

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, AUGUST 7, 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, July 10, 2023 in the Gene McIntyre Meeting Room, Stanly Commons. Chair Efird called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with Commissioner Crump giving the invocation and leading the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL / ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Commissioner Asiutto requested that item # 9 - Opioid Settlement Funding Appropriation Resolution for Gateway of Hope, be pulled from the agenda until the Consolidated Health & Human Services (CHHS) Board can review the request. He noted that some health department staff have expressed concerns with their use of medication-assisted treatment (or MAT) and do not support the request because of this and other concerns. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Barbee.

When asked about the funding request, County Manager Lucas responded that the he felt comfortable recommending the contract be renewed since Gateway was previously vetted by the County and received HRSA funding until it ended August 31, 2022. This funding was then replaced by the County's opioid settlement funds which are due to expire August 31 of this year. He noted that although the Executive Director was let go in recent months, Gateway has since put a network of support in place that will allow them to continue to provide the programs needed to meet the contract requirements. Therefore, a recommendation was made to renew the contract for another twelve (12) month period. Per the contract, Gateway is

required to provide MAT, but it is not often used. However, if it is not provided, the County can pull the funding since the contract requirements would not be met.

With no additional comments, Chair Efird called for a vote. The motion to pull the item passed by a 4 - 3 vote.

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

Nos: Vice Chair Barbee, Commissioner Crump, Commissioner King

With the County's current contract with Gateway expiring August 31st and the Board's next meeting scheduled for September 5th, Chair Efird stated that he did not understand that it would be another month before the Board can reconsider the request. He then asked if a motion to reconsider was an option. County Manager Lucas explained that if a member of the majority vote were to request it, then yes.

Commissioner Lawhon also noted that the Consolidated Health & Human Services Board could potentially call a special meeting to review the request to make a recommendation to the Board. The Board could then conduct a special meeting prior to September 5th to reconsider it.

With no further discussion or action taken, Chair Efird noted that the motion stands 4 - 3 to pull the item from the agenda.

SCHEDULED AGENDA ITEMS

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

2. Childhood Cancer Awareness Month Proclamation

Presenter: Jennifer Thompson

Ms. Jennifer Thompson, mother of Jace Thompson for whom the Warrior Jace Thompson Foundation was named, presented the proclamation for Board consideration and approval.

Commissioner Lawhon moved to approve it as presented, seconded by Vice Chair Barbee and carried by unanimous vote.

**See Exhibit A
Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
2023
A Proclamation**

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

3. Voluntary Ag-District Advisory Board Appointments

Presenter: Chester Lowder, Chair of the VAD Advisory Board

The Voluntary Ag-District (VAD) Advisory Board currently has two (2) vacancies. The VAD met and voted to recommend Lori Ivey and Leon Huneycutt for appointment with each serving a three (3) year term ending June 30, 2026.

By motion, Commissioner Lawhon moved to appoint Ms. Ivey and Mr. Huneycutt as recommended, seconded by Vice Chair Barbee and carried by a 7 - 0 vote.

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

4. Airport Authority Appointments

Presenter: Andy Lucas, County Manager

Per NC Session Law 2023-28, the Stanly County Airport has been expanded to seven (7) members. Five members will be at-large members from the community and two (2) will be County Commissioners. As such, the Board took action to appoint an additional member of the Board of Commissioners to the Airport Authority and appoint an additional at-large members for a term expiring March 31, 2027.

Commissioner Lawhon moved to appoint Commissioner Trent Hatley, who currently serves as the alternate member, to the second county commissioner seat. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ascitutto and passed by unanimous vote.

Chair Efird called for nominations for the newly added at-large seat. Commissioner Crump nominated Art Whitaker, Commissioner King nominated Steve Bradley, and Commissioner Hatley nominated Jimmy Faust.

Following are the votes as recorded:

- Art Whitaker - Vice Chair Barbee, Commissioner Ascitutto, Patty Crump
- Steve Bradley - Commissioner King
- Jimmy Faust- Chair Efird, Commissioner Hatley, Commissioner Lawhon

With Art Whitaker and Jimmy Faust receiving an equal number of votes, Chair Efird called for a second vote. Following are the votes as recorded:

- Art Whitaker - Vice Chair Barbee, Commissioner Ascitutto, Patty Crump, Commissioner King
- Jimmy Faust - Chair Efird, Commissioner Hatley, Commissioner Lawhon

Art Whitaker was appointed to the at-large seat by majority vote.

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

5. Stanly County Comprehensive Sewer Master Plan Capital Ordinance and Budget Amendment

Presenter: Duane Wingo, Utilities Director

Stanly County Utilities has received an A1A NCDEQ grant in the amount of \$150,000 to fund the completion of a comprehensive 5, 10 and 20 year Countywide Sewer Master Plan. This plan will utilize the Stanly County Comprehensive Land Use Plan to determine sewer service areas designated for growth and future development.

Chambers Engineering has been selected to provide the engineering evaluation and planning documents for the project with the total engineering cost aligning with the grant amount resulting in no county funds being used. Chambers Engineering has submitted an Engineering Services Agreement for the project which will be reviewed by the County Attorney and executed by the County Manager upon approval of the attached Capital Project Ordinance 656 and Budget Amendment # 2024-08.

Following the presentation it was requested the Board approve Capital Project Ordinance 656 and the associated budget amendment # 2024-08.

By motion, Commissioner King moved to approve Capital Project Ordinance 656 and the associated budget amendment # 2024-08 for \$150,000 as presented, seconded by Commissioner Crump and passed by a 7 - 0 vote.

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

6. McCoy Pump Station Bar Screen Replacement

Presenter: Duane Wingo, Utilities Director

Director Wingo stated that the McCoy Sewer Pump Station Mechanical Bar Screen has failed which poses a significant risk to the sewer system's performance and functionality. After originally being installed in 1992 and undergoing multiple rebuilds, the manufacturer informed the County that they will no longer provide parts for the system. As a result, a prompt replacement of the part is necessary.

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Staff sought professional assistance from Charles R. Underwood, Inc., who have provided a quote for the assembly and installation of the modern bar screen. This American-manufactured equipment will provide reliable performance and grant easy access to necessary parts through their manufacturer's representative. The quote for replacement is \$151,631.31. However, some additional funds are needed for Operations staff to replace the overhead metal canopy at the pump station to facilitate the installation. Given the urgency of this repair due to its potential impact on the sewer system's treatment and protection of pumps, it was requested the Board approve budget amendment # 2024-10 in the amount of \$156,000 to proceed with the repair.

Commissioner Crump moved to approve budget amendment # 2024-10 as presented, seconded by Commissioner King and passed by unanimous vote.

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

7. Tax Collector's Annual Settlement for FY 2022-2023

Presenter: Clinton Swaringen, Tax Administrator

Pursuant to GS 105-373, the Tax Collector presented the annual settlement report to the Board which provides a summary of the collection activity for FY 2022-23 with the statutory remedies of garnishment, attachment, debt setoff, escheat, pre-foreclosure and foreclosure being utilized to the greatest extent possible for collection of taxes. Mr. Swaringen provided a brief review of the FY 2022-23 Summary Report noting an overall collection rate of 98.15%, which is the highest collection rate ever reported. He then requested the Board take action to accept the annual settlement report as presented and charge the Tax Collector with the collection of FY 2023-24 taxes.

Following the presentation, Director Swaringen expressed his appreciation of the Tax Administration staff for all their hard work and responded to a brief period of questions. By motion, Commissioner Lawhon moved to accept the annual settlement report as presented and charge the Tax Collector with collecting the FY 2023-24 taxes, seconded by Vice Chair Barbee and passed by a 7 - 0 vote.

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

8. Department Head Presentation - Tax Administration

Presenter: Clinton Swaringen, Tax Administrator

Director Swaringen provided an overview of the Tax Administration Office's responsibilities that include the discovery, listing and appraisal of all real and personal property in the county while abiding by the NC General Statutes that govern the office. The office is also responsible for the

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collection of Ad Valorem property taxes for the county and the municipalities located within the county. Additionally, North Carolina General Statutes requires the Tax Assessor's office to conduct a county-wide Reappraisal to bring property values to 100% of market value every four (4) years with Stanly County's next revaluation scheduled for 2025. He also provided a review of the property tax relief programs available to citizens which include the Elderly & Disabled Exclusion, Disabled Veterans Exclusion and American Circuit Breaker and the qualifications for each program.

The presentation was for information only with no action required.

9. Opioid Settlement Funding Appropriation Resolution - Gateway of Hope

Presenter: Commissioner Trent Hatley

This item was tabled until the September 5, 2023 meeting.

RESULT:	TABLED [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 9/5/2023 6:00 PM
MOVER:	Peter Asciutto, Commissioner	
SECONDER:	Mike Barbee, Commissioner	
AYES:	Lawhon, King, Barbee, Crump, Asciutto, Efird, Hatley	

10. CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Asciutto moved to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Lawhon and carried by a 7 - 0 vote.

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

A. Minutes - July 10th work session & regular meeting

B. Finance - Approval of the vehicle tax refunds for July 2023

C. Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) appointment

D. Environmental Health Fee Schedule FY2024

E. SCUSA vehicle surplus LTV #53

F. Partnership for Children Lease Extension

G. EMS - Budget Amendment 2024-05

H. E911- Budget Amendment # 2024--09

I. Sheriff's office - Budget Amendment # 2024-06

J. Town of Oakboro - DEQ Grant Interlocal Agreement

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

BOARD COMMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner King thanked those in attendance at the meeting and expressed his appreciation of the presentations given.

Commissioner Asciutto shared a report from Pate Butler with NCDOT which shows the overall reduction in car crashes since the installation of 348 all way stops across the state.

Commissioner Crump expressed her appreciation of Tax Administrator Clinton Swaringen's presentation. As information she shared that the Health Department is co-sponsoring the International Overdose Awareness Day Memorial Walk on August 31st at the YMCA Park and that Commissioner King will hold a town hall meeting on Tuesday, August 8th at 7:00 p.m. at the Millingport VFD to take questions on the proposed five (5) acre requirement included in the County's Land Use Plan.

Commissioner Lawhon provided statistics on the number of new home permits issued through July 2023 compared to the same time last year noting a decrease of 12% overall.

Chair Efird wished his Mother-In-Law, Mary Furr a happy birthday on Tuesday. He also asked everyone to be cautious due to the increased traffic with school starting on Wednesday and to pray for all of the teachers, staff and students.

ADJOURN

Vice Chair Barbee moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Crump and carried by a 7 - 0 vote at 7:03 p.m.

T. Scott Efird, Chair

Tyler Brummitt, Clerk