

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)
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COUNTY OF STOKES)
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OFFICE OF THE
COMMISSIONERS
STOKES COUNTY
GOVERNMENT
DANBURY, NORTH
CAROLINA
MONDAY JUNE 23, 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, June 23rd, 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.

Chairman Wood delivered the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Commissioner Chandler moved to approve the agenda as presented.

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

Public Comments

Chairman Wood opened the floor for public comments at 2:04 pm.

The following individuals signed up to speak in public comments:

Linda Hartgrove Mabe

RE: Animal Control Advisory Board

Mabe retracted her application and gave her favor to Gerald Conrad.

Mary Burton

235 Winfield Drive

Stokes County, NC

RE: Animal Control Advisory Board

Burton urged the Board to have scoring guidelines in place when reviewing the Animal Control Advisory Board applications.

Chairman Wood closed the floor for public comments at 2:11 pm.

COMMENTS - Managers/Commissioners

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

Vice-Chairman Barneycastle commented:

- Great to see everybody today, great to see a crowd here. Lord blessed us with a beautiful day, a hot day. Be safe out there. Temperatures are going to be extremely hot this week, so I don't want to run no calls on you folks. Thank y'all for being here.

Commissioner Cox commented:

- I'd like to thank everybody for being here on this hot, hot day today. Thank you for coming out to participate in the meeting and just stay safe out there.

Commissioner Chandler commented:

- I want to welcome everybody. Good to see another big crowd. I guess just to respond to Mary's comments about our scoring. I know I just speak for myself, but we're just going to do it in the open, in public, and we'll work it out that way. I think that that's more transparent than coming up with a system behind closed doors and then come out and announce the thing. I know in today's society litigation is everywhere. Just because of threat of litigation or possible litigation, it's not going to dictate to me what I think is right. And I work for the voters, and you're a voter, but you're one opinion. I do respect your opinion.
- I appreciate you being forthcoming, but you know, I take comments from all over the county. And the one thing, I assure you that when I nominate my names, it's not just from one side of the aisle. In other words, I want different viewpoints, and it's nothing against the animal control director. I mean, I support Tommy, and I want to give him

whatever tools that and equipment and to be able to do the right things for the animals. I mean, that's the main thing. So you don't have to worry about me being political, and you'll see when I give my recommendations that it's not about politics. But thank you for your comments.

Commissioner Morris commented:

- I'd like to welcome everybody online or in the room here. We do have a nice crowd today, and it's always good to see. I'd like to echo Keith's comments from his prayer about what the military is out doing these days. The operation they pulled the other night was almost unbelievable how flawlessly it was executed. And probably, if you were listening to radio as you're coming in today, you're seeing the next phase of that starting to unfold. And I can assure you that General Caine and Pete Hegseth are expecting that and have contingencies in place to deal with it. So it'll be kind of interesting to see how they do it. We have a lot of military and not a lot of civilians that are working in the Defense Department. They're deployed out all over the place that are at risk, and so we do definitely need to keep them in our prayers and as we work through this rather complex but very critical situation.

Jeff Sanborn commented:

- I just like to take the opportunity to say thanks to Ty. Not everybody here knows this, but this is Ty's last meeting with us here in Stokes County. Sure, he still be around. We'll probably have some connections with him going forward, and we will have the opportunity to more formally recognize him later on in July and bring him back something more meaningful. Thank you for your service. 31 years as Stokes County attorney. That's a lot of experience. It's comforting to know that you're still going to be around, and we can still reach back out to you for clarification on all those things only you know.

Ty Browder commented:

- Well, I would just Like to thank this Board and all the previous boards. My first Board Meeting back in 1981 when we met in the basement of the old courthouse, before any of this here was built. Goes back a long time. I want to thank all those previous boards and for the opportunity to serve you as a board and to serve the citizens discussion. It's been an honor.

Amber Brown commented:

- I just want to thank Ty for his work. I really enjoyed working with him, and I'm looking forward to recognizing him at a future meeting. I think the last one in July is what we're looking at. So, looking forward to that.

Olivia Jessup commented:

- I haven't known Ty very long, I was coming in on your way out. But that's a long time in service to the county, and that's a great accomplishment. So, thank you for your work here.

Sonya Cox commented again:

- Thank you, Ty. I forgot to add that to my comments. But we appreciate all the time. You deserve more than a medal of some of these previous boards you've had over the years. We really appreciate you. Thank you.

Chairman Wood commented:

- I like to welcome everybody. Mary, to be honest, I was with my family yesterday. I wasn't looking at emails. But if you got any questions on how I vote, I will tell you. I'll tell you right here. It's been a busy few weeks. I don't even know if I can name off everywhere I've been the last couple of weeks. Congratulations to Walnut Cove. They're in their new city hall they dedicated. I actually was able to sneak down on the Thursday of last week and attend their council meeting. And I was asked to come and swear in officers at the Health Department committee, and I decided to hang around for their meetings. And yes, I do have other things to do, but again, thanks everybody for coming.

Conflicts Of Interest

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

No conflicts of interest were stated by the Board.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Budget Amendments

NCCMT Account Consolidation

Budget Ordinance FY 2025 / 26

Tax Office Agenda

FY 25-26 Pay and Benefits Policy

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

- Budget Amendments
- NCCMT Account Consolidation
- Budget Ordinance FY 2025/26
- Tax Office Agenda
- FY 25-26 Pay and Benefits Policy

Commissioner Chandler moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

INFORMATION AGENDA

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

Recognition of Retirement

Chairman Wood turned the floor over to Amber Brown, Assistant County Manager to recognize the retirement of Janice Pack, Soil and Water Director.

Brown recognized Pack on her 30 years of service to Stokes County and presented her with a plaque.

Commissioners gave comments and congratulations to Pack, thanking her for her outstanding work in the County and wishing her the best in her retirement.

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.

Donation of Surplus Property

Chairman Wood turned the floor over to Glenda Pruitt, Purchasing/Project Manager, to present Donation of Surplus Property.

Pruitt stated that there were items in the old prison County owns. This includes seven (7) wooden chairs, a set of banisters six (6) in total, and one (1) chair with rollers; that has become surplus from the old courthouse. Pruitt requested these items to be donated to the Stokes County Historical Society. General Statute 160A-280 will be followed and a public notice will be posted for the donation.

With no discussion, the Board gave consensus to this item. A resolution will be placed on the July 14, 2025, consent agenda for the Board's final approval.

Revised SCOPE Program Budget and Resolution Amendment

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

Martin and the Stokes County Health Department requested the removal of the Licensed Clinical Social Worker position from the Resolution for Opioid Settlement Funds. In place of this position, they proposed adding a second Peer Support Specialist.

They also requested the approval for the inclusion of the Community Paramedic and current Peer Support Specialist positions as outlined in the Resolution. This included an extension of the dates for these positions since the date of expiration ends at the end of the current fiscal year.

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

Proposed Updated Contract for Fire Services

Chairman Wood turned the floor over to Scott Aaron, Fire Marshal, to present Proposed Updated Contract for Fire Services.

Aaron mentioned that the draft contract from County staff had not yet been reviewed by the Fire Commission or any of the departments. The current contract is set to automatically renew on July 1, 2025. County staff recommended letting the contract renew, but give notice that it will expire on August 1, 2025, and be replaced by the new draft contract.

After discussion about the draft needing revisions and an extended timeline of notice, the Board moved the item to the Discussion Agenda for the next meeting so that the Fire Commission and fire departments could have time to review the document and suggest changes. The document will continue to be worked on to meet the needs and expectations of the County, Board, and Fire Commission.

DSS Board Appointment

Chairman Wood turned the floor over to Olivia Jessup, Clerk to the Board, to present the DSS Board Appointment.

Jessup noted that the Stokes County Board of Social Services had a vacancy. The vacancy was posted on the County Website Appointments page on June 6th and stayed open until June 20th.

The follow applications were received:

- Kathy Young

With no discussion, the Board nominated Kathy Young for the vacancy and moved the item to the Action Agenda next meeting.

Proposed Stokes County Attorney Contract

Chairman Wood turned the floor over to Jeff Sanborn, County Manager, to present Proposed Stokes County Attorney Contract.

Sanborn informed the Board that County Attorney Ty Browder will be stepping back from his role as county attorney for Stokes County. The proposed contract for legal services to continue still uses the Browder, Overby, and Michaud, P.A. Law Firm but contract with Jennifer instead of Ty due to his retirement. There are no changes in the new proposed contract except for the substitution of names. Mr. Browder would remain available as "of counsel" with their office to consult with Jennifer or Nick on any county-related issues in order to make the transition as smooth as possible.

Additionally, the County will recognize Mr. Browder's retirement and service to the County at a meeting in the near future.

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

NC Dot Request for Addition of Nauvoo Ridge Drive

Chairman Wood turned the floor over to Amber Brown, Assistant County Manager, to present NC DOT Request for Addition of Nauvoo Ridge Drive.

Brown informed the Board that the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NC DOT) requested the addition of Nauvoo Ridge Drive to the state-maintained system. The Board must approve the request via a resolution since the road is located within the boundaries of Stokes County. If the resolution is approved, NCDOT will proceed with next steps in the process including taking it to the DOT Board.

With little discussion, the Board moved the item to the Action Agenda for today's meeting.

ACTION AGENDA

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

ACAB Applications

Chairman Wood polled the members of the Board to appoint new members of the Animal Control Advisory Board.

Commissioner Chandler:

- Shannon Shaver (At-Large)
- Mark Pendleton (At-Large)
- Gerald Conrad (At-Large)
- Sherry Smith (Animal Advocacy Organization Member)
- Tammy Martin (Health Director)

Commissioner Morris:

- Ken Sevier (At-Large)
- Heather Miller (At-Large)
- Gerald Conrad (At-Large)
- Sherry Smith (Animal Advocacy Organization Member)
- Tammy Martin (Health Director)

Commissioner Cox:

- Shannon Shaver (At-Large)
- Ellen Peric (At-Large)
- Gerald Conrad (At-Large)
- Sherry Smith (Animal Advocacy Organization Member)
- Tammy Martin (Health Director)

Vice-Chairman Barneycastle:

- Edith Bennett (At-Large)
- Shannon Shaver (At-Large)
- Gerald Conrad (At-Large)
- Sherry Smith (Animal Advocacy Organization Member)
- Tammy Martin (Health Director)

Chairman Wood:

- Ken Sevier (At-Large)
- Heather Miller (At-Large)
- Gerald Conrad (At-Large)
- Sherry Smith (Animal Advocacy Organization Member)
- Tammy Martin (Health Director)

Gerald Conrad, Shannon Shaver, Sherry Smith, and Tammy Martin had a spot on the Animal Control Advisory Board, while the final At-Large vacancy was tied between Heather Miller and Ken Sevier with two votes each.

After some discussion about ensuring that Stokes County was geographically represented, the Board was repolled for the final At-Large position. All stated Ellen Peric.

The new Animal Control Advisory Board members are as follows:

- Shannon Shaver (At-Large)
- Ellen Peric (At-Large)
- Gerald Conrad (At-Large)
- Sherry Smith (Animal Advocacy Organization Member)
- Tammy Martin (Health Director)

Revised SCOPE Program Budget and Resolution Amendment

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

Commissioner Chandler moved to approve Revised SCOPE Program Budget and Resolution Amendment.

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

Proposed Stokes County Attorney Contract

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

Commissioner Cox moved to approve Proposed Stokes County Attorney Contract.

Commissioner Chandler seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

NC Dot Request for Addition of Nauvoo Ridge Drive

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

Commissioner Chandler moved to approve NC DOT Request for Addition of Nauvoo Ridge Drive.

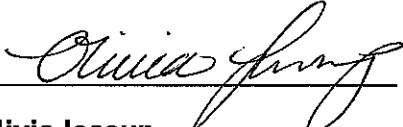
Vice-Chairman Barneycastle seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

Adjournment

Chairman Wood entertained a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Chandler moved to adjourn at 3:18 pm.

Vice-Chairman Barneycastle seconded. The motion Passed.



Olivia Jessup

Clerk to the Board



Keith Wood

Chair