

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



Aaron Church, County Manager
Carolyn Barger, Clerk to the Board
John W. Dees, II, County Attorney

Rowan County Board of Commissioners

130 West Innes Street • Salisbury, NC 28144
Telephone 704-216-8180 • Fax 704-216-8195

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ROWAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS April 20, 2020 – 6:00 PM

**PLEASE NOTE: DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC
THE MEETING WAS HELD BY REMOTE PARTICIPATION FOR THE BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS, STAFF AND THE PUBLIC**

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Commissioners Participating:

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

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

Chairman Edds convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Chaplain Michael Taylor provided the Invocation.

Chairman Edds led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSIDER ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

CONSIDER DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA

Chairman Edds removed agenda item #4 (Final Report of Development Review Evaluation – Matrix Consulting Group) from the agenda.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Klusman moved, Commissioner Greene seconded and the vote to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2020 Commission Meeting passed unanimously.

1. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- A. Proclamation for Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month
- B. Tax Refunds for Approval
- C. Set Public Hearing to Consider Financing for KCS and DNP Capital Projects

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Chairman Edds opened the Public Comment Period to entertain comments from any citizens who had either called in or submitted an email request to address the Board via electronic means. With no one wishing to provide comments, Chairman Edds closed the Public Comment Period.

3. PUBLIC HEARING & SUMMARY PRESENTATION – EDC “PROJECT GAUGE”

Via remote participation, Scott Shelton, Vice President of the Economic Development Commission, presented the incentive request for Project Gauge (Project). Mr. Shelton said Company behind the Project sought to acquire an existing employer’s facility in Rowan County. The Company planned to retain the forty (40) current employees at the facility, as well as create forty-six (46) new jobs over the next four (4) years. The Company estimated it would also invest approximately \$5.1 million in building improvements and new equipment. The Company was also considering a site in Ohio; however, Mr. Shelton said the Company liked the workforce available in Rowan County.

The Company and the Rowan EDC requested the Board consider awarding a “Level 1” tax incentive grant as a show of support for the Project. The company was also eligible for a similar grant from the City of Salisbury (City) but would likely wait until later in the summer to submit its request to the City. Delaying the request should allow the company to also become eligible for a Rural Building Reuse Grant from the State of North Carolina.

In closing, Mr. Shelton reviewed the projected revenue the Project would create.

In response to inquiries from Chairman Edds and Commissioner Klusman, Mr. Shelton said the average salary would be a little over \$44,000/year. The low end of the wages would be around \$39,000.

Mr. Shelton anticipated the Company would make its decision around mid-August.

Commissioner Greene questioned the number of manufacturing employees and Mr. Shelton said the vast majority of the jobs were in manufacturing.

Chairman Edds opened the public hearing to receive citizen input regarding the incentive request for Project Gauge. With no callers wishing to address the Board, and no one having submitted concerns via email, Chairman Edds closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Pierce moved, Commissioner Greene seconded and the vote to approve the incentive request for Project Gauge passed unanimously.

4. FINAL REPORT OF DEVELOPMENT REVIEW EVALUATION – MATRIX CONSULTING GROUP

This item was removed from the agenda at the beginning of the meeting.

5. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Assistant County Manager/Finance presented several financial graphs depicting the following information:

- Annual Cumulative Current Year Property Tax Comparisons as of February 2020 – \$83,265,803
- Annual Cumulative Sales Tax Comparisons as of December in FY '20 - \$14,088,022
- Annual Cumulative Revenue Comparisons as of March 2020 - \$121,878,760
- Annual Cumulative Expenditure Comparisons as of March 2020 - \$106,721,006

Commissioner Greene asked how much of the budget the County was anticipated to spend and Ms. Heidrick estimated 93% to 95% which she said was typical of Rowan County Government.

Commissioner Caskey wondered if citizens would spend more once the Governor's Executive Orders were lifted. Ms. Heidrick noted many people had been out of work as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic and it would take awhile for the economy to recover.

6. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENTS

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

- Sheriff – Recognize excess revenue in Federal Asset Forfeiture Funds Account (11444162-432033) and budget to the proper expense account - \$18,094
- Sheriff – Recognize excess revenue in State Asset Forfeiture Funds Account (11444165-435033) and budget to the proper expense account - \$14,750
- Social Services – Revised expenditures and/or revenues based on Funding Authorizations received from the State. Funding Authorizations reflect the actual amount received and may increase or decrease the original budget estimate - \$8,000

- Emergency Services – Transfer of funds from Miscellaneous Donations to Donation Expenditures \$200

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

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Pierce moved to adjourn at 6:26 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Greene and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carolyn Barger".

Carolyn Barger, MMC, NCMCC
Clerk to the Board