

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

May 4, 2015 – 3:00 PM

J. NEWTON COHEN, SR. ROOM

J. NEWTON COHEN, SR. ROWAN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

Present: Greg Edds, Chairman
Jim Greene, Vice-Chairman
Mike Caskey, Member
Judy Klusman, Member
Craig Pierce, Member

County Manager Aaron Church, Clerk to the Board/Assistant to the County Manager Carolyn Barger, County Attorney Jay Dees and Assistant County Manager/Finance Director Leslie Heidrick were present.

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

Chairman Edds provided the Invocation and also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSIDER ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Commissioner Caskey requested to place Consent Agenda item D (Proclamation for Law Enforcement Week) and item E (Proclamation to Establish May As Shield-A-Badge With Prayer Awareness Month) on the regular agenda.

Chairman Edds placed the items on the regular agenda as items #2a and #2b.

CONSIDER DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA

There were no deletions from the agenda.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Greene moved, Commissioner Klusman seconded and the vote to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2015 and April 20, 2015 Commission Meeting passed unanimously.

1. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Pierce moved approval of the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Greene and passed unanimously (as amended).

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- A. Amendment of Response District Map for Millers Ferry Fire Department
- B. Proclamation for Community Action Month
- C. State Request to Add Timber Spring Lane and Hidden Spring Drive to State Secondary Road System for Maintenance
- D. Proclamation for Law Enforcement Week (placed on the regular agenda as item #2b)
- E. Proclamation to Establish May As Shield-A-Badge With Prayer Awareness Month (placed on the agenda as item #2a)
- F. Planning Services Contract With The Town of China Grove
- G. Amendment to Resolution Levying an Additional One-Quarter Cent County Sales and Use Tax
- H. Audit Contract for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015
- I. Contract for Commercial Real Estate Broker Services
- J. Purchase Mobile Emergency Generator
- K. Contract for Auctioneer Services
- L. State Request to Add Olde Fields Drive and Gillian Drive to the State Secondary Road System for Maintenance
- M. Set CDBG Closeout Public Hearing for May 18, 2015 for Gildan (CanAm Yarns) Building Reuse Project

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

ADDITIONS

2a. PROCLAMATION FOR SHIELD A BADGE WITH PRAYER AWARENESS MONTH

Commissioner Caskey read the Proclamation for Shield a Badge with Prayer Awareness Month as follows:

WHEREAS, the Shield-A-Badge With Prayer program works to affirm the commitment of Rowan County Law Enforcement Officers and encourages citizen awareness and appreciation for these officers; and

WHEREAS, the program invites citizens to commit to pray for an officer every day for one year and to send birthday cards and notes of thanks to these officers; and

WHEREAS, through the generosity of individuals, businesses and churches that have donated services and fundraisers, 10,000 Bibles, 3,700 Shield-A-Badge Bible Promise Books and 11,000 New Testaments have been purchased to be given away; and

WHEREAS, the Shield-A-Badge With Prayer program began in 1995 in Rowan County, by Chaplain Michael Taylor and has begun to expand statewide, reaching out to other counties, municipalities, colleges, hospitals, correctional facilities, 911 communicators, probations officers, animal control officers, state highway patrol troopers, fire departments, Clerk of Court employees, magistrates, judges, District Attorney's Office, County Commissioners, sheriffs, and attorneys; and

WHEREAS, through the dedication and travels of Chaplain Taylor, counties from across the state are receiving encouragement and training for chaplains.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Rowan County Board of Commissioners does hereby establish the month of May as Shield-A-Badge With Prayer Awareness Month.

The reading was followed by a standing ovation and round of applause.

Chairman Edds recognized Chaplain Michael Taylor who was in the audience. Chaplain Taylor came forward to address the Board and said the twenty (20) years since the implementation of the program had flown by. Chaplain Taylor attributed the safety of the officers to the prayers of those supporting them. Chaplain Taylor expressed appreciation to the Board for its support of the program over the years. Another round of applause followed Chaplain Taylor's comments.

Commissioner Greene moved, Commissioner Pierce seconded and the vote to approve the Proclamation passed unanimously.

2b. PROCLAMATION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT WEEK

Commissioner Caskey shared the following statistics regarding law enforcement officers:

- There are more than 900,000 sworn law enforcement officers serving in the United States, which is the highest figure ever
- Crime fighting has taken its toll on the officers. Since the first recorded police death in 1791 there have been over 20,000 law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty
- Currently there are 20,538 names engraved on memorials for national law enforcement officers
- A total of 1,466 law enforcement officers have died in the line of duty in the last ten (10) years – an average of one (1) death every sixty (60) hours or 146 per year
- 117 law enforcement officers were killed in 2014
- On average over the past decade there have been 58,930 assaults against law enforcement each year resulting in 15,404 injuries
- The deadliest day in law enforcement was September 11, 2001 when 72 officers were killed when responding to a terrorist attack on America

Commissioner Caskey read the Proclamation for Law Enforcement Week as follows:

WHEREAS, in 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a Presidential Proclamation that set aside May 15th as National Peace Officers' Memorial Day and the week of May 10-16 as National Police Week; and

WHEREAS, the members of all the law enforcements agencies in Rowan County play an essential role in safeguarding the rights and freedoms of all our citizens; and

WHEREAS, it is important that all citizens know and understand the duties, responsibilities, hazards and sacrifices of their law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, members of our law enforcement agencies recognize their duty to serve the people by safeguarding life and property, by protecting them against violence and disorder, and by protecting the innocent against deception and the weak against oppression; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement officers, past and present, have faithfully and loyally rendered a dedicated service to this County and have established for themselves an enviable and enduring reputation to preserving the rights and security of all citizens.

THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Rowan County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim May 10-16, 2015 as LAW ENFORCEMENT WEEK.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that the Rowan County Board of Commissioners calls upon all citizens of Rowan County to observe May 14, 2015 as PEACE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL DAY in honor of those law enforcement officers who, through their courageous deeds, have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their community or have become disabled in the performance of duty, and let us recognize and pay respect to the survivors of our fallen heroes.

Commissioner Pierce moved to approve the Proclamation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Greene.

At the request of Commissioner Klusman, Chairman Edds called for a moment of silence in memory of those in law enforcement who had lost their life in the line of duty.

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

3. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENTS

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

- Cooperative Extension – To budget additional revenues and expenditures for fees received for Family Consumer Sciences programs - \$1,541
- Finance Department – Budget Appropriation from Contingency Fund to provide a one-time gift to the Rowan Museum, Inc. for the Virtual Reality Technology Project. This will increase the Rowan Museum, Inc. appropriation for 2015 from \$18,000 to \$24,000 - \$6,000
- Social Services – Increase expenditure and revenue line items for Child Day Care Subsidy payments based on funding authorizations received from the Division of Child Development for FY 2015 - \$16,028
- Social Services – Increase expenditure and revenue line items for donations received in order to provide goods and services to clients - \$3,503

- Tax Administration – To budget excess ad valorem property tax revenues and additional funds for auditing discovery services and contracted revaluation services - \$90,000
- Finance Department – To recognize the receipt and disbursement of Fire District Tax Revenues in excess of original budget amounts and to provide for appropriate budget values through the end of the year - \$241,880

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

4. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BOARD APPOINTMENTS

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Reid Walters submitted his resignation and the following application was received to fill the vacancy:

- Robert Lee Bruce

The term expires December 31, 2017.

Commissioner Klusman moved to approve the resignation of Reid Walters. Commissioner Pierce seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Pierce moved to delay appointment to this board and the Planning Board for at least thirty (30) days in order to provide additional time to receive applications. Commissioner Klusman seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

PLANNING BOARD

Reid Walters submitted his resignation and the following application was received for consideration to fill the unexpired term:

- Norman Grey Ribelin (On his application Mr. Ribelin also indicated an interest in the Zoning Board of Adjustment, but after a discussion with Planning Staff, Mr. Ribelin said he would prefer to serve on the Planning Board).

The term expires December 31, 2016.

This appointment was included in the motion above by Commissioner Pierce to delay the appointment for thirty (30) days in order to provide additional time to receive applications.

ELLIS CROSS COUNTRY VFD FIRE COMMISSIONER

There is one (1) vacancy and the following applications were received:

- Lane Gaskell Graham
- Charles Robert Kennerly for reappointment

The term is for two (2) years beginning May 1, 2015 and expiring April 30, 2017.

Commissioner Pierce nominated Lane Graham. Commissioner Klusman seconded and the nomination passed unanimously.

WOODLEAF VFD FIRE COMMISSIONER

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

- Eric Moore
- David F. Correll
- Kay Holloway Gregory
- James F. Summers
-

The terms are for two (2) years beginning May 1, 2015 and expiring March 31, 2017.

Commissioner Pierce nominated David Correll. Chairman Edds seconded and the nomination carried unanimously.

Commissioner Pierce nominated Kay Gregory. Commissioner Klusman seconded and the nomination passed unanimously.

Commissioner Pierce nominated James Summers and Commissioner Klusman seconded. The nomination carried unanimously.

In response to a question from Commissioner Caskey, Chairman Edds clarified that the applicants for the Planning Board and Parks and Recreation Board would be considered at the first meeting in June. Chairman Edds went on to state that all applications are to be received by the May 22nd agenda deadline.

5. CONSIDER EDC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SITE DEVELOPMENT

Economic Development Director Robert Van Geons shared facts surrounding the use of Rowan Works annual budget and grant funds towards investments into approximately fourteen (14) sites over the last few years. Mr. Van Geons stated the funds had been used to certify sites, secure easements, grade access roads, geotechnical tests, conceptual plans and more. Mr. Van Geons went on to list several of the projects that were wins from the investments.

Mr. Van Geons said that the reserve or grant funds had been drawn down and he believed that Product Development was an important task that yielded tangible benefits.

Mr. Van Geons discussed the sale of two (2) lots in Summit being sold as part of economic development projects. According to Mr. Van Geons, the sales generated approximately \$2.1 million in revenue. Mr. Van Geons said he would like to request the Board reinvest 10% or \$200,000 into additional site development work. Mr. Van Geons went on to say that through these additional resources, recertification and improving existing certified sites could greatly increase Rowan County's competitiveness when it came to projects.

Using a power point presentation, Mr. Van Geons described in detail the EDC's priorities with an estimated cost for each priority. According to Mr. Van Geons, Priority 1 would be to recertify existing certified sites; Priority 2 would be for improving existing certified sites and to complete certification for sites with partial development in place; Priority 3 would be for high potential sites with limited site work completed; and Priority 4 would be to pursue additional sites. In closing, Mr. Van Geons said at the end of the process, there was anticipation for four (4) existing sites to be recertified and the potential to substantially improve as many as eleven (11) other sites.

Chairman Edds thanked Mr. Van Geons for his efforts to identify these major areas for economic development.

In response to an inquiry from Commissioner Klusman, Mr. Van Geons explained the recertification timeframe.

Commissioner Greene moved to allocate \$200,000. Commissioner Klusman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

6. CLOSED SESSION

Chairman Edds moved at 3:30 p.m. to enter into Closed Session in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(1) to consider approval of Closed Session Minutes from March 16, 2015; March 23, 2015; April 20, 2015; North Carolina General Statute § 143-318.11(a)(6) to discuss a personnel matter; and North Carolina General Statute § 143-318.11(a)(4) to consider an economic development matter at the Rowan County Airport. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce and passed unanimously.

The Board returned to Open Session at 4:25 p.m.

Chairman Edds said the County had been focused on issues to make the County more successful with its economic development efforts. Chairman Edds explained that County Manager Aaron Church and Building Code Enforcement Director Thomas O'Kelley had been working on an aggressive plan to make the County competitive in the region with the inspections and permitting process.

- Chairman Edds moved to increase the current Building Inspector's salary to be whole with the current career development plan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Klusman and passed unanimously.
- Chairman Edds moved to eliminate the Building Inspection's Career Development Plan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Greene and passed unanimously.

- Chairman Edds moved to reinstate the six month's probationary increases for new building inspectors. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Klusman and carried unanimously.
- Chairman Edds moved to reorganize Building Inspections (in accordance with the handout provided to the Board). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Greene and carried unanimously.
- Chairman Edds moved to reclassify three (3) positions:
 1. Building Code Enforcement Supervisor to Assistant Building Inspections Director, Grade 31
 2. Building Code Inspectors to Senior Building Code Inspectors, Grade 27 to 29

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Klusman and passed unanimously.

- Chairman Edds moved to create a program called Build 24/7, a Building Inspections and Commercial Plan Review Program. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Greene and passed unanimously.

Chairman Edds thanked Mr. O'Kelley for his contributions to the reorganization and newly created Program. Chairman Edds described Mr. O'Kelley and his department as being on the frontline and one of the most important pieces of economic development.

- With regards to the Rowan County Airport, Chairman Edds moved to approve the assignment of the current specialized fixed base operating agreement and lease from Piedmont Skydiving LLC to Piedmont Skydiving Center LLC under current terms and current operating schedule. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Klusman and passed unanimously.

- **DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD**

Chairman Edds said Arnold Chamberlain had submitted a letter of resignation from the Department of Social Services Board.

- Commissioner Pierce moved to accept the resignation of Arnold Chamberlain. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Greene and passed unanimously.
- Chairman Edds moved to appoint Commissioner Klusman to replace Mr. Chamberlain on the DSS Board. Commissioner Pierce seconded and the motion carried 4-0 (Commissioner Klusman abstained from voting).

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Pierce moved to adjourn at 4:32 pm. 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