

**STANLY COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 21, 2016**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

T. Scott Efird, Chairman
Bill Lawhon, Vice Chairman
Peter Ascitutto
Joseph Burleson
Tony Dennis
Janet K. Lowder
Gene McIntyre

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, March 21, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room, Stanly Commons. Chairman Efird called the meeting to order and Commissioner Dennis led a moment of silence and the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL / ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

With no amendments to the agenda, Commissioner Burleson moved to approve it as presented. Commissioner McIntyre seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.

ITEM # 1 – SOUTHSIDE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT REFINANCING

Presenter: John Howell, Chairman of the Board

Mr. Howell addressed the Board stating that Southside Volunteer Fire Department intends to refinance the existing building debt and borrow additional funds to purchase two (2) new pumper trucks. The maximum loan amount will be \$820,000 with payments set for a twenty (20) year term at a fixed rate. Per IRS code 1986, Section 147(f), a public hearing is required to receive public comment in addition to obtaining Board approval of the resolution of support since the loan will be obtained on a tax-exempt basis. Mr. Howell noted that the purchase of a new pumper truck will also aid in lowering the insurance rating for the community served by the fire department.

Prior to any Board action, Chairman Efird requested that Commissioner Lawhon be excused from voting due a conflict of interest. Commissioner Bureson moved to approve the request and was seconded by Commissioner McIntyre. The motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.

After a brief period of questions from the Board, Chairman Efird declared the public hearing open. With no one coming forward to speak for or against, the public hearing was closed.

By motion, Commissioner Dennis moved to approve the resolution to approve Southside Volunteer Fire Department’s request to refinance on a tax-exempt basis. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lowder and passed by unanimous vote.

See Exhibit A

**Resolution Approving the Refinancing by Southside Volunteer Fire Department
of up to \$820,000 for the Purpose of Refinancing a Building and
Purchase of Two (2) New Pumper Trucks**

ITEM # 2 – PROCLAMATION “SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH APRIL 2016”

Presenter: Dr. Janice Dunlap, President of the Board of Directors for Esther House

Dr. Dunlap took a few moments to provide a brief review of Esther House’s mission followed by a request for the Board’s consideration in adopting the proclamation.

Commissioner Ascitutto moved to approve the proclamation as requested and was seconded by Commissioner Dennis. The motion carried with a 7 – 0 vote.

See Exhibit B

Proclamation

Sexual Assault Awareness Month April 2016

ITEM # 3 – AWARD OF THE COUNTY AUDITING SERVICES CONTRACT FOR FY 2015-16

Presenter: Toby Hinson, Finance Director

In response to an RFP for the county’s FY 2015-16 auditing services, the Finance Department received two (2) bids - one from Martin Starnes & Associates and a second from Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams & Company. The bid from Martin Starnes & Associates is \$49,000 versus \$45,950 from Thompson’s. The Finance Director noted that although Thompson’s bid was less, the cost to train Finance staff in the different methods used by them would increase the overall cost by approximately \$1,500. Staff recommendation was to continue with Martin Starnes & Associates due to the minimal difference in cost and also factoring in the training/reporting changes that will take place in FY 15-16. It was noted that in negotiations for the FY 16-17

auditing contract should Martin Starnes not reduce their price, staff will be inclined to recommend a change at that time.

After a brief period of questions from the Board, Commissioner McIntyre moved to award the auditing services contract to Martin Starnes & Associates for FY 2015-16. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dennis and passed by a 6 – 1 vote. (Commissioner Ascitutto voted against.)

CONSENT AGENDA

- A.** Minutes – Regular meeting of March 7, 2016
- B.** Finance – Request acceptance of the Monthly Financial Report for Eight Months Ended February 29, 2016
- C.** Central Administration – Request approval of the enclosed Fair Housing Plan update for the 2012 Scattered Site Housing Grant (#12-C-2430)
- D.** Facilities – Request approval of the attached list of vehicles be declared as surplus and sold on GovDeals.
- E.** Sheriff’s Office – Request of the updated Sheriff’s Office Records Retention & Disposition Schedule.
- F.** Utilities – Accept the loan offer and approve the associated resolution for the Phase One Airport Corridor Project.

Commissioner Dennis moved to approve the consent agenda as presented and was seconded by Commissioner Lawhon. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Anthony Graves of Albemarle began by noting a recent article in the Stanly News and Press related to the School Board’s lingering decision regarding school closures. He requested the Board consider making a statement to announce their plans to do nothing and allow the School Board to move forward with Plan B as he believes they will, or commit to providing the funding needed by the schools for next year which will allow the incoming School Board members to focus on other issues.

Lane Burris of Locust expressed his concerns with the current Board members and their lack of ethics noting one commissioner in particular for this reason.

GENERAL COMMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Ascitutto stated that he voted against the award of the county auditing services contract to Martin Starnes & Associates because the difference in cost is needed to fund other areas such as education. He then stated that with the ¼ cent sales tax referendum not passing for the second time and the incoming commissioners and school board members that prefer to keep community schools open rather than consolidate and reinvest those funds into education, we cannot continue to blame the School Board because children choose other options (charter schools, home schooling and online classes) for their education. Education has changed over time just as other industries have with more opportunities available to them and is all the more reason to consolidate schools to be more efficient with county dollars.

Also in response to Commissioner Burleson's previous comments during a radio address related to commissioners' wages, he invited Commissioner Burleson to participate with him on a task force to conduct a pay study of county commissioners as a way of possibly reducing costs and saving county tax dollars.

Commissioner Dennis stated that the radar at the airport is now up and running and can provide guidance to aircraft in any type of weather.

Commissioner Burleson provided a brief review of the recent election results noting that candidates in support of community schools received 39,960 votes as opposed to those in favor of school consolidation which received 20,239 votes. He then stated with the issues the County has faced in recent years which have caused a division among its citizens, now is the time to put the politics behind us for the betterment of everyone.

Commissioner Burleson stated that he, Chairman Efird, Commissioner Dennis and the Center Rural Fire Department Board of Directors members recently met with representatives of the state auditors' office who have cleared the fire department of any wrong doings as previously alleged.

Commissioner Burleson reminded everyone of the National Wildlife Turkey Federation Banquet on Friday, March 25th and encouraged support of the event.

Chairman Efird wished everyone a Happy Easter.

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Lowder moved to recess the meeting into closed session in order to discuss a personnel issue in accordance with G.S. 143-318.11(a)6). Her motion was seconded by Commissioner Dennis and passed by unanimous vote at 7:33 p.m.

ADJOURN

With no further discussion, Commissioner Lawhon moved to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Commissioner Burleson. Motion carried with a 7 – 0 vote at 8:20 p.m.

Terry Scott Efird, Chairman

Tyler Brummitt, Clerk