

**TOWN OF STOKESDALE**  
**Regular Town Council Meeting**

8325 Angel Pardue Road  
Stokesdale, NC 27357

**October 8, 2015**

The Regular Council Meeting of the Stokesdale Town Council was held on Thursday, October 8, 2015, at the Stokesdale Town Hall on 8325 Angel Pardue Road in Stokesdale, North Carolina.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS:** Mayor Randy Braswell, Mayor Pro Tem Frank Bruno, William N. (Bill) Jones, Vicki White-Lawrence, Joe Thacker.

**OTHERS PRESENT INCLUDED:** William B. Trevorrow, Town Attorney; Carolyn L. Joyner, Town Clerk/Finance Officer; Diana Marcus, Deputy Clerk; Deputy Scott Casey, Guilford County Sheriff's Department.

**CALL COUNCIL MEETING TO ORDER:** Mayor Braswell called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**INVOCATION:** Given by Mayor Braswell.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recited by Council members and citizens in attendance.

**REVIEW AND ADOPT AGENDA:** Carolyn Joyner requested two items to be added to the agenda. Under Unfinished Business, a contract for water services, and under Committee and Board Reports, consider some committee applications that have been submitted.

Vicki White-Lawrence made a motion to adopt the agenda with the changes made. Frank Bruno seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion was approved.

**READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2015:** Frank Bruno made a motion to approve the minutes without reading them. Vicki White-Lawrence seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion was approved.

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:** No comments from the floor were made.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Report from Guilford County Sheriff's Department:** Deputy Casey was not present at the time and a report was not provided so the meeting moved on.

**Presentation on the Mountains-to-Sea Trail by Kate Dixon, Executive Director of the Friends of the Mountains-To-Sea Trail:** Frank Bruno introduced Kate Dixon, Executive Director for Friends of the Mountains-To-Sea Trail (FMST). Ms. Dixon provided a Power Point presentation to Council members and the citizens in the audience about the North Carolina Mountains-to-Sea Trail (MST). After her brief overview, she will answer questions and address any issues and concerns that people may have about the MST. The MST is essentially North Carolina's state trail and is officially part of the North Carolina

State Park system. It is primarily a hiking trail that stretches 1,150 miles from the Great Smokey Mountain National Park to Jockey's Ridge in the Outer Banks. The MST provides a huge diverse experience of North Carolina. The trail goes through wilderness areas, small towns, and historic sights. Hikers see nature, learn about history, and meet people along the way. Most of the MST is a natural surface trail which is built and maintained by approximately one thousand volunteers. The portion of the trail that has not yet been completed follows back roads and bike-safe bike routes when possible. The MST goes through 37 counties and 41 towns. Trails can be valuable to a community for walking and hiking pleasure and are also important tourist destinations. Every five years, NC State does a survey to find out what most people like to do for recreation, and the last survey indicated that 82 percent of North Carolinians like to walk for pleasure and is by far the most popular form of recreational activity in North Carolina. Trails also provide healthy transportation alternatives. There are approximately one million people currently using the MST and other trails to explore North Carolina. There are day hikers, weekend backpackers, and those who hike the entire trail. State Parks envisions the trail as being created and operated by local residents and Stokesdale needs to decide if they want to participate in creating and maintaining the portion of the trail that could potentially be built through Stokesdale and connect to Summerfield. State Parks will not tell Stokesdale where to put the trail and how to build the trail. It is left up to the Town. FMST is a non-profit group that helps to support the trail by organizing all of the volunteers, raising funds for the trail, and educating residents about how to hike the trail.

Ms. Dixon presented a map of the trail and talked about the portion that runs from Stone Mountain State Park in Sparta to Greensboro. The red portion of the trail represents 620 miles of completed trail and the black portion of the trail represents 530 miles of road that people follow in order to make the connections to the trail. The dotted lines are where the trail is envisioned to go. Twenty years ago, the original vision was to follow the general route of the Atlantic & Yadkin (A & Y) Railroad. The current route through Stokesdale runs along NC Highway 65 East and onto US Highway 158 through downtown Stokesdale. At Stokesdale Elementary School you would turn onto Athens Road and pass Angel Pardue Road and then turn onto Eversfield Road and head towards Summerfield.

Ms. Dixon spoke about some of the concerns that Stokesdale residents have. A feasibility study was previously done for using the A & Y Railroad as a route for the MST, which was paid for by North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT). NCDOT funds and supports greenway trails that are paved and can be seen as alternative transportation, which is the only thing they fund and plan for. However, State Parks does not require the trail to be paved like in the feasibility study and most of the MST is not paved. The type of trail and the alignment is determined by Stokesdale and not by the feasibility study, not by State Parks, and not by FMST. Ms. Dixon presented pictures of different kinds of trails, such as paved trails, equestrian trails, board walk trails, and trail bridges. Except for building big bridges or a lot of boardwalk, most of the MST, 530 miles of it, is natural surface trail and is built and maintained by volunteers, which is very inexpensive. She showed examples of the trails in Elkin, Hillsboro, and the Sauratown Trail. Private land owners do not have to worry about condemnation, eminent domain, or the State taking anyone's land. Private land owners can choose to allow the trail to cross their property, but if a private land owner does not want the trail to cross their property, a public road will be used instead. That is the way the trail is being done now. It is Stokesdale's decision as a community to determine where the trail will go and FMST is happy to share what other towns have done so Stokesdale can figure out what to do.

Ms. Dixon said that she hiked through Stokesdale's portion of the trail and loves the downtown area. The downtown area is the most appealing area, but is also the most challenging area because there is no

sidewalk. Building a sidewalk could make a big difference for MST hikers as well as Stokesdale's residents. Stokesdale is a wonderful community in a special part of North Carolina and she hopes that Stokesdale would want to continue to be part of the MST.

Mayor Braswell asked if Stokesdale is obligated to be a part of the MST. Ms. Dixon said no. Mayor Braswell asked if there was an agreement that exists now that binds Stokesdale to the MST. Ms. Dixon said no. In 1980, Stokesdale was put on the MST route and somewhere around 2005, State Parks gave funding to local councils of government to do a trail plan for their region, so a general trail map was made. She believes the reason that Stokesdale was included was due to the A & Y Railroad. Then the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) which is part of NCDOT decided to do a more detailed plan of the trail which is how the feasibility study came about. State Parks uses this plan routing to connect the trail from town to town. If a town does not want the trail, State Parks would look at alternative trail routes to make the connection. No one is forcing Stokesdale to be part of the MST.

Joe Thacker asked if there was an estimate of how many people use the section of the trail from Strawberry Road in Summerfield to Greensboro. Ms. Dixon believes it is quite popular but does not have a number to give Mr. Thacker.

Bill Jones said he has a map he printed off of a website, NCMST.org, and asked about the one quarter of a mile buffer that shows on the map in yellow. Ms. Dixon apologized but does not know what that is. Her guess is that State Parks is looking broadly at that area, but she is not positive. Mr. Jones said his concern is that hikers on the trail could run into hunters. Ms. Dixon said that most of the hunting land on the trail is managed by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and is closed down during hunting season. Each hunting area is treated individually and dealt with on a case by case basis. She is certain that the buffer area Mr. Jones is looking at is not for hunting.

Mayor Braswell asked how many miles out of the 620 completed trail miles are on state or federally owned land. Ms. Dixon said that her guess is that 40 miles of the completed trail are on privately owned land and those places are in the Elkin and Sauratown trail areas. In Alamance County along the Haw River, a lot of the trail land is easement.

#### **Comments from the Floor Regarding the Mountains-to-Sea Trail (A & Y Greenway):**

Thearon Hooks of 8135 Shoeline Road in Stokesdale asked how many areas use the old A & Y Railroad bed as part of the trail because it is mostly private land. Ms. Dixon said she is not sure but planners looked at historical areas and parks for connections. As she previously said, the trail is for Stokesdale residents to decide where it should be. Mr. Hooks said that Ms. Dixon had said that Eversfield Road was looked at as being a possible connection to Summerfield. Ms. Dixon said that Eversfield Road is just what hikers are using now since the trail has not yet been built. Mr. Hooks asked if Forsyth and Stokes Counties have bought into the MST. Ms. Dixon said Forsyth County has not done anything. Stokes County just completed a land use plan and the MST was a real part of that and she thinks the land use plan is available on line and has maps. Mr. Hooks asked when they expect the MST to be completed. Ms. Dixon said that State Parks just completed a master plan for the trail and would have to answer that question. The goal is to continually improve the trail which will never be completely off-road. Trails are always evolving and moving because things change. Mr. Hooks asked that once the community has decided where the trail will go and has built it, is it pretty much in concrete or can it be shut down later for developmental purposes. He is concerned about the US Highway 158 widening affecting the trail

route. Ms. Dixon said that there is no requirement to prevent Stokesdale from ever changing the trail after it is built.

Robert Wurz of 7900 Dorsett Downs Drive in Stokesdale said that he heard that the MST already goes through Stokesdale and is all on surface roads. Ms. Dixon said yes. Mr. Wurz said that he and his wife, Natalie Wurz, both support the MST. They have done the Swamp Rabbit Trail in Greenville, SC, the Overmountain Victory Trail in Wilksboro, NC, and the Virginia Creeper Trail in Damascus, VA. Trails can deliver real quality of life and economic benefits to communities. Trails are fabulous and their intentions are to support this trail if Town Council needs their help.

Regina Pegram of 7718 Athens Road in Stokesdale asked if the citizens are going to be allowed to vote on this or is it going to be a Town Council decision? If it is going to be a Council decision and the vote was going to be tonight, which ones would vote for the trail and which ones would vote against the trail? Vicki White-Lawrence said that it would be up to the Town to determine where the trail would be and Council would seek more information than they currently have before making a decision. Frank Bruno said that if Council decided to move forward and develop a committee to study the trail further, the citizens would need to be heavily involved. The trail belongs to the citizens of Stokesdale and their input is important to the decision that Council would make. Do we move forward and how would we do that? Ms. Pegram said that the citizens on Athens Road are very much against the trail. Mayor Braswell wanted to confirm that Ms. Pegram is asking for Council to have this put on the ballot in November. Ms. Pegram said yes. Bill Jones said that in his personal opinion, there are other things that the Town can spend money on rather than a trail. Mayor Braswell said that he would have to consult with the Town attorney to find out if it is possible to get the trail on the ballot. If it is up to the Town Council to move forward with hiring a trail planner, he would vote no.

Mike Rumley of 8176 Flatrock Road in Stokesdale said that he and his mother-in-law, Imogene Fields of 8173 Flatrock Road in Stokesdale are very much in favor of the MST. They have already signed an agreement with Guilford County donating a quarter of a mile of the railroad bed on their property for the MST. Ken Steele donated the bridge trestle. The Williams family and Jack Dawson who is part of his family too, also are in favor of the MST. The trail is a good thing and he encourages everyone to visit trails to see how happy it makes people. The trail will keep the children in Stokesdale out of trouble. The children can ride their bikes on the trail and enjoy life instead of playing on phones and tablets. We have gotten so caught up in the world of technology that we have forgotten what living real life is, which is getting back to nature. He was told that the trail would be for hiking, biking, and horse trailing which was the way that the trail plan was originally written. Everyone will benefit from the trail.

Joe Thacker said he wanted to ask Regina Pegram a question. He said that she stated that she does not want the trail but did not say why. Ms. Pegram said she has a lot of reasons. Right now there are many people walking up Athens Road that stop and ask for water. She has seen one person urinate in her front yard. It is just not a good feeling with so many people walking up the road and many people also ride bikes up the road. Joe Thacker said he feels that it is important to listen to people and see what they have to say first before making a decision.

Kelly Richardson of 9000 US Highway 158 in Stokesdale said that she is one of five residents that have signed a petition and sent a letter against the trail. She owns land next to the railroad bed and is afraid of hikers camping on her property because their camp fire could set her woods on fire. Their trash could

bring out some of the wildlife that she has already seen in her backyard and does not want in her backyard. She would like to be able to vote on the trail as a citizen.

James Greene of 7765 NC Highway 68 in Stokesdale said that apparently the trail already exists so if Council votes against the trail, what would happen? Ms. Dixon said that the trail would be rerouted. Mr. Greene said that if Council votes to have the trail, what is the Town's commitment? Ms. Dixon said that local volunteers would maintain the trail. Regarding the comment about camping, a citizen named Sue Giles who recently moved away from Stokesdale used to provide camping on her property, so FMST is looking for a new trail angel. People all over the state have stepped forward to provide camping on their property for trail hikers.

Tim Jones of 8402 Southard Road in Stokesdale said that he has been entrusted with a petition that is against the MST, which he has also signed. Although he is opposed to the trail, he does have a few acquaintances and friends that are in favor of the trail. His concern is how much the trail will cost. He has read most of the feasibility study and has not been able to arrive at a cost. He is opposed to a property tax in Stokesdale and that means he is opposed to a lot of spending in Stokesdale. While this trail may have some benefits, he is not sure it is worth the cost the Town would incur to make the trail happen. According to his math after looking at the budget report and the Town's population figure, that leaves \$453.68 per citizen in Stokesdale that our Town has to put towards the trail. There are already a lot of demands on the Town's funds and he has not seen anything produced by the Town or any numbers on a sheet of paper that work out the amount of how the Town could possibly afford this trail. The Town is struggling now in order to maintain what the Town already has and is doing very well considering that there is no property tax which he is opposed to. The government has already taken enough money away from its citizens and that is one of the reasons he is running for the Stokesdale Town Council.

Janet Plummer of 7832 Athens Road in Stokesdale said that she is concerned about the spending. Does Town Council already have the funds in the budget to cover the cost of the trail? If not, where would the money come from? It could mean a property tax or some other kind of tax for the citizens because the money would have to come from somewhere and she is against a tax. She is especially against using the A & Y Railroad bed for the trail because it is only 81 feet from her back door which is way to close. People pulling off of US Highway 158 are already using her property as a dump and a restroom. She does not want an invasion of people coming through her backyard. She is also worried about hikers that may go off the trail into her backyard and fall and break their arm or leg. Would she be responsible for their doctor bills? Where does the liability start and end for people using the trail? The trail should be rerouted through the properties of the citizens who vote for the trail. She and her husband are both opposed to the trail.

Mayor Braswell asked Mr. Trevorrow to comment regarding the liability issue for those that may wander off the trail. Mr. Trevorrow said that there is no liability for the property owner because the hiker would be an uninvited guest and would be trespassing on private property. Frank Bruno said he is opposed to a property tax and a property tax would not be imposed just to pay for a trail. If the Town moves forward with the trail, a plan would be put together and the cost and where the money would come from would be addressed at that time. Joe Thacker said that he understands that if a property owner does not want the trail to cross their property, the trail will be rerouted somewhere else.

Patrick McCormick of 8507 Belews Creek Road in Stokesdale said that his property backs up to the old A & Y Railroad bed. He is concerned about liability and trespassing. He has already had trouble with trespassers on his property with people riding four-wheelers and riding horses. He had a golf cart stolen a couple of years ago. He is opposed to the trail and agrees with Mr. Hooks about the US Highway 158 bypass. He thinks the MST should be put on hold until the Town sees where the US Highway 158 bypass will go. One of the US Highway 158 bypass routes is expected to go through the area behind his house and property. There are some positive things about the trail, but also there are some negative things about the trail too.

Pam Lemmons of 8306 Newberry Street in Stokesdale said that 40 miles out of the 620 completed trail miles is private land that property owners allow the trail to cross. This is a work in progress in every community. She and her husband, Bill Lemmons, are both in favor of the trail. She and her husband go everywhere to hike and ride trails. She sees people from her neighborhood on local trails and not a lot of outsiders. Today, she walked from her house to the Dollar General which was not a very good hike. We do need some connectivity in our community. She does not believe in spending a lot of money. She thinks that the trail could be built and maintained with volunteers and funding. Building the trail could bring the community together. She and her husband have hiked through places where property owners allow camping on their property and they have hiked through places where the property is fenced off because the property owners did not want people on their property. The trail can be accomplished in many different ways. She urges everyone to go out and hike one trail. There is a great trail up on US Highway 220 (A & Y Greenway) where you will see families hiking on a Saturday. That is a paved trail but a paved trail is not something that Stokesdale has to have. She just wants people to think about the trail and try hiking a trail one time.

Mayor Braswell asked Ms. Lemmons if she was planning to be a trail angel and allow hikers to camp on her property. Ms. Lemmons said yes, they would allow the trail to cross their property and allow camping. They own several tracts of land around Stokesdale.

Ann Gauldin of 8545 Belews Creek Road in Stokesdale said that she is against the trail. She has already posted no trespassing signs on her property by the A & Y Railroad bed. She had to post the signs due to so many people trespassing on her property.

Mark Morpries of 224 Patricia Lane in Stokesdale said he is against the trail because he does not want property owners to have to give up their land. He is all for hiking, camping, fishing, and hunting on land that permission has been given for these purposes. He does not want anyone to walk on his property unless he knows about it. He lives on a 10-acre family farm and does not want it to be part of the State Park trails. He does a lot of hiking and uses the State Parks for that. The trails at Hanging Rock State Park are empty when he goes, so he does not believe a lot of people use the trails. He has called the Sheriff's office a number of times over the years because of trespassers on his property. He has had a problem with dirt bikes, four wheelers, and horse-back riders trespassing on his property. He thanked everyone for coming out tonight and being involved.

Mark Helms of 3664 Ellisboro Road in Stokesdale said his concern is uninvited people trespassing on his property. He is against the trail for that reason. The A & Y Railroad bed also comes by his property. The majority of the hikers are probably good people, but he believes that the trail could also be used by undesirables to gain access to his property if they choose to. He hopes the trail will go a different route.

Ken Steele of 8100 Flatrock Road in Stokesdale said he thinks that there is a lot of misinformation out there. He has donated land and sold land to Guilford County for the trail. He lives in a very secluded spot in Stokesdale, but he thinks that the trail is a valuable asset and will increase his property values. People are worried about cost, but he does not know if there is any cost because most of the work is done by volunteers. If people are donating land and easements and Guilford County is using funds to maintain the trails, he thinks it can be done without a cost to Stokesdale. He does not want a property tax in Stokesdale either. The trail will bring value to the community, will help improve community spirit, and benefit property values. Trail users tend to be more environmentally friendly. When he made the easement agreement with Guilford County, part of his deed restrictions was not to allow any paved trail. He thinks that having a trail allows people to see farm life and the way other people live. Although he likes living in a secluded area, he is in favor of the trail because he thinks that it would be a great asset to the community. He hopes that people learn more about the trail before making a decision, including Town Council.

Chris Hall of 200 Belewsfield Road in Stokesdale said he is on the Board of Directors for the Greensboro Fat Tire Society. He encourages everyone to go out to the A & Y Greenway and walk the Greenway and some of the trails off of the Greenway and envision how the trail could extend through Stokesdale. You will get a better idea of what kind of activities are occurring and see how people are using the trails. Trails are great places for kids to ride bicycles because they certainly cannot ride their bicycles on NC Highway 65 or US Highway 158 due to the traffic. Cost is always a big concern for any project. There are grants and all kinds of avenues to get things paid for. The longer the Town puts off building the trail, the harder it will be to build the trail as the area grows.

Nick Southern of 7824 Athens Road in Stokesdale said he has lived in Stokesdale for 36 years, born and raised. He has been a volunteer fireman for 20 years and has been in law enforcement for 15 years. He is against the trail because it has brought several different kinds of crime to this area. Hikers walking along Athens Road have stopped him to ask where the MST is. Summerfield Town Park and Oak Ridge Town Park where hikers park and walk have become crime ridden areas. The Fire Department will have to access the trails which may be difficult because they are not paved, and the Fire Department may not have the equipment to access the trails. If someone has a horse riding accident, how would the Emergency Medical Technicians get to them? Part of the trail will come along the backside of his property and when he has a family, he would want them to be safe.

Terry Milan of 8622 Oak Level Church Road in Stokesdale said that he would like know who is responsible for safety on the trail. How do other communities handle safety? Ms. Dixon said that Greensboro Watershed Lakes has park staff that monitors the trail. Greensboro has markers along the trail so that if someone is injured on the trail, they can call and tell emergency responders where they are located to make it easy to find them. Greensboro would be a great place for Stokesdale to look at as an example and talk to about how they handle safety and emergencies. Mr. Milan said, in this case then, the Guilford County Sheriff Department would be responsible for patrolling the trail and the safety of the hikers.

Nick Southern of 7824 Athens Road in Stokesdale said that he has ridden the A & Y Greenway with other officers from High Point and Jamestown all the way to Summerfield, even the unpaved portions in Summerfield. They actively ride and patrol the A & Y Greenway and ride it twice a year as training exercises with the new officers.

Gregg Westbrook of 7810 US Highway 158 in Stokesdale said he is a fireman with the City of Greensboro and can explain how rescue would work. The marking system on the trail was done by the Boy Scouts, is updated, and is on their emergency system which is how the Fire Department who responsible for rescue on the trail knows where to locate injured hikers. It does fall back to the Police Department as well. He does know that the City of Greensboro has received multiple grants for different pieces of equipment and training, which is paid for by the state of North Carolina.

Mary Nero of 7785 Springdale Meadow Drive in Stokesdale said that she is a proponent of the trail. She is an avid runner and likes to be outside. She feels that a trail like this can only enhance the community. She distinctly remembers when one of these gentlemen were running for Town Council, she read in the Northwest Observer that he wanted Stokesdale to be a place that people would stop in and not just drive through to Summerfield or Oak Ridge. She would like the opportunity to be part of the FMST or be on the Trails Committee. She did not know that this trail even existed until a couple of weeks ago when she read about it in the Northwest Observer, and is the reason she is attending her first Town Council meeting. Feel free to write down her name and get in touch with her in the future to part of the Trails Committee.

Lee Haywood of 7203 Mackintosh Place in Summerfield asked Ms. Dixon if there was any specific dollar figure on the cost of maintenance per mile for the trail. Ms. Dixon said that maintenance depends on what kind of trail is built and she is not involved with paved trail. The A & Y Greenway Feasibility Study is for a paved trail and an unpaved section for horses in some parts of the trail. The A & Y Greenway Feasibility Study should provide estimates for paved trail, if that is the kind of trail Stokesdale decides to build. She is with FMST which supports natural surface trail. FMST has a budget of \$250,000.00 per year for the whole state. The most expensive thing that FMST does is build a big new bridge that volunteers cannot build. FMST builds new trail with volunteers at \$1,000.00 per mile. FMST volunteers have the tools, so it is not a constant stream of money that goes into the trail. Mr. Haywood said that he heard that Summerfield is spending 1.3 million dollars per mile to build the trail with \$5,000.00 per mile per year for maintenance. Ms. Dixon said that Summerfield has decided to build a paved trail which might be the right thing to do for Summerfield. Raleigh spent 26 million dollars to build a 26-mile paved trail. Paving the trail for Raleigh made a lot of sense because they have a lot of people using the trail which is hugely used. Summerfield gave serious thought to what kind of trail they wanted and decided to build a trail that is right for Summerfield. Stokesdale would decide what kind of trail to build. It can be paved trail or it can be natural surface trail. Natural surface trail is built and maintained by volunteers which does not cost very much at all.

Bill Jones said that \$5,000.00 per mile for trail maintenance is what was presented three years ago to Town Council by the A & Y Greenway Feasibility Study presenters. If the trail was built differently, he imagines it could cost less, however he feels that anytime the government is involved in something like this, it may start out small but it always gets bigger. He does not feel that Stokesdale would be able to get volunteers to work on the trail. He fears that once the trail is built, it will turn into a cancer. He is a Conservative.

Mike Rumley of 8176 Flatrock Road in Stokesdale said that he is an avid trail rider and when he rides on a trail and he sees a limb that needs cutting, he does maintenance by cutting the limb back. He keeps a machete on his saddle. As far horse trail riders, they do their own maintenance. He has been living in Stokesdale for 19 years and has not seen Stokesdale grow. He has seen Burlington Industries close. He thinks that the trail will help local businesses like Parker's Restaurant, BJ's Grill, Subway, and Village

Pizza. He encourages the people that are against the trail to go out and hike the trail. There are some trails that he rides on where you can reach out and shake hands with people along the way. He and his family and friends have been riding trails for 30 years and he does not recall any negative incidents happening.

Ken Steele of 8100 Flatrock Road in Stokesdale said that Council is looking at NCDOT standards. That is the route Stokesdale can go, but that is not the route that anyone has proposed. Nobody is asking Stokesdale for a nickel for this trail. Guilford County is spending a great deal of money to improve the county. He is encouraging Council to be a little bit more open-minded and suggests they educate themselves better about the trail before making a decision. Ms. Dixon said that she wanted to second that. NCDOT gave Council a plan that is the most expensive version of the trail that could be built and maintained, because those are NCDOT's requirements. Stokesdale does not have to build the trail that way. Hillsboro, Elkin, and the Sauratown Trail did not build that kind of trail and they did not spend anywhere near that kind of money. They are wonderful trails that lots of people are using, and because the trails are wonderful places to hike, they get plenty of volunteers. It is astounding what is happening in Elkin with the number of volunteers and the amount of private donations that is going in to help Elkin build a \$200,000.00 bridge. As she previously mentioned, bridges are the most expensive part of building the trail because bridges cost money. Volunteers use trail tools and in Elkin there is a volunteer that is in charge of all of the trail tools that can outfit fifty volunteers. He keeps the trail tools on his truck, takes care of them, and drives his truck to trail locations for volunteers to use the tools for building and maintaining the trail. The volunteers use the tools and put them back in the truck, so it does not cost them anything for new tools. It sounds like Stokesdale already has landowners who have already stepped forward and said they want this trail, so Stokesdale can build on what they have already done. Stokesdale can have a trail and a place for people to come that is equal to all these other places. Stokesdale is a really special place and this community would enjoy the trail as well as people from other places.

Mayor Braswell said that a Councilman's job is to try and find out all the facts and get as much information as they can before making a decision. He read some information to Councilmembers and those in attendance about the cost of natural surface trails being \$15,000.00 for a single track of trail that he found on [www.americantrails.org](http://www.americantrails.org). Ms. Dixon said that probably means someone has hired a trail construction firm to build that kind of trail, which Stokesdale can do.

Kelly Richardson of 9000 US Highway 158 in Stokesdale said she was concerned about trash being left on the trail by hikers and assumed that volunteers would have to pick it up.

Layton Spencer of 8280 Coldwater Road in Stokesdale wanted to know where grant money comes from. Ms. Dixon said that there is a federal grant program called the Recreational Trail Program which is administered by State Parks and is the biggest funding source for trails in North Carolina. There are also some state trust funds for land acquisition and the MST is priority for those. Some local governments choose to use funds, and in a lot of communities there is a good amount of money that is privately raised. Mr. Spencer said that there are veterans in Stokesdale that do not have a home or lost their families and he would like to see the federal government help those people. He would like to see the money go to what is already needed and not create situations to spend money.

Robert Burkhead of 8364 Prince Edward Road in Stokesdale said that anybody that thinks they can build and maintain a trail for nothing needs to get their head examined. He knows that the taxpayers are going to end up paying for the trail and he does not want a property tax in Stokesdale.

Thearon Hooks of 8135 Shoeline Road in Stokesdale said to look at the plans that are on the table for the US Highway 158 expansion and see which businesses, homes, and trail properties are going to be eradicated by this four or five lane highway. Some areas will be bypassed and some areas will no longer exist. The Town needs to coordinate the trail and determine if the property will still be available. The big issue to him is the continuity of the trail in Stokesdale and the Town should work together.

Frank Bruno said that it is hard to plan the trail when we still do not know where NCDOT is going to put the US Highway 158 bypass. It is a disservice to Stokesdale that NCDOT is taking so long to decide where the US Highway 158 bypass is going to go. This is a great topic for discussion and he is amazed at how many residents showed up at the meeting tonight. Hearing what everyone has to say helps Council tremendously. Council needs everyone's input because it helps Council do their jobs better. Please stay involved and sign up for the Trails Committee whether you are for or against the trail.

Natalie Wurz of 7900 Dorsett Downs Drive in Stokesdale said being informed and open minded is very important and she has heard a lot of valid concerns. She is a property owner and has things stolen from her property and does not want anyone trespassing on her land either. She also has a strong sense of community and a trail like this can pull the community together and it is a great opportunity for recreation. She has done some research about safety, crime, and the economic impact of a trail system in a community and there is a wealth of information available. There is so much information out there, so do your research. Get involved and keep the dialogue going. She thinks that Stokesdale can benefit from the trail and residents' concerns need to be addressed.

The meeting recessed at 8:57pm.

The meeting reconvened at 9:08pm.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **Stokesdale Water System:**

\*A copy of the "Water System Connection Invoice" dated February 14, 2003 that was mailed to all parties that had requested a connection to the Town but were not reached during the installation of the original water system is hereby incorporated into and made a part of the minutes of the meeting in order to clarify the information that was sent out in 2003 rather than 2007 as stated during the meeting.

**Citizens' Comment Period on the Stokesdale Water System:** Mary Maness of 8405 Tree Court in Stokesdale wanted to know why Council is now refunding the \$200.00 deposits that were paid 12 years ago. Mayor Braswell said that Council reviewed a map of the properties where the \$200.00 deposits were paid by the property owners. Council estimated at \$30.00 per foot what the cost to expand the water lines to those properties would be. It was the Council's opinion, with a 3-2 vote, that it was just not economically feasible to spend the funds to extend the water lines to those properties. In 2007\*, Council sent a letter\* to those property owners advising them that their \$200.00 deposit was going to

be refunded because there were no further plans to extend the water system to those properties. There was a phase one but never a phase two. Currently, the water system is operating in the red and Council is responsible for getting it in the black. A lot of progress has been made, but there are no grants or loans available until the water system is operating in the black. Even then, there is no plan to extend the water system. Instead of the Town continuing to hold your money indefinitely, he thinks that refunding the \$200.00 deposits is the right thing to do. Ms. Maness said that there are five properties that paid the \$200.00 deposit that are being given the opportunity to connect to the water system and she feels that it is not fair because their \$200.00 deposits should also be refunded. Mayor Braswell said that those property owners have 30 days to connect to the water system or their \$200.00 deposits will be refunded. The reason those property owners were given the opportunity to connect to the water system is because the water line currently runs past their property. Those property owners should have connected to the water system a long time ago when the water line was originally installed along their property and should have been paying the \$30.50 customer fee all along. Ms. Maness said that those property owners should be billed the customer fee of \$30.50 from the time the water line was installed along their property until now, because that is not right. Mayor Braswell said that the law does not allow the Town to do that.

Ms. Maness asked why the water lines were being extended down Eversfield Road. Mayor Braswell said that the developer is paying for the water system infrastructure for the subdivision along Eversfield Road, so the Town has no dollars invested. Once the water system infrastructure that the developer is installing has been completed and inspected, it is given to the Town. It is his understanding that the Town has never extended the water lines. The water lines have always been extended by a developer. The developer that built Kings Crossing Shopping Center extended the water lines down NC Highway 68 and those property owners where the water lines run past their property need to connect to the water system. Council has been struggling to tie up the many loose ends there are with the water system in order to make it break even. He does not think it is fair to hold the \$200.00 deposits with no intention or plan to ever extend the water lines.

Ms. Maness asked if the \$200.00 was going to be refunded along with interest because the Town has been collecting interest on her \$200.00 for 12 years. Mayor Braswell said that he does struggle with that question. She should have been refunded her \$200.00 deposit in 2007\*. The Town could keep her \$200.00 deposit forever and then try to figure out what to do with it when she is deceased. The issue is so complicated. If another Council decides to extend the water lines that would be different. However the current Council has decided to refund the \$200.00 deposits. Ms. Maness said that she does not understand how this can be legal, so she is going to seek legal advice.

Jim Burkhead of 5416 North Church Street in Greensboro said that he has lived here a long time. He moved away but is planning on moving back to the family farm. He paid a \$200.00 deposit 12 years ago. There was no paperwork. It was an understanding that anytime in the future, if the water lines were extended past his property, he could connect to the water system for \$200.00. He is betting his \$200.00 deposit that the Town will grow and the water lines will be extended past his property which is located at the end of Prince Edward Road in Stokesdale. He wants the Town to keep his \$200.00 deposit. It will not cost the Town anything unless the water lines are extended. Currently, it is not required to connect to the water system, but in the future it may be required. He expects the Town to grow, and if it does, he has already paid his dues. The Town accepted the \$200.00 deposit 12 years ago and recently sent a letter out to those property owners that paid the \$200.00 deposit giving them the opportunity to renew their contract with the Town. That is a legal and binding contract. Now Council is saying that a letter has

been found that states that the \$200.00 deposits should have been refunded in 2007\*. That letter is irrelevant because the letter sent in 2015 supersedes the letter\* that was sent in 2007\*. As far as he is concerned, he has a legal binding contract with the Town. He has never seen or received the letter\* that was sent in 2007\*. There was no contract signed when he paid the \$200.00 deposit 12 years ago and he was told he did not need a contract.

Robert Burkhead of 8364 Prince Edward Road in Stokesdale said that around 15 years ago, he gave the Town of Stokesdale a \$200.00 deposit for a meter and a tap to be installed when and if the water lines were extended past his property. He does not know if the water lines will ever be extended and he does not care. If the Town refunds the \$200.00 deposit that he paid for a meter and a tap, he will not pay \$2,800.00 for a meter and a tap later, if the water lines are extended. It is a legal binding contract between him and the Town of Stokesdale, and the Town better get ready for a law suit if his \$200.00 deposit is refunded. The Town of Stokesdale offered the deal to him and he expects the Town to stand by their offer. If the water lines are ever extended past his property, he expects his meter and tap to be installed. The Town needs to talk to their attorney because he thinks their attorney will understand that it was a legal binding contract which he renewed a couple of months ago. Nobody said anything about a letter\*. If a letter\* was sent out, it should have been sent by registered mail. The Town will not be able to show him anything he signed confirming he received a letter\* in 2007\*.

Jim Burkhead of 5416 North Church Street in Greensboro said he would like to request the names and addresses of the residents that paid the \$200.00 deposit. He assumes that this information is public record. Mayor Braswell said that is a question that he is unable to answer and asked Mr. Trevorrow what he thinks. Mr. Trevorrow said that he would take Mr. Burkhead's request under advisement.

Mayor Braswell said that this issue with the \$200.00 deposits has been a tangled up mess. When Council sent the letter out two months ago, it was Council's intent to renew the \$200.00 deposits for those property owners that wanted the Town to keep it until the water lines were extended past their properties. Then Council discovered that a letter was sent in 2007, because there was no plan to extend the water lines. Council also determined that the \$200.00 deposit goes with the property owner and not the property. He thinks that Council made the right choice to change policy. This Council is in charge of taking care of the business of the Water Enterprise Fund and is creating policy. Council plans to send a letter to the property owners that paid the \$200.00 deposit that explains why Council made the decision that they did, and rescind any past policy that Council had made. Mr. Burkhead asked if Council does send that letter, do they plan to state that the water lines will never be extended past the properties of those who paid the \$200.00 deposits. Mayor Braswell said the letter would be reinforcing the original agreement that the Town had with the property owners that paid the \$200.00 deposit. The letter would say if the water lines have not been extended past your property by a certain date, and there are no plans to extend the water lines, their \$200.00 deposit would be refunded. He does not see the Town holding his money indefinitely with no sunshine date. The letter\* that was sent in 2007\* had a sunshine date. Mr. Burkhead said that none of us that paid the \$200.00 deposit are aware of any sunshine letter\*. Can Council show them where they signed to receive that letter\*? It should have been sent by registered mail. It was an investment which is what they were told 12 years ago when they paid the \$200.00 deposit. The Town said that if the property owners paid \$200.00 now (12 years ago), they guaranteed a meter and a tap would be installed when the water lines were extended past their property. If the next Town Council decides to extend the water lines, it would cost the property owners much more than \$200.00. The Town can keep his \$200.00 deposit. He does not know if the water lines will ever be extended past his property, but he is gambling that they will be extended past his property

one day in the future and it will probably be mandatory to connect to the water system. If he does not live to see it happen, the Town made \$200.00, or it would go back to the Estate. He made a legal and binding contract with the Town of Stokesdale and he does not see how this Council can break that contract legally. Mayor Braswell said that Mr. Trevorrow will research the legalities and advise Council accordingly. If Council has done something wrong, they will make it right.

Joe Thacker said that Mayor Braswell had said that there was no plan to extend the water lines and he agrees that Council had not officially adopted a plan, but there was some work being done in certain areas of Town and he checked into that. During some of the water workshops there were some figures tossed around about how much it would cost to run the water lines downtown to connect to the Town's water system. He just wants to make the record clear that when the Council decided to refund the \$200.00 deposits, it was not a 5-0 vote; it was a 3-2 vote. Since that happened, he has had to put extending the water lines to Tree Court on hold, and he feels that Council needs to look at some areas of Town that are short streets where there are several houses on them. He feels that Council has left the developers to extend the water lines without working on a plan to run the water lines to these particular areas of Town. He feels that it would be a great service to those people if Council would consider a plan.

Mr. Burkhead said that a second phase to extend the water lines was talked about. The reason Council took the \$200.00 deposits was to get people interested and get the money to start the water system. Two phases were being talked about at the time and the only reason the water lines were not extended past his property was because they hit some rock and it was too expensive to blast it. Now the developers have blasted the rock and extended the water lines down there.

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**Proposals for Marking Waterlines for NC 811 Requests – Continued:** Carolyn Joyner said the instructions were to receive a written proposal from the Town's current provider, and she has not received it yet. She suggested that this item be continued until next month.

**Debt Setoff Program:** Frank Bruno made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement and to adopt the Resolution for the NC Local Government Debt Setoff Program and authorize the Mayor to sign. Bill Jones seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion was approved and the Resolution was hereby made a part of the minutes of the meeting.

**Consider Approval of NCDENR Application for Approval of Plans & NCDOT Three Party Encroachment Agreement for Eversfield Road Waterline Extension:** Bill Jones made a motion to approve the application and authorize the Mayor to sign. Frank Bruno seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion was approved.

Frank Bruno made a motion to approve the North Carolina Department of Transportation Three Party Right of Way Encroachment Agreement for the Eversfield Road water line extension between NCDOT and the Town. Vicki White-Lawrence seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion was approved.

Frank Bruno made a motion to approve the contract between the Town of Stokesdale Contract #12-2015 to Extend the Waterline by Connection to the Town Water Supply System. Vicki White-Lawrence seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion was approved.

**Draft Letter for Waterline Extension on Eversfield Road:** Mayor Braswell said that Council had talked about contacting the five property owners that live along Eversfield Road to see if they would like to connect to the water system. Discussion took place about the date that would be put on the draft letter.

Vicki White-Lawrence made a motion to approve the draft letter as a draft letter until the rest of the information is received. Bill Jones seconded the motion.

Discussion took place about the possibility of a reduced cost for those five property owners to connect to the water system since the water lines are being installed now, because later on the cost to connect to the water system would be at the current rate in effect at that time. Mayor Braswell said that he would find out if there is a discounted rate.

All Council members voted aye and the motion was approved.

**Any Other Issues Pertaining to the Water System:** Mayor Braswell made a motion to authorize the annual permit to operate the water system. Frank Bruno seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion was approved.

**Update: Stokesdale Community Day Rescheduled on October 24, 2015:** Frank Bruno said that Woodmen of the World are helping the flood victims in South Carolina. If anyone is interested in helping out, they can contact him.

Mayor Braswell said that Rockingham County Radio wanted to do something on Stokesdale Community Day and needed to speak to Frank Bruno.

**Review of Administrative Task List – Continued:** Frank Bruno said to continue this item for next month.

#### **COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS:**

Parade Committee – Chair Pam Mick passed out a copy of the proposed budget for the Parade Committee. She came up with \$2,000.00 of income from the sponsorship applications that went out. So far expenses have been for postage which was \$100.00. The committee members would like to get Miss North Carolina to be the Grand Marshall which would be \$250.00. Other proposed expenses are Porta Johns for \$50.00, posters for \$100.00, candy for \$175.00, Sheriff Deputy for \$450.00, and Northwest High School Band for \$150.00. Stokesdale Electric decided to pro bono the banner placements. Hopefully the parade will be financially self-sufficient. The next Parade Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. The tree lighting will be held on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. Annette Joyce is organizing the tree lighting and there will probably not be any expense for that. Mayor Braswell and Bill Jones are on yellow barrel patrol the day of the parade on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. Carolyn Joyner said that there was enough money budgeted for the parade, but because of a refund for the Porta Johns from the previous year due to rain, the Porta Johns will be more than \$50.00.

Water Committee – Mayor Braswell said the Water Committee met a couple of weeks ago and divided up the tasks. He asked Carolyn Joyner if the Water Committee could use the Deputy Clerk. They are working on the Stokesdale Emergency Action Plan for the Stokesdale Water System and a suggestion was made to gather the emergency contact phone numbers and email addresses of all of the customers on the water system. Carolyn Joyner said that she and the Mayor discussed printing a notice on the water bills requesting emergency contact phone numbers and email addresses when they go out this month.

Mayor Braswell made a motion to update all of the emergency contact information that the Town has on these customers in whatever way possible. There are customers that walk in Town Hall to pay their water bill that could be asked for emergency contact information and there are the original applications that could provide the emergency contact information. Rural Billing would need to be updated at the same time. Part of this motion is to build an emergency contact address book, so in the case of an emergency Council already has the address book in the computer. Frank Bruno seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion was approved.

Public Safety Committee – Thearon Hooks said that the recent flooding at the coast and in South Carolina has been a disaster. The Town is fortunate to have received the amount of rain in this area without many breeches of property, lives, and public utilities. Reverse 911 was used in many of those municipalities to contact citizens and Stokesdale needs a city-wide notification system. He continued to talk about emergency notification systems in other towns and how they work. He plans to acquire all of the information from Guilford County and the Fire Department that the Town can utilize in an emergency situation. Carolyn Joyner said that Bill Jones is scheduled to attend a meeting with Guilford County that will talk about phone trees for emergency broadcasting systems.

Mayor Braswell made a motion to graciously accept Thearon Hooks on the Water Committee. Frank Bruno seconded the motion. Council members Mayor Braswell, Frank Bruno, Bill Jones, and Vicki White-Lawrence voted aye and Joe Thacker voted nay, so the motion was approved by a 4-1 vote.

Mayor Braswell made a motion to graciously accept volunteers Pamela Mick, Robert Mick, Tom McCoy, Lorie Pearman, Karen Rutledge, and William Cearley on the Parade Committee. Vicki White-Lawrence seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion was approved.

Property Committee – Bill Jones said that in the last couple of weeks they have plugged and re-plugged due to the rain. They put out fertilizer, grass seed, and lime all over the Town Park, except for the soccer fields.

Mayor Braswell asked Carolyn Joyner if the generator was serviced yet. Carolyn Joyner said no. Mayor Braswell asked Carolyn Joyner to send the servicing company a reminder.

Library Committee – Frank Bruno said he has been going through the children's books which will be on sale at Stokesdale Community Day. A lot of donated children's books were received and the hard cover books he is keeping for the library, but the paperback books will be for sale due to the wear and tear that children do to paperback books. The money raised from the sale will be used to purchase more children's books.

## **Departmental and Administrative Report**

**Finance Report: September, 2015:** Carolyn Joyner said that in the General Fund, total assets increased by \$73,470.09 over the previous month. General Fund Checking Account Transactions included \$720.00 for 120 bales of straw from Henderson Satterfield, \$100.00 for exterminating bugs at the Town Hall from Kallam Exterminators, \$422.47 for seed, fertilizer, and lime from Knight Farm Supply, \$1,750.00 for Sunshine Scapes for half of their labor to plug, lime, and seed, and \$5,081.30 for grass seed, fertilizer, and lime from Knight Farm Supply. Guilford County Finance Department was paid \$12,500.00 for planning fees and \$3,240.75 for Animal Control for 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. Knight Farm Supply was paid \$298.90 for 20 bags of lime. In General Fund Accounts Payable, invoices were received from BB&T Financial for \$98.00 for two rolls of stamps and from Triad Inflatables for \$214.00 for the bounce house that will be at Town Hall on Stokesdale Community Day. In the General Fund Savings Account, the Utility Sales Tax Distribution for 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter was received for \$106,620.43. One Certificate of Deposit matured and earned \$50.91. That was General Fund #3, which now totals \$50,931.89, and was renewed at a terrible interest rate.

In the Water Enterprise Fund, assets increased by \$10,163.38 over the previous month and in the Water-Sewer Fund, assets increased by \$100.26 over the previous month. In the Water Enterprise Checking Account, a total of \$180.00 was paid to the Guilford County Clerk of Court and Guilford County Sheriff's Department for filing fees and processing on some past due accounts. There was a general journal entry for a check that was lost in the mail and voided. Another check was issued and a stop payment was put on the original check. Brian Walker was paid attorney fees for \$625.00 for one of the past due accounts.

**Administrative Report – Town Clerk:** Carolyn Joyner said that tomorrow, October 9<sup>th</sup>, is the last day to register to vote in the Municipal Election on Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Carolyn Joyner received an email today advising that Council needs to adopt the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Council needs to adopt a resolution and Guilford County said that they will send someone to the next Town Hall meeting in case there are any questions. Frank Bruno said to have them come to the November Town Hall meeting.

Carolyn Joyner said that the auditors from Cannon & Company, LLP have finished with their field work at Town Hall and are now preparing the Town's report. She assumes that Council will want to go over it before it is submitted to the Local Government Commission on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Frank Bruno said that he has been supplying flags to the Town in order to save the Town money. WoodmenLife, the company he works with, is one of the largest purchasers of flags in the country and gives away those flags to many non-profits, police stations, fire houses, and city halls. WoodmenLife wanted him to officially give the Town a United States flag and a North Carolina flag. He usually brings the flags to Town Hall every six months. He has 'officially' presented the Town with two flags. Carolyn Joyner said that it was really awesome that Mr. Bruno donates the flags, because it saves the Town quite a few dollars.

Deputy Scott Casey was not present to provide the report from the Guilford County Sheriff's Department earlier in the meeting. He arrived late to the meeting and could not stay, so he left the report for Council give. Vicki White-Lawrence volunteered to give the report. She said from the last meeting on September 11<sup>th</sup> until today's meeting, 14 reports were generated from the calls that were

received. Part One crimes included Theft of Property from a residential garage, Theft of Property from Times Turn Around, and the Breaking and Entering of two residential locations in which there were no suspects.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Vicki White-Lawrence read the announcements listed on the agenda.

**COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL:** Vicki White-Lawrence said that a couple of weeks ago the Town lost Powell Shelton, a former Town Council member who served as Mayor Pro Tem for most of his tenure on the Council. She wanted to say how much he had helped her appreciate community service and how much he will be missed. She also wanted to tell residents that the Town does have many opportunities for volunteers to serve on committees and it would be wonderful to be able get more community involvement. The five current Council members have put in a lot of time and it would be really nice to get other people active with them too. It was great having such a good crowd attending the meeting tonight.

Frank Bruno wanted to thank Council and everybody for attending and supporting the 9/11 ceremony. It is an important event that is done every year and he appreciates the support from everyone.

Bill Jones said, like Vicki White-Lawrence, he appreciates the people that came out and attended the meeting tonight. Zoning requests and public hearings seem to be the only times that Council gets to see a large crowd of residents attend a meeting. It is good to see people take an interest in their government. He hopes that everyone will exercise their right to vote, because if you do not vote, it is a missed opportunity. If you do not demand it, you are not going to get it.

Joe Thacker said that he cannot emphasize how important it is to have people serve on committees and on boards, especially the Planning Board. The experience he received from serving on the Planning Board and various committees was very helpful to him. It is important to have seven Planning Board members and it is always good to have several people attend the meetings so the board can hear different opinions about a case. It is his understanding that the Planning Board does not have enough alternates, so he hopes that people will submit an application. You can learn a lot from serving on the Planning Board or a committee.

Mayor Braswell said that Governor Pat McCrory came to Culp Home Fashions last week for a bill signing and all of Town Council was there. It was a very humbling experience to be a part of that. All of the Culp Home Fashions' family and employees along with all of Governor McCrory's Cabinet members and the North Carolina Secretary of Congress were there. To see something that is made in Stokesdale, North Carolina that travels all over the world is very humbling. What an opportunity to see the governor recognize that family, their success in business, and what they did for Guilford County's Say Yes to Education. They are a powerhouse textile manufacturer right here in Stokesdale. He could feel the energy from the employees and how thankful they were that their governor came to recognize them. It was a big day for Stokesdale. He was hoping that the governor was going to eat a hot dog on Main Street.

Mayor Braswell said thanks to Frank Bruno and WoodmenLife for the 9/11 ceremony and thanks for the flags.

Mayor Braswell said the Guilford County Board of Commissioners and the Rockingham County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously for the March 2016 Presidential Primary Election ballot to include a referendum to raise the Stokesdale Fire District tax cap from 10 cents to 15 cents per \$100.00 of assessed property value. Thanks to Bill Jones and the legislators for all their hard work for the Stokesdale Fire Department who now has a presentation to take to the streets, which is exciting for Stokesdale.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Vicki White-Lawrence made a motion to adjourn. Frank Bruno seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the meeting adjourned at 10:36pm.

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Diana Marcus, Deputy Clerk

Approved:

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D. Randall Braswell, Mayor

TOWN OF STOKESDALE  
PO BOX 465  
STOKESDALE, NC 27357  
Ph: 336-643-4011  
**WATER SYSTEM CONNECTION INVOICE**  
February 14, 2003

Customer # 000<#>

<NAME> <Last Name>  
<MAILING ADDRESS>  
<CITY> <Zip Code>

**Under the current Phase I water system plans, the connection which you requested for the following address(es)**

<<STREET #> <STREET LOCATION>  
<2nd Location>  
<3rd Location>  
<4th Location>

**will not be reached by the system at this time.**

**Please select one of the following options now available to you regarding the payment of the connection fee(s):**

1. **PAY THE INVOICE BY March 18, 2003.** The fee will provide a water connection for your property if the system is expanded to your area before April 1, 2008. If additional phases that would service your address are not being planned/implemented at that time, the fee will be refunded.
2. **DO NOT PAY THE INVOICE.** When the water system is expanded to reach your property, applications will be available at the connection fee rate in effect at that time.

**INVOICE # <Invoice #>**

\$<Billing Amount>

**PAYMENT MUST BE MADE BY March 18, 2003  
IF OPTION 1 IS SELECTED**

Include Invoice Number on Payment  
Please make checks payable to: Town of Stokesdale  
Mail To: Town of Stokesdale, PO Box 465, Stokesdale, NC 27357