

STATE OF NORTH
CAROLINA

COUNTY OF STOKES

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OFFICE OF THE
COMMISSIONERS
STOKES COUNTY
GOVERNMENT
DANBURY, NORTH
CAROLINA
MONDAY MARCH 25, 2024

Regular Meeting of the Stokes County Board of Commissioners

The Stokes County Board of County Commissioners, State of North Carolina, met for a Regular Meeting on Monday, March 25, 2024 at 2:00 pm in the Commissioners' Chambers located in the Administrative Building in Danbury, North Carolina.

The following members were present for the meeting: Chairman Brad Chandler, Vice Chairman Keith Wood, Commissioner Sonya Cox (via phone), Commissioner Ronnie Mendenhall, and Commissioner Rick Morris.

County Administration present: Interim County Manager/Clerk to the Board Amber Brown, Finance Director Lisa Lankford, County Attorney Tyrone Browder, and 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. Vice Chairman Wood 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 approve or amend the agenda.

Interim County Manager/Clerk Amber Brown requested the following amendments to the agenda:

- Remove item VI (a) Stokes Family YMCA Update (information agenda) due to Director Derek Edwards being unable to be here due to sickness; Director Edwards has requested to be placed back on the April 8th agenda if possible
- Add Budget Amendment #57 to the consent agenda – copies have been provided to the Board and will be updated on the county website-agenda; Budget Amendment #57 appropriates the \$25,000.00 Grant that Animal Control has received which allows the director to start spending the funding

Commissioner Mendenhall confirmed with Interim County Manager/Clerk Brown that the RiverStreet Networks Update will become item (a) under the information agenda.

The Board had no issues with the requested amendments to the agenda.

Commissioner Morris moved to approve the agenda with the requested amendments.
Commissioner Mendenhall seconded the motion.

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

With no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments

Chairman Chandler opened the floor for public comments.

The following spoke during public comments:

Scott Crockett

Stokes County Habitat for Humanity
117 E Dalton Road
King, NC

Re: **Stokes County Habitat for Humanity**

Mr. Crockett presented the following comments:

- Just want to thank the elected officials that were able to come to the recent 25th Anniversary held last week and the recent house dedication
- Appreciate you being there and helping support Stokes County Habitat for Humanity

With no further speakers, Chairman Chandler closed the public comments.

COMMENTS - Managers/Commissioners

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

Commissioner Morris commented:

- Appreciate Scott coming to the commissioners' meeting today
 - Was able to make one of the two events mentioned today
 - Was able to get some real good education on what you guys are doing at your location in King – did not realize all you guys are doing – doing some great things
 - Drive by the other location all time but was in Raleigh that day and sorry I could not attend that event
- Welcome to everybody
- Have a long agenda so I will stop with that

Vice Chairman Wood commented:

- Welcome to everyone
- Will echo Commissioner Morris' comments concerning Habitat for Humanity
 - It is a great cause and for those who have not gotten involved, suggest you do, I am sure they can use the help
 - If you don't have a strong back, they would appreciate a strong wallet
- I want to applaud the King Chamber of Commerce on their recent award banquet held last week
 - It was well done
 - Couldn't help but think how when people get their heads together and want to work, good things happen (had people from all over the county at the event)

- Want to mention the Aged 60 Plus Food Bank and More – Food Distribution held last Thursday
 - They fed 105 families with 580 pounds of food and juice
 - That event is going strong in Sandy Ridge
- That is all for me

Commissioner Cox commented:

- Sorry I was unable to attend today's meeting, in Florida visiting my grandchildren – they are on spring break
- Here with you all in spirit
- Apologize for not being able to attend the Habitat for Humanity Event but was working that day – will be coming to events later on
- As Commissioner Morris stated, long agenda today, ready to get going

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Welcome everybody here today and to those watching livestream
- Would like to say to the group, missed the Chamber of Commerce Banquet and the Habitat for Humanity events due to being under the weather since last Wednesday – was just able to get out of the bed yesterday – had informed the county manager that I was under the weather
- Really wanted to attend the Habitat for Humanity Events, really did, you do great work
- Missed the Chamber dinner, I think it is the first Chamber dinner I have missed in about 8 or 9 years – always a great event
- So thankful that I am able to be here today – I was determined to be here for today's meeting
- I did; however, miss a press conference this morning at Forsyth Tech – they are initiating an athletic program beginning with the upcoming school year
 - With my athletic background, I was one of the main members of the Board of Trustees supporting this new program and the day of the press conference, I was unable to attend – it was around noon today
- I had to prioritize my meetings today – couldn't make both with our meeting at 2:00 pm today – I chose my commissioner meeting
- Thank you all for being here and so glad to be here today
- I will stop there, Mr. Chairman

Interim County Manager/Clerk Brown commented:

- Just want to say welcome to everyone here today and to those watching online – thank you for being here today
- Want to remind everyone that the county offices will be closed this Friday, March 29th in observance of Good Friday and the Easter Holiday
- Hope everyone has a good Easter

Chairman Chandler commented:

- Attended the Habitat for Humanity, it was a wonderful event – thank you for the invite
- Had to leave a little early but was there early and talked with staff and also got to meet some of the participants who are now homeowners
- Can't say enough about your staff and I think your goals and objectives are what Stokes County is all about
- It is not just a handout, it is a situation where it is a hand up, but they are working to get that home, it is not just a free give me
- I think that is what makes your program so important, it has that "buy in" from the participants – think that will carry on for generation after generation
- Thank you for also coming and speaking today
- I will echo what Vice Chairman Wood said about the Chamber of Commerce Banquet - it

was a wonderful event that involved people from all over Stokes County especially showing leadership – all the way from people in the high school level to adults who are running a business and still finding time to help people in need

- It shows a unified Stokes County, quoting Vice Chairman Wood, “when we do that, it is nothing that we can’t solve”
- Hopefully that event will keep bearing dividends
- With that, we do have a long agenda today but want to thank everyone for being here today

With no other comments, Chairman Chandler closed the commissioners/manager comments section of today’s meeting.

Conflicts Of Interest

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

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

Chairman Chandler entertained a motion to approve or amend the consent agenda which included minutes and budget amendments.

Commissioner Mendenhall moved to approve the consent agenda with the addition of Budget Amendment #57. Commissioner Morris seconded the motion.

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

With no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

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 Networks Update

Chairman Chandler turned the floor over to Vice President of Business Development Greg Coltrain for the RiverStreet Networks Update.

VP Greg Coltrain presented the following RiverStreet Networks Update: (presented a power point presentation which is available from the Clerk to the Board) (Vice President of Marketing Mike Meinel was also present for the meeting)

- Appreciate the opportunity to provide the Board today an exciting update about the Broadband service here in the County
- Want to cover where we are and how things are going, with a quick recap for the citizens of

Stokes County and some of the new commissioners

- In 2015, Stokes County invited us to come in and do an assessment to see how we could begin to build a fiber backbone that would traverse the core part of the County to be able to reach the underserved rural parts of Stokes County
- At that time, the County provided RiverStreet an \$1.8 million grant; RiverStreet accommodated another \$8,488,955 million both totaling \$10,288,955
- Constructed fiber cable of 239.15 miles with an additional 107.38 route miles constructed – that would provide service to approximately 2,886 citizens of the county on that core backbone
- In 2023, we added a layer to that with a proposed fiber route under some Connect America CAF II Funding that we received
 - The CAF II Funding allowed us to continue that backbone further which picked up another approximate 45 fiber route miles with a proposed fiber route of an additional 73 miles (proposed route miles with CAF II and GREAT Grant Funding was 124.61 miles)
 - Total route miles added = 239.70
- Discussed Phase I – which is underway (CAF II Award Summary)
 - 10 Year Federal Funding = \$236,900
 - Total Project Cost = \$1,361,065
 - Funded locations passed = 120
 - Structures passed = 378
 - Route miles = 41.67
 - Cost per eligible location = \$11,342
 - Cost per structure passed = \$3,601
- Discussed Phase II (Rural Digital Opportunity Fund I Support Build)
 - 10 Year Federal Funding Support = \$746,538
 - Total Project Cost = \$3,061,092
 - Funded location passed = 4,051
 - Structures passed = 793
 - Route miles = 73.42
 - Cost per eligible location = \$7,558
 - Cost per structure = \$3,860
- GREAT Grant 2022 (Phase III)
 - GREAT Grant Summary
 - County Match = \$1,263,315.50
 - RiverStreet Match = \$1,263,315.50
 - Grant Awarded = \$4,000,000
 - Total Project Cost = \$6,526,631
 - Fundable locations passed = 1,319
 - Route miles = 124.61
 - Cost per fundable passing = \$4,948
 - Cost per locations passed = \$3,376
- Project (Entire Overview)
 - County Match
 - 2015 = \$1,800,000
 - 2022 = \$1,263,315
 - Total = \$3,063,315
 - RiverStreet Match
 - 2015 = \$8,488,955
 - New Cash = \$6,007,034
 - Support = \$983,438
 - Total = \$15,479,427

- GREAT Grant Awarded = \$4,000,000
- Total Investment = \$22,542,742
- Route miles = 478.85
- Locations passed
 - Fiber = 4,810
 - Wireless = 10,250
- Service Availability
 - Available Now (3,147)
 - Under Construction (141)
 - Future Build (1,152)
- Discussed how citizens can go to the RiverStreet Website www.myriverstreet.net to see if service is available, under construction, or a future build
- Discussed and presented maps to show current projects in the Aaron's Corner/Hart Road and Moore Springs areas – Sisk Road Project will be starting very soon
- All areas in the county have been designed and we are working on finalizing those designs in the next few weeks
- Discussed and presented a map showing the wireless towers that are online in Stokes County which service is available from those towers
- Will be happy to answer any questions

Vice Chairman Wood commented:

- Spoke about the Hanging Rock State Park - Vade Mecum Project – getting ready to spend approximately \$13 million at Vade Mecum – will be turning Vade Mecum into a Wedding Destination/Conference Center – there will be a need for internet services once this project is completed - questioned if getting internet services for that proposed project has been discussed

VP Coltrain responded:

- Personally, not familiar with the project but someone in our organization may have already been contacted about the project
- The typical process for that would be for us to discover how it lays in with the current build design, proximity, and location
- Will work with the state to accommodate that project

Commissioner Morris confirmed with VP Coltrain that the focus is still to get unserved/underserved folks first and that RiverStreet's goal is to make sure that we are helping to accommodate getting those builds that are geographically contiguous to or within reach of the network that we have built in the County.

VP Coltrain noted that the speaker later in today's meeting from NC Department of Information Technology will be speaking more about that during his presentation and that those who don't have service should already be identified within the state and they would be fundable in future rounds of grant programs in the state.

VP Coltrain continued his presentation:

- Know the County has matching funds of approximately \$1.1 - \$1.2 million that has been moved to General Fund
- Know some of that funding may have already been obligated
- Would ask you to at least try to keep Broadband out there in the back of your mind for possible future grant programs that are coming down the pipe – would be good to help draw providers to come and serve the area
- Briefly mentioned the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD) Program:

- A federal program that has \$42.45 billion in it to expand high speed internet access programs to include all 50 states, DC, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
- North Carolina is allocated to receive \$1.53 billion along with \$900+ million from NC Broadband Deployment
- This round will be coming later this year (end of 2024)
- We want to continue the partnership with the County to take the layers already constructed to add more locations in the future
- Believe BEAD is a five-year timeline from the award period (best case end - by the end of 2029)

Commissioner Morris commented:

- Questioned if there will be a time when we know that everyone in Stokes County has access to internet services

VP Coltrain responded:

- Believe the state is working diligently to try to help every county in NC isolate that – there is some very hard work being put into identifying those locations to be able to quickly see who has service and does not
- I think NC Deputy Secretary (Broadband/Digital Equity) Nate Denny say that the state currently feels like based on the number of underserved and served locations and the money that they have available in the current grant programs and the BEAD Program that we should be able to hit this out of the park and get everyone served in the State of North Carolina by the time it is over with

VP Coltrain turned the presentation over to VP of Marketing Mike Meinel.

VP Mike Meinel continued the power point presentation:

- Also appreciate the opportunity to be here today
- RiverStreet has a pretty cadence for marketing:
 - Provides education about RiverStreet
 - Send out information cards
 - Do social media about fiber coming to and when fiber is in a specific area along with a postcard that fiber is in your area
 - Have a local office in Danbury that employs people who live in Stokes County
 - Have a referral program where a subscriber can receive a \$50 bill credit for referring a friend
 - The best place to find out information, check for available service, pre-register for service is at www.myriverstreet.net (will be notified immediately when service is available)
 - Also do radio/newspaper ads, billboards, videos, google search ads, social media ads, chamber memberships, and county landing pages
 - Hoping to do some local events later this summer
 - Willing to partner with the County to expand marketing in Stokes County
- Also provide promotional opportunities each quarter – last quarter's promotion was signing a two-year agreement and receive \$200 worth of Amazon gift cards
- The next promotion coming up will be – sign a one-year agreement and either choose from three (3) \$50 bill credits or an Amazon device
- Also offer plans where you do not have to sign a contract
- Mention briefly about opportunities for business customers
- Would be happy to answer any marketing questions

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

There were no other questions or comments from the Board.

Chairman Chandler commented:

- Experienced a recent issue with RiverStreet service and received excellent service to get the situation resolved

Chairman Chandler expressed the Board's appreciation for today's update.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

All attachments presented on the Agenda are available in the attachments of the Agenda on the County Website and are available upon request from the Clerk, with the exception of the minutes approved which are located on the County Website under the minutes tab.

Tax Office Agenda

Chairman Chandler turned the floor over to Tax Administrator Richard Brim to present the Tax Administration Report.

Tax Administrator Richard Brim presented the following items for discussion: (detailed information available on the March 25th agenda or from Tax Administrator Brim)

- February 2024 Report
 - Tax Collections Status Report for FY 2023-2024
 - Have collected approximately 97.27% of the budget
 - Approximately \$863,000 ahead of where we were last year at this same time
- Real and Personal Refunds less than \$100.00
 - Seven (7) tax bills totaling \$300.67
- Real and Personal Releases more than \$100.00
 - One (1) account totaling \$246.80
- Real and Personal Refunds more than \$100.00
 - Seven (7) tax bills totaling \$1,501.95
- Present Use Late application:
 - One (1) application
- Request the following be moved to the April 8, 2024 consent agenda:
 - Real and Personal Releases more than \$100.00
 - Real and Personal Refunds more than \$100.00
 - Present Use Late Application
- Happy to answer any questions

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

Commissioner Mendenhall commended Tax Administrator Brim and his staff for the hard work and for the detailed report presented each month – great job.

There were no other Board comments other than – great report.

Chairman Chandler, with full consensus of the Board, directed Interim County Manager/Clerk Brown to place the Real/Personal Releases/Refunds more than \$100 and the Present Use Late Application on the April 8th consent agenda.

Animal Control Fee Change Request

Chairman Chandler turned the floor over to Chief Animal Control Officer Tommy Reeves for the Animal Control Fee Change Request. (proposed fee request change can be obtained from the March 25th agenda located on the county website, the Animal Shelter, or Clerk to the Board)

Chief Animal Control Officer Tommy Reeves presented the following information regarding the Animal Control Fee Change Request:

- Request to increase some of the fees at the Stokes County Animal Shelter:
 - Quarantine Days - increase to \$15 from \$10 per day
 - Adoption rates for cats - increase to \$125 from \$100
 - Adoption rates for dogs - increase to \$175 from \$100
- Increase for adoption rates is to take care of the spade/neuter costs
- Currently, the County is losing money on all adoptions and the goal is to increase the adoption fees just enough to where the County would break even

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

Commissioner Morris commented:

- Appreciate all the information included in the agenda showing a comparison of surrounding counties' fees – did a great job helping to justify the need for the increase

Commissioner Cox commented:

- No questions on the increase, but question whether this might impact someone's ability to adopt an animal
- Is there any assistance available for someone who wants to adopt an animal but can't afford the fee

Chief Animal Control Officer Reeves responded:

- Do have people who will sponsor a particular animal to be adopted from time to time
- Normally we do not tell people that particular animal has been sponsored until the application has been approved because we do want to be sure they are able to take care of the animal
- We do try to work with people if at all possible
- We also changed the surrender fee language not the amount of \$40 – currently it states \$40 per animal – new language \$40 per animal or \$40 for 3 if pups, litter of cats, or feral cat colonies which will hopefully help reduce the overpopulation of cats and stray dogs

Commissioner Cox continued:

- Noted she had not seen as many postings on Facebook about animals that were needing immediate adoption, questioned if that is just not being put out there as much or if there were more animals having to be euthanized
- Confirmed with Chief Animal Control Officer Reeves that records are mandated by the state regarding euthanizing animals

Chief Animal Control Officer Reeves responded:

- A lot of our animals are being adopted out thanks to Friends of Stokes Shelter (FOSS) – they are a great help along with several other rescue organizations and adoptions handled at the shelter (this past week – completed 6 adoptions)
- Just wanted to mention that the entire staff got Rabies certified by the state veterinarian – this will enable us to do rabies clinics across the county

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Has the adoption rate increased or staying stable since you started as Chief Animal Control

Officer

Chief Animal Control Officer Reeves responded:

- It is really hard to say with only being there three months
- The shelter adopted out roughly 100 animals last year (doesn't include those going to animal rescue organizations)
- We are trying to catch on a lot of backlogged calls that were there before I came
- We are trying, as I stated when I took the job, to serve the community the best that we can

Chief Animal Control Officer Reeves requested the fee changes be moved to the action agenda today so it can be advertised and posted to take effect April 1, 2024.

The Board had no issues moving the item to the action agenda today.

Chairman Chandler, with full consensus of the Board, directed Interim County Manager/Clerk Brown to move the item to today's action agenda.

Health Department Tobacco and Vape Use Policy

Chairman Chandler turned the floor over to Health Director Tammy Martin for the proposed Tobacco and Vape Use Policy for the Health Department. (proposed policy can be obtained from the county website – agenda, Health Department, or Clerk to the Board)

Health Director Tammy Martin presented the following information regarding the proposed Tobacco and Vape Use Policy for the Health Department:

- North Carolina Medicaid Manage Care is mandating that Health Department Campuses be smoke and vape free
- The policy applies to all employees, clients, contractors, and visitors when visiting within the facilities and grounds of the Health Department
- Mandated because of receiving Medicaid funding
- Policy is effective July 1, 2024
- Signage will be changed on the Health Department Campus in Danbury and King
- Environmental Health staff will be mandated to follow these guidelines – the Administrative Building will not be included in the mandate
- Would request it be placed on the April 8th action agenda
- Will be happy to answer any questions

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

Commissioner Mendenhall confirmed with Health Director Martin that the policy does apply to anyone inside their closed personal vehicles while on the Health Department campus.

Commissioner Morris confirmed with Health Director Martin that the campus at the Health Department would encompass the parking lot directly in front of the facility and to the right of the facility with those parking spaces in front of the DSS facility not being included.

Commissioner Morris noted that it would probably be a good idea to let everyone know the boundaries of the Health Department area, so they understand.

Vice Chairman Wood confirmed that the effective date is July 1, 2024.

Chairman Chandler, with full consensus of the Board, directed Interim County Manager/Clerk

Brown to place the proposed Health Department Tobacco and Vape Use Policy on the April 8th action agenda.

Proposed Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Budget Request

Chairman Chandler turned the floor over to Department of Social Services (DSS) Director Stacey Elmes for the proposed Maintenance of Effort Budget Request. (proposed MOE Budget Request can be obtained from the county website – agenda, DSS, or Clerk to the Board)

DSS Director Stacey Elmes presented the following information regarding the proposed Maintenance of Effort Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2024-25:

- Maintenance of Effort funding is a required mandate and is located in NC General Statute 122C-116 (Duties of counties: appropriation and allocation of funds by counties and cities)
- Proposed MOE Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-25:
 - Transportation to Substance Abuse/Mental Health Treatment = \$10,000.00
 - Med Assist Event = \$10,500.00
 - Narcan Kits = \$12,000.00
 - EMS – Community Paramedic Program = \$100,000.00
 - Insight Human Services = \$75,000.00
 - Monarch = \$130,000.00
 - Sheriff's Department = \$22,320.00
 - Stokes Friends of Youth = \$7,000.00
 - Parenting Path = \$10,000.00
 - Stokes Partnership for Children = \$10,000.00
 - Stokes County Mental Health Association = \$7,000.00
 - NC 211 = \$5,000.00
 - Total Proposed Budget Request = \$398,820.00
- Basically, the same budget as the current year – some small amounts changed

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

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- It looks almost identical to the previous budgets over the eight years
- Have my support

Commissioner Morris commented:

- Good with your proposal
- Did notice that there was only \$7,000 proposed for Stokes County Mental Health Association, with so much talk these days around mental health, do you feel that mental health is addressed enough in other areas

DSS Director Elmes responded:

- The original requested from Mental Health Association was \$7,000 and also this year's request
- We can certainly allocate more to them but that means taking away from other agencies, which is fine if that is the desire of the Board

Commissioner Morris responded:

- I guess I would say if there were others who do not spend their allocation, mental health would be a top priority to reallocate the funding

DSS Director Elmes responded that does happen about this time of the year and I start calling to

see who could utilize extra funding, will definitely contact Mental Health Association if extra funding is available.

Vice Chairman Wood confirmed with DSS Director Elmes that any unspent funding goes back to the general fund.

Commissioner Cox commented:

- Agree with Commissioner Morris regarding mental health
- Do hope that we can talk to VAYA about some additional resources for mental health in Stokes County
- Think it should be a real high priority to get as many resources as possible for mental health in Stokes County
- Good with Director Elmes' proposal for MOE funding

Chairman Chandler commented:

- Will echo the comments made today by other commissioners regarding mental health, which is a huge problem, not just in Stokes County, but across the United States along with drug problems
- Have no issues with DSS Director Elmes' proposed budget
- Know that you are looking at fiscal year budgeting as we go into the last quarter, just let us know if you need to move funding around

With full consensus of the Board, Chairman Chandler directed Interim County Manager/Clerk Brown to place the proposed MOE Budget Request on the April 8th action agenda.

JCPC FY 24-25 Funding Allocation Request

Chairman Chandler turned the floor to NC Department of Public Safety Area Consultant Rich Smith for the JCPC Fiscal Year 2024-25 Funding Allocation Request. (FY 2024-25 JCPC Funding Allocation can be obtained from the county website – agenda or Clerk to the Board)

Area Consultant Rich Smith presented the following information regarding the JCPC FY 2024-25 Funding Allocation Request:

- Appreciate the opportunity to present the FY 2024-25 JCPC Funding Allocation Request
- JCPC Chairperson Jerrell McGee sends his regrets for not being able to attend the meeting today – in Surry County Superior Court today
- Do have program representatives here to answer any questions
- JCPC anticipates that the FY 2024-25 JCPC allocation for Stokes County will be \$166,918.00 – the same as last FY
- JCPC distributed the request of proposals on December 6, 2023, heard proposals on January 16, 2024, and made final funding recommendations on February 20, 2024
- JCPC allocation does require a 30% match
- The following is the JCPC Allocation Request:

	JCPC Legislative Allocation for FY 2023-24	County Match	JCPC Legislative Allocation for FY 2024-25	County Match
Stokes Friends of Youth	\$ 55,619.00	\$ 16,686.00	\$52,619.00	\$ 15,786.00
Parenting Path	\$ 31,000.00	\$ 9,300.00	\$34,000.00	\$ 10,200.00

Childrens Center of Northwest NC- Why Try	\$ 11,084.00	\$ 3,325.00	\$11,084.00	\$ 3,325.00
Insight Human Services	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
Childrens Center of Northwest NC- Teen Court	\$ 49,215.00	\$ 14,765.00	\$ \$ 49,215.00	\$ 14,765.00
Totals	\$ 166,918.00	50,076.00	\$166,918.00	50,076.00

- The JCPC received funding requests in the amount of \$169,918 which is \$3,000 more than the 2024-25 JCPC Legislative Allocation of \$166,918
- JCPC was unable to fully fund the request for Stokes Friends of Youth Family Counseling and Anger Management Program
- Will be happy to answer questions

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

The Board had no questions about the JCPC Request.

Chairman Chandler commented:

- Have no issues with the request but just wanted to say that I am impressed that just because we fund a program doesn't mean that you don't scrutinize it by reviewing the numbers and the success of the programs
- If a program is not doing what the expectations are – you address that need along with looking at future funding
- Want to thank JCPC and the program directors for the services you provide to Stokes County

The following program managers provided information about their programs included on the JCPC funding request:

Erica Harger – Program Manager

Insight Human Services

- Been serving JCPC providing substance abuse counseling and treatment to youth in Stokes County since 2011
- Goal: Provide individual, group, or family counseling using evidence-based treatment models as well as case management services to address the problems of substance abuse and complications that accompany it
- Over the last 3 fiscal years, an average of 43 youth assessments were recommended to treatment services, the remaining youth were recommended to receive prevention, education services – of those receiving substance abuse counseling treatment – approximately 70% were terminated with satisfactory or successful completion
- Insight does not keep a waiting list – try to schedule referrals within 7-10 business days
- Assessments are used to identify risk factors, clinical assessment needs and provide recommendations which will assist judges, court counselors, school personnel, and community agencies to place youth in the appropriate placement of services
- One strength – if youth are recommended to Insight, they will always receive some type of service – either treatment or prevention
- Prevention services are not covered by JCPC, but all JCPC youth will receive a service if needed

Sharie Hall – Program Manager

Parenting Path – Parent Teen Solutions

- Mission: Prevent and Treat child abuse and neglect by strengthening families enhancing those family/parent/child relationship and creating hopefully safer and more stable communities; also, to help prevent any hardship for these families through our services
- Our agency serves ten (10) counties in Northwest North Carolina with a variety of evidence-based programs/services
- Serve Stokes County – two (2) main programs
 - Parents/Teens Solution
 - In-home behavior intervention evidence-based model where we are with the families for an average of five and a half months (3 hours a week in the home) – working on relationships, school issues, problem solving skills
 - Parent Support
 - Evidence-based curriculum that provides parenting skills and interventions to enhance the family as a whole (meets one hour a week for up to three months)
- For the past few fiscal years, have gone over the estimated number of families to serve – need is definitely there
- Programs and services are free to the families
- Have a collaboration with Insight where we provide presentations to the Insight After School Program for their parents' nights that is held three times a year

Tamara Veit - Director

Stokes Friends of Youth

- First would like to thank Stokes County for the support provided for decades to Stokes Friends of Youth
- These match dollars support our community service and restitution programs – average about eight worksites a month – in Stokes County – they are primarily non-profit except for a nursery that just came on board that is helping with job skills for the kids
- Our mixed counseling program, speaking of mental health, is a skill building level counseling program – filling the gap where agencies can't
- In the current fiscal year, we were estimated to serve eleven youth by June 30th, right now we are already at ten
- The program has flexibility - if we find out that there is a substance abuse issue – we refer to Insight, if psychiatry services are needed, we find outside sources to handle those problems
- New program this year, Anger Management – dealing with youth that have some big life troubles – program teaches coping skills – estimated to serve twelve this fiscal year, have already serviced seventeen – three classes currently happening at Meadowbrook Academy
- Also offer a mentoring program which is not funded by JCPC – research shows that mentoring is one of the strongest things that you can do – need volunteers

Robin Testerman – Executive Director

Childrens Center of Northwest NC

- Stokes Teen Court
 - Peer sentencing program designed to provide a meaningful and educational alternative Team Court accepts non-violent offenders ages 11-17 that have committed misdemeanors and students that have been truant
 - Primary goal is to offer kids a second chance – the second chance holds them accountable for their actions through sanctions that are imposed by their peers
 - Team Court offers additional requirements – youth may be referred to one of the programs that has already been presented today
 - Also do educational classes, offer drug/alcohol assessments, essays and apology letters (try to do things to help the youth understand what they have done and take responsibility for it) (for example had a group of kids do graffiti on some buildings in the Town of Dobson – made the kids clean off the graffiti, apologize to the building

- owners/church and actually speak to the commissioners owning up to what they did and how they repaired the harm of what they did in the community)
- Goal this fiscal year was to serve forty students, have served fifty-four – of those served, 100% of the participants received no new criminal complaints with 97% successful completing the program
- Have received support (volunteer hours) from the 17B Judicial Judges, local magistrates, Stokes County Clerk of Court, Stokes County Sheriff's Office, and the King Police Department – Stokes County working together for the kids
- Why Try
 - A resiliency program that is new – an evidence-based resiliency education program for middle and high school students
 - Work to improve social skills, decision-making while improving their peer support
 - Ten-week series with lessons being taught by two trained facilitators who were really engaged with the kids (two hours a week with activities – even helped with homework if needed)
 - Fiscal Year 2023-24 – offered one session with a goal of serving 12 youth
 - Guidance counselors and juvenile court counselors have made 21 referrals to this program
 - Enrolled fourteen students from the three middle schools within the county, graduated ten students with an 86% attendance rate (have two more events this summer – a culinary camp that is funded by VAYA and a career assessment which includes job interviewing skills in at Hanging Rock State Park)
 - The program will finish in June and will be happy to furnish the end program results
 - Historically, our Why Try Program in other counties, 90% of the youth have no new charges and have demonstrated improvement in areas of social skills, positive peer and family relationships, emotional engagement, and educational engagements
- One thing to mention is that North Carolina received an “F” in mental health and one of the main reasons is the number one cause of death for a youth from ten to fourteen is suicide
- We really focus and work with the youth on thinking things through
- Why Try helps the person being bullied but also kind of helps the bully – other ways to engage, think critically before you act and say or do things

With full consensus of the Board, Chairman Chandler, directed Interim County Manager/Clerk Brown to place the proposed JCPC Fiscal Year 2024-25 Funding Allocation Request on the April 8th action agenda.

Bridge #37 Replacement Project

Chairman Chandler turned the floor over to Commissioner Rick Morris regarding the Bridge #37 Replacement Project. (information regarding Bridge #37 Replacement Project can be obtained from the county website or Clerk to the Board)

Commissioner Rick Morris presented the following information regarding the Bridge #37 Replacement Project:

- Received a call a few weeks ago from District #9 Engineer Pat Ivey in regard to NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Project to replace Bridge #37 on NC 268 over Big Creek
- Engineer Ivey noted that he had met with a landowner whose property will be impacted by the replacement of the bridge
- Thought it would be a good idea to put the item on the discussion agenda, may want to revisit the planning of the project
- NCDOT considered the following two (2) alternatives for the replacement of the NC 268

bridge

- Replace in its current location with an 18-month road closure and 15-minute detour
- Replace on new location to the north of the existing bridge while maintaining traffic (no closure)
- A southern alignment option has been considered but that alignment resulted in the intersection of NC 89 being too close to the NC 89 bridge over Dan River creating a potential safety hazard
- Based on initial discussion with County EMS, the road closure option was not desired; therefore, NCDOT proceeded with the north alignment alternative
- A Stokes County citizen was not pleased with how the alignment was going to impact his property and asked NCDOT to consider going back to the road closure option
- EMS officials have since indicated that they will “adapt” to whatever the NCDOT decides
- Recent bridge replacement projects where a road closure was implemented resulted in significant public complaints about the detour
- The Board has weigh-in on which alternative is the best option for citizens
- I also want to suggest the possibility of holding a public hearing on the issue which would be ideal so that citizens who will be impacted can voice their opinion
- Suggest holding a public hearing at the April 22, 2024 Board of Commissioners’ Meeting
- This would help the Board in making a joint decision with NCDOT (at least a recommendation)
- Would encourage anyone who would like to express their concerns regarding the replacement bridge project, to speak at the public hearing on April 22, 2024
- The item would also be placed on the April 22nd discussion agenda with hopes to provide NCDOT with the best recommendation for all those involved

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

Interim County Manager/Clerk Brown commented:

- Have representation from NCDOT here at today’s meeting if the Board has any questions
- If consensus of the Board, the public hearing can be advertised and posted in order to let the public know of the upcoming date

Commissioner Morris added:

- Would like for Amber to get with Emergency Services folks to do some analysis on what the impact will be regarding the options
- Already have a fifteen-minute detour on Highway #89 where the road is closed due to a washed-out place in the road which repairs are tentatively scheduled for the summer
- May need to include the impact of that road closure if the bridge replacement project shuts down another road within the same area

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Think Commissioner Morris did a really good job summarizing the situation and the options that have been put before us
- I do like the idea extremely well to have a public hearing on April 22nd to receive citizen input; there might be situations that we don’t know about
- Think it is very important to give citizens a chance to express their opinions
- Kind of know which way I would like to go but do want to hear what our citizens do have to say before I completely decide – citizen input could change my mind
- Worked with Engineer Pat Ivey, who has always been good to deal with, when I was superintendent with the school system (dealing with an issue at King Elementary School)
- Reiterated that having a public hearing is a good idea

- One thing that I want to say, my mind can be changed after citizen input on April 22nd

Lauralyn Dossett (adjacent property owner) from the audience requested to speak to the Board.

Chairman Chandler allowed the Ms. Dossett to speak to the Board.

Ms. Dossett commented:

- Just want to clarify what is the purpose of the meeting on April 22nd – to determine whether closing the road while a new bridge is put back in the same place or whether to keep the road open and place the bridge in a new location which affects Mr. Mabe and myself – what is best for the citizens and Emergency Services

Chairman Chandler responded:

- Overall, we will receive public input
- We will get Emergency Services regarding response times
- The Board will evaluate all aspects of the choices – closing the bridge for 18 months and replacing it in its current location or using the current bridge while a new bridge is constructed in a different location
- All things will be on the table

Ms. Dossett expressed her appreciation to the Board for being allowed to address the Board today and for holding a public hearing on April 22nd.

Mr. Oakley Mabe addressed the Board:

- Thanked the Board for listening to the comments during the meeting
- According to the Freedom of Information Act that I finally got (with an attorney) from the Department of Transportation, they have already had their input, they had their input from your departments and all of them agreed they would adjust
- So, this is going to be a second public information thing because they are covering their tracks
- They have already surveyed the place four times and tried to survey it a fifth time and I stopped them last Thursday because they called me wanting to survey again
- They did not even know that part of the places that they were surveying, where that they had surveyed over and over is covering part of my septic system
- The information that I have gotten from NCDOT consistently does not match the truth very well
- They tell me that the bridge needs to be moved because the folks in Stokes County do not want the road to be closed except in the Freedom of Information that we received, which they have already said they did, the folks from Stokes County had really good sense and said that we will work with it just like we worked with you before - no problem
- All of that went down and apparently the people at DOT had accepted the fact that they were going to replace it in place
- Well for some strange reason, if you will read and I asked in the Request for Freedom of Information, remember it cost me \$729 to get a lawyer just to get them to answer me
- As soon as the Freedom of Information Request went to DOT, then they wrote to the Sheriff in Stokes County requesting them to put in writing and talk about what the delay would be in response time
- They would not even have any information about this until I managed one way or the other to get them to send Pat Ivey out there to talk to me; he would never have come at all
- They all said that they had input from me and Ms. Dossett about this project before it happened

- The way I discovered it was that I saw a stab and they did send me a letter saying they were going to survey
- I thought common sense would simply say to just put the bridge back, didn't really pay much attention to it until I realized it was going on too long and decided that I had better find out about it, so I called DOT
- They told me then that they were going to move it
- Then I sent a request to see who decided to do that
- Apparently, everything was going for it to be replaced in place, but something hit, somebody with a lot of power and I got an idea of who that is and I think his name has already been mentioned – we are going to move it to the North, we are going to move it and take off the side of that hill
- Please, please, go by there and look
- That creek that goes down through there has been running through there millions of years
- Did you know there used to be an iron smelter (Moore Fuller) just up the creek – that creek is full of those cinders that has washed down
- When the creek got down to where that bridge is, it turned, why would it turn, because it hit something so hard that it turned the creek
- If you look out my back window at the bottom of the creek it is black because that is what that is – it is iron, and I have chunks of iron from that creek
- What they want to do is spend \$3.25 million to move that mountain somewhere – I have asked them where they are going to move it to – their answer was that they did not know, it would be up to the contractor (estimated at \$3.5 million)
- Suppose you want to buy a car and you don't care how much money you spend on it, I just estimate it is going to cost \$30,000 and then when you go to the car place and it is a \$100,000, we just write you a check, that is what they are doing with taxpayer money in this case
- They are going to take a year and a half to do it
- I have pictures of the creek, the bridge, the whole thing – you need to just go look at it
- I have had experience with DOT before with bridge on the other side, I tried to give them the other side of the road, they could have straightened the road and put it across Dan River, that bridge needed to be replaced
- They only thing they would have had to move was that old store that has eventually burned down
- They could have moved the bridge over, the answer was they didn't want to redraw the plans
- If DOT is a bureaucracy that is out of control with taxpayer money and all the lawyers, you can find
- I hope that you all do not fall for this kind of stuff that is going on
- Why is the road not been fixed up here on Highway #89, it has been months now
- You let them try that stunt in some place besides the northern end of Stokes County and see what happens
- I saw them replace a bridge in Greensboro over four lanes in about three weeks' time, but they can't fix that hole up there, they can't straighten the road up there
- Does Stokes County get an allocation each year from the state on how much they are going to spend on roads, I don't know the answer to that question
- My question, where are they going to move all that dirt from that mountain that they are planning to move – still don't have an answer to that question
- My daddy gave them dirt to put in where the current bridge is located – that bridge that is there needed to be replaced then – that was exactly the place it needed to go
- I own part of Lynchburg Road there
- The old Lynchburg Road was a wagon road that is still there – that bridge at that time needed to be replaced and the replacement bridge went in the right place
- They claim that they can't see, they told me the visibility is so much better when we move it

and take over part of my yard (next to my building) which is over the septic lines – it will be so much better

- If you go by there, stop, get out and move anywhere in any of that direction and see if there is any difference in the visibility for oncoming traffic for yourself
- We can't just move it to the South, which would eliminate moving a mountain, because the entrance to the other bridge is not the right thing – all that is just so, so
- What you get, what I have gotten over the years from DOT, I have had to deal with them because that land sits between two streams
- Everything that comes to the northwest corner of Stokes County goes across my property
- My daddy bought that property years ago and worked hard everyday to pay back the money he borrowed

Chairman Chandler stated the following to Mr. Mabe:

- I appreciate your passion, I really do
- Thank you for coming before the Board today
- Appreciate the comments from you and Ms. Dossett
- We have got to go with a public hearing
- I will just say this, I hear you

Mr. Mabe continued:

- I just wanted you to know what has happened before

Commissioner Morris confirmed with Mr. Mabe that his position is that he wants the bridge replaced where it currently is located.

Mr. Mabe added:

- It is the cheapest on the taxpayers
- It can be done the fastest, no sense in taking a year and a half to replace that bridge

Commissioner Morris also confirmed with Ms. Dossett that her position was also to replace the bridge where it currently is located.

Ms. Dossett added:

- The elevation there it is very high
- Had to recently dig a well and it is solid granite – that is what they will be blasting out to move that mountain
- Worried about my property but also worried about what this would do to the creek, endangered species, runoff, the Dan River – so many things that have not been adequately addressed
- Will welcome the opportunity to speak at the public hearing on April 22nd

With full consensus of the Board, Chairman Chandler, directed Interim County Manager/Clerk Brown to schedule a Public Hearing for the April 22, 2024 meeting and place the item back on the agenda for discussion for that same date.

Proposed Purchase Agreement for Future Green Box Site

Chairman Chandler turned the floor over to Public Works Director Stewart Easter for the proposed Purchase Agreement for a Future Green Box Site. (proposed purchase agreement can be obtained from the county website – agenda or the Clerk to the Board)

Public Works Director Stewart Easter presented the following information regarding the proposed

Purchase Agreement for Future Green Box Site:

- Have been working on strategic planning for future County needs as it relates to my department
- One of those plans is the growth of the King area and the need for an additional Green Box Site for that area of the County
- With the help of Tax Administrator Richard Brim, have recently found an ideal location for a future Green Box Site -- located on Mountainview Road which is off of Friendship Road (which is less than two acres and already zone (M2) - the appropriate usage)
- Location is east of King and would also benefit portions of Germanton and Walnut Cove areas
- Seller -- Dean Slate and wife Jill T. Snyder
- Portion of parcel #6923-86-6651
- Purchase price is \$25,000.00 per acre, excluding easement area (not to exceed two acres)
- Owner will have the property surveyed (no cost to the county)
- The hope is that this new site would give some relief at the Pinnacle Greenbox Site, right now, the Pinnacle Site is being overrun, had 7,467 vehicles through the Pinnacle Site in February
- Have already had 7,516 vehicles through the Pinnacle Site since March 1st (not counting this week)
- County Attorney Browder has drafted and approved the proposed Offer to Purchase and Contract included in today's agenda
- Would like to proceed with this purchase if so desired by the Board
- Payment of the purchase price shall not be due until July 15, 2024 -- ca be included in the FY 2024-25 budget

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

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Think Stewart and I have experienced quite a few things with the greenbox sites
- When we were dealing with redoing Walnut Cove and Pinnacle, I took a lot of telephone calls from community people and know that Stewart did too
- He and I took the brunt regarding the one in Walnut Cove, but the site turned out great -- will give compliments to Stewart and his group on how well it turned out
- Still received a lot of calls regarding how well the one in Walnut Cove turned out
- Lived in Stokes County all my life
- Know the people selling the land -- Dean and I graduated from high school together
- Dean happens to be a surveyor that is why Stewart noted that the seller would do the surveying
- My only question: (know the property location well -- live near Hawkins Road) have you measured from where the landfill is on Sizemore Road (use that site myself) going back toward Hawkins and turning right on Hawkins and going that way up to the top of that hill where the intersection is with Friendship compared to going from the landfill turning right going toward Quaker Gap hitting a left before you get to the church, go to the end of the road which is going to bring you out at the same location if you went straight at the top of the hill
- Saw where you stated it would help Walnut Cove, the eastern side of King, and also help Germanton

Director Easter responded that he had not measured those roads mentioned by Commissioner Mendenhall but would be happy to do so.

Commissioner Mendenhall continued:

- This has nothing to do with who the sellers are, thank the world of both of them, just want to make sure that is the best location for that area you are talking about
- Reiterated that he just wanted to make sure that was the very best location

Director Easter responded:

- One of the reasons that we honed in on this location is because it is already zoned
- Another reason, it is across from a salvage yard and don't think there would be a lot of opposition

Commissioner Mendenhall confirmed with Director Easter that the seller had contacted the owners of the salvage yard and believe they have no issues with it being a greenbox site.

Director Easter noted that he had spoken with the owners of the property about some old vehicles on the property that would have to be moved and on the last visit to the property noticed some of those vehicles had already been moved.

Director Easter commented:

- Feel like if I get closer to King, there may be some pushback

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Agree that if you do go closer to King, there will be more pushback

Chairman Chandler commented:

- First of all, kudos to the manager and to you, Stewart, for actually thinking a few years down the road
- To just be honest, there is not a lot of people knocking down our door wanting to sell property for a greenbox site
- Think the price is reasonable with a lot of cooperation from the seller
- Will definitely do what Commissioner Mendenhall has requested, but is there a time limit on the purchase agreement

Director Easter responded:

- Put in the agreement that the seller would survey the property by April 1st but that was with the anticipation that it would have been on an earlier meeting – can be changed
- The seller has agreed to defer payment until July 15th which would allow the County to budget for the purchase in the upcoming FY 2024-25 budget if so desired by the County

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Also wanted to speak about the Retreat that the Board held recently and the fact that the County's financial advisors would be returning to the Board with information regarding funding allocations – how much the County can afford
- Just like the new addition to the jail funded by the County about seven years ago (that payment schedule is for forty years with USDA)
 - One of the points noted by former Sheriff Mike Marshall in regards to the jail addition was the revenue the County could receive for housing other counties' inmates – basically pays for itself
- Everyone knows King is growing – do want a measurement from the landfill on Sizemore Road to where the proposed site is located

Commissioner Morris commented:

- Do like your proactive approach, as mentioned earlier, dealing with a growing problem

- Difficult to get sites for greenbox locations even though there may be better locations
- I think I would be supportive of your recommendation

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- I just want to say, we have worked on these sites together, being proactive like you are – that is how we can stay ahead of the game – being proactive and not having to be reactive to a situation
- I appreciate you being proactive

Commissioner Cox commented:

- I agree with Commissioner Mendenhall wanting to know how far the proposed location is from the Landfill on Sizemore Road because it is probably only about two miles away
- It seems like to me that would be a little close to the other site although I do agree that we are probably going to need another site soon
- I do applaud Director Easter for being proactive and starting to look for a site; however, I know Stewart was not here the last time (I wasn't on the Board either) when the land was purchased in Pinnacle for moving the dumpsite
- Nobody really knew what that would cause apparently until after the land was already purchased
- I really don't want the Board to make a mistake like that again – what a previous Board made buying property that was not usable for the purchase
- Want to take our time and really do our homework on this and just really research it and make sure it is the smartest decision so that we don't end up with land that is not usable – can't be sold - the County gets stuck with land that is not usable – like that land in Pinnacle
- Reiterated the County should really take the time to make sure this is the best decision

Chairman Chandler questioned Commissioner Cox an amount of time the County should take.

Commissioner Cox responded:

- That is a good question
- Do not know what the process was regarding the other land purchase
- Obviously, things were not done in an appropriate manner, or they would not have ended up buying property that was not going to be usable for the purpose they intended it for
- Questioned if there was a need to have a public hearing so that everyone that lives around there will have an opportunity to speak their mind before we buy it instead of after like what happened before

Chairman Chandler responded:

- Don't have a problem with holding a public hearing
- After we get all the facts, at some point in time we just need to make a decision
- Just don't want this to be put off for the next two years

Commissioner Cox agreed with Chairman Chandler about not putting the item off for two years but do think it could be resolved within a couple of months – just want to get the information we need to make sure this is the right spot.

Chairman Chandler requested Interim County Manager/Clerk Brown to research when the property was purchased in Pinnacle for a greenbox site and why the property did not work out.

Interim County Manager/Clerk Brown responded:

- Can do further research, but off the top of my head, the main concern was the property could not get rezoned for the purpose it needed to be

- It wasn't zone already for the correct usage

Commissioner Cox added:

- It was not the zoning
- When we got ready to talk about moving it, there was a huge outcry from the neighbors and the church nearby – no one wanted it moved to their neighborhood
- It wasn't a zoning problem

Interim County Manager/Clerk Brown responded that she would do further research and bring it back to the Board.

Chairman Chandler confirmed with Commissioner Cox that it would be fair if we have the manager and Director Easter do the items requested by Board members, compile that information, and bring back to the Board for further discussion and decide then whether to hold a public hearing.

Commissioner Cox added:

- Just don't know what all the pitfalls were the last time
- Just want to make sure the Board does not fall into that same situation again this time
- Need to also make sure if it is really worth it to put something that close to the other site when you know most people already use the Landfill at Sizemore Road which is probably only 2-3 miles at most from the site being considered
- I just question whether that makes sense to put another site that close to the site at Sizemore Road

Chairman Chandler responded:

- Do not want to speak for Stewart, but I think what he is getting at is that he is looking at population growth
- So, as we look to have a strategic plan, and take note of what is being done in an area, it may not be in terms of density or closeness, but it is the population, so then you are overrunning another area that may be close by – we get a lot of complaints about the volume of the traffic
- Directed Stewart to come back with all the information for further discussion

Commissioner Cox continued:

- If Pinnacle is being overrun, and some of those people could go use Sizemore Road right now and they are not choosing to, the question is whether they will choose a site that is only a couple of miles from Sizemore Road or whether they will keep going to the Pinnacle site because it is more convenient and closer
- Questioned Director Easter if the City of King had their own greenbox site

Director Easter responded:

- The City of King did have a recycling site, but it has closed
- Now we are getting those folks coming to bring their recyclables to the Pinnacle site
- City of King offers trash pickup for their residents

Commissioner Cox continued:

- A lot of the new houses being built within the city limits will have free trash pickup, don't know if that is going to increase the volume that much more at our sites

Director Easter responded:

- Agree those within the city limits will have free trash pickup but some of those developments being built east of King are not within the city limits
- That population is what I was looking at

Chairman Chandler requested the manager and director to add the Planning Director to the next discussion to make sure we have everyone at the table.

Chairman Chandler questioned the Board if there were any further comments.

Chairman Chandler confirmed with Director Easter he could be ready for further discussion at the next meeting.

With full consensus of the Board, Chairman Chandler, directed Interim County Manager/Clerk Brown to place the item on the April 8th discussion agenda.

Draft Policy for Food Trucks Operating on County Property

Chairman Chandler turned the floor over to Interim County Manager/Clerk Amber Brown for the Draft Policy for Food Trucks Operating on County Property presentation. (proposed Draft Policy for Food Trucks Operating on County Property can be obtained from the county website – agenda or the Clerk to the Board)

Interim County Manager/Clerk Amber Brown presented the following information regarding the Draft Policy for Food Trucks Operating on County Property presentation:

- At a previous Board meeting, the Board directed staff to work on creating a food truck policy for operating on county property and at the Government Center in Danbury
- Food trucks had been previously allowed on county property, there has been no policy or schedule
- Human Resources or the manager would reach out to a food truck giving employees an option hoping to increase employee morale
- Economic Analyst Tory Mabe who also works with tourism for the County created a survey
- Surveys were sent out to local restaurants owners and food truck operators around the County to complete and give input on this topic
- Staff took this survey feedback and utilized similar policies from other jurisdictions to draft a policy for food truck operating on county property
- The policy includes an application that allows a food truck vendor to request to operate their food truck on county property
- Draft policy can be amended, this is something for the Board to work from

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

Vice Chairman Wood commented:

- Need to make sure the scheduling is not on a court date – parking is already an issue on those days

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Have the same concern mentioned by Vice Chairman Wood

Commissioner Morris commented:

- Think the policy looks pretty good
- Now that it is out in the public, curious to see if we get any concerns/comments from the local restaurant owners, the food truck operators, or the public between now and the next meeting that we need to factor into the final policy

Commissioner Cox commented:

- I think we need to let it sit on discussion till next meeting to give food truck owners,

restaurant owners, and the public time to review the proposed policy to see if there is any feedback before we move further with the policy

- Don't have any questions about the draft policy

Chairman Chandler commented:

- Would like to have a department named in the policy that is charge of making sure the applications are renewed/authorized according to policy
- A lot of times things fall by the wayside when no one is told policy-wise that the applications/authorizations need to be renewed according to the policy and no one is assigned to do it
- Agree with the other commissioners that we need to wait to see if there is any feedback before moving forward

With full consensus of the Board, Chairman Chandler, directed Interim County Manager/Clerk Brown to place the item on the April 8th discussion agenda.

Danbury Firemen's Relief Fund Board Appointment Request

Chairman Chandler turned the floor over to Interim County Manager/Clerk Amber Brown for the Town of Danbury Firemen's Relief Fund Board Appointment Request.

Interim County Manager/Clerk Amber Brown presented the following information regarding the Town of Danbury Firemen's Relief Fund Board Appointment Request:

- The Danbury Firemen's Relief Fund Board of Trustees currently 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
- Elmer Manuel served as one of the two appointees from the Board of County Commissioners for many years and unfortunately passed away in January
- Danbury Volunteer Fire Department has made the recommendation of Mr. Jud Burns who would be an ideal candidate

Chairman Chandler opened the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Mendenhall moved to nominate Jud Burns to serve on the Danbury Firemen's Relief Fund Board of Trustees. Vice Chairman Wood seconded the motion.

With no further nominations, the motion passed unanimously.

With no further nominations, Chairman Chandler closed the floor for nominations.

With full consensus of the Board, Chairman Chandler, directed Interim County Manager/Clerk Brown to place the item on the April 8th action agenda.

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.

Demolition at 1075 Dodgetown Road

Chairman Chandler entertained a motion regarding the bids for Demolition at 1075 Dodgetown

Road which were presented at the March 11, 2024 meeting.

Commissioner Morris noted that he would like to confirm one thing with Purchasing/Project Manager Glenda Pruitt before the motion.

Commissioner Morris confirmed with Purchasing/Project Manager Glenda Pruitt that the demolition did not include the block building with a grease pit that is currently being used by RiverStreet.

Purchasing/Project Manager Pruitt added:

- The only buildings (3) not included in the demolition is that building, the commissary building and the main prison building

Commissioner Morris moved to award the bid to EMR Services, Inc for the amount of \$104,857.50 for demolition on 1075 Dodgetown Road. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded the motion.

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

With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Danbury Planning and Zoning Board ETJ Appointment

Chairman Chandler noted that Jacob Elsdon was nominated at the March 11, 2024 meeting to serve on the Town of Danbury Planning/Zoning Board – ETJ Appointment.

With no further applications, Chairman Chandler did not open the floor for nominations.

Chairman Chandler polled the Board for the appointment for the Town of Danbury EJT appointment:

- Commissioner Mendenhall – Jacob Elsdon
- Commissioner Morris – Jacob Elsdon
- Chairman Chandler – Jacob Elsdon
- Vice Chairman Wood – Jacob Elsdon
- Commissioner Cox – Jacob Eldson

Chairman Chandler noted that the Board unanimously appointment Jacob Elsdon to serve on the Town of Danbury Planning/Zoning Board – ETJ.

Final Offer for Two Parcels on Merridon Drive

Chairman Chandler entertained a motion to accept the final bid offers for the following two parcels on Merridon Drive:

- Following offers were received from United Investment Properties, LLC:
 - **Parcel #5996-00-10-7059**
 - DB/PG 770/2429
 - Merridon Drive, Pinnacle, NC 27043
 - Offer for the sum of \$3,500.00 for Lot 66
 - **Parcel #5996-00-19-7936**
 - DB/PG 770/2429
 - Merridon Drive, Pinnacle, NC 27043

- Offer for the sum of \$3,350.00 for Lot 65

Vice Chairman Wood moved to approve the offers from United Investment Properties, LLC for Parcel #5996-00-10-7059 in the amount of \$3,500.00 and Parcel #5996-00-19-7936 in the amount of \$3,350.00. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded the motion.

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

With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Verizon Tower Booth Mountain Lease

Chairman Chandler requested Purchasing/Project Manager Glenda Pruitt to provide the Board with updated information from Verizon regarding the Tower Booth Mountain Lease. (proposed lease can be obtained from the county website – agenda or Clerk to the Board)

Purchasing/Project Manager Glenda Pruitt presented the following information regarding the Verizon Tower Booth Mountain Lease first presented at the March 11, 2024 meeting:

- As directed by the Board have negotiated with Verizon Lease Consultant Shiree Alexander regarding Booth Mountain Lease
- Below is Verizon's new offer:
 - New rent amount: \$1,166.00 per month commencing on August 1, 2024
 - New rent escalator: Fifteen percent (15%) every five (5) years (next increase on August 1, 2029)
 - Additional renewal terms: Six (6) additional five (5) year renewal terms
 - Rent guarantee: Verizon Wireless will modify its termination rights under the Lease to guarantee your rental income at an amount of \$69,960 for the next 60 months

Chairman Chandler entertained a motion regarding the new offer from Verizon regarding the Tower on Booth Mountain.

Vice Chairman Wood moved to approve the new offer submitted by Verizon for the Tower located on Booth Mountain. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded the motion.

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

With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation

DSS Director Stacey Elmes noted that the number on the first copy provided to the Board for reports in 2023 (first Whereas) was 266 but should have been 577

Chairman Chandler presented the following proposed Proclamation proclaiming April 2024 Child Abuse Prevention Month for the Board's consideration:

CHILD PREVENTION MONTH PROCLAMATION – APRIL 2024

WHEREAS, in calendar year 2023, 577 reports were made to child protective services in Stokes County;

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect is a serious problem affecting every segment of our community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone;

WHEREAS, our children are our most valuable assets and will shape the future of Stokes County;

WHEREAS, child abuse can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects that have lasting consequences for victims of abuse;

WHEREAS, all children deserve to have the safe, stable, nurturing homes and communities they need to foster their healthy growth and development;

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect is a community responsibility affecting both the current and future quality of life of a community;

WHEREAS, communities that provide parents with the social support, knowledge of parenting and child development and concrete resources they need to cope with stress and nurture their children ensure all children grow to their full potential;

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention strategies succeed because of partnerships created among citizens, human service agencies, schools, faith communities, health care providers, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community; and

WHEREAS, prevention remains the best defense for our children and families.

THEREFORE, we, the Stokes County Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim April 2024 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Stokes County and call upon all citizens, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities, elected leaders, and businesses to increase their participation in our efforts to support families, thereby preventing child abuse and strengthening the communities in which we live.

Dated this 25th day of March, 2024.

Chairman Chandler entertained a motion to approve the Proclamation – Child Abuse Prevention Month – April 2024.

Commissioner Mendenhall moved to approve the Proclamation – Child Abuse Prevention Month – April 2024. Vice Chairman Wood seconded the motion.

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

With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Chandler read the Proclamation – Child Abuse Prevention Month – April 2024.

Animal Control Fee Change Request

Chairman Chandler entertained a motion to approve the Stokes County Animal Shelter Fees requested by Chief Animal Control Officer Reeves which were presented at today's meeting.

Commissioner Morris moved to approve the Stokes County Animal Shelter Fees requested by Chief Animal Control Officer Reeves which were presented at today's meeting. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded the motion.

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

With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

NC DIT Broadband Update

Presentation on Broadband

Chairman Chandler turned the floor over to NC Department of Information Technology Director Jeffrey Brooks for the Presentation on Broadband. (presented a power point presentation - information regarding the Broadband Update can be obtained from the Clerk to the Board)

NC Department of Information Technology Director Jeffrey Brooks presented the following information:

- As I go through the presentation, welcome any questions that you have
- This is my 43rd Board presentation – my job is to serve you and your residents
- What we do should totally be focused on Stokes County
- Hope the presentation today will give you confidence that we do indeed have solutions in place to help make sure all of your citizens get Broadband coverage
- When you think about Broadband being local, the fundamental component is the service component, as I stated, our job is to serve everyone in Stokes County
- There is a lot of funding available and more to come to help get broadband to everyone in Stokes County
- Our team is responsible for the development and initialization of three programs:
 - Completing Access to Broadband (CAB)
 - Stop Gap Program
 - Broadband Pole Replacement Program
- In addition to those programs, we provide outreach to all 100 counties and also interact with local citizens (engage with Councils of Governments, Cooperatives, Service Providers, Manufacturers, and Community Groups)
 - Get approximately 50-60 calls per month from citizens across NC
 - Respond to each call within 24 hours
 - We listen to the issue and respond by email – each county manager gets a copy of that email sent to the citizen
 - We always say that the email is being sent to the county manager so that the person knows that the county manager and the elected leadership are actively involved in working on Broadband in Stokes County which is true in Stokes County
- Have an ongoing Broadband survey which for the last 18 months, Stokes County has the highest responses to the survey across NC which is 10.8%
- Stokes County Summary Data
 - Unserved – 2,347 addresses
 - DSL Only – 2,990 addresses
 - No internet devices – 14.54% of all h/h
- Mission of NC Division of Broadband and Digital Equity is to promote the expansion of access to Broadband for citizens and businesses within the State

- Grant programs are appropriated by NC General Assembly with certain requirements set in state legislation
- Many of us take for granted the basic tasks that can be performed online
- Not having internet access at home means people must travel to libraries, community centers, etc. to perform certain tasks
- As a state, there was \$971 million put into Broadband funding in 2021 and 2022 – one of the highest numbers in the country
 - \$30 million came from state funds
 - \$941 million came from American Rescue Plan Act (APRA)
- There is \$1.57 billion coming from the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD)– that funding can't be brought into NC until all other funding is spent, but it is a continuum of funding
- While I was in another county last month, the question came up whether there was enough funding – I can say that money is definitely not the issue
- Provided a summary of funding:
 - Infrastructure - \$971 million
 - \$380 million – GREAT Grant (\$350M APRA; \$30M State CTF)
 - \$400 million – Completing access to Broadband (CAB)
 - \$90 million – Stop Gap Solutions
 - \$100 million – Broadband Make Ready Accelerator (Broadband Pole Replacement Fund)
 - \$1 million – Broadband Mapping
 - Awareness and Digital Literacy - \$50 million
 - Improve awareness and enable all NC citizens to realize the benefits of high-speed internet through digital literacy allowing access to the digital economy
 - Administrative - \$15 million
 - Supplement North Carolina's capacity to support Broadband expansion efforts
 - Ensure availability of internet service at speeds of at 100/20 MBPS - \$1.57 billion
- It is not just building infrastructure, it is not just cable, fiber, poles, trenching, etc.
- It is also about affordability
- It is making sure they know the devices that they need
- It is making sure they know the benefits that they get from having internet
- Talked about the comments received from citizens – work from home, need internet for school children, etc.
- Discussed the Office of Digital Literacy and Equity (ODEL) and the local focus:
 - ODEL team works with counties, municipalities, school districts, service providers, and community groups
 - Information solicited by ODEL regarding proven programs, ideas, and outreach activities
 - ODEL shares feedback to help NC Communities create programs supporting access to broadband
 - A key objective is to ensure all eligible citizens are informed about the FCC's Affordable Connective Program
 - ODEL Funding will be available to Stokes County and should be awarded soon
- Major Programs
 - GREAT Grant (Growing Rural Economics through Access to Technology)
 - The first statewide state funded grant program in the country
 - Started in 2018
 - Stayed very, very small until ARPA funding came in
 - The GREAT round that closed in May of 2022, had 305 applications
 - Legislature determined how the GREAT applications were going to be scored, this is how the decisions will be made and these are how these grants are going

to be awarded

- Requested \$1.77 billion in total project costs – total of \$380 million awarded
- CAB Project Funding & Eligibility
 - It is not a grant program; it is a procurement – it is a state decision
 - County Eligibility
 - A county is considered ineligible to participate in either the GREAT or CAB Programs:
 - If a county has entered into a contract with an ISP on or after May 1, 2021 and
 - Has used federal funds for a Broadband infrastructure project unsupported by a state program
 - The state is actually buying stuff – don't think it is a good idea to sit in Raleigh and try to determine what is needed in Stokes County
 - The idea was to do a lot of due diligence because we want to mitigate risk especially where county funds are involved
 - The next step was to get the county involved
 - Through all of this, we have always defined that there is going to be an evaluation committee that is composed of two people – perhaps myself and someone who works for me, the county manager, and another county employee – want the county to have this active and dynamic engagement in the process
 - Discussed maps provided in the power point presentation which is used for as a CAB planning tool – showing how Hexbins are used
 - The county will determine if they wish to invest in a CAB project – there are matching funds requirements
 - Stokes County received more that \$8 million in ARPA Funding – it is severely disadvantaged in terms of the amount of funding that is available to it through the CAB Program
 - If you got less than \$8 million, you have the greatest opportunity to maximize the money available through CAB
 - Unlike the GREAT Grant where the maximum amount is \$4 million, the CAB maximum amount is \$8 million
 - The nice thing is that if you do a CAB Program in this fiscal year, then right back-to-back, you have the opportunity to do another CAB Program next year which potentially represents up to \$16 million for a county in a very short period of time which is even advance of the BEAD Funding coming in
 - Sixty-one counties in NC received more that \$8 million in ARPA Funding
 - We are here to help counties
 - We don't have a focus on technology or topology
 - Our job is to be an advocate for a county and to have a singular bias toward supporting the county
 - Last July, we issued a RFP and asked providers if you want to participate in our programs, you have to be pre-qualified – 69 companies applied – passed 40 out of 69 – asked very specific questions in terms of financial operational, and technical – trying to access capacity capability and competence – requested 3 years of financial statements with some companies trying to finagle that
 - Before BEAD comes in, we will do this again – existing companies will have to renew, and new companies will have to qualify
 - If you are investing in a project, we ask for a form called a county commitment form which represents a placeholder that states the amount of funding the county will invest in a particular project
 - Counties contributions can be ARP, SLFR, Revenue Replacement, or non-ARPA from the county's general fund

- Will come back and talk with your county's evaluation team, next we schedule a GIS Meeting, after that if everything checks out and the county is still good to go, we will schedule a meeting with our internal folks to make sure we are on the same page understanding the county's dollars and if areas are to be prioritized
- We will produce a scope of work which will be reviewed by legal and other parties and provided to the county for review – after that, it will be posted (Actually posted 8 last week with another 8-10 this week)
- Once that process is completed, services providers can protest any address for the first 10 days of the 45-day process (if service is already available, it has to be taken off the list)
- After 45 days, everything from the service providers is rechecked and forwarded to the county manager/evaluation team other than financial and bank statements
- We will have a bid response focused solely on Stokes County
- Quarterly reviews with the service providers will be required in order for the county to know what is going on – transparency
- At the end of the day, two from my team and the two from Stokes County's evaluation team review all the applications received for Stokes County
- It will be left up to the Stokes County's evaluation team because the criteria is what is the best value for Stokes County
- We have sufficient technical, financial, and GIS expertise to make sure that any question the county has can be answered
- Our team understands all this stuff, but our job is not to say what we think is great, our job is to help the county manager/evaluation team make the best decision for Stokes County
- We are here to advise the County
- Once a decision is made by the County, the state becomes involved with procurement along with a third-party consultant who is setting up a risk analysis profile
- After all this, the bid is awarded to the vendor
- Then we decided based on the risk analysis profile when reporting from the county is due and how often we go on site
- Stop GAP Program
 - Stop GAP designed for niche issues
 - Don't involve the manager like other programs
 - Will take input from county manager, service providers, and citizen calls received
 - Build a list of where we may want to go – suggest sites to be built
 - Can do more than one Stop GAP Project in a county until the funding is exhausted
 - Competitively bid proposals
 - Prioritization for unserved addresses in the County
 - Will work with counties to ensure unique needs are addressed
 - Often small pockets not well served by larger projects
 - Also like to serve state parks, welcome centers, county facilities, community anchor institutions, major agricultural locations, etc.
 - Looks like the Stop Gap Program would pay about 85% of the build and the provider would pay about 15% of the build with the County not having any obligation at all to get the build done
 - \$90 million in funding to support projects across the state
 - Expected in summer of 2024
- Broadband Pole Replacement Program

- o Oriented towards pole owners and ISP's
- o Aerial Installation
 - § IOU's and cooperatives typically install 17 to 28 poles per mile
 - § Telcos generally install 15 poles per mile
- o On average, 1-2 poles per mile are replaced
- o Pole issues – decay/deterioration, relocations, etc.
- Counties face challenges in 2024
 - o Access to quality education is critical to the future of every county in NC
 - o Many rural counties have declining populations and declining tax bases
 - o Both rural and urban counties have increased costs to deliver services
 - o Many in our population are at risk for health-related issues
 - o The development of new or expanded local businesses are critical for employment and county tax revenues
- Reiterated his job and his department's job which are to serve and support Stokes County
- Will be happy to answer questions

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

Commissioner Morris commented:

- Appreciate the information provided to the Board tonight
- Would like for you to expand on the comment about CAB Funding and the fact that even if we said no, there would be more funding coming down later

Director Brooks responded:

- Right now, we have 43 counties that are funding CAB Projects (smallest amount is \$25,000 and the largest amount \$6.8 million)
- Think the idea at the time the legislation was passed, legislators noted that they were hearing a lot about Broadband from counties
- Legislation decided that they would put a lot of funding out there, but counties would have to step up and put into the project as well
- The issue is that there was a delay of about a year because of arguments among other things between the Treasurer and service providers regarding who would own the funded network infrastructure assets along with other delay issues
- This delay pushed GREAT funding back almost a year which pushed CAB funding back a year
- During that time, you had these other projects that would come to the forefront for counties that actually got enough money to say what do we want to do with excess CA funding
- Legislature will come back in session in April and will probably stay in session until June or July
- Our organization, association of county managers, association of county commissioners, the Rural Centers, and other groups have all pushed the Legislature to make changes in the match requirements – it is going to be on the table
- We asked for this in the long session, and nothing happened, did not move
- Hopefully, something will change – personal opinion is that something will change so that we can free more of this money and get it out
- Have \$213 million that I have to have out and working across the state by the end of this year (has be to under contract)
- For those counties that Broadband has been a priority, I think the Legislature will probably change the match – I can't predict what will actually happen
- If you want to do a CAB Project and you have committed funds, we are here to get it done and get it done as quickly as possible
- If we get it done quickly, fiscal year rolls over, there is another \$8 million available

- If you don't do a CAB Project, we will still do everything that we can to get funding into the county
- Legislature originally stated that there would be BEAD, GREAT Grant, and Stop GAP; however, the GREAT Grant is 100% incompatible with BEAD guidelines
- Right now, we believe that BEAD is going to be CAB and Stop GAP

Commissioner Morris continued:

- Do you have any programs that you do multiple awards such as more than one contractor gets selected to work in the same county

Director Brooks responded:

- The answer is yes, you can have dominant providers in certain areas of the county

Commissioner Morris continued:

- The County currently has a lot of investments to make on various things
- We just recently had a meeting with our financial advisor who stressed the importance of timing
- We have got to figure out when we can invest and how much we can invest and then prioritize these things – have a lot to figure out

Director Brooks responded:

- It is a consistent refrain and a fair refrain because you are juggling all of these things
- I would be doing a disservice if I come to you as a salesperson and try to sell you to be on the CAB Program
- I would be doing a disservice on the other hand if I did not come and say this is what I hear, I don't know I am not the official lobbyist for our team – but let you know what I hear, and what could happen

Commissioner Morris confirmed with Director Brooks that all the CAB funding had to be spent before any BEAD funding was available.

Director Brooks continued:

- All of the \$400 million in CAB funding has to be spent before we begin to bring BEAD funding in (statewide)
- When you think about it, it is kind of logical, money is money – what would I do with \$1.57 billion when I still have CAB funding and Stop GAP funding

There were no other questions from the Board.

Chairman Chandler commented:

- Appreciate the thorough report/presentation
- Do like the fact that you are very responsive and transparent – like the fact that when you receive calls from Stokes County citizens, you actually call everyone back along with letting the county manager know about the calls

Director Brook concluded that it is our job to serve you – Stokes County.

Chairman Chandler concluded by expressing the Board's appreciation for today's presentation.

CLOSED SESSION

Chairman Chandler entertained a motion to enter closed session.

Commissioner Mendenhall moved to enter closed session for the following:

- 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 to GS 143-318.11(a)(3)
- To consider the initial employment or appointment of an individual to any office or position, other than a vacancy in the Board of County Commissioners or any other public body, or to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, and fitness of any public officer or employee, other than a member of the Board of Commissioners or of some other public body pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6)

Vice Chairman Wood seconded the motion.

With no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

The Board entered closed session.

Adjournment

The Board reentered the open portion of the meeting.

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

Vice Chairman Wood moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Mendenhall seconded and the motion passed unanimously.



Amber Brown
Clerk to the Board



Brad Chandler
Chair