

**STANLY COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 20, 2013**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Josh Morton, Vice Chairman
Peter Ascitutto
Tony Dennis
Lindsey Dunevant

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Gene McIntyre, 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, May 20, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room, Stanly Commons. Vice Chairman Morton called the meeting to order, gave the invocation and led the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL / ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

It was requested that a discussion of a personnel issue be added to the closed session in accordance with G. S. 143-318.11(a)(6). By motion, Commissioner Dennis moved to approve the agenda as amended and was seconded by Commissioner Ascitutto. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

ITEM # 1 – ALBEMARLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE PRESENTATION

Presenter: Russ Sharples

On behalf of the Albemarle Economic Development Task Force, Mr. Sharples presented information based on data obtained through a countywide survey completed earlier in the year. The survey noted the county's current strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats as well as the need for new business development to aid in job creation and the need to support existing businesses. Some of the recommendations submitted by the task force as a means to accomplish these goals included the use of an outside firm to complete a branding exercise to better market the county, establishment of a new EDC staff position to support existing

business, creation of a City Public Information Officer position, and completion of a feasibility study to consider a small business incubator.

The presentation was given for the Board's information only and required no action.

ITEM # 2 – PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE

Presenter: Conrad Carter, Vice Chairman for the Board of Health

Mr. Carter stated the purpose of the public hearing was to receive comments on the proposed animal control ordinance and amendments that have been made since the last hearing on February 4, 2013.

Commissioner Ascitutto expressed his appreciation for the Board of Health's work on the ordinance and that he feels all the previous concerns have now been addressed. Commissioner Dunevant reiterated Commissioner Ascitutto's comments and requested the Board consider delaying a vote on the ordinance due to the absence of Chairman McIntyre.

Vice Chairman Morton declared the public hearing open. With no one coming forward to speak, the hearing was closed.

Commissioner Dennis expressed his concerns with the section concerning the keeping of stray animals (Article VII, Section 2) and the requirement that Animal Control be notified within seventy-two (72) hours if a person harbors, feeds or keeps a stray animal. Mr. Carter and Commissioner Ascitutto explained the purpose of notifying Animal Control is to aid in reuniting the animal with their owner. If after one hundred twenty (120) hours the animal is unclaimed, the person caring for the animal will be allowed to keep it if they choose to do so. During that time, it is not required that the animal be turned over to Animal Control.

By motion, Commissioner Ascitutto moved to table the vote until the next meeting on June 3, 2013 and was seconded by Commissioner Dunevant. The motion carried with a 3 – 1 vote.

Ayes: Vice Chairman Morton, Commissioner Ascitutto and Commissioner Dunevant

Nos: Commissioner Dennis

ITEM # 3 – PROCLAMATION DECLARING MAY 2013 AS MOTORCYCLE SAFETY & AWARENESS MONTH

Presenter: Commissioner Ascitutto

Commissioner Ascitutto presented the proclamation for the Board's consideration and by motion moved to approve its acceptance. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Dennis and carried by unanimous vote.

ITEM # 4 – PRESENTATION OF THE FY 2013-2014 MANAGER’S RECOMMENDED BUDGET

Presenter: Andy Lucas, County Manager

The County Manager provided an overview of the recommended budget for next fiscal year which places an emphasis on the Board’s prioritized core services of education, public safety, health and human services, and facility maintenance. Some of the items noted during the presentation included:

- The FY 2013-14 Recommended Budget provides more than \$55,063,658.00 in total funding which 3.48% increase from the previous year.
- A recommended property tax rate of \$0.6785 per \$100 of valuation
- Of the total recommended budget, 82% has been appropriated for mandated services such as social services, public health, debt service, law enforcement and education
- Several of the major expenditures noted (\$50,000 or more) include: an employee cost of living allowance (COLA) of 1.5% for \$295,000.00, increase in funding for the Stanly County Schools of \$193,506.00, increase in group health insurance premiums of \$185,705.00, an annualized merit increase from the previous year of \$110,000.00, increase for vehicle tax collection fees via the State of \$60,000.00, and increase for the employee merit of \$50,000.00 and reduction in school debt payments of \$99,251.00.
- In the area of human capital management, it is recommended that three (3) positions (Librarian, Telecommunicator III, Administrative Support Specialist) previously frozen will continue to be frozen, the elimination of one (1) Customer Service Representative in Tax Administration due to the county no longer being required to collect motor vehicle taxes effective November 1, 2013, three (3) new positions are recommended in the EMS department to enhance services in western Stanly County, and reclassification of one position (1) in Social Services and one (1) position in Tax Administration.
- Several of the recommended capital improvement projects included vehicle replacement for the Sheriff’s Department, EMS, Animal Control, Inspections and Social Services, replacement of two EMS defibrillator heart monitors and replacement of a mower at the Airport.
- The only recommended fee increases / decreases for the next fiscal year are those mandated by the State for environmental health.
- A five percent (5%) increase is recommended for the water and sewer rates due to the proposed rate increases from the City of Albemarle and the Town of Norwood.

The presentation was given for information only and required no action by the Board. A public hearing on the proposed budget was scheduled for Monday, June 3, 2013.

ITEM # 5 – CONSENT AGENDA

- A.** Minutes – Special meeting and Regular meetings of May 6, 2013
- B.** Finance – Request acceptance of the Monthly Financial Report for Ten Months Ended April 30, 2013

- C. Museum – Request the attached list of items be declared surplus and donated to the Historical Society for disposal

Commissioner Dennis moved to approve the consent agenda as presented and was seconded by Commissioner Ascitutto. The motion carried with a 4 – 0 vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

GENERAL COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Dunevant stated he had recently attended a meeting sponsored by the Institute on Emerging Issues which focused on manufacturing and had received a lot of good information concerning economic development. He also encouraged everyone to buy from local farmers as a way to support the local economy as well.

Commissioner Ascitutto stated he had received several calls regarding an ad he had recently placed in the newspaper noting his concerns about the decisions being made by the school board. With the county funding a portion of the school system’s budget, he is concerned with how these monies are being spent. He also voiced concerns related to the number of students leaving the school system to attend charter or private schools or to be home schooled.

Vice Chairman Morton thanked the local media and newspaper for their continued support. He also noted that he had recently participated in the Raleigh trip sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce to meet with local legislators.

CLOSED SESSION

By motion, Commissioner Dunevant moved to recess into closed session to discuss economic development in accordance with G. S. 143-318.11(a)(4) and a personnel issue in accordance with G. S. 143-318.11(a)(6). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ascitutto and passed with a vote of 4 – 0 at 8:30 p.m.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Dennis moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Ascitutto. The motion carried by unanimous vote at 8:50 p.m.

Gene McIntyre, Chairman

Tyler Brummitt, Clerk