

Mike Barbee
Chairman

Brandon King
Vice Chairman

Patty Crump
Commissioner

Scott Efird
Commissioner



Trent Hatley
Commissioner

Bill Lawhon
Commissioner

Billy Mills
Commissioner

**STANLY COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2025 – 6:00 PM**

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Mike Barbee	Chairman	Present	
Brandon King	Vice Chairman	Present	
Patty Crump	Commissioner	Present	
Scott Efird	Commissioner	Remote	
Trent Hatley	Commissioner	Present	
Bill Lawhon	Commissioner	Present	
Billy Mills	Commissioner	Present	

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

The Stanly County Board of Commissioners (the "Board") met in regular session on Monday, February 17, 2025 in the Gene McIntyre Meeting Room, Stanly Commons. Chair Barbee called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. with Commissioner Lawhon giving the invocation and leading the pledge of allegiance.

Approval / Adjustments to the Agenda

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

SCHEDULED AGENDA ITEMS

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

2. National Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Collegiate Week Proclamation

Presenter: Tim Karabet, FBLA Collegiate Chapter President, Stanly Community College and Lani Pope, State Vice President of Communications, SCC Graduate; Wingate University student

Representatives of the Stanly Community College Chapter of the FBLA were in attendance to present the proclamation and request it be adopted in order to acknowledge February 2025 as National Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Collegiate Month.

Following the presentation, Commissioner Lawhon moved to approve the proclamation as presented, seconded by Commissioner Crump and carried by unanimous vote.

See Exhibit A
National FBLA Collegiate Month- February 2025
(Future Business Leaders of America Collegiate)

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

3. Voluntary Agricultural District Program Applications

Presenter: Clint Brooks, Soil & Water Conservation District Director

Director Brooks presented the following applications for the Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD) program:

- Kyle Almond - 277.30 total acres in the Bear Creek Road area, New London
- Shane P. Almond - 286.59 total acres in the Ellen Road area, New London

By motion, Vice Chair King moved to approve both applications for the Voluntary Ag-District Program as requested, seconded by Commissioner Mills are passed by a 7 - 0 vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Brandon King, Vice Chairman
SECONDER:	Billy Mills, Commissioner
AYES:	Barbee, King, Crump, Efird, Hatley, Lawhon, Mills

4. Utilities - Budget Amendment 2025-56: Additional 1-inch Meter Purchases

Presenter: Duane Wingo, Utilities Director

The Stanly County Utilities Department requested approval of budget amendment 2025-56 for the purchase of additional 1-inch meters and ancillary parts for the ongoing meter change-out project and new commercial service taps. During the meter change out project, it was discovered that 60 more 1-inch meters in older parts of the water distribution system are needed than initially estimated.

Quotes were received from Core and Main totaling \$33,391.49 for the meters and parts. Currently, the Meter Taps Expense Account (641.7120.354.100) has \$6,674.89 available. However, there is an excess of approximately \$31,243.00 in the Meter Set Revenue Account (641.3710.531.13) which was specifically established for purchasing additional meters before the close of the fiscal year.

To cover the remaining costs, it was requested the excess revenue from the Meter Set Revenue Account (641.3710.531.13) be transferred to the Meter Taps Expense Account

(641.7120.354.100) in order to complete the procurement of the required 1-inch meters and related fittings.

Following the presentation, Director Wingo responded to Board questions concerning the life expectancy of the new meters, how the old meters are disposed of and the cost associated with the installation of a 3/4 inch versus 1 inch meters.

Commissioner Lawhon moved to approve budget amendment 2025-56 for the purchase of the water meters and parts, seconded Commissioner Hatley and passed by unanimous vote.

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

5. Utilities - Budget Amendment 2025-57: Stanly Utilities Fund Repairs & Maintenance

Presenter: Duane Wingo, Utilities Director

Budget amendment 2025-57 was requested to allocate \$25,000 from the Union County Raw Water revenue line item to the repairs and maintenance line item within the Stanly Utilities Fund. This reallocation is necessary to cover above-average expenses for sewer system maintenance and repairs associated with the 27 sewer pump stations in the aging Town of Richfield sewer system infrastructure.

The Richfield Sewer Grant Project has been delayed due to contracted bids exceeding the grant award amount. Stanly County Utilities is collaborating with NCDEQ to utilize county staff and local subcontractors to stay within the grant allocation and anticipates the project will begin soon. Additional instrumentation and telemetry repairs at other sewer pump stations have also contributed to the increased expenses in the current fiscal year.

Following Director Wingo's presentation and a brief period of discussion, Vice Chair King moved to approve budget amendment 2025-57 as presented, seconded by Commissioner Mills and carried by a 7 - 0 vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Brandon King, Vice Chairman
SECONDER:	Billy Mills, Commissioner
AYES:	Barbee, King, Crump, Efird, Hatley, Lawhon, Mills

6. Utilities - Budget Amendment 2025-58: Sludge Removal at West Stanly WWTP and McCoy Pump Station Operations

Presenter: Duane Wingo, Utilities Director

The Stanly County Utilities Department requested approval of budget amendment 2025-58. This amendment aims to allocate \$180,000 from retained earnings to the West Stanly (631.7120.699) Account for Other Contracts, ensuring sufficient funding for the remainder of the fiscal year at the West Stanly WWTP and the McCoy Regional Sewer Pump Station.

The requested funds will cover two scheduled sludge removals by Synagro, Inc., replacement of aging check valves at the McCoy lift station, and an extension of the onsite rental pumping equipment.

Following the presentation, Director Wingo addressed questions regarding the average cost per removal, the number of permitted vendors that can provide this service, and the potential impact of increased flow at the grinding stations.

By motion, Commissioner Lawhon moved to approve budget amendment 2025-58 as presented, seconded by Commissioner Mills, and passed by unanimous vote.

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

7. 2025 Revaluation Presentation

Presenter: Clinton Swaringen, Tax Administrator

Tax Administrator Clinton Swaringen presented information about the upcoming 2025 Revaluation. The presentation aimed to help citizens better understand the revaluation process, including how property values are determined, how these values can affect your overall tax bill, and your right to appeal the assessed value if you believe it is incorrect.

Following the presentation, Mr. Swaringen responded to Board questions with no action requested.

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

8. 911/EOC/EM Facility Site Development Budget Amendment

Presenter: Andy Lucas, County Manager

The County has received the guaranteed maximum price for the site development of Phase II of the NC Emergency Training Center from Barnhill Construction Company, which includes the County's pro-rated share for the new 911/EOC/EM facility and warehouse facilities. The County's portion will not exceed \$3.25 million. This includes all grading for the County's facilities and the County's pro-rated share of all stormwater infrastructure, on-site water and sewer installation as well as ingress & egress access roads, curb & gutter, sidewalks and paving of parking lot areas.

It is recommended the County use its cash reserves from the General Fund for this portion of the County's specific capital improvement project. Additional project budget amendments will

be required to recognize loan proceeds and more General Fund reserves to cover the cost of the 911/EOC/EM facility and the County's pro-rated share of the warehouse facility.

Vice Chair King moved to approve budget amendments 2025-59 and 2025-60 for the site work associated with the construction of the County's new 911/EOC/EM facility, seconded by Commissioner Mills and carried by a 7 - 0 vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Brandon King, Vice Chairman
SECONDER:	Billy Mills, Commissioner
AYES:	Barbee, King, Crump, Efird, Hatley, Lawhon, Mills

9. CONSENT AGENDA

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

A. Minutes- February 3rd work session and regular meeting

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

B. Finance - Vehicle tax refunds for January 2025

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

C. EMS - Budget Amendment 2025-55

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

D. Transportation - Budget Amendment 2025-54

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

E. SCUSA - Surplus Vehicle Sale

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

BOARD COMMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS

Vice Chair King expressed his gratitude to Tax Administrator Clinton Swaringen for his presentation on the upcoming revaluation. He then acknowledged the difficult decisions the Board will face during the county's budget process.

Commissioner Mills shared that he had met with Mr. Swaringen earlier that day to gain a better understanding of the revaluation process and its impact on property owners, the county, and municipalities. He then stated that the Board would do everything possible to assist citizens.

Commissioner Lawhon presented statistics which indicated a 24% decrease in the number of new residential building permits for January 2025 compared to January 2024. He also shared that a home's value must reach \$341,000 to generate enough property tax revenue to cover the cost of county services provided.

Chair Barbee acknowledged his reluctance to increase taxes but also recognizes the County's need for sufficient funding to operate effectively. He also thanked Mr. Swaringen for his presentation.

RECESS

At 7:12 p.m., Chair Barbee recessed the meeting until Friday, February 21st at 9:00 a.m. in the Stanly County Airport Conference Room for the Board's Annual Planning Retreat.

Paul M. Barbee, Chair

Tyler Brummitt, Clerk