

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

October 18, 2021 – 6:00 PM

J. NEWTON COHEN, SR. ROOM

J. NEWTON COHEN, SR. ROWAN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

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

County Manager Aaron Church, Clerk to the Board Carolyn Barger, County Attorney Jay Dees, and Finance Director James Howden were also present.

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**

There were no additions to the agenda.

#### **CONSIDER DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA**

There were no deletions from the agenda.

#### **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Commissioner Klusman moved, Commissioner Greene seconded and the vote to approve the agenda passed unanimously.

#### **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Commissioner Pierce moved, Commissioner Klusman seconded and the vote to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2021 and October 13, 2021 Commission Meetings passed unanimously.

## **1. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

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

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- A. Donation of Rock and Artifact Display Items to Rowan Museum
- B. FY22 Transit 5310 Rural State Grant Agreement
- C. 1st United Church of Christ Foundation Award
- D. Ambulance Franchise
- E. Kannapolis Debt
- F. Permission to Submit Non-Matching Grant to Reimburse Red Wolf Expenses
- G. Authorization to Purchase from H-GAC Cooperative Purchasing Program
- H. Tax Refunds for Approval
- I. Permission to Release RFQ for Engineering Services for Residential Plumbing
- J. Approval for Task Order 2021-02 for Title V & EPA Gas Reporting with HDR Engineering
- K. Approval for Task Order 2021-03 for General Services with HDR Engineering
- L. Schedule Public Hearing for Multiple Road Names
- M. Request for Approval for Body Camera Purchase for Bailiffs
- N. Surplus Vehicles & Equipment
- O. Bi-Weekly Environmental Health Report
- P. Approval of Contract with ADW Architects for Needs Assessment Study, Programming and Master Planning for the Health Department

## **2. SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

Commissioner Caskey noted the month of October was Clergy Appreciation Month and that he was grateful to Chaplain Hugh "Michael" Taylor, and his son, Chaplain Michael Paul Taylor, for providing the Invocations at Commission Meetings. Both men served as Chaplains for the Rowan County Sheriff's Department. Commissioner Caskey explained that the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) had sued the County (in 2013) because Commissioners were providing the Invocations at the Board of Commissioners Meetings. Commissioner Caskey said as Chaplain for the Sheriff's Department Chaplain Taylor had been approved to provide the Invocations.

Commissioner Caskey said both Chaplains did a lot for the community and the Sheriff's Department. Commissioner Caskey described the country as angry, scared and divided right now and he said it meant a lot to the Commissioners to have Chaplains praying for them and for peace at their meetings.

Chairman Edds called both Chaplains forward and expressed appreciation for their prayers not only at meetings but at other times, as well. Chairman Edds said the Commissioners were thankful for both Chaplains and their dedication.

The Board gathered with the Chaplains in front of the dais for a photo and then presented them with tokens of appreciation for their service.

Chairman Edds also noted that Commissioner Klusman was a Pastor and expressed appreciation for her, as well.

### **3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Chairman Edds opened the Public Comment Period to entertain comments from any citizens wishing to address the Board. With no one coming forward, Chairman Edds closed the Public Comment Period.

### **4. BINTI INTRODUCTION AND SOLE SOURCE REQUEST**

Micah Ennis, Director of the Department of Social Services (DSS), reported that DSS was preparing to contract with Binti to provide a cloud-based software solution to foster home licensing applications.

Ms. Ennis introduced several staff members who were in attendance to answer any questions the Board might have during the presentation. Those in attendance were Joshua Stutts, Nadean Quarterman, Donna Beaver, Clarisa Sifford, Beverly Dupree, Tisha Warren and George Montgomery.

Ms. Ennis discussed what DSS hoped to achieve with the software as a sole source for this particular module pursuant to North Carolina General Statute § 143-129(e)(6). Ms. Ennis felt the software would help increase efficiency with foster home licensing. Ms. Ennis noted that staff from Binti were participating in the meeting remotely if the Board had any questions.

Ms. Sifford came forward to discuss foster home recruitment and Mr. Montgomery discussed licensing for foster care.

Ms. Ennis said the ultimate goal was to return children to their families if they could be safely returned but there were situations when that could not occur. Ms. Ennis confirmed to Chairman Edds that folks will get a license to become a foster parent with no intention of adopting; however, Ms. Ennis said there were times foster parent(s) ended up falling in love with the children and adopting them. Ms. Ennis noted that 22 families had been licensed over the past 3 fiscal years and the average licensing timeframe was a little over 8 months. Ms. Ennis said DSS would like for the process to be faster and she felt the efficiency of Binti would help. Ms. Ennis noted those who had applied to become a foster parent would be able to log in to Binti and track their status.

In response to an inquiry from Commissioner Greene, Ms. Ennis explained that many children are placed with other relatives under kinship care. Ms. Ennis continued by describing how other children were placed in residential care settings and sometimes in residential care outside of Rowan County.

At the request of Commissioner Klusman Ms. Ennis highlighted the conversations that were underway with Nazareth Child and Family Connection. Ms. Ennis said therapeutic services were provided, as well as residential services and she expressed hope that Nazareth would help fill in the gaps to help keep some of the kids in Rowan County.

Commissioner Klusman moved to adopt the Binti introduction and sole source request from DSS. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce and passed unanimously.

## **5. FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Finance Director James Howden presented several financial graphs depicting the following information:

- Annual Cumulative Expenditure Comparisons as of September 2021 – \$35,657,267
- Annual Cumulative Revenue Comparisons as of September 2022 - \$60,970,620
- Annual Cumulative Current Year Property Tax Comparisons as of August 2022 - \$52,696,594

## **6. BUDGET AMENDMENTS**

Finance Director James Howden presented the following budget amendments for the Board's consideration:

- Health Department – To move funding due to program change. \$0
- Finance – Budget Trust, Fines, and Forfeiture and Tax Funds revenue and expense accounts to be in compliance with GASB 84. \$39,250,000

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

## **7. DECEMBER 2021 MEETING SCHEDULE**

Chairman Edds said the Board typically canceled the second regularly scheduled meeting in the month of December when possible. Chairman Edds asked the Commissioners their preferences for holding two (2) meetings in December.

Commissioner Pierce moved to cancel the December 20, 2021 Commission Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Greene and carried unanimously.

## **8. CLOSED SESSION**

Chairman Edds moved at 6:25 p.m. for the Board 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 August 2, 2021 and August 16, 2021; *and* in accordance with North Carolina General Statute § 143-318.11(a)(3) for Attorney-Client Privileged Communication to discuss matters relating to insurance coverage, risk

liability and cost-sharing with the State for Health Sanitarian Claims. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Greene moved the Board return to Open Session at 6:33 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce and passed unanimously.

Chairman Edds moved to approve in substantial form the draft Settlement Agreement and Release from County Attorney Jay Dees for the Marsh issue in the amount of \$7,675. Commissioner Pierce seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Pierce moved to adjourn at 6:36 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Klusman and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carolyn Barger, MMC, NCMCC  
Clerk to the Board