

**STANLY COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 15, 2017**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Bill Lawhon, Chairman
Joseph Burleson, Vice Chairman
Scott Efirm
Janet K. Lowder
Gene McIntyre
Ashley Morgan
Matthew Swain

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

None

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, May 15, 2017 in the Commissioners Meeting Room, Stanly Commons. Chairman Lawhon called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., gave the invocation and led the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL / ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Due to Mr. Harrington being unable to attend the meeting, Chairman Lawhon requested that Item #1 – Retirement award presentation for David Harrington be removed from the agenda. Vice Chairman Burleson moved to approve the agenda as amended and was seconded by Commissioner McIntyre. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

ITEM # 1 – UPDATE ON TAX COLLECTOR'S FORECLOSURE AND RESULTS TO DATE

Presenter: Clinton Swaringen, Tax Administrator

Mr. Swaringen provided an update on the county's In Rem Foreclosure program and the results thus far since the program was put in place on December 1, 2014. With the help of Morton & Griffin Attorneys, work officially began on the first foreclosure in March 2015. To date \$376,136.37 in delinquent taxes has been collected which represents 29 parcels with back taxes that are now current. Mr. Swaringen proceeded to explain the two (2) types of foreclosure and the steps involved in order to begin foreclosure proceedings. He then entertained questions from the Board.

The presentation was for information only and required no action.

ITEM # 2 – CO-OPERATIVE EXTENSION

Presenter: Andy Lucas, County Manager

For Board consideration, Mr. Lucas presented the following applications for approval as an Enhanced Voluntary Ag-District:

- John & Kathy Davis
- Vicki S. Eudy
- Ron & Nancy Bryant
- Earl Almond

Additionally, the following six (6) applications were submitted for approval as Voluntary Ag Districts:

- George B. Shaver & Gwendolyn D. Shaver
- H. D. Efird
- Rickey L. Eudy & Dottie C. Eudy
- John R. Huneycutt & Lisa T. Huneycutt
- Sarah W. McClellan & William Clayton McClellan, Jr.
- Donnie G. Huneycutt & John T. Huneycutt

With no questions from the Board, Commissioner Swain moved to approve all the applications as submitted and was seconded by Commissioner McIntyre. The motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

ITEM # 3 – SENIOR SERVICES

Presenter: Becky Weemhoff, Senior Services Director

A. Presentation of the SHIP Program & Recognition of SHIP Counselors

Ms. Weemhoff gave a brief overview of the Seniors Health Insurance Program (SHIP) which is coordinated by the Senior Services department to give guidance to Medicare beneficiaries and caregivers to assist them in understanding Medicare benefits. She took a moment to recognize eight (8) of the certified SHIP counselors: Walt Deppe, Karen Ingram, Rachel Morrison, Jahala Williams, Martha Sue Hall, Keith Nash, Mary Troutman and Becky Weemhoff. Others that assist during the busy times are Isabelle Howard, Linda Clark, Joan Huneycutt, Sharon Greene, Aleshia Holland and Pamela Sullivan.

The presentation was for information only and required no Board action.

B. Presentation of the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Program & Recognition of Volunteers

Ms. Weemhoff noted that the AARP Tax-Aide Program offers free tax preparation to anyone fifty (50) years and older who cannot afford a tax preparation service. Ms. Weemhoff introduced Mr. Walt Deppe, Local Coordinator for the program who then recognized the tax preparers: Ed Jenkins, Barbara Williams, Dr. Surendrepal Mac, C. D. Crepps, Vivian Vair, Pam Mott, Joanne Almond, Sue Madrino, and Linda Whitney. Client Facilitators include Linda Clark, Karen Peak, Nancy Sullivan, Nancy Barker, Paul Roberts, Judy Deppe, Isabelle Howard and Vince Lombardo.

The presentation was for information only and required no action.

C. APPROVAL OF THE FY 2017-18 COUNTY AGING FUNDING PLAN & APPROPRIATION OF THESE FUNDS INTO THE COUNTY BUDGET

Stanly County's Aging Funding Plan for FY 2017-18 was presented for Board consideration and approval. As required, the Home & Community Block Grant (HCCBG) Board met and voted on the dollar amount of funding for each of the six (6) programs that include In Home Services Level I (Home Management) and Level II (Personal Care), Congregate Nutrition, Home Delivered Meals, Transportation and Information/Options Counseling.

By motion, Vice Chairman Burleson moved to approve the County Aging Funding Plan and acceptance of the funds into the county's FY 2017-18 budget. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McIntyre and passed by unanimous vote.

D. AWARD OF THE NUTRITION PROGRAM CATERING CONTRACT

With the second year of the two (2) year contract for the Nutrition Program caterer ending June 30, 2017, bid packets were sent out and opened on April 13th. Of the two (2) bids received, it was requested the Board award the catering contract to Punchy's Diner of Concord, NC at a cost of \$4.45/meal for a two (2) year term beginning July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2019.

After a period of discussion, Commissioner McIntyre moved to approve Punchy's Diner as the caterer for the Nutrition Program as requested for a term of two (2) years. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Efird. The motion carried with a 5 – 2 vote.

Ayes: Vice Chairman Burleson, Commissioner Efird, Commissioner Lowder, Commissioner McIntyre and Commissioner Morgan

Nos: Chairman Lawhon and Commissioner Swain

ITEM # 4 – CENTRALINA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD (CWDB) APPOINTMENTS

Presenter: Andy Lucas, County Manager

It was requested the Board appoint two (2) individuals to serve a two (2) year term beginning July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2019 to represent the areas of Education and Economic Development on the CWDB.

By motion, Commissioner McIntyre moved to appoint Mr. Danny Poplin as Education representative and Mr. Mike Smith as Economic Development representative for a two (2) year term as requested. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Bureson and carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

ITEM # 5 – APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CLERK TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Presenter: Andy Lucas, County Manager

For consideration, it was requested the Board appoint Beverly Swanner Helms as Deputy Clerk should the need arise and the current Clerk to the Board be unavailable to execute any necessary documents on behalf of the county.

Vice Chairman Bureson moved to approve the appointment and was seconded by Commissioner Swain. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

ITEM # 6 – PFEIFFER UNIVERSITY PROJECT REQUEST

Presenter: Andy Lucas, County Manager

Pfeiffer University requested a permanent easement be granted for a 26' x 32' triangular parcel of the county's property located at 112 N. Third Street. The parcel is located at the rear of the county's tract and is adjacent to the county's former museum site and Freeman-Marks House. Additionally, Pfeiffer also requested a 12' temporary easement across the same property which will be required during the construction process in order to construct a retaining wall.

Commissioner Efirm moved to approve and authorize staff to develop, negotiate and execute a permanent 26' x 32' easement and a 12' temporary easement for the construction of a retaining wall as requested on the county's property located at 112 N. Third Street. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Lowder and carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

ITEM # 7 – FY 2017-18 RECOMMENDED BI-WEEKLY HEALTH & DENTAL INSURANCE PREMIUMS FOR EMPLOYEE DEPENDENT COVERAGE & RETIREES

Presenter: Andy Lucas, County Manager

For review and consideration, below are the recommended bi-weekly rates beginning July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018:

Blue Cross Blue Shield of NC – Bi-weekly Health Insurance Rates

- Employee-Child/Children \$126.00

- Employee/Spouse \$189.00
- Family \$376.00

Guardian Bi-weekly Dental Insurance Rates

- Employee- Child/Children \$20.25
- Employee/Spouse \$13.93
- Family \$34.30

Commissioner McIntyre moved to approve the rates as presented and was seconded by Commissioner Swain. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

ITEM # 8 – FY 2017-2018 RECOMMENDED BUDGET PRESENTATION

Presenter: Andy Lucas, County Manager

As part of the County Manager’s presentation of the recommended operating budget, the following items were noted:

- No recommended property tax rate increase for the tenth (11th) straight year with the rate remaining at \$0.67 per \$100 of valuation.
- High priority was given to economic development, public safety, public education, Employee COLA, maintenance and expansion of utilities and pay for training/certifications.
- \$2.4 million increase (or 3.9%) in the overall budget from the previous year with an estimated fund balance appropriation of \$1,287,665 with \$1,178,610 tied to one time capital outlay recommendations.
- Stanly County School System would receive an increase of 3% (or \$319,000) for current expenses, \$500,000 which is tied to the Article 44 sales tax, \$236,000 teacher supplemental grant and \$195,000 for additional capital outlay.
- Stanly Community College would receive a 3% increase (or \$45,700) for regular current expense and \$160,000 for additional capital outlay.
- Of the total budget, \$52.9 million (or 84%) has been appropriated for mandated services such as social services, public health, debt service, law enforcement and more than 1/3 of local dollars being allocated for education.
- Human capital management includes a 3.0% COLA for employees, \$220,000 in contingency for possible performance based merit pay on January 15, 2018, continuation of the wellness clinic and health insurance gainsharing. Due to expenses outpacing revenues, minor adjustments will need to be made to deductibles for dependent premiums, out-of-pocket limits, primary care, specialist and Tier 2 & 3 prescription copays.
- Of the total \$1,290,000 in capital outlay and improvement requests submitted, \$1,178,610 is included in the recommended budget.
- Recommended fee changes were noted for Inspections pertaining to the threshold for residential permits with added square footage increasing from \$5,000 to \$15,000, household solid waste fee increasing by \$3 for a total of \$75 annually, and the Register of

Deeds requesting an increase in the charge for copies of vital record documents from \$2 to \$3.

- Volunteer Fire Departments – Ridgecrest VFD has requested an increase in their fire district tax from \$0.09 cents to \$0.11 and Millingport VFD from \$0.05 to \$0.10.
- Utilities – A 3% increase in water and sewer rates is recommended based on a 4% rate increase anticipated by the City of Albemarle and Town of Norwood as well as establishment of a \$75,000 hook-up grant by the county to help low-to-moderate income individuals connect to county water.

The public hearing for the recommended budget will be held during the Board's regular meeting on Monday, June 5, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

The presentation was for information only and required no action by the Board.

Item # 9 – CONSENT AGENDA

Presenter: Chairman Lawhon

- A. Minutes – Regular meeting of April 17, 2017 and special meeting of April 24, 2017.
- B. Finance – Request approval of the vehicle tax refunds for April 2017.
- C. Finance – Request approval of the Monthly Financial Report for Nine Months Ended March 31, 2017.
- D. EMS – Request approval of budget amendment # 2017- 43.
- E. Library – Request approval of budget amendment # 2017-44.

Commissioner Efird moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McIntyre and carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

School Board Chairman Melvin Poole came forward to address the Board and thank them for their continued support of the school system adding that he hopes the county will continue to consider the Board of Education as an investment in the future. He also added that with the reopening of Oakboro Elementary School as a choice STEM school, 262 applications have been received, 30 of which are from home school and/or private school students.

BOARD COMMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Morgan noted the upcoming ribbon cutting ceremony on Sunday for the new Stanly County History Center and a reminder of the Wanna Go Fast Event at the Stanly County Airport over the weekend.

Commissioner Efird thanked the Library Board of Trustees for hosting the Board earlier that evening at the new Stanly County History Center and encouraged everyone to visit the facility.

Vice Chairman Burleson reiterated Commissioner Efird's comments on the new history center. He also added that he, Chairman Lawhon, Commissioner Efird and the County Manager had attended County Assembly Day held the previous week in Raleigh.

Commissioner Swain stated that he had recently attended the Stanly County 4-H talent night and commended all the children who participated on doing a great job. He also noted that he will be attending an RPO meeting on Thursday evening in Polkton.

Chairman Lawhon noted the number of residential building permits being issued continues to increase and is a sign that the economy is improving. The County Manager added that a total of 24 residential permits were issued in April 2017 which is the largest number in a single month so far this year.

CLOSED SESSION

Vice Chairman Burleson moved to recess the meeting in to closed session to consult with the county attorney in accordance with G. S. 143-318.11(a)(3). The motion was seconded by Commissioner McIntyre and carried by unanimous vote at 8:29 p.m.

ADJOURN

With no further discussion, Commissioner Swain moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Commissioner McIntyre. Motion passed with a 7 – 0 vote at 9:12 p.m.

W. D. (Bill) Lawhon, Jr.

Tyler Brummitt, Clerk