

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

July 1, 2013 – 3:00 PM

J. NEWTON COHEN, SR. ROOM

J. NEWTON COHEN, SR. ROWAN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
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Present: Jim Sides, Chairman
Craig Pierce, Vice-Chairman
Jon Barber, Member
Mike Caskey, Member
Chad Mitchell, Member

County Manager Gary Page, Clerk to the Board Carolyn Barger, County Attorney Jay Dees and Finance Director Leslie Heidrick were present.

Chairman Sides convened the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

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

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Barber moved, Commissioner Pierce seconded and the vote to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2013 Commission Meeting passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Commissioner Pierce moved to add to the agenda the Dissolving of the Airport Development Zone Economic Incentive Grant Agreement. Commissioner Caskey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Sides added the topic as agenda item #2a.

CONSIDER DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA

There were no deletions from the agenda.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Barber moved, Commissioner Pierce seconded and the vote to approve the agenda passed unanimously.

1. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- A. Approval of Grant Resolution for Airport Runway Survey
- B. Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant for Equipment Purchases
- C. Resolution Supporting the “Yarn-Forward” Rule in the Trans-Pacific Partnership Free Trade Agreement

WHEREAS, the United States Government is currently negotiating an international trade agreement known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) that would substantially impact every United States manufacturer of fibers, yarns, fabrics, apparel, and home furnishings; and

WHEREAS, the TPP would create a free trade bloc among twelve (12) Asian, North American and South American countries and is intended to remove all trade barriers among the various TPP countries, including the elimination of import tariffs; and

WHEREAS, the United States textile industry is requesting the TPP adopt a “yarn-forward” requirement that important production steps such as yarn spinning and fabric formation actually take place in the TPP region in order to get trade preferences; and

WHEREAS, failure to require the “yarn-forward” rule would allow countries like China to supply textile components to Vietnam for simple assembly of products that are then shipped duty-free to the United States; and

WHEREAS, it is predicted that within ten (10) years approximately 522,000 American textile and apparel jobs would be lost; and

WHEREAS, Rowan County is home to several textile industries, including Tuscarora Yarns, one of the oldest and largest specialty yarn manufacturers in the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rowan County Board of Commissioners goes on record in support of the United States textile industry and calls upon the Members of Congress for adoption of the “yarn-forward” origin requirement in the TPP.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

- Larry Wright discussed the Rowan-Salisbury School System (RSSS) and shared his opinion pertaining to supplement funds to RSSS amounting to over \$4.4 million.

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

ADDITION

2a. DISSOLVING THE AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT ZONE ECONOMIC INCENTIVE GRANT AGREEMENT

Commissioner Pierce said this topic was on the agenda for the last meeting and was pulled off so there could be clarification regarding the funds that were escrowed by the City of Salisbury (City) for airport development. Commissioner Pierce said an invoice had been received from Salisbury Rowan Utilities for the water line for the new hangar and the expenditure had been paid. Commissioner Pierce moved to adopt the resolution to dissolve the Airport Development Zone Economic Incentive Grant Agreement. Commissioner Caskey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

3. PROPOSED OFFICE BUILDING FOR CAROLINA AVIONICS AND INTERIORS

Airport Director Thad Howell reported that Carolina Avionics and Interiors (CAI) had been based at the Rowan County Airport (Airport) since 1998. Mr. Howell said the company was owned by Gary Jenkins and provided sales, installation and repair of aircraft radios, as well as upholstery and aircraft maintenance services. Mr. Howell said over the years, CAI had contributed to the economic impact of the Airport, including employment opportunities, sales tax revenue and increased fuel sales.

Mr. Howell explained that CAI currently leased three 60 foot x 60 ft hangars, one T-hangar and land for a storage building. Mr. Jenkins also rents office space in a private hangar, which will become unavailable in October 2013. Mr. Howell said Mr. Jenkins was interested in securing a long-term office arrangement and had approached Airport Staff to fund construction of a permanent building. Mr. Jenkins also hired a local architect to draft a floor plan and elevation, estimated to cost no more than \$150,000.

The Airport Advisory Board (AAB) met on June 21, 2013 and created a formula to vary the rental rate for the first five (5) years and remain fixed until the lease expires after fifteen (15) years. Mr. Howell said Mr. Jenkins was agreeable to the option. The AAB recommended the Board of Commissioners accept the adjusted terms.

Commissioner Pierce said Mr. Jenkins had been at the Airport for fifteen (15) years, paying taxes and increasing business at the Airport. Commissioner Pierce explained that a building was being offered to Mr. Jenkins since he was losing his current hangar. Commissioner Pierce pointed out that the debt service would cash out as positive after the second year and the tenant would be paying the loan.

Commissioner Pierce moved to approve the proposal to build the new building for Carolina Avionics. Commissioner Barber seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

4. PRESENTATION REGARDING PICTOMETRY FOR TAX ADMINISTRATION

Chairman Sides discussed using Pictometry for Tax Administration and said there was a requirement to have a contract signed by July 31, 2013 for a 2014 flyover of the County. Chairman Sides said at the end of the discussion today, if the Board would allow the County Manager to sign the contract, the County could back out after an official presentation by the company in August, with no penalty.

Tax Administrator Kelvin Byrd discussed the possibility of the County using Pictometry for a flight of Rowan County in January/February 2014. Mr. Byrd said the deadline to commit to the company was July 31, 2013.

Mr. Byrd said Telecommunications and Emergency Services staff had looked at the product, as well. Mr. Byrd said Pictometry would help tremendously with the next revaluation scheduled for 2015. Mr. Byrd said that currently the state provided the direct imagery aerial photography free through flood plain mapping every two (2) to three (3) years.

Mr. Byrd described the photography as oblique imagery providing a six-sided image of the property. Mr. Byrd said the County had been given pricing for two (2) flights, as well as for one (1) flight. Mr. Byrd explained that two (2) flights was for a flyover in the first year and then fourth year at an average of \$75,000 per flight, if done over a six year period. Mr. Byrd said the other price would be \$88,000, saving \$19,000 if there was a two (2) flight package. Mr. Byrd said the company wanted to set the flight time by July 31, 2013 to put Rowan County in a pattern for the January to February timeframe. Mr. Byrd said the contract would have to be signed before Rowan County could be put on the flight agenda. Mr. Byrd said the first payment would be in January, after the documents were produced and that would be about one-third or about \$22,000-\$25,000. Mr. Byrd said if the County were to wait to sign, it could cause the County to miss out on this year's flight. Mr. Byrd went on to state that if that happened, it would not help with the project the County would be undertaking in the next year.

Chairman Sides said the company would make a formal presentation in August or September. Chairman Sides said the information presented today was for the purpose of authorizing the County Manager to sign a contract to get on the flyover list.

Commissioner Barber moved to instruct the County Manager to sign the contract with the understanding that after the presentation is received and if the County decided not to move forward, the County could back out of the contract. Commissioner Pierce seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

County Attorney Jay Dees said he would work with Mr. Page to make sure the contract was clear.

5. DESIGNATION OF VOTING DELEGATE FOR NCACC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Chairman Sides said the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) was holding its 106th NCACC Annual Conference in Guilford County on August 22-25, 2013. The NCACC was asking all counties to select a voting delegate for the Conference.

Commissioner Pierce moved to select Chairman Sides as the County's voting delegate. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barber and passed unanimously.

**6. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BOARD APPOINTMENTS
ROWAN TRANSIT SYSTEM ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The following applications have been received:

- Jane Peeler – Reappointment as a Disabled Rider Representative
- Tammy Lemmons – Reappointment as Vocational Rehab Representative
- Steve Joslin – Reappointment as a Human Service Representative
- Vernice Dolores Gallon – Therapeutic Recreation Representative

Per the bylaws of this committee, there can be nine (9) to fifteen (15) members. Should all of the above be appointed, there would be ten (10) members on this committee.

The terms are for three (3) years beginning July 1, 2013 and expiring June 30, 2016.

Commissioner Pierce nominated Jane Peeler, Tammy Lemmons, Steve Joslin, Vernice Dolores Gallon and the nomination passed unanimously.

TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

- Jeanie Moore has submitted an application for reappointment as the representative from the Chamber of Commerce.

The term is for two (2) years beginning July 1, 2013 and expiring June 30, 2015.

Commissioner Barber nominated Jeanie Moore and the nomination carried unanimously.

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

An application has been received from Stephen Jones. Mr. Jones would replace Peter Bader as the Health representative from the Hefner VA Medical Center.

There are no term limits on this committee.

Commissioner Pierce nominated Stephen Jones and the nomination passed unanimously.

LIBERTY VFD FIRE COMMISSIONER

- Michael Scott Lambe has submitted an application.

The three (3) current members are not eligible for reappointment. Mr. Lambe would replace one of the following: Robert Goodman, Sam Bonds, or Jerry Hill. The Board will need to determine who Mr. Lambe replaces and the remaining members will be eligible to continue to serve until a replacement can be found.

The term is for two (2) years beginning July 1, 2013 and expiring June 30, 2015.

Commissioner Caskey nominated Michael Scott Lambe to replace Robert Goodman and the nomination passed unanimously.

ROCKWELL RURAL VFD FIRE COMMISSIONER

There are three (3) vacancies and the following applications have been submitted:

- William Thomas Baucom
- Gene Johnson
- Jimmy Wayne Sifford
- Kent M. Wilhelm

The terms are for two (2) years beginning July 1, 2013 and expiring June 30, 2015.

Commissioner Barber nominated William Baucom.

Commissioner Pierce nominated Gene Johnson and Kent Wilhelm.

Commissioner Mitchell nominated Jimmy Wayne Sifford.

Upon being put to a vote William Thomas Baucom, Gene Johnson, and Jimmy Wayne Sifford were appointed.

CLEVELAND ZONING AND PLANNING BOARD

- Jennings Nelson has submitted an application for reappointment.

The term is for three (3) years beginning July 1, 2013 and expiring June 30, 2016.

Commissioner Pierce nominated Jennings Nelson and the nomination passed unanimously.

APPOINTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE

Applications have been received from the following:

- Tom Harrell
- John F. Leatherman

Commissioner Caskey nominated Tom Harrell and John Leatherman.

7. CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Pierce moved at 3:25 p.m. that the Board now enter Closed Session pursuant to North Carolina General Statute § 143-318.11(a)(3) for Attorney-Client Privileged Communication and North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(1) for Approval of Closed Session Minutes (January 22, 2013, March 18, 2013, March 25, 2013, April 9, 2013 and June 3, 2013).

The Board returned to Open Session at 3:45 p.m. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Barber moved to adjourn at 3:45 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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