

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ROWAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
December 1, 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 Aaron Church, 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 Pierce 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 November 17, 2014 Closed Session and the minutes of the November 17, 2014 Commission Meeting passed unanimously.

BOARD ADJOURNS

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Sides adjourned the meeting at 3:01 p.m.

OATH OF OFFICE

Commissioner Pierce introduced the Honorable Jeffrey Barger, Rowan County Clerk of Superior Court for administration of the Oath of Office to the newly elected commissioners.

Mr. Barger congratulated the newly elected Commissioners and wished them well as they carried out their duties. Mr. Barger expressed appreciation to the retiring Commissioners for serving the County well over the last four (4) years.

Mr. Barger then administered the Oath of Office to commission members Judy Klusman, Greg Edds, and Jim Greene.

After taking the Oath of Office the Commissioners were presented with Rowan County lapel pins.

NEW BOARD CONVENES

SELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

County Attorney Jay Dees presided over the selection of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

Chairman:

Mr. Dees opened the floor for nominations for Chairman.

Commissioner Caskey nominated Commissioner Edds.

Commissioner Pierce nominated Commissioner Greene.

Commissioner Pierce moved to close the nominations. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Klusman and carried unanimously.

Mr. Dees said the Board would vote on the nominations in the order in which they were received.

Upon being put to a vote, the motion to support Greg Edds carried 4-1 with Commissioner Pierce dissenting.

Mr. Dees stated Commissioner Edds would serve as Chairman.

Vice-Chairman:

Mr. Dees opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chairman.

Commissioner Klusman nominated Commissioner Greene.

Commissioner Pierce moved to close the nominations. Chairman Edds seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Dees announced that Commissioner Greene would serve as Vice-Chairman.

RECOGNITION OF RETIRING COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Edds recognized that the retiring board members had been part of many positive achievements over the years, especially Commissioner Mitchell who had served on the Board for twelve (12) years. Chairman Edds then turned the floor over to Commissioner Klusman to recap the projects that had been completed.

Commissioner Klusman highlighted the major projects completed over the last twelve (12) years as follows:

- South Rowan Water Line
- South Rowan Emergency Ambulance Station
- Dan Nicholas Park Renovations
- South Rowan Regional Library
- Cell #3 at the County's Landfill
- New High School,
- Three New Elementary Schools and Renovations At Other School Facilities
- Justice Center Renovations
- New Salisbury Emergency Ambulance Station
- New Department of Social Services Facility
- New Sewer Line Along I-85
- New Satellite Jail
- Distribution of 995 New Portable and Mobile Radios
- New Emergency 911 Facility
- Community Hangar at the Rowan County Airport
- Purchase of West End Plaza

Commissioner Klusman also said that the County had issued \$12 million in general obligation bonds to finance on-going improvements at the North Campus of Rowan-Cabarrus Community College. The improvements included expansion of the fire training grounds, construction of walkways, stairways, and elevators, and construction and renovation of buildings for classrooms, laboratories, utilities and office space.

Commissioner Greene recapped the economic development projects that had been completed with the Commissioners support over the past twelve (12) years. Some of the investments and job creation totals Commissioner Greene highlighted included Square D, Toyota Racing Development, Duke Energy, Altec, Henkle Corporation, Southern Power, Freightliner, Magnum, Boral Composites, Norandal, Infiltration, Tuscarora Yarns, Universal Forest Products, Fresh House Foods, Gildan, Integro Technologies, Shat R Shield, and New Sarum Brewery. Commissioner Greene said many people had good paying jobs due to the efforts of the Economic Development Commission the Rowan County Commissioners.

Chairman Edds honored the outgoing Commissioners for their public service.

Chairman Edds and Commissioner Greene presented a plaque and gift to former Commissioner Jon Barber. Chairman Edds said Mr. Barber had a real heart for people and that a lot had been learned from him. A round of applause followed the presentation.

Chairman Edds and Commissioner Greene presented former Commissioner Chad Mitchell with a plaque and gift. Chairman Edds said Mr. Mitchell had served the County a long time and a lot of accomplishments had occurred during the twelve (12) years he had been in office. The presentation was followed by a round of applause

Chairman Edds recognized former Commissioner Jim Sides and asked how many times he had served on the commission throughout the years, with Mr. Sides responding three (3).

Chairman Edds thanked Mr. Sides for his commitment to the County. Chairman Edds said Mr. Sides was one of the hardest working commissioners who studied the issues, and for that he was very appreciative. Chairman Edds and Commissioner Greene then presented Mr. Sides with a plaque and gift. A round of applause followed the presentation.

Mr. Sides said he never believed that he would be elected on three (3) different occasions. Mr. Sides went on to say that it had been a privilege to serve. Mr. Sides felt some of his views were controversial but said one had to make decisions that affected 138,000 citizens. Mr. Sides said the situation had been hard on his family at times and he appreciated their support. Mr. Sides said his grandchildren did not want him to seek re-election this time because they wanted him home and wanted his time.

Mr. Mitchell said he wanted to thank the citizens of Rowan County for twelve (12) amazing years. Some might not have always agreed with him, according to Mr. Mitchell, but it had been the ride of a lifetime. Mr. Mitchell said twelve (12) years seemed like a long time; however, the years had gone fast. To the newly elected Commissioners, Mr. Mitchell said he hoped they would enjoy their service, noting what a great honor it was when the citizens put them in the role to serve. Mr. Mitchell said he was thankful to the County employees, who were the backbone of the government. Mr. Mitchell closed with a thank you for the past twelve (12) years.

Mr. Barber said that eight (8) years ago he was sworn in as a County Commissioner and it had been a rewarding part of his life that he could not have achieved without the support of family and friends. Mr. Barber expressed a special thanks to his father and his late mother. Mr. Barber said he hoped the new board would experience the improving economy. Mr. Barber said for first time going back to at least 1982 the citizens had elected three (3) new people to the BOC at same time, and for 4th time the citizens had elected a female. According to Mr. Barber during the 147 years, Rowan County had only elected one African American. Mr. Barber said he was challenging the citizens today to bring diversity to the 2016 election. Mr. Barber went on to express the hope that the Board would set goals and set a date for a planning retreat and he also spoke regarding the need for a strategic plan. Mr. Barber continued by sharing

various goals and agencies he hoped the new Board would support. Mr. Barber voiced his opinion that he felt two (2) terms were sufficient for any elected official, and then talked about his future plans in dealing with local poverty and a healthy County.

Chairman Edds recognized the family members of the three (3) former Commissioners by asking them to stand. The recognition was followed by a round of applause.

Chairman Edds thanked the citizens for the confidence placed in the Board and he congratulated Commissioners Greene and Klusman on their elections and said he looked forward to their time together.

Chairman Edds went on to thank Commissioners Pierce and Caskey for their welcoming hospitality and words of encouragement. Chairman Edds said their experience, wisdom and insight would be needed and welcomed.

A special thank you went to County Manager Aaron Church for the wisdom and instruction already provided, and to Carolyn Barger, Clerk to the Board, for taking care of the “rookies” over the past few weeks. Chairman Edds also extended a thank you to Attorney Jay Dees for the time he had already given.

Chairman Edds expressed a special thank you for his wife and children, in-laws, Pastor Kenneth Lance, and his best friend from Florida, Mark Petty. Chairman Edds recognized a good friend, Rev. Tony Hall and his wife. Chairman Edds thanked the families of Commissioners Pierce, Caskey, Greene, and Klusman for the sacrifices made to allow the elected officials to serve.

Chairman Edds said over the past few weeks the three (3) newly elected Commissioners had begun to focus on addressing the issues citizens had indicated were most important to them. These issues, according to Chairman Edds, were jobs, the economy, schools, poverty, and infrastructure. Chairman Edds pointed out two (2) of the most important leaders in Rowan County over the next few years would be Dr. Lynn Moody, Superintendent of Rowan Salisbury School System (RSSS) and Robert Van Geons, Director of the Economic Development Commission. Chairman Edds discussed the effects of both individuals within the community. Chairman Edds also spoke regarding recruiting strategies and assets that made Rowan County a destination for emerging jobs.

Chairman Edds said the Board was tasked with prioritizing needs within a limited budget while trying to keep taxes as low as possible.

Chairman Edds said the Commissioners were committed to treating the citizens and every municipality with respect in an effort to build up and improve the economic prospects of every municipality in the County.

Chairman Edds said the Board was committed to working with the partners in the school system and on the school board. Chairman Edds said a little respect from each board would go a long way to resolving unnecessary and unproductive conflicts.

As a group, Chairman Edds said the primary goal was to make decisions in the best interest of the entire County. Chairman Edds asked for prayers over the coming years that the Commissioners would be showered with wisdom, patience, perseverance, and with grace. Chairman Edds said the Board was humbled the citizens had placed them in such honored positions at a critical time in the County's history and promised to treat the positions with the reverence they deserved.

Commissioner Klusman said she was excited about serving and was committed to serving all people of the County by listening to them. Commissioner Klusman said she was looking forward to having conversations with the citizens.

Commissioner Greene thanked the citizens of Rowan County and his family for their support during the election process. Commissioner Greene recognized and his family members that were present, which included his wife, his children and grandchildren. Commissioner Greene thanked his friend and business partner, John Fisher, who was also present.

Commissioner Greene went on to say there was a lot of work to be done and a lot of ideas. Commissioner Greene said he had a platform of bringing jobs to Rowan County and the Board would try its best to do so. Commissioner Greene reiterated some of what Chairman Edds had said and thanked the citizens for the responsibility given to him and said he would try to live up to it.

Commissioner Caskey said he was looking forward to working with everyone. Commissioner Caskey said his only words to the newly elected board members were that they would make as many people angry as they would make happy.

Commissioner Pierce said he was glad he did not have to sit in the Vice-Chair seat again. Commissioner Pierce said he felt the Board would be able to push forward for economic development and jobs and the Board was dedicated to the schools. Commissioner Pierce said he felt the Board needed to work hard to make things happen without a tax increase.

RECESS FOR RECEPTION

Chairman Edds called for a recess at 3:54 p.m. and invited everyone to attend a reception in the downstairs lobby.

Chairman Edds reconvened the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

CONSIDER DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA

Chairman Edds moved to delete item #8 (Consider Approval of Board Appointments). Commissioner Klusman seconded and the motion passed 4-1 with Commissioner Pierce dissenting.

CONSIDER ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- Chairman Edds moved to add a discussion pertaining to a countywide re-branding effort. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Klusman and passed unanimously.

At the recommendation of Commissioner Pierce the issue was added as agenda item #7a.

- Chairman Edds recommended adding a request from Economic Development Director Robert Van Geons for a discussion on an access agreement for the Hutton Group.

Commissioner Pierce moved to add the discussion to the agenda as item #3a. Commissioner Klusman seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Pierce moved, Commissioner Greene seconded and the vote to approve the agenda as amended passed unanimously.

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. Woodson Grant Application
- B. Permission to Apply for a State Library EZ Technology Grant
- C. Reschedule Public Hearing for January 5, 2014 for ZTA 02-14: Quarry Text
- D. Salisbury Rowan Community Action Agency's Community Services Block Grant
- E. Approval of Bonds for Sheriff, Finance Director, Tax Administrator and Register of Deeds
- F. Resolution Establishing Board of Commissioners 2015 Meeting Schedule

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Chairman opened the Public Comment Period to entertain comments from any citizens wishing to address the Board. With no one wishing to address the Board, Chairman Sides closed the Public Comment Period.

**PUBLIC HEARING & INITIAL ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY PRESENTATION –
EDC “PROJECT NINE MILE”**

Economic Development Director Robert Van Geons presented an initial Economic Impact Analysis regarding the potential location of Project Nine Mile in Rowan County, now known by its name of Agility Fuel Systems.

Sara Maffey Duncan, Senior Consultant with Cushman Wakefield, was in attendance to answer any questions the Board might have.

Mr. Van Geons said Agility Fuel Systems (the Company) was a California based company established in 1996, with the Company currently employing approximately 450 employees in five (5) facilities throughout the United States and Canada. Mr. Van Geons shared the fact that the company was in need of additional manufacturing space to meet its current and projected needs. According to Mr. Van Geons, the Company was interested in property located in Summit Corporate Center adjacent to Duke Energy.

Mr. Van Geons shared the rapidly evolving factors, an extremely aggressive timeline, and proprietary issues with the Board. Mr. Van Geons stated that with the Boards support, there was optimism the project would reach a successful conclusion, creating new employment and expanding the nonresidential tax base in Rowan County. Mr. Van Geons said the Company planned to make a decision in early December, 2014.

The Company, according to Mr. Van Geons, was a fast growing, American based manufacturer. Mr. Van Geons went on to share that the Company had expressed an interest in leasing a build-to-suit facility at 1010 Corporate Center Drive and the facility would also serve as the Company’s regional headquarters.

Mr. Van Geons said the Company would invest approximately \$20 million in Rowan County and bring more than 250 jobs. Mr. Van Geons said the project could serve as a catalyst for future industrial growth within Summit Corporate Center.

Mr. Van Geons said the proposed site was zoned appropriately and there did not appear to be any regulatory barriers to the project moving forward.

Mr. Van Geons discussed the competitiveness of the project, saying the Company was considering sites in North and South Carolina. According to Mr. Van Geons, the incentive grant would only apply to the increased assessed value of the real and business personal property, and the grant would be reduced should the Company fail to meet the minimum employment goals.

Under Rowan County’s adopted Investment Grant Program, Mr. Van Geons said the project would register as an increase to the tax base of Rowan County. Mr.

Van Geons went on to say the Company was requesting assistance under the Level 1 Grant for the amount and duration adopted in the policy.

In closing, Mr. Van Geons reiterated the competition with other sites across the southeast and the benefit to the County from the 277 new jobs that would be created. Mr. Van Geons noted the Company was in discussions with the State for assistance, as well, and without the State's support the County would not be able to successfully put together a package for the Company.

Mr. Van Geons asked the Board to approve the request and authorize County and EDC staff to execute the materials needed to apply for potential State assistance.

Chairman Edds opened the public hearing to receive comments from any citizens wishing to address the Board.

- Jim Sides addressed the Board and said he looked forward to the Company coming and providing jobs. Mr. Sides went on to say that one of his arguments over the years was that incentives were not as good as presented. Mr. Sides read a portion of an article from 2012 by Richard Florida detailing Mr. Florida's findings on incentives and their lack of desired results.

Mr. Sides voiced his opposition to the proposed incentive request. Mr. Sides said he felt incentives should be a percentage based on the number of jobs created. Mr. Sides said the main affect from incentives was to deplete a communities' tax base. A lot of money had been given away over the last ten (10) years, according to Mr. Sides; enough to have built the school system a central office, new schools, or a lot of things for the County.

Mr. Sides said property tax incentives were all too frequently given to companies that would have chosen the same location anyway.

Mr. Sides went on to say he was assuming the project was a build to suit situation, where The Keith Corporation (TKC), which owned the property, would actually build and own the building. Mr. Sides said he felt TKC would lease to the Company and the Company would be responsible for paying the taxes in order to receive the tax rebate. According to Mr. Sides this would be incentivizing TKC, as well as the Company, since TKC was already receiving an incentive on the property as it was bought at a discounted price. Mr. Sides said it was his opinion that this was giving double incentives on the same piece of property.

Chairman Edds questioned the double incentive as indicated by Mr. Sides, to which Mr. Sides responded that it would be double on the same piece of property, not the building.

- Roy Bentley spoke in support of the project and the sizeable investment and jobs to be created. Mr. Bentley said the incentives were received after the taxes were paid. Mr. Bentley said it was still a net win as long as the County was sure the incentives were not paid out unless commitments were upheld. Mr. Bentley said no one liked incentives but they were a cost for doing and getting businesses. Mr. Bentley went on to encourage the Board to approve the incentive.

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

Commissioner Klusman asked if the Company was considered a clean industry or if the County would have environmental issues? Mr. Van Geons responded by saying the entire focus of the Company was reducing environmental impacts while increasing the efficiency of operations.

Commissioner Pierce questioned whether Mr. Van Geons had any idea as to what the State participation needed to be able to make the project happen, with Mr. Van Geons responding he did not know at this time.

Commissioner Pierce asked if it would be possible to adjust the payout schedule based on the fact the Company would not hire until 2018. Mr. Van Geons responded by stating the Company would be employing people next year. Mr. Van Geons went on to explain the incentives might not be paid until 2017.

Commissioner Pierce questioned if the schedule could be adjusted based on the performance of the Company, to which Mr. Van Geons responded in the affirmative noting the schedule had been amended in the past.

Commissioner Greene asked about the proposed 277 jobs and what research had been done in the past to indicate how many support jobs the project would bring to Rowan County. Mr. Van Geons responded that it varied by industry, pay and what needs were in the community. Typically, Mr. Van Geons said, it was half a job per employee, involving banking, daycare, restaurants, automotive repair, etc.

Commissioner Klusman asked for assistance with the timeline with the State. If the incentive were to be approved today, Commissioner Klusman asked how long it would take to get through the State. Mr. Van Geons said he would submit the approval electronically to the State this evening. Mr. Van Geons said it was a fast moving project and timing was of the essence for the Company. Mr. Van

Geons said they were hoping the State would make as rapid a decision as possible.

Commissioner Caskey inquired as to what kind of skill level would be required by employees and whether the County had that available. Mr. Van Geons responded in the affirmative and said the Company was also asking for State assistance from the community college for customized training to be made available. The Company would be looking to pre-train potential employees prior to opening. Mr. Van Geons said applicants would need to be available to fill positions. An interesting statistic, according to Mr. Van Geons, was the County brings 10,000 people into the County to work every day, and 20,000 leave the County for work.

Chairman Edds thanked the Company for considering Rowan County and said the County was honored to be on the short list. Chairman Edds said he felt the County would be a good fit and thanked the Company again for their consideration of this community.

Commissioner Greene moved to provide the incentives as requested and to authorize County and EDC staff to execute the documents necessary for State incentives. Commissioner Klusman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ADDITION

3a. HUTTON ACCESS AGREEMENT

Economic Development Director Robert Van Geons said Hutton Growth One, LLC (Hutton) had originally hoped to close on December 9th; however further title work and research had revealed the property was actually 2.475 acres larger than previous records had shown. Mr. Van Geons said additional survey work was required and recently completed. According to Mr. Van Geons, Hutton hoped to close on the property by the end of the month. Per Mr. Van Geons, the agreement for access was needed in order for Hutton to meet their required deadline for project completion and would be for grading purposes only. Mr. Van Geons said the proposed work would significantly improve the property value.

Mr. Van Geons said he was asking for authorization for the County Manager to execute an access agreement with Hutton Growth One, LLC with necessary changes to allow the grading of the site.

In response to an inquiry from Commissioner Pierce, Mr. Van Geons said Hutton had to comply with approved plans by DENR as part of their permit.

Ben Berry, with Berry Engineers representing the Hutton Company, stated he had met with DENR to discuss the permitting process. Mr. Berry said all local approvals were in place to begin construction on December 9th. One of the caveats, according to Mr. Berry, was to have a sediment pond installed.

Mr. Van Geons responded to a question from Chairman Edds by saying the downside was that should something go wrong, assuming the final agreement had protection in place, the deposit from the Company would be kept and the County would have to seek legal action. Mr. Van Geons said it was asked in the agreement to list the contractor to make certain the contractor is duly vetted and licensed. Mr. Van Geons said if the project was to stall out halfway complete, the County would be half way to a graded site for improved marketability.

Commissioner Caskey moved to authorize the County Manager to execute the access agreement with Hutton Growth One, LLC and revise the agreement as necessary. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce and passed unanimously

4. REQUESTED AMENDMENT TO ACCESS ROAD GRANT

Economic Development Director Robert Van Geons said that in March of 2014, Rowan County had received a grant from the North Carolina Department of Transportation (DOT) to assist with the construction of the industrial access road needed to support the Gildan Road Project. Mr. Van Geons shared the fact that originally Rowan County would turn the maintenance of the road over to DOT, but since that time, the Town of Granite Quarry (Town) had voluntarily annexed the county-owned property. The Town had also requested an alternate cross section, which the DOT had agreed to build; however, it would have to be maintained by the Town.

Mr. Van Geons requested the County Commissioners approve the following changes to the existing grant agreement:

1. Upon completion of the project, and satisfaction of all CDBG Requirements, the Town of Granite Quarry shall assume all maintenance and liabilities responsibilities for the project.
2. Upon completion of the project, and satisfaction of all CDBG Requirements, all recorded right of way and/or easements required for said project shall be transferred to the Town of Granite Quarry.
3. An attached statement from the Town of Granite Quarry, confirming their willingness to accept the road for maintenance.

Commissioner Pierce asked if the Town was on board with the project. Bill Feather, Mayor for the Town, thanked the County for the previous work and said the Town was appreciative of the way the project had worked out. Secondly, Mayor Feather said the Town was willing to take over the future maintenance. Mayor Feather described the project as a compromise that was workable for all sides.

Commissioner Pierce said he wanted to make certain the final product was what the Town wanted and Mayor Feather responded that it was. Mayor Feather went on to explain the Town would have liked to have had what the Town Ordinance

required with the curb and guttering, but that was not practical in this case. Mayor Feather reiterated the project was a good compromise for everybody.

Commissioner Pierce moved to approve the amendment to the access road granted to Gildan and authorize the County Manager to execute the final language as agreeable to NCDOT. Commissioner Greene seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

5. SELECTION OF VOTING DELEGATE FOR NCACC 2015 LEGISLATIVE GOALS CONFERENCE

Chairman Edds said that every two (2) years the NC Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) members engage in a process to determine the legislative goals it should seek in the best interest of the counties. Every member county appoints a voting delegate to the January conference.

Commissioner Pierce nominated Commissioner Klusman to be Rowan County's elected delegate.

6. DISCUSSION REGARDING DECEMBER MEETING SCHEDULE

Chairman Edds said the Board of Commissioners typically holds one (1) meeting in the month of December due to the holidays. At this time, Chairman Edds said that staff had been made aware the County's audit report should be available for presentation sometime in December and there may be a few other items, as well.

Commissioner Pierce stated Chairman Edds could call a special meeting at any time. Commissioner Pierce also commented he was a little disturbed by the motion to remove board appointments off the current agenda. Commissioner Pierce said he did not have a problem having a December 15th meeting but he would be more open to having a called meeting once all of the information was in hand.

In response to a question from Commissioner Caskey, County Manager Aaron Church said some of the agenda items would be the audit, and an issue with Social Services and Medicaid. Also, according to Mr. Church, there would need to be a budget amendment approved in order to move forward with the Water Feasibility Study. Mr. Church said there were at least two (2) items that would probably not be able to wait for the January 5, 2015 meeting.

After further discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to hold the regularly scheduled meeting on December 15, 2014.

7. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENTS

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

- Finance – To appropriate funds for the Martin Luther King, Jr. breakfast - \$3,500
- Parks and Recreation – To replenish R&M account with reserve to complete work on the bird habitat in the Nature Center and to match other signage in the habitat area – \$4,700
- Parks and Recreation – To transfer from the Dunn’s Mountain reserve account into capital outlay to pave portion of washed road - \$12,000
- Social Services – Revise expenditure and / or revenues based on Funding Authorizations received from the State. Funding Authorizations reflect the actual amount received. In addition, new child Welfare funding has been received - \$204,177

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

7. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BOARD APPOINTMENTS

This item was deleted from the agenda.

7a. DISCUSSION ON COUNTYWIDE REBRANDING EFFORTS

Chairman Edds said County Manager Aaron Church had brought the idea of an overall look and brand of Rowan County and the surrounding municipalities. Chairman Edds went on state that Mr. Church had recently provided a power point presentation at a Chamber of Commerce event regarding rebranding of the County.

Chairman Edds then moved to ask Aaron Church to engage the community partners with developing a recommendation for a rebranding effort. Commissioner Klusman seconded the motion.

In response to an inquiry from Commissioner Caskey, Chairman Edds confirmed there were community partners who had stepped forward and were willing to partner on the rebranding effort. The motion was simply to ask Mr. Church to reach out to those community partners for information and to bring the information back to the Board as part of the community branding effort. Chairman Edds stated the County was not committing to anything at this time.

Commissioner Pierce asked Chairman Edds to identify the community partners.

Chairman Edds responded by stating that the Tourism Development Authority (TDA) had spoken with a few and had enthusiastically embraced Mr. Church’s vision of a rebranding effort. According to Chairman Edds, the TDA had reached out wanting to partner with the County in some remarkable ways. Chairman Edds said the opportunity needed to be provided for the TDA to talk with Mr. Church and for Mr. Church to come back to the BOC with some specifics.

Chairman Edds confirmed Commissioner Pierce's question that the community partner at this time was just the TDA.

Upon being put to a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

9. CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Greene moved at 5:32 p.m. to enter into Closed Session in accordance with NCGS§ 143-318.11(a)(3) for attorney-client privileged communication and in accordance with NCGS § 143-318.11(a)(4) and for an economic development matter. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce and passed unanimously.

The Board returned to Open Session at 6:39 p.m.

Commissioner Klusman said it was essential for the BOC to work in a cooperative manner with the City Council regarding the issue surrounding the West End Plaza Zoning. Commissioner Klusman then moved to direct Chairman Edds and Commissioner Greene to sit down and discuss this issue and to negotiate an understanding with the City, in good faith, an agreement that will meet the needs and concerns of both the City and County while also protecting the County's interest through continuing the appeal process. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce and passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Pierce moved to adjourn at 6:42 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Klusman and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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