

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ROWAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
March 16, 2009 – 7:00 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, County Attorney Jay Dees and Finance Director Leslie Heidrick were present.

Chairman Ford convened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Chairman Ford provided the Invocation and then recognized Boy Scout Troop 317 from Granite Quarry, one of whose members 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 March 2, 2009 Commission Meeting passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Commissioner Barber moved to add a Resolution Opposing Senate Bill 386 and Senate Bill 2. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Coltrain and passed unanimously.

Chairman Ford added the issue as agenda item #8a.

CONSIDER DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA

Commissioner Coltrain referred to item D on the Consent Agenda (Approval of Revisions to Bylaws and Regulations for Parks and Recreation) and said one correction had been made in the Bylaws concerning the meeting location for the Parks and Recreation Board. Commissioner Coltrain said the location had been

changed from the Rowan County Community Building to the J. Newton Cohen, Sr. Rowan County Administration Building.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

1. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following items:

- A. Approval of Proclamation Declaring the Month of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month
- B. Approval of Proclamation Declaring the Month of April as Rowan County History Month
- C. Approval of Joint Resolution of the Boards of County Commissioners of Cabarrus, Davidson, Rowan, Stanly and Union for Legal Name Change from Piedmont Area Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Authority to "PBH"
- D. Approval of Revisions to Bylaws and Regulations for Parks and Recreation
- E. Set Public Hearing for April 6, 2009 for Proposed Change To Current Address of 2100 Clark Road
- F. Approval for Cooperative Extension to Apply for Grant for Horticulture Outreach Coordinator
- G. Approval for Cooperative Extension to Submit Grant Application to Blanche & Julian Robertson Family Foundation, Inc. for 4-H Curriculum Kits for School Enrichment

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:

- Larry Wright said the legislature was considering changes to North Carolina annexation laws and he encouraged citizens to write or email the local legislative delegation to show support of the delegation's stance against forced annexation. Mr. Wright also provided a website for citizens to access regarding annexation. Mr. Wright said a rally would be held in Raleigh on May 6, 2009 to show the legislature that citizens were expecting major changes to annexation laws and he said a charter bus would be available for those wishing to attend the rally.

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

3. PUBLIC HEARING FOR HOME ACTION PLAN

Planning and Development Director Ed Muire said as a member of the Cabarrus/Rowan/Iredell HOME Consortium, Rowan County would receive approximately \$170,571 in HOME funds for FY 2009-2010 from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. The funds would be combined with \$42,643 of matching funds for a total program budget of \$213,214.

Hobbs, Upchurch & Associates will administer the 2009-10 program. Program activities will focus on housing rehabilitation, a partnership with Prosperity Unlimited for new home construction and may include opportunities for down payment assistance.

Mr. Muire recommended that following the public hearing, the Board authorize the County Manager to sign the application.

Chairman Ford opened the public hearing to receive citizen input for the HOME Action Plan.

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

Commissioner Barber moved to adopt the FY 09-10 Action Plan for the County's participation in the HOME Program. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Coltrain and passed unanimously.

In response to a query from Commissioner Mitchell, Mr. Muire explained that the application contained information regarding the partnership with Prosperity Unlimited, a site map of the location in East Spencer, and the target population.

Commissioner Mitchell asked if there were substantial changes from last year's application. Mr. Muire said other than the sites, there was approximately \$25,000 - \$30,000 in additional funds due to the efforts of former County Commissioner Jim Sides.

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

Commissioner Barber moved to authorize the County Manager to sign all necessary paperwork for submittal of the Action Plan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Coltrain and passed unanimously.

4. PUBLIC HEARING FOR TEMP 01-08 AMENDMENT FOR HS&E, INC.

Senior Planner Shane Stewart said the Board of Commissioners had approved TEMP 01-08 on November 17, 2008 for a temporary remediation trailer at 7565 Bringle Ferry Road to remove groundwater contamination from underground storage tank leaks at the former Craven's Exxon station. The approval was granted subject to the following conditions:

1. Extend the pipe 20' straight up with a flapper
2. Insulate the inside of the fence to reduce sound
3. Extend the berm and curve it 12 to 15 feet
4. Install carbon filters
5. The Commissioners will set the operating hours (currently operates between 7:00 pm and 11:00 am)

Mr. Stewart said HS&E had since extended the exhaust pipe five (5) additional feet from the previous height of approximately twelve (12) feet above ground level and removed the "tee" and installed 2" DOW roof deck insulation around three (3) sides of the fenced area. Two (2) air samples were also taken at the property line to detect any change in air quality levels.

Since conditions 1 and 4 would alter the corrective action plan set forth by the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Board indicated the conditions could be modified upon further consideration by DENR. Informal discussions with DENR Staff suggest they do not consider conditions 1 and 4 necessary based on existing noise and air quality standards.

Mr. Stewart reported that Staff conducted a site visit on January 13, 2009 to verify completion of the improvements and recorded new sound readings. The insulation and pipe extension seemed to have rendered a modest reduction in noise levels as compared to the October reading taken prior to the improvements. Mr. Stewart said the noise levels were actually similar when the unit was in operation as opposed to when the unit was turned off.

Mr. Stewart said odor levels were not detected in site visits on January 13th or 28th but could be evident at subsequent observation dates. Correspondence with DENR indicates they have no authority over operations emitting less than five (5) tons per year, which is considered an insignificant activity level. Mr. Stewart said Haggett Engineering suggested that carbon filters could reduce some odor levels but it was unknown to what degree.

As a result of the above information, the applicant has requested elimination of conditions 1-4 but will maintain the existing hours of operation (condition 5).

Mr. Stewart said Staff was of the opinion that the existing noise and odor levels did not warrant further improvements to the site. Staff recommended approval of the request as presented.

Commissioner Coltrain said he had visited the site and there was no odor at the time of the visit. Commissioner Coltrain said as far as the noise level, the passing cars had drowned out any noise from the operating unit. Commissioner Coltrain said the improvements were acceptable and if the unit could continue running, the sooner the situation would be remediated.

Chairman Ford agreed with Commissioner Coltrain's comments, saying he had also visited the site.

Commissioner Coltrain asked if the conditions could be modified until the site was completely remediated.

Chairman Ford said the Board could amend condition #1 with an additional 5' and do away with condition #4.

Commissioner Mitchell supported changing condition #1 from 20' to 5' and striking the language "with a flapper and a fan, and no tee"; keep condition #2; eliminate conditions #3 and #4; keep condition #5.

Chairman Ford opened the public hearing to receive citizen input regarding TEMP 01-08 Amendment. The following individuals came forward:

- Rick Morgan of 7575 Bringle Ferry Road said he lived next to the remediation trailer. Mr. Morgan said since last November there had been improvements at the site. Mr. Morgan said the removal of the tee and the extension of the pipe by 5' had greatly mitigated the odor problem by approximately 50%. Mr. Morgan said he would like to see the pipe extended the remaining 15' and if not, at least 5-10'. Mr. Morgan said the installation of insulation on three (3) sides of the fence had slightly helped with the noise. Mr. Morgan offered that the reading taken in January was probably when the unit was in operation and the ventilation vents were closed, as they were closed in the winter. Mr. Morgan said the sound was still a problem and that he would like to see a "real berm" added to the existing berm and extended to provide a barrier to the sound. Mr. Morgan said the carbon filters could probably be eliminated. Mr. Morgan said he was surprised at the dramatic changes thus far and he thanked the Board.
- Mel Howell with HS&E said HS&E was performing the remediation work. Mr. Howell referred to raising the pipe and said two (2) air samples had been taken next to Mr. Morgan's driveway. Mr. Howell said the samples had been analyzed and the lab had not found any contaminant levels that were above detection limits. Mr. Howell said there was nothing to his knowledge, or the laboratory's, that was endangering health or human welfare. Mr. Howell said the predominant wind in the area blew straight towards Mr. Morgan's house and he explained how the water levels determined the strength of the odor. Mr. Howell said the main purpose of the system was to ensure that drinking water was not being contaminated. Mr. Howell said the levels in the ground water had dropped considerably in the two (2) years the system had been in place. Mr. Howell said the sound levels were well below all Rowan County standards. Mr. Howell said he felt like HS&E had met its obligations and would appreciate approval of the situation in order to obtain the permit.

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

Commissioner Mitchell moved to amend TEMP 01-08 as follows:

1. Extend the pipe 5' straight up with no tee;
2. Insulate the inside of the fence to reduce sound;
3. Strike condition #3 (Extend the berm and curve it 12 to 15 feet);
4. Strike condition #4 (Install carbon filters);
5. The Commissioners will set the operating hours (currently operates between 7:00 pm and 11:00 am)

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Coltrain.

Commissioner Hall questioned Mr. Morgan's request to assist with the odor by extending the berm. Commissioner Mitchell said the extended berm would help with the sound and HS&E was already in compliance with the ordinance regarding sound.

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

5. REDUCED STATE FUNDING TO PBH AND EFFECTS ON SERVICES TO ROWAN COUNTY CITIZENS

Commissioner Barber introduced Piedmont Behavioral Healthcare (PBH) Chief Operations Officer Pam Shipman. Commissioner Barber said PBH staff had been creating "dashboard" reports for each county in which they serve. The reports provided counties with an idea of what the current funding levels were from the State, what impacts the funding had on the service providers to the counties and what future reductions and actions could be forthcoming.

Ms. Shipman said PBH was a state affiliate that managed services for mental health, substance abuse and developmental disabilities across a five-county area. Ms. Shipman recognized Dan Coughlin, PBH CEO, Willie Beilfuss, PBH Board Chair and Mike Taylor, PBH Attorney, who were in the audience.

Ms. Shipman highlighted the report, which covered the first two (2) quarters of the State fiscal year, from July through December.

At the request of Commissioner Barber, Ms. Shipman discussed the PBH Fund Balance. Ms. Shipman said the working fund balance was approximately 11% of PBH's total budget of \$150 million.

In response to Commissioner Mitchell, Ms. Shipman confirmed that the working fund balance was 11%, or \$15 million.

Chairman Ford thanked Ms. Shipman and Commissioner Barber for the presentation.

6. UPDATE REGARDING OSSI SOFTWARE

Using the Internet, Rowan County Sheriff George Wilhelm and Lieutenant Eddie Kluttz demonstrated the capabilities of the OSSI Software to the Board. Sheriff Wilhelm discussed the various features of the software and how it allowed the Sheriff's Department to operate more efficiently.

Lt. Kluttz reviewed numerous options on the Sheriff's Department Webpage including lists for inmates at the Detention Center, warrant lists, reporting of crimes for minor offenses, most wanted and missing persons lists, etc. Mr. Kluttz said the information was accessible to citizens and the media.

Sheriff Wilhelm praised the software as a great tool for the public.

7. DISCUSSION REGARDING ROWAN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS LEASE AGREEMENT

Commissioner Coltrain discussed the property currently used by the Rowan County Fair Association (RCFA) as the site for the Rowan County Fair.

Commissioner Coltrain reported that on January 19, 2009, he and Commissioner Barber had met with several members of the RCFA. Commissioner Coltrain said a second meeting had taken place between Chairman Ford, County Manager Gary Page, Commissioner Coltrain and Fair Association members to discuss needed improvements to the food vendor area and restrooms.

Commissioner Coltrain said the Board had received a letter from Attorney Doug Smith, who represented the RCFA. The letter stated the RCFA would be willing to pay for some of the improvements in exchange for the same rental rate that other organizations received for the property (\$200 per day). Commissioner Coltrain said the RCFA had also requested that their lease agreement be extended through 2017. Commissioner Coltrain mentioned that the current lease was for \$25,000 per year.

Commissioner Coltrain asked that he, along with Parks and Recreation Director Don Bringle, be allowed to meet with RCFA members to develop a proposed lease for the Board's consideration. Commissioner Coltrain said his request was based upon the needed improvements on the property in order for the citizens to better enjoy the Rowan County Fair.

Commissioner Hall said she was surprised to receive a request for a new lease, as the Fair Association was only in its second year of the current lease. Commissioner Hall said there had been serious concerns with the fairgrounds that the previous Board had addressed. Commissioner Hall recalled that prior to the current lease, the RCFA had a 50-year lease for the property for \$1 per year. Commissioner Hall said the RCFA had 50 years to make substantial upgrades that did not occur. Commissioner Hall questioned changing the lease when the County was finally realizing revenues from leasing the property.

Commissioner Coltrain said the request was an effort to enhance the current contract and provide the RCFA an opportunity to recoup the benefits of its investment back into the facility. Commissioner Coltrain expressed hope that the improvements would draw more events and increase potential revenues. Commissioner Coltrain said he could not ask the RCFA to make such an investment without having some assurance the County would continue to work with them. Commissioner Coltrain emphasized the importance of volunteer dollars being returned back to the community from the RCFA.

Commissioner Hall said she believed the previous agreement with the RCFA was fair. Commissioner Hall said the current lease gave the Board some flexibility in the event an offer to purchase the property was received. Commissioner Hall said the Parks and Recreation Board had not discussed the issue and she suggested the Parks and Recreation Board discuss the issue first.

Chairman Ford called Mr. Bringle forward. Chairman Ford said he agreed with Commissioner Hall's suggestion to allow the Parks and Recreation Board to consider the proposal first. Chairman Ford asked if the RCFA was charged a higher fee due to electricity and other utilities incurred during the fair. Mr. Bringle explained that the current lease terms were \$25,000 over a three (3) year period. Mr. Bringle said the lease was not with the Parks and Recreation Department but rather with the TDA, the County and RCFA. Mr. Bringle said the full month of September was used for the fair due to the set-up and breakdown time required. Mr. Bringle said the Parks and Recreation Department only maintained the facilities and cleaned up after events. Mr. Bringle said the contracts and bookings were handled by the TDA. Mr. Bringle said the fee for electricity during last year's fair was approximately \$4700, the maintenance fee was approximately \$1700 and the security was provided by the RCFA. Mr. Bringle said the County had spent close to \$70,000 in the past year to meet the minimum electrical codes. Mr. Bringle said in the next few years roofing would need to be replaced on several buildings and new concessions stands would have to be constructed. Mr. Bringle said restroom facilities needed upgrades or should be completely replaced.

Commissioner Coltrain asked if Mr. Bringle considered the fairgrounds as part of the parks system. Mr. Bringle said he considered the fairgrounds as part of the responsibility of the parks system as it had been mandated to the parks system to maintain.

Commissioner Barber said he did not have a problem with Commissioner Coltrain and Mr. Bringle reviewing the information that had been proposed, and to receive input from the Parks and Recreation Board for discussion by the Commissioners.

Commissioner Hall said she had no problem with looking into the issue; however, she felt the Board should currently be more focused on the budget and consider the fairgrounds lease at a later date.

Commissioner Coltrain said if the Board would grant him the opportunity, he would handle the task in a timely manner.

Chairman Ford said he did not think the Board could cut the income that was being received from the current lease based on the needed improvements. Chairman Ford agreed with sending the issue to the Parks and Recreation Board and to allow recommendations to come to the Commissioners at a later date, once the budget process had passed.

In response to a query from Commissioner Coltrain, the Board was agreeable to send the request to the Parks and Recreation Board.

Chairman Ford called for a recess at 8:20 pm.

Chairman Ford reconvened the meeting at 8:35 pm.

8. DISCUSSION REGARDING STATE'S WITHHOLDING OF LOCAL FUNDS

Commissioner Hall said the County Manager forwarded an email to the Board advising of county funds being diverted to the State's budget. Commissioner Hall discussed the State's action and how it affected Rowan County. Commissioner Hall also highlighted several articles she had provided regarding the State's decision to divert funds in an effort to help decrease the State's deficit.

Commissioner Hall discussed two (2) Senate Bills that would have a significant impact on education in Rowan County and throughout the state.

Commissioner Barber said the State had a spending problem and was now looking towards county fund balances to help balance budgets. Commissioner Barber said he had a problem with the State forcing counties to raise property taxes in order to replenish fund balances.

Commissioner Mitchell said the county was an extension of the State and he said it was infuriating to dig out of a hole someone else had created. Commissioner Mitchell said Rowan County's budgeting practices had been good and had left the County in better shape than other counties.

Commissioner Coltrain said the Legislative Delegation had stated they were against the proposed Senate Bills and would do all they could to make sure they were not enacted.

ADDITION:

8a. RESOLUTION OF OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL 386 AND SENATE BILL 2

Commissioner Barber referred to the proposed Resolution and suggested three (3) changes as follows:

- In the title, strike the words Loss of Lottery Proceeds and insert State Senate Bill 2
- In the fifth paragraph, insert “and Senate Bill 2” after the words Senate Bill 386
- In the last paragraph, strike the last six (6) words and insert Senate Bill 2

Commissioner Barber said the Resolution basically asked the local legislation to vigorously oppose Senate Bill 386 and Senate Bill 2. Commissioner Barber said Senate Bill 2 would withhold lottery proceeds and Senate Bill 386 would withhold corporate tax revenue that would result in a loss of \$2.4 million over a 2-year period to Rowan County and the school system.

Commissioner Barber moved, Commissioner Coltrain seconded and the vote for approval of the Resolution passed unanimously.

The approved Resolution read as follows:

**RESOLUTION
OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL 386
and
SENATE BILL 2**

WHEREAS, the local governments have been receiving State corporate income tax revenue and lottery proceeds to supplant local revenues and to assist in meeting public school building capital needs; and

WHEREAS, local governments have been highly committed to being fiscally responsible; and

WHEREAS, local governments provide essential services upon which the citizens of North Carolina depend; and

WHEREAS, local governments preparing their fiscal year 2009-2010 budgets depend upon the current revenues and anticipated funds in order to be able to continue provide crucial and necessary services, especially in the current harsh economic times; and

WHEREAS, the passage of Senate Bill 386 and Senate Bill 2 would severely hinder all counties’ ability to pay their committed debt obligations, lower each county’s state-mandated fund balances and detrimentally affect counties’ ability to provide for current and capital expense needs of all local Boards of Education.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rowan County Board of Commissioners seeks the support of its legislative delegation in defeating Senate Bill 386 and Senate Bill 2.

9. FINANCIAL UPDATE

County Manager Gary Page and Finance Director Leslie Heidrick provided the Board with a financial update concerning recent developments in sales tax revenues and lottery proceeds.

Ms. Heidrick distributed a spreadsheet to the Board and discussed the revenues listed. Ms. Heidrick said the estimated loss in revenue for fiscal year 2008-2009 was \$4.7 million. Ms. Heidrick said major changes had occurred in the revenues from lottery funds and sales tax.

Mr. Page said the County was experiencing a \$4.7 million shortfall in revenue due to losses in real estate transfer tax, register of deeds fees, loss of interest income on investments, and less building permits. Mr. Page said the downturn in the economy had caused the losses. Mr. Page said the County had a good fund balance but not the kind of balance that could take a \$4.7 million hit.

Mr. Page suggested the following steps to offset the estimated shortfall in revenues:

- Furloughs – 3 days (1 day per month in April, May and June) for a savings of \$400,000
- Medicaid assistance from federal stimulus package - \$680,000
- Delay capital asset purchases - \$360,000
- Delay fixed asset purchases - \$40,000
- 1% current expense decrease for Rowan Salisbury and Kannapolis City Schools - \$345,000
- Finance Rowan Cabarrus Community College (RCCC) classroom building project rather than pay from fund balance - \$1,000,000

Mr. Page said the County should package the RCCC building project and the Town Creek Sewer System project and finance them instead of paying cash.

Mr. Page said the County would reduce the shortfall by \$1.8 million by enacting the suggestions provided.

Mr. Page suggested the ¼ cent sales tax as an option to avoid raising taxes. Mr. Page said his recommendations were one-time cuts and the County would have to make cuts in the next budget to make up the \$4 million. Mr. Page said the fund balance would “take a hit” for a few years to avoid raising taxes. Mr. Page offered the suggestions for the Board’s consideration and said five (5) of the items he could handle on his own. Mr. Page said the Board would need to vote on the Rowan Salisbury Schools appropriation.

Chairman Ford said he thought it was appropriate to make the cuts and said he agreed with all of Mr. Page's suggestions.

Commissioner Barber said he supported last year's budget mainly because of the 4.1% cost of living increase for employees and funding the schools at state average. Commissioner Barber said no one could have foreseen what the County was facing now. Commissioner Barber said he had initially been opposed to furloughs but was willing to consider the option. Commissioner Barber reminded the Board if more than three (3) days were required, it would essentially be "eating away" at the cost of living adjustment provided last year. Commissioner Barber said the Board should also note employees do not earn vacation or sick leave during furlough time. Commissioner Barber said he would prefer not to enforce furloughs; however, it was necessary and he preferred for the Board to designate which days employees would be off. Commissioner Barber also said the Board should ask the school systems if they could afford a 1% cut as the money may have already been encumbered.

Commissioner Mitchell said he did not like making cuts but he felt the Board had no choice. Commissioner Mitchell said he was willing to wait until May or June to make cuts. Commissioner Mitchell raised the issue of a four-day work week and said there would be energy savings but he was unsure what other savings a four-day work week might generate. Commissioner Mitchell said it was acceptable to delay capital and fixed asset purchases but said he was concerned with the cut to the schools and with the furloughs. Commissioner Mitchell agreed with financing the Rowan Cabarrus Community College classroom. Commissioner Mitchell expressed concern over taking back what had been promised and he urged the Board to consider every option, including a four-day work week.

Commissioner Hall supported the recommendations from Mr. Page and expressed hope that school cuts could be delayed until June. Commissioner Hall said she thought the cuts were conservative; she also expressed disappointment in having to furlough employees. Commissioner Hall recommended that the \$345,000 cut for the schools not take place until June and that the County Manager be given authority to handle the school cuts as a last resort.

In response to a query from Commissioner Coltrain, Mr. Page said he had asked the City of Salisbury to cover the cost of the waterline for the new classroom building at RCCC since the bid came in substantially lower than anticipated.

Commissioner Coltrain agreed with Commissioner Mitchell regarding any potential cost savings of a four-day work week and he asked the County Manager to research the issue. Commissioner Coltrain said he would also like to delay the decrease of school funds and he would only agree to furloughs if the Commissioners were included. Ms. Heidrick responded that the Board was included in the proposed furloughs.

Commissioner Coltrain asked the County Manager to let the Board know if revenues improved, as the third furlough day might not be necessary.

Chairman Ford reiterated his position on making sure he was included in the furloughs.

Commissioner Mitchell commented that not all the classroom supply money provided to teachers was spent and he asked if the extra funds came back to the County. Ms. Heidrick said the money was supposed to come back this year.

Commissioner Mitchell recommended deducting any unused supply money from the \$345,000 taken from the schools.

Commissioner Hall moved to approve the County Manager's recommendations with the caveat that the County wait until June to enact the decrease for Kannapolis City and Rowan Salisbury Schools. Commissioner Barber seconded the motion.

Commissioner Barber asked for clarification on the furlough days and Mr. Page suggested Easter Monday (April 13), the Friday before Memorial Day (May 22) and leaving the third day for the end of the month of June.

Commissioner Barber asked how the County would balance public safety and other offices. Mr. Page said 80% of employees work 8am-5pm Monday through Friday; however, there would be some offices that would require coordination.

Commissioner Barber said he was not in favor of furloughs but would support the Board's decision as it would help avoid a reduction in force.

Commissioner Barber asked if the cuts would require the schools to have a reduction in force.

Mr. Page clarified the Board was approving all six (6) reductions but would wait to cut the \$345,000 from the schools until June. Mr. Page said if sales tax revenues improved, the school cuts would not be made. Mr. Page said if the revenues stayed down, the Board would be advised.

Commissioner Coltrain asked the Manager to also research a four-day work week.

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

10. DISCUSSION PERTAINING TO CITIZEN INPUT FOR IDEAS FOR CONSIDERATION BY EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE

Commissioner Barber suggested placing a link on the County's main webpage that would offer citizens the opportunity to provide online suggestions for the Efficiency Committee. Commissioner Barber said his proposal was to guide

citizens to a link where their suggestions would be centrally collected by a staff member for a response. Commissioner Barber said the suggestions could be distributed to the Board for action, if necessary.

After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to allow the County Manager to work with the Information Systems Director to establish the details as to how the suggestions would be processed, etc.

11. CONSIDER APPOINTMENT TO JAIL ANNEX COMMITTEE

In regards to the overcrowding situation at the Rowan County Detention Center, County Manager Gary Page said sending inmates to Sampson County was the cheapest option; however, it was a short-term solution as Sampson County would also eventually be pressed for space. Mr. Page asked the Board to appoint a committee for the Manager to work with regarding a jail annex and the selection of an architect and schematic design. The Committee would bring its recommendations to the Board. Mr. Page said the jail annex could be a \$4-\$8 million expense.

Chairman Ford appointed Commissioners Mitchell and Coltrain to serve on the Jail Annex Committee.

Mr. Page said it would not be necessary to include the District Attorney or a Judge on the Committee since the annex would not be downtown.

Commissioner Hall asked if the Committee would be looking at the options presented at the Retreat.

Mr. Page said the Committee would discuss the County's needs with the architect to develop a design and the Committee would make recommendations to the Board for a final decision. Mr. Page said the Committee would work to meet the needs of the Sheriff.

Mr. Page said he did not perceive the process to cost more than \$25,000 for a schematic design. Mr. Page said the big expenses would not occur until after a design was approved.

Commissioner Hall inquired as to the jail options that were provided at the Retreat. Mr. Page reviewed the options and said \$34 million would be a substantial commitment for a new facility based on the economy. Mr. Page said a 5 to 7 year short term solution would cost approximately \$4 million and would not benefit the County in the long run. Mr. Page expressed hope that the Jail Annex Committee could provide information for a 160-bed facility for approximately \$6 million that would last for 25 – 30 years on property already owned by the County.

12. DISCUSSION REGARDING COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULED ON APRIL 20, 2009

Chairman Ford discussed the potential for a longer Commission Meeting on April 20th due to the courtesy hearing for the proposed Land Use Plan (LUP). Chairman Ford asked the Board to consider moving the regularly scheduled meeting from 7:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

Commissioner Mitchell moved to change the start time for the April 20, 2009 Commission Meeting to 6:00 pm, with regular business items beginning at 6:00 pm and the courtesy hearing beginning at 7:00 pm. Commissioner Barber seconded the motion.

Commissioner Barber asked if individuals would need to sign up to speak during the courtesy hearing and Chairman Ford said yes.

Commissioner Barber asked if there would be a three (3) minute limit for each speaker and Chairman Ford said yes. Chairman Ford said if the courtesy hearing lasted longer than 30 minutes the Board could vote to continue the hearing to allow everyone to speak.

Upon being put to a vote the motion passed unanimously.

13. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENTS

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

- Rowan Public Library has received additional revenue this year for gifts. The gift funds will be used for the purchase of library material and other gift expense - \$13,214
- Social Services – To budget donations received in these areas: 1 Church 1 Child, Adult Services, Christmas Happiness and Income Maintenance - \$7,234

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

14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Barber moved to adjourn at 9:40 pm. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Coltrain and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn Athey
Clerk to the Board