

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
ROWAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
June 2, 2014 – 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 Mitchell provided the Invocation and also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CONSIDER ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

- Chairman Sides moved to add a Resolution Requesting the North Carolina General Assembly Include Rowan County on an Act to Establish a Moratorium On Filing of Actions By Certain Local Boards of Education Challenging the Sufficiency of Local Funds Appropriated By Boards of County Commissioners For Public Schools. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce and passed 4-1 with Commissioner Barber dissenting.

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

- Commissioner Pierce moved to add a discussion regarding the Local Government Commission (LGC) application currently scheduled for a public hearing. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Caskey and passed 4-1 with Commissioner Barber dissenting.

Chairman Sides added the issue as agenda item #2b.

## **CONSIDER DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA**

There were no deletions from the agenda.

## **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Commissioner Pierce move approval of the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and passed 4-1 with Commissioner Barber dissenting.

## **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Commissioner Pierce moved, Commissioner Caskey seconded and the vote to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2014 Commission Meeting carried unanimously.

Commissioner Pierce moved to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2014 Commission Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Caskey.

Commissioner Barber said he had read a prepared statement during the May 22, 2014 meeting and had asked that every word be included. Commissioner Barber requested that the minutes be redone and resubmitted for consideration.

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

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

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

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- A. Thumbs Up Services, LLC Limited FBO Agreement
- B. Consider Approval of Updated Response District Map for Atwell Fire Department
- C. Award Service Sidearm to Retiring Lt. Barry Rodgers
- D. Acceptance of FY 2014 Justice Assistance Grant
- E. 2014 Blanche and Julian Robertson Grant
- F. Piedmont Skydiving Lease Renewal
- G. Approval of HCCBG Funding Plan for FY 2014-15

## **2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

- Will McCubbins said he had petitions supporting the West End Plaza Financing proposals. Mr. McCubbins said twelve (12) business owners in the area, as well as 200 people were represented on the petitions, which would be available for viewing on the Rowan Free Press website. Secondly, Mr. McCubbins distributed a Statement of Organization for La Resistance and discussed the organization's officers.
- Diane Greene asked the Board to support her reappointment to the Rowan-Cabarrus Community College Board.

- Eric Phillips said Rowan County was the only County out of fifteen (15) not supporting the efforts of the Carolina Thread Trail and he provided a website link that would provide further information.
- Deborah Krueger spoke in favor of changes to the Animal Shelter to make it a no kill shelter.
- Tom Harrell discussed local issues and said he had a petition of 100 names for which 40% or better represented the community not in attendance, which was African American. Mr. Harrell talked about empty storefronts in downtown Salisbury and its' retail failure.
- Jason Raymer spoke in opposition to the purchase of the former Salisbury Mall (now West End Plaza).
- Louis Bodak discussed comments by Commissioner Pierce in Rowan Free Press.
- Melissa Connelly spoke in support of a no kill Animal Shelter, as well as Animal Control Staff, the use of volunteers and a spay/neuter program.
- Judy Klusman spoke regarding an alternative proposal she previously presented to revamp the Animal Shelter, which she stated would have been at no cost to the County. Ms. Klusman spoke in support of the budget for the Rowan-Salisbury School System, including the Apple Lease Agreement.
- Larry Wright discussed the opposition to the County's purchase of the former Salisbury Mall and said the citizens of Salisbury should be worried about the City's bond rating and the problems of Salisbury. Mr. Wright supported the purchase of the Salisbury Mall.
- Jane Hartness spoke regarding enforcement of the spay/neuter requirement and animal welfare in general.
- Joe Colardarci thanked the Board for doing a good job and holding the tax rate down over the past six (6) years during the downward economy.
- Donna Kesler spoke regarding the negativity of La Resistance and thanked the Board of Commissioners for their hard work.

## **ADDITIONS**

### **2a. Resolution Requesting the North Carolina General Assembly Include Rowan County On An Act to Establish a Moratorium On Filing of Actions By Certain Local Boards of Education Challenging the Sufficiency of Local Funds Appropriated By Boards of County Commissioners For Public Schools**

Chairman Sides explained there were counties pushing for legislation through the General Assembly's Short Session that would provide for a moratorium on litigation by Boards of Education. Chairman Sides reported the County had received communication (from the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners) (NCACC) asking the County to submit a resolution in favor of the legislation. Chairman Sides said he had asked the Clerk to the Board to prepare the resolution to mirror the sample from the NCACC.

Chairman Sides presented the resolution for the Board's consideration, which was followed by a second from Commissioner Pierce.

In response to an inquiry from Commissioner Mitchell, Chairman Sides said the Resolution was strictly related to litigation.

Commissioner Mitchell said he had indicated before that he did not feel the funding mechanism worked for counties to the schools. Commissioner Mitchell said he did not mind supporting an option that removed litigation but he felt it should be in the context of complete reform for school funding.

Chairman Sides said he had requested on more than one occasion for the County's local delegation to form a study committee to look at funding across the state. Chairman Sides said there were counties that had faced litigation by boards of education multiple times. Chairman Sides said the moratorium would stop further litigation and allow the General Assembly to look into the issue.

Commissioner Barber said he received the Resolution two (2) minutes before the start of the meeting and he suspected there was a history trail that led to the creation of the Resolution. Commissioner Barber said he personally felt the Resolution was a joke. Commissioner Barber continued by stating he wished to exercise the Freedom of Information Act and he wanted all emails related to this particular moratorium, going back to September 1, 2013, 12:00 a.m. through June 2, 2014, 3:00 p.m. Commissioner Barber said he wanted a copy of all emails delivered to him by 5:00 p.m. tomorrow with said invoice for services rendered.

County Manager Gary Page clarified the NCACC had sent him an email on Friday afternoon and the issue did not go back to September 2013.

Commissioner Barber said his request for information still stood.

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

## **2b. Discussion Regarding LGC Application**

Commissioner Pierce moved to withdraw the County's application to the Local Government Commission (LGC) at this time, in favor of sending a different application in at the earliest date. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Caskey.

Commissioner Barber asked how much a new application would cost.

County Manager Gary Page said he wanted to make sure he understood the request. Mr. Page asked if Commissioner Pierce wanted the County to withdraw

the application to the LGC for the financing of the Mall. Commissioner Pierce responded, "The current LGC application as it's stated."

Commissioner Caskey asked if Commissioner Pierce had a date for a new application. Commissioner Pierce said some other projects were being worked on to submit in the new application. Commissioner Pierce said once the pieces of information for those projects came in, it would be presented to the Board.

Mr. Page provided the background regarding the submission and status of the current LGC application. Mr. Page said the LGC had been uncertain as to when it would take action on the existing application. Mr. Page explained that the County could not pull the loan funds back into the current fiscal year if the LGC delayed approval of the application into July. Mr. Page said if another application was submitted "down the road" it would not replenish the current year's fund balance. Mr. Page said the proposed tax increase, improvements at the Mall, borrowing the funds to reimburse the County for the Mall purchase, etc. was so that on June 30, 2014 the County's fund balance would be at 12 percent. Mr. Page said the process would have avoided leaving a 9 percent fund balance for the candidates running for office in the fall.

Commissioner Pierce said he also wanted everyone to understand that even if the County had gone forward with the application and it would be approved, the County would still not have the funds in 2013-14 budget because it would not hit the fund balance in time to be considered for the loan applications. Commissioner Pierce said the current application will not serve the purpose the Board had intended.

Mr. Page said the County had purchased the Mall in December and the loan was strictly to put the money back in reserves to make the County more sound and to put the County in a better position for the next Board. Mr. Page said the loan would have put the County in a better position to borrow the \$40 million committed for the schools. Mr. Page said he understood why the Board wanted to withdraw; however, he wanted the public to understand the ramifications for withdrawing and not replacing funds that were already spent.

Commissioner Pierce said the County had also waited for the school system to submit the necessary information for the construction of a central office so the funds for the central office could have been included in the current application. Commissioner Pierce said due to mediation and delays, the timeline for submittal of the LGC application had been pushed out to avoid additional costs of sending in two (2) applications. Commissioner Pierce said to date, the Commissioners had still not been told by the school system if it needed \$6.5 million for the central office. Commissioner Pierce reiterated that the motion was to pull the application since the money would not come in in time to put the County's fund balance in any better shape.

Commissioner Barber asked if Commissioner Pierce would consider an amendment to the motion. Commissioner Barber said the amendment would be that as additional information is collected for the second application that the Board would be instructing Staff to also at the same time deliver to the Board an exit strategy for how the County could divest itself of the Mall. Commissioner Pierce responded no.

Commissioner Barber began with further comments, which Chairman Sides gaveled as out of order.

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

At this time, Chairman Sides asked if the Board wished to continue any movement with regards to the public hearing for the West End Plaza financing proposals.

Commissioner Mitchell moved to delete item #10 from the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce and passed 4-1 with Commissioner Barber dissenting.

### **3. CONSIDERATION TO MODIFY BOSTIAN HEIGHTS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

Fire Marshal Aaron Youngblood said the Emergency Services Fire Division had received petitions from the homeowners along Goldfish Road, Kannapolis; Tree Limb Lane, Kannapolis; Naomi Court, Kannapolis and Michelle Drive, Kannapolis requesting a transfer of fire protection districts from Mount Mitchell Fire District to Bostian Heights Fire District.

Mr. Youngblood said staff conducted a review of the submitted petition in relation to the area to be considered and verified the petition's signatures as valid. The area to be considered in the transfer consists of 60 total property owners, of which 28 signed the petition in favor.

Mr. Youngblood said if it was the intent of the Board of Commissioners to pursue extending the County Service District in the affected area then the County must comply with North Carolina General Statute §153A-304.3(c), which requires a public hearing prior to adopting any resolution changing the boundaries of a service district.

Mr. Youngblood asked the Board to consider scheduling the public hearing for June 16, 2014 and said the North Carolina General Statutes only required posting of the public hearing through the Clerk to the Board.

Chairman Sides said he was willing to set the public hearing to consider the changes; however, he requested that the affected property owners be sent letters to notify them of the process.

Commissioner Caskey moved to set a public hearing for June 16, 2014 and to contact the property owners by letter to notify them of the meeting.

Commissioner Mitchell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **4. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF LEASE WITH APPLE, INC. FOR ROWAN-SALISBURY SCHOOL SYSTEM**

Dr. Lynn Moody, Superintendent with the Rowan-Salisbury School System (RSSS) requested approval of a three-year lease with Apple, Inc. Dr. Moody said the request would be funded with existing funds by repurposing current allocations. Dr. Moody said the Board of Education (BOE) would not have to request additional funds specifically for technology.

Dr. Moody explained that the BOE had highlighted \$3.9 million in current funding, which was close to the \$4 million lease agreement. Dr. Moody said the total cost over the three (3) year period would be just a little over \$11 million. According to Dr. Moody, existing equipment would be sold back for somewhere around \$750,000 to \$1.5 million. Dr. Moody said the BOE had submitted a resolution to the Commissioners seeking approval of the lease agreement.

Chairman Sides questioned whether the \$1.3 million in the bank was to be drawn from after the equipment was sold to make up the difference in the lease payment. Dr. Moody responded that was correct.

Chairman Sides asked if Apple had looked at the equipment to be sold back and given an indication of value due to the large range for sell back value.

Tara Trexler, Chief Financial Officer for RSSS, responded that Apple had worked with a vendor to look at current equipment. Ms. Trexler went on to state that the equipment would have to be looked at internally to determine what would be included in the sell back, as well as the timing. Ms. Trexler said the schools were not prepared to sell it all today and it would take a full year to do a deployment schedule. Ms. Trexler said the figure would depend on the value at the time of the sell. Ms. Trexler said the equipment would be sold when deemed it was not needed in the program.

Commissioner Pierce asked if the lease was discussed with any other company besides Apple. Dr. Moody responded no, as the schools were heavily invested in Apple and it would not have been possible to do this lease with another vendor. Dr. Moody said there was existing equipment that could be repurposed and it would have cost twice as much to go with another vendor.

Commissioner Pierce wondered about the electronic equipment lasting if a child had to carry it from kindergarten through graduation. Dr. Moody said the equipment would probably last three (3) years and thus the reason for a lease. Dr. Moody said the lease agreement would be using the same amount of money on technology in a different way. Dr. Moody explained that when the lease was up, there would be another request for a lease, as it was part of the regular budget.

Commissioner Pierce asked what arrangements had been made if a student damaged the device and what type of reimbursement had been put in place. Dr. Moody said parents would be involved and policies were being written along with user guides. Apple Care would be utilized for the most expensive devices, and self insuring would take care of the Ipads. Dr. Moody said students would have to pay a nominal users fee in order to take the device home, with the fees going to repairs and maintenance.

Commissioner Mitchell questioned what filters were in the equipment to block inappropriate material. Dr. Moody asked Candace Salmon-Hosey, Executive Director of Technology for RSSS, to respond. Ms. Salmon-Hosey said that the devices would be routed through a proxy setting that would send the students back through filtering to create a controlled amount of privileges.

Commissioner Mitchell asked where the line would be drawn between applications that the students could install. Ms. Salmon-Hosey said if an inappropriate application was downloaded, there would be the ability to wipe the device clean.

Commissioner Mitchell asked if the students would be able to have the flexibility to update the machine in order to utilize the most up to date technology. Dr. Moody said the elementary student's flexibility would be closed down very tight and opened up more by high school.

Commissioner Mitchell questioned the repurposed funding sources, in particular the listing of \$600,000 from the text book funds. Commissioner Mitchell said in the Governor's budget there was a recommended increase in the text book fund. Commissioner Mitchell asked what would happen if the budget was more closely aligned to the Senate budget and the \$600,000 turned into next to nothing over the next year. Dr. Moody said the same scenario currently happened year to year, as the school always put in the \$600,000 for text books and it was not always funded. Dr. Moody said the school was used to having the flexibility of moving the funds back and forth.

Ms. Trexler said the actual \$600,000 for the first year of the lease was the current base funding in textbooks.

Commissioner Caskey asked what the grade level would be for the students to be able to take the devices home. Dr. Moody explained that in the third through eighth grades, students would be able to take an iPad home. Dr. Moody went on to state if the lease was approved, it would be a phase-in approach beginning with high school students having a lap top, then progressing down the grade levels.

Commissioner Caskey inquired about the insurance policy and whether it would be an actual policy that would be purchased. Dr. Moody said the actual insurance policy was included in the lease for the high school computers and not for the iPads.

Commissioner Caskey asked about funds for hardship cases and Dr. Moody responded there were other things loaned to students and this was no different, except the price tag was higher. Dr. Moody said they were working closely with other school districts who had gone through the lease option, to learn from them.

Commissioner Caskey asked what documentation would be required if the iPad or Laptop was reported stolen. Dr. Moody stated all the iPads were registered and once they were issued, there would be specific identification numbers. Dr. Moody said there were also internal notifications in an iPad that could be turned on to locate the device. Ms. Salmon-Hosey added that each of the pawn shops would be provided with the list of electronic asset numbers.

Commissioner Caskey said he dealt with a lot of stolen iPhones, and he asked if a police report would have to be filed for any devices. Dr. Moody said the school would send the officer and there would be reports on how many devices were lost, stolen, or broken.

Commissioner Caskey asked at what point in the three (3) year lease would the school know that the results were not what was wanted and then how difficult would it be to go back to what was currently being done. Dr. Moody said the school system was committed to the three (3) year lease. In order to show results, it would take a while, according to Dr. Moody, with training and professional development. Dr. Moody said she would not want to give up on the project prior to the end of the three (3) year lease. Dr. Moody pointed out a clause in the contract that it was renewed every year, and used the example that if the school went through a financial crisis, the lease could be broken.

Commissioner Mitchell asked about home internet access for those who would not have broadband and Dr. Moody said it was a challenge. Dr. Moody said the desire was to work with the community to help. A listing would be provided to students of the businesses and public places that had internet access. Dr. Moody said a desire was that the faith-based community would have homework centers in churches for students. Dr. Moody said there was not a complete answer to the problem yet.

Commissioner Pierce said that as a husband to a retired elementary teacher, he realized there were students that would not be able to be taught on the device. Dr. Moody responded that not everything teachers do can teach every child. Dr. Moody said a lot of time had been spent thinking about the individual child, and it was felt the program personalized education since the devices could be used in so many different ways. Dr. Moody described the devices as a tool for access to provide more opportunities and options.

Commissioner Pierce asked if there was other funding in the budget that could be allocated to textbooks should this project not work. Dr. Moody said there would always be books, but the media centers would change. Dr. Moody said this project was not the answer to everything, but some things would be moved away from.

Commissioner Barber moved that the Rowan County Board of Commissioners allow the Rowan County Board of Education to move into a digital one to one program lease with Apple, Inc. Commissioner Caskey seconded the motion.

Commissioner Barber said the BOE had vetted this issue and at the BOE meeting on May 19, 2014 the vote was unanimous for this project.

Commissioner Barber mentioned the importance of having students be college ready upon graduation. Commissioner Barber said he applauded the BOE for this effort. Commissioner Barber said the BOE and staff had done a tremendous job in the eight (8) months that Dr. Moody had been on board.

Chairman Sides questioned the figures that were provided on the schedule, with the total being confirmed of 16,555 Mac Book Laptops and 9,240 iPads. Commissioner Sides went on to ask if this many devices were turned on, what kind of infrastructure was there to handle the volume. Dr. Moody said this would take a very strong infrastructure, and this was where time, money and energy had been spent since she arrived, to beef up the infrastructure. Dr. Moody explained that the roll out would not all take place in the fall in order to make sure the infrastructure was strong enough so the devices would not go down.

Ms. Salmon-Hosey responded to a question from Chairman Sides stating bandwidth was not the problem; the focus was on increasing the number of access points, with one in each class room. One access point, according to Ms. Salmon-Hosey, could support up to thirty (30) devices. Access points placed throughout the schools would be needed, along with strategically placed access points in the classrooms.

Commissioner Sides asked the cost of the infrastructure upgrades, both now and over the three (3) year term of the contract. Ms. Salmon-Hosey said the cost for this particular project was approximately \$400 per access point, but would have to provide at a later date exactly how many access points there would be.

Chairman Sides said Dr. Moody had indicated that she had been in touch with a lot of other entities who were in the process of doing this, many of which had been successful. Chairman Sides went on to say there were studies out saying the one to one does not work, with some systems backing out. Chairman Sides asked if Dr. Moody had any communication or read any studies with any system where this project did not work. Dr. Moody responded that looking at any project the studies would vary and one could make the numbers look different. Dr. Moody said there were more and more systems moving to one to one projects. Dr. Moody said other districts were looked at along with failures and lessons learned. Dr. Moody said the goal was to model after the systems that were successful. Dr. Moody also said this was done in her former district, so she had had some experience.

Chairman Sides talked about computers and the way they impact living and business today. Chairman Sides said he still had a lot of unanswered questions as this was a sketchy presentation as to where all of the money would be coming from and the repercussions should the project not work. Chairman Sides said he would vote to give the school the chance to prove this was an innovative idea to possibly move children forward in their education. Chairman Sides said he did see challenges ahead, as not everyone was the same in their capabilities. Chairman Sides said he was glad the school was not asking for additional money for the project, as he had concerns about where the money would come from and what could happen if the project had to go backwards.

Dr. Moody apologized for not providing more information, stating she was prepared to ask for the lease, not realizing there would be questions outside the lease. Dr. Moody said the information had been covered in the BOE meetings. Dr. Moody said the BOE was trying hard not to ask for more funding, but to repurpose what was being done in a very different way.

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

## **5. BUDGET PRESENTATION FROM ROWAN-SALISBURY SCHOOL SYSTEM**

Dr. Lynn Moody, Superintendent with the Rowan-Salisbury School System (RSSS) presented the RSSS proposed budget for FY 2014-15. Using a slide presentation, Dr. Moody shared the reading scores, indicating the Board of Education (BOE) was not proud of the scores. Dr. Moody pointed out that RSSS had been behind the state average in reading. Dr. Moody said in looking at the ELA and math scores in grades three (3) through eight (8), the percent proficiency was not where it should be. Dr. Moody said over the last five (5) years, ground had been lost and there was a lot of work to do.

Dr. Moody shared data that had been put together concerning free and reduced lunches. Dr. Moody said Rowan-Salisbury had 53% to 63% of the students

served receiving free and reduced lunches over the last five (5) year period. Dr. Moody said students with high needs have lots of challenges.

The average daily membership (ADM), according to Dr. Moody, was another concern, with the loss of close to 1,000 students in the last five (5) to six (6) school years, while the population of the county had not changed much.

Dr. Moody said the graduation rate was something to be proud of, as the dropout rate had been reduced over the last few years.

Dr. Moody touched on teacher turnover, as well as leadership transition.

Dr. Moody said in order to turn the numbers around the school went to zero based budgeting and priorities were put first in the budget.

The vision and mission were explained by Dr. Moody as was the motto.

Dr. Moody discussed revenues and expenditures. Dr. Moody said salaries had gone down while the cost of benefits had gone up.

Dr. Moody outlined the proposal as trying to repurpose the most focused areas and redefine existing positions. Dr. Moody stated the increases were mandatory and there was expected to be a 2% increase in salaries, FICA, retirement increases, insurance increases all totaling \$345,800 just to remain at the same funding level as this year.

Dr. Moody highlighted the areas where there were weaknesses and said the BOE would like to request consideration to some additional positions.

Dr. Moody said the most troubling request was the supplemental increase. According to Dr. Moody, RSSS was the lowest paid district in the region. North Carolina is the forty-eighth (48) lowest paying state for teacher salaries, with Rowan paying the lowest supplement around. Dr. Moody said that recruiting teachers was difficult when trying to compete with the surrounding districts. The supplement increase would provide a \$300 annual increase and would get RSSS up to Cabarrus and surrounding counties.

Dr. Moody said the school would like to discontinue using reoccurring funds out of the fund balance. When adding all together, Dr. Moody said the current revenue was \$3.8 and projected expenditures was \$35.2, or a difference of about \$3.4 million.

Commissioner Barber referenced the many ethnic groups in RSSS and asked how many languages were spoken in the school system. The response was thirty-five (35). Commissioner Barber said the need was to educate all children from all different countries. Commissioner Barber said there needed to be a way

to look at how to fund the schools to make them better than state average and set that as the goal.

Dr. Moody said she did not expect the BOC to take action, but just appreciated the opportunity to present the needs. Dr. Moody said if there were questions, they would be able to take them over the next several weeks and try to provide answers as quickly as possible. Dr. Moody verified that the proposed budget was a unanimous decision by the BOE.

Chairman Sides thanked Dr. Moody for the presentation.

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

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

- Sheriff – Recognize excess revenue from concealed weapon permits and budget to proper expense account to cover state fees - \$22,240

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

## **7. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BOARD APPOINTMENTS** **AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD**

There are two (2) vacancies, one for a pilot and one for business, and the following applications have been received:

- Greg Edds for reappointment - Business Representative
- Ronald Steelman for reappointment – Pilot Representative
- Dwight David Collins – Business Representative
- Gregory Jay Lowe – Pilot Representative
- William E. Lucey – Pilot Representative
- David Addison Davis – Pilot Representative

The terms are for three (3) years beginning July 1, 2014 and expiring June 30, 2017.

Commissioner Caskey nominated Greg Edds for reappointment

Commissioner Pierce nominated Ronald Steelman for reappointment as pilot representative.

The nominations passed unanimously.

## **ROWAN CABARRUS COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

There is one (1) vacancy and the following have submitted applications:

- Diane Y. Greene for reappointment
- Dr. Lynn G. Marsh

- Michael S. Barron

The term is for four (4) years beginning July 1, 2014 and expiring June 30, 2018.

Commissioner Barber nominated Diane Greene for reappointment.

Commissioner Pierce nominated Dr. Lynn Marsh.

The nomination for Diane Greene failed 2-3 with Commissioners Sides, Pierce and Caskey dissenting.

The nomination for Dr. Lynn Marsh passed 3-2 with Commissioners Mitchell and Barber dissenting.

### **ROWAN COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY**

Melanie Earle has moved out of state and resigned from this board. The following applications have been received to fill the remainder of the term:

- Charles "Chuck" Hughes
- Douglas H. Jones – Note that Mr. Jones has also applied for the Rescue Squad
- Karla F. Constantino
- Hattie M. Johnson

The term expires August 31, 2018.

Chuck Hughes, who was in the audience, requested his name be removed from consideration.

Commissioner Barber nominated Karla Costantino.

The nomination passed unanimously.

### **ROWAN COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD**

Melanie Earle has moved and resigned from this board. The following application has been received to fill the remainder of the term:

- Douglas H. Jones

The term expires December 31, 2014.

Commissioner Barber nominated Douglas Jones and the nomination passed unanimously.

### **BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

There is one (1) vacancy and the following application has been received:

- Arnold S. Chamberlain

The term is for three (3) years beginning July 1, 2014 and expiring June 30, 2017.

Commissioner Barber nominated Arnold S. Chamberlain and the nomination carried unanimously.

#### **CENTRALINA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

There are two (2) vacancies and the following applications have been received:

- Pamela Evans Orbison
- John Michael Beaver for reappointment – Please note that Mr. Beaver resides in Mecklenburg County but owns and operates a business in Rowan County.

The term is for two (2) years beginning July 1, 2014 and expiring June 30, 2016.

Commissioner Pierce nominated Pamela Orbison and John Michael Beaver for reappointment. The nomination passed unanimously.

#### **ROWAN TRANSIT SYSTEM ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

There are two (2) vacancies and the following application has been received:

- Sheila Holshouser for reappointment as the representative from DSS

The term is for three (3) years beginning July 1, 2014 and expiring June 30, 2017.

Commissioner Caskey nominated Sheila Holshouser and the nomination carried unanimously.

#### **ROWAN LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Melissa Oleen has submitted a letter of resignation. The following applications have been received to fill the remainder of the term:

- Ralph Elton Shatterly
- Candelaria Irene Leyvas

The term expires December 31, 2016.

Commissioner Mitchell moved, Commissioner Barber seconded and the vote to accept the letter of resignation from Melissa Oleen passed unanimously.

Commissioner Pierce nominated Ralph Shatterly and the nomination passed unanimously.

#### **REGION F AGING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

- Barbara Gaul has submitted an application for reappointment as an alternate. Please note that by serving on this committee, the applicant

automatically serves on the Home and Community Care Block Grant Committee.

The term is for two (2) years beginning July 1, 2014 and expiring June 30, 2016.

Commissioner Pierce nominated Barbara Gaul for reappointment as an alternate. The nomination carried unanimously.

#### **HOME AND COMMUNITY BLOCK GRANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

There is one (1) vacancy for an At Large Appointment and the following application has been received:

- Kathy Shelton-Riek – Please note Ms. Shelton-Riek has also applied for reappointment to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

The term is for two (2) years beginning July 1, 2014 and expiring June 30, 2016.

Commissioner Pierce nominated Kathy-Shelton Riek and the nomination carried unanimously.

#### **TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

There are three (3) vacancies, two with an Interest in Tourism and one Owner or Operator of a Tourist Attraction. The following have submitted applications for consideration:

- Michelle A. Patterson for reappointment - Interest in tourism
- Nicole Jane MacPherson for reappointment – Owner or operator of tourist attraction
- Thad M. Howell – Interest in tourism – Please note that Mr. Howell is a resident of Davidson County but works in Rowan County.
- Vivian Pennington Hopkins – Interest in tourism

The terms are for two (2) years beginning July 1, 2014 and expiring June 30, 2016.

Commissioner Caskey nominated Michelle Patterson.

Commissioner Pierce nominated Thad Howell.

Commissioner Barber nominated Nicole McPherson for reappointment.

The nomination for Ms. McPherson was unanimous as an owner or operator of a tourist attraction.

By a show of hands, Michelle Patterson and Thad Howell were unanimously appointed.

## **ROWAN COUNTY JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL**

There are eleven (11) vacancies. The following applications have been received for consideration:

- Nancy Gaines for reappointment – Juvenile Defense Attorney
- Don Bringle for reappointment – Representative of Parks
- Alisa Russell for reappointment – At Large
- Kathy M. Shelton-Riek for reappointment – Business Representative
- Cynthia Marie Sloan-Bailey – At Large

The terms are for two (2) years beginning July 1, 2014 and expiring June 30, 2016.

Commissioner Pierce nominated Nancy Gaines, Don Bringle, Alisa Russell and Kathy Shelton-Riek for reappointment and Cynthia Sloan-Bailey for appointment. The nominations passed unanimously.

## **ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT**

- James Titus Kirks has submitted an application for the At Large vacancy.

The term is for three (3) years beginning July 1, 2014 and expiring June 30, 2017.

Commissioner Barber nominated James Titus Kirks and the nomination passed unanimously.

## **8. CLOSED SESSION**

Commissioner Pierce moved at 5:11 p.m. for the Board to enter into Closed Session in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(1) to consider approval of Closed Session minutes and 143-318.11(a)(4) to consider an economic development matter. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Pierce moved, Commissioner Barber seconded and the Board returned to Open Session at 5:32 p.m.

Commissioner Pierce moved to add a public hearing to the June 16, 2014 meeting for Project Buck. Commissioner Barber seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

## **9. PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED FY 2014-15 OPERATING BUDGET**

Chairman Sides reviewed the process for the public hearing for the FY 2014-15 operating budget. The following citizens came forward to address the Board:

- Jennifer Canipe encouraged financial support for Crosby Scholars.
- Barbara Garwood questioned the status of the proposed changes for the Animal Shelter.

- Jane Felts discussed issues at the animal shelter, including staff.
- Patty Bishop discussed revenues, expenditures and needs for the animal shelter.
- Luke Hamity talked about the budget and the fact that the airport cannot run in the black, the mall purchase and proposed tax increase, suggesting private investors might wish to buy it (the mall) back.
- Robert Smith spoke on the County's borrowing and spending over the past few years and urged the Board to adopt a fiscally and socially responsible budget.
- Stacy Cannon spoke in opposition to the purchase of the former Salisbury Mall.
- Scott Cannon, 2770 Faith Road, spoke in opposition to the purchase of the former Salisbury Mall.
- Scott Teeter felt the Board had been fiscally irresponsible to purchase the former Salisbury Mall and then try to borrow the funds.
- GeoRene Jones quoted a portion of the budget message issued by the County Manager. Ms. Jones stated she felt Rowan County should request the Local Government Commission (LGC) take over the County's budget as she felt the Commissioners were fiscally irresponsible.
- David Shelby spoke regarding the state of the County's fund balance. Mr. Shelby asked the Board to stop spending money on the mall and to not pass on the debt to the next board.
- Elizabeth Blair said she was disappointed with the Board's bullying behavior with regards to a downtown central office (for Rowan-Salisbury School System), as well as with the purchase of the mall. Ms. Blair asked the Board to consider selling the mall as she felt the purchase was a tremendous mistake.
- John Blair spoke regarding state law to adopt a balanced budget by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Blair suggested the budget figures needed to be revised to reflect true numbers.
- Heather Teeter felt the Board had spent too much money on the mall and asked the Board to stop wasting money. Ms. Teeter felt the educational system was poor.
- Eric Phillips encouraged the Board to sell the mall.
- Judy Klusman expressed her concerns with the budget. Ms. Klusman felt the mall purchase was not properly evaluated and that so much time and money had been spent on the project that the County could have easily paid over half of the costs for the new school administrative building.
- Debbie Krueger encouraged the Board to not borrow or spend more money on the mall and to sell it.
- Gene Miller discussed the former Salisbury Mall purchase as well as the drop in County's fund balance over the past few years and encouraged the Board to stop spending money on the mall.
- Larry Wright referred to comments by previous speakers and said for a few minutes he thought he was hearing comments directed to Salisbury

City Council. Mr. Wright then talked about City's financial state and thanked the Board for holding the line on the County's tax rate during a recession.

- Terry Kindley provided the Board with a handout regarding a no-kill animal shelter. Ms. Kindley discussed the proposed budget and needs at the animal shelter.
- Butch Young felt the mall purchase was a political move.
- Larry Pruitt discussed the Franklin Volunteer Fire Department's proposed tax increase; going from \$189,000 to \$248,000, or a 59% increase in one year. Mr. Pruitt discussed the proposed expenditures that he felt were not necessary and said he felt the VFD was not managing its money very well.
- Korey Deese said if the County wanted to increase the tax base, there could be an increase in taxes; however, he questioned where the Board's vision for the future had been. Mr. Deese said the fund balance was going down but nothing new was going on and the revenue needed to come from somewhere other than the taxpayers.
- Todd Paris spoke concerning page 3 of the budget message and the fund balance stating that if the Board was going to spend money they would have to find the revenue to cover it. Mr. Paris said it was time for all citizens to pull together. Mr. Paris encouraged the Board to sell the mall.
- Barbara Hart expressed concern with the lack of vet care being allocated to the animal shelter in FY 2014-15 and encouraged the Board to include a vet tech in the budget. Ms. Hart also asked that Animal Control Staff receive additional training.
- Bill Cameron asked the Board to stop spending more money on the mall. Mr. Cameron said he understood the need for the tax increase this year and the fact that it was probably unavoidable, but he found it troubling that other counties have had growth while Rowan has not. Mr. Cameron asked for good fiscal management with the mall and that the new board and new manager be allowed to decide what to do with the mall.
- Tom Speaks said he was tired of negative comments regarding the Board and the former Salisbury Mall. Mr. Speaks said after doing due diligence, he came to two (2) conclusions; 1) most of the comments were incorrect, with false rumors and what was in print was distorted; 2) these were the most dirty politics ever witnessed. Mr. Speaks stated that if you had personally checked into the facts you would learn they weren't true. Mr. Speaks thanked the Board for looking out for our best interest, knowing everyone's fund balance had dropped in the recession, including his own. Mr. Speaks asked everyone to look more deeply into the truth of matters.

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

Commissioner Mitchell moved to add a discussion on the budget before the June 16, 2014 Commission Meeting. Commissioner Mitchell recommended adjusting the starting time for the regular meeting to 5:00 p.m. and then go straight into the regularly scheduled meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Caskey and passed unanimously.

**10. SECOND PUBLIC HEARING FOR WEST END PLAZA FINANCING PROPOSALS**

(The public hearing was cancelled during the discussion for agenda item #2b).

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Pierce moved to adjourn at 6:51 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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