

T. Scott Efird
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, April 20, 2026 – 6:00 PM**

1. Call to Order & Welcome

The Stanly County Board of Commissioners (the “Board”) met in regular session on Monday, April 20, 2026, in the Gene McIntyre Meeting Room, Stanly Commons. Chair Efird called the meeting to order at 06:00 PM with Commissioner Barbee giving the invocation and leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present:

Chairman T. Scott Efird
Vice Chairman Bill Lawhon
Commissioner Paul Michael Barbee
County Commissioner Patty Crump
County Commissioner Trent Hatley
Commissioner Brandon King (participated by phone)
County Commissioner Billy Mills

2. Approval / Adjustments to the Agenda

Commissioner Mills moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Crump and carried by unanimous vote.

3. Public Comment

- CJ Crisco of the Town of Richfield expressed his appreciation to the Board and county staff for the guidance provided to him as the new mayor. He also looks forward to partnering with the county in the future.
- Jennifer Lehn, a resident of Richfield, requested a better understanding of the process for ETJ appointments made by the county for municipalities under G.S. 160D, specifically as it pertains to the Planning Board and Board of Adjustment.
- Harrison Kruis, shared concerns regarding the government's handling of the Epstein files and the United States involvement in the war against Iran. He requested that the Board share these concerns with our government leaders.

4. Scheduled Agenda Items

A. America 250 Art Contest Winner Recognitions

Presenter: Bain Jones, Jr., Committee Chair; Renee VanHorn, Vice Committee Chair; Kelly Dombrowski, Arts Council Chair & Lynn Plummer, Chief Academic Officer, Stanly County Schools

Members of the Stanly County America 250 NC Committee and the Stanly County Arts Guild were in attendance to recognize the winners of the banner art contest, the 4th grade County flag art contest, and the essay contest winner and runner-up.

Following the presentation, students had the opportunity to meet the County Commissioners and participate in a group photo.

B. Plat Review Officer Resolution

Presenter: Bailey Cline, Planning Director

Pursuant to NCGS 47-30.2, the Board of Commissioners must designate experienced mapping and land records management personnel as Review Officers to certify maps and plats prior to recording in the Stanly County Office of the Register of Deeds.

At the present time, Paul Reynolds, Bailey Cline, Dane Hinson, Matthew Bolen and Hunter Rogers are approved as plat review officers for the county.

Ariel Rodriguez, from Central Permitting, recently completed the Plat Review Officer Workshop offered by the Secretary of State's Land Records Office. It was requested that she be added to the list of designated plat review officers for the county via resolution.

Following brief discussion, Commissioner Mills moved to approve the resolution to add Ariel Rodriguez to the list of plat review officers for the county. Commissioner Hatley seconded the motion, which carried by a 7-0 vote.

See Exhibit A

Resolution

Appointment of Plat Review Officers

C. Planning Board Appointment

Presenter: Bailey Cline, Planning Director

Current Planning Board member T. J. Smith's term has expired. It was requested that the Board appoint one member to the Planning Board for a three-year term ending March 31, 2029.

Commissioner Hatley moved to reappoint T. J. Smith to the Planning Board for a three-year term ending March 31, 2029. Commissioner Barbee seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

D. New London Sewer Study Grant Application Resolution

Presenter: Clinton Hinson, Utilities Director

Director Hinson presented the resolution which will allow the county to apply for grant funds to conduct a Merger Regionalization Feasibility (MRF) study for the Town of New London's sewer collection system. The Town has expressed interest in divesting its system to the County.

This study will examine the system's condition, rate structure, and financial health, which will be critical in helping the County make an informed decision regarding the potential acquisition of the sewer system.

Following brief discussion, Vice Chair Lawhon moved to approve the resolution as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hatley and passed by unanimous vote.

See Exhibit B

Resolution by Governing Body of Applicant

E. West Stanly Water Feed Grant Application Resolution

Presenter: Clinton Hinson, Utilities Director

Director Hinson presented a resolution for approval which will allow the county to apply for grant funds for the West Stanly Water Feed Project (also referred to as the Millingport Feed). This application seeks funding from the state's viability utility reserve funds, which are specifically available to distressed utilities such as Stanly County. Board approval of the resolution was requested.

Commissioner Crump moved to approve the resolution as presented, with Vice Chair Lawhon seconding the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Exhibit C

Resolution by Governing Body of Applicant

F. Stanly County Schools FY 2026-2027 Budget Request Presentation

Presenter: Dr. Jarrod Dennis, School Superintendent

Dr. Dennis presented the District Investment Blueprint for FY 2026-27, outlining a total budget request of just over \$42 million. The proposal is categorized into three (3) main areas:

- Local Funds (\$20.28 million): Focuses on daily operations and curriculum including \$3.19 million for personnel to increase teacher supplements to 7%, \$2.0 million for increased substitute pay, \$235,682 for employee differentials and \$100,000 for staff development travel.
- Capital Outlay (\$20.35 million): Targets infrastructure and facilities including \$3.61 million for HVAC repairs, \$2.0 million for window replacements, \$710,000 for structural repairs at Oakboro Elementary, \$450,000 for pavement repairs and \$175,000 for district-wide flooring.
- Technology (\$1.38 million): Includes \$920,000 for student device replacements, \$300,000 for software and licensing, \$115,000 for staff computers, \$22,000 for interactive classroom panels and \$18,000 for charging carts and technology supplies.

Additional investments cover athletic facilities and equipment, band equipment and supplies, school nutrition equipment and district-wide ADA improvements.

The presentation was provided for informational purposes, with no formal action taken.

G. 2026 National Day of Prayer Proclamation

Presenter: Vice Chair Bill Lawhon

Vice Chair Lawhon presented the proclamation requesting the Board adopt it in order to declare Thursday, May 7, 2026, as a National Day of Prayer in Stanly County.

Vice Chair Lawhon moved to adopt the proclamation as presented. Commissioner Mills seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

See Exhibit D

National Day of Prayer 2026

By The Stanly County Board of Commissioners

In the State of North Carolina

A Proclamation

H. Property Tax Resolution

Presenter: Andy Lucas, County Manager

The North Carolina General Assembly is currently considering a constitutional amendment that would limit the amount local governments can increase their property tax revenue annually.

Property tax revenue represents 50% of Stanly County's total annual operating revenue. Any significant loss of this revenue due to legislative changes would lead to necessary reductions in county programs and services.

County Manager Lucas presented a resolution for the Board's consideration expressing opposition to this proposed amendment. Following the presentation, County Manager Lucas addressed questions regarding the specifics of the proposed amendment and its potential long-term impact on the county.

Vice Chair Lawhon moved to approve the resolution as presented. Commissioner Hatley seconded the motion, which passed by a 6-1 vote (Commissioner Barbee voting against.)

See Exhibit E

**Resolution of the Stanly County Board of Commissioners Opposing
Modifications to County Property Tax Authority**

5. Consent Agenda

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

A. Minutes

B. SCUSA Zero Tolerance Substance Abuse Policy Update

C. FTA Procurement Policy Update

D. City of Locust ETJ Appointment

E. Town of Richfield ETJ Appointments

F. Airport Gate 1 Insurance Settlement

6. Board Comments, Announcements & Committee Reports

Commissioner Hatley thanked those in attendance for being involved in local government.

Commissioner Barbee congratulated the winners of the Stanly County America 250 NC flag and banner contest. He also noted his opposition to the property tax resolution, stating that while it offers breaks to businesses, he feels it does not provide any relief for those on a fixed income.

Commissioner Mills expressed concerns regarding the proposed property tax amendment, describing it as a "one size fits all" approach that is ineffective for individual counties. He also urged students to remain safe during prom season.

Commissioner Crump reported on the Board's April 16th joint meeting with the Stanly Community College Board of Trustees. She shared that the college has been nominated for the Aspen Award and is currently ranked among the top 50 community colleges in the country. Additionally, she encouraged everyone to attend Norwood's Arbor Day Celebration this Saturday. The event will include the unveiling of the Battle of Colson's Mill wall mural at 11:00 a.m.

Vice Chair Lawhon thanked Jeff Branch for the success of the annual Big Lick Bluegrass Festival held last weekend.

Chair Efird announced that the 27th Annual Kerri D. Efird Scholarship Bike Run will take place this Saturday, April 25th, at 10:00 a.m. The funds raised will support scholarships for West Stanly High School seniors.

7. Adjourn

Commissioner Mills moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Crump and passed by a 7-0 vote at 7:18 p.m.

T. Scott Efird, Chairman

Tyler Brummitt, Clerk