

**STANLY COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 5, 2015**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Janet K. Lowder, Chairman
Peter Ascitutto
Joseph Burleson
T. Scott Efir
Bill Lawhon
Gene McIntyre

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Tony Dennis, Vice Chairman

STAFF PRESENT:

Andy Lucas, County Manager
Jenny Furr, County Attorney
Tyler Brummitt, Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

The Stanly County Board of Commissioners (the "Board") met in regular session on Monday, January 5, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room, Stanly Commons. Chairman Lowder called the meeting to order and Commissioner Efir gave the invocation and led the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL / ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Chairman Lowder requested that an item for the Sheriff's Office be added as Item # 2 on the agenda. Commissioner Ascitutto requested that consent item # 2D be pulled for discussion as a separate item which was included as item # 3 with the remaining consent agenda items listed as Item # 4.

Commissioner McIntyre moved to approve the agenda as amended. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Lawhon and passed by unanimous vote.

ITEM # 1 – PUBLIC SCHOOLS MEETING SUB-COMMITTEE

Presenter: Andy Lucas, County Manager

Superintendent Terry Griffin requested that County and School System officials begin meeting on a regular basis leading up to the FY 2015-2016 budget process by appointing three (3) Board

members to a sub-committee to represent the County and in turn provide updates to the full Board as needed.

Commissioner McIntyre, Commissioner Ascitutto and Commissioner Burleson agreed to serve on the committee and chose Tuesday, January 13th or Wednesday, January 21st as an initial meeting date. The County Manager was asked to forward this information to Superintendent Griffin.

ITEM # 2 – ADD ON ITEM FOR THE SHERIFF’S OFFICE TO REQUEST ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Presenter: Sheriff George Burris

Sheriff Burris presented a request for an additional \$50,000 to purchase new uniforms for all uniformed personnel including forty (40) detention officers and sixty (60) patrol, civil and administration officers.

Chairman Lowder requested the County Manager provide information related to the current year budget for the Sheriff’s Office. The County Manager stated that \$17,750 was included in the current budget for new uniforms which is consistent with previous years. Of that amount, \$12,500 remains in this year’s budget for such use.

Commissioner Ascitutto stated he appreciated the Sheriff’s explanation and cost breakdown for the uniforms, but expressed concerns with spending additional funds at this time due to the expense incurred with the new public safety emergency radio system. He also stated that he would be willing to discuss additional funding for next year’s budget during the Board retreat and budget workshops.

Commissioner McIntyre stated that he is appalled at the amount allotted in the past for uniforms as well as the current conditions of the uniforms. He then noted the importance of the perception of the Sheriff’s Office in the community and recommended the Board approve the additional \$50,000 to outfit the officers.

By motion, Commissioner McIntyre moved to approve the \$50,000 to purchase new uniforms as requested and was seconded by Commissioner Burleson.

Prior to the vote, Commissioner Lawhon asked Sheriff Burris to clarify how funds received from the sale of used Sheriff’s Office vehicles at auction will be used, or if they are returned to the budget. Sheriff Burris stated these funds are returned to the budget, but will be used for the purchase of a new vehicle if approved by the Board to do so.

With a motion and second to approve the additional \$50,000 in funding, Chairman Lowder requested a vote. The motion carried with a 5 – 1 vote (Commissioner Ascitutto voting nay).

Commissioner McIntyre then moved to amend the budget amendment to reflect the \$50,000 that was approved for the purchase of uniforms. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Efird and passed with a 5 – 1 vote (Commissioner Ascitutto voting nay).

ITEM # 3 – SHERIFF’S OFFICE BUDGET AMENDMENT # 2015-23

The budget amendment was submitted for Board approval to approve the transfer of funds from State Drug Seized Funds & Telephone Fees to Motor Vehicles in the amount of \$7,500. The current budget included \$110,000 for the purchase of five (5) Chevrolet Impalas. Sheriff Burris believes the Dodge Charger is a better patrol vehicle and requested an additional \$7,500 to cover the difference in price to complete the purchase for the fifth Dodge Charger.

Commissioner Ascitutto moved to approve the budget amendment as presented and was seconded by Commissioner McIntyre. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

ITEM # 4 – CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes – Regular meeting of December 15, 2014
- B. Finance – Request acceptance of the Monthly Financial Report Ended November 30, 2014
- C. Health Dept. – Request approval of budget amendment # 2015-22

By motion, Commissioner McIntyre moved to approve the above items as presented and was seconded by Commissioner Ascitutto. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

GENERAL COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Ascitutto noted that he had attended the Library Board of Trustees meeting and participated in a county work-day with the Tax Office earlier in the week.

Commissioner Lawhon provided a brief update on the Economic Development Commission noting that he plan to meet with EDC Director Paul Stratos on a weekly basis to stay informed on current projects.

Commissioner Efird thanked Sheriff Burris for wanting the best for the County, thanked Representative Burr for attending the meeting and stated what a “gem” the Stanly County Airport is for the county.

CLOSED SESSION

By motion, Commissioner McIntyre moved to recess into closed session to discuss a real estate transaction in accordance with G. S. 143-318.11(a)(5). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ascutto and passed by unanimous vote at 7:38 p.m.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Efird moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Ascutto. Motion carried with a 6 – 0 vote at 7:58 p.m.

Janet K. Lowder, Chairman

Tyler Brummitt, Clerk