

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

January 21, 2025 – 6:00 PM

J. NEWTON COHEN, SR. ROOM

J. NEWTON COHEN, SR. ROWAN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

PRESENT:

Greg Edds, Chairman
Jim Greene, Vice-Chairman
Craig Pierce, Commissioner

ABSENT:

Mike Caskey, Commissioner
Judy Klusman, Commissioner

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

Call to Order

Chairman Edds called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Chaplain Michael Taylor provided a solemnizing prayer via telephone. Chairman Edds led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attorney Jay Dees entered at 6:03 p.m.

Consider Additions to the Agenda

Chairman Edds added a Resolution Recognizing January 20, 2025, as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in Rowan County as Consent Agenda Item N.

Consider Deletions From the Agenda

There were no deletions from the agenda.

Consider Approval of the Agenda

On motion of Pierce, seconded by Greene, the Board voted 3-0 to approve the agenda as amended.

Consider Approval of the Consent Agenda

On motion of Pierce, seconded by Greene, the Board voted 3-0 to approve the Consent Agenda as amended, as follows:

A. Budget Amendments, as follows:

5100 – Health Department	Transfer funds to align accounts with awarded amounts from ARPA Workforce Grant	\$9,500
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- B. Bonney Staffing; now Alliance Industrial Solutions - Updated Master Agreement
- C. GRANTS: Closeout Report for Teijin (Formerly Continental Structural Plastics)
- D. Approve Scope of Work for Fountainworks
- E. VTS & TAX REFUNDS FOR APPROVAL
- F. RTSAB Bylaws Update
- G. GOV'T RELATIONS: Approve Corrected Lobbying Report
- H. Sole Source - Judicial Systems - FY25-26
- I. Approved Three (3) High-Top Transit Vehicle Purchase w/Lift - Rowan Transit
- J. Technology Use Policy - Revision for NCGS 143-805 Compliance Page 1 of 106
- K. Road Name Change—SET PUBLIC HEARING
- L. Enochville Fire Department IRS147(f) approval
- M. Change Annual Retreat Date
- N. Resolution Recognizing January 20, 2025, as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in Rowan County (**Agenda Addition**)

Special Recognitions

County Manager Aaron Church recognized participants of the first Rowan County Civic Leadership Development Program and presented each participant with a certificate. Chairman Edds asked each participant to share something they learned from the program.

Public Comment

Chairman Edds opened the floor for public comment and closed it after no one wished to speak.

County Broadband Updates

Randy Cress, Assistant County Manager/Chief Information Officer, gave an update on the current status of Charter Spectrum broadband deployments under the Rural Digital Operations Fund (RDOF) and NC GREAT (North Carolina Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology) Grants. Charter Spectrum is anticipated to complete a build out using RDOF funds by 2026 including 1,230 households. Currently in progress are build outs utilizing the GREAT Grant's \$350 million allocation for North Carolina. This is a \$4.5 million expansion project for Rowan County. There will be 758 households and 11 businesses impacted at completion. At current, 683 households are completed. A three-way contract between the North Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Office (NCBIO), Charter, and Rowan County was signed in September 2023. Rowan County's \$100,000 contribution will be due at completion. Work must be completed by December 2026.

Mr. Cress gave an overview of the current status for Rowan County. There is 4.74% of the county located in unserved eligible locations for a total of 3001 locations. There is 0% underserved eligible locations. He gave other statistics regarding access in the county.

Completing Access to Broadband (CAB) is in progress. The North Carolina Department of Information Technology (NCDIT) Project Proposals are open and there is \$3.3 million allocated to the project with no county funds required. Response forms are due in the next 30 days. The next action is to review the proposal for award with NCDIT in coming months. He showed a map of eligible locations.

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) is a new federal funding program from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) that includes a \$1.5 billion allocation for N.C. This new funding requires a 5-year plan from N.C. Current state law limits BEAD funding and requires that counties participating in the CAB program provide a match using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF).

Many new households will be passed with RDOF and GREAT Grant broadband expansion projects between 2026 and 2028. At this time, 1,900 households have passed with several million spent in build out. The CAB grant for a \$3.3 million project has no cost to the County and can cover any of the remaining approximately 3,000 eligible households. New funding is available through the BEAD program with is larger than the original ARPA allocation. This should be a catchall for any remaining broadband needs after CAB.

Chairman Edds asked how Rowan County compares to other counties. Mr. Cress said Rowan County is very similar to surrounding counties with the number of unserved eligible locations. This project is progressing and funding is available.

Vice-Chairman Greene asked for clarification regarding cable and broadband and Mr. Cress explained that fiber is mostly used with very little area reached by coaxial cable.

Financial Reports

Finance Director Anna Bumgarner presented the financial reports. She compared annual cumulative expenditures, with FY 2025 equaling \$96,075,866 in December. Annual cumulative revenue is at \$114,857,313. The annual cumulative property tax was \$78,631,207 in November. In September, the annual cumulative sales tax was \$10,592,787. She compared monthly sales taxes from fiscal years 2022 to 2025.

Mr. Church said the monthly sales tax trend will be a red flag if it continues to trend downward.

Closed Session

On motion of Edds, seconded by Pierce, the Board voted 3-0 to enter into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(1) to consider approval of the minutes of the Closed Session held on December 2, 2024, as described by NCGS 143-318.10(e), and pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(5)(i), to establish or to instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease.

Resume Open Session

At 7:05 p.m. Open Session resumed.

Adjournment

At 7:05 p.m. on motion of Pierce, seconded by Greene, the Board voted 3-0 to adjourn.

Sarah Pack, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board