

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ROWAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
February 2, 2009 – 4:00 PM
J. NEWTON COHEN, SR. ROOM
J. NEWTON COHEN, SR. ROWAN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

Present: Carl Ford, Chairman
Jon Barber, Vice-Chairman
Raymond Coltrain, Member
Tina Hall, Member
Chad Mitchell, Member

County Manager Gary Page, Clerk to the Board Carolyn Athey and Finance Director Leslie Heidrick were present. County Attorney Jay Dees was absent; Attorney Anthony Fox from the firm of Parker Poe Adams & Berstein LLP was in attendance to provide legal counsel to the Board.

Chairman Ford convened the meeting at 4:00 pm.

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

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

This agenda topic was inadvertently overlooked and the minutes were approved during discussion of agenda item #4 as follows:

Commissioner Coltrain moved, Commissioner Barber seconded and the vote to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2009 Commission Meeting passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Chairman Ford moved to add a discussion regarding the addition of three (3) temporary caseworkers to the Department of Social Services. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barber and passed unanimously.

Chairman Ford added the issue as agenda item #2a.

CONSIDER DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA

Commissioner Mitchell moved to delete agenda item #7 (Consider Approval of Fieldcrest Cannon Stadium Bridge Repair Contract) due to the lack of a figure in the contract. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barber and passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Barber moved approval of the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Coltrain and carried unanimously.

1. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Barber moved, Commissioner Coltrain seconded and the vote to approve the Consent Agenda passed unanimously.

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following items:

- A. Set Public Hearing for March 2, 2009 for FY 2010 Community Transportation Grant
- B. Amendments to County Sheriff's Records Retention Schedule from the NC Department of Cultural Resources
- C. Request to Abandon Final 937' Portion of SR 2175 (Dukeville Road) from the State Secondary Road System
- D. Delay Discussion Regarding Establishment of Airport Advisory Board to February 16, 2009

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Chairman Ford opened the Public Comment Period to entertain comments from any citizens wishing to address the Board. The following individuals came forward:

- Pam Coffield, owner of the Stitchin' Post located on South Main Street supported the request for an increase in the hotel occupancy tax.
- Larry Wright spoke in opposition to an increase in the hotel occupancy tax. Mr. Wright also discussed forced annexation and expressed appreciation to Commissioner Tina Hall and Representative Fred Steen for their representation of Rowan County in the fight against forced annexation. Mr. Wright encouraged citizens to contact their legislators to let them know they would not rest until changes with legislation occur pertaining to forced annexation.

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

ADDITION

#2a. CONSIDER ADDITION OF THREE (3) TEMPORARY CASEWORKERS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Sandra Wilkes, Department of Social Services (DSS) Director, discussed the current economic situation and the need for additional assistance to families. Ms. Wilkes estimated an increase of 2,000 applications for food stamps in the current fiscal year. Ms. Wilkes said the increased caseload would be undoable for the current staff of seventeen (17) food stamp caseworkers. Ms. Wilkes said the economic downturn was also creating problems with health coverage in that fewer people would have employer-sponsored health coverage due to layoffs. Ms. Wilkes said DSS was projecting the same growth with Medicaid as with food assistance.

Ms. Wilkes felt that three (3) additional caseworkers would help complete the workload in a timely manner and she said the cost to the County to hire the temporary employees, after federal reimbursement, would be \$15,624 from March through June.

Commissioner Coltrain moved to grant the request to hire three (3) temporary caseworkers to meet the needs of the citizens. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barber and passed unanimously.

Chairman Ford challenged those attending the meeting and across the county to donate a bag of groceries to the pantry at DSS. Chairman Ford said he planned to donate groceries and he encouraged his fellow Commissioners and staff members to also make a donation.

3. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF REQUEST FROM TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TDA) TO INCREASE LOCAL OCCUPANCY TAX

Tourism Development Director (TDA) Chairman Dan Peters said on January 14, 2009, the TDA Board of Directors (BOD) voted to ask the Board of Commissioners to consider seeking legislation to increase the occupancy tax from 3% to 6%.

Mr. Peters listed the following four (4) key reasons for an increase to the tax:

1. Expand marketing impact
2. Provide greater support to Rowan County tourism industries
3. Increase competitiveness with surrounding areas
4. Reduce the local tax burden

Mr. Peters said the TDA BOD spent five (5) months researching the issue of occupancy taxes, their impact on the economy and the general practices in the region. Mr. Peters said the research concluded an increase in the occupancy tax would provide a substantial amount of economic benefit to the citizens and businesses of Rowan County.

Convention and Visitors Bureau Executive Director James Meacham, provided a power point presentation and an overview of the occupancy tax, regional occupancy tax information, area hotel market information and the TDA justification for an occupancy tax change.

Mr. Meacham reviewed the amount of hotel growth in surrounding areas as compared to their occupancy tax rates. Mr. Meacham said communities with higher tax rates saw greater growth.

Mr. Meacham reviewed the four (4) key reasons for the request to change the occupancy tax and provided additional details for each.

Chairman Ford questioned the occupancy rate of Davidson and Iredell Counties based on the map provided. Mr. Meacham explained that Davidson County's tax was 0%; however Thomasville and Lexington were 6%. Mr. Meacham said Iredell County was 0%; however Statesville was 5% and Mooresville was 4%.

Chairman Ford said that information had been given to the Board that the surrounding areas tax rate was 6%. Chairman Ford said surrounding areas were not at 6% and there had been some misinformation previously given.

Mr. Meacham explained the map further detail and apologized for any confusion or misinformation. Chairman Ford assured Mr. Meacham that the confusion was not directly from the TDA but from comments from the community.

Commissioner Coltrain said Mr. Meacham had mentioned the TDA was willing to commit some of the additional funds towards current County tourism-related activities. Commissioner Coltrain asked if the process for the transfer of funds into the County's General Fund existed. Mr. Meacham responded that from a legal standpoint, there would be need to be an interlocal agreement between the TDA and the County and the agencies receiving funds. Mr. Meacham said the money could go directly to the County or directly to the local organizations.

Commissioner Hall referred to the presentation and questioned the guarantee that there would be only one tourism organization representing Rowan County, if the tax increase was approved. Mr. Meacham said from a legal standpoint, there could be no other efforts by any municipality to increase the rate above 6%.

Commissioner Hall said when she had served on the TDA BOD, there had been discussions that there would not be a need for another entity to represent Rowan County's tourism needs, other than the TDA. Commissioner Hall said the TDA members had felt strongly about that, and she added that a member of the TDA representing the City of Salisbury had agreed that it would be "foolish" to set up a competing TDA Board. Mr. Meacham said he had only inserted this information to reference state law matters and for clarity. Mr. Meacham said there had been a significant change recently regarding the membership of the TDA BOD and he asked Mr. Peters to confirm if it was still the will of the Board (TDA) to have one

entity representing tourism. Mr. Peters confirmed that the TDA BOD was committed to one (1) TDA authority to handle the tourism marketing for Rowan County.

Commissioner Hall referenced the mention of additional dollars to “possibly reduce” or “could reduce” the local tax burden. Mr. Meacham explained the strict guidelines of the General Assembly and said if specific language was written, it would limit the potential uses for the funds. Mr. Meacham said if the Commissioners wished to proceed, the TDA would be willing to write the language as requested.

Commissioner Mitchell pointed out that local hotels were not unanimous in supporting an increase. Mr. Meacham responded that the Hampton Inn, Holiday Inn and Comfort Suites all supported an increase. Mr. Meacham said these chains were the three (3) largest in Rowan County and represented approximately 78% of the occupancy tax collections in Rowan County.

Commissioner Mitchell asked if remaining at a 3% rate would help the County compete with other areas and be a better option. Mr. Meacham said he had not seen direct data that represented visitors making their decisions on where to stay based on the occupancy tax.

Commissioner Mitchell said he would like to know if Rowan County was losing business to Davidson County because they had cheaper rates on an overnight stay. Mr. Meacham said the areas with lower room rates had lower occupancy averages while the higher room rates realized a higher occupancy average.

Commissioner Mitchell asked if Rowan County had the same amenities as Cabarrus County would more tourists be drawn to Rowan. Mr. Meacham explained that Rowan County had been able to compete equally for sporting events; however, for individual leisure travel, Rowan appealed more to families.

Commissioner Barber questioned the impact of increased revenues that would result from the tax increase, including how the funds support other tourism related funding challenges. Mr. Meacham said the State reported that every \$1 spent across North Carolina for destination marketing resulted in \$185 in visitor spending. Mr. Meacham said every \$1 the State reports in destination marketing does \$15 in tax revenues to both local and state government. Mr. Meacham said more marketing raises awareness and allows increased competitiveness in the area for tourism.

Commissioner Barber said the Board would be voting on a process to have a local bill sponsored by the local legislators; the issue would come back to the Board for a future vote, if approved by the State. Commissioner Barber said he did not know if the local legislators were in support of a local bill.

Chairman Ford said he knew that two (2) of the three (3) legislators were against the increase.

Commissioner Coltrain said he had spoken with Representatives Coates and Steen who said they would support Rowan County's decision for a bill. Commissioner Coltrain reported that Senator Brock had said he would like more information on what the additional funding would be used for before he made a decision.

Mr. Meacham said the TDA had researched the legislators' previous voting histories and Representatives Coates and Steen voted for all the local bills on occupancy taxes in the last session. Mr. Meacham said a local bill of this type would require a triangular relationship between the County, General Assembly and TDA.

Commissioner Coltrain asked if there were only five (5) hotels in Salisbury. Mr. Meacham responded there were approximately twelve (12) properties with the bulk of the occupancy tax coming from three (3) properties.

Commissioner Coltrain stated there were eleven (11) citizens on the TDA with ten (10) of those appointed by the previous Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Coltrain summarized the points for the increase and said he supported the TDA request to increase the occupancy tax from 3% to 6%.

Commissioner Coltrain moved to support the effort by the TDA and request the legislative delegation to develop and propose this bill in the General Assembly.

The motion died for lack of a second.

4. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF GRANT APPLICATION/PURCHASE OF GLASS CRUSHER

Lori Swaim, Recycling Coordinator, passed around samples of crushed glass as an example of how a glass crusher would benefit the County. Ms. Swaim said the glass crusher had been budgeted last year to increase the glass recycling in the County. Ms. Swaim sought the Board's permission to apply for a grant in which the County was eligible for up to \$40,000. Ms. Swaim said if the County was awarded the grant, it would basically pay for the equipment in a little over one (1) year; without the grant it would take three (3) to four (4) years to pay for the equipment.

Commissioner Barber praised Rowan County's recycling and landfill management programs and he then moved approval of the 2009 Community Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant. The motion was seconded by Commissioners Coltrain and Hall.

At the request of Commissioner Mitchell, County Manager Gary Page highlighted how the project would benefit the county financially and environmentally.

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

Chairman Ford called for a recess at 5:10 pm.

Chairman Ford reconvened the meeting at 5:25 pm.

At this time, Chairman opened the floor for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2009 Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Coltrain moved, Commissioner Barber seconded and the vote to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2009 Commission Meeting passed unanimously.

Commissioner Coltrain called Ms. Swaim back to the podium. Commissioner Coltrain noted the deadline for grant submittal was February 13, 2009; however, the grant application had been received in late December. Commissioner Coltrain commented that the County was on the "late end" of the process and he expressed hope that there would still be funding available.

Ms. Swaim explained that Staff had to compile the information before seeking Board approval to apply for the grant.

Commissioner Coltrain asked if there was a reason the Board must approve the grant application process. County Manager Gary Page said the approval had been the practice of the Board and any department applying for a grant, regardless of the match required, must present the application to the Board for approval.

Commissioner Coltrain asked if the process had caused any department to miss a grant deadline and Mr. Page said he was aware of only one (1). Mr. Page said the process was at the Board's discretion.

Commissioner Coltrain felt the Board should discuss the matter at a future meeting in an effort to streamline the grant application process.

5. CONSIDER REQUEST FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION FOR PREVIOUSLY EARMARKED FUNDS

Robert Van Geons, Executive Director of the Economic Development Commission (EDC) said at the beginning of last year, the Commissioners gave the EDC the privilege of marketing Rowan County's Summit Corporate Center. Mr. Van Geons said the marketing included direct mail pieces, electronic and web-based newsletters, new conceptual designs for the park, new internal signage and printed advertisements.

Mr. Van Geons provided a power point presentation and said the EDC had identified gaps in the materials, including the fact that there are two (2) Economic Development websites highlighting the County. Mr. Van Geons said there was a need for updates on these sites and he pointed out that neither of them mentioned the Rowan County Airport.

Mr. Van Geons said previous materials used by the EDC and Rowan Jobs Initiatives (RJI) did not complement one another.

Mr. Van Geons said the goal was to develop a unified website to integrate web, audio, electronic, direct mail, brochures, etc. Mr. Van Geons stressed the need for one website for economic development information.

Mr. Van Geons discussed the RFP process in which proposals were received in a range from \$45,900 to \$163,000. The finalist firms were Walker Marketing, 224 Design, Worx Group, and HMG Marketing. Mr. Van Geons said the Worx Group was the lowest bidder and provided the most comprehensive materials.

Mr. Van Geons said in the Commissioners' proposed FY 2008-09 budget, \$75,000 was included for efforts to market Rowan County. Mr. Van Geons said that at the time of the adoption of this budget, \$50,000 was earmarked as potentially available for a future economic development initiative. Mr. Van Geons requested \$35,000 of the earmarked funds, which was 30% less than originally earmarked.

Mr. Van Geons reviewed the proposed budget for the project, which was estimated at a total cost \$65,800.

Commissioner Hall discussed the administrative, office utilities and auto expenses for the EDC. Commissioner Hall said everyone was looking at ways to be more effective during these economic times. Commissioner Hall said in looking back at the budget mentioned, she recalled that the EDC had gone into reserves.

Mr. Van Geons said in the previous budget the EDC did not go into its reserves. Mr. Van Geons said the EDC had a significant unspent fund balance; coming into the budget for the current fiscal year, the EDC had committed to not request additional funds for operations for either last year or the coming year. The EDC also committed to spend down over two (2) fiscal years the unrestricted fund balance. Mr. Van Geons said the EDC had recognized that not enough of the monies were going into marketing.

Commissioner Mitchell said the Board had taken \$75,000 from RJI and tasked the EDC with the marketing of Rowan County. Commissioner Mitchell said of the \$75,000 taken from RJI, there was potentially \$50,000 available for the EDC to request.

Commissioner Hall said that when the cut to RJI occurred, she believed there was some discussion about the economy and that the funding to the EDC would be contingent upon whether it would be economically feasible for the County to consider releasing the funds. Mr. Van Geons agreed that had been part of the discussion, and thus the EDC's efforts to reduce the amount of monies requested by using existing resources.

In response to Commissioner Hall's concerns for savings at the EDC, Mr. Van Geons discussed the EDC's option for a more fuel efficient vehicle to ferry potential clients. Mr. Van Geons said the Country Club social membership had been discussed by his Board, and the Board members had felt it was important to have the access for clients. Mr. Van Geons said he felt very comfortable in the fact that the EDC ran a "very lean ship".

Commissioner Hall mentioned the competing economic development websites and asked if there had been any discussions with the EDC Board concerning a funding potential with RJI. Mr. Van Geons said there had been discussions; however, there had been some tumultuous times with RJI over the last six to seven months. Mr. Van Geons said the EDC had focused on the needs of existing industry and bringing new jobs to the County. Mr. Van Geons said RJI had recognized that the County did not provide them with funding and RJI did give approval to have the extra website consolidated into one, the Rowan EDC site.

Commissioner Coltrain applauded the EDC's efforts to market Rowan County. Commissioner Coltrain referred to the fact that RJI was still willing to work with the EDC to consolidate the websites. Mr. Van Geons said he did not wish to speak for the RJI Board but he said they had always expressed an interest in partnering and he thought RJI was trying to get a better understanding as to how the partnership should work.

Commissioner Mitchell said he believed the key point was that Rowan County's unemployment rate was 9.3%. Commissioner Mitchell said he had received a letter from an individual expressing disappointment because it seemed the Board did not grasp the effect of the unemployment rate on its citizenry. Commissioner Mitchell said one out of ten citizens in Rowan County could not find work and that he would submit that statistic to be an under-estimation of the unemployment rate.

Commissioner Mitchell said he was appreciative of the fact that out of the proposed \$75,000 for marketing, the EDC had decreased the figure to \$35,000. Commissioner Mitchell said he was appreciative of the fact that the EDC recognized that Rowan's citizenry was hurting and that the EDC was working to bring in the jobs. Commissioner Mitchell said the EDC was tasked with the responsibility of recruiting jobs and the Board had given the EDC the additional task of marketing Rowan County. Commissioner Mitchell felt the EDC's plans

would draw attention to Rowan County. Commissioner Mitchell mentioned copyright infringement with the RJI logo. Commissioner Mitchell said the EDC was the County's best chance to bring jobs to the County and that the County could not expect the group to perform the function of marketing without funding.

Commissioner Barber expressed confidence in the EDC and said he supported the request.

Commissioner Hall expressed appreciation to Mr. Van Geons and said the questions she had been asking were based on her concerns of the economic situation. Commissioner Hall said in looking back, the \$75,000 was not part of the EDC's original budget request, which was for \$115,500 for marketing. Commissioner Hall said it was after the cut to RJI, that there was discussion as to whether or not the Commissioners would appropriate additional monies to the EDC for marketing. Commissioner Hall said the request was a 30% addition to what was originally requested, and in the economic downturn, it was a "stretch" for her vote of support.

Commissioner Mitchell moved acceptance of the \$35,000 which represents a decrease of \$30% over the earmarked marketing budget. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barber.

Commissioner Coltrain said he supported the request due to the fact that the EDC was filling an additional "marketing chore" that was not part of its original budget.

Chairman Ford said he had teetered with his decision on this issue for days. Chairman Ford said this was one of the times where the County must spend money to make money. Chairman Ford said the website needed improvement and the money not provided to RJI was available for the project. Chairman Ford said he wanted the County to do everything possible to keep the existing jobs and at the same time, bring in new jobs.

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

6. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF FIELDCREST CANNON STADIUM LIGHT CONTRACT WITH DUKE ENERGY

County Manager Gary Page explained the proposed light fixture and outdoor lighting contract with Duke Energy for Fieldcrest Cannon Stadium (Stadium). Mr. Page said the terms required a \$1,718.85 monthly charge for 84 months and would include the replacement of any equipment or bulbs that might fail during the 7-year contract term at no expense to the County. Mr. Page said the contract would satisfy the lighting needs for the parking area for the 2009 baseball season.

Commissioner Hall said the lights were installed in 1995 and she asked who had been changing the bulbs since that time. Mr. Page said there was a contract with Duke Energy to install the lights and they had also been performing the maintenance. Mr. Page said Duke Energy had never billed the County for the lights.

In response to a query from Commissioner Hall regarding an earlier email, Mr. Page explained that Duke Energy had offered a 10-year contract if the County chose to change the light system and select updated lights, bulbs, and poles. Mr. Page said the charges would then increase approximately \$40/month and the contract would be for ten (10) years as opposed to seven (7), and would cost an additional \$60,000.

Mr. Page said in 1995 the County had apparently entered an agreement with Duke Energy for the installation of the lights at the Stadium. Mr. Page said for thirteen (13) years the County was never invoiced for fixtures, lights, the debt, electric bill, etc. Mr. Page said when Duke Energy discovered the error in 2007, they notified the County Manager. Based on Utilities Commission regulations, Duke Energy could only go back and invoice three (3) years. Mr. Page said Duke Energy lost ten (10) years worth of invoicing and had to basically write off \$200,000. Mr. Page said he viewed the situation as an opportunity to leave the lights in place with the same agreement the County would have had in 1995. Mr. Page said the baseball team was approximately four (4) weeks away from ballgames being played. Mr. Page said the Stadium was built with tax money; however, the monthly expenses such as lighting and mowing were being paid from the Sports Authority Fund. Mr. Page said the Sports Authority Fund comes from parking fees, tickets and concessions and not tax dollars. Mr. Page said the users of the Stadium pay for the lights. Mr. Page said the Duke Energy contract would help the County fulfill the remainder of its lease with Smith Family Baseball.

Commissioner Hall discussed the price of the lights, which she said essentially amounted to a 10-year lease. Mr. Page said the County could change the lights but it would be cheaper to remain with the original agreement.

Commissioner Hall said the lights at the Stadium remain on, which she felt was an “energy drain” that the community should not be supporting. Commissioner Hall suggested that a switch or separate meter be installed that would allow the lights to be turned off at times. Commissioner Hall referred to the Sports Authority Fund and said the Fund was to pay citizens back and “now we’re looking to drain” those funds.

Mr. Page commented that he would be meeting later in the week with the City Manager from Kannapolis to discuss how the County could divest itself of the Stadium and possibly sell it to Kannapolis. Mr. Page said there were two (2) issues he felt should be resolved before those discussions took place. The first

issue that needed to be resolved was the lights; the second issue was the access to the ballpark from Moose Road due to the washed out bridge. Mr. Page said these issues were important if the County was going to market and sell the property.

Commissioner Hall said the biggest issue with the Stadium was the ownership and the County was contemplating a lengthy contract and a bridge repair.

Commissioner Coltrain said there was no question that it would be cheaper to use the lighting system in place as opposed to having Duke Energy replace the lights. Commissioner Coltrain said perhaps there was a way to put in switches to limit the number of hours the lights are turned on. Commissioner Coltrain said the issue must be resolved in a positive manner so that in four (4) weeks the citizens could enjoy the ballpark. Commissioner Coltrain said he was in favor of moving forward with the contract for the current system and to request that Duke Energy ensure that the light sensors on the lights are working properly.

Commissioner Mitchell called Randy Welch of Duke Energy forward and questioned him regarding the feasibility of sensors to control the amount of time the lights are turned on. Mr. Welch said in 1995 Duke Energy had installed what was requested, which was at that time (1995), "state of the art" lighting. Mr. Welch said there was a possibility of cutting the lights off/on at certain times of the year but there was not an option to turn the lights off for perhaps one day per week. Mr. Welch clarified that the three (3) years the County had already paid in a lump sum (\$61,000) would cover part of the 10-year contract. Mr. Welch said in 1995 Duke Energy should have actually secured a 20-year contract. Mr. Welch said the Duke Energy was requesting a 7-year contract to fulfill the 10-year obligation.

Commissioner Mitchell asked for confirmation that when the lights were turned off, it had to be for an extended period of time. Mr. Welch said this was a correct statement.

In response to a query from Commissioner Mitchell, Finance Director Leslie Heidrick explained that the County had spent approximately \$5.7 million to build the Stadium. Ms. Heidrick said revenues generated from the Stadium, such as the lease payments, tickets, and parking fees had supported the expenditures. Ms. Heidrick said maintenance had been paid from the General Fund for a period of years but the County went back and reimbursed the General Fund with money from the Sports Authority Fund. Ms. Heidrick said the Fund had been self-supporting and was very limited.

Commissioner Mitchell said as far as expenditures, the County was "in the negative" \$5.7 million and Ms. Heidrick agreed, stating "in tax dollars".

Commissioner Mitchell asked Mr. Welch if Duke Energy would be agreeable to allowing the Commissioners to revisit the issue on February 16, 2009 after giving the County Manager time to hold discussions with the City of Kannapolis. Mr. Welch agreed to grant the 2-week extension and asked that there be a resolution to the matter at that time.

Commissioner Mitchell moved to table the discussion to February 16, 2009. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hall.

Commissioner Barber commented that the County would end up with a contract one way or the other and he added that any suitor for the property would assume all contracts.

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

7. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF FIELDCREST CANNON STADIUM BRIDGE REPAIR CONTRACT

Agenda item #7 was deleted from the agenda at the beginning of the meeting.

8. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENTS

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

- Health Department – The WIC Department was notified of increased funding in the amount of \$5,202 for averaging more than 100% of their caseload. The increase is for January-May 2009. The funds will be used for additional medical record shelving.
- Health Department – A Smart Start Grant budget reduction was received for FY 2008-09: an \$8,300 decrease for Child Care Health Consultant Grant and a decrease of \$6,700 for NAP SACC Grant.
- Parks and Recreation – To purchase raw gems for Gem Mine \$25,000
- Social Services – The state has released an additional \$143,292 in Crisis Intervention funds to DSS. A contract amendment is being completed with Rowan Helping Ministries to administer these funds. The state has also released additional administrative funds to cover the cost of administering the Crisis Intervention funds. DSS has an additional \$4,798 in CIP administrative funds to add to the contract that is unused by DSS staff.
- Finance – To budget additional ad valorem tax revenues and corresponding expenditures for Cleveland Fire District - \$37,500

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

9. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BOARD APPOINTMENTS

BOSTIAN HEIGHTS FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Ford recused himself from voting for the Bostian Heights Fire Department Fire Commissioners due to his father being one of the applicants.

Commissioner Mitchell also recused himself from voting due to his uncle being one of the applicants.

The Bostian Heights Fire Department requested the appointment of three (3) Fire Commissioners. The following applications were received:

- Carlee Henley (reappointment)
- M.D. Ford (reappointment)
- Dennis Barger (reappointment)
- Virgil Misenheimer

The terms would be for two (2) years beginning February 1, 2009 and expiring January 31, 2011.

Commissioner Barber nominated Carlee Henley, M.D. Ford and Dennis Barger. The nomination passed 3-0.

ROWAN COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

Doug Jones has submitted his resignation from the Rowan County Housing Authority Commission. Mr. Jones' term expires September 30, 2009. The Board may wish to instruct the Clerk to advertise this vacancy.

Commissioner Mitchell moved to instruct the Clerk to advertise Mr. Jones' vacancy. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Coltrain and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Mitchell moved to accept Doug Jones' resignation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Coltrain and passed unanimously.

SCOTCH IRISH FIRE DEPARTMENT RELIEF FUND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Scotch Irish Fire Department has submitted the following applications for consideration for appointment to the Relief Fund Board of Trustees. There are two (2) positions available and these appointments would be for two (2) years, expiring December 31, 2010:

- Brad Weaver
- Samantha Anderson
- Donald Myers

Commissioner Barber nominated Brad Weaver and the nomination carried unanimously.

Commissioner Coltrain nominated Samantha Anderson and the nomination passed unanimously.

ADULT CARE HOME ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Adult Care Home Advisory Committee recommended the appointment of Mitzi Crane for a one (1) year term beginning February 1, 2009 and expiring January 31, 2010.

Commissioner Mitchell nominated Mitzi Crane and the nomination passed unanimously.

HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

Ann Teague has completed her allowable number of terms on the Historic Landmarks Commission. The following individuals have submitted applications to fill Ms. Teague's vacancy.

- Tom Harrell
- Patricia Gilbert

The term would be for three (3) years beginning February 1, 2009 and expiring December 31, 2011.

Commissioner Ford nominated Tom Harrell and the nomination carried unanimously.

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

The following individuals were appointed to the Parks and Recreation Board on January 5, 2009 for a two (2) year term expiring December 31, 2010: Troy Elliott, Norma Drake, Sue Khan and Jim Epperson. According to the Parks Board Bylaws, these individuals should have been appointed to serve a three (3) year term.

The Board is asked to ratify the term dates for these members to expire on December 31, 2011.

Commissioner Mitchell moved to ratify the term dates for Norma Drake, Sue Khan and Jim Epperson to expire on December 31, 2011. The motion was seconded by Coltrain and passed unanimously.

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

There are three (3) members on this board whose terms will expire on March 31, 2009 with only one member eligible for reappointment. The Clerk advertised these positions on January 11, 2009 and to date only one (1) application has been received. The Board may wish to instruct the Clerk to re-advertise.

Commissioner Mitchell moved to instruct the Clerk to re-advertise the vacancies for the ZBA. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Coltrain and passed unanimously.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Barber moved to adjourn at 6:37 pm. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Coltrain and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn Athey
Clerk to the Board