

Greg Edds, Chairman
Jim Greene, Vice- Chairman
Mike Caskey
Judy Klusman
Craig Pierce



Aaron Church, County Manager
Carolyn Barger, Clerk to the Board
John W. Dees, II, County Attorney

Rowan County Board of Commissioners

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ROWAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS June 15, 2020 – 6:00 PM

**PLEASE NOTE: DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC
THE MEETING WAS HELD BY REMOTE PARTICIPATION FOR THE BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS, STAFF AND THE PUBLIC**

Commissioners Participating:

Greg Edds, Chairman
Jim Greene, Vice-Chairman
Mike Caskey, Member
Judy Klusman, Member
Craig Pierce, Member

Also participating were County Manager Aaron Church, Clerk to the Board Carolyn Barger, County Attorney Jay Dees and Assistant County Manager/Finance Director Leslie Heidrick.

Chairman Edds convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Chaplain Michael Taylor provided the Invocation.

Chairman Edds led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSIDER ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- Chairman Edds asked Assistant County Manager/Finance Director Leslie Heidrick about an item the Finance Department had placed on the Consent Agenda.

Ms. Heidrick explained that the contract in the agenda packet for Salcoa Contracting for the Dan Nicholas Park concession project was not the right contract and contained the old figures. Ms. Heidrick said she had emailed the Board and staff with the corrected contract that should be considered for approval instead.

Commissioner Klusman moved to exchange the contract in the agenda packet with the new contract (as emailed from the Finance Department). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce and passed unanimously.

- Chairman Edds added an item regarding waiving of dump fees at the Rowan County Landfill. Chairman Edds added the request as agenda item #5a.

CONSIDER DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA

There were no deletions from the agenda.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Pierce moved, Commissioner Greene seconded and the vote to approve the agenda as amended passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Klusman moved approval of the minutes of the May 27, 2020 Special Called Meeting; June 1, 2020 Budget Work Session, June 1, 2020 Regular Meeting and June 8, 2020 Special Meeting. The motion was followed by a second from Commissioner Pierce and passed unanimously.

1. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Klusman moved approval of the Consent Agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Greene and passed unanimously.

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- A. Grant Award Approval
- B. Tax Refunds for Approval
- C. Systel Contract Amendment for Print/Copier Services
- D. Contract Approval for Charter Spectrum Internet and Library Service
- E. Contract Amendment for Pictometry Services
- F. Contract for CAMA Mobile Assessor
- G. COVID-19 Relief Fund: OCOC Grant Award
- H. Salcoa Contracting Agreement – Dan Nicholas Concession Stand (a corrected contract was provided from the Finance Department and accepted by the Board during Additions to the Agenda)
- I. Release and Voluntary Dismissal Thelma Luckey
- J. Home and Community Care Block Grant Funding for FY 2020-21
- K. COVID-19 and ADA Compliance Projects
- L. Schedule Public Hearing for July 6, 2020 for FY '21 5307 Transportation Program Grant

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Chairman Edds opened the Public Comment Period to entertain comments from any citizens who had either called in or submitted an email request to address the Board via

electronic means. With no one wishing to provide comments, Chairman Edds closed the Public Comment Period.

3. PUBLIC HEARING FOR Z 01-20

Assistant Planning Director Shane Stewart presented the staff report for rezoning petition Z 01-20. Mr. Stewart stated the Board of Commissioners had approved a rezoning petition (Z 08-00) and conditional use permit (CUP) application 03-00 for property owners Mark and Lorin Oden on March 20, 2000 to accommodate a pier and dock construction business for their property located in the 8600 block of Bringle Ferry Road. The property, referenced as Tax Parcel 644-150, was rezoned from Rural Agricultural (RA) to Commercial, Business Industrial with a Conditional District (CBI-CD). The Oden Family elected not to proceed with the business resulting in an expired conditional district.

The Oden family was requesting the rezoning of their 8.36-acre tract from CBI-CD to RA.

Mr. Stewart provided a power point and showed the site in question as well as the surrounding areas.

Continuing with the power point, Mr. Stewart discussed the information contained in the staff report.

Procedurally, Mr. Stewart said the Board must adopt a Statement of Consistency describing whether its action was consistent with any adopted comprehensive plans and indicate why their action was reasonable and in the public interest.

Mr. Stewart discussed the public notice procedures that had been followed, which included letters mailed to eight (3) adjacent property owners within 100 feet of the site. A sign was also posted on the property and notices were published in the Salisbury Post on June 4, 2020 and June 11, 2020.

The Planning Board unanimously recommended approval of the rezoning request.

Chairman Edds opened the public hearing to receive citizen input regarding Z 01-20. With no callers wishing to address the Board, and no one having submitted concerns via email, Chairman Edds closed the public hearing.

Chairman Edds moved approval of the Statement of Consistency as follows: Z 01-20 is consistent with the Eastern Area Land Use Plan and is reasonable and in the public interest based on the following: the request is consistent with Area 2 of the plan, no adverse impact on neighbors, and beneficial to the owner [by transitioning from an expired conditional district to a general zoning district]". The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Pierce moved to approve Z 01-20 followed by a second from Commissioner Greene. The motion carried unanimously.

4. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Assistant County Manager/Finance Director Leslie Heidrick highlighted several financial graphs depicting the following information:

- Annual Cumulative Current Year Property Tax Comparisons as of April 2020 – \$85,555,313
- Annual Cumulative Sales Tax Comparisons as of February in FY '20 - \$18,364,926
- Annual Cumulative Revenue Comparisons as of May 2020 - \$134,246,916
- Annual Cumulative Expenditure Comparisons as of May 2020 - \$134,482,330

5. DISCUSSION REGARDING JULY MEETING SCHEDULE

Chairman Edds said the Board had typically voted in the past to cancel its second monthly meeting during the month of July. The Board was currently scheduled to meet on July 6, 2020 and July 20, 2020.

Chairman Edds asked the Board's preferences for meeting during the month of July.

After a brief discussion, Chairman Edds made a motion to cancel the regularly scheduled meetings in the month on July and to hold one meeting on July 13, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Greene and carried unanimously.

Additional discussion ensued with Commissioner Caskey, who was serving in the National Guard. It was learned that Commissioner Caskey would be unable to participate in a 3:00 p.m. meeting on July 13, 2020; however, he would be able to participate if the meeting was held at 6:00 p.m. instead.

Chairman Edds moved to revise the motion for the Board to meet at 6:00 p.m. instead of 3:00 p.m. on July 13, 2020. Commissioner Pierce seconded and the amended motion passed unanimously.

ADDITION

5a. CONSIDER WAIVING DUMP FEES AT ROWAN COUNTY LANDFILL

Chairman Edds said the Essie Mae Kiser Foxx Charter School had burned a few years ago and citizens had been working to get the site cleaned up. Chairman Edds said a contractor had been hired and the County was had been contacted to see if it was willing to waive the dump fees for taking the debris from the burned site to the Landfill.

Chairman Edds continued by saying he felt it was a good opportunity for the County to help the Town of East Spencer and a good project for the County to support.

Chairman Edds moved to waive the dump fees for the materials that come out of the cleanup. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Klusman.

While Commissioner Pierce supported the request, he wanted to ensure that the debris that went to the Landfill actually came from the job site. Commissioner Pierce suggested that the Town of East Spencer notify the Landfill when a truck was on the way.

Chairman Edds said since the Town did not own the school, the call should come from the Charter School's leadership.

Commissioner Greene inquired about the possibility of asbestos from the site. Commissioner Pierce said there would be asbestos and the cleanup would require a lot of remediation making it an expensive project.

Commissioner Pierce said he would be glad to work with the County's Environmental Management Director, Caleb Sinclair, and a member of the Charter School to coordinate for the disposal of materials that came from the burned school.

Chairman Edds moved to waive the dump fees, followed by a second from Commissioner Pierce. The motion passed unanimously.

6. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Finance Director Leslie Heidrick presented the following budget amendments for the Board's consideration:

- Finance – To transfer funds needed for the Ellis Park Kitchen Project - \$22,526
- Finance – To increase transportation revenue and expense due to the additional contribution by the City of Salisbury - \$4,700
- Social Services – NCDHHS is providing a one-time supplement to LIEAP vendors on behalf of mutual clients. Expenditures and revenues must be revised based on the Funding Authorization - \$21,211
- Environmental Management – White Goods Grant Expenditures Approved by BOC on 5-18-2020 - \$213,000
- Finance – Budget is to correct/reverse entry of budget amendment 10-126 that was entered with an incorrect amount and keyed backwards in recording donations received by Emergency Services Department - \$290
- Finance – To budget additional EMPG grant funds awarded to Emergency Services - \$3,279
- School Construction - Record interest revenue earned via West Elementary School construction loan - \$131,274
- Finance – Recognize additional donations received for the new West Library Branch and additional expenditures – \$32,946

- Risk Management – Transfer funds to cover unexpected increase in workers’ comp and P&PL claims plus cover anticipated rest of year expenditures - \$400,000
- Finance – To budget projected additional restricted sales tax for Public School capital outlay - \$265,000
- Social Services – Budget donations received in order to provide goods and services to clients - \$9,883
- Finance – Budget COVID-19 revenue and expenditures - \$3,032,334
- Health Department – Disperse funds awarded per AA from DPH PH Preparedness & Response Branch for COVID-19 Crisis Response - \$116,514
- Finance – Budget additional Board of Election revenues and expenditures - \$19,370
- Finance - To budget additional ad valorem taxes and expenditures for several Fire Districts - \$10,000

Commissioner Klusman moved approval of the budget amendments as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce and passed unanimously.

7. CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING PROPOSED FY 2020-21 OPERATING BUDGET AND ADOPT BUDGET ORDINANCES

Chairman Edds stated a few weeks ago the Board had conducted a public hearing for the proposed FY 2020-21 operating budget. Chairman Edds said the Board had left the public hearing open (through 5:00 p.m. on June 12, 2020) to allow for any additional written comments. Eight (8) citizens had submitted written comments, which were included in the agenda packet and for the record. Chairman Edds officially closed the public hearing.

Chairman Edds noted two (2) changes the Board had requested during the budget work session for the County Manager include in budget. The requests were to include \$1500 for Crime Stoppers and to include a \$50,000 placeholder for rural broadband wireless internet. With regards to the broadband, Chairman Edds said the County had learned its grant opportunity was delayed and the County would move forward to partner with a company to begin to develop rural internet.

Chairman Edds opened the floor to entertain a motion to add the two (2) requests for funding to the General Fund.

Commissioner Caskey moved to put \$1500 in the budget for Rowan County Crime Stoppers. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Greene and passed unanimously.

Chairman Edds moved to add \$50,000 and put the funds as a reserve to move forward in the process of a rural broadband project in Rowan County. Commissioner Klusman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Fund 101 – General Fund

Commissioner Pierce moved, Commissioner Klusman seconded and the vote to approve Fund 101 passed unanimously.

Assistant County Manager/Finance Director asked if the Board wanted to increase the overall budget for the additions (Crime Stoppers and Broadband) or if the Board wanted the funds to come from Contingency, which had \$70,000. Chairman confirmed the funds would come from Contingency.

Fund 201 – Fire District Fund

Chairman Edds said the Board had received a request from the Scotch Irish Volunteer Fire Department for a tax increase from 6 cents to 9 cents. Chairman Edds said he and Commissioner Greene had attended the Fire Department's public hearing and no one opposed the tax increase.

A request was also received from the South Salisbury Volunteer Fire Department for a tax increased from 6 cents to 9.75 cents.

Commissioner Caskey suggested capping the tax at 9 cents.

Commissioner Klusman moved to approve Fund 201 Fire District Fund with the increase to 9 cents for Scotch Irish Volunteer Fire Department and 9 cents for South Salisbury Volunteer Fire Department. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Greene.

Commissioner Pierce did not feel a tax increase would be prudent at this point

Commissioner Greene agreed the 9 cents might be high; however, he said Scotch Irish barely brought in \$75,000/year. Commissioner Greene said trying to run the Department with \$75,000/year was not doable. Commissioner Greene provided an example, saying the Department had a motor to break down on one of its newer trucks and the Department had to refinance the truck just to get it back on the road. Commissioner Greene said what little money the Department had in contingency was raised from holding meals and when the Department had to match a grant, it was difficult for them to raise funds. Commissioner Greene asked the Commissioners to support the tax increase for the safety and overall good of the Department.

Commissioner Pierce said he could not support an increase to 9 cents in these economic conditions.

Commissioner Klusman agreed with Commissioner Greene. Commissioner Klusman said she had talked with the Fire Chief and he had discussed the lack of a large tax base, departmental needs/issues and the inability to buy equipment to protect the citizens.

With regards to South Salisbury, Commissioner Caskey said the Department had asked the Board for an increase last year for some items they knew were coming. Commissioner Caskey said the Board had approved a small increase to help the Department out but it had lost some grants and also had to bring in staff during the day because it could not get volunteers. Commissioner Caskey said the Board did not want any fire departments above 9 cents.

Upon being put to a vote the motion on the floor to passed 4-1 with Commissioner Pierce dissenting.

Fund 202 – Emergency Telephone System Fund

Commissioner Pierce moved, Commissioner Caskey seconded and the vote to approve Fund 202 passed unanimously.

Fund 501 – Risk Management Fund

Commissioner Klusman moved, Commissioner Pierce seconded and the vote to approve Fund 501 carried unanimously.

Fund 601 – Landfill Fund

Commissioner Pierce moved approval of Fund 601, followed by a second from Commissioner Caskey. The motion passed unanimously.

Fund 603 – Airport Fund

Commissioner Pierce moved, Commissioner Greene seconded and the vote to approve Fund 603 carried unanimously.

Fund 605 – Water Fund

Commissioner Pierce moved to approve Fund 605. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Caskey and passed unanimously.

Chairman Edds said the Board had received eight (8) emails from citizens regarding budget topics. Chairman Edds said the emails were taken into consideration. Chairman Edds then read into the record the names of those who had submitted emails as follows:

1. Kia Whittlesey
2. Pam Bloom
3. Karen Puckett
4. Merry Overholser
5. Nan Lund
6. Diane Labovitz
7. Mary Miller James
8. Jennifer Hubbard

(Note: All written comments pertained to funding for the Board of Elections).

8. CLOSED SESSION

Chairman Edds moved at 6:45 p.m. for the Board to enter into Closed Session in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(1) to consider approval of the minutes of the Closed Sessions held on March 2, 2020 and June 1, 2020; and North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(5) regarding a potential lease at Mid-Carolina Regional Airport. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce and passed unanimously.

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:22 p.m. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Pierce moved to adjourn at 7:24 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Klusman and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carolyn Barger, MMC, NCMCC
Clerk to the Board