

Bill Lawhon
Commissioner

Brandon King
Commissioner

Mike Barbee
Commissioner

Patty Crump
Commissioner



Peter Asciutto
Commissioner

Scott Efird
Commissioner

Trent Hatley
Commissioner

**STANLY COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 15, 2023 – 6:00 PM**

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Bill Lawhon	Commissioner	Present	
Brandon King	Commissioner	Present	
Mike Barbee	Commissioner	Present	
Patty Crump	Commissioner	Present	
Peter Asciutto	Commissioner	Present	
Scott Efird	Commissioner	Present	
Trent Hatley	Commissioner	Present	

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

The Stanly County Board of Commissioners (the "Board") met in regular session on Monday, May 15, 2023 in the Gene McIntyre Meeting Room, Stanly Commons. Chair Efird called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with Commissioner Lawhon giving the invocation and leading the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL / ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

With no amendments requested, Commissioner King moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Crump and passed by a 7 - 0 vote.

SCHEDULED AGENDA ITEMS

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

2. EDC Board Appointments

Presenter: Andy Lucas, County Manager

The following EDC board members have terms expiring May 31, 2023: District 1: Phillip Austin, District 2: Steve Bradley, District 3: Wes Morgan, District 4: Greg Underwood and District 5: Wil Huneycutt.

It was requested the Board reappoint five (5) members, one from each district, to serve two (2) year terms ending May 31, 2025.

By motion, Commissioner Lawhon presented the following slate of nominees for approval: District 1: Phillip Austin, District 2: Steve Bradley, District 3: Wes Morgan, District 4: Greg Underwood and District 5: Wil Huneycutt. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Crump and passed by unanimous vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Bill Lawhon, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Patty Crump, Commissioner
AYES:	Lawhon, King, Barbee, Crump, Ascitutto, Efird, Hatley

3. Opioid Settlement Funding Appropriation Resolution - Nazareth Children & Family Services

Presenter: Andy Lucas, County Manager

One of the key initiatives the County's Health Department has utilized to mitigate the impacts of opioid misuse disorder is evidence-based treatment services and counseling provided by the Nazareth Children & Family Services in Rockwell, NC.

With the federal HRSA funds being used to fund these services previously ending May 31, 2023, it was recommended the County contract with Nazareth effective June 1, 2023 until May 31, 2024 to continue these services by allocating \$101,465 from the County's national opioid settlement funds.

Following the presentation, County Manager Lucas and Public Health Educator Wendy Growcock responded to concerning the number of Stanly County residents and the ages of those served by Nazareth, if the funding request was recommended by the Health & Human Services Board, and whether or not the Health Department has been pleased with Nazareth's services thus far.

Following discussion, Commissioner King moved to approve the opioid settlement funding appropriation resolution to allocate \$101,465 for evidence-based addiction treatment services via Nazareth for a twelve (12) month period, seconded by Commissioner Hatley and passed by a 7 - 0 vote.

See Exhibit A
A Resolution by the County of Stanly
Direct Expenditure of Opioid Settlement Funds

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Brandon King, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Trent Hatley, Commissioner
AYES:	Lawhon, King, Barbee, Crump, Ascitutto, Efird, Hatley

4. FY 2023-2024 Recommended Budget Presentation

Presenter: Andy Lucas, County Manager

The Board received a presentation of the County Manager's Recommended Budget for FY 2023-24 which provides for \$85,515,530 in total funding and reflects a 10.9% increase over the previous year's budget. The budget also maintains the existing property tax rate of \$0.61 per \$100 in valuation and provides increased funding to address inflation and talent recruitment as well as increased funding for education, economic development incentives and investments for public safety personnel, vehicles and equipment.

Some of the specific items noted during the presentation included:

- **Stanly County Schools** - A \$1.051 million operational budget increase with a projected local educational funding per pupil of \$1,761, \$25,000 increase for the teacher supplemental pay grant and \$3.561 million for capital outlay and technology.
- **Stanly Community College** - \$767,000 allocated for Trades Facility debt service from Article 46 sales tax, \$101,243 increase to current expense with \$350,000 allocated for capital outlay.
- **Human Capital** - 11 new positions to support increased public safety demand and Medicaid expansion comprised of 3-SROs, 2-Detention Officers, 3-Income Maintenance Staff, 1-Income Maintenance Supervisor, 1-911 Radio Shop Technician and 1-part-time Nutrition Site Coordinator; 4% COLA for employees and additional funding set aside for grade and market adjustments tied to the class & comprehensive pay study recommendations and \$300,000 to maintain merit funding for mid-year pay for performance.
- **Outside agencies:** Convention & Visitors Bureau allocation of \$25,000 and the Bridge to Recovery of \$25,000.
- **Various Fee Schedule Changes** for the Agri-Civic Center, Airport, Dental, Elections, EMS, Fire, Health Department and Library.
- **Volunteer Fire Districts** - Oakboro Fire District is seeking a tax rate increase from \$0.06 to \$0.10 in order to generate additional revenue to construct/expand the station and purchase two (2) new fire apparatuses; West Stanly Fire District is seeking an increase from \$0.11 to \$0.13 to expand the station and refurbish/enhance the rescue unit.
- **Utilities** - 4% rate increase for water and sewer is recommended.
- **Airport** - Increased funding of \$465,674 from General Fund Balance due to one-time equipment and facility repairs.
- **E911** - \$798,882 total budget increase tied to the 911 Grant of \$780,000 for the CAD System project.
- **Capital Improvement Funding** - Recommend financing for 2 ambulances and 9 Sheriff's Office patrol vehicles, \$250,000 for renovations to the Clerk of Courts Wing due to safety concerns and \$252,000 to upgrade the permitting software system.
- **Additional Funding for Public Safety** - \$300,000 to remodel the Norwood EMS base and an increase in the Fire Department Staffing grant of \$169,000.

Following the presentation, County Manager Lucas entertained questions from the Board. The public hearing for the recommended budget will be held at the Board's regular meeting on Monday, June 5, 2023 with dates for the budget workshops established at that time.

The presentation was for information only with no action taken.

RESULT:	TABLED [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 6/5/2023 6:00 PM
MOVER:	Bill Lawhon, Commissioner	
SECONDER:	Brandon King, Commissioner	
AYES:	Lawhon, King, Barbee, Crump, Asciutto, Efird, Hatley	

5. FY 23-24 Dependent Care Health & Dental Premium Rate Approval

Presenter: Andy Lucas, County Manager

For Board consideration and approval, County Manager Lucas presented the following Dependent Care Health & Dental Premium Rates for Board approval beginning July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024. He noted that staff is not recommending any changes to the dependent health insurance premium rates but recommends a slight increase to dependent dental rates to keep up with projected claims for next fiscal year.

Blue Cross & Blue Shield of NC Biweekly Health Insurance Rates for County Employees

- Employee and Child/Children = \$ 212.00
- Employee / Spouse = \$317.00
- Family = \$ 540.00

Guardian Biweekly Dental Insurance Rates for County Employee

- Employee and Child/Children = \$ 21.70
- Employee / Spouse = \$ 14.94
- Family = \$ 36.75

With no questions from the Board, Commissioner King moved to approve the health and dental rates as presented, seconded by Commissioner Crump and passed by unanimous vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Brandon King, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Patty Crump, Commissioner
AYES:	Lawhon, King, Barbee, Crump, Asciutto, Efird, Hatley

6. FY 23-24 Parks & Recreation Grant Requests

Presenter: Andy Lucas, County Manager

Recusal of Chair Efird

Prior to the presentation, Chair Efird requested to be recused from participating in any discussion or action taken on Locust's application due to being employed by Locust. Commissioner Lawhon moved to do so, seconded by Vice Chair Barbee and passed by a 7 - 0 vote.

Chair Efird turned the proceedings over to Vice Chair Barbee who then introduced the item.

For Board consideration, County Manager Lucas presented the municipal parks and recreation grant requests received by the County which were as follows:

Municipality	Total Estimated Project Cost	Request to County	Brief Project Description
Oakboro	\$16,500	\$8,250	Pickleball Court Tra
Stanfield	\$37,899	\$10,000	Pickleball Court Tra
Richfield	\$69,633	\$10,000	Playground Equipm
New London	\$18,180	\$9,090	Additional Large W
Locust	\$24,235	\$10,000	Movie Night Equipm
Norwood	\$1,824	\$912	Pickleball Court Tra
Badin	\$14,342	\$7,171	Water, Sewer, Elect
Total	\$182,613	\$55,423	

He noted that the City of Albemarle also submitted a request, but due to their previous grant still being open, they were ineligible. Similar to Albemarle, the Village of Misenheimer did not apply since they also have an existing grant open with the County.

Following a brief period of discussion, Commissioner Lawhon moved to award Locust's grant application, seconded by Commissioner Ascianto.

Commissioner Crump stated although she is not against the program, she did not feel comfortable voting on the applications now when the County isn't fully funding the schools and public safety, but would rather take time to discuss them as part of the budget process. Vice Chair Barbee inquired as to how the grants would be funded. County Manager Lucas responded that, if approved, staff would make recommendations on where the funds could potentially come from with the Board having the final decision.

With no further discussion, Vice Chair Barbee called for a vote. The motion to fund the City of Locust's application failed due to a tie vote.

Ayes: Commissioner Ascianto, Commissioner Hatley, Commissioner Lawhon

Nos: Vice Chair Barbee, Commissioner Crump, Commissioner King

(Chair Efird recused from the vote.)

Following the vote, Vice Chair Barbee turned the meeting back over to Chair Efird.

Commissioner Ascianto expressed his frustration in delaying a decision on the grant applications when the municipalities have met all of the qualifications established for the program and that it places an undue burden on the towns who are completing their budget process as well.

Commissioner Crump responded that a decision can still be made within the next few weeks during the budget process and still have time to notify the municipalities.

With no further comments or discussion, Chair Efird called for a vote. The motion to approve the remaining applications for Badin, New London, Norwood, Oakboro, Richfield and Stanfield. Commissioner Ascianto moved to approve them, seconded by Commissioner Lawhon.

Prior to the vote, Commissioner Asciutto stated that since the County is one of the few in the state without a Parks & Recreation Department, he feels the grants are a fantastic program and great for public relations. Vice Chair Barbee again voiced concerns with where funding for the grants will come from with the County having so many projects and services that need to be funded.

With no further discussion, Chair Efird called for the vote. The motion to approve the remaining applications passed by a 4 - 3 vote.

Ayes: Chair Efird, Commissioner Asciutto, Commissioner Hatley, Commissioner Lawhon

Nos: Vice Chair Barbee, Commissioner Crump, Commissioner King

RESULT:	DEFEATED [3 TO 3]
MOVER:	Bill Lawhon, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Peter Asciutto, Commissioner
AYES:	Lawhon, Asciutto, Hatley
NAYS:	King, Barbee, Crump
RECUSED:	Efird

7. CONSENT AGENDA

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

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Bill Lawhon, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Peter Asciutto, Commissioner
AYES:	Lawhon, King, Barbee, Crump, Asciutto, Efird, Hatley

A. Minutes- April 13th recessed meeting and the April 17th work session & regular meeting

B. Finance - Approval of vehicle tax refunds for April 2023

C. Finance - Monthly Financial Report Ending March 31, 2023

D. JCPC County Funding Plan--NC DPS-Community Program

E. Social Services - Budget Amendment # 2023-109

F. EDC - Budget Amendment # 2023-107

G. Health - Budget Amendment #2023-108

H. IT - Budget Amendment # 2023-110

I. Utilities - Budget Amendment # 2023-111

J. EMS - Declare ambulance as surplus

K. Sheriff's office - Budget Amendment # 2023-112

BOARD COMMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS

May 15, 2023

Commissioner King expressed his appreciation to those in attendance as well as those watching the meeting remotely. He also noted that it is National Law Enforcement Week and thanked those who protect and serve the citizens of the county. He also advocated for providing any extra funds in the budget to teachers instead of the Parks & Recreation Grant Program adding that although he is not against the program, he feels the County should consider funding it possibly every other year instead of annually.

Commissioner Asciutto responded by stating that the County did not sponsor a Parks & Recreation Grant Program last year but did so the prior year. He also noted several local events taking place and encouraged everyone to get out and enjoy them.

Commissioner Crump thanked County Manager Lucas and staff for their work in preparing the budget. She also expressed her appreciation of the joint meeting with the School Board the previous week and hopes both boards can work together to provide the best education possible for our children.

Commissioner Lawhon noted that a good number of applications have been received for the airport director position and that the Airport Authority will soon begin reviewing them in order to narrow down the candidates to be interviewed.

Vice Chair Barbee thanked County Manager Lucas and staff for their work in preparing the recommended budget as well. He also feels the next few years will be tough but hopes to keep property taxes low and also agreed with Commissioner King's comments that the funds used for the Parks & Recreation Grant Program would be better spent elsewhere.

Commissioner Efird thanked county staff for their time in preparing the budget and reminded everyone of the Board's next meeting on Monday, June 5th at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

Comissioner Asciutto moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Vice Chair Barbee and passed by unanimous vote at 6:53 p.m.

T. Scott Efird, Chair

Tyler Brummitt, Clerk