to obtain medications, and insight are essential to the future of public health in our county. Mr. Kiser has requested, and I am recommending a three-year appointment. His term ended in May 2025.

Ashley L. Osteen (Public Member)

Mrs. Osteen brings a broad background in medical practice management during her time with Wake Forest Baptist Health. That is furthered by her current work at Duke University involving clinical trials and disease research management. She brings a vast skill set in management to the table that is rarely found. Her term ended in March 2025. Mrs. Osteen is requesting, and I am recommending a three-year appointment.

Chad E. Jarvis, Reg. Paramedic (ret) (Public Member)

My three-year appointment ends June 2025, and it would be an honor and privilege to continue participating in the excellent work of the Department of Public Health. Our Board and staff have a vision and ability to move forward utilizing innovative methods to improve the overall wellbeing of our citizens. I am humbly requesting that you reappoint me for a three-year term.

Keith R. Lawson, RRT (Public Member)

Mr. Lawson has been a pillar of health care in our county for decades. As a Registered Respiratory Therapist, he has encountered and touched many lives. As an educator his impact is exponentially increased. He has served as Chief of the Lawsonville Fire Department, a member of the Stokes County Emergency Medical Services, and the longest known member of the Stokes County Board of Health. Keith is currently the Pastor of the Snow Hill United Methodist Church. Sadly, but understandably, he is not seeking reappointment. The Board of Health is planning a celebration in recognition of his years of service in the near future. I will keep each of you informed.

As some of you recall, many of the former Board members' terms ended nearly simultaneously. As such I requested that several of the appointments, such as Ross and Ashely, to be two-year terms. This would ensure organization capability as membership changes. In years past it was the norm for the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners to maintain the appointment terms of the boards. Times and people change, along with increasing workloads. As such, and in keeping with the board of public health administrative policy, the secretary to the Stokes County Board of Health will ensure and maintain all board appointment terms in each member's file that includes training as mandated by North Carolina Public Health rules and laws. The Board of Health has tasked the Director with revising the Departments web page to include each member's term limits. This attention to detail is essential to the accreditation of the Stokes County Health Department. It is a personal commitment that I have made to each of you as the Chairman to ensure that Public Health in our County is innovative, transparent and accountable.

Advertising for current seats on the Board are Optometrist and Veterinarian. Dr. Amber Hairford and Ross Kiser are reaching out and recruiting applicants for us to review and send recommendations to the Board of Commissioners' Clerk. This will now include Mr. Lawsons seat. We have been highly successful in outreach to obtain talented individuals to recommend for appointments. It is vital that the individual is a fit for Public Health. Willing to provide creative input, willing to articulate opposition while providing innovative solutions.

Please reach out to me if any of you have questions, concerns, suggestions, etc. I am available at your convenience. The Board of Health is an appointed extension of the County Commissioners. You have a Board of extremely talented professionals to not only provide policy and guidance to the Health Director but provide sound recommendations to you, our commissioners.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chad E. Jarvis'.

Chad E. Jarvis, Chairman

(336) 596-2550

cjarvisccemtp@hotmail.com

(reappointment methodology attached)

Member Reappointment Requests for the Board of Public Health

Ensuring Continuity and Expertise

Introduction

The Board of Public Health plays a crucial role in overseeing and guiding the health policies and initiatives within a community. Member reappointments are essential to supporting continuity, expertise, and the effective functioning of the board. This document outlines the process, significance, and considerations involved in member reappointment requests for the Board of Public Health.

The Importance of Reappointments

Reappointments ensure that experienced and knowledgeable members continue to contribute to the board's mission. They bring historical context, sustained relationships, and a deep understanding of ongoing projects and challenges. Reappointing members can thus prevent disruptions and allow the board to operate seamlessly.

Member Reappointment Process

The process of member reappointment typically involves several steps:

- **Evaluation:** Current board members are evaluated based on their performance, contributions, and commitment. This assessment helps determine their eligibility for reappointment.
- **Recommendation:** A formal recommendation is made, usually by the chairperson or a designated committee, endorsing the reappointment of eligible members.
- **Approval:** The recommendation is then presented to the relevant authorities, such as the municipal government or health department, for approval.
- **Notification:** Upon approval, members are officially notified of their reappointment, along with details regarding the term length and responsibilities.

Key Considerations for Reappointment

Several factors must be considered when evaluating members for reappointment:

- **Performance:** Assessing the members' contributions, attendance, and engagement during their previous term.
- **Expertise:** Ensuring the member possesses relevant knowledge and skills to address current and future public health issues.
- **Commitment:** Evaluating the members' dedication to the board's objectives and willingness to contribute actively.
- **Diversity:** Promoting diversity within the board to reflect the community's demographics and ensure a wide range of perspectives.
- **Term Limits:** Considering any term limits or bylaws that might affect the eligibility for reappointment.

Benefits of Reappointment

The reappointment of board members offers several advantages:

- **Continuity:** It ensures that ongoing projects and initiatives proceed without interruption.
- **Stability:** Experienced members provide stability and leadership during periods of change or crisis.
- **Mentorship:** Veteran members can mentor new appointees, facilitating knowledge transfer and succession planning.
- **Institutional Memory:** Long-serving members retain institutional memory, helping navigate historical contexts and precedents.

Challenges and Solutions

Reappointments can face certain challenges, such as resistance to change or conflicts of interest. Addressing these challenges involves:

- **Transparent Processes:** Implementing transparent evaluation and recommendation processes to build trust and fairness.
- **Conflict Resolution:** Board administrative policy is in place to manage conflicts of interest and ensure unbiased decision-making.
- **Engagement:** Encouraging active engagement and input from all board members to foster a collaborative environment.



Board of County Commissioners
May 27, 2025
2:00 PM

Item number: VI.c.

Outdoor Fireworks Display

Contact: Scott Aaron, Fire Marshal

Summary:

Attached is a letter and supporting documents for a fireworks display request on 7/5/25 at Northeast Stokes Fire Department. This is a new site so it must be approved by the Board.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Upload Date	Type
Signed Application	5/21/2025	Cover Memo
Letter	5/21/2025	Cover Memo
Site Map	5/21/2025	Cover Memo



Outdoor Fireworks Display Application (Section 2)

Proposed Event Date: 7/5/25 Event Location: North East Fire and Rescue 5086 NC-704 Sandy Ridge NC 27046
Date and time that site will be ready for inspection: 7/5/25 7 PM
Date and time fireworks are scheduled to be discharged: 7/5/25 9:15 PM

Fireworks Display Checklist

1. Name of Property Owner where the event will take place: North East Fire and Rescue Stokes City
2. Is the Property Owner sponsoring the event? ☒ Yes () No
3. Estimated size of audience: 1,000+
4. Is this event Public or Private? Public
5. Will admission be charged to attend? NO
6. Will alcoholic beverages be served at this event? () Yes () No N/A
7. A drawing or sketch of the event site is attached with this permit application that includes the following requirements:
 - A. Location of the discharge site
 - B. Storage location of the pyrotechnics during the event
 - C. Location of spectator area
 - D. Location of parking Area
 - E. Location of barriers to prevent spectators from entering the discharge site
 - F. Location of buildings / structures / wooded areas / grass areas on site
 - G. Location of overhead utilities such as power lines
 - H. Location of Fire Department staging
 - I. Location of adjoining property lines
 - J. Approximate distances between these items and the discharge site must be documented on the sketch.
8. The Fire Marshal's Office in the event of hazardous weather conditions or unsafe operations may revoke the permit.
9. All fireworks display shall meet the requirements of the NC Fire Code and NFPA 1123.
10. NFPA 1123 8.1 The sponsor (Event Coordinator) of the display shall make provisions for fire protection for the display.



Outdoor Fireworks Display Operator's Application

An approved display operator shall supervise all outdoor pyrotechnics displays in accordance with North Carolina Department of Insurance Regulations. In order for an operator to be considered for approval, he/she must complete and submit this application to the Stokes County Fire Marshal's Office at least **45 days prior** to the event described in the permit application.

Operator Name: Tim Tucker Address: 105 Opie Ln. Henderson
State: NC Zip code: 27537
Phone Number: 919-931-1280 Fax: _____

Mailing Address if Different: _____

Date of Birth: 08/25/1989 Age: 35

Pyrotechnic Operators License: #4088

Have you ever been convicted of a felony: () Yes ☒ No

Pyrotechnics Related Training

Date	Location	Topic	Agency
3/2023	NC	PGT Safety Class	Hale Art.
4/2023	Raleigh NC	OSFM operator test	NC OSFM
93-Present	NC, SC	In field shows	Deep South Fw/ NC Fireworks

Most Recent Experience with Outdoor Pyrotechnics Display

Date	Location	Event Type	Your Role	Other Info.
11/2/24	1020 Aviation pkwy, morrisville NC 27560	Diwali	Lead shooter	
7/4/24	2149 Carolina Beach Rd. Wilmington NC 28412	Sharks baseball	lead shooter	
7/3/24	Same as above	sharks baseball	lead shooter	
7/2/24	Same as above	sharks baseball	lead shooter	
7/1/24	Bethel, NC	city celebration	lead shooter	

Prior to issuing permits for a fireworks display, plans for the fireworks display, inspections of the display site and demonstrations of the display operations shall be approved. A plan establishing procedure to follow and actions to be taken in the event that a shell fails to ignite in, or discharge from, a mortar or fails to function over the fallout area or other malfunctions shall be provided to the fire code official. Prior to issuing any fireworks permits regulated by this code, the fire code official shall verify that permission has been granted to conduct a firework display in accordance with N.C.G.S. 14-410.

By signing this application below, I am stating that all information in this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that as a pyrotechnics operator I am required to have a thorough working knowledge of the safety practices listed in NFPA 1123.



11. NFPA 1123 8.1.1 The sponsor shall consult with the Fire Marshal's office and the operator to determine the level of fire protection needed.
12. Any fees to provide fire protection are between the sponsor and the local fire department.
13. A Certificate of Insurance or Bond shall be attached with this completed application for the payment of all damages which may be caused to persons or property by reason of the permitted display and rising from any acts of the permit holder, employees, or assistants.

Applicant/Operator Signature: Tim Treadwell Date: 5/19/25

Sponsor/Event Coordinator Signature: Ryan Clark Date: 5/20/25

FMO Signature: [Signature] () Approved () Not Approved Date: _____



Stokes County Fire Marshal's Office

Mailing: PO Box 20, Danbury, NC 27016

Physical: 3169 NC 8 HWY S, Walnut Cove, NC 27052

Phone: 336.593.2484 **Fax:** 336.593.2438

Email: saaron@co.stokes.nc.us

DATE: May 21, 2025
TO: Stokes County Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Scott Aaron, Fire Marshal
RE: Fireworks Display Approval, Sandy Ridge 7/5/2025

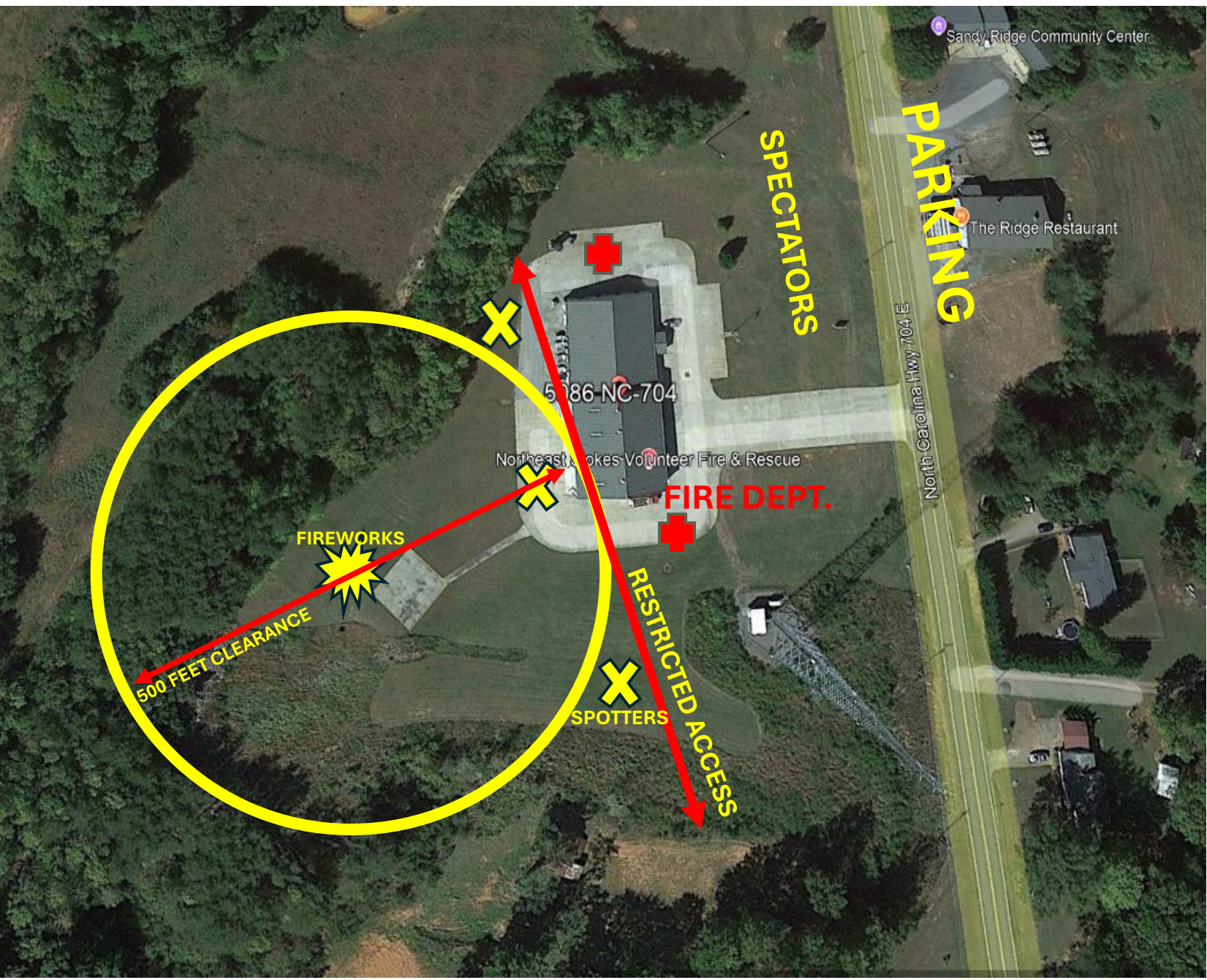
The Stokes County Fire Marshal's Office has received an application from Tim Tucker for a Fireworks Display at 5086 Hwy 704, Sandy Ridge, NC 27022 on Saturday, July 5, 2025.

We have reviewed the application as well as plans, and we recommend that this application be approved by the Stokes County Board of County Commissioners.

If approved, my office will complete the application process and inspect the site prior to the issuance of a permit as approved by North Carolina Fire Code.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns you may have regarding this matter.

NORTHEAST STOKES FIRE AND RESCUE FIREWORKS SHOW PRESENTED BY NC FIREWORKS



- 500 FEET CLEARANCE FALLOUT
- SPECTATORS 700 FEET AWAY
- MAX SIZE OF FIREWORKS USED WILL BE 3 INCH, REQUIRING 210 FEET.
- NO RELOADING WILL TAKE PLACE
- NO ONSITE STORAGE WILL TAKE PLACE
- NO OVERHEAD OBSTRUCTIONS, UTILITIES OR FUEL STORAGE ARE WITHIN THE FALLOUT AREA,
- NO HAND FIRING. ALL FIREWORKS WILL BE SET OFF USING COBRA WIRELESS FIRING SYSTEM.
- ALL FIREWORKS WILL BE BRACED TO PREVENT TIPPING.
- 3 WATER FIRE EXTINGUISHERS WILL BE ON SITE.
- TIM TUCKER WILL BE LEAD. LICENSE #4088
- ALL NFPA 1123 REGULATIONS SHALL BE FOLLOWED.
- PROPERTY LINES EXCEED 1000 FEET AWAY



Board of County Commissioners
May 27, 2025
2:00 PM

Item number: VII.a.

Vehicle Use Policy

Contact: County Manager's Office and HR

Summary:

At the last meeting, HR Director Jamie Clark presented an updated Vehicle Use Policy for Stokes County for consideration and approval. Clearer language for the circumstances and qualifications for firefighters to drive an ambulance in an emergency was needed. The updated policy is attached for review.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Upload Date	Type
Vehicle Use Policy	5/5/2025	Cover Memo



Vehicle Use Policy

Contents

Policy	2
Use of Vehicles for County Business	2
Driver's Responsibilities	2
Distracted Driving	3
Use of County Vehicles	3
Use of Personal Vehicles	4
Take-Home Vehicle Use.....	4
Occasional Overnight Vehicle Assignment	5
Marking of County-owned Vehicles	6
Maintaining Valid Driver's Licenses.....	6
Reporting Injuries and Accidents	6
Vehicle Accidents	7
Accident Review Board	7
Purpose of Accident Review Board	7
Appearance before the Board.....	7
Definitions	8
Policy Approval	8

Purpose

This policy establishes uniform vehicle use practices and requirements for Stokes County employees. Unless stated otherwise, this policy applies to vehicles owned by the County, vehicles leased or rented by the County, as well as personal vehicles, to ensure safe driving and efficient use of public property and/or resources.

This policy applies to all Stokes County departments, employees, partners, and affiliated agencies who receive pay and benefits from Stokes County Government. Where there is conflict with any department-specific policy, this document will supersede.

Policy

Use of Vehicles for County Business

All vehicle operators must be properly licensed and insured to operate a motor vehicle to conduct business on behalf of Stokes County.

Vehicle operators are responsible for ensuring their vehicle is in good working condition according to the vehicle manual.

County vehicles may be assigned to one or more vehicle operators for their primary use for County business and obligations. At the end of the workday, all County vehicles are to be parked in their assigned parking area unless otherwise authorized by the respective department/agency head.

Vehicle operators assigned County-owned vehicles are expected to maintain the interior and exterior cleanliness of the vehicle.

When fueling vehicles, vehicle operators are expected to select the lowest available fuel grade. Fuel-specific credit cards (WEX Cards) are issued with each vehicle.

Driver's Responsibilities

Vehicle operators are expected to operate all vehicles in a safe and courteous manner. Operators will obey all traffic laws, to always include the wearing of a seat belt.

Violations, citations, fines, and other actions taken by any enforcement agency against a vehicle operator while operating a motor vehicle are the responsibility of the employee and may be cause for disciplinary action by the County.

Employees are required to notify their department/agency head immediately of any change in their driving status, which includes reporting all vehicle accidents that occur while conducting County business. This includes but is not limited to fines, citations, suspensions, and revocations. Failure to notify the department/agency head may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

In the case of an accident involving any level of damage while conducting County business, the employee driving the vehicle shall immediately (or as soon as practically possible) notify their supervisor. When the accident involves another vehicle, involves any property damage or causes injury, the appropriate Law Enforcement Agency should be notified to obtain a full accident report.

The County will not be responsible for any increase in the employees' automobile insurance premium as a result of an accident or fines, as well as any increases as a result of carrying adequate coverage for business use.

Driving after the consumption of alcohol or while under the influence of any controlled substance is prohibited per the Drug-Free and Substance Abuse policy.

The use of tobacco products or E-Cigarettes/vaping products are prohibited in a County-owned vehicle.

Possession, transportation or consumption of alcohol or illegal drugs by anyone in the vehicle is prohibited per the Drug-Free and Substance Abuse policy. The exceptions are emergency and law enforcement

personnel who may transport lawfully confiscated items as required and within the scope and course of their official duties or residents with known or unknown substances.

Open carrying of handguns is strictly prohibited in all county-owned vehicles. The use of concealed handguns must comply with the county's concealed handgun policy. Adherence to these guidelines is required at all times.

Distracted Driving

Stokes County has a vital interest in maintaining a safe, healthy and efficient working environment for its employees. This includes a safe and appropriate environment while traveling on County business. Distracted driving is a serious safety risk, not only to the driver, but also to other occupants in the vehicle, other vehicles on the road and pedestrians. To reduce the risks associated with distracted driving, certain conduct is prohibited while driving a County-owned vehicle or while driving a personal vehicle while on County business, including but not limited to:

- Manually entering multiple letters or text on an electronic device or mobile telephone as a means of communicating with another person.
- Distractions by passengers.
- Distractions caused by eating or drinking while driving.
- Operating laptops, tablets, portable media devices, and GPS devices.
- Reading maps or any type of document, printed or electronic.

Drivers must pull over safely to the side of the road or another safe location before reading messages, returning calls, text messaging, emailing, reading maps for directions, or programming/resetting GPS devices. The provisions of this section do not apply to any of the following while in the performance of their official duties:

- Law Enforcement Officers
- Members of Emergency Management
- Members of the Fire Marshal's office
- Operators of a County ambulance

Use of County Vehicles

County-owned vehicles are to be operated exclusively by employees of Stokes County. No unauthorized individuals are permitted to drive these vehicles under any circumstances.

Volunteer/paid fire personnel that are authorized to operate fire apparatus may be authorized to operate a county ambulance if they have received explicit approval from the senior EMS official on-scene. This approval must consider the individual's qualifications as well as the operational requirements during the incident.

Per North Carolina General Statute 14-247, personal use of County-owned or leased vehicles is prohibited. Violations may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Per North Carolina General Statute 143-341(8)i7a, County vehicles are to be used for official County business only and shall not be used for the convenience of the employee regarding transportation needs or other non-business-related activities.

The County acknowledges that its employees may need at times, to keep personal items and information stored in or on County-owned property. However, due to security and accountability concerns, personal items/ information stored on or in a County-owned vehicle are subject to inspection at any time without any prior notice. This includes the installation of a GPS device to track the whereabouts of the County-owned vehicle.

When conducting County business in the field, County vehicles may be used to travel to a nearby restaurant for lunch where the cost-benefit in travel time to the work quarters for a personal vehicle would not be in the best interest of the County.

Department/agency heads should notify Human Resources and Purchasing of any operator changes including assignment of take-home vehicles within five (5) business days.

It is the responsibility of the vehicle operator to ensure County-owned vehicles are serviced as needed. This includes notifying the County Garage of any issues needing repair as well as ensuring the vehicle is scheduled for regular maintenance as instructed by Garage personnel.

Use of Personal Vehicles

Employees using a personal vehicle for County business will be reimbursed for mileage pursuant to the Travel Policy. Per IRS Publication 5137: "A standard mileage rate is considered to cover all expenses of operating a vehicle, including insurance, maintenance, tires, oil and so on."

Operators using a personal vehicle for County business should carry adequate personal vehicle liability insurance as required by law. All County officials and employees using a personal vehicle for County-related business are expected to consult with their insurance provider to ensure they are appropriately covered for business use.

Employees using a personal vehicle for County business must ensure that the vehicle is inspected annually, and that the vehicle is in safe operating condition with no pre-existing damage.

The County assumes no responsibility for accidents and damages to privately owned vehicles.

Take-Home Vehicle Use

The County's policy is to only authorize the assignment of a take-home (overnight) vehicle when the best interest of the public is served by providing County employees with transportation according to the criteria listed in this section. The assignment of a County vehicle is neither a privilege nor a right of any County employee. Assignment of a County vehicle will not be made based on employee merit or employee status.

Authorization for continual use of County vehicles for commuting purposes may be granted by the County Manager to specified positions based on the following criteria:

- The position is full-time **AND** requires work in the field, away from a physical office or workplace, more than 75% of the position's total work time **AND** the position starts the day from home directly to the field three (3) or more days per week **AND** special equipment is needed that cannot reasonably be kept in a personal vehicle, **OR**
- The position is full-time **AND** responds to after-hours business calls away from the office or workplace at least one (1) time per week **AND** the position is expected to respond to after-hours

business calls within thirty (30) minutes **AND** special equipment is needed that cannot reasonably be kept in a personal vehicle

Employees assigned county-owned take-home vehicles for commuting are considered to be receiving a taxable fringe benefit. The value of the taxable fringe benefit will be calculated based on the IRS guidelines and added to the employee's taxable income. The county payroll department will report the taxable fringe benefit on the employee's W-2 form.

For more detailed information, you can refer to the [IRS Publication 15-B](#) and the [Fringe Benefit Guide](#) . These documents provide comprehensive guidelines on how to handle taxable fringe benefits, including employer-provided vehicles.

Certain take-home vehicles are excluded from the commuting reimbursement requirement. These exceptions are consistent with those as outlined in [IRS Publication 15-B](#). Take-home vehicles for Law Enforcement, Emergency Management and Fire Marshal may qualify as "qualified non-personal use vehicles" under IRS guidelines, which would exempt them from being considered taxable fringe benefits. To qualify, the vehicles must be clearly marked and primarily used for official duties, such as responding to emergencies.

Employees permitted to take a County-owned vehicle home (commute) from their workstation may do so for job-related reasons and not as a compensatory measure.

Employees must be able to reasonably keep the assigned take-home vehicle at their home or at a County approved location after work hours.

Each department/agency head will provide the Human Resources and Purchasing Departments with a list of manager approved County vehicles assigned for take-home (overnight) use and provide updates a vehicle assignments change. The list must include the vehicle number, driver's name, driver's license number, and valid business reasons for take-home use.

If an employee with an assigned take-home vehicle is on a leave of absence for longer than five (5) working days, the County-owned vehicle should be parked at a County-owned facility until the employee resumes the duties assigned to their position.

Occasional Overnight Vehicle Assignment

Occasional overnight usage of County-owned vehicles is permitted with the approval of the department/agency head. Such occasional usage of County vehicles may occur when an employee conducts County business away from the employee's normal place of work, and outside an employee's normally scheduled workday. Other types of occasional overnight usage are permitted when the following conditions exist:

- Inclement weather conditions: When employee is on-call and has primary responsibility to respond.
- Emergency preparedness or seasonal assignment: County-owned vehicles are permitted when an employee is on-call and vehicles are taken home less than four (4) times per quarter on average.

Marking of County-owned Vehicles

All county-owned vehicles will be clearly marked to indicate their ownership and purpose, ensuring transparency and accountability. Exceptions to this requirement include vehicles assigned to law enforcement officers performing detective duties. Additionally, the use of confidential license plates on county-owned vehicles must be expressly approved by the County Manager.

Maintaining Valid Driver's Licenses

All employees who are required to operate county-owned vehicles or equipment as part of their job responsibilities must maintain a valid driver's license or Commercial Driver's License (CDL), as appropriate for the type of vehicle or equipment operated. Employees must present proof of a valid driver's license or CDL upon hire and provide updates periodically as requested by the department/agency head.

Employees operating vehicles or equipment requiring a CDL must comply with all federal, state, and local regulations, including U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) guidelines. This includes mandatory drug and alcohol testing, adherence to hours-of-service rules, and proper vehicle inspections.

It is the responsibility of all employees to immediately notify their supervisor if their driver's license or CDL becomes invalid, suspended, or revoked for any reason. Failure to maintain a valid driver's license or CDL or to comply with applicable regulations may result in reassignment of duties, suspension of driving privileges, or disciplinary action, up to and including termination. Stokes County has the right to conduct routine checks to verify the status of employees' licenses and ensure compliance with this policy.

Reporting Injuries and Accidents

If an employee is injured as a result of an accident while on duty, regardless of the severity of the injury, the employee is required to report the injury at once to his/her immediate supervisor so that proper medical attention can be provided. The injured employee and their direct supervisor are required to complete the county's incident reports with a copy forwarded to Human Resources as soon as possible following incident.

Accidents

In the event of an accident involving a County-owned vehicle, the operator/employee should:

1. Render first aid if qualified to do so and arrange for medical care if necessary;
2. Notify 911 Emergency Services
3. Never move the vehicle or leave the scene of the accident without law enforcement approval
4. Exchange driver's license numbers, insurance information, and vehicle numbers with all parties involved. Obtain the names and addresses of anyone witnessing the accident. Offer no information regarding the responsibility for the accident or what should have been done to avoid the accident. Stay calm. These stipulations are especially important if the accident takes place outside of Stokes County.
5. The operator shall report any accident to his/her supervisor immediately;

6. The Safety Officer shall report the accident to the Accident Review Committee immediately;
7. All claims against the County insurance policies will be forwarded to the County Risk Manager;
8. Operators/Employees shall not permit unauthorized persons to operate or ride in or on a County vehicle.

Vehicle Accidents

When a County employee is involved in a vehicle accident involving a County-owned vehicle, the employee shall:

1. Notify his/her supervisor immediately.
2. The supervisor/director will immediately notify the County Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor of the accident.
3. The employee will complete and submit a Stokes County Vehicle Accident Report to their supervisor/director as soon as possible following the accident. The supervisor/director will forward a copy of the Accident Report to the Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor and the Human Resources department immediately after receipt of the completed form from the employee.

Failure to follow the steps outlined may result in disciplinary action against the employee

Accident Review Board

When an employee is involved in a vehicle accident while operating a County-owned vehicle, he/she shall appear before the Accident Review Board for a determination as to whether the accident was preventable or non-preventable. The Accident Review Board shall be comprised of the current Safety Committee.

Purpose of Accident Review Board

- To establish a fair and impartial review system for all accidents involving motorized equipment and operators with the primary objective being to improve the driving safety of County-owned motorized vehicles.
- To identify problem drivers, unsafe conditions, and pursue remedial steps to reduce damage to County-owned vehicles and prevent injury to County employees.
- To establish the responsibilities for each vehicle accident.

Appearance before the Board

Approximately five (5) working days prior to a regularly scheduled Board meeting, the Board Secretary shall notify all relevant County personnel to appear. Notification shall be directed through the appropriate department/agency heads.

- All personnel shall appear before the Board at its regularly scheduled meeting.
- Any employee unable to appear due to sickness, personal injury, or death to an immediate family member, must notify the Board Secretary twenty-four (24) hours in advance.
- Other than those cases which have been deferred, all vehicle accident cases scheduled shall be heard and action taken, whether the individual is present. Department/agency heads shall be notified of the action taken by the Accident Review Board.

Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions shall apply to ensure clarity and consistent interpretation.

County-Owned Vehicle: Any motor vehicle, equipment, or machinery that is registered, leased, or owned by the county and used for official business purposes.

Marking: Any insignia, decal, logo, or other identifying feature applied to a county-owned vehicle, indicating that it belongs to the county or is used for county business purposes.

Maintenance and Inspection: Routine actions required to ensure the safety and operability of a county-owned vehicle, including scheduled servicing, pre- and post-operation inspections, and addressing repairs promptly.

Employee: Any individual employed by the county, including full-time, part-time, temporary, and contract workers, as well as interns and volunteers acting on behalf of the county.

County Business: Any county sanctioned activity performed within the scope of an individual's assigned duties.

Policy Approval

This policy has been reviewed and approved by the Stokes County Board of County Commissioners on this day ____ of _____ 2025.

Keith Wood, Chairman

Jeff Sanborn, County Manager

Jamie Clark, Human Resources Director



Board of County Commissioners

May 27, 2025

2:00 PM

Item number: VII.b.

America 250 Committee Resolution

Contact: Brandon Hooker, Register of Deeds

Summary:

A resolution of Stokes County, North Carolina, supporting the America 250 NC committee for the United States semiquincentennial (AMERICA 250 NC). Attached is the resolution.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Upload Date	Type
America 250 Resolution	5/22/2025	Cover Memo



Resolution of Stokes County
Recognizing and Approving of the Stokes County
Official America 250 NC Committee

A resolution of Stokes County, North Carolina, supporting the America 250 NC committee for the United States semiquincentennial (AMERICA 250 NC).

WHEREAS, Roy Cooper, Governor of North Carolina created AMERICA 250 NC to plan, encourage, develop, and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the United States and North Carolina's integral role in that event and the role of its people on the nation's past, present and future: and

WHEREAS, AMERICA 250 NC has a mission to engage ALL North Carolinians and ALL 100 counties through their many signatures and officially recognized programs, projects, and events over the commemoration by inspiring future leaders and celebrating North Carolina's contributions to the nation over the last 250 years; and

WHEREAS, by adoption of America 250 NC's mission, Stokes County Committee is officially formed to achieve the goals of America 250 NC.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the County of Stokes hereby endorses AMERICA 250 NC and its mission; and

RESOLVED, the County of Stokes officially establishes an AMERICA 250 NC Committee made up of a diverse group of citizens to work with AMERICA 250 NC on any and all activities. The participants of the Stokes County Committee will be strictly voluntary roles and there will be no compensation for participation.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Stokes County legislative delegation and the AMERICA 250 NC Committee.

ADOPTED this 27th day of May, 2025.

Clerk to the Board Olivia Jessup

Chairman Keith Wood



**Board of County Commissioners
May 27, 2025
2:00 PM**

Item number: VII.c.

Creation of New Animal Control Advisory Board and Bylaws

Contact: Tommy Reeves, Animal Control Director

Summary:

Animal Control Director Tommy Reeves is presenting for consideration an Amended Animal Control Ordinance for Stokes County. Director Reeves is also requesting approval of Amended Animal Control Advisory Board (ACAB) bylaws. Both documents have been reviewed and approved by legal.

The ordinance and bylaws were first introduced at the Board of Commissioners Meeting on March 24th, 2025. Since its introduction, a few small changes have been made to the recommended new ordinance - they are highlighted in red within the body of the document.

Attached for viewing is the current Animal Control Ordinance, recommended new Animal Control Ordinance, current bylaws for the ACAB, and the recommended new bylaws for the ACAB.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Upload Date	Type
Current Animal Control Ordinance	3/21/2025	Cover Memo
New Amended Animal Control Ordinance	5/9/2025	Cover Memo
Current ACAB Bylaws Page 1	4/11/2025	Cover Memo
Current ACAB Bylaws Page 2	4/11/2025	Cover Memo
Current ACAB Bylaws Page 3	4/11/2025	Cover Memo
Amended Animal Control Advisory Board Bylaws	3/24/2025	Cover Memo

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)	AN ORDINANCE CREATING A STOKES COUNTY
)	ANIMAL CONTROL DEPARTMENT, PRESCRIBING
)	THE DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT,
)	REGULATIONS REGARDING ANIMAL,
)	AND PROVIDING FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF
COUNTY OF STOKES)	SAID REGULATIONS

ARTICLE I. GERERAL

Section 1. Definitions.

As used in this ordinance, the following words mean:

Acceptable restraint: To tether an animal to a running line, pulley, or trolley system using a properly fitting buckle-type collar, or body harness (cannot be made of metal, rope, wire or any material that would be hazardous to the animal's health) Any tethering device used shall be at least ten feet in length and attached in such a manner as to prevent strangulation or other injury to the animal or entanglement with objects. It must have swivels on both ends and does not exceed ten percent of the animal's body weight. All collars or harnesses used for the purpose of the lawful tethering of an animal must be made of nylon or leather. The tethering device must not deprive the animal full access to adequate food, water and shelter.

Adequate Shelter for Dogs: The shelter shall have access that is suitable for the species, age, condition, size and type of animal. It shall consist of 4 walls, a roof, a raised / elevated floor, be structurally sound and in good repair. It must protect the animal from the elements (wind/rain/ice/sleet/snow/sun). The structure should be provided with a sufficient quantity of suitable bedding material consisting of straw, cedar or pine shavings or equivalent to help provide protection against cold and promote retention of body heat. When sunlight is likely to cause heat stroke of an animal tied or confined outside, sufficient shade by natural or artificial means (not to include the dog house) must be provided to protect the animal.

Animal Control Officer: The person designated by the Stokes County Board of Commissioners to enforce this Ordinance and carry out such other duties with respect to Animal Control as may be designated by the Board.

Agricultural operation: means an activity that is necessary for the commercial growing and harvesting of crops or the raising of livestock or poultry.

Animal Shelter: Any premises designated by the County for the purpose of impounding and caring for all animals found running at large or otherwise subject to impounding in accordance with provisions of this ordinance.

At Large: Any animal shall be deemed to be at large when he is off the property of his owner and not under the control of a competent person.

Exposed to Rabies: An animal has been exposed to rabies within the meaning of this ordinance, if it has been bitten by, or exposed to, any animal known or suspected to have been infected with rabies.

Dangerous Dog: A dog that:

- a) Without provocation has killed or inflicted severe injury on a person; or
- b) Is determined by the Animal Control Officer to be potentially dangerous because the dog has engaged in one or more of the behaviors listed under “Potentially Dangerous Dog”.
- c) Is owned or harbored primarily or in part for the purpose of dog fighting, or any dog trained for dog fighting.
- d) When unprovoked: (a) Inflicts severe injury on a human being on public or private property; or (b) kills a domestic animal or livestock while off the owner's property; or (c) has been previously declared potentially dangerous and the owner having received notice of such declaration and the dog subsequently aggressively bites, attacks or endangers the safety of humans or domestic animals or livestock.

Kennel, Dealer, Breeder or **Pet Shop:** Any person, group of persons, partnership or corporation engaged in buying, selling, breeding, or boarding pet animals on a commercially zoned property.

Neutered Male: Any male which has been operated upon to prevent reproduction.

Nuisance: Any animal is deemed a public nuisance and a threat to public health, safety, welfare, and tranquility if it repeatedly:

- a) Chases pedestrians, bicycles, animals, or motorized vehicles; or
- b) Snaps at people; or
- c) Roams in packs; or
- d) Fights with other animals; or
- e) Barks or howls; or
- f) Destroys or defaces lawns, shrubs, trees, agricultural crops, or other property; or
- g) Scatters garbage out of cans or other containers; or
- h) Takes personal property from where it belongs; or
- i) Creates a nuisance in any other way

Owner: Any person, group of persons, firm, partnership or corporation owning, keeping, having charge of, sheltering, feeding, harboring or taking care of any animal. The owner is responsible for the care, actions and behavior of his animals.

Potentially Dangerous Dog: a dog that the Animal Control Officer determines to have:

- a) Inflicted a bite on a person that resulted in broken bones or disfiguring lacerations or required cosmetic surgery or hospitalization; or
- b) Killed or inflicted severe injury upon a domestic animal when not on the owner's real property; or
- c) Approached a person when not on the owner's property in a vicious or terrorizing manner in an apparent attitude of attack.

Restrain: Any animal is under restraint within the meaning of this ordinance if it is controlled by means of a tether or leash or it is within a vehicle being driven or parked; or is within a secure enclosure.

Restraint of a dangerous or potentially dangerous dog: Confinement in a securely enclosed pen or other structure having a roof, cement floor, and secured by a padlock. When this type of dog is outside this pen or structure, it must be restrained and held by the owner, or one who is in direct control, by an adequate leash, and the dog must be muzzled with a humane muzzle at all times. At no time shall restraint of this type of dog be accomplished by tethering it outside the pen or structure.

Running at Large: A dog or cat is considered to be running at large if it is off the premises of its owner and not under the control of the owner or some other person.

Spayed Female: Any female which has been operated upon to prevent conception.

Stray: Any dog or cat that appears stray, homeless or unwanted, and any dog that is not displaying a valid rabies tag, except when the dog is being displayed or performing at a show, hunting, performing at obedience trials, tracking tests, field trials, schools or other similar events sanctioned and supervised by a recognized organization.

Tethering: Attaching an animal to a stationary object by means of a chain, cable, rope, or similar device that has swivels on both ends that is of appropriate size for the animal so not to obstruct its ability to move freely.

Vicious Animal: An animal that has made an unprovoked attack on a human by biting or in any manner causing abrasions or cuts of the skin that requires a visit to the doctor, urgent care or hospital; or one which habitually or repeatedly attacks farm stock and other pets.

Section 2. Establishment and Composition of an Animal Control Department, Appointment, and Compensation of Department Employees

There is hereby created an Animal Control Department of the county, which shall be composed of such employees as shall be determined by the Board of County Commissioners. Such employees shall be hired and compensated in accordance with the policies of the County of Stokes Personnel Policies Handbook.

Section 3. General Duties of Animal Control Department

The Animal Control Department shall be charged with the responsibility of:

- a) Enforcing in this county, all state and county laws and ordinances relating to the care, custody, and control of animals
- b) Cooperating with the Health Director and assisting in the enforcement of laws of the state with regard to animals and especially with regard to vaccination of dogs and cats against rabies and the confinement or leashing of vicious animals
- c) Investigating cruelty or animal abuse with regard to all animals.
- d) Making such canvasses of the county, including the homes in the county, as it deems necessary for the purpose of ascertaining that all dogs are duly and properly listed for tax purposes, and that all dogs, cats and ferrets are vaccinated against rabies
- e) Operating the Animal Control Shelter pursuant to policies of the Board of County Commissioners and the State of North Carolina.

Section 4. Records to be kept by the Animal Control Department

It shall be the duty of the Animal Control Department to keep or cause to be kept, accurate and detailed records of:

- a) Impoundment and disposition of all animals coming into animal shelter
- b) Bite cases, violations and complaints, and investigation of same.
- c) All monies belonging to the county which were derived from impoundment fees, penalties, adoptions and sales of animals.

- d) All other records deemed necessary by the county manager.

Section 5. Animal Control Advisory Council

There is hereby created an Animal Control Advisory Council to advise the Board of County Commissioners and the county manager with respect to animal control matters. The Animal Control Advisory Council shall be composed of members appointed by the Board of County Commissioners to serve at the pleasure of the Board.

Section 6. General Duties of Keepers of Animals

It shall be unlawful for any person to keep animals under unsanitary or inhumane conditions or to fail to provide proper food and fresh water daily, proper shelter from weather and reasonably clean-living quarters for such animals, or to fail to provide proper medical, attention for sick, distressed, or injured animals, as well as adequate inoculation against disease, according to the species of animals kept.

Section 6.1 Adequate Shelter for Dogs

The shelter shall have access that is suitable for the species, age, condition, size and type of animal. It shall consist of 4 walls, a roof, a raised / elevated floor and be structurally sound and in good repair and must protect the animal from the elements (wind/rain/ice/sleet/snow/sun). The structure should be provided with a sufficient quantity of suitable bedding material consisting of straw, cedar or pine shavings or equivalent to help provide protection against cold and promote retention of body heat. When sunlight is likely to cause heat stroke of an animal tied or confined outside, sufficient shade by natural or artificial means (not to include the dog house) must be provided to protect the animal.

Section 7. Cruelty to Animals

It shall be unlawful for any person to molest, torture, torment, deprive of necessary sustenance, cruelly beat, needlessly mutilate or kill, wound, injure, poison, abandon or subject to conditions detrimental to its health or general welfare of any animal, or to cause or procure such action. The words "torture" and "torment" shall be held to include every act, omission or neglect whereby unjustifiable physical pain, suffering or death is caused or permitted; but such terms shall not be constructed to prohibit lawful shooting of birds, deer, or other game for humane food; nor to prohibit the animal control department or its agents or veterinarians from destroying dangerous, unwanted or injured animals in a humane manner. (reference- N.C.G.S. 14-360)

Section 8. Confinement, Muzzle, and Control of Vicious or Dangerous Dogs or Animals

It shall be unlawful for any owner to keep any vicious, fierce, dangerous, or potentially dangerous dog or animal within the county, unless it is confined within a secure building, pen or enclosure as defined in this Ordinance, or unless it is securely muzzled and under restraint by a competent person who, by means of a secure leash, and have such animal firmly under control at all times.

Violators of this section shall be guilty of a Class Three (3) Misdemeanor under N.C.G.S. 14-49(a) and shall be fined not more than \$500 per violation.

Section 9. Animals Creating Nuisance Subject to Specific Security Measures

- a) If an animal is reported to an Animal Control Officer as being a nuisance, the Animal Control Officer shall investigate to determine whether the animal in question falls within the definition of Nuisance in Section 1. If the Animal Control Officer finds that the animal is a Nuisance, the Animal Control Officer shall order the animal to be secured and subject to the following specific security measures:
- b) Specific Security Measures Required:
 - 1) While the animal is outside unsupervised, the animal must be secure on the owner's property in a 10 ft. x 10 ft. kennel with a solid floor and solid roof with padlock on kennel door. While outside the animal still must be in compliance with all county and North Carolina State Laws regarding proper housing and life sustaining substances.
 - 2) While the animal is outside being supervised, the animal may be on a non-retractable leash controlled by someone at least 18 years of age who has full control of the animal at all times.
 - 3) Animal must be current on Rabies Vaccinations at all times as outlined in North Carolina General Statue 130A-185. A vaccination – the owner of a cat, dog, or ferret over 4 months of age shall have the animal vaccinated against rabies.
 - 4) The animal's owner may not sell, give away or in any way move the animal from the location where the animal lives without 24 hours prior notification to the Stokes County Animal Control Department.
- c) In addition to criminal penalties, any person violating the order set forth in subsection (a) above shall be subject to the following civil penalties:
 - 1) First Offense – Written Warning
 - 2) Second Offense - \$100 civil penalty
 - 3) Third Offense - \$200 civil penalty
 - 4) Fourth Offense - \$300 civil penalty
 - 5) Fifth Offense - \$400 civil penalty
 - 6) Sixth Offense and subsequent offense - \$500 civil penalty and seizure of the animal
- d) The animal's owner shall comply with the ORDER no later than the due date specified by implementing the specified security measures which must be approved by Stokes County Animal Control Department unless a written appeal is filed within three (3) days of service of the order with the Stokes County Manager at the Stokes County Administrative Building, 1014 Main Street, Danbury, NC 27016.

Section 10. Dog Privilege Tax Tag

- a) It is the purpose of this Section to supplement State Law by providing a procedure for the enforcement of laws and requiring dogs to wear a privilege tax tag
- b) It shall be unlawful for any dog owner or keeper to fail to provide his dog with a dog privilege tax tag to be issued annually by Stokes County and to take such action as is necessary to ensure that said privilege tax tag is worn by said dog at all times except as otherwise provided in this ordinance.
- c) It shall be the duty of the Stokes County Tax Department to provide the animal shelter with a privilege tax list so that tags may be mailed. The tag is to contain a number or other designation, and a record is to be kept of the person whom the tag has been mailed or otherwise deferred. After the initial mailing by September 1, dog tags may be obtained at the animal shelter only.
- d) In addition to all other penalties prescribed by law, a dog is subject to impoundment in accordance with the provisions of this ordinance if the dog is found not to be wearing a currently valid dog privilege tax tag. Provided, however, that the provisions of this section shall not apply to any dog being kept in any governmental facility or veterinary hospital.

- e) It shall also be unlawful for any individual moving into Stokes County who has or keeps a dog to fail to obtain a valid rabies tag and dog privilege tax tag within (30) days of moving into the County.
- f) The fee for the privilege tax tag shall be six dollars (\$6.00) per animal. In the event the tag is lost or stolen, a replacement tag can be obtained at the animal shelter for six dollars (\$6.00) per animal.

Section 11. Exemptions from Ordinance

Hospitals, clinics, and other premises operated by licensed veterinarians for the care and treatment of animals and exempt from of the provisions of this ordinance, except Sections 6,7,8,9.

Section 12: Interference with Enforcement of Ordinance

It shall be unlawful for any person to interfere with, hinder or molest the animal control department or its agents or animal control officers or veterinarians in the performance of any duty authorized by this ordinance, or to seek to release any animal in the custody of such agents, except as otherwise specifically provided.

ARTICLE II. RABIES CONTROL

Section 13. Compliance with State Law; Article as Supplement to State Law

- a) It shall be unlawful for any dog, cat, or ferret owner to fail to comply with the state laws relating to the control of rabies. A civil penalty for non-compliance of one hundred (\$100) shall be imposed if owner does not comply within 72 hours of a written warning. (G.S. 130A-192)

Section 14. Inoculation of Dogs, Cats and other Animals

- a) It shall be unlawful for an owner to fail to provide current inoculation against rabies (hydrophobia) for any dog, cat or ferret four (4) months of age or older. Should it be deemed necessary by the County Health Director or the State Public Health Veterinarian that other pets be inoculated in order to prevent a threatened epidemic or to control an existing epidemic, it shall be unlawful for an owner to fail to provide current inoculation against rabies for that animal.
- b) A dog, cat, or ferret that has not been previously vaccinated against rabies is considered “currently vaccinated” against rabies 28 days after the date of the initial, or primary, rabies vaccination.

Section 15. Inoculation Tag for Dogs

- a) Upon complying with the provisions of Section 14, there shall be issued to the owner of the dog inoculated a numbered metallic tag, stamped with the number and the year for which issued, and indicating that the dog has been inoculated against rabies.
- b) It shall be unlawful for any dog owner to fail to provide his dog with a collar or harness to which a current tag issued under this section is secure attached. The collar or harness, with attached tag, must be worn at all times, except during the time the dog is performing at shows, obedience trials, tracking tests, field trails, training schools or other events sanctioned and supervised by a recognized organization.
- c) It shall be unlawful for any person to use for any dog a rabies inoculation tag issued for a dog other than the one using the tag.

Section 15.1 Evidence of Inoculation of Cats and Ferrets

Cats and Ferrets shall not be required to wear the metallic tag referred to in Section 15, but the owner of the cat or ferret shall maintain sufficient written evidence to prove that his/her cat or ferret has a current rabies inoculation

Section 16. Reports and Confinement of Animals Biting Persons or Showing Symptoms of Rabies.

- a) Every animal which has bitten any person or which shows symptoms of rabies shall be confined immediately and shall be promptly reported to the animal control department, and thereupon shall be securely quarantined, at the direction of the animal control department, for a period of ten (10) days, and shall not be released from such quarantine except by written permission from the animal control department.
- b) Animals quarantined under this section shall be confined in a veterinary hospital or at the county animal shelter, at the expense of the owner; provided, however, that if any animal control officer determines that the owner of an animal which must be quarantined has adequate confinement facilities upon his own premises, the animal control officer shall authorize the animal to be confined on the owner's premises, the animal control officer shall revisit the premises for inspection purpose at approximately the middle of the confinement period and again at the conclusion of the confinement period.
- c) In the case of stray animals whose ownership is not known, the supervised quarantine required by this section shall be at the county animal shelter.
- d) If rabies does not develop within ten (10) days after an animal is quarantined under this section, the animal may be released from quarantine with the written permission of the animal control department. If the animal has been confined in the county animal shelter, the owner shall pay the sum equal to ten dollars (\$10.00) for each day of confinement to defray the cost of feeding, upon reclaiming the animal.

Section 17. Destruction or Confinement of Animal Bitten by Rabid Animal

In accordance with General Statute 130A-197 when the local health director reasonably suspects that an animal required to be vaccinated under this Ordinance has been exposed to the saliva or tissue of a rabid animal or animal reasonably suspected of having rabies, the animal shall be considered to have been exposed to rabies. An animal exposed to rabies shall be destroyed immediately by its owner, the county Animal Control Officer or a peace officer unless the animal has been vaccinated against rabies in accordance with this Ordinance for more than 28 days prior to being exposed, and has been given a booster dose of rabies vaccine within five days of the exposure. As an alternative to destruction, the animal may be quarantined at a facility approved by the local health director for a period up to six months, and under reasonable conditions imposed by the local health director.

Section 18. Area-wide Emergency Quarantine

- a) When reports indicate a positive diagnosis of rabies, the county director of public health shall order an area-wide quarantine for such period as it deems necessary. Upon invoking of such emergency quarantine, no animal shall be taken into the streets or permitted to be in the streets during such period. During such quarantine, no animal may be taken or shipped from the county without permission of the animal control department, each member of the animal control department and the police and sheriff's department hereby fully authorized, during such emergency, to impound any animal found running at large in the county.

During the quarantine period, the animal control department or the local health authorities shall be empowered to provide for a program of mass immunization by the establishment of temporary emergency rabies vaccination facilities strategically located throughout the county.

- b) In the event, there are additional positive cases of rabies occurring during the period of quarantine, such period of quarantine may be extended at the discretion of the county director of public health.

Section 19. Postmortem Diagnosis

- a) If an animal dies while under observation of rabies, the head of such animal shall be submitted to the state laboratory in Raleigh for diagnosis.
- b) The carcass of any dead animal exposed to rabies shall be surrendered to the Animal Control Department. The head of such animal shall be submitted to the state laboratory in Raleigh for diagnosis.

Section 20. Unlawful Killing or Releasing of Certain Animals.

It shall be unlawful for any person to kill or release any animal under observation for rabies, any animal suspected of having been exposed to rabies, any animal that has bitten a human, or to remove such animal from the county without written permission from the animal control department and the county director of public health.

Section 21. Failure to Surrender Animal for Quarantine or Destruction

It shall be unlawful for any person to fail or refuse to surrender any animal for quarantine or destruction as required in this article, when demand is made therefore by the animal control department.

ARTICLE III. IMPOUNDMENT

Section 22. General Provisions

- a) Any animal which appears to be lost, strayed or unwanted, or which is found to be not wearing a currently valid rabies vaccination tag, as required by state law or this ordinance, or which is found at large or not under restraint in violation of this ordinance shall be impounded by the animal control department and confined in the animal shelter in a humane manner. Impoundment of such an animal shall not relieve the owner thereof from any penalty which may be imposed for violation of this ordinance.
- b) It shall be unlawful for any owner or his agent to permit a female animal to run at large or be tethered or kept where more animals can breed during estrus. Any such animal must be kept in an enclosure that cannot be breached or have accessible openings of 1" or more or be, at all times, under restraint or direct control of the owner or agent.
- c) Any person violating the order set forth in subsection (b) above shall be subject to the following civil penalties:
 - 1) First Offense – Written Warning
 - 2) Second Offense - \$100 civil penalty
 - 3) Third Offense - \$200 civil penalty
 - 4) Fourth Offense - \$300 civil penalty
 - 5) Fifth Offense - \$400 civil penalty

- 6) Sixth Offense and subsequent offense - \$500 civil penalty and seizure of the animal

Section 23. Notice to Owner

Immediately upon impounding an animal, the animal control department shall make reasonable effort to notify the owner and inform such owner of the conditions whereby the animal may be redeemed. If the owner is unknown, notice of such impoundment shall be posted for 72 hours, or until the animal is disposed of, on a bulletin board at the animal shelter, and the time and place of the taking of such animal, together with the time and date of posting the notice shall be stated therein.

ARTICLE IV. FEES

Section 24. Redemption by Owner

The owner of an animal impounded under this article may redeem the animal and regain possession thereof within seventy-two (72) hours (three days) after notice of impoundment is given or posted, as required by Section 23, by complying with all applicable provisions of this ordinance and paying a redemption fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) plus a boarding fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) for each day the animal is held at the animal shelter. Valid proof of ownership is required for redemption of animal. Examples of valid proof of ownership could be but is not limited to current rabies vaccination certificates, vet records, current county tax tag, or receipt of purchase. The owner of an animal impounded and not redeemed within the required holding period shall be responsible for the fees incurred, whether or not the animal is claimed.

Redemption Fee	\$25.00
Boarding Fee	\$10.00
Rabies vaccination	\$10.00
County Taxes	\$6.00

Section 24-1. Kennel Permits

Any individual who operates a breeding kennel that has five (5) or more female breeding dogs must acquire breeding permit from the Animal Control Department. The fee for this breeding permit applies per year per location used for housing breeding animals. The permit allows inspection by animal control Monday-Friday (8:30 am to 5:00 pm). The fee for a permit is as follows:

0 – 50 dogs	\$300.00
51 – 75 dogs	\$500.00
76 – 100 dogs	\$850.00
100 + dogs	\$850.00 plus \$5.00 per dog over 100

Section 25. Destruction or Adoption of Unredeemed Animals

- a) If an impounded animal is not redeemed by the owner within the period prescribed in Section 24, it may be destroyed in a humane manner or offered for adoption by any responsible adult who is willing to comply with this ordinance. Such animal may be adopted by an approved adopter and pays an adoption fee. There will be no tag required for cats or out of county dogs. The services included in the adoption fee for dogs are as follows:

1. Spay or neuter
2. Heart worm test
3. Rabies shot or voucher
4. Stokes County taxes for current year
5. Parasite treatment
6. First dhpp shot

The services included in adoption for cats are as follows:

1. Spay or neuter
 2. Rabies shot or voucher
 3. FIV & Feline leukemia test
 4. FVRCP & leukemia shots
 5. Parasite treatment
- b) Any person that elects to surrender an animal that they have had in their custody and care for at least 72 hours (3 days) to the animal shelter, shall pay a fee of forty dollars (\$40.00). Also, any person that elects to surrender a litter of puppies or kittens shall pay a fee of forty dollars (\$40.00) and will receive forty dollars (\$40.00) voucher towards the spay or neuter of an animal.
- c) No dog owner may be permitted to adopt his own dog under the provisions of this section, but he must comply with the provisions of Section 24, in order to reclaim a dog that has been impounded pursuant to state law or this article.
- d) No animal which has been impounded by reason of being a stray, unclaimed by its owner, shall be allowed to be adopted from the animal shelter during a period of emergency rabies quarantine invoked pursuant to Section 18, except by special authorization of the public health officials.

ARTICLE V. TETHERING

Section 26. Tethering

- a) No person shall tether, fasten, chain, tie, or restrain an animal, or cause an animal to be tethered, fastened, chained, tied, or restrained, to a structure, tree, fence, or any other stationary object, except as specifically set forth in this Article V.
- b) During periods of acceptable restraint, no animal shall be tethered to a running line, pulley, or trolley system by means of a pinch, choke, or prong collar. No tow chains or logging chains are permitted. The line connecting the animal to the trolley system must have a swivel at each end. No more than one animal may be tethered to one restraint device at one time.

- c) No person shall tether or restrain an animal outdoors by any means during extreme weather (at or below freezing temperatures/ high heat) or during periods of driving rain, tornado, hurricane, or periods when a severe weather warning has been issued for the area where the animal is located.
- d) No person shall tether outdoors an animal who is severely sick, diseased, injured or a puppy under the age of 6 months.
- e) Under no circumstances may the tethering device itself be placed around the animal's neck.
- f) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), a person may do any of the following:
 - 1. Tether an animal pursuant to the requirements of a camping or recreational area, not to exceed 7 days.
 - 2. Tether an animal while engaged in, or actively training for, an activity that is conducted pursuant to a valid license issued by the State of North Carolina if the activity for which the license is issued is associated with the use or presence of an animal. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to prohibit a person from restraining an animal while participating in activities or using accommodations that are reasonably associated with the licensed activity.
 - 3. Tether an animal while actively engaged in any of the following:
 - i. Conduct that is directly related to the business of shepherding or herding cattle or livestock.
 - ii. Conduct that is directly related to the business of cultivating agricultural products, if the restraint is reasonably necessary for the safety of the animal.
 - iii. Conduct involving law enforcement activities.
- g) Nothing in this Article shall be construed to prohibit a person from walking a dog with a hand-held leash.
- h) The minimum enclosure size for dogs must be 100 square feet per dog up to 50 pounds. Dogs 51 pounds or more must have 200 square feet per dog per kennel. Excrement must be removed daily from any dog enclosure.
- i) Violations:
 - 1. A person who violates this Article is guilty of a violation or a misdemeanor as defined by Section 31 of this ordinance.
 - 2. Notwithstanding subdivision (f), animal control may issue a correction warning to a person who violates this chapter, requiring the owner to correct the violation, in lieu of a civil violation or misdemeanor, unless the violation endangers the health or safety of the animal, the animal has been wounded as a result of the violation, or a correction warning has previously been issued to the individual.
 - 3. A correction warning must be in writing and can be no longer than 3 days to correct unless it is not safe for the animal and then corrective measures must be immediately taken.

ARTICLE VI. RUNNING AT LARGE

Section 27. Running at large

- a) It shall be unlawful for:
 - 1. a female dog or cat to be at large during its estrus period. During this period, the owner must restrain the animal in a manner that will prevent it from coming in contact with a male of its

species. This sub-section shall not be construed to prohibit the intentional breeding of animals on the premises of the owner of the animal.

- b) Exceptions.
 - 1. A dog or cat which is not dangerous may be at large in the course of a show, obedience school, tracking tests, field training or other events sanctioned or supervised by a recognized organization. Hunting dogs may be at large in the course of hunting, provided they are under the control of the owner.
 - 2. A dog or cat that is running freely and remains on the owner's property.
 - 3. A dog in a designated dog park, school, building or other area approved for dogs to run off of a leash. The dog must have a current rabies vaccination. Proof of a current rabies vaccination must be with the dog or cat at all times as required by Article II Section 15 of this ordinance.
 - 4. This exception does not exempt an owner from otherwise complying with any other provision of this Chapter.
- c) Animal Control shall impound at the county animal shelter any dog or cat found to be at large in violation of this section.
- d) A dog or cat impounded for running at large may be reclaimed by its owner only upon the owner's agreement to have the animal microchipped at the owner's expense within thirty days of the date the animal is reclaimed. Proof of microchipping the animal impounded must be provided to Animal Control. Animal control may microchip the animal at the owners request and expense.
- e) Dogs and cats shall be vaccinated by the animal shelter when reclaimed at the owner's expense or written proof of rabies vaccination must be provided at the time of reclamation by the owner.
- f) A dog or cat impounded for running at large for a second or subsequent time may be reclaimed by its owner only upon the owner's agreement to have the animal altered at the owner's expense within thirty days of the date the animal is reclaimed. Notwithstanding this requirement, a dog or cat impounded for running at large a second or subsequent time will not be required to be altered provided the owner has notified the animal shelter of the missing animal within three (3) business days of impoundment.

Section 28. Procedure with Respect to Redemption or Adoption of Unvaccinated Animals

- a) Unless proof of a current rabies vaccination can be furnished, every person who either adopts or redeems an animal at the animal shelter shall be given a "proof of rabies vaccination card" at the time of the redemption or adoption. This card shall be stamped with the date stating the maximum time limit allowed to take the animal to the veterinarian of such person's choice for rabies vaccination. The time limit for dogs and cats four (4) months and older will be forty-eight (48) hours, with Sundays and Holidays excluded. For puppies and kittens under four (4) months, the time limit will vary according to their age.
- b) The proof of rabies vaccination card will be completed and returned to the animal shelter by the veterinarian. If this card is not returned to the animal shelter within the time specified on the card, an animal control officer will be dispatched to retrieve the dog or cat.
- c) Payment for the rabies vaccination provided for in this section will be the responsibility of the person redeeming or adopting the dog or cat.
- d) The adoption fee includes rabies vaccine or voucher.

Section 29. Suspected Rabid Animals Not to be Redeemed or Adopted

Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, an animal impounded which appears to be suffering from rabies shall not be redeemed or adopted, but shall be dealt with in accordance with Article II of this Ordinance.

Section 30. Destruction of Wounded or Diseased Animals

- a) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this article, any animal impounded which is badly wounded or diseased (not a rabies suspect) and has no identification shall be destroyed immediately in a humane manner. If the animal has identification, the animal control department shall attempt to notify the owner before disposing of such animal, but if the owner cannot be reached readily, and the animal is suffering, the animal control department may destroy the animal at its discretion in a humane manner.
- b) If an animal is determined by the animal control officer or any law enforcement officer to pose an immediate danger to the health and safety of any person, the animal may be destroyed on-site with or without prior notification to the owner if all other means of capture have been unsuccessful, or if trying to capture the animal would put the officer in a dangerous situation.
- c) If the animal control officer and/or law enforcement officer does destroy an animal on site, he/she shall submit a written report of the incident to the Chief Animal Control Officer within twenty-four (24) hours (weekends and holidays excluded) of the incident and shall make a good faith attempt to notify the owner of the destroyed animal. The Chief Animal Control Officer will review the incident with the County Manager.

Section 31. Penalties

- a) Criminal Penalties – Persons violating this ordinance shall be guilty of a Class Three (3) Misdemeanor and shall be fined not more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500). Each day of a violation shall constitute a separate offense. The payment of a fine imposed in criminal proceedings does not relieve the person of liability for any taxes, fees, costs or civil penalties otherwise imposed by this ordinance.
- b) Civil Penalties – In addition to criminal penalties, persons who violate this ordinance shall be subject to civil penalties for each violation in the amount established by this Ordinance. Each day of a violation shall constitute a separate offense. (References- Section 22. General Provisions(c))
- c) Citations – The Animal Control Officer is authorized to issue criminal and civil citations to violators of this ordinance. All civil penalties must be paid within 72 hours. No impounded animal may be redeemed until all civil penalties, fees and costs are paid in full.
- d) Civil Action – Civil penalties may be recovered against violators in a civil action by the County. In addition to the civil penalties, the County may recover court costs including reasonable attorney fees incurred by the County.
- e) Equitable Remedies – Enforcement of this ordinance may also be by appropriate equitable remedy, injunction or order of abatement issued by the District Court of Stokes County.

Section 32. Severability

If any section or part of this ordinance should be held invalid for any reason, such determination shall not affect the remaining sections or parts, and to that end the provisions of this ordinance are severable.

Section 33. Effective Date

This ordinance shall become effective May 1, 1975 as adopted by the Stokes County Board of Commissioners on April 7, 1975 and readopted on September 12, 1977, and amended on December 16, 1985, December 21, 1987, February 7, 1994, June 21, 2001, July 1, 2004, May 24, 2010, June 27, 2012, February 9, 2015, December 28, 2015, February 8, 2016, November 12, 2019, and April 12, 2021

Andy Nickelston, Chairman
Stokes County Board of Commissioners

ATTESTED BY: _____
Shannon B. Shaver
Clerk to the Board

Animal Control & Animal Welfare Ordinance

Stokes County, North Carolina

ARTICLE I: ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

SECTION 1: TITLE AND PURPOSE

- a. Title. This Ordinance shall be known as the Stokes County Animal Control & Animal Welfare Ordinance.
- b. Purpose. The purpose of this Ordinance is to:
 - 1) Protect the people of Stokes County from dangerous, exotic or uncontrolled animals; and
 - 2) Supplement, but not supersede, the North Carolina Rabies Control Statutes; and
 - 3) Ensure the humane treatment of animals within the county.
 - 4) Supplement, but not contravene, any animal control laws of the State of North Carolina or the Federal Government.

SECTION 2: DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Ordinance the following terms, phrases, words, and their derivations shall have the meaning defined herein, unless the context clearly indicates that another meaning is intended. Words used in the present tense include the future and past tense; words in the plural number include the singular number; words in the singular number include the plural number; and words in the masculine gender include the feminine gender. The definitions within this Section are not exclusive and other terms may be defined within additional Sections of this Ordinance.

- a. Abandon: To intentionally, knowingly, or negligently leave an animal at any location for more than (48) consecutive hours without providing for the animal's continued care.
- b. Adequate Food: The provision on a daily basis of a quantity of wholesome foodstuff suitable for the species and age, sufficient to maintain a reasonable level of nutrition in each animal, as well as maintain the animal in good health and comfort. Such foodstuff shall be served in a receptacle, dish, or container that is physically clean and from which agents injurious to health have been removed or destroyed to a practical minimum.

- c. Adequate Shelter: An enclosure which is structurally sound, has a minimum of **four** sides, is large enough for the animal to turn around, is maintained in good repair, and constructed in such a manner that is water and wind resistant. **If plastic barrel is used it must be elevated off the ground.** The enclosure shall not have a metal floor nor be a metal barrel. An adequate shelter provides some shade from the direct rays of the sun and assures adequate ventilation and light.
- d. Adequate Water: Constant access to a supply of clean, fresh water, provided in a sanitary manner. In near or below freezing temperatures, the water must be changed frequently so as to prevent freezing.
- e. Aggression-Trained Dog: A dog that has been trained or conditioned to bite, attack, or exhibit aggressive behavior toward humans or other domestic animals for any purpose. This includes but not limited to, the security of business property and personal security.
- f. Animal: Every vertebrate non-human species of animal, wild or domestic, including but not limited to dogs, cats and ferrets.
- g. Animal Control Department: The Stokes County Animal Control Department as established in this Ordinance.
- h. Animal Control Officer (ACO): A County employee designated as an animal control, rabies control officer, rabies control official, or other designated County representative or agent, whose responsibility includes rabies and animal control.
- i. Animal Shelter: Any premises operated by the County for the purpose of impounding and caring for all animals found running at large, or otherwise subject to impounding in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance, or any other County ordinance, directive, or State law.
- j. At Large. An animal shall be deemed to be “at large” when it is off the property of its owner and not under the restraint of a competent person.
- k. Breeding Kennel: A facility where dogs or cats are raised, in which five (5) or more litters per year are produced.
- l. Cat: A domestic feline of the genus and species *Felis catus*.
- m. Complaint: A formal allegation against a party, in written or verbal format.
- n. County: The County of Stokes.
- o. Dog: A domestic canine of the genus, species, and subspecies *Canis lupus familiaris*.

- p. Estrus: The period of maximum sexual receptivity of a female animal, commonly called “heat” or “rut”.
- q. Fenced Enclosure: Any enclosed area surrounded by a fence which is reasonably adequate to secure an animal, so as to prevent it from escaping from property owned or leased by, or under the constructive possession of, the animal’s owner. This definition includes properly operating radio controlled and wireless controlled underground fence installation.
- r. Feral Cat: An unowned cat which is not an identified animal, as defined in paragraph (u) below, and which is not socialized.
- s. Ferret: A domestic mammal of the genus, species, and subspecies *Mustela putorius furo*.
- t. Guard Dog: A dog on premises specifically for the purpose of protecting said premises from any intruder, and for attacking a person coming in the vicinity of the dog.
- u. Identified Animal: An animal with an identification tag, tattoo, microchip or other marking on which is inscribed the owner’s name, address, and telephone number.
- v. Investigation: Inquiry by the Animal Control Officer, Director or their designee, upon complaint of a violation of an article of this ordinance to determine whether such violation has occurred and whether impoundment of an animal is appropriate or required under the provisions of this Ordinance. Investigations may include, but are not limited to, the interviewing of witnesses and taking of written statements, inspection of premises where an animal is owned or held, reasonable examination of a person or property to determine if injury or damage has been inflicted by an animal under the provisions of this Ordinance, reasonable examination of an animal being investigated, and such other steps as shall be determined to be necessary or appropriate in carrying out investigations of violations of this Ordinance.
- w. Owner: Any person, group of persons, firm, association, partnership, corporation, or other entity owning, keeping, having charge of, sheltering, feeding, harboring, or taking care of any animal, or allowing the animal to remain on or about their property for (30) days. The owner is responsible for the care, actions, and behavior of his animals. This definition shall also apply to the term “ownership” as used in this Ordinance.
- x. Person: Any individual, partnership, corporation, organization, trade or professional association, firm, limited liability company, joint venture, association, trust, estate, or any other legal entity, and any officer, member shareholder, director, employee, agent, or representative thereof.

- y. Public Nuisance Animal. Any animal that unreasonably annoys humans, endangers the life or health of domestic animals or persons, or substantially interferes with the rights of citizens, other than its owner, to enjoyment of life or property. Further definition is contained in Article IV Section 1 herein.
- z. Restraint. An animal is under restraint within the meaning of this Ordinance if it is:
 - (i) On or within a vehicle being driven or parked and secured in such manner as to prevent the animal from escaping or causing injury to persons approaching or passing by the vehicle; provided, that an animal shall not be deemed to be under restraint if it is in the back of an open-bed pickup, regardless of whether or not it is secured therein;
 - (ii) Under the control of a competent person utilizing a leash or lead;
 - (iii) within a secure enclosure, as defined in paragraph (aa) below; or
 - (iv) within the boundaries of an above ground fence in good repair and/or a properly operating radio controlled or wireless underground fence installation.
- aa. Secure Enclosure. A structure designed to securely house and restrain a dog that has been determined to be a potentially dangerous dog under Article V, Section 3(b) of this Ordinance.
- bb. Severe Injury: As defined in N.C.G.S. 67-4.1(a) Any physical injury that results in broken bones or disfiguring lacerations or requires cosmetic surgery or hospitalization.
- cc. Stray: As defined in N.C.G.S. 130A-184(6a) An animal that meets both of the following conditions: (a.) Is beyond the limits of confinement or lost. (b.) Is not wearing any tags, microchips, tattoos, or other methods of identification.
- dd. Tethering: Attaching an animal to a stationary object by means of a chain, cable, rope, or similar device that has swivel on two ends that is of appropriate size for the animal so not to obstruct its ability to move freely.

SECTION 3: ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD

- a. Creation and Purpose: The Animal Control Advisory Board is hereby created, the purpose of which shall be to:
 - (i) Advise the Stokes County Animal Control Department with respect to rabies control and other animal related matters.

(ii) Hear any appeals regarding the determination of a potentially dangerous dog by Animal Control in accordance with N.C.G.S. 67-4.1.5(c); and

(iii) Carry out such other functions as may be established under this Ordinance.

(iv) To review and evaluate, on an ongoing basis, animal-related issues, needs and services in Stokes County.

- b. Composition: The Animal Control Advisory Board shall be composed of five (5) members for two-years rotating terms in compliance with the Stokes County Animal Control Advisory Board By-Laws established and approved by the Stokes County Board of Commissioners. The Board shall have the authority and responsibility conferred by said by-laws. Members shall be appointed by the Stokes County Board of Commissioners in accordance with said by-laws.

ARTICLE II: ANIMAL CONTROL DEPARTMENT

SECTION 1: ANIMAL CONTROL DEPARTMENT

- a. The Animal Control Department of Stokes County, hereinafter referred to as the Animal Control Department, is composed of the Stokes County Animal Control Director and employees in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in this Ordinance.

SECTION 2: ENFORCEMENT

- a. The Stokes County Health Director may designate employee(s) of the Stokes County Animal Control Department to enforce the rabies Vaccination laws as required by NCGS 130A-185. In the performance of said duties, any ACO, as defined in Section 2(h) shall have all the powers, authority and immunity granted under this Ordinance and by the general laws of this state to enforce the provisions of this chapter, and the General Statutes of North Carolina as they relate to the care, treatment, control, or impoundment of animals.
- b. The Stokes County Animal Control Director shall coordinate with the Stokes County Health Director in conducting at least one rabies vaccine clinic per year in accordance with NCGS 130A-187.
- c. Except as may be otherwise provided by statute, local law, or ordinance, no officer, agent or employee of the county charged with the duty of enforcing the provisions of this chapter or other applicable laws shall be personally liable for any damage that may accrue to persons or property as a result of any act required or permitted in the discharge of such duties unless he acts with actual malice.
- d. The Animal Control Department shall assist Stokes County municipalities

experiencing animal control issues. In those areas over which municipal animal control departments are not applicable, the Animal Control Department shall apply, and assist each municipality enforcement of their regulations.

- e. The Animal Control Department may, if necessary, request the assistance of the Stokes County Sheriff's Office or municipal police in impounding any animal as permitted under the provisions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 3: OBJECTIVES OF ANIMAL CONTROL DEPARTMENT

The Animal Control Department shall be charged with the responsibility of:

- a. Enforcing, in this county, all state and county laws, ordinances and resolutions relating to the care, custody, and control of animals.
- b. Assisting in the enforcement of the laws of the state with regard to animals, especially with regard to vaccination of animals against rabies and the confinement or leashing of dangerous animals, dangerous dogs and exotic animals.
- c. Investigating all reported animal bites or other human physical contact with suspected rabid animals.
- d. Investigating allegations of cruelty, neglect, or abuse of animals.
- e. Making such canvasses of the county, as is deemed necessary for the purpose of ascertaining that all animals are vaccinated against rabies as required by local ordinance or state statute.
- f. Operating the county animal shelter pursuant to policies of the Stokes County Animal Control division and as defined in NCGS 19A Section 3 & 02 NCAC 52J.
- g. Seizing and impounding, where deemed necessary, any animal involved in a violation of this or any other county ordinance or state law.
- h. Placing live-capture animal traps on private property, with the consent of the landowner, or on public property, in order to trap and remove stray, at large, abandoned, or nuisance domestic animals.

SECTION 4: RABIES CONTROL OFFICER

Any ACO may be designated by the Stokes County Health Director as the Rabies Control Officer for Stokes County and shall have such powers, duties, and responsibilities as are provided by the provisions of the North Carolina General Statutes; however, such powers, duties, and responsibilities as the Rabies Control Officer shall not conflict with or supersede the powers, duties, and responsibilities of the Health Director; or rabies inspectors appointed under the

provisions of the North Carolina General Statutes.

If an ACO is designated as a Certified Rabies Vaccinator by the Health Director, the vaccinator shall complete the training course required by the State Division of Public Health; shall vaccinate only in Stokes County shall vaccinate only for business related to the animal control department; and shall not vaccinate personal animals or outside any parameters defined by the Animal Control Department.

ARTICLE III: LOST OR STRAY ANIMALS

SECTION 1: IDENTIFICATION OF ANIMALS

Every owner of an animal shall provide the same with an identification tag, tattoo, microchip identification, or other marking on which is inscribed the owner's name and phone number.

SECTION 2: IMPOUNDMENT

Any domestic animal which, in the sole discretion of the ACO, appears to be lost, a stray, unwanted, abandoned, or in imminent danger, shall be impounded by the Animal Control Department and confined in the Stokes County Animal Shelter as governed by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture. Impoundment of such an animal shall not relieve the owner thereof from any penalty which may be imposed for a violation of this Ordinance.

SECTION 3: AUTHORITY TO TRANQUILIZE OR DESTROY

An ACO may, when attempting to impound an animal which cannot otherwise be captured for impoundment, tranquilize said animal. If attempts to tranquilize the animal are unsuccessful, and all other reasonable efforts at impoundment have failed, the ACO may destroy said animal.

SECTION 4: NOTICE TO OWNER

Immediately upon impounding an identified animal, the Animal Control Department shall make reasonable efforts to notify the owner and inform such owner of the conditions under which the animal may be redeemed. Such conditions include, but shall not be limited to, the charging of those fees as are described in Section 5 below. Pursuant to NCGS 19A-32.1 if, after 72 hours, the owner is unknown or cannot be located, or if the owner has not contacted the Animal Control Department, the animal shall then become the property of the Stokes County Animal Shelter as described in Section 6 (a).

SECTION 5: REDEMPTION BY OWNER

The owner of an animal impounded under this Article may redeem the animal and regain possession thereof at any time during normal business hours within 72 hours after notice of impoundment is given, by complying with all applicable provisions of this

Ordinance and paying such redemption fee and daily boarding fee as may be established by the County. The Owner also must show proof of ownership and proof of a valid Rabies vaccination.

SECTION 6: DISPOSITION OF UNREDEEMED ANIMALS

- a. Failure to Redeem. If an impounded animal is not redeemed by the owner in compliance with Article III, Section 3, it may be disposed of in accordance with North Carolina Statute 19A-32.1.
- b. Rabies Quarantine. No impounded animal shall be allowed to be adopted from the Animal Shelter during a period of rabies quarantine as invoked by the Stokes County Health Director or their designee.

SECTION 7: REDEMPTION OF UNVACCINATED DOG OR CAT

Payment for the required rabies vaccination will be the responsibility of the person redeeming the animal at the time the animal is redeemed.

SECTION 8: RABID ANIMAL NOT REDEEMED OR ADOPTED

Notwithstanding any other provision of the Article, an impounded animal which appears to be suffering from rabies shall not be redeemed or adopted and shall be destroyed in a humane manner and sent to the state lab for testing.

SECTION 9: INJURED, SICK, OR DISEASED ANIMALS

When the owner of an injured, sick, or diseased animal can be located, it shall be the owner's responsibility to provide veterinary care for the animal or authorize Animal Control to humanely euthanize the animal. If the animal is determined by an ACO to be severely injured, sick, or diseased, the animal shall be destroyed in a humane manner.

SECTION 10: PENALTY FOR VIOLATION

The penalty for a violation under this Article III shall be as set forth in Article IX.

ARTICLE IV: ANIMALS CREATING A NUISANCE

SECTION 1: "PUBLIC NUISANCE ANIMAL" DEFINED

For purposes of this Article, "public nuisance animal" is defined as follows:

- a. An animal that is repeatedly found at large and off the property of its owner or keeper and not under physical restraint.
- b. An animal that continuously barks for one hour from the hours of 6:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. and/or for twenty minutes from 11:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m.)

- c. An animal that habitually or repeatedly chases, snaps at, attacks, or harasses persons or other domestic animals and livestock. "Persons" includes, but is not limited to, pedestrians, joggers, and persons operating vehicles or other modes of transportation.
- d. An animal that repeatedly tips over garbage cans or damages yards, gardens, flowers, vegetables, or other personal property.
- e. An animal that repeatedly interferes with, molests, or attacks persons or other animals while off its own property.

SECTION 2: DETERMINATION OF PUBLIC NUISANCE ANIMAL AND SUBSEQUENT PROCEDURE

- a. If, after adequate investigation of a Complaint, the ACO reasonably determines that an animal is a public nuisance animal the ACO shall notify the owner of same and shall instruct the owner to always keep the animal under restraint at all times.
- b. If an animal previously deemed to be a public nuisance animal is determined to have engaged in the same behavior under Section 1 above which led to the initial determination of the animal as a public nuisance animal, the ACO may issue a citation for violation of this Section.

SECTION 3: ESTROUS ANIMAL

It shall be unlawful for any person owning or having possession, charge, custody or control over a female dog or female cat to allow that animal to be at large during its estrous period.

- a. Procedure: If, after investigation of a complaint, the ACO determines that a female is or has been at large during estrous, the ACO shall notify the owner of such animal and shall instruct the owner to keep the animal in such a manner that it will prevent the animal from coming in contact with a male of its species.
- b. Subsequent Violations: If the ACO thereafter determines, upon investigation of a subsequent complaint, that the animal is or has been at large again during estrous, the ACO shall issue a misdemeanor citation for violation of this section.
- c. Non-Identified Estrous Animals: Notwithstanding the foregoing, if upon any investigation the ACO determines that a female animal which is or has been at large during estrous is not an identified animal, the ACO may impound said animal and may hold and dispose of the same in accordance with the provisions of said Article III. This Section shall not be construed to prohibit the intentional breeding of animals on the premises of the owners or keepers of the animals involved.

SECTION 4: AUTHORITY TO TRANQUILIZE OR DESTROY

An Animal Control Officer, when attempting to impound an animal under Article IV which cannot otherwise be captured for impoundment, may tranquilize said animal or, if attempts to tranquilize and all other reasonable efforts at impoundment have failed, may destroy said animal.

ARTICLE V: DANGEROUS, POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS, OR VICIOUS DOGS

SECTION 1: PURPOSE

The purpose of this Article shall be to supplement the provisions of the North Carolina General Statutes governing dangerous and vicious dogs, and more specifically G. S. 130A-200 and Article IA of Chapter 67.

SECTION 2: DEFINITIONS

- a. Dangerous Dog – Pursuant to N.C.G.S 67-4.1(a)(1), a dangerous dog is one that:
 - (i) Without provocation has killed or inflicted severe injury on a person; or
 - (ii) Is determined by the person or Board designated by the county or municipal authority responsible for animal control to be potentially dangerous because the dog has engaged in one or more of the behaviors listed in N.C.G.S. 67-4.1(a)(2)
- b. Potentially Dangerous Dog – Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 67-4.1(a)(2), a potentially dangerous dog is a dog that is determined to have:
 - (i) Inflicted a bite on a person that resulted in broken bones or disfiguring lacerations or required cosmetic surgery or hospitalization; or
 - (ii) Killed or inflicted severe injury upon a domestic animal when not on the owner's real property; or
 - (iii) Approached a person when not on the owner's property in a vicious or terrorizing manner in an apparent attitude of attack.
- c. Secure Enclosure. A structure designed to securely house and restrain a dog that has been determined to be a potentially dangerous dog under Article V, Section 3(b) of this Ordinance. Said structure shall comply with each and every one of the following requirements:
 - (i) The structure shall be located on property owned or leased by, or under the constructive possession of, the dog's owner, shall be a minimum size of 15 feet by 6 feet by 6 feet, and shall be enclosed by a floor, walls, and roof. The floor shall consist of a concrete pad at least 4 inches thick. If more

than one dog is to be kept in the enclosure, the floor area shall provide at least 45 square feet for each dog. The walls and roof of the structure shall be constructed of chain link fencing of a minimum thickness of 9 gauge, supported by galvanized steel poles at least 2½ inches in diameter. The vertical support poles shall be sunk in concrete filled holes at least 18 inches deep and at least 8 inches in diameter. The chain link fencing shall be anchored to the concrete pad with galvanized steel anchors placed at intervals of no more than 12 inches along the perimeter of the pad. The entire structure shall be freestanding and shall not be attached or anchored to any existing fence, building, or structure. The structure shall have no more than one entrance door, which shall be secured by a child resistant lock that must remain locked at all times except when the dog's owner or an authorized veterinarian enters to feed, water, clean, or treat the dog.

- (ii) A perimeter fence shall be constructed around the entire structure, no less than 3 feet from the interior fencing walls of the structure itself. The perimeter fence shall be at least 6 feet in height, shall be of chain link construction with a minimum thickness of 9 gauge, shall be anchored to concrete along the entirety of all four sides in the same manner as the interior fencing walls (except for a single door as specified below), and shall be topped by chain link fencing which shall be of a minimum thickness of 9 gauge and which shall cover the entire area between the top of the perimeter fence and the top of the structure. A single door shall be located in the perimeter fence, on the opposite side from the entrance door to the structure. The door to the perimeter fence shall be secured by a child resistant lock and shall remain locked at all times except when the dog's owner or an authorized veterinarian enters to feed, water, clean, or treat the dog. The door to the perimeter fence shall be locked from the inside before the entrance door to the structure is opened.
- (iii) Provided there is no conflict with applicable zoning regulations, a warning sign of at least 120 square inches but no more than 240 square inches shall be visible from each exposure of the perimeter fence which is visible to any adjoining property. Each sign shall have a graphic representation of an appropriate animal such that the dangerousness or viciousness of the animal housed within the structure is communicated to those who cannot read, including young children. In the event of a conflict with applicable zoning regulations, the warning sign shall comply with the requirements of this subdivision (iii) as nearly as shall be practicable under said regulations.
- (iv) The owner of the dog shall be responsible for ensuring that the structure and perimeter fence are always maintained in such condition as to meet the requirements stated herein. The structure and perimeter fence shall be inspected and approved by the Stokes County Building Inspections Department and an Animal Control Officer for compliance with this Ordinance and any applicable state or local building codes, and the owner shall pay any fees in connection

therewith, before the same may be used to house a dog hereunder.

SECTION 3: DETERMINATION

Pursuant to G. S. 67-4.1 (c), the Stokes County Animal Control Director, or their designee, is hereby designated as the person responsible for determining when a dog is a “dangerous dog” or a “potentially dangerous dog” under Article 1A of Chapter 67 of the North Carolina General Statutes. The Animal Control Advisory Board is further designated as a “separate board” as contemplated by G.S. 67- 4.1 (c) which shall hear any appeal from a determination of the Director or his designee pursuant to NCGS 67 - 4.2c.

SECTION 4: IMPOUNDMENT OF “DANGEROUS DOGS”; AND “POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS DOGS”; DISPOSITION

In addition to the remedies provided in Article 1A of Chapter 67 of the North Carolina General Statutes, the Director or his designee shall impound a “dangerous dog” or a “potentially dangerous dog” as defined under G. S. 67-4.1 (a) (1) or (2), as follows:

- (i) Impoundment of Dangerous Dog: If, following investigation of a complaint under Article IX below, a determination is made by the Animal Control Director or his designee that the dog is a dangerous dog under either G.S. §§67-4.1(a)(1)a.1. or 67-4.1(a)(1)b., or both of said sections, such dog shall be impounded immediately upon delivery to the owner of the written notification as required under G.S. §67-4.1(c), which statute shall apply under this subsection (a) the same as in cases involving potentially dangerous dogs.
 - a. Appeals: Such dog shall be held at the Animal Shelter pending the resolution of all appeal proceedings pursuant to the Stokes County Animal Control Advisory Board By-Laws and G.S. §67-4.1(5)(c).
 - b. Destruction: In the event of a final determination that the dog is a “dangerous dog” under either or both of said sections, the dog shall be destroyed by the Animal Control Department.
- (ii) Impoundment of Potentially Dangerous Dog: If, following investigation of a complaint, a determination is made by the Animal Control Director or his designee that the dog is a potentially dangerous dog, the owner shall receive written notification as required under G.S. §67-4.1(c).
 - a. Appeals: In the event of an appeal, such dog shall be held at the Animal Shelter pending the resolution of all appeal proceedings under the Stokes County Animal Control Advisory Board By-Laws and G.S. §67-4.1(5)(c).
 - b. Release and Redemption: In the event of a final determination that the dog is neither a “dangerous dog,” nor a “potentially dangerous dog,” such dog shall immediately be released to its owner upon compliance by the owner with all applicable provisions of this Ordinance, and payment of

such redemption fee and daily boarding fee as may have been established by the County.

- c. Procedure after Determination of Potentially Dangerous Dog: In the event of a final determination that the dog is a "potentially dangerous dog," such dog shall be disposed of as follows:
1. If the owner of the dog is not known, shelter staff/director will make individualized determinations as to whether the animal is unadoptable due to temperament. If so determined, dog shall be destroyed by the Animal Control Department after required 72-hour hold.
 2. Where said final determination is based on one or more of the behaviors described in G.S. §67- 4.1(a)(2)a then, if the owner of the dog is known, said owner may redeem the dog by payment of such redemption fee and daily boarding fee as may have been established by the County provided, that it shall be an express condition of any such redemption that the owner at all times thereafter keep the dog within a secure enclosure as defined in Article V, Section 2, Paragraph (c) above. The dog may not be redeemed until the secure enclosure has been completed, inspected, and approved, as provided above.
 3. The Animal Control Department may establish a deadline for completion, not to be less than sixty (60) days, after which, if said secure enclosure is still not sufficiently completed to allow for inspection and approval, the dog may be destroyed by the Animal Control Department. If a dog is destroyed pursuant to any of the provisions of this subdivision (i), the owner shall be responsible for payment of such daily boarding fee as may have been established by the County and as shall have accrued between the time of impoundment and the time of destruction.
 4. The owner shall at all times be and remain in compliance with the requirements of Article V, Section 2, Paragraph (c) as to any secure enclosure required and upon failure to comply the owner shall be subject to such civil penalties as are permitted under Article IX below.
 5. It shall be a further express condition of redemption under this subdivision that, within thirty (30) days after redemption, the dog must be spayed or neutered and fitted with microchip identification, at the owner's expense. Prior to release rabies vaccination shall be current. The Animal Control Department may require written evidence, in the form of receipts or other records from a licensed veterinarian, confirming that this condition has been satisfied. If the owner of the dog fails to satisfy this condition within the time stated, the Director or his designee shall issue a citation to the owner for such civil penalties as are permitted under Article IX below.
 6. If, within thirty (30) days after issuance of the citation, the

condition still has not been satisfied and the civil penalty paid, the dog shall be destroyed by the Animal Control Department.

7. Upon redemption under this subdivision, the Animal Control Department shall serve upon the owner a notice of final determination which shall state that the dog has been determined to be a potentially dangerous dog under G.S. §67- 4.1(a)(2)a. and that the dog and its owner are subject to all of the requirements hereunder.

- d. Where said final determination is based on one or more of the behaviors described in G.S. §67-4.1(a)(2)b. or 67- 4.1(a)(2)c., then, if the owner of the dog is known, said owner may redeem the dog by payment of such redemption fee and daily boarding fee as may have been established by the County; provided, that it shall be an express condition of any such redemption that the owner at all times thereafter keep the dog in a secure enclosure as defined in Article V, Section 2, Paragraph (c), or under restraint as defined in Article I, Section 2, Paragraph (z). Provided that, however:

1. It shall be a further express condition of redemption under this subdivision (ii) that, within thirty (30) days after redemption, the dog must be spayed or neutered and fitted with microchip identification, at the owner's expense. The Animal Control Department may require written evidence, in the form of receipts or other records from a licensed veterinarian, confirming that this condition has been satisfied.
2. If the owner of the dog fails to satisfy this condition within the time stated, the Director or his designee shall issue a citation to the owner for such civil penalties as are permitted under Article IX below.
3. Upon redemption under this subsection, the Animal Control Department shall serve upon the owner a notice of final determination which shall state that the dog has been determined to be a potentially dangerous dog under G.S. §67- 4.1(a)(2)b. or G.S. §67-4.1(a)(2)c., as the case may be, and that the dog and its owner are subject to all of the requirements hereunder.

- e. **Violations of Secure Enclosure or Restraint Provisions** - If, after redemption of a potentially dangerous dog as set forth above, the Director or his designee makes a determination following investigation of a complaint that said dog has not been kept within a secure enclosure by the owner at all times, or has not been kept under restraint at all times, the following actions shall be taken:

1. **First & Second Violation:** The Director or his designee shall issue a citation to the owner for such civil penalties as may be applicable.

2. Third Violation: The subject dog shall be impounded immediately. Such dog shall be held at the Animal Shelter pending the resolution of all appeal proceedings under G.S. §67-4.1(c). In the event of a final determination that the owner did not in fact fail to keep the dog within a secure enclosure at all times or under restraint at all times, as the case may be, such dog shall immediately be released to its owner in compliance with and under the requirements of subdivision (i) or subdivision (ii) above, whichever is applicable. In the event of a final determination that the owner did in fact fail to keep the dog within a secure enclosure at all times or under restraint at all times, as the case may be, the dog shall be euthanized by the Stokes County Animal Control Department.
- f. Additional Determination of Potentially Dangerous Dog - If, after redemption of a dog deemed to be a potentially dangerous dog as set forth in either subdivision (i) or subdivision (ii) above, the Director or his designee makes a determination following investigation of a separate and new complaint that the dog has engaged in any of the behaviors prohibited under G.S. §67-4.1(a)(1) or (2) following said redemption, the dog shall be impounded immediately upon delivery to the owner of the written notification. Such dog shall be held at the Animal Shelter pending the resolution of all appeal proceedings under G.S. §67-4.1(c), which statute shall apply under this subdivision (vi) the same as set forth elsewhere in this subsection (b). In the event of a final determination that the dog did not in fact engage in any of said behaviors, such dog shall immediately be released to its owner in compliance with and under the requirements of subdivision (i) or subdivision (ii) above, whichever is applicable. In the event of a final determination that the dog did in fact engage in any of said behaviors, the dog shall be destroyed by the Animal Control Department.
- g. Release - In the event of a final determination that the dog is neither a "dangerous dog," nor a "potentially dangerous dog," such dog shall immediately be released to its owner upon compliance by the owner with all applicable provisions of this Ordinance, and payment of such redemption fee and daily boarding fee as may have been established by the County.
- h. Copy of Ordinance and Proof of Receipt - Whenever the Director or his designee is required by the terms of this Section to deliver to the owner of a dangerous or potentially dangerous dog the written notification as set forth under G.S. §67-4.1(c), the Director or his designee shall simultaneously deliver to the owner a copy of this Ordinance and shall obtain from said owner a signed receipt as to both.

SECTION 5: REGISTRATION OF POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS DOGS

- a. Registration Required. A current registration shall be maintained by the Stokes County Animal Control Department as to every dog for which a final determination has been issued that the same is a potentially dangerous dog under this article. The owner of said dog is responsible for ensuring that the dog is registered hereunder. Registrations required under this Section 4 shall be made upon issuance of the final determination and shall include the name and address of the owner, identifying information concerning the dog, and such other information as the Stokes County Animal Control Department may reasonably request. Thereafter the owner shall register the dog annually with the Animal Control Department during the month of January unless the dog has died, has been sold, or its ownership has been transferred to any other person, in which event the provisions of subsection (b) below shall apply.
- b. Sale, Transfer, or Death of Dog.
 - (i) Sale or Transfer of Dog to New Owner Residing Within County. The sale or transfer of any dog for which a registration is required under Section 5 shall be subject to prior approval by the Animal Control Department if the new owner resides within the County. The following procedure shall apply:
 - a) The owner of the subject dog shall first notify the Animal Control Department. Said notification shall include the information as required under subsection (a) above as to the new owner.
 - b) The Animal Control Department shall have a period of thirty (30) days from receipt of said notification in which to contact the new owner and investigate and determine whether said new owner has the capability to comply with the requirements of this Ordinance concerning potentially dangerous dogs. As a part of said determination, the Animal Control Department shall, no later than ten (10) days after receipt of notification from the current owner, deliver a copy of this Ordinance to the new owner and request from said new owner a signed written statement, on such form as shall be approved by the Animal Control Department, certifying that said new owner has received such copy and will at all times be and remain in compliance with the requirements of the same.
 - c) The new owner shall furnish a signed written statement to the Animal Control Department within the ten (10) days, and shall cooperate with and provide such further information to the Animal Control Department as may be

reasonably requested in connection with the proposed sale or transfer of the dog.

- d) If the Animal Control Department, upon timely receipt of said written statement and completion of the investigation required hereunder, determines that the new owner is able and willing to comply with the requirements of this Ordinance, the Animal Control Department shall so notify both the current owner and the new owner in writing within the above stated ten (10) day period. Thereafter the sale or transfer of the dog may take place, and the new owner shall thereupon be responsible for compliance with the provisions of this Section 4 and for compliance with all other requirements of this Ordinance. If the new owner fails to timely furnish the signed written statement as required herein, the Animal Control Department shall not approve the proposed sale or transfer until such time as the same has been furnished.

- (ii) Sale or Transfer of Dog to New Owner Residing Outside County. In the event the owner of a dog for which a registration is required under this Article intends to sell or transfer the same to a person residing outside the County, the following procedure shall apply:

- a) The selling or transferring owner shall notify the Animal Control Department as to the same prior to such sale or transfer.
- b) As soon as practical following receipt of said notification the Animal Control Department shall notify the Animal Control Department of the county of residence of the new owner, by registered or certified letter, return receipt requested, as to the sale or transfer of said dog and as to its designation under this Ordinance as a potentially dangerous dog, together with such other information as the Animal Control Department may deem appropriate.

- (iii) Bringing Dog into County. In the event a dog which has been determined by another county or jurisdiction to be a dangerous dog or potentially dangerous dog under Article 1A of Chapter 67 of the North Carolina General Statutes, or under similar provisions of any other applicable statute, ordinance, or law of any other jurisdiction, is sold or transferred to an owner residing within the County, or is brought into the County for any reason (other than temporary veterinary care), the following procedure shall apply:

- a) The owner to which said dog is being sold or transferred, or

the person responsible for bringing said dog into the County, shall immediately notify the Animal Control Department as to the same and shall cause said dog to be registered in accordance with the requirements of this Section 4. Any dog which is registered or required to be registered with the Animal Control Department under this subdivision (iii) shall be deemed to be a dangerous dog or potentially dangerous dog under this Article V, as the case may be, and the owner of said dog shall comply with all of the applicable requirements hereof within such times as shall be established by the Animal Control Department, but in no event less than thirty (30) days.

- (iv) Death of Dog. In the event a dog for which a registration is required under subsection (a) dies, the owner shall immediately notify the Animal Control Department as to the same and shall, within twenty-four (24) hours of said dog's death, present the dog's body for scanning as to the microchip identification required under this Article V. Said scanning may be performed either by a licensed veterinarian or by the Animal Control Department. A licensed veterinarian performing a scan under this subdivision (iv) shall report the results of the same to the Animal Control Department, which shall maintain a written record of all scans performed hereunder for the purpose of verifying the death of potentially dangerous dogs registered pursuant to this Section 4. Payment of all fees and expenses for compliance with the foregoing requirements shall be the responsibility of the dog's owner.

- c. Penalty for Violation. The penalty for a violation of any of the requirements under this Section shall be as set forth in Article IX below.

ARTICLE VII: ANIMAL WELFARE

SECTION 1: PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION

It is the purpose of this section to supplement Article 47 of the North Carolina General Statutes, and all other state laws regarding animals for which the Animal Control Division has enforcement authority pursuant to Article II, Section 3.

SECTION 2: CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

It shall be unlawful for any person to abuse, molest, maim, disfigure, torture, torment, deprive of necessary sustenance, cruelly beat, mutilate or kill, wound, injure, poison, abandon or subject to conditions detrimental to the health or general welfare any animal, or to cause or procure such action. As used in this section the words "torture", "torment"

and “cruelty” include or refer to any act, omission or neglect causing or permitting unjustifiable physical pain, suffering or death is caused or permitted; but such terms shall not be construed to prohibit lawful taking of animals under the jurisdiction and regulation of the Wildlife Resources Commission; nor to prohibit the Animal Control Department or persons duly authorized by the County of Stokes or veterinarians from destroying dangerous, unwanted or injured animals in a humane manner; nor to prohibit the lawful use of pesticides for control of insects, rodents, or household and farm pests.

SECTION 3: ANIMAL WELFARE

- (a) Food, Shelter & Water: Owners of animals must provide the animals with adequate food, shelter, and water as defined in Article I.
 - 1. When animals are tethered or in a lot in direct sunlight it should have adequate shade from natural or artificial means other than its shelter to provide protection.
 - 2. The bedding needs to consist of straw, shavings or organic materials to help protect from cold and promote retention of body heat.
 - 3. The Owner shall maintain the area where the animal is kept in a sanitary condition as to promote good health and to help prevent sickness or disease in the animal.
 - 4. If the animal is in a lot, it should be in a size appropriate for the animal that is a commercially available size or larger.

- (b) Tethering or Trolley Systems: Tethering or trolley systems must be at least ten feet in length. The tethering device must be attached in such manner as to prevent strangulation or other injury to the dog and entanglement with objects. Tethers must be made of rope, twine, cord, chain or similar material with a swivel on two ends and which does not exceed 10% of the dog's body weight. All collars or harnesses used for the purpose of the lawful tethering of a dog must be made of nylon or leather. No person shall tether a dog with a chain or wire or other device to, or cause such attachment to, any collar other than a buckle type collar or body harness. No person shall tether with a chain or a wire or other device to, or cause such attachment to, a head harness, choke-type collar or pronged collar to a dog. No person shall tether with a chain, wire or other device to a dog where the weight of the tethering device and the collar combined exceeds 10% of the dog's body weight. No person shall tether with a chain or wire or other device a dog in such a manner that does not allow the dog access to adequate food, water or shelter. No person shall tether a sick, diseased and/or injured dog or an estrous dog.

SECTION 4: REGISTRATION OF BREEDING KENNEL

Current registration shall be maintained by the Animal Control Department for each

breeding kennel located within the County. The owner or operator of said breeding kennel is responsible for ensuring that the same is registered hereunder. Registrations and a \$500.00 permit fee are required under this Section shall be made no later than thirty (30) days following the effective date of this Ordinance and shall thereafter be renewed in January of each year. All registrations shall include the name, address, and telephone number of the owners and/or operators of the same, the address and physical location of the breeding kennel, and the number of dogs over the age of six (6) months being kept at the breeding kennel as of January 1 of the year for which the registration is made.

SECTION 5: IMPOUNDMENT

- (a) General Provision: If the Animal Control Department determines in its discretion that an animal's life is in immediate danger due to a violation of any of the provisions of this Article, the Animal Control Department may impound the same.
- (b) Non-Exclusive Remedy: Impoundment under this subsection (a) shall not affect the application or imposition of such penalties as may be authorized under Article below.
- (c) Holding and Redemption: An animal impounded hereunder shall be held for three full business days and disposed of in accordance with the provisions of Article III above, provided that no right of redemption by the owner shall be allowed if the animal was impounded due to the owner's violation of any of the provisions of this Article; and provided further, that the owner shall be liable for the costs of impoundment, boarding, care, and disposition of the animal, as incurred by the Animal Control Department, which costs may be recovered by the County in the form of additional civil penalties as set forth under Article IX below.

SECTION 6: PENALTY FOR VIOLATION

The penalty for violation under this Article shall be as set forth in Article IX below.

ARTICLE VIII: RABIES CONTROL

SECTION 1: RABIES CONTROL

The owner of every dog and cat over four (4) months of age shall have the animal vaccinated against rabies and shall comply with all of the terms and provisions of Part 6 of Article 6 of Chapter 130A of the North Carolina General Statutes pertaining to rabies control.

SECTION 2: RABIES VACCINATION TAGS

It shall be unlawful and a violation of this Ordinance for the owner of any dog to cause or permit the same to fail to wear at all times a valid rabies vaccination tag as required under the provisions of G.S. §130A-190. Pursuant to the authority of G.S. §130A-

190(a), this Section 2 shall apply only to dogs and shall not apply to cats or ferrets.

SECTION 3: IMPOUNDMENT OF DOGS NOT WEARING REQUIRED RABIES VACCINATION TAGS

- (a) **Duration of Impoundment.** The duration of impoundment for a dog impounded by an Animal Control Officer pursuant to G.S. §130A-192 shall be seventy-two (72) hours. At the expiration of said time, if the dog has not been reclaimed by its owner, it shall be disposed of as authorized by G.S. §130A-192.
- (b) **Impoundment Fee.** A dog impounded by an Animal Control Officer pursuant to G.S. §130A-192 shall not be returned to its owner until the owner shall have paid to the Animal Control Shelter such impoundment fee as has been established by the County.

SECTION 4: PENALTY FOR VIOLATION

The penalty for a violation under this Article VIII shall be as set forth in Article IX below.

ARTICLE IX: PENALTIES AND ENFORCEMENT

SECTION 1: PENALTIES

- (a) **Misdemeanors.** Notwithstanding any civil penalties which may be assessed under subsection (b) below, any person violating any of the provisions of this Ordinance may be found guilty of a Class 3 Misdemeanor under G. S. 14-4 and 153A-123.
- (b) **Non-Exclusivity of Penalties:** Civil penalties and criminal penalties are not mutually exclusive in application under this Ordinance.
- (c) **Civil Penalties.** In addition to, and not in lieu of, the criminal penalties and other remedies provided by this Ordinance or by State law, a violation of any of the provisions of this Ordinance may also subject the offender to the civil penalties hereinafter set forth.
- (d) **Continuing Violation:** For a continuing violation, each day's violation shall be deemed to be a separate offense.
- (e) **Issuance of Citation:** The ACO shall be authorized to issue a citation to such person, giving notice of the violation. Citations so issued may be delivered in person or mailed by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, to the person charged if such person cannot otherwise be readily located.
- (f) **Time for Payment/Failure to Pay:** The civil penalty or penalties set forth in the citation must be paid within Thirty (30) days of the receipt of the citation

and shall be paid to the Animal Control Section. The Animal Control Section shall forward all such penalties collected to the Finance Office for the County of Stokes for application as by law provided. If the person charged fails to pay the civil penalty within the time prescribed, a criminal summons shall be issued against such person charging a misdemeanor violation of this Ordinance under subsection (a) above and upon conviction, such person shall, in addition to the penalties prescribed for said misdemeanor violation of this Ordinance, be punished as the court prescribes for failure to pay the civil penalties imposed hereby.

- (g) Civil Penalty Schedule: The civil penalties for a violation of this Ordinance shall be assessed as follows:
- i. For a violation of any provisions of Article III, IV, V, VI, VII, or XI, the civil penalty shall be:
 - First Offense - One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)
 - Second Offense - Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00)
 - Third or Subsequent Offense - Four Hundred Dollars (\$400.00)
 - ii. For the following specific violations of Article V, Section 4, the civil penalty shall be the following:
 - Failure to receive prior approval for sale or transfer of Potentially Dangerous Dog to new owner by current owner - \$500.00 fine to new owner and current owner.
 - Failure to submit required signed written statement to Animal Control Department within 10 day period by new owner - \$500 fine to each the new owner and current owner.
 - iii. For the following specific violations of Article VIII, the civil penalty shall be the following:
 - Tampering with traps - \$25;
 - Stealing traps - Replacement Value

SECTION 2: EQUITABLE REMEDY

This Ordinance may be enforced by an appropriate equitable remedy issuing from a court of competent jurisdiction.

ARTICLE X: ANIMAL SHELTER FEES

The Stokes County Board of Commissioners shall set the fees to be assessed by the Animal Shelter. The director of said Department is given the discretion to waive, change, or reduce these

fees to assist in the adoption of animals or to help citizens with financial needs related to animal care and welfare.

**ARTICLE XI:
REGULATION OF OWNERSHIP, KEEPING OF AND HARBORING OF
INHERENTLY DANGEROUS EXOTIC ANIMALS**

SECTION 1: PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY

The purpose of this Article is to protect the public against health and safety risks that inherently dangerous exotic animals pose to the community and to protect the welfare of the individual animals held in private possession. By their very nature, certain exotic animals are wild and potentially dangerous, do not adjust well to a captive environment, and present a genuine threat to the safety and well-being of the public.

It is a further purpose of this Article to complement those rules already in existence in the State of North Carolina with respect to the regulation of wild animals by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, which includes animals such as raccoons, skunks, foxes, bats, and others, that present a danger to the safety and well-being of the public through their inherently dangerous nature, through carrying rabies, or otherwise. Accordingly, the County intends to exempt from this Article those wild animals which are subject to said rules.

For the reasons set forth above, and pursuant to the authority granted in G.S. §§153A-121, 153A-131, and 113-133.1, the County enacts and adopts the regulations set forth herein.

SECTION 2: DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this Article, the following terms, phrases, words, and their derivations shall have the meaning defined herein, unless the context clearly indicates that another meaning is intended. Words used in the present tense include the future and past tense, words in the plural number include the singular number, words in the singular number include the plural number, and words in the masculine gender include the feminine gender. These definitions are in addition to, and not in lieu of, those definitions set forth in Article I of this Ordinance; provided, that the scope of this Article shall be as set forth in Section 3 below.

- (a) **Inherently Dangerous Exotic Animal:** Any mammal, reptile, or arachnid which is a member of a species that, due to the inherent nature of the species, may be considered dangerous to humans; provided, however, that expressly excluded from this definition are animals which are indigenous to Stokes County and which are subject to the requirements for captivity permits under the rules of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission as contained in 15A N.C.A.C. 10H Section .0300 or any successor rules or regulations thereto. Inherently dangerous exotic animals specifically include, but are not limited to, any or all of the

following orders and families, whether bred in the wild or in captivity, and any or all hybrids. The animals listed in parentheses are intended to act as examples and are not to be construed as an exhaustive list or limit the generality of each group of animals, unless otherwise specified:

(1) Class Mammalia:

(i) Order Artiodactyla (such as hippopotami, giraffes, and camels, but not cattle, swine, sheep, goats, llamas, or alpacas);

(ii) Order Carnivora:

(a) Family Felidae (such as lions, tigers, panthers, leopards, jaguars, ocelots, and servals, but not domestic cats);

(b) Family Canidae (such as wolves and jackals, but not domestic dogs);

(c) Family Ursidae (all bears);

(d) Family Mustelidae (such as weasels, martins, and minks, but not ferrets);

(e) Family Procyonidae (such as coatis);

(f) Family Hyaenidae (all hyenas);

(g) Family Viverridae (such as civets, genets, and mongooses);

(iii) Order Edentalia (such as anteaters, armadillos, and sloths);

(iv) Order Marsupialia (such as kangaroos and wallabies);

(v) Order Perissodactyla (such as rhinoceroses and tapirs, but not horses, donkeys, or mules);

(vi) Order Primates (such as lemurs, monkeys, chimpanzees, baboons, gorillas, and all other non-human primates);

(vii) Order Proboscidae (all elephants);

(viii) Order Rodentia (but not guinea pigs, rats, mice, gerbils,

hamsters, prairie dogs, or chinchillas);

(2) Class Reptilia:

(i) Order Squamata:

- (a) Family Varanidae (only water monitors and crocodile monitors);
- (b) Family Iguanidae (only rock iguanas);
- (c) Family Boidae (only those whose actual length exceeds eight (8) feet);
- (d) Family Colubridae (only boomslangs and African twig snakes);
- (e) Family Elapidae (such as coral snakes, cobras, mambas, etc.) - all species;
- (f) Family Natrixidae (only keelback snakes);
- (g) Family Viperidae (such as cottonmouths, etc.) - all species;
- (h) Family Helodermidae (such as gila monsters and Mexican beaded lizards);
- (i) Family Crotalidae (pit vipers);
- (j) Family Atractaspididae (burrowing asps);
- (k) Family Hydrophilidae (sea snakes);

(ii) Order Crocodilia (such as crocodiles, alligators, caimans, gavials, etc.) – all species.

(3) Class Arachnida:

- (i) Order Araneae (only spiders which are venomous, but excluding tarantulas);
- (ii) Order Scorpionida (all scorpions).

- (b) Owner: The term “Owner” shall have the same meaning as defined in Animal Control Ordinance Article 1 Section 2. As used with Exotic

Animals, Owner also includes one who allows an exotic animal to remain in, be lodged, fed, given shelter or refuge within the Owner's home, store, yard, enclosure, out-building, abandoned vehicle or building, place of business, or any other premises in which the person resides or over which the person has control.

SECTION 3: PROHIBITIONS

- (a) It shall be unlawful to own, possess, keep, or harbor, bring into the County, have in one's possession, act as a custodian for, or have custody of an inherently dangerous exotic animal within the County; provided, that the Owner of any inherently dangerous exotic animal as defined in this Ordinance who owned, possessed, kept or harbored or be fed or be given shelter or refuge within the person's home, store, yard, enclosure, outbuilding, abandoned vehicle or building, place of business, or any other premises on which the person resides or over which the person has control such inherently dangerous exotic animal on or before the effective date of this Ordinance shall remove said animal(s) from the County within one (1) year following the adoption of this Ordinance.
- (b) It shall be unlawful and a violation of this Ordinance for any person who violates subsection (a) of this Section 6 to release or abandon an inherently dangerous exotic animal, in such manner as to cause or permit the animal to be at large in the County, for the purpose of evading prosecution under said subsection (a).

SECTION 4: EXEMPTIONS

This Article shall not apply to:

- i. Veterinary clinics in possession of such animals for treatment or rehabilitation purposes;
- ii. Institutions regulated by the USDA;
- iii. Institutions accredited by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association;
- iv. Animal control authority or law enforcement officers acting under authority of this Act;
- v. Persons temporarily transporting such animals through the County, providing that such transport shall not be longer than 24 hours, and the animal is at all times maintained within a confinement sufficient to prevent it from escaping.
- vi. Any licensed or accredited research medical institution or educational institution.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, any such exempt entity or person from which an inherently dangerous exotic animal escapes or is released for any reason whatsoever (without regard to fault) shall be liable for the costs of capturing said animal as provided

in Section 6(a) below.

SECTION 5: ENFORCEMENT OF ARTICLE

The Animal Control Department and its Officers and employees, and any law enforcement agency having authority within the territorial jurisdiction of this Ordinance, shall be empowered to enforce the provisions of this Article.

SECTION 6: IMPOUNDMENT AND/OR DISPOSITION OF INHERENTLY DANGEROUS EXOTIC ANIMALS

The following provisions shall govern the impoundment and/or disposition of inherently dangerous exotic animals present in the County in contravention of this Article:

- (a) The Animal Control Department may immediately take up and impound an inherently dangerous exotic animal if the Animal Control Department determines in its discretion that it has facilities sufficient to safely house the animal and that the impoundment can be undertaken without injury to persons or property. The possessor is liable for the costs of capture, placement, and care for the inherently dangerous exotic animal from the time the attempt to capture begins or impoundment occurs (whichever happens first) until the time the animal has been relocated to an approved facility as set forth hereunder, or has been returned to the possessor (in the case of an exempt entity or person), or has been destroyed. Said costs may be recovered by the County in the form of additional civil penalties as set forth under Article IX of this Ordinance.
- (b) If an inherently dangerous exotic animal is impounded as set forth above, the possessor must, within seventy-two (72) hours of impoundment, post a security bond or cash deposit with the Animal Control Department in an amount sufficient to guarantee payment of all reasonable expenses incurred and expected to be incurred in capturing, caring and providing shelter for the animal.
 - (i) **Reasonable Expenses** - Reasonable expenses shall include, but are not limited to, the estimated cost of feeding, medical care, and boarding for at least thirty (30) days, plus the cost of relocating the animal as set forth hereunder.
 - (ii) **Relocation** - Said security bond or cash deposit shall not prevent the Animal Control Department from relocating the animal at any time; provided, that upon such relocation the Animal Control Department shall recover under the security bond or cash deposit only those sums actually incurred in connection with the above listed expenses;
 - (iii) **Extension of impoundment** - The Animal Control Department may,

in its discretion, keep the animal under impoundment for a period of up to sixty (60) days if the possessor has posted a security bond or cash deposit sufficient to cover such period.

(iv) **Calculation of Amount of Bond or Deposit** - In all cases the amount of the security bond or cash deposit shall be determined by the Animal Control Department and shall be based on the current rate to feed, provide medical care for, and house the animal, plus the expected cost of relocating the animal, plus costs already incurred for the same and for capturing the animal. The form for security bonds as required herein shall be approved by the Animal Control Department.

- (c) If an inherently dangerous exotic animal is impounded as set forth above, and the possessor of said animal complies with the bond or cash deposit provisions listed above; the Animal Control Department shall, attempt to find proper and safe housing for the animal outside the County through placement of the animal with an institution or location accredited by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA).
- (d) If said security bond or cash deposit is not timely posted, or if the possessor of the animal is unknown or cannot be located, the Animal Control Department may nonetheless, in its discretion, attempt to find proper and safe housing for the animal outside the County as stated above; provided, that if the possessor is subsequently identified or located, said possessor shall be liable for all costs of placement and care incurred by the Animal Control Department as set forth in subsection (a) of this Section.
- (e) The provisions of subsections (b) and (c) of this Section shall not apply to an exempt entity or person as set forth in Section 4 above and Animal Control Department shall allow the exempt entity or person to recapture the animal or, if the animal is impounded, shall return the same to the exempt entity or person upon payment in full of all costs of capture as provided hereinabove, only if all of the following criteria are met;
 - (i) The impounded animal escaped or was released from an exempt entity or person as set forth in Section 4 above; and
 - (ii) The animal can safely be impounded and returned to the exempt entity or person or can safely be recaptured by said entity or person; and
 - (iii) The exempt entity or person has taken reasonably sufficient steps to assure that the animal will not escape or be released in the County again; and
 - (iv) The animal has not previously escaped or been released in the

County.

- (f) If the Animal Control Department determines in its discretion that an inherently dangerous exotic animal cannot be captured and impounded within the requirements of subsection (a) above, the Animal Control Department may authorize and direct the possessor to retain the animal and, within a fixed period of time not to exceed sixty (60) days, relocate the animal to proper and safe housing outside the County through placement with an institution or location accredited by the AZA.
 - (i) The foregoing provision shall apply only if the Animal Control Department determines, in its discretion, that the animal has not caused injury to persons or property and that the possessor has facilities sufficient to safely house the animal and prevent it from escaping or causing such injury during the period when it is being relocated.
- (g) The decision of the Animal Control Department to proceed under this Section shall in no way affect the applicability or imposition of civil penalties as to the possessor for violating the provisions of Section 2 above, and during any period of relocation hereunder the civil penalties so imposed shall continue until the possessor presents documentation or other satisfactory proof to the Animal Control Department that the animal has been relocated as required herein.
- (h) Unless otherwise prohibited by the Federal Endangered Species Act or other applicable Federal or State law, the Animal Control Department may immediately destroy an inherently dangerous exotic animal in a humane manner if:
 - (i) The Animal Control Department determines, in its discretion, that the animal cannot be taken up and impounded within the requirements of subsection (a) above, and further determines in its discretion not to proceed under the provisions of subsection (e) above; or
 - (ii) The possessor of the animal fails to timely post the security bond or cash deposit as required therein; or
 - (iii) proper and safe housing cannot be found for the animal as set forth therein; or
 - (iv) The animal has escaped or been released from an exempt entity or person but does not fall within the provisions of subsection (d) above.

SECTION 7: PENALTY FOR VIOLATION

The penalty for a violation under this Article shall be as set forth in Article IX above.

ARTICLE XI: COMPLAINTS

SECTION 1: COMPLAINT TYPES & PROCEDURES

- (a) Emergency Complaint - Any person may in the case of an emergency make a verbal complaint through the County Communications Center or directly to Animal Control or his designee, of a violation of Article III, IV, V, VI or VII above. Determination of whether or not the complaint qualifies as an emergency shall be in the discretion of the investigating ACO.
- (b) Verbal Complaint - Any person may make a verbal report to the County of a violation of Article II, III, IV, V, VI, VII and VIII of this Ordinance, all such reports shall be made by telephone to the Animal Control Department, County Communications Center, by telephone or in person to the Animal Control Department. Telephone reports received by the County Communications Center shall be relayed to the Animal Control Section or appropriate municipal police for such action as may be authorized or appropriate under this Ordinance.
- (c) Written Complaint - Any person may make a complaint to the County about a violation of Article IV, V, VI or VII of this Ordinance. All such complaints shall be written and shall be on a form prescribed by the County. Such complaints shall be presented as follows and may not be third party:
- (d) Article IV, V, VI or VII Complaints - A written complaint of a violation of Article IV, V, VI, or VII shall be presented to the Animal Control Department. The Animal Control Department shall develop a written complaint form and shall maintain **copies of same for three years**, which shall be made available for inspection upon request to any person. The form shall require such information as shall be deemed sufficient by the Animal Control Section to permit a sufficient investigation to determine if a violation of Article IV, V, VI or VII has occurred, along with any other information deemed appropriate by the ACO.

ARTICLE XII: GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1: PROHIBITIONS

- (a) No person shall interfere with, hinder or molest the Animal Control Officer or any officers or employees of the Animal Control Department, or the Stokes County Public Health Director or his designee, in their performance of any duties

under this Ordinance, nor shall any person seek to release any animal in the custody of the same or of the Animal Shelter unless otherwise specifically authorized by law. The penalty for a violation of this Section shall be as set forth in Article IX above.

- (b) No person shall conceal any animal from Animal Control, for the purpose of evading the requirements of this ordinance.
- (c) No person shall refuse to show proof of a rabies vaccination to any member of the Animal Control Division upon demand.
- (d) No person, other than a member of the Animal Control Section, shall remove any animal from a live-capture animal trap placed on private or public property by the Animal Control Section. It shall also be unlawful for any person to damage, destroy, move or otherwise tamper with a trap placed by the Animal Control Section on private or public property.

SECTION 2: SEVERABILITY

If any part of this Ordinance or any portion or provision hereof, or the application hereof to any person or condition, is held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining parts of this Ordinance or their application to any other person or condition, and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.

SECTION 3: IMPOUNDMENT AND DESTRUCTION STATE LAW

All provisions of this Ordinance with respect to the impoundment or destruction of animals shall be subject to the requirements of State law concerning the same, including but not limited to all State statutes and regulations pertaining to rabies control.

SECTION 4: SUPERSEDES ALL PREVIOUS ORDINANCES

This ordinance supersedes Animal Control & Animal Welfare Ordinance as set forth in Stokes County Ordinance Book adopted April 07, 1975 and became effective May 01 1975 and readopted on September 12, 1977, and amended on December 16, 1985, December 21, 1987, February 07, 1994, June 21, 2001, July 01, 2004, May 24, 2010, June 27, 2012, February 09, 2015, December 28, 2015, February 08, 2016, November 12, 2019, and April 12, 2021.

SECTION 5: EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force upon adoption by the Stokes County Board of Commissioners.

Guidelines for Establishment and Operation Of the Stokes County Animal Control Advisory Council

Article 1: Name and Purpose

The Stokes County Board of County Commissioners desires to appoint a body to be called the Stokes County Animal Control Advisory Council, (Advisory Council). The purpose of which will be to provide review and evaluation of animal-related issues, needs and services on an ongoing basis and provide recommendations related to these matters to the Stokes County Board of County Commissioners.

Article 2: Duties

The Advisory Council shall review and evaluate animal-related issues, needs and animal control services in Stokes County.

The Advisory Council shall assist the Stokes County Chief Animal Control Officer in the development of a Strategic Plan for the Stokes County Animal Control Department and provide proposed policy recommendations related to the plan for submission to the Stokes County Board of County Commissioners. Recommendations related to budget and capital improvements must also be submitted to the Stokes County Manager for review and consideration.

The Advisory Council shall monitor trends involving changes in animal populations, programs, demands for service, licensing activities and fees related to animals and report their findings to the Stokes County Board of County Commissioners as appropriate.

The Advisory Council shall coordinate its activities with other agencies and boards involved with animal welfare and control issues in order to provide the best utilization of community resources.

The Advisory Council or an authorized subcommittee of the council shall work with the County Manager as needed to review monetary donations made for the benefit of the Stokes County Animal Shelter and make expenditure recommendations for such funds.

The Advisory Council shall not be responsible for nor have authority over the day-to-day operations of the Stokes County Animal Control Department.

Article 3: Membership

The Advisory Council shall consist of nine (09) members and they will be appointed by the Stokes County Board of County Commissioners and in accordance with the approved county appointment procedure. Appointments should fulfill the following affiliations and categories:

- a) One member employed by the Stokes County Sheriff's Office.
- b) One member employed by the Stokes County Health Department.
- c) A licensed Veterinarian.
- d) Stokes County Chief Animal Control Officer.
- e) One member from an Animal Rescue Organization.
- f) Four private citizens living in a separate geographical quadrant of Stokes County.

Terms of Appointment

In forming the Advisory Council, the Stokes County Board of County Commissioners shall appoint half of the non-county employee appointments to a term of one year, and the remaining non-county employee appointments to an initial two-year term. Thereafter, all non-county employee members shall be appointed for two-year terms. County employee appointments will be made as needed.

Vacancies

If a vacancy occurs, the Stokes County Board of County Commissioners shall appoint someone to fill the unexpired term in accordance with the position designation and approved county appointment procedure. A vacancy may be declared by the Advisory Council Leader when a council member has two (2) consecutive unexcused absences from regular meetings, or the member fails to provide the Advisory Council Leader or Stokes County Chief Animal Control Officer prior notice that they will need to be absent. When prior notice is properly provided, the Advisory Council Leader will determine if the absence is excused or unexcused.

Officers

At a minimum, the Advisory Council shall elect one member as Leader and one member as Assistant Leader. Other officers may be established as deemed necessary by the Advisory Council. However, the Advisory Council shall have a member to record minutes of each meeting and all resolutions, recommendations, or adopted actions of any sort and such minutes will be available to the public within a reasonable period of time.

Election of Officers

During the first established meeting of a majority of Advisory Council members and during the first meeting held in January of each year, the meeting will be opened by the Stokes County Chief Animal Control Officer. The Chief Animal Control Officer will call

for the members present to make nominations for the office of Leader. Upon the close of nominations, the Chief Animal Control Officer will have the members present vote until a Leader has been elected by a majority vote of those present. Upon election, the Chief Animal Control Officer will turn the meeting over to the Leader who will take charge of the meeting and call for the nomination of an Assistant Leader and follow the nomination and election process noted above. Any additional officer(s) the Advisory Council deems necessary will be nominated and elected following the nomination and election procedure.

Meetings

The Advisory Council shall conduct a minimum of four regular meetings each year and all meetings will be open to the public and conducted in a manner so as to properly comply with the North Carolina Open Meetings law and proper notice of all meetings will be properly completed.

A meeting of the Advisory Council can only take place if it is in proper compliance with the Open Meetings law and a majority of members are present. The meeting will be conducted by the Leader, if absent, by the Assistant Leader. If both the Leader and Assistant Leader are absent and a majority of members are present, they may elect a Temporary Leader to conduct the meeting in order to carry out the purpose of that meeting.

Stokes County Animal Control Advisory Board By-Laws

Article 1: Name and Purpose

The Stokes County Board of County Commissioners desire to establish a body to be called the Stokes County Animal Control Advisory Board. The purpose of which will be to provide review and evaluation of animal related issues and to hear appeals of potentially dangerous dog notices.

Article 2: Duties

The Advisory Board shall have the following specific duties and responsibilities as have been directed by the Stokes County Board of County Commissioners:

- a. To hear appeals on dangerous and/or potentially dangerous dog determinations.
- b. To review and evaluate, on an ongoing basis, animal-related issues, needs and services in Stokes County.
- c. To report to the Stokes County Board of Commissioners upon request, on animal services issues within Stokes County.

The Advisory Board shall not be responsible for and shall have no authority over the day-to-day operations of Stokes County Animal Control.

Article 3: Membership

The Advisory Board shall consist of five (5) members who shall be appointed by the Stokes County Board of County Commissioners in accordance with the approved county appointment procedure. Appointments shall attempt to fulfill, but are not limited to, the following affiliations and categories:

- a. One member shall be the Stokes County Health Director or Designee appointed by the Stokes County Health Director.
- b. One member shall be a member of an Animal Advocacy Organization
- c. Three members at large, who are Stokes County residents living in separate geographic areas of Stokes County.

a. Terms of Appointment

In forming the Advisory Board, the Stokes County Board of County Commissioners shall appoint two of the non-county employee members to a term of one year and the remaining two non-county employee members to a two-year term. Thereafter, all non-county employee members shall be appointed for two-year terms.

b. Vacancies

If a vacancy occurs, the Stokes County Board of County Commissioners shall appoint someone to fill the unexpired term in accordance with the position designation and approved county appointment procedure.

A vacancy may be declared by the chair of the Advisory Board when any member misses two (2) consecutive regular meetings without notifying the Animal Control Director or the chair of the Advisory Board; or when a member resigns from said appointment.

c. Officers

The Health Director or the Health Director's designee shall be the chair of the advisory board. The chair shall assign one appointed member to keep the minutes of the meeting and all resolutions and recommendations.

d. Meetings

1. The Advisory Board will meet semiannually. The dates to be voted on by the board.
2. The board can be called to hear appeals on dangerous and/or potentially dangerous dog determinations when an appeal has been made.
3. The Board can be called for an emergency meeting upon request of the County Commissioners, County Manager, or Director of Animal Control.
4. All meetings of the Advisory Board shall be open to the public and the Advisory Board will give public notice of these meetings consistent with the provisions of the open meetings law.
5. A majority of the voting board members serving shall constitute a quorum.

6. The Advisory Board shall keep a written record of meetings, resolutions, recommendations, findings, etc... which shall be a public record.
7. In the absence of the chair, an acting chair shall be appointed by the board members present.

ARTICLE 4: Appeals

The Advisory Board shall hear any appeals regarding the determination of a dangerous or potentially dangerous dog by Stokes County Animal Control in accordance with N.C.G.S. 67-4.1.5(c), subject to the following provisions:

- a. The owner of a dog that has been declared dangerous or potentially dangerous pursuant to Article V, Section 3 of the Stokes County Animal Control Ordinance has the right to appeal the determination by filing a written objection, stating the grounds for appeal, with the Stokes County Animal Control Director within three business days of the receipt of the dangerous or potentially dangerous dog determination letter.
- b. Within ten business days of a duly filed written objection, the Advisory Board shall hold an appeal hearing. The appeal hearing shall be open to the public, and the person requesting the appeal may be represented by an attorney.
- c. The person requesting the appeal will be notified in writing of the decision of the Advisory Board within ten business days after the conclusion of the appeal hearing.
- d. Any appeal from the final decision of the Advisory Board shall be to Superior Court by filing a notice of appeal and petition for review within ten business days after the receipt of the final decision of the appellate board. This written notice must be served on the Animal Control Director as well as the Clerk of Superior Court.

Adopted by the Stokes County Board of Commissioners -



Board of County Commissioners
May 27, 2025
2:00 PM

Item number: VII.d.

Outdoor Fireworks Display

Contact: Scott Aaron, Fire Marshal

Summary:

Attached is a letter and supporting documents for a fireworks display request on 7/5/25 at Northeast Stokes Fire Department. This is a new site so it must be approved by the Board.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Upload Date	Type
Signed Application	5/21/2025	Cover Memo
Letter	5/21/2025	Cover Memo
Site Map	5/21/2025	Cover Memo



Outdoor Fireworks Display Application (Section 2)

Proposed Event Date: 7/5/25 Event Location: North East Fire and Rescue 5086 NC-704 Sandy Ridge NC 27046
Date and time that site will be ready for inspection: 7/5/25 7 PM
Date and time fireworks are scheduled to be discharged: 7/5/25 9:15 PM

Fireworks Display Checklist

1. Name of Property Owner where the event will take place: North East Fire and Rescue Stokes City
2. Is the Property Owner sponsoring the event? ☒ Yes () No
3. Estimated size of audience: 1,000+
4. Is this event Public or Private? Public
5. Will admission be charged to attend? NO
6. Will alcoholic beverages be served at this event? () Yes () No N/A
7. A drawing or sketch of the event site is attached with this permit application that includes the following requirements:
 - A. Location of the discharge site
 - B. Storage location of the pyrotechnics during the event
 - C. Location of spectator area
 - D. Location of parking Area
 - E. Location of barriers to prevent spectators from entering the discharge site
 - F. Location of buildings / structures / wooded areas / grass areas on site
 - G. Location of overhead utilities such as power lines
 - H. Location of Fire Department staging
 - I. Location of adjoining property lines
 - J. Approximate distances between these items and the discharge site must be documented on the sketch.
8. The Fire Marshal's Office in the event of hazardous weather conditions or unsafe operations may revoke the permit.
9. All fireworks display shall meet the requirements of the NC Fire Code and NFPA 1123.
10. NFPA 1123 8.1 The sponsor (Event Coordinator) of the display shall make provisions for fire protection for the display.



Outdoor Fireworks Display Operator's Application

An approved display operator shall supervise all outdoor pyrotechnics displays in accordance with North Carolina Department of Insurance Regulations. In order for an operator to be considered for approval, he/she must complete and submit this application to the Stokes County Fire Marshal's Office at least **45 days prior** to the event described in the permit application.

Operator Name: Tim Tucker Address: 105 Opie Ln. Henderson
State: NC Zip code: 27537
Phone Number: 919-931-1280 Fax: _____

Mailing Address if Different: _____

Date of Birth: 08/25/1989 Age: 35

Pyrotechnic Operators License: #4088

Have you ever been convicted of a felony: () Yes ☒ No

Pyrotechnics Related Training

Date	Location	Topic	Agency
3/2023	NC	PGT Safety Class	Hale Art.
4/2023	Raleigh NC	OSFM operator test	NC OSFM
93-present	NC, SC	In field shows	Deep south Fw/ NC fireworks

Most Recent Experience with Outdoor Pyrotechnics Display

Date	Location	Event Type	Your Role	Other Info.
11/2/24	1020 Aviation pkwy, morrisville NC 27560	Diwali	Lead shooter	
7/4/24	2149 Carolina Beach Rd. Wilmington NC 28412	Sharks baseball	lead shooter	
7/3/24	Same as above	sharks baseball	lead shooter	
7/2/24	Same as above	sharks baseball	lead shooter	
7/1/24	Bethel, NC	city celebration	lead shooter	

Prior to issuing permits for a fireworks display, plans for the fireworks display, inspections of the display site and demonstrations of the display operations shall be approved. A plan establishing procedure to follow and actions to be taken in the event that a shell fails to ignite in, or discharge from, a mortar or fails to function over the fallout area or other malfunctions shall be provided to the fire code official. Prior to issuing any fireworks permits regulated by this code, the fire code official shall verify that permission has been granted to conduct a firework display in accordance with N.C.G.S. 14-410.

By signing this application below, I am stating that all information in this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that as a pyrotechnics operator I am required to have a thorough working knowledge of the safety practices listed in NFPA 1123.



11. NFPA 1123 8.1.1 The sponsor shall consult with the Fire Marshal's office and the operator to determine the level of fire protection needed.
12. Any fees to provide fire protection are between the sponsor and the local fire department.
13. A Certificate of Insurance or Bond shall be attached with this completed application for the payment of all damages which may be caused to persons or property by reason of the permitted display and rising from any acts of the permit holder, employees, or assistants.

Applicant/Operator Signature: Tim Treadwell Date: 5/19/25

Sponsor/Event Coordinator Signature: Ryan Clark Date: 5/20/25

FMO Signature: [Signature] () Approved () Not Approved Date: _____



Stokes County Fire Marshal's Office

Mailing: PO Box 20, Danbury, NC 27016

Physical: 3169 NC 8 HWY S, Walnut Cove, NC 27052

Phone: 336.593.2484 **Fax:** 336.593.2438

Email: saaron@co.stokes.nc.us

DATE: May 21, 2025
TO: Stokes County Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Scott Aaron, Fire Marshal
RE: Fireworks Display Approval, Sandy Ridge 7/5/2025

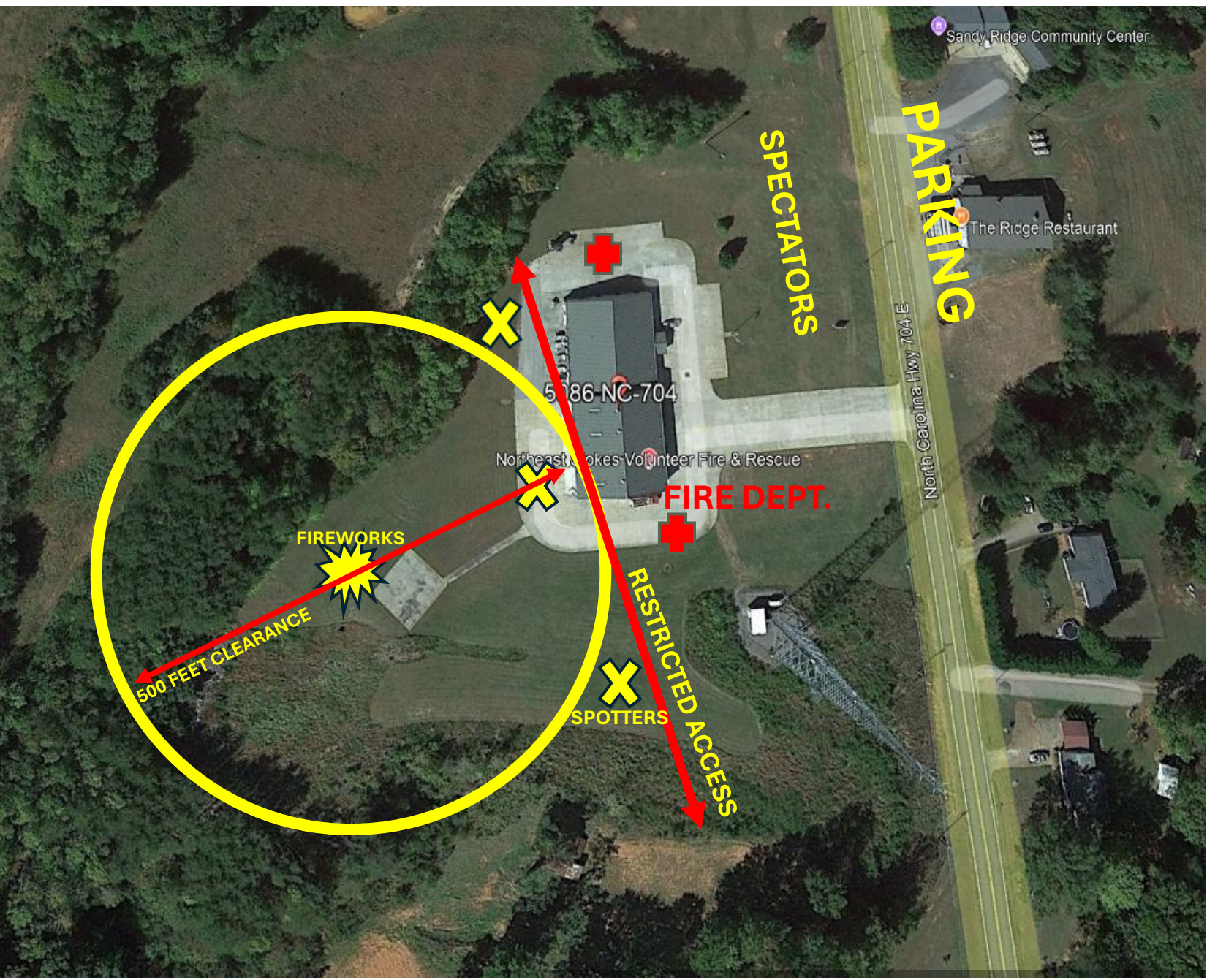
The Stokes County Fire Marshal's Office has received an application from Tim Tucker for a Fireworks Display at 5086 Hwy 704, Sandy Ridge, NC 27022 on Saturday, July 5, 2025.

We have reviewed the application as well as plans, and we recommend that this application be approved by the Stokes County Board of County Commissioners.

If approved, my office will complete the application process and inspect the site prior to the issuance of a permit as approved by North Carolina Fire Code.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns you may have regarding this matter.

NORTHEAST STOKES FIRE AND RESCUE FIREWORKS SHOW PRESENTED BY NC FIREWORKS



- 500 FEET CLEARANCE FALLOUT
- SPECTATORS 700 FEET AWAY
- MAX SIZE OF FIREWORKS USED WILL BE 3 INCH, REQUIRING 210 FEET.
- NO RELOADING WILL TAKE PLACE
- NO ONSITE STORAGE WILL TAKE PLACE
- NO OVERHEAD OBSTRUCTIONS, UTILITIES OR FUEL STORAGE ARE WITHIN THE FALLOUT AREA,
- NO HAND FIRING. ALL FIREWORKS WILL BE SET OFF USING COBRA WIRELESS FIRING SYSTEM.
- ALL FIREWORKS WILL BE BRACED TO PREVENT TIPPING.
- 3 WATER FIRE EXTINGUISHERS WILL BE ON SITE.
- TIM TUCKER WILL BE LEAD. LICENSE #4088
- ALL NFPA 1123 REGULATIONS SHALL BE FOLLOWED.
- PROPERTY LINES EXCEED 1000 FEET AWAY