CONSIDER ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA
- Chairman Edds added three (3) advisory board applications for consideration. The applications were from Dari Caldwell, Dr. Amy Wilson and James Sides, Jr. for the Board of Health. Chairman Edds added the applications to agenda item #13 (Consider Approval of Board Appointments)
- Chairman Edds added a proposal from EQV Strategic to the agenda as item #3a.

CONSIDER DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA
There were no deletions from the agenda.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
Commissioner Pierce moved, Commissioner Klusman seconded and the vote to approve the agenda as amended passed unanimously.

Equal Opportunity Employer
CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
Commissioner Klusman moved, Commissioner Pierce seconded and the vote to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2020 and August 17, 2020 Commission Meetings passed unanimously.

1. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA
Commissioner Pierce moved approval of the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Klusman and passed unanimously.

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

   A. Sale of Ground Lease Hangar
   B. Proclamation: Library Card Sign Up Month

WHEREAS, a library card is the most essential tool an individual can have; and
WHEREAS, libraries and librarians play a crucial role in the education and development of children; and
WHEREAS, signing up for a library card is the first step towards academic achievement and lifelong learning; and
WHEREAS, library resources serve Rowan County residents of all ages, from early literacy to STEAM programs to research databases and online courses; and
WHEREAS, librarians create welcoming and inclusive spaces for students of all backgrounds to learn together and engage with one another; and
WHEREAS, a library card gives students the tools that foster success in the classroom and beyond; and
WHEREAS, a library card empowers all people to pursue their dreams and explore new passions and interests; and
WHEREAS, libraries are constantly transforming and expanding services to meet the evolving needs of their communities; and
WHEREAS, public libraries have served the citizens of Rowan County for over a century.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Rowan County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim September 2020 as Library Card Sign-up Month in Rowan County, North Carolina and encourages everyone to sign up for their own library card today.

   C. 2020 Biometric Screenings and Wellness Incentive
   D. Accept Offer From Makson, Inc. for Surplus Property at 1235 Speedway Blvd.
   E. Accept Offer From Tracie Lipke for Surplus Property Off Dunns Mountain Road
   F. Tax Refunds for Approval
   G. Contracts for Two (2) ADA Positions (9/01/20 to 8/31/21)
   H. Bayada Home Health Care Contract - In-Home Aid
   I. Crossnore School & Children's Home Contract - Foster Care
   J. Rowan-Salisbury Schools Contract - School Nursing Services
2. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

A. Proclamation Honoring Nursing Home Advisory Committee Member Virginia Graves

Chairman Edds recognized Nursing Home Advisory Committee (Committee) member, Virginia Graves, who was participating in the meeting remotely. Chairman Edds praised Ms. Graves for her dedication and commitment to service, not only to the Committee but to the community.

Chairman Edds read a Proclamation honoring Ms. Graves as follows:

WHEREAS, we honor and respect our elders and citizens of any age with physical or intellectual disabilities who reside in skilled care nursing homes; and

WHEREAS, all residents should be aware of their rights so they may be empowered to live with dignity and have the right to have a say in their care; and

WHEREAS, volunteering of an individual’s time and resources to help our vulnerable citizens is evidence that Rowan County’s greatest natural resource is in its people; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Graves, has committed her time and talent to Rowan County’s Nursing Home Advisory Committee since February 4, 1991; and

WHEREAS, Virginia’s advocacy for the rights of residents and for accountability for facilities reflects her true spirit and goodness to improving the quality of life for those in Rowan County’s nursing homes.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Rowan County Board of Commissioners does hereby recognize, honor, and thank Virginia Graves for over 29 years of tireless devotion to the Nursing Home Advisory Committee and urges all citizens to take Virginia’s lead by volunteering their time and talents with the same determination and compassion.

Following the reading, Ms. Graves received a round of applause and cheers from those who had joined her for the surprise recognition. The Proclamation had been hand-
delivered in advance of the Commission Meeting and was presented to Ms. Graves following the reading.

(The Commissioners approved the Proclamation when considering Item B below).

B. Proclamation – Constitution Week – September 17-23, 2020

Chairman Edds read the Proclamation as follows:

WHEREAS, September 17, 2020, marks the two hundred and thirty-third anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution of the United States of America by the Constitutional Convention; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to accord official recognition to this magnificent document and its memorable anniversary; and to the patriotic celebrations which will commemorate the occasion; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 915 guarantees the issuing of a proclamation each year by the President of the United States of America designating September 17 through 23 as Constitution Week.

NOW, THEREFORE the Rowan County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim the week of September 17-23, 2020 as CONSTITUTION WEEK and asks our citizens to reaffirm the ideals of the Framers of the Constitution had in 1787 by vigilantly protecting the freedoms guaranteed to us through this guardian of our liberties, remembering that lost rights may never be regained.

Chairman Edds moved to approve both the Proclamation Honoring Nursing Home Advisory Committee Member Virginia Graves and the Proclamation for Constitution Week. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce and passed unanimously.

C. Proclamation – Patriot Day – A Day of Remembrance – September 11, 2001

Chairman Edds read the Proclamation for Patriot Day as follows:

WHEREAS, on Tuesday September 11, 2001, terrorists attacked the United States of America in a series of senseless, cowardly, and despicable acts of war, directed at innocent men, women and children in the World Trade Center complex in New York City, the Pentagon in Washington D.C. and on board four passenger jets, resulting in the tragic loss of life of thousands of U.S. citizens and foreign nationals; and

WHEREAS, in the aftermath of the attacks, the people of the United States stood united in providing support for those in need, inspired by the heroic sacrifices of our firefighters, rescue and law enforcement personnel, military service members, and other citizens; and

WHEREAS, September 11th should not only be remembered as a day of great tragedy but also as a day of triumph, courage, kindness, love, hope and freedom, and as a reminder of the newfound unity, focus and strength in our Nation; and

WHEREAS, by U.S. House Joint Resolution 71 signed into law on December 18, 2001 (Public Law 107-89), Congress authorized and requested the President to designate September 11th of each year as “Patriot Day” and to call upon state and local governments to observe Patriot Day by displaying the flag of the United States at half-staff and by observing a moment of silence at 8:46 a.m. marking the first plane crash.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Rowan County Board of Commissioners does hereby declare September 11, 2020 as Patriot Day in Rowan County and encourages all citizens to honor and respect the innocent victims of September 11, 2001 and to salute the heroism of public safety and rescue workers, volunteers, local officials, and those who responded to the tragic events with courage, selfless compassion, determination and undying patriotism.

Commissioner Pierce moved, Commissioner Caskey seconded and the vote to approve the Proclamation for Patriot Day passed unanimously.

D. EMS Recognition
Chairman Edds extended congratulations to Rowan County Emergency Services – EMS Division for receiving the American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline EMS Gold Plus Award (Award) for the seventh consecutive year. Chairman Edds deemed it an honor to have received the Award again.

According to Interim Emergency Services Chief/Telecommunications Director Allen Cress, “The EMS Gold Plus recognition is a reflection of our team’s commitment to above standard training and practice,” said Chief Allen Cress. “If you have a cardiac event in Rowan County, you’re going to get a team that is trained in the most up-to-date, evidence-based treatment guidelines. This team not only includes the EMS Division, it includes the dedicated members of our local fire departments, our 9-1-1 Telecommunicators and other responders. We are proud of how this has improved patient care and outcomes.”

Every year, more than 250,000 people experience an ST elevation myocardial infarction, or STEMI – the deadliest type of heart attack caused by a blockage of blood flow to the heart that requires timely treatment. To prevent death, it’s critical to restore blood flow as quickly as possible, either by mechanically opening the blocked vessel or by providing clot-busting medication.

The Mission: Lifeline program recognizes EMS systems for their efforts to improve systems of care to rapidly identify suspected heart attack patients, promptly notify the medical center and trigger an early response from the awaiting hospital personnel. Mr. Cress thanked the Commissioners for the recognition saying it “takes all of us to do what we do in the field”.

Chairman Edds expressed the Board’s appreciation for the good work.

E. Proclamation – First Responders Appreciation Day
Chairman Edds read the Proclamation for First Responders Day as follows:

WHEREAS, in 2017 the North Carolina General Assembly designated September 11th of each year as First Responders Day making it an official State holiday in recognition of the huge sacrifices made by First Responders following the World Trade Center attack in 2001; and
WHEREAS, the police, firefighters, emergency medical workers, State troopers, and public health personnel (commonly known as First Responders) are a vital part of our communities standing ready to carry out the critical role of protecting and ensuring public safety, regardless of the peril or hazard to themselves; and

WHEREAS, millions of North Carolinians have benefitted from the courageous and vital services of First Responders across the State in 2020 alone as a result of the Coronavirus Pandemic; and

WHEREAS, having this day recognized each year will help keep the September 11, 2001 sacrifices alive and continue to honor the First Responders who risk their own safety in the execution of their duties every day; and

WHEREAS, members of the First Responder organizations undergo significant education and training in order to achieve the expertise required to respond to all types of emergency situations; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Rowan County are grateful to the men and women who perform vital services to protect and serve their communities.

NOW THEREFORE, the Rowan County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim September 11, 2020 as First Responders Appreciation Day in Rowan County and encourages all citizens to express their gratitude to First Responders for their sacrifices and commitment to protect and serve.

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners and the citizens in the community, Chairman Edds expressed appreciation to all First Responders for the sacrifices, the knowledge and for putting themselves in harm’s way for others. In closing, Chairman Edds said he knew the First Responders performed their duties because of their love for their fellow man.

Commissioner Pierce moved, Commissioner Caskey and the vote to approve the Proclamation as presented passed unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
Chairman Edds opened the Public Comment Period to entertain comments from any citizens wishing to address the Board. The following individuals came forward:

- Kathy Webb felt the Solar Energy System Moratorium should be extended. She also expressed appreciation to Committee B of the Planning Board for their work.
- Patricia Garner Cowan, long-term care Ombudsman, thanked the Commissioners for the special recognition of Nursing Home Advisory Committee (NHAC) member Virginia Graves. Ms. Cowan described Ms. Graves as a special lady and said without the help of the Clerk to the Board Carolyn Barger and the Board of Commissioners, the recognition for Ms. Graves would not have been possible. Ms. Cowan also expressed her thanks to the nursing home facility where Ms. Graves was staying for their help with the surprise. In closing, Ms. Cowan thanked the Board for the support it had provided through the years.
Chairman Edds agreed that Ms. Graves was a special lady. He noted Ms. Graves had served in the military and also written a book. In closing, Chairman Edds said Ms. Graves was a remarkable lady and the Commissioners were honored to have been able to recognize her.

With no one else wishing to speak and no one having submitted written comments, Chairman Edds closed the Public Comment Period.

**ADDITION**

**3A. PRESENTATION FROM EQV STRATEGIC**

Chairman Edds stated for the six (6) years he had served as a member of the County Commission, he had been happy to hear when other communities receive federal and state grants. Chairman Edds said the County had never had a dedicated lobbyist and he, along with County Attorney Jay Dees and County Manager Aaron Church, had reached out to EQV Strategic to discuss what their lobbying group could do for Rowan County. Chairman Edds then turned the floor over to EQV lobbyists, Chris Wall and Andy Munn.

Mr. Wall and Mr. Munn shared their work history and the background experience of their lobbying firm.

Mr. Wall discussed the opportunity to bring money back to the locality and how EQV would immediately notify the County anytime there were discussions and updates regarding new or existing programs. Mr. Wall explained that if the County was not eligible for funding, the firm worked with legislators to change the laws in order to make the County eligible. Mr. Wall assured the Board the firm would be conveying the County’s position to its’ local legislative delegation every day. Mr. Wall said the firm also had close working relationships at the federal level.

Mr. Wall and Mr. Munn took turns sharing what the services of EQV could mean for the County.

The Commissioners asked a series of questions including questions about other clients and prior experience.

Commissioner Klusman expressed concern that EQV’s staff seemed to be made up of conservative lobbyists and she asked about any future plans to get quality Democrats in the firm. Mr. Wall said Democratic candidates would be vetted once the election was over in order to ensure the firm hired the best people possible.

Chairman Edds said from the initial conversations, he understood the County would basically pay a monthly fee with no contract and a 30-day opt out.

Mr. Wall said EQV would put forth a letter of engagement that was typically for twelve (12) months at $5,000 per month with a 30-day opt out clause.
In response to Commissioner Klusman, Mr. Wall said he would provide the Commissioners with a list of references and a list of the firm’s clients.

Commissioner Caskey asked whether the Sheriff’s Department would have to hire EQV separately if the Sheriff’s Department wished to use EQV’s services. Mr. Wall explained that EQV would work out a legislative agenda for Rowan County and if the County wanted to include issues for the Sheriff’s Department, it would be included under the cost of the retainer. If other services were requested, Mr. Wall explained that a separate agreement would need to be worked on. Mr. Wall said he and Mr. Munn wanted to sit down with the Board and hear its priorities. Mr. Wall assured the Board the firm would give honest feedback as to if and when EQV could be successful.

Commissioner Klusman asked what would happen if EQV had clients that had opposing goals. Mr. Wall said the situation had never occurred but if clients were to be diametrically opposed, the worst-case scenario was they might have to recuse themselves from that case. Mr. Munn added that he and Mr. Wall had spent decades building their reputations. If there was a perceived conflict, Mr. Munn said EQV would contact the County and make it aware of the problem, as well as the other client. Mr. Munn assured the Board he and Mr. Wall would never jeopardize their reputations.

Commissioner Greene stressed the importance of grants and the County’s need for an advocate for grants. Mr. Wall said while EQV did not write grants, the firm worked with the individuals who gave the grants.

Chairman Edds mentioned two (2) topics of priority for the County, which was rural broadband and the Mid-Carolina Regional Airport. Mr. Wall said the firm had a good understanding of the economic engine airports could be to local governments and he shared some of EQV’s successes with other airports. Mr. Wall said EQV had worked on broadband a good bit and he asked if any part of the County was covered by ElectriCities. Chairman Edds responded that the Town of Landis had its own electric city. Mr. Wall noted the options the electric city created for the County. Mr. Wall said the General Assembly had included some language in its last session and the current short session to allow electric cities to lay fiber along their easements. The co-ops can lay the fiber and has money to offset some of the costs to establish service.

Commissioner Klusman questioned EQV’s lobbying ability compared to that of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC), which had three (3) lobbyists. Mr. Wall said the NCACC did a great job and developed its legislative agenda for issues that impacted all counties across the State. Mr. Munn added that with the NCACC, Rowan County was 1 out of 100 counties and the NCACC set its legislative agenda based on the consensus of all 100 counties.
Chairman Edds thanked Mr. Wall and Mr. Munn for the presentation and he asked the pleasure of the Board.

Commissioner Pierce asked County Manager Aaron Church which account would be used to pay EQV. Mr. Church said if the Board wanted to approve a contract tonight, and unless there was a line item to pay from, a budget amendment would have to be presented at the next meeting before the contract could be executed.

According to Assistant County Manager/Finance Director there was approximately $18,500 in Contingency at this time.

Commissioner Klusman asked Chairman Edds if he wanted to vote on the matter in the current meeting. Chairman Edds said the Board could; however, it was up to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Klusman said she would appreciate a little more time and would like to follow up with the references that were to be provided, as well as the “other side of the isle in the Governor’s Office”. Commissioner Klusman preferred to wait until the next meeting to vote.

Commissioner Pierce said he would also like to know where the funding would come from before taking a vote.

Commissioner Caskey agreed with Commissioners Pierce and Klusman and that he would like to see information for the next meeting as to exactly what was in the contract.

Mr. Wall said he would put a draft contract together so the Board would have something to work from and get a feel for the scope of services.

4. PUBLIC HEARING FOR Z 02-20
Assistant Planning Director Shane Stewart provided a power point as he presented the Staff Report for Z 02-20. Mr. Stewart said in March of this year the McAdams Firm contacted the Planning Offices of Rowan County (County) and the Town of Spencer (Town) to inquire about development standards on property located at the southwest corner of Long Ferry Road (1200 block) and Front Creek Road, partially located within both jurisdictions. Mr. Stewart said the Town agreed to release the 1.3-acre portion located within their extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) allowing potential development to be exclusively reviewed by the County. On June 9, the Town Board of Aldermen voted to relinquish the Interstate Business (IB) zoned portion of the County’s Tax Parcel 052-213 allowing the County to establish exclusive zoning jurisdiction on the property.

On behalf of the James Epting Heirs, Eddie Moore of the McAdams Firm requested to zone the western 1.3-acre portion of Tax Parcel 052-213 Commercial, Business, Industrial (CBI). The change would be consistent with petition Z 10-16 approved in 2016, which rezoned 2.75 acres from 85-ED-1 to CBI.
Mr. Stewart discussed the consistency with the district’s purpose and intent, the conformity with adopted plans and policies, and the compatibility of uses.

Procedurally, Mr. Stewart said the Board must develop a Statement of Consistency describing whether its action was consistent with any adopted comprehensive plans and indicate why the action was reasonable and in the public interest. A Statement of Reasonableness of the decision was also necessary.

According to Mr. Stewart, public notice was mailed to eight (8) adjacent property owners (within 100’ of the property) on August 24, 2020. A sign was posted on the property on August 21, 2020 and notices appeared in the Salisbury Post on August 24, 2020 and September 1, 2020.

The Planning Board heard the matter on July 27, 2020 and July 31, 2020 and after receiving no public comment at either meeting, voted 6-0 to recommend approval based on the following statements:

Statement of Consistency: “Z 02-20 is consistent with the Eastern Area Land Use Plan and is reasonable and in the public interest based on the following: The proposed rezoning is consistent with the Eastern Land Use Plan and the I-85 corridor district, other adopted plans in the area, and the zoning district’s purpose and intent. CBI zoning is the preferred type of zoning for this area both currently and in the future. The larger portion of the property located in the county’s jurisdiction is also zoned CBI.”

Statement of Reasonableness: “In accordance with section 21-362(j) of the Zoning Ordinance and after due consideration the Board of Commissioners determine Z 02-20 to be reasonable and in the public interest based on the following: The request is compatible with Eastern Land Use Plan and the I-85 corridor Board of Commissioners Meeting: September 8, 2020 5 STAFF COMMENTS overlay district; the additional portion of the subject property is already zoned CBI; no objection by adjoining property owners.”

Chairman Edds stated that due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and the new rules for public hearings via Zoom, the Board could consider approval of the request contingent on there being no resistance in the 24 hours following the public hearing. Chairman Edds said the matter would be brought up via the Consent Agenda at the next Commission Meeting.

Chairman Edds opened the public hearing to receive citizen input regarding Z 02-20. With no citizens calling in or having submitted written comments on the matter, Chairman Edds closed the public hearing.

Chairman Edds moved to approve the Statement of Consistency as follows: “Z 02-20 is consistent with the Eastern Area Land Use Plan and is reasonable and in the public
interest based on the following: The proposed rezoning is consistent with the Eastern Land Use Plan and the I-85 corridor district, other adopted plans in the area, and the zoning district’s purpose and intent. CBI zoning is the preferred type of zoning for this area both currently and in the future. The larger portion of the property located in the county’s jurisdiction is also zoned CBI.” The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce and passed unanimously.

Chairman Edds moved to approve the Statement of Reasonableness as follows: “In accordance with section 21-362(j) of the Zoning Ordinance and after due consideration the Board of Commissioners determine Z 02-20 to be reasonable and in the public interest based on the following: The request is compatible with Eastern Land Use Plan and the I-85 corridor, overlay district; the additional portion of the subject property is already zoned CBI; no objection by adjoining property owners.” The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Pierce moved, Commissioner Klusman seconded and the vote to approve Z 02-20 passed unanimously.

5. NEEDS-BASED PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL FUND GRANT

Anthony Vann, Assistant Superintendent of Operations for Rowan-Salisbury School System (RSSS), said RSSS had applied for the grant last year and unfortunately had not been selected.

Mr. Vann provided a power point as he presented the request for RSSS to submit the Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund Grant (Grant) application. Mr. Vann said the BOE approved the application at its’ August 4, 2020 meeting; however, approval was also necessary by the Board of Commissioners.

The application deadline for the Grant was September 15, 2020 and Tier 2 counties could receive up to $10 million. The grant was a dollar-for-dollar matching funds grant.

Mr. Vann said projects must be for new school buildings and only projects that addressed critical deficiencies would be considered. Mr. Vann noted if the grant was awarded, the County would be ineligible to receive lottery funding for five (5) years.

It was the recommendation of the BOE to approve the 2020 Grant application for the new K-8 facility planned to replace Knox and Overton. The grant application was in the agenda packet.

Commissioner Caskey pointed out while the County could possibly gain $10 million through the grant it would lose $5 million in lottery funding, forcing the County to come up with $15 million. Commissioner Caskey asked if the County was using the lottery funds to pay debt service and County Manager Aaron Church said yes.
Mr. Vann noted on page 6 of the application the anticipated bid date was June 2021. Mr. Vann explained if approval was received from all parties, that is how long it would take for their design team to go out for bids. Mr. Vann said the estimated costs were on the next page for planning, construction and other costs. Mr. Vann said the overall design cost was $2.4 million and RSSS was looking at $1.2 million for local money and asking for the grant to match the other $1.2 million.

Mr. Church said if RSSS went out to bid in June 2021 it would mean the construction documents would have been completed and the design fees paid. Mr. Church asked if the school system had the money to pay for the construction and he also noted if the Commissioners approved the application, a budget amendment from the General Fund would need to be approved for RSSS to meet the bid deadline in June. Mr. Church asked if there would be an issue with pushing the date another 6 months to where the next fiscal year budget could include the funding. Mr. Vann responded he did not see a problem with pushing the date out on the application. Mr. Church said he wanted to make sure when the County executed the Grant application that it aligned with the actual budget.

Assistant County Manager/Finance Director reported the County had been budgeting $1.3 million per year from lottery proceeds that had been used to pay debt service already on the books, or $6.5 million for the past five (5) years.

Ms. Heidrick and Mr. Church confirmed to Commissioner Pierce that if the Grant was approved, half of the lottery proceeds the Commissioners counted on for the current budget year would go away.

Commissioner Pierce stated the Board had agreed there would be no new debt.

Mr. Church asked if the County would have to accept the Grant if it was approved. Mr. Vann said the assurance page was signed by both chairs and basically stated both boards were together in the process. Mr. Vann said he would have to call to verify; however, he believed the intent was the assurance to move forward with the project.

Mr. Vann said the application was due the first of the following week on September 15, 2020.

A lengthy discussion ensued and in conclusion, Chairman Edds informed Mr. Vann the Commissioners could not commit to the $10 million grant because it could not commit to a $50 million spend for the new school.

6. UPDATE: SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM MORATORIUM
Planning Director Ed Muire provided an update regarding the County’s Solar Energy System Moratorium. Mr. Muire reported the County's moratorium on the acceptance of new applications for creating or expanding ground mounted solar energy systems in excess of 6,000 square feet was scheduled to terminate on October 6, 2020.
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ability to coordinate and conduct public meetings where meaningful input and discussion of ideas could occur had been non-existent. Planning Board meetings that have been scheduled tended to focus on items requiring little debate or having no controversy.

Mr. Muire said Planning Staff was hopeful that transitioning to Phase 3 would have occurred by now, allowing the Planning Board to conduct their work sessions and have public input on this topic. During the course of the recent moratorium, Staff received emails and calls from interested parties and advised them of the Phase 3 'target' for resuming these discussions.

Mr. Muire said Staff recommended the Commissioners schedule and conduct a public hearing at its October 5, 2020 meeting to consider extending the moratorium. If the Commissioners chose this course of action, Mr. Muire said a draft copy of the moratorium ordinance would be provided for consideration at the September 21, 2020 Commission Meeting.

Chairman Edds moved, Commissioner Pierce seconded and the vote passed unanimously to schedule a public hearing for October 5, 2020 regarding the Solar Energy System Moratorium.

7. CONSIDER PE 01-20 REQUEST FOR DORSETT CHAPEL UNITED CHURCH OF GOD

Assistant County Manager Shane Stewart presented the request for PE 01-20 from Dorsett Chapel United Church of God (Church). Mr. Stewart said the Church, located at 1280 Hollywood Drive, Spencer, NC, requested a Permit to Exceed (PE) for an outdoor service to celebrate the Church’s 107th anniversary on October 4, 2020. The service would consist of music and preaching. The applicant expected the service to have around 100-150 people.

Mr. Stewart said the Church held an outdoor service on August 2, 2020 and had some neighbors in the area complain to local law enforcement. Mr. Stewart said while there are some exceptions to the Noise Ordinance, outdoor church services did not fall under any of the exceptions. Currently, the only way for the Church to conduct an outdoor service and complete with the Noise Ordinance was through the PE process.

The Planning Department provided mailed notice to property owners within 100’ of the event and posted a sign on August 28, 2020 regarding the application giving eleven (11) days’ notice before the Commission Meeting.

Mr. Stewart said the request met the necessary criteria in Section 14-12(c) of the Noise Ordinance for approval.

Chairman Edds opened the floor to receive public input regarding PE 01-20:
• Pastor Rick Galloway thanked the Commissioners for considering the request.

Commissioner Pierce moved, Commissioner Klusman seconded and the vote to approve PE 01-20 for Dorsett Chapel Church of God carried unanimously.

8. PRESENTATION ON CONSOLIDATED HUMAN SERVICES AGENCIES
County Manager Aaron Church discussed the current governance for the Rowan County Health Department and Department of Social Services. Mr. Church noted the Commissioners appointed all members of the Board of Health. Mr. Church provided a power point from Jill Moore with the University of North Carolina School of Government as part of his presentation. The power point was entitled Human Services Organization and Governance: Options Under NC Law.

Adding to the power point, Mr. Church presented and discussed the Board of Commissioners options, the Board’s role and responsibilities, as well as any required steps for the options presented.

Current Governance

Board of Commissioners

Health Board

Social Services Board

Health Director

County Manager

Social Services Director
Other options for the Board were to:

- Explore creating a district health dept.
- Explore a combined Public Health Authority with Cabarrus County, or any county.
Commissioner Pierce preferred Option 1-C and said he wanted to make sure the Health Department and Social Services were kept separate. Commissioner Pierce wanted the Commissioners to have control over the Health Department, which was where he stated the deficiencies had been. Commissioner Pierce said Social Services had done a great job and he did not see the need to combine the two (2) departments.

Commissioner Klusman said the process was complicated and would not be solved during the current meeting.

With regards to the “other” options mentioned, Mr. Church elaborated for Commissioner Caskey as to the training requirements for the Commissioners if they were to also become the Health Board.

In response to Commissioner Caskey, Mr. Church highlighted the differences between Options 3-C and 1-C.

Commissioner Caskey said he preferred Option 3-C since the Commissioners were not fulltime.

Commissioner Greene asked whether the additional funds allocated to Environmental Health had made any impact on the Department and changes in services. Mr. Church responded that an update had been provided from the Health Director on September 1, 2020 indicating in part stated that Environmental Health Specialists, including Food/Lodging were to begin on various dates in the month of September. Mr. Church said it would appear the measures the Commissioners put in place had filled some of the positions.

Chairman Edds expressed hope the new employees would whittle down the inspection wait times.

Commissioner Caskey said if the County was luring employees from other counties it would be a matter of time before those counties would put measures in place to begin to lure employees away from Rowan County. Commissioner Caskey felt the possibility was all the more reason for the Commissioners to have oversight of the Health Department. Commissioner Caskey said he was in favor of making changes that would in the long-term be better for the citizens.

Chairman Edds asked Health Director Nina Oliver if she had any updates for the Commissioners. Ms. Oliver discussed the inspection positions that had been filled and noted there was one Food/Lodging position still open. Ms. Oliver stated she had gone to the Environmental Health Office and called every person on the waiting list for inspections. The waiting list had reached 10 to 12 weeks. Ms. Oliver said tough conversations were held but she believed it made a difference to the citizens to know a plan of action had been put into place.
Commissioner Klusman noted the additional office assistant position that had been approved would ensure there would be someone live answering the phone all the time.

The Commissioners favored tabling the consolidation discussion until the first meeting in November in order to provide the Board more time to study the options.

9. POST OVERDOSE RESPONSE TEAM PRESENTATION
Nina Oliver, Public Health Director talked the Opioid Forum held in 2017 and how since that time, the Forum had been held each year to discuss substance abuse and addiction. Ms. Oliver said overdoses were continuing to increase. Ms. Oliver reported the County applied for a grant from Blue Cross/Blue Shield and was awarded the grant in early 2019 in the amount of $285,000. The money was to help with substance abuse disorders and the Opioid epidemic in Rowan County. Ms. Oliver said funding was utilized to put together the Post Overdose Response Team (PORT) and she turned the floor over to three (3) members of PORT, Jeff Brown, EMS Community Paramedic; Harm Reduction Coordinator Natalie Arrington; and Certified Peer Support Specialist Ashley Creek, to provide the presentation to the Commissioners.

Using a power point, the Team highlighted PORT’s purpose and objectives, program activities, pre-COVID and current trends related to opioid use in Rowan, factors that increase overdose risk, and PORT program results and success stories.

PORT seeks to address the opioid epidemic by connecting with people in active use to provide resources and encourage them to seek recovery.
• ↑ linkage to care
• ↓ calls to first responders
• ↓ costs associated with opioid-related ED visits
• ↓ the number of overdose deaths
• Creating initial contact with participants within 24-72 from EMS encounter.
• Following up with participants in 1, 3, and 6-month intervals.

PORT serves the community by:
• Connecting community members to resources and treatment
• Hosting support group meetings
• Distributing Narcan and training community members and organizations on Narcan administration (i.e. Mobile Narcan distribution stations)
• Providing harm reduction and prevention education

Those served are:
Men: In 2017, men experienced a death rate of 29.1 deaths per 100,000 compared to 14.4 for women.
Working-aged adults: Age groups 25-34 and 35-44 had the highest rates of overdose (38.4 and 39 deaths per 100,000, respectively)

The comparison for how the work has been affected by COVID-19:
There have been 362 ODs YTD (Jan 2020- August 2020).
• Pre-COVID (July 15, 2019- Feb 2020) - Rowan County averaged 25.3 ODs per month.
• During COVID (Mar 2020- Aug 15, 2020)
• Rowan County averaged 57.8 ODs per month.

Continuing with the power point, the Team highlighted the year-to-date opioid overdose emergency department visits. The increase in overdoses and overdose deaths, which was attributed to Fentanyl was also discussed. The drug was described as versatile, cheaper than pure heroin to make and it can be made in pill-pressed, powder or liquid form. More people were dying as a result.

Other risk factors for drug overdoses were identified as return to use after long-term recover or receiving treatment, recently released from jail or prison sentences, first time use and using alone.

PORT Program results were highlighted.

Commissioner Klusman said she had asked the Team to make the presentation to demonstrate the results PORT was having. Secondly, Commissioner Klusman said the grant would run out at the end of the year. The Health Department was working to find resources and at some point, hoped to make Ms. Creek’s position permanent at the Health Department.

Chairman Edds expressed appreciation to the Team for their time and the presentation.

10. ENGINEERING CONTRACT FOR NORTHEAST ROWAN COUNTY WATER SYSTEM
County Manager Aaron Church presented the engineering contract and task orders from Hazen and Sawyer (Company) for the Northeast Rowan County Water System. Mr. Church said there were two (2) representatives from the Company participating in the meeting.

Mr. Church reviewed the task orders as follows:
• Task Order No. 1 was for the Chemical Booster Station and included design and bidding services and construction and administrations services for a total of $132,500.
• Task Order No. 2 was for the Corrosion Control Testing and testing laboratory services with Virginia Tech for a total of $47,500.
• Task Order No. 3 was for the LCR Compliance Support, totaling $45,000.
• The full compensation for the services identified would not exceed $225,000.

Mr. Church pointed out the last budget amendment in the agenda packet (agenda item #12) would move funds from the Water Infrastructure Capital Projects Fund into the Enterprise Fund and would cover the cost of the fees. Mr. Church said if the County
was required to build a chemical booster station, there may not be enough money to do so.

Aaron Babson, Operations Manager with the Greensboro Office of Hazen and Sawyer, provided a brief history of the Company and the type of work it performed.

Mr. Babson introduced Roger Arnold of Hazen and Sawyer as a subject matter expert on lead and copper.

Mr. Arnold provided a presentation overview that included:
   - Overview of NE RC system

Overview:
   - Approx. 155 active metered connections and population served of 445
   - Previously supplied by private groundwater wells affected by industrial contamination
   - Began receiving public water supply in sept 2018 as a consecutive system of the city of Salisbury
   - Water is treated by City of Salisbury

Why the project was being conducted:
   - The lead and copper rule (LCR) regulates lead levels in drinking water
   - Lead levels in several customers’ homes exceeded the Action Level
   - The source of lead is likely privately-owned plumbing materials
   - The LCR requires optimal corrosion

What actions have been taken to date?
   - Public education materials
   - Voluntary lead and copper sampling program
   - Certified point-of-use filters for lead removal to customer with lead above the Action Level
   - Distribution system water quality monitoring
   - Virtual community meetings

Proposed Scope of Work
   - Task Order 1 – Cost $132,500
   - Task Order 2 – Cost $47,500
   - Task Order 3 – Cost $45,000

In response to Chairman Edds regarding approvals that were needed, Mr. Church said
the Board did not have a choice on Task Orders #1 and #3. Mr. Church said Task Order #2 may help the County prove the required solution might not work. Mr. Church said Task Order #2 may present the County with data that would help the County persuade the State the chemical station was not the appropriate measure.

Mr. Arnold said not shown were costs for construction of the chemical station, which was the most significant cost overall. Task Order #2 could help to eliminate that cost.

Commissioner Klusman said if the County could spend $47,000 more it may end up saving the County a lot of money. Mr. Babson agreed and said the County would not only save the construction costs, but the bidding costs, etc. Mr. Babson said the contract was set up to be a “not to exceed” contract.

Chairman Edds asked Mr. Church if he recommended the Board approve all three (3) task orders and Mr. Church said yes.

Commissioner Klusman moved to approve all three (3) task orders and the general services agreement. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Greene and passed unanimously.

11. LITTER REPORT
Chairman Edds reported Rowan County Staff removed 17,140 lbs. of roadside debris and litter during the two-week period beginning Monday, August 3, 2020 through Friday, August 14, 2020. Thirty-six tires were collected and three dumping events were assigned to the Rowan County Environmental Crimes Enforcement Officer for investigation during this reporting period.

12. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENTS
Finance Director Leslie Heidrick presented the following budget amendments for the Board’s consideration:

- Health Department – Disperse awarded funds from the Rural Health Grant - $66,000
- Health – Disperse awarded funds per AA - $12,384
- Social Services – Budget Federal CARES Act Funding appropriated to DSS program areas. Expenditures will be reimbursed at 100% requiring no County funds - $143,500
- Finance – Budget in the West End Plaza Capital Projects Fund the annual transfer from the General Fund. - $1,440,160
- Sheriff – Recognize $50 cash donation by private citizen and budget to the proper expense account. - $50
- Social Services – Budget grant funds awarded to the One Church One Child Program through Cardinal Innovations COVID-19 Relief Fund. - $20,000
- Finance – Budget interest revenue earned on the FNB Escrow account for Kannapolis City School facilities. - $11,258
• Finance – Recognize reserved funds from FY 2020 for Soil and Water. Reserved funds represent money received by a Department for a restricted purpose. The funds that have not been spent by year-end are budgeted for expenditure in the new fiscal year. - $1,775

• Finance – To recognize reserved funds from FY 2020 for Cooperative Extension. Reserved funds represent money received by a Department for a restricted purpose. The funds that have not been spent by year-end are budgeted for expenditure in the new fiscal year. - $48,670

• Social Services – Budget Federal CARES Act funding to support APS/CPS services. Expenditures will be reimbursed at 100% requiring no County funds. - $91,783

• Health – Disperse increased funds per Agreement Addendum. - $12,384

• Health – Disperse awarded funds from United Way. - $10,000

• General Government – Recognize funds related to CARES funding of county-wide COVID-19 grant and FEMA reimbursement. - $5,170,742

• Social Services – For receipt of Adoption Promotion Funds and request to budget the expenditures and revenues. - $8,994

• Finance – Recognize reserved funds from FY 2020 for Environmental Management. Reserved funds represent money received by a Department for a restricted purpose. The funds that have not been spent by year-end are budgeted for expenditure in the new fiscal year. - $56,054

• Finance – Appropriate additional reserves for the Cooperative Extension 4-H Program. - $5,000

• Finance – Recognize additional reserved funds from FY 2020 for Cooperative Extension. Reduce budgets for donations. Donations will be budgeted as received. - $6,500

• Finance – The West Elementary Capital Project has been completed. To transfer remaining funds in the escrow account from the Capital Projects Fund to the General Fund for the September 2020 debt service payment. - $388,939

• Finance – Transfer funds from Water Infrastructure Capital Projects Fund Enterprise Fund. $(1,931,033)

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

13. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BOARD APPOINTMENTS
ADULT CARE HOME ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Dr. Carol Ann Cody applied for reappointment; however, she has fulfilled the term limitations established by the Board of Commissioners.

Due to the difficulty of finding volunteers for this Committee, the Board is asked to consider waiving the term limits and to reappoint Dr. Cody for a three-year term that will expire on June 30, 2023.
Chairman Edds moved, Commissioner Klusman seconded and the vote to waive the term limits carried unanimously.

Commissioner Klusman moved the reappointment of Dr. Cody followed by a second from Commissioner Caskey. The motion passed unanimously.

**FIRE COMMISSIONERS FOR CLEVELAND COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT AND EAST GOLD HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Patrick Phifer applied to serve on the Cleveland Community Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) for a two-year term that will expire on September 30, 2022.

Sue Choat applied to fill the remainder of the term of a previous member on the East Gold Hill Volunteer Fire Department. The term will expire July 31, 2022.

Commissioner Caskey moved to appoint Mr. Phifer and Ms. Choat. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Greene and passed unanimously.

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Applications were received and included in the agenda packet from Carla Rose and Pastor Brad Jenkins.

At the beginning of the meeting under Additions to the Agenda, three (3) additional advisory board applications were added for consideration. The applications were from Dari Caldwell, James B. Sides, Jr. and Dr. Amy Wilson.

There are currently three (3) vacancies for the Board of Health. The vacant seats are for an Optometrist, Veterinarian and Physician. Based on the North Carolina General Statute § 130A-37, the Board of Commissioners may fill these vacant seats with members of the general public if there is not a licensed physician, optometrist or veterinarian available.

The remainder of the term for the Optometrist and Veterinarian seats will expire December 31, 2021. The Physician’s seat will expire December 31, 2022. After completing the remainder of the terms in the now vacant seats, the applicants would be eligible for reappointment, or, until an Optometrist, Veterinarian, or Physician becomes available for appointment.

Commissioner Klusman moved to appoint Dari Caldwell to the Veterinarian seat; Carla Rose for the Optometrist seat and Dr. Amy Wilson for the Physician seat.

Chairman Edds asked if the applicants understood they would have to step down if a Veterinarian or Optometrist applied. Commissioner Klusman responded the Veterinarian position had been vacant for three (3) years and Ms. Caldwell was aware she would have to step down if a Veterinarian applied and was appointed by the Board of Commissioners.
The Board discussed additional methods for making citizens aware of board vacancies and the need for volunteers to fill vacant advisory board seats. Chairman Edds asked the Clerk to the Board and the Creative Services Manager to work together to advertise board vacancies on the County’s Facebook page. Chairman Edds said he would also reach out to the Chamber of Commerce for assistance in encouraging the Leadership Rowan graduates to volunteer their time to public service on an advisory board.

Commissioner Caskey stated several applications were added to the agenda and pointed out the Commissioners did not typically add board applications after an agenda deadline.

Commissioner Caskey questioned the possibility of expanding the number of members appointed to the Board of Health. The Clerk to the Board, Carolyn Barger, responded that North Carolina General Statutes dictate the seats for the Board of Health membership.

Chairman Edds restated the motion to appoint Dari Caldwell to the Veterinarian seat; Carla Rose for the Optometrist seat and Dr. Amy Wilson for the Physician seat. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Greene and passed unanimously.

**LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Captain Aaron Lewis Roberts applied to fill one of the vacant Environmental/Health/Transportation seats. There are no term limits with this Committee.

Commissioner Greene moved the appointment of Captain Roberts. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Klusman and carried unanimously.

**NURSING HOME ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Delores Elliott applied for reappointment; however, she has fulfilled the term limitations established by the Board of Commissioners.

Due to the difficulty of finding volunteers for this Committee, the Board is asked to consider waiving the term limits and to reappoint Ms. Elliott for a three-year term that will expire September 30, 2023.

Commissioner Klusman moved, Commissioner Caskey seconded and the vote to waive the term limits carried unanimously.

Commissioner Greene moved to reappoint Ms. Elliott. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Klusman and passed unanimously.
ROWAN COUNTY ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT AND THE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Cathy Griffin applied for reappointment to the Rowan County Zoning Board of Adjustment for a three-year term that will expire September 30, 2023.

Don Bringle applied for reappointment to the Tourism Development Authority continue serving as one of the County Lodging members. The term will be for two (2) years and expire August 31, 2022.

Commissioner Klusman moved to reappoint Ms. Griffin and Mr. Bringle. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Caskey and passed unanimously.

Vivian Hopkins applied to fill the vacancy for a County Attraction seat. The term will be for two (2) years and expire August 31, 2022.

Commissioner Klusman moved to appoint Ms. Hopkins followed by a second from Commissioner Caskey. The motion passed unanimously.

14. CLOSED SESSION
Chairman Edds moved at 7:03 p.m. for the Board to enter into Closed Session pursuant to North Carolina General Statute § 143-318.11(a)(4) to discuss an economic development matter. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Klusman and passed unanimously.

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:37 p.m. No action was taken.

15. ADJOURNMENT
There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Greene moved to adjourn at 7:38 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Klusman and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn Barger, MMC, NCMCC
Clerk to the Board