

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF STOKES)
)

OFFICE OF THE
COMMISSIONERS
STOKES COUNTY
GOVERNMENT
DANBURY, NORTH
CAROLINA
MONDAY APRIL 28, 2025

Regular Meeting of the Stokes County Board of Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met for a Regular Meeting in the Stokes County Administration Building in the Commissioners Chambers located in Danbury, North Carolina on Monday, April 28th, 2025 at 2:00 pm with the following members present:

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

County Administration Present: County Manager Jeff Sanborn, Assistant County Manager Amber Brown, Clerk to the Board Olivia Jessup, Director of Finance Tammy Keaton, and County Attorney Ty Browder.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Wood called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION

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

Vice-Chairman Barneycastle delivered the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Commissioner Cox moved to approve the agenda as presented.

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

Public Comments

Chairman Wood opened the floor for public comments at 2:02 pm.

The following individuals signed up to speak in public comments:

Don Jennings
422 King Street
King, NC 27021
RE: Solar Farm Rezoning Request
Jennings spoke in favor of the Solar Farm Rezoning Request.

Chad Jarvis
306 Summit
Walnut Cove, NC 27052
RE: Solar Farm
Jarvis spoke in favor of the solar farm.

Chairman Wood closed the floor for public comments at 2:09 pm.

COMMENTS - Managers/Commissioners

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

Commissioner Chandler commented:

- Welcome, everybody. To those of you in person, and also the people are joining on this stream and YouTube. Beautiful day today. I really don't have much to comment on right now. I'll save a lot of it because I think it relates to some of the discussion agenda that we're going to have here shortly. But it's days like today. I know when I woke up this morning to go feed the animals and take a leisurely walk with my dogs, you really know what it's like to live in the beautiful county of Stokes County, and so it kind of goes into what we'll be talking about a little bit on some stuff, but we got a beautiful county with a lot of great people and excellent culture. And sometimes we may take it for granted, but we really are blessed with us being able to live here in Stokes County, and that's all I got.

Commissioner Morris commented:

- Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just like to welcome everybody. It's good to see a good crowd here today. We've got interesting topics as usual, so that's all I'll say, so we can get on with our business.

Vice-Chairman Barneycastle commented:

- Again, I just have to reiterate what everybody else said. Great to see everybody. Everybody watching live stream. Lord, bless them. Another beautiful day. So good to see y'all.

Commissioner Cox commented:

- I'd just like to again welcome everybody. Thank you for being here today and those watching online. We do have a packed agenda that we probably need to get to, but I do want to mention, as Wayne mentioned in his prayer that our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of everyone involved in the Eden accident, the ones that are recovering and the ones that have lost a loved one, and our thoughts and prayers are with everyone.

County Manager Jeff Sanborn commented:

- Just one thing I'd like to comment on this for the benefit of the public, we are moving forward in developing our Stokes County Parks and Recreation master plan, and I want everybody to know that we have a couple of key opportunities for folks to come and tell us what you think and what you think is important with regard to the development of that plan and things that we need here in Stokes County. They both occur on Tuesdays. They're successive Tuesdays. The first one is Tuesday at 5:30 going till 7:30 at The Arts Place, that's Tuesday May 13th. And the second one is the following Tuesday, May 20th, at StoCo Provisions in King. It's going to be a drop in style thing. So, if you don't show up at 5:30 that's okay. When you come in, you can tell folks what you think and have some interaction with folks about where we're going. So, thanks for that opportunity. Thank you.

Assistant County Manager Amber Brown commented:

- Amber, just thank you all for being here. And I just ask everybody remember the Eddie Anderson family and your thoughts and prayers.

Chairman Wood commented:

- And we'd like to welcome Olivia Jessup, and we're not going to put you on the spot, but you're welcome to say something.

Clerk to the Board Olivia Jessup commented:

- Just very thankful to be here. I'm looking forward to working with everyone. The Board of Commissioners, as well as the public, so thank you.

Chairman Wood commented:

- I like to thank everybody for coming, too. And after the last meeting, let's get to it.

Conflicts Of Interest

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

No conflicts of interest were stated by the Board.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Minutes

Tax Office Agenda

Grant Project Ordinance ARPA

Budget Amendment

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

- Minutes
- Tax Office Agenda
- Grant Project Ordinance ARPA
- Budget Amendment

Commissioner Chandler moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Morris seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

INFORMATION AGENDA

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

Register of Deeds Quarterly Report

Chairman Wood turned the floor over to Register of Deeds Brandon Hooker to present the Register of Deed Quarterly Report.

Register of Deeds Brandon Hooker presented his report for the 2025 first quarter/third fiscal quarter. Total revenue during this period was \$162,741.25, while gross revenue was \$99,148.25.

The Board commented on Brandon's reporting and hard work before proceeding to the first item on the Discussion Agenda.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

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

Vehicle Use Policy

Chairman Wood turned the floor over to HR Director Jamie Clark to present an updated Vehicle Use Policy.

At a prior meeting, Commissioner Chandler requested an addition of a Reporting Injuries and Accidents section. HR Director Jamie Clark presented the updated Vehicle Use Policy with this added section as well as an addition under "Use of County Vehicles" where it states "Volunteer fire personnel may be authorized to operate a county ambulance if they have received explicit approval from the on-scene staff managing the situation. This approval must consider the individual's qualifications as well as the operational requirements during the incident."

The Board discussed the needed training and qualifications of driving an ambulance and a need for more specific language. Director Clark was requested to consult with Dr. Nelson and Brandon Gentry about specifics in that area of the policy.

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

Solar Farm Rezoning Request

Chairman Wood turned the floor over to Planning and Zoning Director Eric Nance to present the Solar Farm Rezoning Request.

At the last Board of Commissioners Meeting, this rezoning request for a solar farm was presented for review and consideration. The Board moved this item back to the agenda for today's meeting for further discussion. After the last meeting, potential conditions were proposed to Duke Energy by the County to include as part of the conditional zoning consideration. These potential conditions for zoning that have been reviewed and agreed upon by the County, Duke Energy, and the County Attorney's Office.

The Board discussed various aspects of the Solar Farm Rezoning Request, such as whether or not the request was in line with the Stokes County 2035 plan, if it was in the interest of the

public who had contacted the commissioners, and changes it could make to the beautification of the county. Jimmy Flythe from Duke Energy answered some of the Board's questions. David Couch, owner of the land, also addressed the Board.

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

SCOPE Program Budget and Resolution Amendment

Chairman Wood turned the floor over to Health Director Tammy Martin to present the SCOPE Program Budget and Resolutions Amendment.

The Stokes County Health Department requested an extension for two different strategies as part of the Opioid Resolution Amendment. It also included a recommendation from the Health Department for a new Peer Support Specialist position under a one-year contract. The Board of Health reviewed and approved both the extensions and the creation of the new position.

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

Moratock Park Hours and Bridge Replacement Project

Chairman Wood turned the floor over to Public Works Director Stewart Easter to present the Moratock Park Hours and Bridge Replacement Project.

Director Easter presented the request to close off the upper side of Moratock Park for the upcoming park season and for the foreseeable future until the project is complete. This will be for the safety of Stokes County residents and employees. The recommendation is to close the side of the park to the left after passing over the bridge and restrict access to the bank area and water near and under the bridge. The lower side of the park where the Iron Furnace is located at, is recommended to be left open for public use.

After some discussion, the Board gave consensus to approve the request for now. The official closure will not happen until the DOT is ready to begin the project. The item may be revisited in the future if necessary.

Wellhead Protection Plan for Danbury Water System

Chairman Wood turned the floor over to Public Works Director Stewart Easter to present the Wellhead Protection Plan for Danbury Water System.

Public Works Director Stewart Easter presented a wellhead protection plan for the Danbury Public Water System that was drafted by the NC Rural Water Association. This plan identifies hazards within the wellhead protection area and is a guide based off of State findings. The Wellhead Protection Plan falls under the County because it's a county-owned water system, but the Town of Danbury will enforce their setbacks within the map area because it falls within the ETJ.

This plan has already been presented to the Danbury Town Council, and they continue to consider the request as they eagerly await a decision by the Stokes County Board of Commissioners.

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

Green Box Sticker Program

Chairman Wood turned the floor over to Public Works Director Stewart Easter to present the Green Box Sticker Program.

Public Works Director Stewart Easter engaged the Board in discussion on the green box sticker program. The program was initially discussed due to the number of out-of-county citizens utilizing Stokes County's dump sites had increased. Due to the increase in tonnage and site counts, Public Works still believe the measure needs to be implemented to limit nonresidents from using Stokes County facilities.

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

TAC Commissioner Appointment

Chairman Wood turned the floor over to Assistant County Manager Amber Brown to present the TAC Commissioner Appointment.

Commissioner Morris currently serves on the TAC for the Rural Planning Organization (RPO) and the Metro Planning Organization (MPO) for the PTRC. Commissioner Chandler has expressed interest in both of these committees and would like to take over this role for Stokes County. Commissioner Morris has agreed to let Commissioner Chandler take his place. The Board needs to approve this appointment in order to move forward with the change.

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

Stokes Aging Planning Committee Appointment

Chairman Wood turned the floor over to Clerk to the Board Olivia Jessup to present the Stokes County Aging Planning Committee Appointment.

Tanya Gardner submitted an appointment application for the Stokes Aging Planning Committee. There are currently vacant seats on this committee.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to nominate Tanya Gardner for the Stokes Aging Planning Committee. The Board unanimously agreed.

The item was moved to the Action Agenda for the next meeting.

ACTION AGENDA

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

Solar Farm Rezoning Request

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

Commissioner Cox moved to disapprove rezoning request #24-1163 submitted by Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC, DFC Stokes, LLC, and DFC Stokes 2, LLC to rezone 667+/- acres from RA (Residential Agricultural) zoning district and m1 (Light Manufacturing Zoning District) to M1-CZ (Light Manufacturing Conditional Zoning) for a large-scale solar farm. This request is not reasonable and in the public interest of Stokes County Citizens because it uses agriculturally based uses, takes away from the natural beauty of Stokes County and is not consistent with the Stokes County 2035 plan pertaining to land use.

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

Wellhead Protection Plan for Danbury Water System

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

Vice-Chairman Barneycastle moved to approve the Wellhead Protection Plan for Danbury Water System.

Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

Green Box Sticker Program

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

Commissioner Cox moved to approve the Green Box Sticker Program.

Commissioner Chandler seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

TAC Commissioner Appointment

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

Vice-Chairman Barneycastle moved to approve the TAC Appointment.

Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

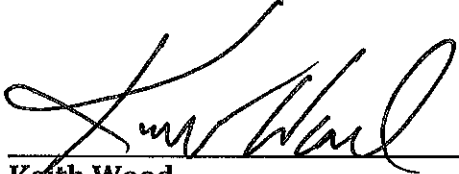
Adjournment

Chairman Wood entertained a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Chandler moved to adjourn at 4:18 pm.

Vice-Chairman Barneycastle seconded. The motion Passed.


Olivia Jessup
Clerk to the Board


Keith Wood
Chair