

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF STOKES)

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

**Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.
These meetings are located in the Commissioners
Chambers in the Ronald Reagan Administration Building
in Danbury.**

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, July 28 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 Jennifer Michaud.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Wood called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION

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

Chairman Wood delivered the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Commissioner Chandler moved to approve the agenda as presented.

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

Public Comments

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

COMMENTS - Managers/Commissioners

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

Commissioner Chandler commented:

- Welcome everybody today to our regular Board of Commissioners meeting on a very hot afternoon. It's really nice to be inside. It's an excuse to be inside, not working outside. So, I would hope that everybody got the weather alerts about staying hydrated and taking breaks, especially as elderly folks, kind of comes on you really quick when you're out there working inside.
- Real quick, I guess what kind of ties into something that I want to just mention on our discussion agenda for the donation of the property form and deed for the highway right of way for Sheppard Mill Road and Moratock Park. I had a conversation with somebody today was very concerned about the activities that are going on at Moratock Park, especially on the weekends. During the day, starts in the day and then even goes into the evening. This past weekend, supposedly, there was some law enforcement action taken where they had to disperse everybody in the park. I think it was around nine o'clock, music was blaring. In fact, it's loud there a lot, but it was really, really loud over this past weekend. And then also, in conjunction with that, it seems that we're getting more and more people that are that are driving recklessly in that area.
- So, I would like to, I would like to ask the manager if to coordinate with the sheriff, or at least contact the sheriff and see what kind of resources he needs to see if we can't stop the- there's a lot of illegal drinking, I think going on, there probably some impaired violations going on there. I think we need to make sure that Moratock Park is for everybody. It can't just be where families are uncomfortable coming to Moratock Park.
- And then also, if you would, pull the CAD reports. I'd like to see how many calls are actually coming in to dispatch that were responded to, maybe starting in the beginning around maybe late April, early May to now. I know a lot of people I talked to in the past about it. I always try to make sure the call Sheriff, to make sure that it's a complaint is lodged there, too. But I think now it's to the point where we just need to. I want to help him help the county, if he needs resources to if he has some ideas how he can boil down the problem where someone gets serious, I think it needs to do that.

Commissioner Morris commented:

- I'd like to welcome everybody. I was also going to comment on the heat, but since Brad did that, I won't do it twice, so that's all I have.

Vice-Chair Barneycastle commented:

- I'd just like to welcome everybody. Good to see everybody today. Just stay hydrated.

Commissioner Cox commented:

- Just to echo what Commissioner Chandler spoke about that is a concern for all of us, Moratock Park and everybody's safety and well-being down there, and any illegal activities that could be going on down there, and whatever resources we need to utilize to help out in that situation, I think we should do it. So just welcome to our meeting. And we're here. We're going to celebrate Ty Browder here in a little bit, so we're excited to have them here today.

County Manager Jeff Sanborn commented:

- I'd just like to let everybody know that we have a draft copy of the results from our annual resident survey that we conducted a month or so ago. It is draft. It's not really quite ready for public consumption because there are some errors in it that we're working to correct but having gone through it a couple times very quickly, there are some really interesting results in here, and I think they're going to help us to prioritize our efforts to improve service delivery in the future.

Assistant County Manager Amber Brown had no comments.

Clerk to the Board Olivia Jessup had no comments.

Chair Wood commented:

- I'd like to welcome everybody also, and I've been concerned about the sheer volume of traffic and the parks just this weekend, the activity, since I drive over it almost every day by Moratock, is heavier than a normal. It's like, oh, they want to replace a bridge? Let's go watch it. But they're watching in the water. So I think we need to address it. The only other two things I got, I want to thank Robin with the Hanging Rock State Park and her boss, they give us a tour of a Vade Mecum last Wednesday, and they're coming along pretty good.
- I think most of the mechanicals done and all the drywalls. So I guess they're getting ready to paint and the PAC meeting I was in a few weeks ago, they are shooting for end

of the year or first of next year, to have it up and running. And there are jobs posted that are hiring for several positions.

- Also, we've had a Zoom meeting with the architect on the animal shelter. We didn't like their schedule, so they come back with a new schedule, and we could live with that, and they're shooting for we are going to try to pursue a waiting on the bid in October, first of November.

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 Amendment

Tax Office Agenda

Board of Elections Upgraded Election Management System

Board of Health Commissioner Appointment

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

- Budget Amendment
- Tax Office Agenda
- Board of Elections Upgraded Election Management System
- Board of Health Commissioner Appointment

Commissioner Morris moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Chandler 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 County Attorney Ty Browder

Chairman Wood turned the floor over to Amber Brown to recognize retiring County Attorney Ty Browder.

Amber Brown noted that Ty Browder grew up in Rural Hall, NC and has been a resident of King since 1974. He's been married to Arden Harris Browder for 33 years and has 4 children, 4 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren.

Browder is a graduate of Northwest Forsyth High School and earned a degree in Business Administration and a Law degree from UNC Chapel Hill. He taught Math at South Stokes High School from 1968 to 1972, then became an attorney with Stover Dellinger & Browder from 1974 to 1985. Later in 1985, he established a solo practice that continues to operate presently and is now Browder, Overby, & Michaud. Browder served as the Stokes County Attorney for over thirty years, from 1981-1982, 1987-2003, and 2013-June 2025.

Browder has served his community as a past member of and director of King Jaycees, a past member of the King Lions Club, a past member and president of King Rotary Club, past director and officer of United Sports Council of King, past director of King Library, charter member and past director of King Chamber of Commerce, and past local bank director.

Professional Memberships and Awards include being a member of the North Carolina Bar Association, Member of Judicial District 23 Bar for Stokes and Surry County, received 2015 Centennial Award from North Carolina Bar Association in conjunction with the 17B Judicial District Bar Association for outstanding and exemplary service to the Community and the Profession of Law. On October 31st, 2024, he was recognized and honored along with other lawyers for being North Carolina Attorneys who have served in the legal profession for more than 50 years.

Amber thanked him for his professionalism, calm demeanor, and hard work for the County, and wished him the best in retirement.

Chair Wood opened the floor for Commissioners to comment.

Commissioner Cox commented:

- I've probably known Ty the longest of most anyone here because we were neighbors on Deerfield Drive where I grew up. So, we go pretty far back, and I've known Arden even longer. We appreciate your service to the Board and, like Amber said, I never really saw you get riled or ruffled so that's saying a lot. I don't know if you take good supplements or what, but I need some of those. But we really do appreciate you and your service here with us and keeping us straight all this time, so we really, truly appreciate it and enjoy your consulting moving forward.

Vice-Chair Barneycastle commented:

- Ty, thank you for all your service here at the County. We greatly appreciate it. Thank you for all your advice that you have, it's more than welcome. Just enjoy yourself and have a good time, and thank you for what all you have done for your community over in the King area as well. I know you've been a big part there also. So, thank you for everything you've done.

Commissioner Morris commented:

- Ty, I guess we go back a pretty good while, not as long as Sonya. We've worked through a lot of issues over the last 20 years. I guess the thing I appreciate the most about you definitely your legal advice. I think on a lot of these sticky issues, it's been your judgment and common sense that was even more important than the legal aspects of it. And you know, I've gone into a lot of situations thinking A, B or C, and after I talk to you, I decided, well, D and F is really better. So, I really do think you have a lot of wisdom, and especially a lot of knowledge about this County and about how this local government works and everything, and a lot of the successes we've had, I think it almost be directly attributed to the advice you've given. And I just, I really appreciate the support you give me in both roles, and really hope you have a good whatever it is you're having now, hopefully some golf, if nothing else, but, but it's been a real pleasure to work with you.

Commissioner Chandler commented:

- So I've, I've known Ty the least, probably two years, and the one thing that I really got to say is that you really had a very, very good temperament, even before I got elected. I know there's some controversies going on and in terms like the hospital and I know that I would come up here to listen and watch and even when the temperature got kind of hot, you were always that that voice of reason.
- And the other thing that I learned is that it just wasn't a job to you. It was you really cared for the county. I mean, we paid you to do it, but it wasn't something that that's all you did was, hey, I'm in it for the money, and I want to come here and do this while you were here. And then even, you know, a lot of times, you know, we're not even here, and you're getting phone calls asking for advice. And I just never, I never, ever got the feeling that you pick the winners. You just quoted the law and then gave your opinion on the success rate of if we're right or wrong, if we would go to trial. So, for that, I thank you. Thank you.

Chair Wood commented:

- Ty, you're going to love retirement. Just be careful when you take on the home projects, because I found out that building a simple bookshelf ends up painting room, putting down a new floor, and the bookshelf ain't built yet. But I appreciate your commitment

all these years. Also, you're leaving this in good hands, I think you done a good job with Jennifer.

Ty Browder commented:

- I would just like to thank the Board for all those kinds of comments, and I always try to stay calm in all situations and keep everyone else calm. That doesn't always work. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't, but I've been thinking back on the years when I first started, and all the changes and I've seen in Stokes County. I know when I when I started out 51 years ago, sounds like a long time, but it seems like only yesterday. In some respects, I know we the Register of Deeds was in the Old Courthouse. Everything was in the Old Courthouse. It was on the on the first floor, on the left, as you go in, farther down was the Tax Office. On the right, across the hall was the Clerk of Court. Upstairs was the only courtroom, and all the DAs offices were upstairs. Everything was there, and this complex wasn't here.
- And now look at this beautiful government complex that we have here, and we're already enlarging the courthouse to make more courtrooms, and just a lot of lot of progress that's been made in Stokes County and this Board, as it's currently constituted, I'm proud of the progress that has been made since this Board has been in office, and I think you've made great strides in making the County run better and making the County departments better and more responsive to the public. I just want to commend all of you for the job that you've done, and Amber, I want to thank you for those kind words and the time that you've spent putting this together. I appreciate that, and I know Jennifer's going to do a great job. She's been an assistant for, I think, a couple of years, or maybe a little longer, and I think she's doing a great job, and she'll do a great, great job in the future. But I just want to thank this Board and all the previous Boards for the opportunity to serve you and the citizens of Stokes County and allowing me to play a small part. Just thank you all.

Register of Deeds Quarterly Report

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

Brandon Hooker presented his report for the 2025 second quarter/fourth fiscal quarter. Total revenue during this period was \$236,805.25, while gross revenue was \$141,296.15. He noted that some numbers were higher due to the federal Real ID requirements going into effect.

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.

Northern Piedmont Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Chairman Wood turned the floor over to Brandon Gentry to present the Northern Piedmont Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Brandon Gentry explained that Emergency Management updated their Northern Piedmont Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, which happens every 5 years and allows the County to be eligible to receive assistance if there is a disaster. This resolution has to be adopted by the BOCC as well as all municipalities for their boards' approval.

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

Donation of Property Form and Deed for Highway Right of Way Agreements for Sheppard Mill Road Bridge Replacement

Chairman Wood turned the floor over to Tory Mabe to present the Donation of Property Form and Deed for the Highway Right of Way Agreements for Sheppard Mill Road Bridge Replacement.

Tory Mabe noted that the NC DOT has been working with Stokes County to locate and acquire replacement property for the Right Of Way that is needed to construct a new replacement bridge along Sheppard Mill Road. The prospective replacement property is a 2.78-acre tract of land that belongs to Mr. Robby Bennett and the property connects to the county-owned Moratock Park property. Mr. Robby Bennett is working with NCDOT property acquisition agents and has signed the agreement; NCDOT is currently waiting for the Title Approval/Review. NCDOT will pay Mr. Bennett for his property and then convey the property to the County of Stokes to replace the donated Right of Way property that NCDOT will be deeded for the new bridge.

After some discussion, the item was moved 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.

Voluntary Agriculture District Board Appointments

At the last meeting George Cutchins and Taylor George was nominated to serve on the VAD Board. No other applications were received.

Chair Wood polled the Board to approve Cutchins and George. All stated Cutchins and George.

Stokes Aging Planning Committee Appointments

At the last meeting, the following names were nominated to serve on the Stokes Aging Planning Committee for fiscal year 2025/2026:

Brad Lankford
Tammie Bennett
JoAnn Hall
Judy Hennis
Brandon Hooker
Jack Sneed
Mike Stewart
Kathy Young
Waynona Sands
Judy Hopkins
Darlene James
Katie Tedder

~~Chairman Wood entertained a motion to approve the list as presented.~~

~~Commissioner Chandler moved to approve the list as presented.~~

Commissioner Morris seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

Northern Piedmont Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan

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

Commissioner Morris moved to approve the Northern Piedmont Hazard Mitigation Plan.

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

Donation of Property Form and Deed for Highway Right of Way Agreements for Sheppard Mill Road Bridge Replacement

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

Commissioner Chandler moved to approve the Donation of Property Form and Deed for Highway Right of Way Agreements for Sheppard Mill Road Bridge Replacement.

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

CLOSED SESSION

Chairman Wood entertained a motion to enter closed session at 2:41 pm.

Vice-Chair Barneycastle moved to go into closed session for the following rationales:

To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby

acknowledged pursuant G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3).

Commissioner Chandler seconded the motion.

With no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

The Board entered closed session.

Adjournment

The Board reentered open session.

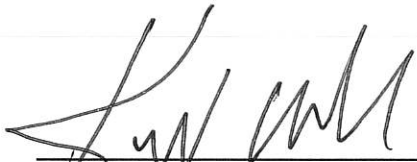
Chairman Wood entertained a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Chandler moved to adjourn at 3:44 pm.

Commissioner Cox seconded. The motion Passed.



Olivia Jessup
Clerk to the Board



Keith Wood
Chair