

T. Scott Efir
Chairman

Bill Lawhon
Vice Chairman

Mike Barbee
Commissioner

Patty Crump
Commissioner



Trent Hatley
Commissioner

Brandon King
Commissioner

Billy Mills
Commissioner

**Stanly County
Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 1, 2025 – 6:00 PM**

1. Call to Order & Welcome

The Stanly County Board of Commissioners (the “Board”) met in regular session on Monday, December 1, 2025 in the Gene McIntyre Meeting Room, Stanly Commons.

County Manager Lucas, acting as temporary Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of reorganization of the Board.

Present:

Commissioner Paul Michael Barbee
Commissioner Patty Crump
Commissioner T. Scott Efir
Commissioner Trent Hatley
Commissioner Brandon King
Commissioner Bill Lawhon
Commissioner Billy Mills

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The County Manager opened the floor for nominations for Chairman pursuant to NCGS 153A-39. Commissioner Lawhon nominated Commissioner Efir. With no other names presented, the nominations were closed.

Commissioner Efir was elected Chairman for 2026 by unanimous vote.

County Manager Lucas congratulated Chairman Efir and turned the proceedings over to him.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Chairman Efir opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairman pursuant to NCGS 153A-39. Commissioner Hatley nominated Commissioner Lawhon. With no other names presented, the nominations were closed.

Commissioner Lawhon was elected Chairman for 2026 by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF BONDS

By motion, Vice Chair Lawhon moved to approve the renewal of the following public official bonds, seconded by Commissioner Crump and carried by unanimous vote.

BOND TYPE	AMOUNT	EXPIRATION DATE
Finance Officer (Toby Hinson)	\$1,000,000	June 9, 2026
Register of Deeds (Jennie Helms)	\$ 50,000	November 20, 2026
Tax Administrator (Clinton Swaringen)	\$ 100,000	October 28, 2026
Sheriff (Jeff Crisco)	\$ 5,000	December 3, 2026

2026 COUNTY COMMISSIONER BOARD & COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Chairman Efird presented the following slate of nominees for Board approval:

Airport Authority - Commissioner Trent Hatley, Commissioner Brandon King

Centralina Council of Governments, Member – Chairman Scott Efird
 Centralina Council of Governments, Alternate- Commissioner Mike Barbee

Economic Development Commission - Vice Chair Bill Lawhon, Commissioner Brandon King

Fire District Commission - Commissioner Billy Mills

Health & Human Services Board - Commissioner Patty Crump, Commissioner Trent Hatley

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) - Commissioner Billy Mills

Library Board of Trustees, Member - Chairman Scott Efird

Partners Behavioral Health Board - Chairman Scott Efird

Rural Planning Organization (RPO), Member - Commissioner Patty Crump
 Rural Planning Organization (RPO), Alternate - Commissioner Billy Mills

Senior Services Board - Commissioner Bill Lawhon

Stanly Water & Sewer Authority, Member - Commissioner Trent Hatley
 Stanly Water & Sewer Authority, Alternate - Commissioner Mike Barbee

Commissioner King moved to approve the assignments as presented, seconded by Vice Chair Lawhon and passed by a 7 - 0 vote.

APPROVAL OF THE 2026 REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

The Board will meet the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at 6:00 p.m. except for May, June, July, August, September and December (as indicated below).

- Monday, January 5th and Tuesday, January 20th*
- Monday, February 2nd and Monday, February 16th
- Monday, March 2nd and Monday, March 16th
- Monday, April 6th and Monday, April 20th
- Monday, May 11th
- Monday, June 8th
- Monday, July 6th
- Monday, August 3rd
- Tuesday, September 8th**

Monday, October 5th and Monday, October 19th
Monday, November 2nd and Monday, November 16th
Monday, December 7th

* Rescheduled due to Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday on Monday, January 19th
**Rescheduled due to the Labor Day Holiday on Monday, September 7th

Commissioner Crump moved to approve the meeting dates as presented, seconded by Commissioner Mills and passed by unanimous vote.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Chair Efird announced that at any regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the Commissioners, acting in their capacity as the Board of Governors for either the Greater Badin Water & Sewer District or the Piney Point Water District, may, at their discretion, recess the regular Commissioners meeting to convene as the Board of Governors for either of the two entities to conduct business matters related to that district.

2. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Efird gave the opening invocation and led the pledge of allegiance.

3. Approval / Adjustments to the Agenda

With no amendments to the agenda, Commissioner King moved to approve it as presented, seconded by Commissioner Hatley and carried by 7-0 vote.

4. Public Comment

None.

5. Scheduled Agenda Items

A. Public Hearing - Economic Development Incentive Grant

Presenter: Elizabeth Kazimir, EDC Director

The purpose of the public hearing was to invite public comment on a proposed tax incentive grant that will result in an eight (8) year, 75% economic development incentive agreement between Stanly County and Project Shag, an existing manufacturer in the City of Albemarle. The company plans to expand its current operations by investing \$9 million in machinery and equipment which will lead to the creation of thirteen (13) new jobs over the next five (5) years.

It was requested the Board conduct the required public hearing, followed by approval of the economic tax incentive agreement.

Following the presentation, EDC Director Elizabeth Kazimir responded to Board questions concerning the \$9 million investment, the average salary for the new jobs and the process used to determine if the company meets the required benchmarks in the agreement.

Chair Efird declared the public hearing open. With no one coming forward, the hearing was closed.

Vice Chair Lawhon moved to approve the economic incentive as requested, seconded by Commissioner Hatley and passed by unanimous vote.

B. Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2027 Community Transportation Program Application

For Board consideration, County Manager Lucas requested approval for SCUSA Transportation to apply for the FY 2027 (Section 5311) Community Transportation Program (CTP) funds in the total estimated amount of \$464,308 with a 15% local match request of \$60,118.

It was requested the Board conduct the required public hearing then approve the application and resolution to apply for and receive CTP funds which will be administered by the Transportation Department.

With no questions from the Board, Chair Efird declared the public hearing open. With no one coming forward, the public hearing was closed.

Commissioner King moved to approve the program application and associated resolution to apply for, receive and have the funds administered by the Transportation Services Department, seconded by Commissioner Mills and passed by unanimous vote.

**See Exhibit A
Public Transportation Program Resolution
FY26 Resolution**

C. Board of Equalization and Review Appointments

Presenter: Clinton Swaringen, Tax Administrator

Three (3) of the current Board of Equalization & Review members have terms expiring December 31, 2025. Those members are Vice-Chair Garrett Allen, H.D. Efird Jr., and Jim Starnes.

Mr. Allen, who serves as the current Vice-Chair, is eligible to serve another 4-year term and has expressed his willingness to serve again. H.D. Efird, Jr. and Jim Starnes have both served 2 consecutive 4-year terms and are not allowed to serve a 3rd term per statute.

Following the presentation, Director Swaringen responded to several questions regarding the statute limiting members to two (2) consecutive terms, how often the board meets, the stipend amount paid to members, the average number of appeals received each year and overview of the appeals process.

After discussion, Commissioner Crump moved to reappoint Garrett Allen and appoint Kodi Smith and Larry McGuire to the board for four (4) year terms effective January 1, 2026 - December 31, 2029. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Hatley and carried by unanimous vote.

D. Senior Services Advisory Board Appointments

Presenter: Pamela Sullivan, Senior Services Director

Senior Services requested the Board take action to fill three (3) vacancies resulting from the passing of Deloris Chambers, the resignation of Barbara Ledbetter due to health issues, and Brenda

Spencer completing two (2) consecutive terms.

Based on the volunteer applications received, the Senior Services Advisory Board met and recommended the appointment of Polly Martin, Ava Plott, and Roland Thomas to fill these vacancies beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2028.

By motion, Vice Chair Lawhon moved to approve all three (3) appointments as recommended, seconded by Commissioner Crump. The motion carried by a 7-0 vote.

E. NCDOT Secondary Road Adoption Resolution

Presenter: Bailey Cline, Planning Director

The NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has requested that the County update the Secondary Road Resolution, which was previously adopted in 2001, and permits the adoption of secondary roads by the NCDOT.

Director Cline explained that this new resolution will not change the current procedure followed by the NCDOT. Instead, it indicates that once a petition for a secondary road adoption is filed, all necessary approvals and inspections will be performed by the NC DOT prior to acceptance and adheres to NCDOT's existing policy for such requests.

If approved, the County's resolution will serve as a sign of local support for this policy.

Following a brief discussion, Commissioner King moved to adopt the resolution as presented, seconded by Commissioner Crump and passed by unanimous vote.

See Exhibit B
RESOLUTION
NORTH CAROLINA STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
REQUEST FOR ADDITION TO STATE MAINTAINED ROAD SECONDARY ROAD SYSTEM

F. Strategic Planning Retreat

Presenter: Andy Lucas, County Manager

For the past seventeen (17) years, the Board has participated in a one-day planning retreat to discuss the current fiscal year and set priorities for the next year and beyond.

County Manager Lucas presented the potential dates for the retreat, with Friday, February 6, 2026 being selected. The retreat will start at 9:00 a.m. and will be held at the Stanly County Airport Conference Room.

G. Reaffirmation of the Code of Ethics

Presenter: Andy Lucas, County Manager

Per NCGS 160A-86, the Board is required to reaffirm its code of ethics annually.

Commissioner King moved to accept the Code of Ethics as presented, seconded by Vice Chair Lawhon and carried by a 7-0 vote.

**See Exhibit C
Code of Ethics
Stanly County Board of Commissioners
Preamble**

6. Consent Agenda

Vice Chair Lawhon moved to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Barbee and passed by unanimous vote.

- A. Minutes**
- B. October Monthly Finance Report**
- C. November 2025 DMV Refunds**
- D. DSS Budget Amendment**
- E. EMS Budget Amendment 2026-44**
- F. EMS Budget Amendment 2026-42**

7. Board Comments, Announcements & Committee Reports

Commissioner Barbee congratulated Commissioner Efird and Commissioner Lawhon on their election as Chair and Vice Chair for 2026. He also thanked the Board members for their support during his term as Chair for 2025.

Vice Chair Lawhon recognized and thanked Commissioner Barbee and Commissioner King for their service as Chair and Vice Chair. He then wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Commissioner Efird thanked Commissioner Barbee and Commissioner King for their service as Chair and Vice Chair for 2025 as well and expressed appreciation for their commitment. He reminded the Board of the County Employee Christmas Luncheon on Friday, December 5th from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. He concluded by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and a reminder to reflect on the reason for the celebration.

8. Adjourn

With no further discussion, Commissioner Barbee moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Crump and passed by unanimous vote at 6:35 p.m.

T. Scott Efirm, Chair

Tyler Brummitt, Clerk