

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 SEPTEMBER 8, 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, September 8th at 6:00 pm with the following members present:

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

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.

Commissioner Cox 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.

Clerk to the Board Olivia Jessup noted that the agenda needed to be amended to remove Closed Session.

Commissioner Cox moved to approve the agenda as amended.

Commissioner Chandler seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

Public Comments

Chairman Wood opened the floor for public comments at 6:03 pm.

The following individuals signed up to speak in public comments:

Jason Duncan
3196 US 311 Hwy N
Pine Hall, NC
RE: Pine Hall Elementary School

Wanda Tarlta
PO Box 28
Pine Hall, NC
RE: Pine Hall Elementary School

Kathy Taylor
1220 Pine Hall Road
Pine Hall, NC
RE: Pine Hall Elementary School

Chairman Wood closed the floor for public comments at 6:12 pm.

Chairman Wood reopened the floor for public comments at 6:19 pm.

The following individuals spoke:

Micheal Gibson
Walnut Cove, NC
RE: Pine Hall Elementary School

Stanley Bowman
Pine Hall, NC
RE: Pine Hall Elementary School

Chairman Wood re-closed the floor for public comments at 6:22 pm.

COMMENTS - Managers/Commissioners

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

Commissioner Chandler commented:

- Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm going to welcome everybody that came to tonight's meeting, and also those that are looking in on YouTube, the social media devices. Especially want to thank you all from Pine Hall coming down. I mean, personally, I think that I'd like to have a couple work sessions out in your all's area, to where maybe a couple of different times, to where more people as getting off work, maybe they could come and give us their input. Some of the things that we got to keep in keep in mind is the, you know, we're not in a rush. At least I'm not of trying to dispose of the property or do something. I think it needs to be well thought out, and I think we need to have a lot of input, but something that y'all could be thinking about, because we don't have to take the property from the from the Board of Education. They're just offering it to us. So if you had your druthers, would you rather deal with the Board of Education and trying to work something out with the school, or would you rather the Board of Commissioners deal with it? It's just something that you all need to think about, because that's something we have to think about as a board, but in the long run, but we do want to do what's best for you on that on that side of the county.

Commissioner Morris commented:

- I'd like to welcome everybody as well, and I appreciate also the Pine Hall folks coming out. I suggested that we get with you guys at our last meeting as a first step, and I'll save the rest of my comments till we'll get to it on the agenda item. But I've been involved in this one time before with Francisco, so we'll get into some detailed discussions as we go about what we did there versus what we might do with you guys.

Commissioner Cox commented:

- I'd like to thank everybody for being here and for the comments and thank those of you from Pine Hall who took time to come up here and express your concerns and comments to us. And as Brad said, we think that the statutes have changed a little bit since Francisco as far as the property automatically reverting back to the County, and that's not the case anymore. Doesn't automatically work that way. So, we may or may not even be taking it off their hands. We don't know. That's why we were trying to get people's input as to what they would like to happen with it. So, we just appreciate y'all expressing your ideas and concerns, and as Brad said, we're not in any big hurry to make this happen, so we've got time to discuss it and find the best possible solutions for the property.
- I was there when we turned it into did Mike Joyce's Memorial. I was on the school board so very acutely aware of that being there and how important that is to the community and how important that school was to Mike, so I would like nothing more than to see that be maintained and continue to be there, as well as something that the community can be proud of and find useful. So hopefully we can find a way to, you know, keep that, keep it from falling into any more disarray. We definitely don't want

to see it turn into a junkyard or anything like that. So, we hope that we can find the best solution for everybody out there, for sure. Thank you all for being here.

County Manager Jeff Sanborn had no comments.

Assistant County Manager Amber Brown commented:

- I just wanted to remind everybody that the Stokes Stomp is this weekend. It's Saturday. It's a free event. It's the 51st one, if I'm not wrong about that, and it's held in downtown Danbury this year instead of at Moratock Park because of the bridge construction. But it should be a good event.

Chair Wood commented:

- That reminded me, the Stokes County Fair starts tomorrow through Saturday. I appreciate y'all coming. I appreciate you speaking out. This is not going to be an easy decision, and we're not going to jump at the first thing that happens easily. We want to look at all the rules we have to play by and try to make a smart decision. We'd rather be tried in court instead of Facebook.
- So there was a gentleman that's one, is it? Two. So just to show you, I'm a nice guy. I'm going to let y'all comment.
- I got one more thing that was my little project when I ran for Commissioner. As of last Friday, the inspections and building permits, you can apply online. They kicked it off Friday. They still got a few little bugs, like anything new, they're working out, but now we're not one of six counties that don't have it in North Carolina out of 100. So Eric and his staff, hats off.

Conflicts 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

Danbury Planning Board ETJ Member Reappointment

Chairman Wood entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Morris 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.

Stokes County Inclusion on UAL

Chairman Wood turned the floor over to Finance Director Tammy Keaton to present Stokes County Inclusion on the UAL.

Keaton explained that she and the Finance Department were recently notified that Stokes County will be included on the Unit Assistance List (UAL) compiled based on the fiscal year 2024 audited financial statements. The main reasons for this were due to internal controls and delayed audit submission likely stemming from turnover. Stokes County will remain on the list for a year and be coached in better practices.

She also mentioned that the current audit is going well, being about 87% complete with a plan to submit ahead of schedule by late October.

The Board encouraged the Department to keep working hard and use this inclusion as a learning opportunity.

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.

Offer to Purchase Real Property

Chairman Wood turned the floor over to Purchasing/Project Manager Glenda Pruitt to present Offer to Purchase Real Property.

Pruitt mentioned that an offer to purchase real property (parcel number 5974-72-9981 on High Bridge Road in Pinnacle, NC) was received on August 19, 2025. She requested that the item be moved to action so the upset bidding process could begin.

With little discussion, the item was moved to the action agenda for tonight's meeting.

Fire Service Agreement Revisions

Chairman Wood turned the floor over to County Manager Jeff Sanborn to present Fire Service Agreement Revisions.

Sanborn explained that process for the fire contract was ahead of schedule and explained the various revisions that the current draft had been through with the different departments. He

also explained what areas he had added his own revisions and requested approval from the Board to send out this second draft for further feedback.

After some discussion, the Board approved the item being sent out as a second draft.

Commissioner Cox moved to approve the Fire Service Agreement Revisions.

Commissioner Chandler seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

Pine Hall Elementary School Property

Chairman Wood turned the floor over to County Attorney Jennifer Michaud to present Pine Hall Elementary School Property.

Michaud explained that moving forward would depend on if the Board wanted the Property or not. Discussion about who the citizens of Pine Hall would prefer to have the property, the BOCC or BOE, arose. There were additional concerns about recurring expenses and upkeep for the property while deciding what to do.

After continued discussion with a few citizens of Pine Hall in attendance, the Board elected to keep the item on the agenda for continued discussion once they have news from the Board of Education.

Request to Consider a Sunday Brunch Ordinance

Chairman Wood turned the floor over to Assistant County Manager Amber Brown to present Request to Consider a Sunday Brunch Ordinance.

Brown explained that in 2017, the General Assembly passed the "Brunch Bill" which enacted a new statute authorizing cities and counties to adopt ordinances allowing the sale of alcoholic beverages beginning at 10:00 am on Sundays. For those localities that have not passed an ordinance, which includes Stokes, state law prohibits the sale or consumption of alcoholic beverages before 12:00 pm on Sundays. Daniel Wilson, a local business-owner, has requested that the Board consider passing an ordinance permitting the extension of alcohol sales to 10:00 am on Sundays.

After some discussion, the Board agreed to the drafting of a Sunday Brunch ordinance for consideration.

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 Hunting Organization Member and Chair Appointment

At the last meeting, Ken Sevier was nominated as the Animal Control Advisory Board Hunting Organization Member. The Board was polled to finalize the appointment, name a Chair and establish term limits. 5

1. For Ken Sevier's appointment: The Board was polled. All stated Sevier.
2. For Chair appointment: Sherry Smith was nominated. The Board was polled. All stated Smith,
3. For terms ending Dec. 2026: Gerald Conrad and Ken Sevier were nominated. The Board was polled. All stated Conrad and Sevier.
4. For terms ending Dec. 2027: Ellen Peric and Shannon Shaver were nominated. The Board was polled. All stated Peric and Shaver.

Offer to Purchase Real Property

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

Commissioner Morris moved to approve Offer to Purchase Real Property.

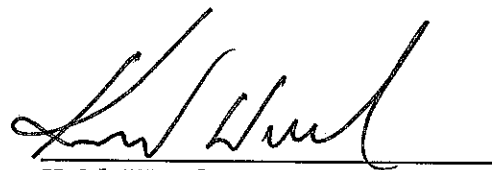
Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. The motion Passed.

Adjournment

Chairman Wood entertained a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Chandler moved to adjourn at 7:45 pm.

Commissioner Morris seconded. The motion Passed.

	
Olivia Jessup Clerk to the Board	Keith Wood Chair