

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



Aaron Church, County Manager
Sarah Pack, Clerk to the Board
John W. Dees, II, County Attorney

Rowan County Board of Commissioners

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ROWAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 6, 2023 – 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, Commissioner
Judy Klusman, Commissioner

ABSENT:

Craig Pierce, Commissioner

County Manager Aaron Church, Clerk to the Board Sarah Pack, County Attorney Jay Dees, and Finance Director Anna Bumgarner were also present.

Call to Order

Chairman Edds called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. Chaplain Michael Taylor provided the invocation. Chairman Edds lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consider Additions to the Agenda

Chairman Edds requested to add the following items to the Consent agenda:

- Robertson Foundation Grant (Consent Item Y)
- Woodson Grant Application (Consent Item Z)
- Award StRAP Grant Bid Proposal to W. Brown Construction (Consent Item AA)
- Approval to Execute Scope of Work for Directed Grant for Rowan-Cabarrus Community College (Consent Item AB)

Consider Deletions From the Agenda

There were no deletions from the agenda.

Consider Approval of the Agenda

On motion of Greene, seconded by Klusman, the Board voted 4-0 to approve the agenda as amended.

Consider Approval of the Minutes

On motion of Greene, seconded by Caskey, the Board voted 4-0 to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2023, Regular Meeting and the January 23, 2023, Special Meeting.

Consider Approval of the Consent Agenda

On motion of Klusman, seconded by Greene, the Board voted 4-0 to approve the Consent Agenda as amended, as follows:

- A. State Certification for Rural Operating Assistance Program Grant - Second Disbursement*
- B. Sole-Source CivicPlus Incorporated*
- C. Sole-Source Microsoft Store*
- D. Approve Emergency Management to accept Emergency Management Performance Grant funding*
- E. Approve request to apply for 2023 Margaret C. Woodson Foundation Grant*
- F. Request to execute grant documents for Rowan Wild from North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources*
- G. Revised Rural Economic Development Grant for Project "Agility Fuel Solutions, Limited Liability Company (LLC)/Project ACDC"*
- H. Sole-Source Patterson Pope*
- I. Satisfaction for Community Development Block Grant Recovery Deed of Trust*
- J. HDR Engineering Incorporated Task Orders - Landfill V Project*
- K. Extra Duty Pay for Detention Center for Rowan County Sheriff's Office*
- L. Administrative Contract with Salisbury Community Development Corporation [2020-21]*
- M. Fair Housing Plans*
- N. HOME Contract with Salisbury Community Development Corporation [2021-22] and Funding Agreement with Concord*
- O. Health Department New Position Request*
- P. Sheriff's Office Position Reclassification Requests*
- Q. Parks and Recreation Position Reclassification Request*
- R. Emergency Services Position Reclassification Request*
- S. Award Firearm Purchase - AmChar*
- T. Sole-Source Coast 2 Coast Technologies, Limited Liability Company (LLC)*
- U. County Manager Employment Contract*
- V. Sole-Source Spatalest*
- W. Contract with Patagonia Health Inc.*
- X. Approve Landfill Phase V Construction Project to NJR Group – Contract*
- Y. Robertson Foundation Grant (Agenda Addition)*
- Z. Woodson Grant Application (Agenda Addition)*
- AA. Award Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program (StRAP) Grant Bid Proposal to W. Brown Construction (Agenda Addition)*
- AB. Approval to Execute Scope of Work for Directed Grant for Rowan-Cabarrus Community College (Agenda Addition)*

Department of Social Services Annual Report

Micah Ennis, Director of the Department of Social Services (DSS), thanked her staff for their tireless work and gave an overview of the Annual Report. For the 2021-2022 year, \$282,532,729 in benefits were issued over a variety of categories. The total program administration cost was \$19,038,025, with 55 percent in Federal funding, 41 percent in County

funding, and four percent in State funding. The services that DSS provide directly impact the community.

Ms. Ennis detailed the divisions of DSS and services provided to the community, including:

- Child Protective Services (CPS)
- Foster Care
- Division of Aging and Adult Services
- Child Support
- Economic Services
- Work First
- Day Care Assistance
- Food and Nutrition Services
- Medicaid

Commissioner Klusman asked Ms. Ennis to elaborate on Adult Protective Services and the future thereof. Ms. Ennis said that physically/mentally impaired or elderly adults may be abused or exploited, physically or otherwise, and DSS provides protection as needed. Reports have risen. This demographic is growing and is vulnerable to abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Vice-Chairman Greene asked for a total number of people served by DSS. Ms. Ennis said the report displays statistical information for each category. Multiple individuals may be involved in the same report. Vice-Chairman Greene asked how the projected benefits provided are distributed amongst those helped. Ms. Ennis said she would investigate this number.

Ms. Ennis said the food and nutrition services numbers are high. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there were regulations in place to prevent termination of benefits. Eligibility requirements are now changing, and families will be impacted.

Chairman Edds said the total dollars in benefits administered is a staggering number.

Ms. Ennis said it can be challenging to understand the complexities of the things that DSS faces daily. Some of the benefit dollars are returning to the local economy.

Vice-Chairman Greene said he is interested in where the benefit dollars go. Any child assisted is a positive thing, but the benefits dollars number seems high.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

Board Appointments

On motion of Greene, seconded by Klusman, the Board voted 4-0 to appoint Ronald-Christopher Barger to the Bostian Heights Volunteer Fire Department as a Fire Commissioner.

On motion of Klusman, seconded by Greene, the Board voted 4-0 to appoint Linda Watts and Carla Pence to the Rowan-Iredell Volunteer Fire Department as Fire Commissioners.

On motion of Greene, seconded by Klusman, the Board voted 4-0 to appoint Larry Graham to the West Rowan Volunteer Fire Department as a Fire Commissioner.

Budget Amendments

Finance Director Anna Bumgarner presented the budget amendments, as follows:

<i>Cooperative Extension</i>	<i>To recognize Salisbury Rowan Community Foundation Grant – Project Butterfly</i>	<i>\$7,000</i>
<i>Animal Services</i>	<i>To move funds from general government to cover incinerator repairs</i>	<i>\$5,500</i>
<i>Emergency Services</i>	<i>To recognize Duke Energy Foundation Grant for Emergency Preparedness</i>	<i>\$25,000</i>
<i>Soil and Water</i>	<i>To recognize Conservation Easement Funding from North Carolina Department of Agriculture – Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund</i>	<i>\$239,621</i>
<i>Finance</i>	<i>To transfer funds to cover Rowan County Tourism Wayfinding Signage Project using American Rescue Plan Act Revenue Replacement funds</i>	<i>\$500,000</i>
<i>Animal Services</i>	<i>To transfer funds for employee retirement</i>	<i>\$150</i>

On motion of Greene, seconded by Klusman, the Board voted 4-0 to approve the presented Budget Amendments.

Closed Session

At 3:22 p.m. on motion of Edds, seconded by Klusman, the Board voted 4-0 to enter into closed session pursuant to North Carolina General Statute (NCGS) 143-318.11(a)(1) to consider approval of the minutes of the Closed Session held on January 17, 2023, as described by NCGS 143-318.10(e) providing that minutes or an account of a closed session may be withheld from public inspection so long as public inspection would frustrate the purpose of a closed session, and pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged, regarding a claim between the County and Mark and Rebecca DiRienzo.

Regular Session

At 3:38 p.m. regular session resumed.

On motion of Edds, seconded by Klusman, the Board voted 4-0 to authorize the signing of the Settlement Agreement and Release between the County and Mark and Rebecca DiRienzo, and authorize County Attorney Jay Dees to execute the Settlement agreement and any related documents.

Adjournment

At 3:38 p.m., on motion of Greene, seconded by Klusman, the Board voted 4-0 to adjourn.

Sarah Pack, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board