

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
ROWAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**February 29, 2012 – 9:00 AM**

**J. NEWTON COHEN, SR. ROOM**

**J. NEWTON COHEN, SR. ROWAN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**  
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Present: Chad Mitchell, Chairman  
Carl Ford, Vice-Chairman  
Jon Barber, Member  
Raymond Coltrain, Member  
Jim Sides, Member

County Manager Gary Page, Clerk to the Board Carolyn Athey, and Finance Director Leslie Heidrick were present.

**1. OPENING SESSION**

Chairman Mitchell convened the meeting at 9:00 am.

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

Chairman Mitchell said the Board would hear from a number of departments who had submitted requests for fiscal year 2012-13.

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

**2. REVIEW OF COUNTY DEPARTMENTAL PROGRAMS**

***a. Planning & Development***

Planning and Development Director Ed Muire had submitted two (2) issues for the Board's consideration. The first topic pertained to the County continuing to provide planning and zoning services to the Town of China Grove (Town). The second topic concerned the purchase of a new plotter.

County Manager Gary Page said the Board would consider the color plotter over the next three (3) months in the budget process.

Mr. Page said the Town had asked the County to not only provide planning services but also nuisance enforcement. Mr. Page said the contract would be amended to possibly double the charges based on the amount of work performed for the Town in the past year.

Planning & Development Director Ed Muire said county staff was also going to show the Town how to do some of the enforcement in-house.

Chairman Mitchell asked if other municipalities had inquired as to using the County's staff to provide these services. Mr. Page said the issue was raised at the Mayors Meeting and the Town of Spencer had expressed an interest and the Town of Granite Quarry might also be a candidate.

Mr. Muire said a contract with the municipalities would be structured based on their cases over a two-year period.

Mr. Page said the County would receive enough revenue to cover the cost of the employees providing the services to the municipalities.

#### ***b. Finance***

##### **Finance/Payroll/HR Software**

Finance Director Leslie Heidrick discussed a request for software for Finance/Payroll/Human Resources. Ms. Heidrick said the new software would provide transparency for items not available with the current software. The software package would cost approximately \$800,000 that the County would finance for five (5) years.

Information Systems (IS) Director David Boling discussed the current AS400 software, which he said was not being upgraded. Mr. Boling said in addition to the Finance and Human Resources Departments, the Social Services and Tax Office still used the AS400.

Commissioner Sides said he liked the fact of transparency and being able to put check registers online, etc. Commissioner Sides said there were only three (3) counties in the state with an A-rating in regards to transparency while Rowan County had a C-rating. Commissioner Sides suggested that staff contact Forsyth County, which he believed had offered to provide free software.

In response to an inquiry from Commissioner Sides concerning the tax software system, Mr. Boling explained that every state was different in its handling of property taxes and the software was more about custom modification. Mr. Boling said the tax software was much more costly than payroll or finance.

Commissioner Coltrain felt the County should start to improve its software systems a little at a time rather than waiting until there was an emergency that would force the County to have to upgrade all departments at once.

Commissioner Coltrain asked Mr. Boling to explore other counties to see what software options were available. Mr. Boling said part of the discussion was to seek a commitment or a plan that the Board wished to move forward. Mr. Boling said getting the County away from the AS400 would require purchasing software.

Commissioner Sides highlighted several areas in Rowan County Government that he wanted to have posted online for transparency's sake. Commissioner Sides said he would like for the check register to be posted for all of last year or for the last six months. Commissioner Sides asked that the Land Use Plan be posted online, as well as county ordinances, the personnel policy, and an index of computer data bases. Mr. Boling responded that many of the items mentioned were already online and that he would be glad to ensure the remaining items were posted.

### **Internal Auditor Request**

Ms. Heidrick said the County had previously filled a position for an internal auditor and that she felt good things happened while the auditor was employed by the County. Ms. Heidrick said the external auditors recommended a county the size of Rowan have an internal auditor on staff. Ms. Heidrick said the auditor handled tasks that staff did not have time for, particularly policies and procedures. Ms. Heidrick said she had recommended the position be part of the reduction in force (RIF) when the County was trying to cut \$3 million from its' budget; however, she explained that she had made the cut in hopes that it could be replaced when the economy turned around.

Chairman Mitchell said \$85,000 was a lot of money for the position. Ms. Heidrick said the auditor worked independently and lessened the potential for issues to "fall through the cracks".

In response to an inquiry from Commissioner Coltrain, Ms. Heidrick agreed the internal auditor would take a portion of her workload.

Commissioner Sides said the position was important to a county the size of Rowan's. Commissioner Sides suggested the position be considered as possibly a half-time position at least for this year and the position could perhaps eventually become full time.

### ***c. Facilities Management***

Mr. Page reviewed the list of budget requests submitted by the Facilities Management Director, which were as follows:

- Sign Technician (new position for road signs) - \$41,355. Mr. Page said some of the municipalities asked about the County making their signs to keep them from having to deal with the state prison system. Mr. Page said if there was enough interest from the municipalities to justify either a

position or a half position, it would be included in the recommended budget.

- Vehicle for Staff (replacement for worn out service van) - \$ 28,000. Mr. Page said this item would be reviewed in the same manner as all other departments.
- Turf Tiger Mower (replacement for worn out mower) - \$11,200. Mr. Page said the Sheriff had notified him recently that the Sheriff's Department had confiscated three (3) mowers and one (1) would be provided to Facilities Management.
- Bush Hog ( replacement for worn out bush hog) - \$2,500
- Clam Shell Bagger (replacement for worn out mower/leaf bagger) - \$2,500
- Utility Trailer (replacement for worn out landscaping trailer)- \$ 2,800
- Carpet (Agriculture Building, Satellite EMS Stations, County Office Building) - \$60,000. Mr. Page said before he made a recommendation, he would tour these facilities and look at the existing carpet.
- Move Rowan County Garage to Facilities Management Building (vehicle lift and necessary tools and equipment) - \$65,000. Mr. Page said there would be a one-time expense of \$65,000 and the County was currently paying \$9,000 per year in rent. Commissioner Sides said one advantage to moving the garage would be the ability to service the County's ambulances. Mr. Page said part of the cost would be tools and portable lifts. Mr. Page said the portable lifts could be relocated.
- Repair roof at Administration Building - \$18,000. Mr. Page reported that the County had replaced several roofs this year and he expressed hope the three (3) roofs listed would be a tradeoff for those already replaced.
- Replace roof at Mahaley Avenue - \$87,500
- Replace roof at Rowan Public Library - \$108,000
- Modernize elevator at Mahaley Avenue (elevator will not pass state inspection) - \$54,300. Mr. Page said the County had modernized two (2) elevators in the past two (2) years and could hopefully offset one (1) of the elevators listed.
- Modernize elevator at Justice Center - \$54,000

Commissioner Sides said he was not interested in spending money on an elevator or a roof for buildings that had set empty for a period of time (two former DSS buildings). Commissioner Sides said he wanted a concentrated effort to put one of the buildings in use and consider putting the other on the market.

#### ***d. 911 Telecommunications***

##### **Four (4) New Telecommunicator Positions**

Telecommunications Director Rob Robinson reviewed his request for four (4) telecommunicator positions, which would be one (1) telecommunicator per shift. Mr. Robinson said the call volume in the 911 Center had continued to increase and the positions were needed. The total cost of the four (4) positions was estimated to be \$157,904.

Mr. Robinson said the fire departments are rated on communications when going through their ISO rating reviews. Mr. Robinson said the County met all criteria in regards to generators, technical equipment, etc.; however, he reported that the County fell short in its staffing level. Mr. Robinson said the best ratings helped to lower homeowners' insurance premiums.

Commissioner Sides asked Mr. Robinson to provide a cost analysis showing how the four (4) new positions would impact the ISO ratings.

### **Ten (10) Telecommunicators from PD Consolidation**

Mr. Page discussed the request for 10 telecommunicators that would result from consolidation with the City of Salisbury (City). Mr. Page said the Board had offered to hire the City's dispatchers in order for the County's 911 Call Center to handle all calls, including the City's Police Department. Mr. Page said it would cost \$131,588 per quarter, or \$394,762 per year. Mr. Page said if the County received a signed contract, it would take close to one year to finish building the facility. Mr. Page said the \$131,588 allowed the County to budget for one quarter. Mr. Page said it was now up to the City to determine whether it wished to consolidate.

In response to an inquiry from Chairman Mitchell, Mr. Robinson discussed using peak time personnel as opposed to hiring four (4) new telecommunicators. Mr. Robinson said issues with overtime could arise but could probably be worked out.

Mr. Page said he would have to cut more positions this year in order to allow for the new positions that would be required.

Mr. Robinson said it had been five (5) years since his department had a staffing increase.

### **One (1) 911 Division Supervisor**

Mr. Robinson discussed the request for a department supervisor, which he said was needed to oversee the overall operation on a day to day basis.

## **e. Information Systems**

### **i) Paperless Agenda Software**

Information Systems Director David Boling highlighted the benefits the County would realize from switching to paperless agenda software. Mr. Boling said the software would provide 1) transparency by making more information available to the public; 2) elimination of printing agenda books, thus saving staff time and paper, and 3) board access to agenda information as soon as it is uploaded.

Chairman Mitchell asked if the \$32,000 purchase price was a one-time fee and Mr. Boling said yes. Mr. Boling said there would be a small maintenance fee.

Mr. Boling said Ipads were included in the \$32,000 price; however, it was only a budgetary number to allow for options.

Commissioner Sides felt switching to paperless agendas was a direction the Board should seriously consider due to the benefit not only to the Board but to the public.

Commissioner Coltrain questioned the cost for accessing the agendas through a carrier and Mr. Boling said Wi-Fi was free. Mr. Boling said Ipads could be purchased with web access already available. Mr. Boling said there were a lot of options and each board member would have to decide which option would suit their needs.

Mr. Boling said the agenda software was a package that helped build the agenda without a lot of time involved.

Commissioner Barber pointed out there was a lot of time and costs going into agenda preparation based on the amount of information in the agenda packets.

Commissioner Sides said it would be worthwhile to ask staff to firm up the cost.

#### **ii) Telecommunications Relocation and Consolidation**

Mr. Boling discussed the equipment that would be needed for the new 911 Center at a cost of approximately \$135,120. Mr. Boling said the price included seventeen fully equipped CAD dispatch workstations (\$42,500); network infrastructure hardware and cable management (\$41,460); server hardware and rack equipment (\$51,160). The equipment listed covered any items that would not be subject for approval under the E911 surcharge fund.

Chairman Mitchell asked if the County could use its revenue stream to cover the \$135,120. Mr. Page responded by saying he would do everything possible to keep from using money from the General Fund. Mr. Page discussed the Contingency Fund and monies budgeted for moving dirt. Mr. Page said he hoped to use money left in those items as opposed to using money from the General Fund.

Chairman Mitchell asked if the backup Center would be paid for with grant funds and Mr. Page said yes. Mr. Page explained that one issue with the backup Center came from his discussions with the City of Salisbury (City). Mr. Page said the City had said it was getting out of the 911 dispatch and wondered why it needed to be in the backup business. Mr. Page said the City had “about” deferred to the County on the matter. Mr. Page said Telecommunications could use the County’s old 911 Center as a backup, which would cut a lot of overhead.

Mr. Page said if the County heard in the next three to four months that the City was no interested in consolidation, the County would not need to buy the seventeen stations.

Mr. Page said some of the decisions had not yet been made in the number provided.

Commissioner Ford asked if the money could come from the E911 Fund or the ¼ cent sales tax. Mr. Page said the money would not come from E911 funds but could come from the ¼ cent budget.

***f. Rowan Public Library***

Mr. Page said Library Director Jeff Hall was seeking direction from the Board as to whether the library could reopen on Sunday afternoons.

Mr. Page recalled that the Board had taken steps to cut costs for nonessential services. Mr. Page said there would be a cost to reopen the library and would be a policy decision by the Board.

Commissioner Coltrain said there were a lot of kids that used the library as a resource for school work and that he had questioned Mr. Hall as to what it would cost to open the library on Sunday afternoons during the school year.

Commissioners Sides and Ford said they would not support the request.

Commissioner Barber recommended putting the request in the budget for a vote later.

Chairman Mitchell said he would also lean towards voting no.

Mr. Page referred to item #3 (new roof) in the request from Mr. Hall. Mr. Page said the issue would be reviewed when considering the Facilities Management Director's budget.

Mr. Page discussed the request to apply for a technology grant from the state library for a new theft detection and self checkout system for library headquarters. Mr. Page said the grant would require a 25% match and the County would need to budget between \$25,000 and \$32,000 for the match.

Commissioner Sides suggested including the request in the budget and allowing the library to apply for the grant.

Commissioner Coltrain agreed with Commissioner Sides and said he would like more information. Commissioner Coltrain questioned how much the system would decrease theft and he questioned the value of theft the County was

experiencing in regards to replacement costs. Commissioner Coltrain also questioned the man hours required for the auto checkout.

Commissioner Coltrain said the Town of Cleveland had offered to enter discussions for the possibility of a joint venture for a small library and EMS station in Cleveland.

**g. Building Code Enforcement**

**i) GPS**

Building Code Enforcement Director Dana Hart said he had requested that a GPS be placed in vehicles as a safety measure since the inspectors were gone all day. Mr. Hart said he was later informed by Information Systems that new computers were needed for the inspectors and that the GPS tracking would be in the new computers. Mr. Hart said the computers were estimated at \$18,450 and the price of the GPS (\$2880) could be subtracted.

Commissioner Ford asked if the GPS was in the inspectors phones. Mr. Hart said the County did not have the capability to track its inspectors with any of the equipment currently in use.

Chairman Mitchell said if Information Systems replaced the computers, which was done regularly, the only additional cost would be the one time activation fee. Finance Director Leslie Heidrick confirmed this to be true.

Commissioner Sides said he favored the request. Commissioner Barber added that it would not be a lot of money.

**ii) Career Development**

Mr. Hart described the various levels of certification obtained by building inspectors. Mr. Hart explained that it would take an entry level inspector a minimum of five (5) years to become a level 3 inspector. Mr. Hart continued by discussing the Career Development Program (Program), which he asked the Board to reinstate.

A brief discussion ensued and the board members felt if the Program was implemented for one (1) department, it must be implemented for all departments.

Commissioner Coltrain said the request was opening the door for a discussion regarding appropriate rewards for employees.

Chairman Mitchell said if the Board approved the request it should be in conjunction with merit raises and providing cost of living adjustments for all.

Commissioner Sides said there would be a discussion later regarding an across the board increase. Commissioner Sides said there had been no raises for a long time and that employees had lost benefits, etc. Commissioner Sides said

he favored rewarding people who go above and beyond; however, with the current state of the economy he was more in favor of providing an increase across the board.

### **iii) Fee Schedule**

Chairman Mitchell said the information in the agenda packet reflected that the adoption of the new fee schedule would add approximately \$100,000 to the County's revenues.

Commissioner Sides said if the County was going to consider the schedule, he would like for Mr. Hart to email him the current fees in all categories. Mr. Hart agreed to send the information and he explained that the current fees were from 2004.

Chairman Mitchell called for a recess at 11:45 a.m.

Chairman Mitchell reconvened the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

### ***h. Board of Elections***

Board of Elections Director, Nancy Evans, discussed a request for another facility. Ms. Evans said the Board of Elections currently had 2,300 square feet of office space and another 900 square feet of storage space. Ms. Evans said ideally, the Board of Elections needed 8,200 square feet, which would provide space for future growth.

Chairman Mitchell mentioned two (2) former Department of Social Services buildings the County owned as possible locations for the Board of Elections. The Board also discussed space needs for the departments in the Administration Building that would be addressed by the relocation of the Elections Office.

Commissioner Sides said there were space needs for other departments in the Administration Building that could be accommodated by allowing the Board of Elections to move.

Ms. Evans said due to the upcoming election, she preferred not to move in the current year.

Commissioner Barber mentioned the fact that there was a strong possibility for the voter identification program to pass in the upcoming Short Session and that counties would absorb the cost locally.

### ***i. Cooperative Extension***

County Manager Gary Page discussed the part-time program assistant's position. The Cooperative Extension was requesting an increase of \$9,000 in addition to the partial salary to increase programming potentials to both Rowan County producers and the Rowan Salisbury School System.

Chairman Mitchell said the request would be considered and go through the same process as any other requests for part-time positions. Chairman Mitchell said the County Manager should review the request and decide whether to include it in the proposed budget.

***j. Emergency Services***

County Manager Gary Page said the Emergency Services Director, Frank Thomason, wanted to make the Board aware of some inefficiencies within the department. Mr. Page referred to the request in the agenda packet for an Applications Technology Specialist (\$58,000) and an Emergency Management Planner (\$60,000). Mr. Page said it would be difficult for the Board to consider these positions in the upcoming budget based on all the Telecommunicators and Detention Officers that would have to be hired for the new 911 Center and the new satellite jail.

Mr. Page discussed the request for a prime time Salisbury ambulance unit. Mr. Page said the request carried a hefty price tag in the amount of \$477,000.

Mr. Page said the request for the West Rowan EMS Station and unit was approximately \$1,475,000.

Commissioner Sides said if the County could not afford a West Rowan station and unit, he would rather see an ambulance based somewhere in the western portion of Rowan County as opposed to putting another ambulance in Salisbury.

Commissioner Coltrain said he believed the leadership in Cleveland was willing to work towards a joint effort with a building to house an ambulance and a library. Commissioner Coltrain inquired as to the possibility of adding onto the Hurley School Road station to house another ambulance unit to serve both Salisbury and western Rowan.

Chairman Mitchell said there might be some difficulty with how the unit was sheltered in regards to state requirements.

Commissioner Sides added that there were fire stations in western Rowan that might possibly be amenable to housing an ambulance unit and the personnel.

Chairman Mitchell commented that putting an ambulance in Cleveland would not be an effective backup unit for Salisbury.

Mr. Page said he would discuss possible co-location with folks at the Cleveland fire station.

Commissioner Sides suggested that Mr. Thomason check on the Cabarrus County ambulances for sale and see what kind of shape the units were in.

Commissioner Sides said Cabarrus County might be willing to donate the units to another governmental agency.

***k. Human Resources***

County Manager Gary Page said Human Resources had several in-house priorities including a new position, reclassification, and current and future need for additional office space.

Mr. Page said Human Resources was also asking the Board to consider reinstating a line item for reclassifications in the continuation budget.

Mr. Page said employees had received no cost of living adjustment (COLA) in the past four (4) years and that he would cover this topic more in-depth later in the meeting.

Mr. Page said Human Resources was requesting the reinstatement of the career development plan for the Sheriff and Building Inspections, and the possibility of an additional paid holiday for employees.

Mr. Page said any requests for new positions would be closely looked at before he would make recommendations to the Board.

Chairman Mitchell said the only two (2) issues the Board would not discuss later were the Human Resources Analyst and the reinstatement of the reclassification program.

Commissioner Sides pointed out that one (1) reclassification request was a ten percent increase when others were getting no raises.

**3. DISCUSSION REGARDING EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE/ COLA/BONUS**

County Manager Gary Page said co-pays, deductibles, etc. had been increased in an effort to keep employees from having to pay for their health coverage. Mr. Page said the County had been notified the insurance was increasing 2.95 percent and the County was proposing to increase dependent insurance premiums to help offset the increase.

Mr. Page said employees had not received a cost of living adjustment (COLA) in several years and he was hoping to give at least one percent COLA to fulltime employees. Mr. Page also discussed the option of providing a one-time bonus as opposed to COLA.

Chairman Mitchell discussed the compression issue and how to address the problem. Chairman Mitchell questioned the affect of using an agreed upon percentage and giving it to those lower on the pay scale to start moving them upwards.

Commissioner Sides said he liked and favored the idea, along with \$70,000 for the reclassification, as long as there was no tax increase. Commissioner Sides said if the County Manager could balance the budget without a tax increase, he would favor a bonus and not a raise for employees.

Commissioner Ford agreed with the suggestion of a bonus and keeping the tax rate as is.

Commissioner Coltrain said he would like to see the County implement a one percent COLA and one percent merit based program. Commissioner Coltrain said the reclassification process needed to be reinstated.

Commissioner Barber said the County had required employees to take three (3) furlough days in 2009 that were unnecessary and he would like to find a way to give the equivalent of those three (3) days back. Commissioner Barber discussed recent discovery figures for December and January and said these were revenues coming in that would allow the Board to give those three (3) days back.

Commissioner Coltrain suggested giving employees three (3) days off.

Commissioner Sides said there was no way to make everything up; however, he was willing to listen what the County Manager had to say. Commissioner Sides agreed that it was time to do something for the employees. Commissioner Sides said next year he might have to vote for a tax increase and if he was convinced a tax increase was the only way to get by, he would vote for it.

Commissioner Barber stressed that he was of the opinion the three (3) furlough days should be given back.

After further discussion, the consensus of the Board was to give employees a one and one-half percent bonus.

#### **4. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE SCHEDULED ½ CENT TAX INCREASE FOR ROWAN CABARRUS COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

County Manager Gary Page discussed the ½ cent tax increase for Rowan Cabarrus Community College (RCCC) and also the ¼ cent tax, which was dedicated for the new jail and for the 911 project.

Mr. Page said the citizens had voted for the ½ cent tax increase to be used for RCCC. Mr. Page said the Board had also told the citizens the monies from the ¼ cent tax increase would only be used for the new jail and 911 projects. Mr. Page suggested that if the Board was going to allow the RCCC projects to proceed without the approved tax increase, then perhaps the Board could also allow him to budget some of the ¼ cent sales tax monies for other needs.

Chairman Mitchell said most employees owned property in the County and it would not benefit employees to give them a raise and then increase their property taxes.

Commissioner Sides said he did not have a problem using  $\frac{1}{4}$  cent of the sales tax money since the net affect would be the same either way. Commissioner Sides said the  $\frac{1}{4}$  sales tax was a more fair tax to everyone.

Commissioner Barber said people preferred a consumption tax as opposed to a property tax. Commissioner Barber said the 1.25 cent tax increase would be levied by the State if it was needed. Commissioner Barber said in looking at the bond in 2002, he understood the County was fortunate enough to avoid imposing the tax increase due in part to lottery proceeds.

In response to an inquiry from Chairman Mitchell, Mr. Page said if the Board would grant him the latitude to make up \$1.7 million, he felt he could make the budget work. Mr. Page said he would cover the jail and give the employees some kind of raise. Mr. Page then asked if the Board preferred to give the employees a bonus or raise. Commissioners Barber, Ford, Sides and Mitchell said they preferred to give employees a bonus.

Commissioner Sides said he would agree to a one and one-half percent bonus.

Mr. Page said the check would be written to employees the first week in July.

Chairman Mitchell called for a recess at 2:00 p.m.

Chairman Mitchell reconvened the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

## **5. GENERAL DISCUSSION WITH COUNTY MANAGER**

Commissioner Barber provided the Board with a handout and discussed the Veterans Network of Care, a program developed by the National Association of Counties (NACO). Commissioner Barber highlighted the program and its benefits to veterans and their family members.

Commissioner Barber said he had participated in a webinar for the program, along with Information Systems Director, David Boling.

Commissioner Barber concluded by asking the Board for its support in taking the issue to the next step and having another webinar presented to a broader range of people who could give feedback on what values, if any, the program may offer to Rowan County veterans and their families.

Commissioner Barber said he would like to have Mr. Boling involved, along with Human Resources Director Darlene Boling, Health Director Leonard Wood, Social Services Director Sandra Wilkes, Veterans Services Officer Elaine Howle,

possibly someone from the Veterans Services Council and possibly one or two people from the VA Hospital and the United Way.

Commissioner Barber felt these individuals should be exposed to the program since they are the ones who try to help veterans on a daily basis.

Commissioner Barber said there was a cost associated with the program. Commissioner Barber said the initial creation for the development of the application specific to Rowan County was \$15,000. Commissioner Barber said once the application was established, there were updates, etc. and there was a monthly user fee of approximately \$1,200.

Commissioner Barber said there were other counties in North Carolina looking at the program and Rowan County could possibly be the first in North Carolina to offer the program.

Commissioner Barber asked the Board's support to instruct staff to get the group of people named together for a NACO webinar and to provide feedback to the Board.

Commissioner Sides said he did not have a problem with initiatives such as the one proposed; however, he preferred the information to be listed on the agenda.

Commissioner Barber said he had asked for the information to be on the agenda and it was decided it would be best to present the information for general discussion.

Commissioner Sides said he was not opposed to the initiative but he would be more inclined to have Commissioner Barber present the information to the individuals and gain their interest and determine if it was something to bring before the Board at a regular meeting as opposed to involving staff at this time.

Commissioner Barber said he would be more than happy to do that.

Commissioner Coltrain asked Commissioner Barber if he could facilitate the information and Commissioner Barber said he would not have a problem coordinating the webinar. Commissioner Barber said he would bring the information and costs back to the Board if the information was found to have value for Rowan County.

Commissioner Barber said over the past three or four years the Board had started to look at every line item and areas of efficiencies. Commissioner Barber said one area that came to his attention was related to attorney expenditures.

Commissioner Barber distributed a handout, which listed attorney expenditures from 2002 through June 30, 2011.

At this point, Commissioner Sides objected to adding the discussion to the agenda without a vote. Commissioner Sides said the current agenda called for general discussion with the County Manager. Commissioner Sides said the County Attorney was not present to defend himself and that he preferred the matter be presented and discussed at a regular meeting.

Commissioner Sides moved that the Board not hear the matter at this particular time.

Commissioner Barber said he only wished to ask staff to look into the matter to determine if it would be more cost-effective to have legal counsel in house or to contract legal services.

Commissioner Sides reiterated that he had made a motion. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ford.

Chairman Mitchell said he did not feel a motion was necessary. Chairman Mitchell said if Commissioner Barber was asking staff to look into the matter, he had no problem with it.

Commissioner Coltrain agreed that Commissioner Barber could ask staff to research the matter.

Commissioner Barber said he wanted to determine at what point it would be more cost-effective to bring the legal services in house.

Chairman Mitchell felt there was no problem with Commissioner Barber looking into the matter.

Commissioner Sides withdrew the motion.

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Sides moved to adjourn at 2:26 pm. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barber and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn Athey, CMC, NCCCC  
Clerk to the Board/  
Assistant to the County Manager