

**TOWN OF STOKESDALE  
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
8325 Angel Pardue Road  
STOKESDALE, NC 27357  
March 14, 2019**

**I. Call to Order:** 7:05 Mayor Flynt

**II. Invocation:** Deputy Chief Randy Southern

**III. Pledge of Allegiance:** Lead by Mayor Flynt

**IV. Review and Adopt Agenda:** Frank Bruno motioned to approve the March 14, 2019 Agenda as is. Thearon Hooks 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Vote 5-0 to approve.

**V. Approval of Minutes: January 10, 2019:** Mayor Flynt motioned to approve the January 10, 2019 minutes as is without reading. Frank Bruno 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

**VOTE:**

Tim Jones: NO	Thearon Hooks: Yes
Bill Jones : NO	Mayor John Flynt: Yes
Frank Bruno: YES	

**February 14, 2019 Minutes:** Frank Bruno motioned to approve the February 14<sup>th</sup> minutes. Mayor Flynt 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Tim Jones said Item #10 regarding the vote remove Mr. Nadel from the Planning Board did not reflect who voted No and who vote yes. He wants the names recorded in the minutes. The vote to approve the February 14, 2019 minutes have been continued until the April 11, 2019 Town Council meeting so the Town Clerk and amend them to reflect the names of the councilmen that voted yes or no.

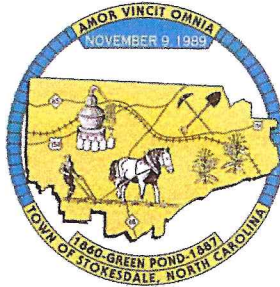
**VI. Public Safety Reports:**

**Guilford County Sheriff's Report:** Captain Hall of District 1 reported that the Sheriff's Dept. responded to 68 service calls in the month of February. Five of those calls were Part 1 crimes, 3 of those calls did end in arrest. His tip for the month was for citizens to keep their cars and homes locked and don't leave valuables in your car. A lot of their cars in the last few months have been for cars being broken into and items left in the cars stolen.

**Sheriff Rogers,** was also in attendance he came to the podium and introduced himself and spoke a few minutes about his plans for the Department to work on a re-entry program for inmates at their release from prison, also explained the Yellow Dot program and asking officers to do vacation checks when you go on vacation. Sheriff Rogers also had Chief Deputy Steve Parr with him.

**Chief Deputy Parr** came to the podium and spoke about their work with the High Point Opioid Program and his plans to bring that program to Northwest Guilford County. Thearon Hooks commented to Chief Deputy Parr that Stokesdale Town Hall is hosting a Northwest Guilford Opioid Meeting at Town Hall March 21, 2019 and that Captain Hall is bring a Detention Employee with him to the meeting and that any all law enforcement as well as citizens are invited to come to the monthly meetings.

**Col. Vic Maynard** was also present and spoke about the Dept. studying ways to be more proactive in preventing speeding and DWIs in County the Highway Patrol do a good job but they are under staffed so the plan is for the Sheriff's Dept. to help out any way they can. Also, plan to be more proactive with



drug enforcement and the SROs with the school system. The SROs do a great job and the plan is to add more.

**Stokesdale Fire Dept. Report:** Deputy Chief Randy Southern from the Stokesdale Fire Dept. reported that it's unusual but the Fire Department actually ran more calls this month than the Sheriff's Dept. They had two building fires, 1 grass fire, 8 accident calls, 2 hazardous condition calls which were a gas leak and a gasoline spill from a ruptured fuel tank on a tractor trailer. 6 other service calls, 10 good intent calls, and 42 medical calls. Total 71 calls. Randy's tip for the month is to please check and replace your smoke detector batteries.

**VII: Citizen's comments from the floor (3 Minute Limit per Speaker) Stokesdale Girl Scout Troop 02469** gave a presentation and asked the town if they could place a "Little Free Library" in our Town Park. Frank Bruno asked them to send us the information and specifications and we would be happy to work with them. See attached presentation.

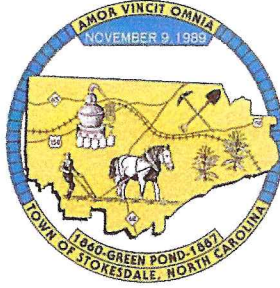
**Catherine Buntoff** came to the podium as a Representative of the Friends of Stokesdale, a group of Stokesdale citizens that are promoting quality of life, gathering history of Stokesdale, and welcomes new members to come and meet with them.

#### **VIII. New Business:**

**1. Monthly Financial Review: Town Clerk/Finance Officer Alisa Houk gave the financial report.**

Bill Jones stated that he still can't figure out what accounts the money is going into. Tim Jones agreed with Bill and said he still doesn't understand why it's taken six months to get financial reports. Bill Jones added that Council hasn't been advised of what money is being spent. Tim Jones made a motion to have Dana Luther who is on our vendor list or Rex Rouse from our auditing firm to come in and help us get our financial records up-to-date. John Flynt 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Mayor Flynt asked Mr. Bain if asking Rex Rouse to come in to work with our financials wouldn't be a conflict of interest. Mr. Bain said it could possibly be and we should ask Mr. Rouse about it. Bill Jones said he spoke with Mr. Rouse and he said he would do it for \$90.00 an hour. Bill said he didn't think Mr. Rouse would offer to do this if it was a conflict. Mayor Flynt then reminded everyone that the NC Treasury Dept. sent two representatives to us a few weeks ago and we received a clean bill of health. Bill Jones said he spoke with those representatives after the visit and they told him differently. Mayor Flynt asked Tim Jones and Bill Jones if either of them were prepared to obtain a proposal from Dana Luther or Rex Rouse. Tim Jones asked if any other councilmen had a suggestion of a CPA with Municipal experience to come in and help with the books. Thearon Hooks addressed Tim and said all CPA's are booked up right now with taxes until at least April 15<sup>th</sup>. Frank Bruno asked Tim and Bill if their main concern was Budget vs. Actual. Tim said I think so. Frank said we already have someone working on that. Kim Thacker is working on it. Frank said what Alisa is trying to explain to you is when we voted to upgrade the system that we have to transfer numbers manually into the new system from the old manual system. We have numbers in the old system from July to December 31st. January 1 through February 28, are on the new online system. It takes time to move all the numbers from the old to the new manually. Bill said well the problem is Kim Thacker was only hired to work to the end of March. Frank said yes she was hired as the temporary Budget Officer. In Frank's opinion Kim Thacker is the best choice as she has already been working on the financials and she knows what





needs to be done. Mayor Flynt said if one of them wants to make a substitute motion, it's going to be hard to hire a part time Budget Officer at \$15.00 an hour. Mayor Flynt said if you want to hire a full time CPA he will 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Mayor Flynt went back over the motion to hire Rex Rouse or Dana Luther to come in and help us with our financials. Tim Jones had made the motion. Mayor Flynt had 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion

**VOTE:**

Tim Jones: Yes	Thearon Hooks: No
Bill Jones : Yes	Mayor John Flynt: No
Frank Bruno: No	

Bill Jones commented that this was the second time that council had voted against hiring someone to come in and do the financials. So, he guesses council is good with the way they are. Frank, Mayor Flynt, and Thearon Hooks all three in unison said "No, we are not." Frank then motioned to hire Kim Thacker to be our Budget Officer and work out the contract with her. John Flynt 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Bill Jones said he doesn't understand why we are going to hire somebody that hasn't been able to do that job yet. Thearon Hooks spoke up and said this happened about a year ago when they asked Dana Luther to come in and consult on our operations. In the contract she had said I will not be available until these specific dates. And we are in that same back circle now. CPAs and Accountants are all booked up right now. Kim is probably the best one at this point because she has already been working on the numbers and knows our system. Thearon said let's give it six more weeks. Bill still disagreed. Thearon said well then why don't you find someone and bring it back to board for review. Mayor Flynt said he would withdraw his 2<sup>nd</sup> on the motion and said Bill you make a motion that you will go out and find someone bring back a time and a firm price and council will consider it. Mayor Flynt told Bill Jones to get proposals in writing and if we have to have a Special Called Meeting we will to consider the proposals. Bill Jones agreed he would do that.

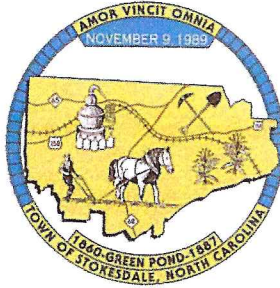
2. **Council to set date for Public Hearing: Resolution of Intent to Close Loyola Drive Case # 19-02-STPL-01373:** That portion of Loyola Drive (Secondary Road #2055), approximately 295.54 ft., and running north from its southern intersect with Stokesdale Street in Stokesdale NC.

John Flynt motioned to set the Public Hearing for May 9, 2019 Thearon Hooks 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

**Vote:**

Tim Jones: Yes	Thearon Hooks: Yes
Bill Jones : Yes	Mayor John Flynt: Yes
Frank Bruno: YES	

3. **Discuss SunTrust Account:** Mayor Flynt explained that the SunTrust account has been our savings account where the Town's franchise taxes are drafted to and these funds are used quarterly to help fund our General Fund account for expenses. The interest rates at SunTrust have only been around 0.1%. Also, we have been keeping up with 5 banks handling different accounts. We want to consolidate some of our funds so we don't have as many banks to keep up with. In talking to Bank of Oak Ridge they have an Insured Money Market Sweep account that we can open checking and savings in with a much better interest rates of 1 ½% and we will



still have the capabilities of writing a check quarterly to move money as needed over to Fidelity General Fund without penalties. Mayor Flynt motioned to close out the SunTrust Account and move those funds to Bank of Oak Ridge. Frank Bruno 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

**VOTE:**

Tim Jones: No	Thearon Hooks: Yes
Bill Jones : No	Mayor John Flynt: Yes
Frank Bruno: YES	

4. Park Maintenance and improvements: Frank motioned for Beaver Outdoor Solutions to become our Town Hall and Town Park lawn maintenance and landscaping vendor for the rest of the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2019. And to have Town Attorney John Bain work up a contract for all to sign.

Tim Jones: NO	Thearon Hooks: Yes
Bill Jones : NO	Mayor John Flynt: Yes
Frank Bruno: YES	

Frank motioned to approve a proposal from Larry Ellington Services for putting in new wood fiber safety surfacing (ADA) compliant, and playground molded borders, an ADA compliant ramp to enter the playground area, remove and dispose of all of the old deteriorating wood borders. Total Cost \$5582.00 Mayor Flynt 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

Tim Jones: NO	Thearon Hooks: Yes
Bill Jones : NO	Mayor John Flynt: Yes
Frank Bruno: YES	

Frank motioned to approve a proposal from Superior Recreation of the Carolinas for installing molded borders for the volleyball area for a cost of \$3868.62, subject to a contract prepared by Attorney John Bain and signed by all. Thearon Hooks 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

Tim Jones: NO	Thearon Hooks: Yes
Bill Jones : NO	Mayor John Flynt: Yes
Frank Bruno: YES	

Frank then brought up the broken water fountain in the Town Park. Gauldin Plumbing has been out several times to look at the fountain and has advised it would be less expensive to replace the fountain instead of trying to repair the current one. He isn't even sure he can find parts for the old one. Frank has pricing for a replacement. Bill asked if the one Frank is suggesting is frost resistant. Frank said no it wasn't he suggest just shutting it off in the winter. He said there is a \$1000. - \$1500 more for a frost resistance fountain. Bill said with what they've spent tonight what's another \$1000-\$1500 for a frost resistant one. Bill had sent a copy of one he found to the Town Clerk. Alisa said yes she does have the pricing and can include it in the pricing. Frank agreed to remove his motion and continue the purchase of a new fountain until the April meeting.





Frank motioned to approve a proposal from Superior Recreation of the Carolinas for 12 new picnic tables, 6 new benches like the two we purchased last year. Mats to go under the swings and the slide. Total cost using undesignated funds \$15,277.89, subject to a contract prepared by Attorney John Bain and signed by all. Thearon Hooks 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

Tim Jones: NO	Thearon Hooks: Yes
Bill Jones : NO	Mayor John Flynt: Yes
Frank Bruno: YES	

Frank said lastly we need to spend the next several weeks to price electricians to trench and run electric to the shelter.

Mayor Flynt asked to take a 5minute recess at 9:00PM. Mayor Flynt called the meeting back to order at 9:10PM.

**5. Installation of Town Clock:** Frank received a call that our clock is ready. He has met with Chief Gauldin of the Fire Dept. The Fire Dept. has graciously said they will allow the clocks electrical use to be included on their electric bill and they will pay for the electricity use. Frank is coordinating with the Clock manufacturer and the Fire Department for delivery and installing the electrical lines. Frank motioned to approve the installation of the clock, a concrete base and electrical lines be installed at no more than \$1000.00. John Flynt 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

Frank motioned to approve a proposal from Superior Recreation of the Carolinas for 12 new picnic tables, 6 new benches like the two we purchased last year. Mats to go under the swings and the slide. Total cost using undesignated funds \$15,277.89, subject to a contract prepared by Attorney John Bain and signed by all. Thearon Hooks 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

Tim Jones: NO	Thearon Hooks: Yes
Bill Jones : YES	Mayor John Flynt: Yes
Frank Bruno: YES	



Frank presented the cost of clock \$14,560.70 including tax. Tax was \$920.00. Balance of clock after tax back is \$ 13,640.70. -\$7280.35 already paid by the town, -\$2418.97 take from balance left of the Downtown Revitalization grant. Leaves a balance of \$4000.00, which Eileen Thiery has graciously donated this remaining balance of \$4,000.00 to the clock. Frank motioned to give the Town Clerk the authority to accept Eileen's donation of the \$4,000.00 and pay The Verdin Company the balance for the clock plus the \$920.70 tax and balance of the clock. Accept Eileen Thiery's donation of \$4000.00.

Tim Jones: Yes	Thearon Hooks: Yes
Bill Jones : Yes	Mayor John Flynt: Yes
Frank Bruno: Yes	

Frank made a second motion to authorize the Town Clerk to cut a check to The Verdin Company for \$ 7280.35 balance of the clock.

Tim Jones: No	Thearon Hooks: Yes
Bill Jones : Yes	Mayor John Flynt: Yes
Frank Bruno: YES	

5. **Planning Board - Training and Rules of Procedure:** Mayor Flynt presented the copies in the councilmen's packet of information we have acquired from the NCSOG. This is a set of webinar training modules that council would like for the members of the Planning Board to watch these webinars as part of a more comprehensive training program that council is implementing for these members. Frank Bruno motioned to have Alisa Houk coordinate with Mr. Bain and Mr. Bass to set up training and this webinar and work out the schedule to have the Planning Board members attend these webinars. Mr. Bain said he will watch these webinars first and then determine after watching what further he may need to add. Mayor Flynt 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

**Vote:**

Tim Jones: Yes	Thearon Hooks: Yes
Bill Jones : Yes	Mayor John Flynt: Yes
Frank Bruno: Yes	



## IX. Old Business:

1. Discussion regarding Meter Tampering Policy drafted by Town Attorney. Tim Jones wants something added to the policy to allow someone to cut off the stopcock in the event of an emergency. This item will be continued until the April meeting in order to allow Mr. Bain to revise the policy to include an emergency allowance.

1. Discussion and Vote on MBD Proposal: Bill Jones presented MBD Consulting Engineers proposal for Bidding out, inspection, and contract administration producing documents and painting the elevated water tank. This proposal is all inclusive from the Bid to the finished painting for a total of \$ 194,055.00. Bill motioned to hire MBD's based on the proposal in council's hands. Tim Jones 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

### VOTE:

Tim Jones: Yes	Thearon Hooks: No
Bill Jones : Yes	Mayor John Flynt: No
Frank Bruno: No	

2. Discussion and Vote on S & ME Proposal: Mayor Flynt presented S & ME, Inc. proposal for the second phase as part of S & ME's original proposal, this follows after S & ME's team has already washed out and inspected the elevated tank. This next Phase is to prepare the inspection reports, provide the technical specifications, and send out the bids. Cost of this phase is \$2900.00. John Flynt motioned to approve S & ME's proposal for \$2900. Thearon Hooks 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

### VOTE:

Tim Jones: Yes	Thearon Hooks: Yes
Bill Jones : No	Mayor John Flynt: Yes
Frank Bruno: Yes	

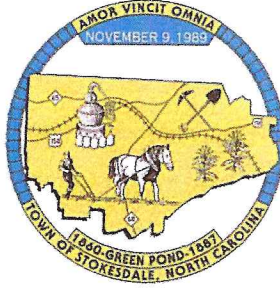
## X. Committee and Board Reports:

1. Budget Amendment Frank motioned to do budget amendments out of the undesignated funds for the Park improvements. \$5582.00 for the playground, \$3868.62 for the volley ball courts, and \$15,227.89 for the picnic tables, benches, and mats. Thearon 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion:

### VOTE:

Tim Jones: No	Thearon Hooks: Yes
Bill Jones : No	Mayor John Flynt: Yes
Frank Bruno: Yes	





2. **Setting a time for the budget meeting:** Frank set Budget meeting for April 25, 2019 at 10:00am in the morning. Kim Thacker has confirmed she will be available for that meeting.

3. **Update on Town Hall and Park improvements:** Frank said we have been doing a lot in the Park. Got lucky with weather and we got the Shelter built. We've gotten mulch and seeding done. We had damage during Hurricane Michael that took down a number of trees and had to get those cleaned up. We have started redoing the landscaping. He is talking to different people about the drainage issues in the park and is still working on what to do for that. He added that we have had issues with the locks on the bathrooms in the park and he has Jessup working on those. He has installed our second doggie pot in the upper part of the park near the playground.

4. **Quarterly employee performance reviews:** Frank said he and I have performed Priscilla Hunsucker's 90 day review, which was past due. Priscilla currently makes \$14.42 per hour. Frank motioned beginning April 1, 2019 to give her a raise to \$15.00 per hour. John Flynt 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. Tim wants to be on the record that he objects to the performance reviews and that he has not been given the opportunity to see these reviews.

**Vote:**

Tim Jones: Yes	Thearon Hooks: Yes
Bill Jones : Yes	Mayor John Flynt: Yes
Frank Bruno: Yes	

**XI. Departmental and Administrative Report:** See my attached reports

**XII. Citizen Comments from the Floor (3 Minute Limit per Speaker):** Catherine Buntoff came to the podium. She just wants to thank council for supporting our Town Park. She appreciates that it is tough to spend tons of money to keep the park up but she believes the park is a huge aspect of the quality of life in Stokesdale.

**XIII. Closing Comments from Council**

**Tim Jones** thanked our one citizen for staying for the entire meeting. He also thanked Patti Stokes for being present and if she has any questions about his perspectives on things she is welcome to call him.

**Bill Jones** also thanked our two citizens for staying for the entire meeting and he wants her to know that he appreciates her comments on the park. He supports the park. He doesn't mind having differences of opinion. He just thinks we are spending too much money at one time. Bill said he would be a lot more conservative. He has problems with the process. Unless that tree was laying on somebody he thinks it should have been brought before the council to see if removal could have been done cheaper.

**Frank Bruno** thanks Cathy Buntoff for staying. He also thanked Eileen Thiery since she has left for her generous donation for the clock. He also wants to thank the Stokesdale Fire Department, they have been very helpful working with us and the citizens for the clock and everything they do for the community.





**Thearon Hooks:** Thearon was going to give the current update on the FEMA project. Tim Jones asked him why he was going back to an agenda item. Thearon asked him what he was talking about. Tim Jones said you are asking me to reopen my packet. I've already closed it and I'm packing up to leave. Bill Jones said there was so much stuff added on in the packet he couldn't find his. Thearon said he was withdrawing his comments. Bill said it's already been voted on so he doesn't know why we are going back over it.

**John Flynt** said he appreciates Alisa and Thearon's hard work to go through the FEMA process. It's a time consuming process. Thearon made probably 50 trips to Hwy 158 to visit with the workers and inspectors. We've been able through FEMA to get approved to make our \$75,000. back. Otherwise we would have had to pay it out of pocket ourselves. As far as the money we've spent on the park. Nothing is free. Last year we received a total of \$7,000 to \$8000. Based on 0.1% in interest. He and Thearon have spent a lot of time looking at our finances and shopping the rates and now we are getting between 2 and 2-1/2 % which means our finances are going to increase by \$70,000 - \$80,000. He thinks everything we've done tonight is appropriate. He and Randy Jones went out and worked out with Mrs. Martin to purchase the park land and he is proud of it.

**XIV. Announcements:** The next Planning Board Meeting scheduled for March 28, 2019 is cancelled no cases

1. **Adjournment** Mayor Flynt motioned to adjourn at 10:50PM, Tim Jones 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.  
**Vote: 5-0 to adjourn.**

Approved April 11, 2019 by: \_\_\_\_\_

Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Alisa Hooks

Town Clerk/Finance Officer