

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

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Telephone 704-216-8180 • Fax 704-216-8195

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

June 3, 2019 – 3:00 PM

J. NEWTON COHEN, SR. ROOM

J. NEWTON COHEN, SR. ROWAN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

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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 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.

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**

There were no deletions from the agenda.

#### **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Commissioner Klusman moved, Commissioner Greene seconded and the vote to approve the agenda passed unanimously.

#### **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Commissioner Klusman moved, Commissioner Greene seconded and the vote to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2019 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. Bible Missionary Baptist Church Fireworks
- B. TBE Work Authorization – Amendment 1 for Runway Overlay #36244.56.9.2
- C. Amended CDBG Policy
- D. Rowan County Social Media Policy
- E. Memorandum of Understanding with DHHS
- F. NC Department of Transportation Request to Add Cloud Top Lane in the Atwell Township to the State Secondary Road System
- G. Risk Management Pools Contracts

## **2. 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:

- Ronnie Smith spoke regarding the Yadkin River Park.
- Chaplain Michael Taylor spoke in support of agenda item #8 (Presentation of Sheriff's Department Pay Study).

With no one else wishing to address the Board, Chairman Edds closed the Public Comment Period.

## **3. PUBLIC HEARING FOR FRONT CREEK RD. ROAD NAME REQUEST**

Planner Aaron Poplin provided the background for the road name request of Front Creek Road. Mr. Poplin reported the I-85 service road at the 1300 block of Long Ferry Road would be the access for the Chewy development. Mr. Poplin explained that since an addressed structure was planning on using the road, the road needed to be named. The developer of the site was requesting the name Front Creek Road. Since the road was a state-maintained road, a public hearing was required to name it.

Chairman Edds opened the public hearing to receive citizen input regarding the proposed road name of Front Creek Road. With no one wishing to address the Board, Chairman Edds closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Pierce moved, Commissioner Klusman seconded and the vote to approve the road name of Front Creek Road passed unanimously.

## **4. PUBLIC HEARING FOR Z 05-19**

Planner Aaron Poplin reported that Gregory Childs requested rezoning of his 3.73 acre parcel, identified as Tax Parcel 606 072 from RA-AO to RA. The property was located at 4215 Long Ferry Road and in Area 2 of the Eastern Area Land Use Plan (LUP). Mr. Poplin said Area 2 recommended medium density residential development in the Planning Area.

Using a power point, Mr. Poplin showed the site in question, as well as the surrounding areas. The property was currently part of an 80-acre RA-AO Zoning District and

adjoined a much larger RA district. Mr. Poplin highlighted the limited uses allowed in the RA-AO district.

The Planning Board held a courtesy hearing on April 29, 2019 and passed the request unanimously. The following Statement of Consistency was adopted:

Z 05-19 is consistent with the Eastern Area Land Use Plan based on the requested RA district being consistent with the RA districts in the area, and with the request being reasonable and in the public's interest.

Chairman Edds asked if the applicant would like to address the Board and the applicant declined.

Chairman Edds opened the public hearing to receive citizen input regarding Z 05-19. With no one wishing to speak on the matter, Chairman Edds closed the public hearing.

Chairman Edds moved to approve the Statement of Consistent (as recommended by the Planning Board) as follows: Z 05-19 is consistent with the Eastern Area Land Use Plan based on the requested RA district being consistent with the RA districts in the area, and with the request being reasonable and in the public interest. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Pierce moved, Commissioner Greene seconded and the vote to approve Z 05-19 passed unanimously.

#### **5. JAYSA CAUSBY 4H PRESENTATION**

Jaysa Causby, was selected by the NC 4-H to represent Rowan County at the Youth Voice Summit (Summit) in conjunction with the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Annual Conference in August.

In order to be eligible to participate in the leadership Summit, Ms. Causby was required to provide a presentation to the Board of Commissioners,

Ms. Causby, a student at East Rowan High School, discussed her 4-H experiences and the knowledge and life skills she had gained through her 4-H involvement.

A round of applause followed Ms. Causby's presentation.

Ms. Causby asked and was granted the opportunity to have her photograph made with the Board.

Chairman Edds thanked Ms. Causby for the presentation.

## **6. DISCUSSION REGARDING CHANGES TO SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE ROAD WIDTH**

Fire Marshal Deborah Horne stated that Appendix D of the NC Building and Fire Code was approved by the Board of Commissioners in 2007. Ms. Horne said Appendix D could only be used when adopted into an ordinance. The Rowan County Fire Division proposed an update to the existing ordinance to ensure future development included road widths wide enough for fire apparatus to safely operate. The update included adequate turnaround clearances and access to water points for firefighting operations.

Commissioner Pierce asked if it would be prudent to send the information to the Planning Board for review and Commissioner Greene concurred.

Assistant Planning Director Shane Stewart said the Planning Board would be happy to look at the recommendations.

Commissioner Pierce moved to send the recommended changes for the Subdivision Ordinance to the Planning Board for review. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Klusman and passed unanimously.

## **7. CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE FOR YORKSHIRE FARMS PH 1**

Shane Stewart, Assistant Planning Director, reported that Owner/Developer, Plantation Ridge Partnership (Plantation) requested acceptance of a financial guarantee in lieu of completing the remaining improvements prior to final plat approval for the Yorkshire Farms Phase I subdivision located at the 7400 block of Mooresville Road, Salisbury, further referenced as Tax Parcels 201-016 and 769-015.

Section 22-57(b) of the Subdivision Ordinance requires completion of all required infrastructure/improvements (streets, drainage measures, water point) prior to final plat approval or financially guaranteed per Section 22-57(c) for a period of time up to twelve (12) months before installation. Guarantees for water point sources are valid until the issuance of the first certificate of occupancy for a residence in the development.

Plantation has completed all required improvements with the exception of the cluster mailbox and handicap pad, additional pavement along the development entrance to access the cluster mailbox, and finalizing the pond serving as the water point (see enclosed survey). The cost estimate submitted references the following: "Provide driveway entrance with parking pad for three vehicles (concrete), furnish and install (3) 16 unit mailbox clusters, and construct lighted awning over mailbox clusters. Includes all material and labor at a total price of \$15,000" (see enclosed estimate).

Mr. Stewart said staff's primary concern was the estimate did not include any costs for the remaining improvements at the pond, which appeared to include piping for the dry hydrant, final stabilization/seeding, and any remaining measures that may be associated with the certification process. Secondary issues related to the uncertainty of

what improvements were implied by “driveway entrance”, which could be the “additional pavement required” referenced on the survey and “concrete parking pad for three vehicles” since this was not identified on the plans (costs associated with the other seven (7) cluster mailboxes and concrete are not needed until Phases II & III are requested).

Based on the Subdivision Ordinance, Mr. Stewart stated the required financial guarantee must be 125% of the Professional Engineer’s estimate of the total cost of completing the remaining improvements. Plantation agreed to provide a \$20,000 check (133% of the submitted cost estimate) payable to Rowan County to hold in escrow until the remaining improvements were completed. If the financial guarantee was accepted by the BOC, Planning Staff would approve the final plat once all fees and applications were received.

The cost estimate was not sufficiently clear and did not contain remaining costs associated with the pond completion. Considering the applicant was a reputable and stable developer in the community, Mr. Stewart did not doubt the improvements would be completed as required, assuming there were no complications with the pond certification. However, the typical protocol includes complete and descriptive line items with associated costs to complete the tasks if the developer defaults.

If accepted, Mr. Stewart said Planning Staff suggested the Commissioners require Plantation to provide written acknowledgement and agreement to inform buyers no certificate of occupancies would be issued for homes in the development until the pond had been certified (or similar protective approach advised by the County Attorney).

Chairman Edds asked what the motion would state if the Board were to approve the request. Mr. Stewart responded, “To accept \$20,000 to be deposited in our Finance Department to hold in escrow until the full improvements were in place, certified and once that happens, we take the money back out and give it back.”

Commissioner Pierce moved approval as stated by Mr. Stewart above. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Greene.

Victor Wallace, owner / developer, came forward and said they were at the very end of bringing the subdivision to fruition. Mr. Wallace highlighted the remaining work to be done. Mr. Wallace said a couple million dollars had been spent on the infrastructure and he was ready to get some houses started and increase the tax base.

Chairman Edds took a moment to thank Mr. Wallace for choosing to invest in Rowan County.

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

## **8. PRESENTATION OF SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT PAY STUDY**

Chairman Edds stated that in 2015 the County started a pay study for the entire County. Once the study was completed, Chairman Edds said a plan was implemented to divide and study 1/3 of the departments each year in order to keep up with the market on salaries.

Chairman Edds continued by saying there were three (3) departments being studied this year, Sheriff's Department, Board of Elections and Tax Administration.

Matt Reece, Assistant Director with Piedmont Triad Regional Council, provided a power point as he presented the results of the Sheriff's Department Pay Study. Mr. Reece illustrated the pay grades and the context of the recommendations. For those not affected, the department would appreciate consideration of one-time payments for any employee not receiving an increase. The one-time payment was based on length of service.

The implementation costs were estimated at \$789,149.

Mr. Reece discussed entry levels for market purposes. Mr. Reece said the County would not be the market leader but if approved, the County would be on par with other law enforcement agencies.

Chairman Edds said this was the first time the Commissioners had seen the information. Chairman Edds asked if the \$789,149 included benefits and County Manager Aaron Church said no.

Assistant County Manager/Finance Director Leslie Heidrick said \$815,000 was currently in the budget. The total with benefits was estimated at \$987,000 and was \$172,000 greater than currently in the FY '20 budget.

The one-time payout figure was included in the total.

Chairman Edds thanked Mr. Reece for the presentation.

Sheriff Kevin Auten thanked the Board for its consideration, as well as Human Resources Director Kelly Natoli for her assistance in tweaking the figures. Sheriff Auten added that his prediction last fall had come to fruition and he had been losing staff to other agencies.

Commissioner Klusman said she understood the pay increases needed to occur; but questioned if several of the other budget requests for the Sheriff's Department were really needed right now.

In response to an inquiry from Chairman Edds, Sheriff Auten explained that due to the negativity in the media, there were fewer people wanting to enter the law enforcement profession.

Commissioner Caskey, also a law enforcement officer in Mecklenburg County, said his department was currently short 300 officers.

Sheriff Auten noted clerical staff was not included in the study.

Chairman Edds said the Board was planning to approve a cost of living adjustment (COLA) for employees in the budget. Chairman Edds asked if the Sheriff's employees would also receive COLA on top of any approved salaries in the current meeting. Commissioner Caskey said yes and reported COLA had already been calculated into the figures presented. Commissioner Caskey said the salaries should have been done last year, as the Commissioners had already approved the \$815,000.

Chairman Edds said the Board valued the employees in all the County departments. Chairman Edds said the Commissioners appreciated the men and women who risked their lives doing their jobs. Chairman Edds said the officers on patrol risked their lives each day and he pointed out that detention staff had tough jobs, as well.

Chairman Edds questioned the timeframe for approval. Chairman Edds suggested the Commissioners wait so the board members would have additional time to review the study. Chairman Edds said the information had not been provided to the Commissioners in advance.

Commissioner Caskey said approval was needed at the current meeting in order to get the information entered into the payroll system for July 1, 2019. Commissioner Caskey said it was important to have the data entered before COLA went into effect or otherwise the County should pay overtime to Human Resources staff to ensure it was done.

Commissioner Pierce said he had no problem approving the request as it had been well laid out and presented. Commissioner Pierce felt the plan was good and the Sheriff supported it.

Commissioner Caskey said he understood the board members needed time to study the information that had been presented; however, his main concern was to make sure the increases were approved and to have the benefits in effect for July 1, 2019. Commissioner Caskey talked about losing officers to other counties. He also talked about the dangers of the profession and the external pressures being put on law enforcement. Commissioner Caskey continued by saying when someone thought about what was involved from a law enforcement officer to earn \$38,000, one might find it easier to choose to sit in an office in another profession instead. Commissioner Caskey stressed that he preferred the Board vote today.

Commissioner Greene said the \$815,000 was already budgeted because the Board knew it supported bringing the salaries for law enforcement up. Commissioner Greene said he would support the recommendations but felt it might be better if the Board had time to study the information a little more. Commissioner Greene said the Board was setting a precedent with what it was doing for all the departments.

Commissioner Klusman said she was fine with approval either way.

Ms. Heidrick pointed out that if the approval was not given tonight, a pay period would be missed.

Chairman Edds moved to approve the Sheriff's Department pay study. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Klusman and passed unanimously.

Sheriff Auten thanked the Board for its support.

#### **9. DISCUSSION REGARDING MEETING SCHEDULE FOR JULY 2019**

Chairman Edds said the Board of Commissioners typically voted to cancel its second regular meeting during the month of July. The Board was scheduled to meet on Monday, July 1, 2019 and Monday, July 15, 2019.

After discussing its meeting preferences for July 2019, Commissioner Pierce moved to cancel the July 15, 2019 regularly scheduled meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Caskey and passed unanimously.

#### **10. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENTS**

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

- Finance – Budget for expenditures and FEMA reimbursement related to Hurricane Florence - \$12,132
- Rowan Transit – Increase to Salisbury ADA Contract Transportation Budget to cover remainder of FY 2019 - \$20,000
- Health Department – Disperse funds awarded from the Delta Dental Grant - \$5,000
- Sheriff – Recognize projected excess revenue from concealed weapon permit sales, and place in proper expense accounts that support cost and work done in issuing of the concealed permits - \$10,000
- Finance – Budget revenue and expenditures for the FY 20 HOME Program that was approved by the Commissioners on March 4, 2019 - \$155,820
- Sheriff – Recognize new surplus revenue from Asset Forfeiture Accounts and budget to proper expense accounts to further additional drug investigations - \$11,820
- Sheriff – Recognize excess revenue in Great Revenue Donation Account and budget to the Great Expense Account \$1,029

- Finance – To budget additional State funds received for the Runway Overlay Project, Grant #36244.56.9.2, at the Mid-Carolina Regional Airport - \$54,000
- Cooperative Extension – Transfer Livestock funds from Revenue to Expenditures to purchase small grain equipment - \$2,339
- Finance – To reduce budget for grant funds the County will not receive. To reallocate funds to properly match State grant budgets - \$25,788
- Finance – To reduce RTS ROAP E&D budgeted revenue and expense and transfer revenue to be a local match for RTS 530 City of Concord Grant - \$132,500

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

**11. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BOARD APPOINTMENTS**  
**ADULT CARE HOME ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

- Terrall Bryan applied for reappointment for a three (3) year term. Ms. Bryan’s term expired February 28, 2019; however, she had continued her service. For consistency with record keeping purposes, the appointment should be for three (3) years, retroactive to March 1, 2019 through February 28, 2022.

Commissioner Pierce moved, Commissioner Greene seconded and the vote to reappoint Terrall Bryan passed unanimously.

- Flora White applied for reappointment for a three (3) year term. Ms. White’s term expired June 30, 2018; however, according to the Regional Ombudsman, Patricia Cowan, Ms. White had continued her service. For consistency with record keeping purposes, the appointment should be for three (3) years, retroactive to July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021.

Commissioner Pierce moved, Commissioner Greene seconded and the vote to approve Flora White for reappointment carried unanimously.

**CENTRALINA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

Corey Hill applied for reappointment. The term would be for three (3) years, effective July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021.

Commissioner Pierce moved, Commissioner Greene seconded and the vote to reappoint Corey Hill passed unanimously.

**TOWN OF FAITH**

The Town of Faith recommends the following ETJ appointments:

- **Zoning Board of Adjustments** – Gloria Wilhelm and Vicky Miller for three (3) year terms, effective June 1, 2019 through May 31, 2022.

- **Planning Board** – Katharyn “Lu” Gamewell for a three (3) year term, effective June 1, 2019 through May 31, 2022.

Commissioner Greene moved the reappointment of Gloria Wilhelm, Vicky Miller and Katharyn “Lu” Gamewell. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce and passed unanimously.

#### **CITY OF SALISBURY PLANNING BOARD – ETJ**

Salisbury City Council recommended the appointment of Timothy Norris as an ETJ member of the Salisbury Planning Board. The term of office would be for two (2) years, expiring on March 31, 2021.

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

#### **LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)**

The LEPC recommends the appointment of Christopher Fleming to fill the slot for Nouryon. There are no term dates for members of this Committee.

Commissioner Pierce moved, Commissioner Caskey seconded and the vote to appoint Christopher Fleming passed unanimously.

#### **LOCKE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRE COMMISSIONERS**

Mary Anne Parrish applied for reappointment for a two (2) year term that would be effective July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021.

Commissioner Klusman moved the reappointment of Mary Anne Parrish. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Greene and carried unanimously.

#### **REGION F AGING ADVISORY COMMITTEE / HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE BLOCK GRANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Juanita Woods applied for reappointment as an Alternate member for a one-year term. The term would be effective July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

Commissioner Klusman objected to the reappointment of Juanita Woods. Commissioner Klusman said she believed Ms. Woods was still employed by Rufty-Holmes Senior Center and she felt “it was not a good situation to have.” Commissioner Klusman said the Directors of the agencies that receive money are not allowed a vote and Ms. Woods was an employee of an agency receiving funding.

The Board agreed to table the matter to allow the Clerk time to follow up as to whether there was a conflict for Ms. Woods to serve.

Eileen Solomon applied for reappointment as an At Large member for a two (2) year term that would be effective July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021.

Commissioner Klusman moved, Commissioner Greene seconded and the vote to reappoint Eileen Solomon passed unanimously.

Members appointed to the Region F Advisory Committee are automatically appointed to the Home and Community Block Grant Advisory Committee.

**ROCKWELL RURAL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRE COMMISSIONERS**

Jeff Boger, Alan Mills and Kent Wilhelm applied for reappointment. If approved, their terms would be effective July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021.

Commissioner Klusman moved the reappointment of Jeff Boger, Alan Mills and Kent Wilhelm. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Greene and passed unanimously.

**ROWAN-CABARRUS COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Carl Short, Jr. applied for reappointment; however, Mr. Short has completed two (2) full terms on the RCCC Board of Trustees.

RCCC President, Carol Spalding, submitted a letter in support of the reappointment due to the fact that Mr. Short currently served as Chair of the Board of Trustees and was involved in many projects underway at RCCC.

In order for Mr. Short to be reappointed, the Commissioners needed to waive the term limits established in a Resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners in 2012. If reappointed, the term would be for four (4) years, effective July 1, 2019 and expiring June 30, 2023.

Commissioner Klusman moved, Commissioner Greene seconded and the vote to waive the term limits established in the Resolution carried unanimously.

Commissioner Klusman moved the reappointment of Mr. Short. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Greene and passed unanimously.

**TOWN OF CLEVELAND ZONING AND PLANNING – ETJ**

Eugene M. Adkins applied for reappointment as an ETJ member of the Town of Cleveland's Zoning and Planning Board. The term would be for three (3) years, effective July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022.

Commissioner Greene moved, Commissioner Klusman seconded and the vote to reappoint Eugene Adkins carried unanimously.

**Chairman Edds called for a recess at 4:36 p.m.**

**12. PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED FY 2019-20 BUDGET**

**Chairman Edds reconvened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.**

Chairman Edds opened the public hearing at 6:04 p.m. to receive citizen input regarding the proposed 2019-20 budget.

- Sheila Holshouser, an employee of the Department of Social Services (DSS) spoke regarding the increased caseload at DSS, as well as the increase in the use of technology for various programs. Ms. Holshouser appealed to the Board to reclassify a current DSS employee who assisted with technology so that he would not transfer to the County's IT Department.

Commissioner Klusman noted the employee in question was being hired by the County's Information Technology Department for almost twice his current salary. Commissioner Klusman said the employee could earn the same amount at DSS with the reclassification and it would only cost the County \$5300.

- Amy Wagoner, a citizen of Rowan County and an employee of DSS, also advocated for the reclassification of the DSS employee in question.
- Ron Price, a 14 year resident of Rowan County said he lived in Anchor Downs and currently served as a Fire Commissioner for the Millers Ferry Volunteer Fire Department (VFD). Mr. Price discussed response times for emergency services and asked the Board to address those services as he felt they were substandard.
- Cindy Fink, Executive Director of Meals on Wheels (MOW), spoke in support of the requested funding increase for MOW.

Commissioner Klusman asked if there was a waiting list and Ms. Fink said there were ten (10) people on the list. Commissioner Klusman questioned the total budget and Ms. Fink said \$639,000. Ms. Fink reported MOW raised all its funds last year with the exception of the \$59,000 provided through the Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG).

Ms. Fink confirmed to Chairman Edds that MOW would receive \$59,000 in its next budget and was requesting an additional \$62,000.

- Tom Robinson, President of the Board of Directors for MOW spoke in support of the additional \$62,000 requested increase.
- Jason Burnett, Deputy Fire Chief and Secretary of the Board of Director for South Salisbury Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) spoke in support of the requested tax increase for the VFD from 7.75 to 9.75 cents per \$100.
- Norma Honeycutt with Partners in Learning Child Development and Family Resource Center spoke in support funding for the Triple P Program.

Commissioner Greene asked if the Board was being asked to add members to the group or being asked to support training for the current members. Ms. Honeycutt said, "Yes, to serve more families."

Chairman Edds asked what the \$50,000 was for and Ms. Honeycutt said Partners in Learning was asking for \$25,000. Commissioner Klusman added that the funds would be divided between Partners in Learning, Smart Start and Prevent Child Abuse Rowan.

- Amy Brown, Executive Director with Smart Start, and Margaret (last name was inaudible) with Prevent Child Abuse Rowan came forward. Both Ms. Brown and Margaret spoke in support of the Triple P Program and the need for subsidies for high quality child care.

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

Chairman Edds said the Board had added quite a few items to the proposed budget. Therefore, Chairman Edds recommended that Finance cut the following projects from the proposed budget:

- Courthouse roof project in the amount of \$421,900 – delay for another year
- Delay kitchen floor at the Detention Center - \$22,000

Chairman Edds discussed the proposed debt service for renovations to the Crawford Building. Currently, the County leased space for probation officers and renovations to the Crawford Building would allow the officers to be consolidated. The current cost to rent space was \$98,000 annually versus the \$260,000 renovation costs.

Commissioner Caskey asked if a portion of the \$260,000 was to study the parking. Mr. Church responded that the County was trying to take care of some of the parking this year by putting a gate up. Mr. Church said he had talked about remodeling the building and having the architect design some type of brick wall around the judicial parking.

Commissioner Caskey asked if monies would need to be left for the architect. Mr. Church suggested leaving \$100,000 for the wall, which would be a one-time cost. Mr. Church said if the \$260,000 was left he hoped to have all probation staff moved to the Crawford Building and relocate the Guardian Ad Litem staff.

Commissioner Greene said he wanted to leave some of the funds budgeted for the architect to get the probation project started. Commissioner Greene felt the payback in three (3) years time was a good financial decision.

By consensus, the Board was agreeable to reduce the budget by \$160,000, leaving \$100,000 for the wall and architectural fees for the Crawford Building project.

The Board was agreeable to considering approval of the FY 2019-20 budget at this point in the meeting. The funds were approved as follows:

**FUND 202: EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM**

Commissioner Pierce moved, Commissioner Klusman seconded and the vote to approve Fund 202 passed unanimously.

**FUND 501: RISK MANAGEMENT**

Commissioner Pierce moved, Commissioner Caskey seconded and the vote to approve Fund 501 carried unanimously.

**FUND 601: ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT (LANDFILL)**

Commissioner Pierce moved, Commissioner Klusman seconded and the vote to approve Fund 601 passed unanimously.

**FUND 603: AIRPORT**

Commissioner Greene moved, Commissioner Pierce seconded and the vote to approve Fund 603 carried unanimously.

**FUND 605: WATER**

Commissioner Pierce moved, Commissioner Greene seconded and the vote to approve Fund 605 passed unanimously.

**FUND 101: GENERAL**

Ms. Heidrick recapped the following additions to the budget as requested by the Board from the budget work session held earlier in the day:

- Request from Commissioner Pierce to add back Sheriff's expansion items, which totaled \$38,873
- Sheriff's Department - Money for Informers - \$32,000
- Sheriff's Department - Uniforms - \$18,100
- Sheriff's Department - Other Small Equipment – \$6,700
- River Park (Bull Hole) - Increase \$7,000 for total allocation of \$10,000. Decrease Ellis Park kitchen by \$7,000
- \$650,000 increase for Western EMS Station and decrease in Contingency of \$650,000
- Increase for COG Older Americans - \$2,000
- Facilities Management – Upgrade an Office Assistant III to Administrative Assistant I – \$7,918
- EMS presence in Millers Ferry area starting in January - \$220,000
- Veteran Services Officer starting in January with funds being held while looking for grant funds (must come back to the Commissioners before the money can be spent) - \$28,358
- Telecommunications – overtime money of \$36,000 (The County Manager is to study options for relief of their situation; must also come back to the Board of Commissioners before the money can be spent)

- Additional funds needed for Sheriff's pay study – stipends will be paid this year and the amount now needed for next year's budget – \$118,215

#### **DELETIONS FROM BUDGET:**

- Sheriff's surveillance vehicle upgrades - \$59,990
- Remove Fairgrounds from Special Appropriations - \$25,000
- Reduce marketing/branding by \$10,000 (go from \$60,000 to \$50,000 in budget)
- Jail Kitchen Flooring - \$22,000
- Delay of courthouse roof – \$421,900
- Reduce the \$260,000 for debt service for renovations to the Crawford Building by \$160,000 and leave \$100,000 for potential parking lot wall and additional architectural fees for the Crawford Building

Commissioner Klusman questioned the approval for the reclassification of the Facilities Management position and asked why the reclassification for the DSS employee was not approved. Mr. Church said the Facilities Management position had been added earlier in the day by the Board. Mr. Church said he had not recommended reclassification of either position.

Ms. Heidrick said the paperwork had been processed for the DSS employee to transfer to the Information Technology Department (IT). Mr. Church said DSS was part of the County and IT would take care of the DSS technology needs.

Further discussion ensued. Chairman Edds suggested not focusing on one specific situation but rather look at the job description to determine if it should include other duties.

Kelly Natoli, Human Resources Director, discussed IT liaison positions and the overall review in providing IT services to multiple departments. Ms. Natoli said the matter could be brought to the Personnel Board.

Chairman Edds said he did not want budget meetings to turn into discussions about raises. Chairman Edds said such requests should go to Human Resources and be passed to the Personnel Board for consideration.

In response to Commissioner Greene regarding reclassification of the Facilities Management position, Ms. Heidrick stated there was \$70,000 in uncommitted funds in Contingency that could be moved for the position if approved by the Personnel Board.

- Ms. Heidrick said she would remove \$7,918 for the reclassification of the Facilities Management (Parks) position at this time.

Chairman Edds opened the floor for discussion regarding other budget items and the tax rate.

- Commissioner Greene moved to accept the funding at \$50,000 for the Triple P Program to be split between Prevent Child Abuse Rowan and Partners in Learning. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Klusman.
- Chairman Edds moved approval of funding for the Community Resiliency Model, which was a one-time expenditure. Commissioner Pierce seconded the motion.

Commissioner Klusman noted these programs were “already in the budget.”

- Commissioner Klusman moved to add \$54,000 for Child Care Subsidies.

Ms. Heidrick noted \$50,000 was already in the budget and an additional \$4,000 would be needed for Child Care Subsidies.

Commissioner Klusman said the monies would fund nine (9) children that were on the waiting list for Work First.

Commissioner Caskey expressed his concerns with the Child Care Subsidies, which was a program he felt should be funded with federal and/or state monies.

Chairman Edds also shared his apprehension with funding Child Care Subsidies.

- Commissioner Pierce made a motion to remove Child Care Subsidies from the budget. The motion was seconded by Chairman Edds.

Commissioner Klusman reiterated why she supported funding the Child Care Subsidies.

Commissioner Klusman asked if it would be appropriate for her to withdraw her motion.

Commissioner Caskey pointed out a vote would need to be taken as the funds were in the budget.

Commissioner Pierce called the question.

- Chairman Edds clarified the Board would be leaving \$100,000 of the requested \$150,000. Upon being put to a vote, the motion on the floor passed 4-1 with Commissioner Klusman dissenting.

Commissioner Caskey asked how much funding had been requested by Rowan Salisbury School System (RSSS) for School Resource Officers (SRO). Mr. Church read the RSSS message pertaining to its’ \$2,352,000 new funding request. Mr. Church said there was no mention of SRO. Mr. Church added that there was a reference to security at the elementary schools under Operations; however, security was not defined.

Sheriff Auten came forward and said he thought the SRO at the high school and middle school levels were fine. Sheriff Auten explained that RSSS had contracted with deputies and officers from other police agencies to work intermittent hours each day to provide security at the elementary schools. Sheriff Auten felt \$300,000 was the estimate for what was spent this past year.

The Board discussed in depth the matter of providing funds for SRO in elementary schools.

- Commissioner Caskey moved to add \$300,000 to the budget for the school system for SRO (included Kannapolis City Schools and charter schools). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce and carried unanimously.

### **FUND 101 - GENERAL**

Chairman Edds moved to approve Fund 101 with the following additions:

- Sheriff's Department expansion items, which totaled \$38,873
- Sheriff's Department - Money for Informers - \$32,000
- Sheriff's Department - Uniforms - \$18,100
- Sheriff's Department - Other Small Equipment – \$6,700
- River Park (Bull Hole) - Increase \$7,000 for total allocation of \$10,000. Decrease Ellis Park kitchen by \$7,000
- \$650,000 increase for Western EMS Station and decrease Contingency by \$650,000
- Increase for COG Older Americans - \$2,000
- EMS presence in Millers Ferry area starting in January - \$220,000
- Veteran Services Officer starting in January assuming grant monies are available (must come back to the Commissioners before the money can be spent) - \$28,358
- Telecommunications – Overtime money of \$36,000 (The County Manager is to study options for relief of their situation; must also come back to the Board of Commissioners before the money can be spent)
- Sheriff's Pay Study -\$118,215
- \$300,000 to be designated for elementary SRO
- Reduce surveillance vehicle upfit in the amount of \$59,990 (for Sheriff's Department)
- Remove Fairgrounds from Special Appropriations - \$25,000
- Reduce Brand Rowan by \$10,000
- Remove Jail Kitchen Flooring - \$22,000
- Delay of courthouse roof construction another year – \$421,900
- Delay Crawford Building Rehab but leave \$100,000 for parking lot wall construction and additional architectural fees (one-time allocation)
- Reduce DSS Childcare by \$50,000
- Reduce Contingency by \$150,000

Ms. Heidrick concurred with the proposed changes as moved by Chairman Edds. The motion was then seconded by Commissioner Klusman and passed unanimously. Chairman Edds opened the floor for discussion regarding a reduction in the tax rate for FY 2019-20. Chairman Edds felt it was a good time to give back to the taxpayers and reduce the tax rate from 66.25 cents per \$100 down to 65.75 cents per \$100.

Commissioner Caskey agreed there were things the County would like to do but felt it was an opportunity to provide some tax relief to the citizens.

Commissioner Klusman concurred with Commissioner Caskey and felt one of the best things the Commissioners could do was to reduce the tax rate. Commissioner Klusman felt reducing the tax rate also sent a positive message to those possibly looking to locate to Rowan County.

Commissioner Greene inquired as to the last time the County had decreased its tax rate and Ms. Heidrick responded FY 2008.

Chairman Edds said there was a motion on the floor; however, it had not yet been seconded. Commissioner Klusman seconded and the vote to decrease the tax rate from 66.25 cents to 65.75 cents passed unanimously.

#### **FUND 201: FIRE**

Commissioner Caskey mentioned the requested tax increases from Woodleaf VFD and South Salisbury VFD.

Commissioner Caskey said since the Commissioners were able to decrease the overall tax rate, he moved to increase the tax rate for those two (2) departments by one-half cent over the County Manager's proposal. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Klusman and passed unanimously.

- For clarity pertaining to Fund 201, Commissioner Caskey moved to approve Fund 201 with the increases to Woodleaf and South Salisbury. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Klusman and passed unanimously.

#### **13. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Klusman moved to adjourn at 8:29 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn Barger, MMC, NCMCC  
Clerk to the Board