

**STANLY COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 6, 2016**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

T. Scott Efird, Chairman  
Bill Lawhon, Vice Chairman  
Peter Ascitutto  
Joseph Burluson  
Tony M. 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, June 6, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room, Stanly Commons. Chairman Efird called the meeting to order with Vice Chairman Lawhon leading the invocation and pledge of allegiance.

**APPROVAL / ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

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

**ITEM # 1 – PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE FY 2016-17 RECOMMENDED BUDGET**

**Presenter: Andy Lucas, County Manager**

The County Manager noted that in accordance with NCGS 159-12(b), a public hearing regarding the FY 2016-17 recommended budget must be held prior to its adoption.

With no questions from the Board, Chairman Efird declared the public hearing open.

During this time, Harry Fletcher came forward to request the Board consider funding the West Stanly Senior Center in order to keep it open. He stated that as of June 30, 2016 the center will close due to lack of funding unless the county can provide the \$25,000 needed in order for it to continue to operate next year.

Gary Veazey of Ridgecrest asked the Board to reconsider the \$550,000 pledged to keep Oakboro Elementary School open for one more year and instead use it to reopen Ridgecrest Elementary. Mr. Veazy noted that Ridgecrest is in overall better condition than Oakboro School and would be less expensive to reopen. He suggested the Board consider using the facility to help reduce the crowding at West Stanly High School by offering courses to upper classman, provide additional technology and trade courses, or as a potential location for an agricultural magnet school as was considered several years ago. He encouraged the Board to be more efficient with taxpayers' dollars by recommending to the school board that Ridgecrest School be reopened next year.

With no one else coming forward, the public hearing was closed.

#### **ITEM # 2 – PRESENTATION OF THE FY 2016-17 AGING FUNDING PLAN**

**Presenter: Becky Weemhoff, Senior Services Director**

Ms. Weemhoff was present to request approval of the FY 2016-17 Aging Funding Plan known as the Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG) budget. This program provides funding for six (6) Aging Programs which include In Home Services Level I and Level II, Congregate Nutrition, Home Delivered Meals, Transportation and Information and Options Counseling. The amount allocated for next fiscal year is \$426,036 which is \$2,162 over last year's amount. Ms. Weemhoff noted that the HCCBG Board has met, discussed and voted on the funding distribution for each of these programs. It was requested the Board approve the plan and accept these funds into the county budget.

By motion, Commissioner Dennis moved to approve the plan and accept the funds into the county budget. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ascitutto which passed by unanimous vote.

#### **ITEM # 3 – JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL (JCPC) ANNUAL CERTIFICATION**

**Presenter: Jackie DeSantis, JCPC Chairperson**

As part of the annual certification, it was requested the Board approve the list of members to serve on the JCPC for FY 2016-17, accept the \$1,000 allocated into the JCPC Administrative Budget and appoint a county commissioner (or designee) to serve on the JCPC as well.

Commissioner McIntyre moved to approve the Board members and acceptance of the \$1,000 in funding. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Lowder and the motion carried with a 7 – 0 vote.

After a brief discussion, the appointment of a county commissioner (or designee) was tabled to allow time for a review of the volunteer applications on file.

**ITEM # 4 – FY 2016-17 RECOMMENDED BI-WEEKLY HEALTH & DENTAL INSURANCE PREMIUMS FOR EMPLOYEE DEPENDENT COVERAGE AND RETIREES**

For Board approval, the County Manager presented the following bi-weekly health and dental insurance premiums for employee dependent coverage and retirees for the next fiscal year.

- Employee Child / Children      \$106.00
- Employee / Spouse                \$159.00
- Family                                 \$336.00

Commissioner Lowder moved to approve the recommended bi-weekly rates and was seconded by Commissioner Dennis. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**ITEM # 5 – BOARD AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

**Presenter: Andy Lucas, County Manager**

**A. Centralina Workforce Development Board**

Due to current board member Mr. Ed Shimpock’s term expiring on June 30, 2016 and a request not to be reappointed, it was requested the Board take action to name a replacement to serve as the Private Sector representative for a two (2) year term beginning July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2018.

Commissioner Ascitutto moved to appoint Ms. Krishna McVey with Michelin North America as his replacement. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Burleson and carried with a 7 – 0 vote.

**B. STANLY COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Prior to any discussion, Commissioner Lowder requested to be excused from voting due to her son, Mr. Kelly Lowder being one of the nominees. Commissioner McIntyre made the motion to grant the request and was seconded by Commissioner Dennis. Motion passed unanimously.

Current board members Mr. James Nance and Mr. Christopher Bramlett’s terms will expire on June 30, 2016. Mr. James Nance has requested not to be reappointed. Mr. Bramlett has expressed an interest in serving again if reappointed. It was requested the Board take action to appoint / reappoint two (2) members to the community college board of trustees.

The following nominations were made:

Commissioner Burleson nominated Mr. Clayton Wayne Sasser.

Vice Chairman Lawhon nominated Mr. Kelly Lowder.

Commissioner Dennis nominated Mr. Christopher Bramlett.

Commissioner Ascitutto nominated Mr. Jerry Burleson. Mr. Burleson was in attendance and respectfully declined the nomination.

Commissioner Burleson then moved to close the nominations and was seconded by Vice Chairman Lawhon. Motion carried with a 7 – 0 vote.

Chairman Efird called for a vote with each Board member having two (2) votes to cast. Votes were as follows:

- Mr. Wayne Sasser – Commissioner Burleson and Commissioner McIntyre.
- Mr. Kelly Lowder – Chairman Efird, Vice Chairman Lawhon, Commissioner Ascitutto and Commissioner Dennis.
- Mr. Christopher Bramlett – Chairman Efird, Vice Chairman Lawhon, Commissioner Ascitutto, Commissioner Dennis and Commissioner McIntyre.

Commissioner McIntyre requested a brief recess to confer with the County Attorney.

After reconvening, Chairman Efird declared that Mr. Kelly Lowder and Mr. Christopher Bramlett were appointed by majority vote.

### **C. USDA FARM SERVICE AGENCY OF STANLY COUNTY COMMITTEE NOMINATION**

It was requested the Board select a nominee to be placed on the ballot for the USDA Farm Service Agency County Committee to represent the Local Administrative Area I.

Commissioner Lawhon nominated Ms. Doris Herlocker. Commissioner Dennis moved to close the nominations and was seconded by Commissioner Burleson. Ms. Doris Herlocker was selected by unanimous vote.

### **ITEM # 6 – BUDGET DISCUSSION**

#### **Presenter: Commissioner Ascitutto**

Although the School Board had not taken action to accept the Board's offer of \$550,000 to keep Oakboro Elementary School open for another year, Commissioner Ascitutto requested the Board begin going through the proposed budget to locate those funds. Commissioner McIntyre stated the offer will be discussed in more detail during the budget workshops and does not need to be discussed now. In response, Commissioner Ascitutto stated that he would prefer to discuss it

now rather than later so that the Board will be prepared should the School Board accept the offer later this month closer to fiscal year end. Chairman Efirm noted that he would prefer to discuss the offer at a budget workshop next week since it is on the School Board's meeting agenda for the next night. After that, the Board may have a better idea of the School Board's intentions. Commissioner Ascitutto noted concerns with the Board unwillingness to discuss it during a public meeting. In response, Chairman Efirm noted that budget workshops are public meetings that anyone can attend.

Commissioner Ascitutto continued stating that the offer should not have been made in the first place and moved to rescind it. Commissioner Dennis seconded the motion to allow for further discussion. With no further discussion by the Board, Chairman Efirm called for a vote. The motion to rescind the offer failed with a 5 – 2 vote.

Ayes: Commissioner Ascitutto, Commissioner Dennis

Nos: Chairman Efirm, Vice Chairman Lawhon, Commissioner Burleson, Commissioner Lowder and Commissioner McIntyre

#### **ITEM # 7 – CONSENT AGENDA**

**Presenter: Chairman Efirm**

- A.** Minutes – Recessed and regular meeting minutes of May 16, 2016.
- B.** Finance – Request acceptance of the Monthly Financial Report for Ten Months Ended April 30, 2016.
- C.** Airport – Request approval of budget amendments # 2016-38 and #2016-39.
- D.** Finance – Request approval of the attached vehicle tax refunds.

By motion, Commissioner Dennis moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McIntyre and passed with a 7 – 0 vote.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Harry Fletcher came forward and addressed the Board again reiterating that if the County is unable to fund the West Stanly Senior Center, the facility will close on June 30, 2016.

Anthony Graves stated that after talking with the County Manager and the School's Chief Finance Officer Bill Josey, he learned the school system is looking at an overall deficit of \$727,000. He noted that many in the community were shocked when the School Board did not accept the County's offer sooner since it would provide additional funds for next year's budget over and above the initial \$850,000 the County Manager has included in the proposed budget already. He encouraged the Board to look at the numbers further in order to understand the impact the \$550,000 would mean to the school system next year.

## **BOARD COMMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Commissioner Ascitutto thanked those who addressed the Board on behalf of the West Stanly Senior Center and Ridgecrest School. He noted his disappointment in the Board's lack of discussion related to school funding and the \$550,000 offer that is on the table.

Vice Chairman Lawhon stated that he had recently attended the Agricultural Steering Committee Meeting in Raleigh where new state director Dr. Richard Bonanno noted that Stanly County is one of the leading agriculture producers in the state and that North Carolina receives the second largest pool of funds for agriculture from the federal government. At a recent Rocky River RPO meeting, he also learned that plans are to save the historic Highway 24/27 bridge by adding a wider deck with reinforcements rather than tear it down.

Commissioner McIntrye noted that the Senior Center will host the annual 90 + birthday party on Thursday with 75 planning to attend along with their family members for a total of 150.

Commissioner Burleson added to Vice Chairman Lawhon's comments noting that the NC DOT's Highway 24/27 widening project is now back on schedule even though it was delayed due to the study completed on the historic bridge. He stated he recently attended the NCACC's County Assembly Day in Raleigh on May 18<sup>th</sup> with the County Manager as well as the Stanly Water and Sewer Authority meeting earlier that same evening where the public hearing and formal adoption of the FY 2016-17 budget took place. He then welcomed Mr. Joshua J. Morton, Jr. who was sworn in as the newest Authority member.

Chairman Efird stated he and several other commissioners had attended the Chamber's Annual Legislative Breakfast earlier that day.

Prior to entering closed session, Mr. Curtis Furr came forward to request the Board consider adding the ¼ cent sales tax referendum to the November ballot. He then offered to serve on a committee to promote and educate people on the referendum.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Commissioner Dennis moved to recess the meeting into closed session in order to discuss a real estate transaction in accordance with NCGS 143-318.11(a)(5). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Burleson and passed by unanimous vote at 7:55 p.m.

**RECESS**

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Burleson moved to recess the meeting until Tuesday, June 14, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. for the first budget workshop. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Lowder and carried by a 7 – 0 vote at 8:48 p.m.

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**Terry Scott Efird, Chairman**

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**Tyler Brummitt, Clerk**