

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
ROWAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
June 11, 2007 – 4:00 PM  
J. NEWTON COHEN, SR. ROOM, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

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Present: Arnold S. Chamberlain, Chairman  
Chad Mitchell, Vice-Chairman  
Jon Barber, Member  
Tina Hall, Member  
Jim Sides, Member

County Manager William Cowan, Clerk to the Board Carolyn Athey, County Attorney Jay Dees and Finance Director Leslie Heidrick were present.

Chairman Chamberlain convened the meeting at 4:00 pm.

Commissioner Mitchell provided the Invocation and also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Commissioner Mitchell moved, Commissioner Barber seconded and the vote to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2007 Commission Meeting passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

There were no additions to the agenda.

**CONSIDER DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA**

Commissioner Barber moved to delete agenda item #14 (discussion regarding agenda items and supporting documentation and background information). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Sides referred to the Consent Agenda and moved to defer item #C (approval of agreement for appraisal/consulting services with Scott Robinson) until the June 18, 2007 meeting. Commissioner Mitchell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Sides referred to Consent Agenda item #B (set public hearing for July meeting for water point source text) and requested that Staff provide the Board with a presentation prior to the July public hearing.

## **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Commissioner Mitchell moved, Commissioner Sides seconded and the vote to approve the agenda passed unanimously.

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

Commissioner Sides moved, Commissioner Mitchell seconded and the vote for approval of the Consent Agenda with the previously stated changes passed unanimously.

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following items:

- A. Approval of Proclamation Declaring June 16, 2007 as Day of the Arts in Rowan County
- B. Set Public Hearing for July Meeting for Water Point Source Text
- C. Approval of Agreement for Appraisal/Consulting Services with Scott Robinson

### **2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Chairman Chamberlain opened the Public Comment Period to entertain comments from any citizens who wished to address the Board.

The following individuals came forward:

- Commissioner Jim Sides left his seat as a County Commissioner and took a seat to address the Board as a citizen. First, Commissioner Sides referred to a furniture order that had been placed and then cancelled for the Chairman's office. Commissioner Sides felt, as a taxpayer, that the furniture purchase should have been a Board decision due to the estimated price of \$6,000. Commissioner Sides suggested that the Commissioners receive periodic updates on all budget amendments. Commissioner Sides expressed dismay that the expenditure for office furniture was considered acceptable while the Electronic Monitoring Program had not been funded for 30 days, costing \$2,000 but ultimately saving the County \$4,700. Secondly, Commissioner Sides said based on figures supplied by the Economic Development Commission (EDC), the agency would have in excess of \$304,000 at the end of the fiscal year, or 80% of its yearly budget. Commissioner Sides noted that only \$10,000 had been spent thus far for marketing and prospect development when \$38,500 had been allocated. Commissioner Sides said the figure represented 27% of what he considered to be the most important line item in the EDC's budget. Commissioner Sides suggested that it was time for all funding partners of the EDC to look at how funds are being spent for marketing the County. Commissioner Sides referred to recent publicity

- regarding premature disclosure of an EDC project. Commissioner Sides said the EDC was a public agency, operating solely on tax dollars; therefore all information was available to the public. Commissioner Sides finished by saying if the EDC wished to become a private agency, it could then withhold any information it chose.
- Donald Schumacher said he served on a committee of the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Schumacher spoke in favor of the EDC, describing it as the primary catalyst for bringing jobs to the County. Mr. Schumacher said cutting resources to the EDC would hamper its ability to bring in new jobs. Mr. Schumacher felt the recent premature disclosure of a potential EDC project could have crippled the County's ability for new businesses. Mr. Schumacher said the Commissioners were elected to move the County forward and he felt that voting for the EDC and the proposed tax increase would do so.
  - Dyke Messinger discussed Rowan Jobs Initiative (RJI), which started as a partnership between the County, citizens of the county representing businesses, and the City of Salisbury. Mr. Messinger said RJI was formed to brand and market Rowan County to site selection consultants and real estate brokers throughout the nation and he felt that RJI had been successful in its efforts. Mr. Messinger said he felt that no Commissioner had the right to break a confidence between the EDC and a site selection consultant. Mr. Messinger said if the breach of confidence continued, there would be no need for RJI.
  - Pete Teague of the Chamber's Task Force for Progress said he had been disturbed by the premature disclosure of a potential economic development project. Mr. Teague felt the disclosure could possibly result in Rowan County losing the project. Mr. Teague also discussed the need for jobs and said the best way to keep the tax rate low was by increasing the tax base. Mr. Teague encouraged the Board to go after quality jobs and present a positive image for the County.
  - Randy Welch, a member of the Board of Directors for the Chamber of Commerce discussed economic development incentives/investment grants and said after 5 years, the County retains 100% of the taxes paid. Mr. Welch felt that incentives were not a risk but rather an investment as they provided revenues for the County's coffers. Mr. Welch encouraged the Board to continue to support the Economic Development Commission with the necessary tools.
  - Phyllis Sides expressed hope that the Board would vote against the purchase of visual aids for the meeting chambers. Ms. Sides encouraged the Board members to work as a team in order to demonstrate the Board's desire to be good stewards and do what is best for the taxpayers.

With no one else wishing to address the Board, Chairman Chamberlain closed the Public Comment Period.

### **3. PUBLIC HEARING FOR UNANIMOUS PETITION FOR DOG DAYS LANE**

Shane Stewart of the Rowan County Planning and Development Department presented the unanimous petition for Dog Days Lane. The road is currently unnamed and runs east off the 6500 block of Plyler Road. Mr. Stewart reported that Rhonda Sprague subdivided her property (Tax Parcel 249B 409) under the regulations for a family subdivision and designated an easement to serve the new lots, as well as property owned and used by Craig Cannon (Tax Parcel 249B 416). Therefore, a petition was required to name the easement. Both property owners signed a petition in support of the road name of Dog Days Lane. Staff recommended approval.

Chairman Chamberlain opened the public hearing to entertain citizen input regarding the proposed road name of Dog Days Lane.

With no one wishing to address the Board, Chairman Chamberlain closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Mitchell moved, Commissioner Barber seconded and the vote to approve the road name of Dog Days Lane passed unanimously.

### **4. PUBLIC HEARING FOR HLC 01-07**

Rose LaCasse, Chair of the Historic Landmarks Commission (HLC) and Senior Planner Shane Stewart were present to answer any questions the Board might have regarding the proposed HLC text amendments.

In response to a query from Commissioner Mitchell, Ms. LaCasse said an HLC member would only enter private property if the owner had requested landmark status.

Commissioner Sides highlighted several revisions to the document that he would like considered prior to the Board's vote on the text.

Chairman Chamberlain asked Mr. Stewart if a courtesy public hearing had been conducted and Mr. Stewart said yes. Mr. Stewart said no one had shown up for the public hearing.

Chairman Chamberlain said he would like to see the Board delay a decision until the July meeting.

Chairman Chamberlain opened the public hearing to entertain comments from any citizens regarding HLC 01-07.

With no one wishing to address the Board, Chairman Chamberlain closed the public hearing.

Chairman Chamberlain suggested that the Board delay a decision until the July meeting and he instructed the Clerk to put the suggestions in written form for the Board members.

Commissioner Sides put the Chairman's suggestion in the form of a motion and said that he would provide each Commissioner with a copy of the document with his changes. Commissioner Mitchell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

## **5. QUASI-JUDICIAL HEARING FOR CUP 04-07 FOR REQUEST FROM DAN FISHER**

Chairman Chamberlain read the Chairman's Speech (Exhibit A) and declared the public hearing for CUP 04-07 to be in session. Chairman Chamberlain said the hearing would focus on an application submitted by Dan Fisher and others for their property located off the 6700 block of Goodman Lake Road. The purpose of the request was to allow 36 condominium units on their 4-½ acre tract referenced as Tax Parcel 606H-076.

The Clerk swore in those wishing to provide testimony in the case.

Shane Stewart of the Rowan County Planning & Development Department presented the Staff Report (Exhibit B). Mr. Stewart said the Board was aware of Sunset Pointe properties, which consisted of 250 acres.

Mr. Stewart provided a power point presentation (Exhibit C) and said the property in question was a 4-½ acre tract. Mr. Stewart used the power point presentation (Exhibit C) to point out properties that had been rezoned due to the development of Sunset Pointe and to also point out surrounding areas.

Mr. Stewart showed the site plan, which was included in the Staff Report (Exhibit B). Mr. Stewart said the request before the Board was for 6 separate buildings with 6 different condos, for a total of 36. Mr. Stewart said 8 dwelling units were allowed per acre in the zoning district. Mr. Stewart said there was a community sewer system and that each building would have one well servicing 6 units. Mr. Stewart said based on the density, the request met the County's ordinance standards.

Mr. Stewart reported that adequate transportation to the site existed and that even though the streets were private, they were built to public standards. Mr. Stewart said no improvements were required by the DOT on Goodman Lake Road.

Mr. Stewart said the applicant had requested a modification of the setbacks, which is a provision of the Zoning Ordinance. Mr. Stewart said current setbacks on all property lines are 50 feet and since all are internal setbacks within Sunset

Pointe, the applicant had requested a modification from 50 feet to 30 feet on the front and from 50 feet to 20 feet on the side.

Mr. Stewart said there would be an evergreen buffer on both sides of the property.

Using the power point presentation (Exhibit C), Mr. Stewart showed renderings and various elevations of the site. Mr. Stewart said the building façade would have a stucco finish. The condo units would be three stories with a basement for a fourth story.

Mr. Stewart recalled the concern of the neighbors, the Planning Board and the Commissioners during the commercial rezoning and he pointed out that a result of those concerns was the heavy buffer along the front. Mr. Stewart used the power point presentation (Exhibit C) to show a 2006 aerial photograph of the area.

Mr. Stewart said Staff recommended approval of the request as presented and he reminded the Board that approval of Findings of Fact were necessary

With no further testimony to be provided, Chairman Chamberlain closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Sides moved approval the following Findings of Fact:

1. **The development of the property in accordance with the proposed conditions will not materially endanger the public health or safety.**

**FACT:** *The internal streets providing access from Goodman Lake Road to the condominium complex have been approved by DOT. No additional improvements were required by DOT suggesting this complex will have adequate transportation access.*

**FACT:** *Isle width of 25 feet is wider than the average recommended width of 24 feet for two-way traffic within parking lots.*

2. **That the development of the property in accordance with the proposed conditions will not substantially injure the value of adjoining or abutting property, or that the development is a public necessity, and;**

**FACT:** *Sunset Pointe is a planned mixed-use project designed to accommodate a range of uses in functionally cohesive manner. Residents purchasing property within the development are aware of the overall master plan and land use transitions.*

**FACT:** *Evidence presented at a previous public hearing for the commercial*

*component suggested this planned development subdivision would not lower property values for adjoining land.*

- 3. That the location and character of the development in accordance with the proposed conditions will be in general harmony with the area in which it is located and in general conformity with any adopted county plans.**

**FACT:** *Condominiums should provide a gradual transition from the existing commercially zoned property and single-family lots.*

**FACT:** *Being a planned development subdivision, all uses have been designed to function in harmony with the internal uses and adjoining properties.*

**FACT:** *These structures will not block the water view for adjoining properties since the site is currently wooded. Once the commercial component has been constructed, the only property with a reasonable degree of visibility to these units should be the Marsh Campground.*

Commissioner Hall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chairman Chamberlain provided the Clerk with a copy of the Findings of Fact (Exhibit D).

## **6. QUASI-JUDICIAL HEARING FOR CUP 02-07 FOR REQUEST FROM MAKENZIE PROPERTIES**

Chairman Chamberlain read the Chairman's Speech (Exhibit A) and declared the public hearing for CUP 02-07 to be in session. Chairman Chamberlain said the hearing would focus on an application submitted by Makenzie Properties for their property located off the 9200 block of Highway 152 West. The purpose of the request was to allow the construction of two equestrian arenas on common area property in the Finncastle Subdivision referenced as Tax Parcel 230-036.

The Clerk swore in those wishing to provide testimony in the case.

Shane Stewart of the Rowan County Planning & Development Department presented the Staff Report (Exhibit B). Mr. Stewart used a power point presentation (Exhibit C) to show the site and surrounding properties. Mr. Stewart said the site was approximately 2 miles from the Mooresville planning and zoning jurisdiction.

Mr. Stewart said there are multiple existing buildings and uses on the site in question, which are for personal use, including horses/stables.

Mr. Stewart continued with the power point (Exhibit C) and pointed out a home that would be converted to a duplex for guest workers. Mr. Stewart pointed out

the stable location, outdoor arena and various fencing complexes. Mr. Stewart also pointed out the 34-lot Finncastle Subdivision proposal.

Mr. Stewart reviewed the site layout that was included in the Staff Report (Exhibit B).

Using the power point presentation (Exhibit C) Mr. Stewart showed the covered arena and the rendering of the outdoor and covered areas. Mr. Stewart said the uses would include boarding, training, showing and breeding of horses and also for the personal use of the developer and residents of Finncastle.

Mr. Stewart referred to a handout (Exhibit D) that he had provided to the Board at the beginning of the meeting. Mr. Stewart said the handout (Exhibit D) was not in the agenda packets but had been distributed to the Board as evidence regarding the case. The handout (Exhibit D) was a rendering of the interior layout of the covered arena, with stalls, tack room, veterinarian stall and grooming areas for horses. Mr. Stewart also pointed out the riding area.

Mr. Stewart said the tax appraisal for the existing home was approximately \$1.75 million. Mr. Stewart said the value of the proposed homes in the subdivision would probably cost a little less but would still be expensive.

Mr. Stewart said the site was located in the interior of the subdivision and most impacts would be absorbed by the residences of the subdivision. Mr. Stewart said lighting would be held to a minimum; dust would be controlled to a minimum with sprinkler systems; and animal waste would be hauled out often. Mr. Stewart said the adequate transportation to the site existed as it was a private road community. Mr. Stewart reported that a turn lane was being put in for the stress on Highway 152.

Mr. Stewart referred to the last page of the Staff Report (Exhibit B) and stated that approval of an SNIA permit was necessary.

With no further testimony to be provided, Chairman Chamberlain closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Mitchell moved approval of CUP 02-07 based on the suggested Findings of Fact listed on pages 3 through 4 (Staff Report, Exhibit B) as evidence of the testimony provided by Staff. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barber and passed unanimously. The Findings of Fact were listed as follows:

- 1. The development of the property in accordance with the proposed conditions will not materially endanger the public health or safety.**

**FACT:** Adequate access is provided from Highway 152 via a new DOT approved street network. Sufficient turning space is available at both the subdivision and site entrances based on the proposed width and angles of intersection.

**FACT:** Since this facility will not be open to the general public, very little additional traffic will be created.

- 2. That the development of the property in accordance with the proposed conditions will not substantially injure the value of adjoining or abutting property, or that the development is a public necessity, and;**

**FACT:** Finncastle will cater to individuals seeking to construct high-end homes possibly similar to the existing 8,400 square foot residence located in the interior of the subdivision having a fair market value price of nearly 1.75 million dollars as defined by the County Tax Assessors Office.

**FACT:** Future lot owners will be purchasing into an equestrian subdivision with knowledge they must maintain these active common areas through association fees.

- 3. That the location and character of the development in accordance with the proposed conditions will be in general harmony with the area in which it is located and in general conformity with any adopted county plans.**

**FACT:** As evidenced from the report by Planning Staff, personal stables, riding areas, and similar equestrian functions are a commonplace in western Rowan.

**FACT:** The stable complex is located more than a ¼ mile from Highway 152 and is only moderately visible by passersby.

Commissioner Mitchell moved approval of SNIA 04-07. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barber and passed unanimously.

## **7. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER FOR ETHAN H. SHIVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Gene Miller, Assistant Superintendent of Rowan Salisbury Schools (RSS) discussed the change order for Monteith Construction Corporation in the amount of \$89,022. The change order was approved by the Board of Education on May 14, 2007 and would cover additional construction costs as a result of changes mandated by the Department of Insurance.

Commissioner Sides moved for approval of the change order. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barber.

Commissioner Mitchell referred to the spreadsheet in the agenda packet, which listed the actual total spent to date as approximately \$9.9 million. Commissioner

Mitchell then referred to page 2 of the handout that listed a contract sum of approximately \$9.8 million. Commissioner Mitchell questioned the difference of approximately \$70,000 between the two figures. Mr. Miller responded that the figures had a contingency and he also pointed out the \$-400,000 in the offsite utilities, which would be received back from a private developer to offset the numbers. Mr. Miller said the County would get the money back as a reimbursement.

Upon being put to a vote, the motion on the floor passed unanimously.

**8. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION AWARDING CONTRACT FOR COST PER COPY AND PRINT PROGRAM**

Sandy Fisher, Purchasing Agent, reported that bids were received on March 12, 2007 for a Cost Per Copy & Print Program. Four (4) bids were received:

Toshiba Business Solutions	\$ 166,935
Carolina Office Systems	\$ 186,545
Lanier Worldwide	\$ 212,764
Ikon Office Solutions	\$ 288,599

Toshiba Business Solutions submitted the low bid of \$166,935 for an estimated 6,593,013 copies. The Finance and Information Systems Departments recommended approval of a 5-year contract with Toshiba Business Solutions, effective July 1, 2007.

In response to a query from Commissioner Mitchell, Finance Director Leslie Heidrick said printers are handled through the Information Systems Department and when a department needs a copier, the Finance Department assists in determining if that department should lease or purchase the copier. The decision of whether to lease or purchase is based largely on the number of copies that are run by the department. Ms. Heidrick said many of the County's copiers are leased but more had been purchased. Ms. Heidrick said there were maintenance agreements on the copiers that had been purchased and that as those maintenance or lease agreements expired, Toshiba would deliver new copiers.

County Manager William Cowan said under the proposed program, the County would not own any of the equipment and would buy the copies from Toshiba.

Commissioner Hall asked if the County could re-negotiate with Toshiba after 2 years in the event the price for copies dropped. Ms. Fisher responded that the County was not obligated to a particular number of copies with the 5-year contract and she felt that the option provided flexibility. Ms. Heidrick said she and Information Systems Director David Boling agreed that the flexibility of the program was beneficial to the County since it did not require a guaranteed number of copies.

Commissioner Sides noted that the information in the agenda packet listed 145 copiers in county departments. Commissioner Sides asked if there were any departments not covered. Ms. Heidrick said the program did not cover coin-operated copiers at the library or Register of Deeds Office. Ms. Heidrick said machines that are tied in with imaging systems are not covered. Ms. Fisher added that all networked printers were covered.

Commissioner Sides asked if the copiers the County now had would become surplus and Ms. Heidrick said yes. Commissioner Sides asked if the funds would be allocated by department and Ms. Heidrick said yes.

Commissioner Sides moved, Commissioner Hall seconded and the vote to approve the Resolution awarding the 5-year contract for the Cost Per Copy and Print Program to Toshiba Business Solutions in the amount of \$166,935 passed unanimously.

Chairman Chamberlain called for a short break at 5:10 pm.

Chairman Chamberlain reconvened the meeting at 5:20 pm.

#### **9. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ROWAN MUSEUM LEASE AGREEMENT AMENDMENT**

County Attorney Jay Dees explained that the lease amendment before the Board was due to Board action taken in 2005. The action at that time was to extend the lease from September 1, 2007 and continue for a 10-year period through August 31, 2017.

Commissioner Sides moved, Commissioner Hall seconded and the vote to accept the lease amendment passed unanimously.

#### **10. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF LIMITED FIXED BASE OPERATOR AGREEMENT FOR ALPHA ONE FLIGHT SCHOOL**

Ken Deal, Director of Administration, reported that Alpha One Flight School wished to renew their contract with 2 minor changes, which were reflected on pages 1 and 8. Mr. Deal said the current contract expired on June 30, 2007.

Commissioner Sides highlighted numerous changes/corrections that he would like for the Board to consider when approving the lease.

Chairman Chamberlain suggested that the Board review Commissioner Sides' proposed changes and be prepared to provide additional input at a later date.

Chairman Chamberlain asked if the proposed contract was exactly what the County had signed before. Mr. Deal responded yes, with the exception of the proposed changes on pages 1 and 8.

By consensus, the Board agreed to the Chairman's suggestion.

#### **11. DISCUSSION REGARDING JULY MEETING SCHEDULE**

Chairman Chamberlain opened the floor for discussion regarding the Board's meeting schedule for the month of July.

By consensus, the Board felt that one meeting in the month of July would suffice.

Commissioner Sides moved to hold one meeting on July 16, 2007 at 4:00 pm. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barber and passed unanimously.

#### **12. DISCUSSION REGARDING REQUEST FROM PIEDMONT BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE TO LEASE PROPERTIES**

Chairman Chamberlain said that Piedmont Behavioral Healthcare (PBH) had previously held 2 leases with the County, both of which had expired June 30, 2006. Chairman Chamberlain suggested that the Board consider declaring the properties as surplus in order to sell them.

After a brief discussion, the Board determined that it did not wish to lease the properties to PBH as had been requested.

Commissioner Sides moved to declare both properties as surplus. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barber and passed unanimously

Chairman Chamberlain commented that anyone interested in purchasing the properties should contact the County.

#### **13. PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007-08**

*(At this point in the meeting – 5:30 pm - Chairman Chamberlain skipped to item #14 due to the fact that the public hearing for the proposed budget had been advertised for 6:00 pm.)*

Chairman Chamberlain said the public hearing was for the proposed budget and that citizens should limit their comments to the budget. Chairman Chamberlain said each citizen would be provided with 3 minutes to speak.

Chairman Chamberlain opened the public hearing to entertain citizen input regarding the proposed budget for fiscal year 2007-08. The following individuals came forward:

1. Fred Jordan of the Enochville Volunteer Fire Department expressed concern that the number of volunteer firefighters was decreasing. Mr. Jordan said the departments need a tax increase to pay firemen. Mr. Jordan said the community was suffering in the daytime because there

was no one to respond to the calls and keep up the level of service expected.

2. Dianne Green, Director of the Chamber of Commerce, stated that adopting a revenue neutral tax rate along with the proposed tax cuts would cause inadequate funding for schools and make the County employees jobs much harder. Ms. Green said the County should pay its employees fairly and well. Ms. Green added that Rowan Jobs Initiative's main focus was to market the County and the wind tunnel incident (premature disclosure) had made the marketing more difficult. Ms. Green stated that the Economic Development Commission was the "industrial recruitment arm" and was doing a good job. Ms. Green felt that this is the time for giving organizations the tools they need to be successful and not the time to cut resources.
3. Tara Trexler, Chief Financial Officer for Rowan Salisbury Schools (RSS), stated that a fund balance is defined as the cumulative difference created between revenues and expenditures that are realized each fiscal year and may be viewed as a savings account. Ms. Trexler explained that the auditors compare the fund balance to the local operating budget and use that percentage to compare to the Local Government Commission's (LGC) recommendation of a minimum of 8%. Ms. Trexler said the Rowan Salisbury Board of Education supports the LGC's recommendation. Ms. Trexler noted the fund balances of surrounding counties. Ms. Trexler explained that the LGC's recommendation equals one month of local operating expenditures but does not cover one month of the total federal, state and local operating expenditures, which is currently budgeted at \$155 million. Ms. Trexler stated in an emergency situation the fund balance would be needed in order to cover ongoing expenditures. Ms. Trexler stated the available fund balance at the end of the fiscal year would be at 8% and the school system felt this was a fiscally responsible number.
4. Dawn Wilhite of 9580 Caldwell Rd stated that education was crucial and there should be adequate supplies and teachers. Ms. Wilhite said the schools were responding to growth and needed funds in order to keep up. Ms. Wilhite stated that many people were willing to pay for more education and that a small increase in taxes would make a big difference. Ms. Wilhite said she supported an increase in taxes for education.
5. Barbara (last name inaudible) of 1012 Quarry St. thanked the Board for their commitment to the County. Barbara stated that she was concerned with lottery funds being used to retire the 2002 bond referendum, even though the public had approved the bond and expected a tax increase to pay for the bond. Barbara encouraged the Board to fund the schools at

the state per pupil average and to use tax increases to repay previous bonds.

6. Louise Wooten, Executive Director for Rowan Partners for Education, asked the Board to continue to fund RSS at the state average, work to find a needed revenue stream for the growing capital needs of the schools and to sign a joint resolution with the Board of Education in support of continued minimum funding at the state average.
7. Jeff Smith, Chairman for Rowan Partners for Education, stated at no time during the past 8 years had the RSS fund balance been above \$8 million dollars. Mr. Smith said by having a large fund balance, the schools had been able to fund one-time expenses of opening schools and help to pay off the bond. Mr. Smith reported that the Institute of Government stated it was common for school systems to have a fund balance and local governments should consider the percentages of counties around them in order to determine an appropriate level. Mr. Smith mentioned the County's expected fund balance for the end of the year and asked the Board to remember the 18,191 voters who spoke in 2002 and agreed to the tax increase that hadn't been implemented. (There was a round of applause from the audience).
8. Karen Carpenter, Vice-Chair of the Board of Education (BOE) thanked the Board for the time put into reviewing and considering budget proposals. Ms. Carpenter stated that the BOE was aware of the challenges facing RSS and the BOE's proposed budget was a modest start to improving education in Rowan County. Ms. Carpenter stated that everyone had a vested interest in students and should want them to have a good education.
9. Eldridge Williams, former BOE member, recommended that the Commissioners fund the schools at the state average per pupil. Mr. Eldridge also stated that the Commissioners and the BOE should sign a joint resolution for continued funding at the state average.
10. John Jenkins, Enochville Volunteer Fire Department (VFD), stated he was in favor of the 2-cent tax increase for Enochville VFD. Mr. Jenkins said the budget developed for the fire department was a conservative budget and was approved unanimously by the Board of Directors and Fire Commissioners for Enochville VFD. Mr. Jenkins said the department had lost a lot of its daytime personnel and that there was not enough coverage to respond to calls. Mr. Jenkins said that citizens were not receiving the level of service expected in emergencies. Mr. Jenkins added that departments have tried to recruit more volunteers but have been unsuccessful. Mr. Jenkins mentioned that the request was for the first tax increase since the department was formed.

11. Mike Miller of 2730 Patterson Road asked the Board to fully support incentives and funding of economic development to attract new businesses to ease the burden of tax increases. Mr. Miller stated appropriate funding of schools was a way to help the economic future of Rowan County.
12. Diana Timmerman of Nottingham Road said as a teacher she had learned firsthand how important education was. Ms. Timmerman said technology was a major factor to education and that more technology was needed. Ms. Timmerman said she wanted to see students with a strong work ethic and ready to work. Ms. Timmerman said the state average per pupil level would provide students with what they need to be competitive in a global market.
13. Bryce Beard, Chairman of the Board of Education (BOE) said what the County does now will ensure the future and that the BOE and Board of Commissioners (BOC) must continue to lay groundwork by educating the children. Mr. Beard thanked the Board for its willingness to fund students at the state average, but he asked if the community wanted to be "average." Mr. Beard asked the Commissioners to work with the BOE towards a vision of Rowan County competing successfully regionally, nationally and globally for high quality business and economic development.
14. Gene Miller, Assistant Superintendent for Rowan Salisbury Schools (RSS) spoke about the capital outlay budget for RSS and the ages of various schools and operating costs for the older schools. Mr. Miller discussed the growth and funding issues in the south area. Mr. Miller stated that in 2002, a majority of voters were in favor of a bond with full knowledge that there would be a tax increase. Mr. Miller said he hoped that everyone would work together to be part of a solution instead of a problem.
15. Carl Repsher, Executive Director of Rowan Vocational Opportunities, stated that jobs are the one issue that surpassed all others. Mr. Repsher said education couldn't happen unless focused on. Mr. Repsher said a professional business recruitment effort was necessary to bring businesses to Rowan County. Mr. Repsher encouraged the Board to think about these areas and think beyond next year's budget.
16. Elaine Hewitt of 306 Third Creek Church Rd in Cleveland encouraged the Board to fund the schools at the per pupil state average. Ms. Hewitt said education was important, and funding was needed to reduce the student teacher ratio and teacher supplements. Ms. Hewitt asked the Board to support the \$2.6 million increase as a minimum for funding the schools.

17. Lana Drinkard of Quail Drive said she had worked within Rowan County Schools, and Iredell County, and had seen the differences between the two. Ms. Drinkard said an increase in supplements created a huge difference in staffing. Ms. Drinkard stated that the voters had approved a tax increase on behalf of the school system. Ms. Drinkard also requested an increase for the fire departments.
18. Bryan Whitson, President of Rowan-Salisbury Association of Educators, said the group represented over 900 educators in the school system. Mr. Whitson asked the Board to fund the school system at the state level. Mr. Whitson noted the County's commitment to excellence and said he chose to come to Rowan County based on that credence. Mr. Whitson said the Board must strategize to develop a plan for growth. Mr. Whitson asked the Board to fund the students at the state level and to develop a plan to prove that the County was committed to excellence.
19. Kyle Huffman, a former member of the Board of Education, asked what kind of excellence the County was committed to. Mr. Huffman asked if the County was committed to treating employees well, funding the school system appropriately or taking care of fire departments. Mr. Huffman discussed safety issues for schools and buildings that needed to be replaced and he expressed hope for funding at the state level.
20. Horace Means of Mahaley Avenue stated he was happy with Rowan Salisbury Schools. Mr. Means said he volunteered in the school system and that he sees the potential within the system. Mr. Means asked the Board to do what it could to encourage teachers and staff by supporting the proposed budget for the school system.
21. Betty Tunks, Principal at Overton Elementary, stated that she took a \$30,000 cut in salary to come to Rowan County. Ms. Tunks said the schools were not receiving enough funding to purchase the items needed. Ms. Tunks asked the Board to support the proposed budget in order to give kids the ability to see what the future held.
22. Susan Heaggans, Principal at Knox Middle School (KMS) distributed a handout addressing the facility, safety and at-risk population of the school. Ms. Heaggans expressed disappointment that a new school would not be built until 2025. Ms. Heaggans emphasized the safety issues at KMS. Ms. Heaggans asked the Board to support Rowan Salisbury Schools.
23. Liz Tennent of Mitchell Avenue referred to the high school graduations taking place within the County and she said she doubted that parents were telling their kids to "give it your minimal best." Ms. Tennent said she hoped the Board would approve the proposed budget for the schools and

send the message for a higher standard for the Rowan Salisbury School System. (There was a round of applause from the audience).

24. Mary Willis Page, previous Parent Teacher Association (PTA) President for Knox Middle School, talked about the dangers of the campus. Ms. Page referenced the 2002 bonds and asked how the system could move ahead with capital needs when still paying for previous bonds. Ms. Page asked the Board to protect the children by voting in favor of needed school funds.
25. Diane Young of 117 Maupin Avenue said voting in support of a bond referendum indicated a willingness to pay for a tax increase. Ms. Young said if the Board approved a revenue neutral tax rate, no projects would be funded until 2013. Ms. Young asked the Board to support the proposed tax rate.
26. Pete Teague of 133 Sterling Court said he was pleased to see the continued commitment to fund schools at the state average. Mr. Teague said the budget was not perfect but was reasonable and provided an opportunity for improvement. Mr. Teague said when planning for the future, revenues and capital improvements should not be limited to a short-term view because the needs for various services would increase.
27. Troy Elliott of China Grove said he felt the schools would improve if funds were properly spent. Mr. Elliott stated that the County should manage money better in all areas. Mr. Elliott discussed holding contractors accountable for building schools properly and economically. Mr. Elliott said he would like to see the County's money managed well and a well-managed education system. Mr. Elliott distributed a handout regarding his personal revaluation by the Rowan County Assessor's Office.
28. Jack Fisher stated everyone wanted more money, but he asked what happened to it once it was received. Mr. Fisher said he was retired and had to evaluate the increasing prices from gas, groceries and property revaluations. Mr. Fisher asked the Board to have good management and to look after those on fixed incomes.
29. Ralph Lambe of Main Sail Road stated that he agreed with Mr. Fisher and Mr. Elliott. Mr. Lambe said the older citizens are being "taxed to death" and many pay enormous medical bills. Mr. Lambe said the children of Rowan County needed a great education but he felt the budget needed to be more balanced.
30. Rita Whitfield said that money is necessary for career tech education because students could work at rest homes, nurseries, daycares and many other places. Ms. Whitfield stated that career tech education has

kept many kids in school but there are needs for the program. Ms. Whitfield encouraged the Board to support the school system.

31. J. Newton Cohen, Sr. stated that the Board was elected by a majority of the citizens in Rowan County and he had confidence that the Board would approve a fair and equitable budget. Mr. Cohen stated he was 80 years of age and still working and that he didn't begrudge a penny that he paid in taxes. Mr. Cohen said the Board should leave the meeting united and for the betterment of Rowan County.

With no one else wishing to address the Board, Chairman Chamberlain closed the public hearing.

Chairman Chamberlain said he supported the following items:

- 59.5 cent tax rate
- Funding schools at state average
- Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) of 2.5% plus a 1% step up for qualified employees
- Health insurance with no deductions for employees
- Full funding of EDC
- Full funding of Rowan Jobs Initiative
- Full funding of Salisbury-Rowan Rescue squad by pulling \$84,000 from restricted funds and adding \$23,000 to get \$107,000 for new employees
- 2-cent tax increase for Enochville Volunteer Fire Department and for other departments to keep their current rate.
- \$5,000 for gang summit
- \$24,000 for Electronic House Arrest
- \$10,000 additional for Rowan Museum
- \$500,000 for school technology
- The rest of the Manager's proposed budget at 59.5 cents.

Commissioner Mitchell said he had provided his opinions on the proposed budget at the last meeting and that he would not go over those items again.

Commissioner Mitchell moved the Manager's recommended budget with the changes for the Rescue Squad of removing restrictions on \$84,000 and adding \$23,000; adding \$5,000 for the gang summit; funding the Electronic Monitoring Program; increasing Rowan Museum's allocation \$10,000; allowing the school system to use \$500,000 for school technology funds originally requested from the bond package money; recommended budget of school funding at the per pupil state average; \$2.6 million for a COLA increase and deletion of the new chairs for the Commissioners meeting room at a cost of \$8,500. Commissioner Barber seconded the motion.

Chairman Chamberlain said if the Board would like to vote for a raise for the Commission members it should be done publicly. Chairman Chamberlain asked if Commissioner Mitchell would be okay with excluding the Commissioners pay from the motion.

Commissioner Mitchell responded he would accept the Chairman's request as a friendly amendment to the motion. Commissioner Barber accepted the change as well.

Commissioner Sides said he wished he could find a way to fund all of Rowan Salisbury Schools desired capital needs, as well as all of their current needs. Commissioner Sides said taxes would have to be raised by \$1.50 in order to reach these goals and that he would not vote for a tax increase. Commissioner Sides said there were some things in the budget that he would delete because you have to decide what you can afford. Commissioner Sides added that he wished he could give his own employees what the County gives its employees every year.

Commissioner Sides said he does not support the full implementation of:

- \$727,372 in a COLA increase,
- \$250,000 for health insurance,
- \$400,000 in merit increases, which is a fixed cost that will be added to this year and next year's costs.

Commissioner Sides said other items in the budget for court deputies, equipment, detention officers for Pod B, and detention escort officers for Pod B are included in projects that will not be completed during the next year. Commissioner Sides said that \$400,000 should be deleted from the budget for this year and that the money would still be in the County's surplus if the services were needed next year.

Commissioner Sides said in regards to growth in the school system, he would like to see what the growth had been over the last three to four years. Commissioner Sides said he believed the general public would be very surprised to see that it was costing more money with such low increases in students. Commissioner Sides said the bond program had been discussed and that taxpayers had expected a 6.7-cent increase in taxes as a result of bond approval. Commissioner Sides stated that the increase had been made with over \$9 million dollars of surplus money from the schools. Commissioner Sides said that in addition to the \$9 million the schools had spent, the Board of Commissioners had spent over \$6 million. Commissioner Sides pointed out that the 6.7-cent tax increase had already been paid due to these additional costs. Commissioner Sides said he was offended that some citizens thought the Board was robbing the school system of funds. Commissioner Sides said the Board had given the schools much more than legally required to provide the children

with a good education and yet no one had credited the Board for providing the additional funds.

Commissioner Sides said he would only vote for a revenue neutral tax rate. Commissioner Sides stated that the County was threatened with losing funds if the tax rate was set too low. Commissioner Sides said he felt it was time for someone to do what was right for Rowan County by setting a revenue neutral tax rate of .5763 cents per \$100.

Commissioner Hall said there had been some great points made throughout the meeting and she agreed with Commissioner Sides in wishing there was a way to fund all requests. Commissioner Hall, a retired principal, recalled her superintendent's comments that the ability to pay comes first, not wants.

Commissioner Hall said one of the previous speakers had mentioned the EDC wind tunnel project and how it affected the financial situation in Rowan County. Commissioner Hall said openness was an important issue during her election campaign and that it continued to be an important issue to her. Commissioner Hall said the open meetings law allowed citizens to see what decisions and recommendations were being contemplated on their behalf. Commissioner Hall stated that the expenditure of tax dollars is public business and that she felt one-on-one meetings with County Commissioners to discuss economic incentives was telling citizens it was none of their business. Commissioner Hall said if public officials really believe that, they should not be holding public office. Commissioner Hall said she believed the Salisbury Post should be commended for the information it provided to the citizens.

Commissioner Hall said if she believed giving more money would provide the County with a good school system, it would be an easy vote. Commissioner Hall stated "you can't do it with just money; there must be some time involved." Commissioner Hall discussed various issues with Koontz Elementary School, which was new and already at capacity. Commissioner Hall said she would stick with her recommendation of a revenue neutral budget.

Commissioner Barber thanked the citizens who had provided input and he emphasized that the County needed more citizens involved in local government. Commissioner Barber said he did not look at the budget in isolation for one year but considered what the budget could do now and the next 3 years. Commissioner Barber said Ms. Sides was correct in saying "its time for this Board to start working together". Commissioner Barber stated he personally felt the Board has gotten off track the past few months and that it was time to start governing for the betterment of Rowan County.

Commissioner Barber said during the last 2 revaluations the tax rate was kept at .63 cents, which had helped create a healthy fund balance. Commissioner Barber felt that previous Boards had demonstrated their leadership in the

budgeting process. Commissioner Barber said a healthy fund balance helps the bond rating and saves millions of dollars in interest expenses.

Commissioner Barber said his concern with the budget was that it dealt with the County's current needs but did not address capital improvements for the County or schools. Commissioner Barber asked the Board to think about the budget long-term and he then read a prepared statement pertaining to the current proposed projects and how to handle them.

Commissioner Barber agreed with the following budget items:

- Funding the schools at the state average
- COLA increase for employees
- Merit program or step-up program
- Fire Districts tax increase
- Continued funding at the proposed levels for the Economic Development Commission, Rowan Jobs Initiative and Charlotte Regional Partnership
- Rescue Squad funding
- \$154,000 for radio replacement
- \$5,000 gang summit
- \$500,000 for Rowan Salisbury Schools technology
- \$10,000 increase for Rowan Museum
- \$24,000 for the Electronic Monitoring Program

County Manager Bill Cowan stated that action would be requested at the next Commission meeting for a joint agreement between the City of Salisbury and the Soldiers AME Zion Church to develop a parking lot at a cost to the County of \$55,000.

Mr. Cowan referred to the merit program and stated for clarification that the Chairman's suggested program would be \$100,000 less than what is budgeted.

Mr. Cowan also suggested the Board handle the landfill tipping fees at the next meeting.

Commissioner Sides said he was led to believe the budget would not be voted on tonight. Commissioner Sides said the easiest action to take politically would be to go along with what everyone wanted but he said that was not what he was elected to do. Commissioner Sides said he felt Rowan had the best teachers and that the County was trying to address problems that had arisen. Commissioner Sides said he has not told the school board or the firefighters they were not doing a good job. Commissioner Sides said he understood the problem of fire stations losing volunteers and that at some point the County would have to take over all districts and stations. Commissioner Sides said a revenue neutral tax rate would lend a little relief to the taxpayers and that he would vote for a tax increase next year if it were necessary.

Commissioner Barber said when it came to the point that volunteer fire departments were a County-run operation, it was projected to cost \$64 million. Commissioner Barber asked where the County would get \$64 million to take over the fire departments.

Chairman Chamberlain said the County received a good return on the dollar with volunteer fire departments but it was not perfect. Chairman Chamberlain said he would advocate for a tax district for the rescue squad for next year. Chairman Chamberlain then apologized for what happened at the last meeting when he had put Commissioner Hall on the spot pertaining to her budget recommendations. Chairman Chamberlain said he felt each Commissioner present was worthy to be a public official. Chairman Chamberlain said he also felt that he and Commissioner Sides had grown father apart but that he believed what Commissioner Sides had to say, as it he knew it came from Commissioner Sides' heart. Chairman Chamberlain said the Board operated on a majority vote and the budget would be approved by a majority vote. Chairman Chamberlain said he hoped his comments cleared the air and he said he was always available to the Board and to the citizens.

Commissioner Mitchell moved to amend the motion to include the \$154,000 radio replacements and \$55,000 for the parking lot. Commissioner Barber seconded and the motion passed 3-2 with Commissioners Hall and Sides dissenting.

Commissioner Barber moved, Commissioner Mitchell seconded and the vote to amend the budget to not give a cost of living increase to the Commissioners passed unanimously.

Chairman Chamberlain called for a vote on Commissioner Mitchell's main motion, which was to approve the Manager's recommended budget with the changes on the Rescue Squad of removing restrictions on \$84,000 and adding \$23,000; adding \$5,000 for the gang summit; funding the Electronic Monitoring Program; increasing Rowan Museum's allocation by \$10,000, allowing the school system to use \$500,000 for school technology funds that were originally requested from the bond package money; recommended budget for school funding at the per pupil state average; \$2.6 million for a COLA increase, and deletion of new chairs for the Commissioners meeting room at a cost of \$8,500.

The motion on the floor passed 3-2 with Commissioners Hall and Sides dissenting.

Mr. Cowan stated that the budget ordinances would be submitted to the Board for formal adoption on the June 18, 2007 agenda.

#### **14. DISCUSSION REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS & SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION & BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Agenda item #14 was deleted from the agenda.

## **15. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENTS**

Finance Director Leslie Heidrick submitted the following budget amendments for approval:

- Library – To close fund 307 - \$804
- Parks – To record additional revenue from Autumn Jubilee (\$9,060) and park concessions (\$3,440) and to cover the additional sales and use tax expense (\$12,500) associated with the increased revenue
- Parks – To recognize a \$15,600 grant from the Blanche & Julian Robertson Family Foundation, Inc. for a new picnic shelter with tables at Ellis Park
- Parks – To record additional revenue from Park Camping Fees and to cover additional credit card bank fees due to increase in revenue - \$2,000
- Parks – To close fund 309 – \$60,083
- Piedmont Behavioral – To budget additional funds for ABC Bottle Tax - \$1,000
- Senior Services Department (SSD) – To budget additional Title V revenues recently released to SSD from other counties and their associated expenditures - \$18,000
- Rowan County Sheriff's Department – To budget excess revenue to accounts that will suffer from insufficient funds being budgeted. Excess expenses are due to high number of inmates - \$12,000
- Soil & Water – To budget EPA Grant - \$29,080

Commissioner Sides moved, Commissioner Barber seconded and the vote to approve the budget amendments as presented passed unanimously.

## **16. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

### **CHARLOTTE REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

Steve Fisher requested to be reappointed to the Charlotte Regional Partnership Board. The term would be for 1 year, expiring on June 30, 2008.

Commissioners Mitchell and Barber nominated Steve Fisher and the nomination passed unanimously.

### **ROWAN-CABARRUS COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (RCCC)**

The RCCC Board of Trustees requested that Ray Paradowski be reappointed for a 4-year term that would expire on June 30, 2011.

Commissioner Mitchell nominated Ray Paradowski and the nomination passed unanimously.

### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (CJPP)**

Earle Koontz, Reverend Michael Taylor and Trudy Gale's terms expire June 30, 2007. The CJPP requested that Mr. Koontz, Rev. Taylor and Ms. Gale be reappointed. The term would be for 3 years, expiring on June 30, 2010.

Commissioner Barber nominated Earle Koontz, Reverend Michael Taylor and Trudy Gale and the nomination passed unanimously.

### **TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

Krista Osterweil had been serving the unexpired term of a previous member and was eligible for reappointment. The Tourism Development Authority requested that Ms. Osterweil be reappointed for a 2-year term, which would expire on June 30, 2009.

Millie Cress completed her terms of service and was not eligible for reappointment. The Tourism Development Authority requested that Jarrett Chandler, Jr. be appointed to fill the vacancy. If approved, the term would be for 2 years, expiring on June 30, 2009.

Commissioner Sides nominated Krista Osterweil and Jarrett Chandler, Jr. and the nomination passed unanimously.

### **PIEDMONT BEHAVIORAL ADVISORY BOARD**

William Burgin was appointed at a prior meeting to fill the remainder of the term of a previous member. The Piedmont Behavioral Healthcare Board requested that Mr. Burgin be reappointed for a 4-year term, which would expire on June 30, 2011.

Commissioner Sides nominated William Burgin and the nomination passed unanimously.

### **SALISBURY-ROWAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER (EDC)**

The following individuals submitted applications to fill 2 vacancies on the Salisbury-Rowan EDC Board. The selected applicants would serve a 3-year term, which would expire on June 30, 2010.

- Dr. Jimmy Jenkins
- Eric Slipp (reappointment)
- Katherine Hamilton
- James Taylor

The Salisbury-Rowan EDC submitted letters of recommendation for Dr. Jenkins, Mr. Slipp and Mr. Taylor.

Commissioner Hall nominated Dr. Jimmy Jenkins and the nomination passed 3-2 with Commissioners Barber and Chamberlain dissenting.

Commissioner Hall nominated James Taylor and the nomination passed unanimously.

### **LIBERTY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT (VFD)**

The Liberty VFD requested the appointment of 3 Fire Commissioners and submitted the following applications for consideration:

- Robert Goodman
- Norman Ribelin (currently serving)
- James Trexler (currently serving)
- J. Calvin Shaver (currently serving)
- Sam Bonds (currently serving)

The term of appointment would be for 2 years, expiring June 30, 2009.

Commissioner Sides nominated Norman Ribelin and the nomination passed unanimously.

Commissioner Sides nominated James Trexler and the nomination passed unanimously.

Chairman Chamberlain nominated J. Calvin Shaver and the nomination passed unanimously.

### **LOCKE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT (VFD)**

The Locke VFD requested the appointment of 1 Fire Commissioner and submitted the following applications for consideration:

- Tony Sechler
- Linne Wallace

The term of appointment would be for 2 years, expiring June 30, 2009.

Commissioner Hall nominated Tony Sechler and the nomination passed unanimously.

### **UNION VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT (VFD)**

The Union VFD requested the appointment of 3 Fire Commissioners and submitted the following applications for consideration:

- Milton G. Hayes
- Rev. Danny Ray Gobble
- Joe Haner
- Thomas "Tommy" Kerns

The term of appointment would be for 2 years expiring June 30, 2009.

Chairman Chamberlain nominated Thomas "Tommy" Kerns and the nomination passed unanimously.

Commissioner Sides nominated Rev. Danny Ray Gobble and the nomination passed unanimously.

Commissioner Mitchell nominated Milton Hayes and the nomination passed unanimously.

Chairman Chamberlain recessed the meeting at 5:40 pm.

Chairman Chamberlain reconvened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

***(At this point in the meeting, the Board skipped back to agenda item #13, which was the Public Hearing for the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2007-08).***

### **17. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Mitchell moved to adjourn at 8:17 pm. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barber and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn Athey  
Clerk to the Board