

Scott Efirm
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
Tuesday, January 20, 2026 – 6:00 PM**

1. Call to Order & Welcome

The Stanly County Board of Commissioners (the “Board”) met in regular session on Tuesday, January 20, 2026 in the Gene McIntyre Meeting Room, Stanly Commons. Chair Efirm called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. with Commissioner Barbee giving the invocation and leading the Pledge of Allegiance. County Manager Lucas participated by phone.

Present:
Chairman T. Scott Efirm
Vice Chairman Bill Lawhon
Commissioner Paul Michael Barbee
County Commissioner Patty Crump
County Commissioner Trent Hatley
Commissioner Brandon King
County Commissioner Billy Mills

2. Approval / Adjustments to the Agenda

With no amendments to the agenda, Commissioner King moved to approve it as presented, seconded by Commissioner Mills and passed by unanimous vote.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Scheduled Agenda Items

A. 911/EOC Facility - Radio System Connectivity

Presenter: Kyle Griffin, E911 Communications Director

As requested during the January 5, 2026 meeting, E911 Director Kyle Griffin and Motorola representatives Jody Johnson and Zack Fallon were present to address questions regarding the \$499,833.16 funding request for the new 911/Emergency Operations Center.

Director Griffin provided a recap of the request, noting that the 911/EOC facility requires reliable and redundant radio connectivity to the County's public safety network. Initial engineering indicated that a single microwave path from either the Stanly Community College tower or the Courthouse to the Airport would be sufficient. Based on that assumption, staff originally planned to utilize funding from the North Carolina General Assembly (NCGA) for the single microwave hop.

However, a detailed engineering analysis later determined that terrain, vegetation, and reliability standards prevent either direct path from meeting the required microwave performance criteria. It was determined that a second microwave hop would be necessary to ensure telecommunicators could contact law enforcement, paramedics, and fire departments. To mitigate these additional costs, staff bundled this microwave project with the MPLS project already approved in the FY26 budget to achieve cost efficiencies.

Funding Sources:

- \$444,000: Budgeted FY26 funds (MPLS)
- \$350,000: NCGA funding (Microwave)

After applying these funds, the remaining balance is \$499,833.16. Motorola has proposed a two-year lease financing option with annual payments in arrears which would eliminate any additional fiscal impact in the current FY and spread costs across FY27 and FY28.

Following the presentation, Director Griffin and the Motorola representatives addressed Board questions regarding the lease-financing agreement, equipment maintenance, and insurance costs. Other inquiries covered specific details of the preliminary quote, site selection, tower limitations, and potential alternatives to avoid the funding gap.

Following discussion, Commissioner Mills suggested that the Board seek a second opinion from an independent expert with no direct financial interest in the project. The Board members agreed to this.

Director Griffin stated that he would have a representative from Mission Critical Partners (MCP), an independent consultant and IT support services firm, attend the February 2nd meeting to answer questions.

Commissioner Mills then moved to table this item until the February 2nd meeting to

ensure an MCP representative is present to provide further information. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hatley and passed by a 7-0 vote.

B. Public Hearing - Economic Development Incentive Grant

Presenter: Elizabeth Kazimir, EDC Director

Director Kazimir noted that the purpose of the public hearing was to invite public comment on a proposed incentive that will result in a five (5) year, 65% economic development agreement between Stanly County and a property ownership group in the City of Albemarle establishing operations in Stanly County.

The ownership group plans to invest an estimated \$3 million in real property improvements and create twenty-eight (28) new jobs with an average annual salary of \$107,893 over the next five (5) years.

It was requested the Board conduct the required public hearing, then approve the economic incentive agreement as recommended.

Following the presentation, Director Kazimir responded to questions concerning the type of business to be established, the number of jobs and average salaries associated with those jobs, including the lowest paying positions. Chair Efirid then declared the public hearing open. With no one coming forward, the hearing was closed.

Vice Chair Lawhon moved to approve the economic incentive as recommended, seconded by Commissioner Hatley and passed by a 7-0 vote.

C. SCUSA FY27 Public Hearing Notice Revision

Presenter: Steve Dutton, Transportation Services Director

In December 2025, the Board took action to approve both the administrative local share (which remains unchanged) and the local share of the capital grant request. At that time, the local share of the capital grant was \$19,057.

This revised request for vehicle tablets increases the local capital share by \$2,355, bringing the new total to \$21,412. The revised total project amount is \$214,120. This remains below the \$38,500 currently budgeted for the County's local share of capital in FY 25-26.

Approval from the Board of Commissioners is requested for this increased FY27 capital grant request to include vehicle tablets for driver scheduling software needs.

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

Commissioner King moved to approve the request, seconded by Commissioner Crump

and carried by unanimous vote.

D. Consolidated Human Services Board Appointments

Presenter: Dolly Clayton, Human Services Director

The Consolidated Health and Human Services Board met on January 8, 2026, to discuss Board vacancies, reassignments, and reappointments. The Board submitted the following recommendations:

Physician Member Seat

Dr. Jenny Hinson's term expired on November 6, 2025, and she did not seek reappointment. The Board unanimously recommended Dr. Neal Speight, who currently serves in a general member seat, to be appointed to this physician member seat effective February 5, 2026, and expiring November 6, 2029. There are currently no other qualifying applications on file for this position.

General Member Seat

To fill the vacancy created by Dr. Speight's reassignment, the Board unanimously recommends Jennifer Lehn to serve the remainder of the term effective February 5, 2026, and expiring November 6, 2027.

Pharmacist Member Seat

The Board reviewed two qualified applications for this vacant seat, Mr. Sean Pickler and Sharon Efird. Following a majority vote, the Board recommends the appointment of Sharon Efird effective February 5, 2026, and expiring November 6, 2029.

Veterinarian Member Seat

Dr. James Link recently completed a partial two-year term following Dr. Amy Jordan's resignation. Dr. Link is willing to continue his service and is the only applicant meeting the specific qualifications for this seat. The Board unanimously recommends Dr. James Link for reappointment to a four-year term expiring November 6, 2029.

Consumer of Human Services Member Seat

Seena Koohestani is currently serving a partial term that expires on March 3, 2026. The Board unanimously recommends Seena Koohestani for reappointment to a four-year term effective March 4, 2026, and expiring March 3, 2030.

Following brief discussion, Vice Chair Lawhon moved to approve all five (5) appointments as requested. Commissioner Mills seconded the request, which carried by a 7-0 vote.

E. Resolution - Internal Control Policy for ARP/CSLFRF Funds

Presenter: Jenny Furr, County Attorney

The Board of Commissioners has previously adopted extensive financial policies to ensure fiscal stewardship, appropriate financial controls, and compliance with state and federal laws. These policies have enabled the County to manage public funds responsibly and qualify for various

grants.

The County has secured federal and state grants that require compliance with Uniform Guidance, specifically those funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). To remain in compliance with U.S. Treasury requirements, the County must adopt this additional ARPA Internal Control Policy. The recommended policy establishes guidelines consistent with the Uniform Guidance for the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

Following the presentation, county staff addressed questions concerning how funds, if received by the health department, would be utilized, as well as the prohibited uses for these funds as outlined in the policy.

Commissioner King moved to approve the policy as presented. Commissioner Mills seconded the motion, which passed by a 6-1 vote. (Commissioner Crump voted against.)

Exhibit A

A Resolution Adopted by the Stanly County Board of Commissioners For Internal Control of American Rescue Plan Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

F. Stanly County - America 250 Committee Funding Request

Presenter: Jenny Furr, County Attorney

The Stanly County America 250 Committee is requesting a one-time \$10,000 grant for FY 25-26 to cover essential outreach and engagement costs. These funds will support event signage, printed educational materials, advertising, social media promotion, and the production of commemorative magnets for distribution at committee events.

During the presentation, Committee Chair Bain Jones, Jr. addressed questions regarding the specific allocation of funds, the maintenance of itemized records, and whether other municipalities are also contributing financial support.

Following the discussion, Vice Chair Lawhon moved to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Crump and passed with a 5-2 vote. (Commissioners Barbee and King voted against.)

5. Consent Agenda

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

A. Minutes

B. SCUSA Budget Amendment

C. Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) — Appointments

6. Board Comments, Announcements & Committee Reports

Commissioner Barbee thanked everyone who attended the 911/EOC Facility presentation and participated in the discussion. He also expressed his condolences to County Manager Lucas and his family on the recent passing of his father.

Commissioner Mills also shared his condolences, noting the Board's appreciation for the County Manager's dedication to the county. Commissioner Crump agreed with these sentiments, adding her own condolences and prayers for the Lucas family.

Vice Chair Lawhon shared his sympathies as well, encouraging County Manager Lucas to take the necessary time to be with his family. Chair Efird extended his thoughts and prayers, acknowledging the significant impact the County Manager has on the Board and the county.

Additionally, Chair Efird wished his wife, Tracey, a happy birthday on Wednesday. He also announced that the Board's next regular meeting will be held on Monday, February 2nd.

7. Adjourn

Commissioner Crump moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner King, and passed by unanimous vote at 7:01 p.m.

T. Scott Efird, Chair

Tyler Brummitt, Clerk