

# AGENDA



Andy Nickelston, Chairman  
Ronnie Mendenhall, Vice Chairman  
Rick Morris, Commissioner  
Jimmy Walker, Commissioner  
Jamie Yontz, Commissioner

## **REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**Tuesday, March 17, 2020**

**1014 MAIN STREET**

**DANBURY, NC 27016**

**6:00 PM**

**Call to Order**

**Invocation**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**I. Approval of the Agenda**

**II. Comments - Managers/Commissioners**

**III. Recommended Board of Commissioners Meeting Schedule Changes**

**a. Recommended Meeting Schedule Changes**

**IV. Items of Consideration with Request for Approval and General Information**

**a. Items of Consideration with Request for Approval and General Information**

**V. 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  
March 17, 2020  
6:00 PM**

**Item number: III.a.**

**Recommended Meeting Schedule Changes**

Contact:

Summary:

**Upcoming Meetings recommended by County Attorney Browder for cancellation:**

- March 19, 2020 - Budget Goals Meeting -6:00 pm - Cancel
- March 23, 2020 - Regular Commissioners Meeting -6:00 pm - Cancel
- April 6, 2020 – E&R Meeting scheduled for April 6, 2020 at 6:00 pm has been rescheduled for May 4, 2020 at 6:00 pm
- April 7, 2020 – Planning Meeting scheduled for April 7, 2020 at 7:00 pm has been rescheduled for June 2, 2020 at 7:00 pm
- April 16, 2020 – League of Government Meeting -Cancel
- April 14, 2020 – Regular Commissioners Meeting – 6:00 pm – Cancel
- The NCACC District Meeting scheduled for April 28, 2020 in Wilkesboro will most likely be cancelled as well but we will keep you informed.

There is not a statute giving authority to exclude the public from attending meetings even if the meeting is available through livestreaming. The interpretation of this from the School of Government is that by not allowing the public you would be in violation of the open meetings law. Therefore for the protection of all citizens, board members, and staff the best course of action is to cancel these upcoming meetings.

**Resume Regular Meeting schedule on April 27, 2020 at 6:00 pm with the Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners.**

**In accordance with NCGS 153A-40 the Board has met their statutory requirement of holding one regular meeting per month on March 9<sup>th</sup> and will hold the other if approved on April 27<sup>th</sup>.**



## **Board of County Commissioners**

**March 17, 2020**

**6:00 PM**

**Item number: IV.a.**

### **Items of Consideration with Request for Approval and General Information**

Contact:

Summary:

#### **Items of Consideration for the Board of Commissioners requiring Approval:**

The Tax Department accepts online payments. Currently the taxpayer pays the convenience fee charged by the company processing the payments. We would like to waive these fees so that those wishing to pay online may do so at no expense to them. We are hoping this will encourage people to follow the guidelines set by the CDC and not travel and interact with the public unnecessarily. We would like to offer this service from March 23<sup>rd</sup> -April 30<sup>th</sup>. The county would incur the expense. The Tax Administrator provided some numbers on the possible cost of this to the county for this time period and based on last year's numbers the estimated cost would be less than \$2,000.00 for the time period suggested. If the Board agrees we need approval to do so with a start date of March 23<sup>rd</sup> and an end date of April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Public Works currently shuts off water on accounts past due at a certain time. We would like permission to halt the enforcement of this until officials deem this threat has subsided.

During this time in the event of any emergency that may require funding we are asking the Board to grant permission for the County Manager, Board Chairman, and Finance Director to authorize any payments needed. The Board will be informed of any situations like this as soon as possible.

During this time in the event that we have employees out sick or unable to work due to lack of childcare during the school shutdown we will be asking employees to utilize sick time as per state instructions. That being said we do have employees that do not have ample time to take off. In the past this occasionally happens when someone is out on FMLA and the departments have taken it upon themselves to donate time. We need permission from the Board for employees to donate their time outside of FMLA. In the event that this becomes overwhelming and there are not enough employees able to donate time we need to know if the county is willing to pay these employees for the time they are out with an advancement in sick leave. If approved and an employee who received this advancement were to leave their position with the county before this time were to be paid back we would have to request the Board to write the time off.

#### **Items of Interest**

- On 3/10/2020- there was a meeting held with county management, human resources, and emergency management to provide an overview of the COVID-19 and discuss the potential

impact on Stokes County

- On 3/13/2020- there was a Stakeholders meeting with several leaders throughout the county in which Health Director Tammy Martin provided an updates on COVID-19 and CDC and state recommendations.
- 3/16/2020- there was a department head meeting held to discuss the potential for shutting down some departments if needed, working a staggered schedule, or possibly working from home if feasible. There was much discussion between the department heads and the county manager on how this would affect each department. At this time all departments within the Stokes County Government Center are still open.
- 3/16/2020- there was an emergency meeting of the Board of Health to discuss a plan of action which you have been provided a copy of.
- 3/17/2020-there was a conference call with RiverStreet regarding their offer to provide access points for internet throughout the county during this time. More information will be provided at the meeting.
- 3/17/2020- the Board of Education is closing to the public. The old courthouse building will have a sign on the front door to call for assistance.

### **Updates by departments at risk on measures being taken to protect employees and citizens:**

#### **Senior Services-**

- Beginning March 23<sup>rd</sup> all senior center activities are cancelled. Congregate meal sites are closed.
- Meals are still being delivered by volunteers to those in need but are being dropped off and no one is entering the homes.

#### **Veterans Services-**

- The state service office is asking our office to limit face to face meetings.
- Transactions are being completed by phone within reason.

#### **Health Department-**

- Authorizing 90 day refills by phone to keep citizens from having to come in for routine visits.
- The WIC program is operating through drive thru.
- Offering a triage nurse dedicated to accepting calls related to the COVID-19 virus.
- COVID-19 testing offered through drive thru and a tent is being set up outside.
- Currently have 3 test kits available and 3 more on the way.
- The Health Department has tested 2 individuals and have not received results yet.
- One resident is self-quarantined.
- Mountain View Medical in King has tested 9 with 6 negative results and 3 with results not received yet.
- It can take up to 72 hours to receive a test result.
- Updates are received at 11am daily from the CDC
- Conference call at 2pm each day with the state.

#### **The Arts Place-**

- In the process of cancelling events to adhere with the mass gathering regulations for everyone's protection.

Register of Deeds-

- Register of Deeds Brandon Hooker has submitted a plan of action for his office related to COVID-19.

All other departments are doing everything they can to protect their employees and the citizens by encouraging people to follow the CDC and state guidelines set forth in the state of emergency.

Due to the rapidly changing events surrounding the COVID-19 outbreak we are requesting that the Board authorize the County Manager to contact the Chairman in the event that more extreme measures need to take place in protecting our citizens and employees. The Board will be kept up to date on any changes made.