

Bill Lawhon
Chairman

Mike Barbee
Commissioner

Tommy Jordan
Vice Chairman

Lane Furr
Commissioner



Peter Asciutto
Commissioner

Scott Efird
Commissioner

Zach Almond
Commissioner

**STANLY COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 9, 2021 – 6:00 PM**

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Bill Lawhon	Chairman	Remote	
Mike Barbee	Commissioner	Present	
Tommy Jordan	Vice Chairman	Present	
Lane Furr	Commissioner	Present	
Peter Asciutto	Commissioner	Present	
Scott Efird	Commissioner	Present	
Zach Almond	Commissioner	Present	
Andy Lucas	County Manager	Present	
Tyler Brummitt	Clerk	Present	
Jenny Furr	Attorney	Present	

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

The Stanly County Board of Commissioners (the "Board") met in regular session on Monday, August 9, 2021 in the Gene McIntyre Meeting Room, Stanly Commons. Vice Chair Jordan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with Commissioner Barbee giving the invocation and leading the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL / ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

With no changes requested to the agenda, Commissioner Almond moved to approve it as presented, seconded by Commissioner Asciutto and carried by unanimous vote.

SCHEDULED AGENDA ITEMS

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

2. Tax Collector's Annual Settlement for FY 2020-2021

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 2020-21 with the statutory remedies

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of garnishment, attachment, debt setoff, escheat, pre-foreclosure and foreclosure being utilized to the greatest extent possible for collection of taxes. Following Mr. Swaringen's presentation, it was requested the Board take action to accept the annual settlement report as presented and charge the Tax Collector with the collection of taxes for FY 2020-21.

Following a brief period of questions, Commissioner Efird moved to accept the annual settlement report as presented and charge the Tax Collector with the collection of the current fiscal year property taxes, seconded by Commissioner Almond and passed with a 7 - 0 vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Scott Efird, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Zach Almond, Commissioner
AYES:	Lawhon, Barbee, Jordan, Furr, Ascitutto, Efird, Almond

3. COVID Update

Presenter: David Jenkins, Health & Human Services Director

HHS Director Jenkins provided the latest data on the COVID-19 pandemic in Stanly County. Information included the number of daily new positive cases, hospitalizations, deaths, and the number of vaccinations (1st and second doses) administered thus far. With the number of positive cases dramatically increasing since July 1st due to the Delta variant, Stanly County is currently considered a high risk county. The Health Department continues to provide updated information via social media and continues to focus on vaccinations in the community. Mr. Jenkins emphasized the need to follow the necessary precautions to remain safe which includes getting vaccinated, wearing masks and social distancing. Following the presentation Mr. Jenkins responded to Board questions.

For discussion, Commissioner Ascitutto noted the face masks policy recently adopted by the Health & Human Services (HHS) Board for their employees in the Health and Social Services departments. He expressed his support of it and requested the Board take action to adopt it for all county employees since he feels it is a common sense policy to help prevent the spread of the virus. The Board discussed the preventative measures county departments have in place and specifics of the proposed policy.

Due to the face mask policy not being placed on the meeting agenda, Vice Chair Jordan felt the Board would be unable to consider taking any action on it. For clarification, the Board consulted with County Attorney Furr who stated that since the policy was presented to the Board in advance of the meeting upon recommendation and not by vote from the HHS Board, Commissioner Ascitutto could procedurally and legally make a motion to approve it.

Prior to Commissioner Ascitutto doing so, Vice Chair Jordan requested that Mr. Jenkins presentation be closed and the Board move on to Commissioner Ascitutto's COVID discussion listed as item # 4 on the agenda.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Zach Almond, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Scott Efird, Commissioner
AYES:	Lawhon, Barbee, Jordan, Furr, Asciutto, Efird, Almond

4. COVID-19 Discussion

Presenter: Commissioner Peter Asciutto

To begin, Commissioner Asciutto introduced Dr. Jenny Hinson, a hospitalist with Atrium Health - Stanly, who spoke regarding the treatment of COVID patients in the hospital. She expressed concerns that if the current surge in cases continues, there will not be enough space in larger hospitals to care for the sickest patients. Additionally, she noted the Delta strain has been found to be highly contagious and is the predominant variant being seen now with it impacting younger age groups more so than the previous variants.

Following Dr. Hinson's presentation, Commissioner Asciutto provided an overview of the procedures put in place for the county jail and EMS bases to help prevent the spread of the virus in their facilities.

Following discussion, Commissioner Asciutto moved to approve the Face Mask Addendum as adopted by the Health & Human Services Board and include it as part of the Stanly County Personnel Resolution to apply to all county employees. The motion died due to lack of a second.

RESULT:	DEFEATED [1 TO 6]
MOVER:	Peter Asciutto, Commissioner
AYES:	Asciutto
NAYS:	Lawhon, Barbee, Jordan, Furr, Efird, Almond

5. CONSENT AGENDA

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Zach Almond, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Bill Lawhon, Chairman
AYES:	Lawhon, Barbee, Jordan, Furr, Asciutto, Efird, Almond

A. Minutes - July 19, 2021 regular meeting

B. Airport - Budget amendment # 2022-08 - Airport Obstruction (Tree) Removal Project

C. Social Services - Budget amendment # 2022-10- CARES General Assistance

D. 911 - Budget amendment # 2022-11 - Loan proceeds

E. Finance - Vehicle tax refunds for July 2021

F. Senior Services - Budget amendment # 2022-09- Supplemental 5 Funding for Nutrition Program

BOARD COMMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Asciutto expressed his frustration in how tonight's meeting was conducted stating he feels the Board is more interested in getting through the meeting rather than taking the time to discuss the pandemic and its effect on the county.

Vice Chair Jordan agreed that COVID is very important noting how it is being dealt with on all levels in our country. However, he does not feel it's the Board's place to mandate or issue public health directives, but feels it is in the public health director's discretion to do so for the safety of the community.

ADJOURN

With no further discussion, Commissioner Furr moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Efird and passed by unanimous vote at 7:08 p.m.

W. D. Lawhon, Jr., Chair

Tyler Brummitt, Clerk