

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

May 4, 2026 – 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 (entered where noted)

ABSENT:

Craig Pierce, Commissioner

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

Call to Order

Chairman Edds called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Chaplain Michael Taylor provided a solemnizing prayer. Chairman Edds lead 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

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

Consider Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

A. *Consider Approval of the Minutes - 4/20/26 Regular Meeting*

B. *Budget Amendments, as follows:*

5010- Soil & Water	Transfer funds to cover PT to FT employee S&B	\$19,575
4830- Planning	Appropriate funds to cover fines & fees for FY26	\$13,000
4400- Sheriff	Transfer funds to cover purchase of gun mount for BearCat	\$4,400

6200- Parks & Rec	Transfer funds to cover sheriff salaries for security at Autumn Jubilee	\$14,200
4400- Sheriff	Transfer funds to cover purchase of a Barreett M107A1 Semi-automatic rifle	\$10,472
4125- Finance	Transfer funds to cover water utility bills for FY26	\$296
4125- Finance	Transfer funds from Fund 1010 to 34 to cover debt issuance costs	\$10,670
4125- Finance	Transfer funds to correct error made on architecture fees for FY22	\$2,000,000
4125- Finance	Appropriate funds to correct clerical error on BA 08-648 from BOC 3/17/26	\$10,728,278
4125- Finance	Appropriate funds to cover Holden bid and contract for concourse and exterior signs for Phase 5	\$6,682,998
6200- Parks & Rec	Transfer funds to cover additional pay needed for security at DNP for the busy Season	\$5,400
Fund 603- Airport	Appropriate funds to record NPE and local match for Taxiway C project	\$138,078

C. *Change Order # 12 - Holden Building Co. - RCC-Health Department Project*

D. *Proclamation - Clerks to the Boards of Commissioners Week, as follows:*

*PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING MAY 3 THROUGH MAY 9, 2026, AS
CLERKS TO THE BOARDS OF COMMISSIONERS WEEK IN ROWAN
COUNTY*

WHEREAS, the role of the clerk to the board of county commissioners is crucial for maintaining an informed community and facilitating effective local governance through communication among citizens, governing bodies, and administrative departments; and

WHEREAS, the position of clerk, one of the oldest in local government, continues to be essential as the official recordkeepers of their counties, with responsibilities that are deeply rooted in history; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute 153A-111 requires every board of county commissioners to appoint or designate a clerk to the board to perform any duties that may be required by law or the board of commissioners including, but not limited to, the preparation, filing, and protection of local government records, which are vital for accountability and transparency; and

WHEREAS, clerks enhance their professional skills through active participation in the North Carolina Association of County Clerks to Boards of Commissioners, which, in partnership with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Government and the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, offers nationally recognized certification programs and continuous professional education; and

WHEREAS, clerks, through their dedication to professional development, not only improve the efficacy of their offices but also bring positive

recognition to their counties by participating in advanced education and obtaining profession related certifications.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Rowan County Board of Commissioners that May 3 through May 9, 2026, will be recognized as “Clerks to the Boards of County Commissioners Week” in Rowan County and extends its appreciation to Clerk to the Board Sarah Pack and Deputy Clerk to the Board Rebecca Saleeby, and to all county clerks and deputy clerks for the vital services they perform and their exemplary dedication to the county they represent.

E. Proclamation - Public Service Recognition Week, as follows:

PROCLAMATION FOR PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

WHEREAS, the week of May 3 through May 9, 2026, has been designated as “Public Service Recognition Week” to honor employees of the Federal, State, and local governments and members of the uniformed services who are entrusted with missions fundamental to the United States and deliver services upon which Rowan County residents depend; and

WHEREAS, Public Service Recognition Week provides an opportunity to recognize and promote the important contributions of public servants and to honor the Americans who serve their country, States, and communities at all levels of government and as members of the uniformed services; and

WHEREAS, public servants in Rowan County take a solemn oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution and laws of the State of North Carolina, and to faithfully discharge the duties of their office, and this oath reflects the foundational compact between public servants and the residents they serve; and

WHEREAS, millions of individuals serve the public in government service and as members of the uniformed services in every State, county, and city across the United States and around the world, including the dedicated public servants who serve Rowan County; and

WHEREAS, public servants make substantial contributions to the Rowan County economy including managing public lands, infrastructure, financial systems, and regulatory frameworks that undergird private-sector growth, protect consumers, and sustain the conditions for a competitive and innovative marketplace; and

WHEREAS, public servants are critical to protecting the safety and security of the residents of Rowan County, working every day, often at great personal risk, to prevent harm, respond to crises, and safeguard the lives and well-being of the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS, public service is a noble calling involving a variety of challenging and rewarding professions, and highly skilled and trained individuals offer their knowledge, effort, and expertise in support of the public good.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it proclaimed by the Rowan County Board of Commissioners, that the Board:

- (1) *commends the dedication, professionalism, and patriotism of the public servants of Rowan County who fulfill their oath of office and deliver essential services to the residents of Rowan County;*
- (2) *recognizes the indispensable role of public servants in strengthening the Rowan County economy, protecting the safety and security of the public, safeguarding individual rights, and sustaining the foundations of democratic self-governance;*
- (3) *honors the contributions of all public servants during Public Service Recognition Week, May 3 through May 9, 2026, and throughout the year; and*
- (4) *calls upon the people of Rowan County to observe Public Service Recognition Week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities that honor and acknowledge the service of those who work on their behalf.*

- F. *Sworn Law Enforcement Pay at Dan Nicholas Park*
- G. *Farmland Preservation Fund Effective Date Clarification*
- H. *RCC Concourse & Exterior Signage Project – ADW Architects – Furniture Design Services*
- I. *Amendment #1 - Opioid Settlement - Partners in Learning*
- J. *Talbert, Bright, & Ellington (TBE) - Work Authorization 2709-2601 - Mid-Carolina Regional Airport - Taxiway "C" Rehabilitation*
- K. *Sole Source - Microsoft Store w/ Azure Services - FY26-29*
- L. *FRMT Group - Sheriff*
- M. *Approve Purchase/Install - Voting System Upgrade - BOE*
- N. *Second Reading of Moratorium Ordinance for Data Centers*
- O. *Soil and Water Conservation Easement Items*
- P. *GRANT APPLICATION: Approve pre-application documents for Transit FY2028 grant applications*
- Q. *Fortius Capital Partners Revised Amended Purchase Agreement, Amended Economic Development Agreement, and Amended Promissory Note*
- R. *Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Funding for FY 2026-27*
- S. *Issuance Cost related to GO Bonds*
- T. *Expand Rowan County Civic Leadership Academy to Bi-Annual*
- U. *JCPC Revised FY25-26 Funding Plan*
- V. *Proclamation for Law Enforcement Week, as follows:*

Proclamation Law Enforcement Week May 10-16, 2026

Whereas law enforcement officers serve an essential role in safeguarding the rights and freedoms of our citizens, preserving public safety, and maintaining the rule of law in our communities; and

Whereas these dedicated professionals risk their lives each day to protect the people of Rowan County demonstrating exceptional courage, integrity, and commitment to duty; and

Whereas, in 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a Presidential Proclamation designating May 15th as Peace Officers Memorial Day, and the week in which 15th falls as National Police Week, to honor those officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty and to

recognize the service of all law enforcement personnel across the nation, and

Whereas, it is fitting and proper to recognize and reflect on the contributions of our law enforcement agencies and to show gratitude for their dedication to our safety and security;

Now, therefore be it proclaimed, the Rowan County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim the week of May 10- 16, 2026, as Law Enforcement Week in Rowan County, and encourages all residents to honor our peace officers-past and present-for their loyal and courageous service.

Now, Therefore be it further Proclaimed that the Rowan County Board of Commissioners calls upon all citizens of Rowan county to observe May 13, 2026, as Peace Officers' Memorial Day in honor of those law enforcement officers who, through their courageous deeds, have made the ultimate sacrifices in service to their community, or have become disabled in the performance of duty, and let us recognize and pay respect to the survivors of our fallen heroes.

Public Comment Period

Chairman Edds opened the floor for Public Comment and closed it after everyone wishing to speak had done so.

Shannon Solomon criticized commissioners for using NDAs (non-disclosure agreements) with billion-dollar corporations on data center projects, calling it an ethical failure that hides true costs, infrastructure demands, community impacts, and tax incentives from the public. She urged an end to NDAs, release of the Ferry Road project agreements, and meaningful public hearings before any votes, emphasizing that transparency is a fundamental duty of public office.

Joshua Cool questioned the urgency of data center projects, asserting they are being rushed forward through secretive processes without meaningful community input and asking whether any NDAs have been signed related to current or potential developments. He criticized elected officials for dismissive behavior toward concerned residents, emphasized that the public opposition is clear, and stated that continued lack of transparency and engagement would be viewed as apathy or improper influence.

Bobby Kemp spoke about the financial struggles facing veterans, seniors, people with disabilities, and families in the county due to rising costs of living, and urged greater scrutiny of county spending, emphasizing that small expenses add up and affect taxpayers. He raised concerns about taxpayer-funded animal care costs, criticized government overspending using quotes from Ronald Reagan, and asked whether upcoming discussions on the county tax rate would be open to the public so residents could attend.

Special Recognitions

Chairman Edds recognized the winners of the 2026 Governor's Volunteer Service Awards and presented each with a certificate of recognition.

Commissioner Klusman entered the meeting at 3:23 p.m.

Chairman Edds reconized the Salisbury High School Boys Basketball Team and coaching staff for a successful season.

At 3:45 p.m. Vice-Chairman Greene stepped away from the meeting.

On motion of Klusman, seconded by Caskey, the Board voted 3-0 (Greene out) to approve a Proclamation Honoring the Salisbury High School Boys Basketball Team, as follows:

Proclamation Honoring the Salisbury High School Boys Basketball Team

WHEREAS, the Salisbury High School Boys Basketball Team rose to the pinnacle of high school athletics by winning the North Carolina High School Athletic Association State Championship, demonstrating excellence, determination, and unity at the highest level of competition, and marking the 50th NCHSAA Team Championship for the Hornets; and

WHEREAS, each member of the team played an essential role in achieving this State Championship, including Braylon Taylor, Blake Smith, Darius Greene, Jonathan Ross, Jayden Jones, Jaylin Johnson, Royce Perkins, Quincy Woods, Nacerima Shipp, Marquise Segrede, Jourdin White, Mont Green, and Tony Pagan; and

WHEREAS, the team completed an outstanding season with an overall record of 24–7 and an 11–3 record in the South Piedmont Conference, as well as winning the Sam Moir Christmas Tournament at Catawba; and

WHEREAS, Head Coach Albert Perkins was named Rowan County Coach of the Year, leading the team with vision and commitment alongside Assistant Coaches Gregory Tinsley, Dimp Everhart, and Kobe Funderburk; and

WHEREAS, Braylon Taylor earned South Piedmont Conference Player of the Year, Rowan County Player of the Year, and Most Valuable Player of the State Championship game, while Jonathan Ross was named Salisbury High School's Most Outstanding Player; and

WHEREAS, Blake Smith, Jonathan Ross, and Royce Perkins were recognized as All Conference players, and Royce Perkins was further honored with a Sportsmanship Award, exemplifying integrity and respect in competition. NOW,

THEREFORE, be it proclaimed that the Rowan County Board of Commissioners proudly recognizes and celebrates the Salisbury High School Boys Basketball Team for their outstanding success and dedication to excellence, inspiring both students and the broader community.

Vice-Chairman Greene returned to the meeting at 3:46 p.m.

Award/Approve 2026-008 – RCC Concourse & Exterior Signage - Holden

Darian Walker, Project Architect from ADW Architects, presented the Rowan Community Center signage and concourse renovation project located at the former mall site. The scope of work includes full replacement of existing monument signs, installation of new directional signage at additional entrances, and comprehensive wayfinding signage throughout the site. The concourse renovation will extend previous improvements using the same material palette while

introducing biophilic design features intended to bring more natural elements into the interior space. Planned changes include removal of the existing fountain and raised platforms, creation of multiple gathering areas and walking paths, new ceiling and lighting elements, and upgraded wall finishes. Furniture shown during the presentation was for conceptual purposes only and has not yet been finalized.

Mr. Walker reported that the original total project estimate was approximately \$6.57 million, including construction, contingencies, and owner costs; however, the project came in significantly under budget following the bidding process. The board was informed that the awarded construction contract to the lowest responsive bidder totals approximately \$3.33 million, with a revised overall project cost of about \$4.3 million. One alternate was removed due to a documentation issue, while another was accepted at no additional cost to match existing stone materials. County staff explained that the project will be funded with cash from the general fund and will not be financed.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Mr. Church clarified that the board was being asked to take several formal actions related to the project, including awarding the construction contract, approving a budget amendment, approving the contract documents, and adopting a capital project ordinance to establish and fund the project through completion.

On motion of Edds, seconded by Greene, the Board voted 4-0 to award the bid to Holden Building Co., in the amount of \$3,341,499.00.

On motion of Edds, seconded by Greene, the Board voted 4-0 to approve the revised contract and authorize the County Manager to approve the Contract with Holden Building Co.

On motion of Edds, seconded by Greene, the Board voted 4-0 to approve the associated budget amendment for this project.

On motion of Edds, seconded by Klusman, the Board voted 4-0 to adopt the Capital Project Ordinance for this project.

Non-Public Safety Pay Study Presentation

Kelly Natoli, Assistant County Manager/Human Resources Director said a pay study had been completed after recommendation from the County Manager.

Peter Ronza, President of Pontifex HR-Consulting, remotely presented the findings of the recent pay study conducted for non-public safety positions via Zoom audiovisual conferencing software. These are results of a countywide compensation and labor market study conducted in response to a county-issued RFP earlier this year. He outlined the firm's experience working with North Carolina counties and explained that the study focused on evaluating internal equity, external labor market competitiveness, and long-term sustainability of the county's compensation system. As part of the process, Pontifex consulted extensively with county staff and interviewed all department heads to better understand recruitment and retention challenges, workforce needs, and market pressures. Mr. Ronza emphasized that compensation studies evaluate job classifications rather than individuals, and are designed to ensure the county remains

competitive in attracting and retaining qualified employees while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

Mr. Ronza reviewed labor market trends, noting that employment costs continue to rise at a steady pace and that Rowan County is currently well-positioned within its competitive labor market. He reported that the county's overall compensation structure falls within the "sweet spot" for competitiveness and credited county staff for maintaining alignment with comparable jurisdictions. Recommendations outlined in the report include adjustments to salary ranges where necessary, ensuring employees meet new minimums, addressing potential compression concerns, and continuing regular monitoring of labor market indicators. During discussion, county staff confirmed that the estimated cost to implement the recommended adjustments would be approximately \$344,000 and that the proposal would follow the same process as prior studies, with consideration during the upcoming budget cycle and potential implementation effective July. Mr. Church assisted in clarifying questions related to cost, timing, and next steps, and noted that the board was not being asked to take formal action at this time.

Vaya Health Update

Zack Shepherd, Community Relations Regional Director of Vaya Health, provided an update on behalf of Vaya Health, outlining recent developments related to funding, managed care operations, and programs affecting Rowan County. He reviewed Vaya Health's role as a managed care organization administering multiple funding streams, including Tailored Plans, Medicaid Direct, and Single Stream state funds. Mr. Shepherd highlighted the newly announced federal Rural Health Transformation Program, a \$50 billion, 10-year initiative aimed at strengthening rural health systems nationwide. He reported that Vaya Health successfully applied to serve as the regional "hub" for Region 3, which includes Rowan County, and thanked the county Department of Social Services and Health Department for their letters of support during the application process. He noted that the program focuses on six core areas: care networks, prevention and chronic disease management, behavioral health expansion, workforce development, financial sustainability, and technology and innovation.

Mr. Shepherd further explained that while Medicaid funding is confirmed through the end of the current fiscal year, Vaya Health anticipates potential reductions in Single Stream state funding, estimating a possible \$6 million decrease for the organization. He also shared a local program update, noting the opening of the AYA House enhanced transitional bridge home in Rowan County at the end of January. This program supports individuals with mental health and substance use disorders transitioning out of incarceration by providing assistance with housing stability, employment, and community reintegration during the first 180 days after release. Mr. Shepherd concluded by offering to answer questions from the board.

Rowan County Opioid Settlement Update

Alyssa Harris, Public Health Director, provided an update on Rowan County's opioid settlement funds, outlining the background, purpose, and current status of the settlement. She explained that the opioid settlement is the result of litigation against pharmaceutical companies and pharmacies, generating approximately \$26 billion nationwide, with North Carolina's share totaling about \$780 million and Rowan County's share now estimated at \$28 million over an 18-year period, with funds front-loaded in the early years. These funds are governed by a

Memorandum of Agreement with the North Carolina Department of Justice and are restricted to opioid remediation efforts, such as prevention, treatment, recovery support, and reducing overdose deaths. Ms. Harris emphasized that this funding is not accessible by individuals directly, but is allocated to local governments to address community impacts of opioid misuse, and that Rowan County's process is highly transparent, with required public meetings, resolutions, ordinances, and detailed reporting available on county and state websites.

Ms. Harris reviewed the county's use of evidence-based "Option A" strategies and noted that Rowan County has seen measurable improvements since 2020, including significant reductions in overdose deaths, emergency department overdose visits, children entering foster care due to parental substance use, and opioid prescribing rates. She acknowledged continued challenges related to illicit substances, particularly fentanyl and emerging drugs, and discussed the county's coordination with law enforcement and community partners in response. Ms. Harris highlighted the county's phased and collaborative approach to implementation, recent grants awarded to support prevention and early intervention, especially among youth, and ongoing efforts to expand services such as medication-assisted treatment. During discussion, board members requested additional comparative data with surrounding and peer counties, and Ms. Harris agreed to provide a follow-up report. She concluded by reiterating that opioid settlement funds remain focused on saving lives, addressing root causes such as poverty and social determinants of health, and maintaining accountability through annual reporting to both the Board of Commissioners and the Board of Health.

Public Hearing: Road Naming – Caleb's Promise Way

Pamela Ealey, Planning Technician, said a road name change has been submitted to the Planning Department and is being presented to the Board for approval.

1. Currently Known As: No name driveway
Proposed Name: Calebs Promise Way
Location: 14000 block of Statesville Blvd (Highway 70), Cleveland, NC 27013
Property Owners: Shaver Wood Products, Inc.; Richard W. Shaver Revocable Trust
Reason for Change: drive has two (2) addressed structures with plans for at least one (1) more structure sharing the same drive.

At 4:40 p.m. Chairman Edds opened the Public Hearing and closed it after no one wished to speak.

On motion of Klusman, seconded by Caskey, the Board voted 4-0 to approve the road naming petition for Caleb's Promise Way as submitted.

Dan Nicholas Park Train Design Update

Nick Aceves, Parks and Recreation Director, provided an update on the Dan Nicholas Park train replacement project, outlining progress since the original train closed in summer 2024. He explained that after joining the department in December 2024, staff began researching options for replacing the train at the current site, including safety standards, track layout, and funding opportunities. A bid for the new train was issued and awarded in December 2025, followed by a track design and survey process. A proposed new track layout was received on April 20, 2026,

and staff presented a preferred option that significantly expands the train route from approximately 1,600 feet to nearly 3,000 feet, allowing the train to encompass more of the park and showcase additional amenities such as shelters, the carousel, and playground areas. Mr. Aceves noted that this expanded footprint is intended to reestablish the park train as a regional draw and enhance the visitor experience.

Mr. Aceves highlighted several benefits of the new train, including increased safety through a wider 24-inch gauge, improved accessibility with a ramped car for individuals with disabilities, additional legroom, and enhanced overall amenities. He also reported that a \$400,000 grant application was submitted to help fund the track portion of the project, with results expected later in the year, and clarified that the grant does not apply to the cost of the train itself. Future steps include finalizing design details, obtaining clearing and grading estimates, issuing a bid for track installation, and integrating the project into the upcoming Dan Nicholas Park concept plan. Board members asked questions related to pedestrian safety, comparisons to similar train attractions, impacts on existing picnic areas and events, and accommodations for children, all of which Mr. Aceves addressed. He concluded by noting potential partnership opportunities, continued coordination with staff, and upcoming discussions regarding tourism involvement as the project moves forward.

Commissioner Klusman stepped away from the meeting at 4:52 p.m.

Chief Finance Officer Anna Bumgarner provided an update on funding and next steps for the Dan Nicholas Park train project. She explained that approximately \$1.3 million has already been spent on the train locomotives and cars, and that the county has applied for a \$400,000 grant to help offset the cost of the track portion of the project. To keep the project moving forward, staff plans to request board approval at the next meeting to transfer \$500,000 from the general fund into a capital project fund that would remain in place through the completion of the project across the current and next budget years. If grant funding or other revenues are later secured, the county would reimburse the general fund accordingly.

Ms. Bumgarner stated that the targeted completion date for the project is December, acknowledging that this is an ambitious timeline. If completed as planned, the board has already budgeted \$10,000 for the project's debut as part of the county's 250th American celebration, which would include free train rides for children, keepsakes for early riders, and refreshments. One of the trains will be themed red, white, and blue and named Freedom, while the second train will feature the county's green branding. Additional clarification was provided that the forthcoming capital project ordinance will consolidate previously approved funding with the new allocation, and that the upgraded trains will consist of three cars with increased capacity and improved spacing.

James Meacham, Chief Executive Officer of the Rowan Tourism Development Authority, addressed the commissioners to propose a long-term partnership between the Rowan County Tourism Authority and the county to support continued improvements at Dan Nicholas Park. He emphasized the park's value as a major community asset and visitor attraction that generates tourism, quality-of-life benefits, and lasting memories for residents and visitors alike. Mr. Meacham noted the Tourism Authority's history of successful collaboration with the county on

projects such as branding, the Rail Walk, the farmers market, and wayfinding signage, and stated that Dan Nicholas Park represents a natural next focus for enhanced investment.

Mr. Meacham explained that the Tourism Authority's board is considering a commitment in the range of \$1.5 to \$2 million over a 10-year period, to be formalized through an interlocal agreement. The proposed partnership would allow tourism dollars generated by visitors to be reinvested into park amenities, renovations, and long-term planning, including attractions such as the upgraded train and future enhancements to campgrounds, animal habitats, picnic areas, and overall visitor experiences. He stressed that the intent is to preserve the park's family-friendly character while elevating it as a premier regional destination. Mr. Meacham requested general direction from the board on whether to proceed, stating that if supported, the proposal would be taken back to the Tourism Authority board for formal action and further coordination with county staff and legal counsel.

Commissioner Klusman returned to the meeting at 4:59 p.m.

Mr. Aceves provided an update on additional improvements at Dan Nicholas Park, including the planned arrival of two nine-year-old bears from Arkansas. He reported that staff are coordinating transportation logistics and awaiting final approval from North Carolina wildlife biologists following completion and inspection of the exhibit and treatment area. Pending approval, the bears are anticipated to arrive prior to Memorial Day.

Mr. Meacham displayed a conceptual rendering of what a future train design could look like, emphasizing that the image was illustrative only and intended to show how county branding elements could be incorporated into the train experience. He noted that the design aligns with the county's existing brand palette and could be used year-round, while honoring Rowan County's history and veteran community. Commissioners discussed the park's historical significance as a top field-trip destination and expressed support for reinvesting in amenities that enhance accessibility and affordability for residents.

Board members voiced appreciation for the growing partnership between Rowan County and the Tourism Authority, noting the shared goal of improving quality of life and creating attractions that benefit both residents and visitors. Chairman Edds highlighted the longstanding collaboration between the county and tourism, funded through visitor-generated revenues, and expressed strong support for continuing that partnership to enhance Dan Nicholas Park as a premier community and regional destination.

Board Appointments

On motion of Greene, seconded by Klusman, the Board voted 4-0 to accept Crystal Ryerson's resignation from the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council.

On motion of Klusman, seconded by Greene, the Board voted 4-0 to appoint Janet Briggs to the Salisbury Post Media Seat on the Local Emergency Planning Committee.

On motion of Klusman, seconded by Greene, the Board voted 4-0 to make the following appointments:

- *Jonathan Simmons to an At Large Seat on the Rowan Transit System Advisory Board*
- *Elizabeth Cook to an At Large Seat on the Rowan-Cabarrus Community College Board of Trustees*

Financial Report

Anna Bumgarner, Chief Finance Officer, Ms. Bumgarner presented the March 2026 financial update, reporting that cumulative expenditures through March totaled approximately \$149.7 million, reflecting an increase of \$2.3 million, or 1.59%, compared to March of the prior year. Cumulative revenues through March amounted to approximately \$176.6 million, which is \$1.6 million, or about 1%, higher than the same period last year. Property tax collections through February totaled \$115.7 million, representing a \$5.4 million increase, or approximately 4.9%, over the prior year's collections. Sales tax revenues through December totaled \$23 million, up \$717,000, or 3.22%, year over year, with December alone showing a 6.5% increase. Ms. Bumgarner indicated there were no financial red flags at this time.

During discussion, commissioners asked questions regarding sales tax on fuel. Staff and board members noted that fuel taxes are assessed as a flat per-gallon rate rather than a percentage and that those revenues flow primarily to the state rather than directly to the county. Clarification was provided by Chairman Edds that the fuel tax is approximately 40–41 cents per gallon, with funds later distributed by the state for transportation purposes.

Closed Session

At 5:15 p.m., on motion of Edds, seconded by Greene, the Board voted 4-0 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 April 6, 2026, as described by NCGS 143-318.10(e), and pursuant to NCGS 143.318.11(a)(3) to consult with an attorney.

Resume Open Session

At 5:41 p.m., Open Session resumed.

Adjournment

At 5:41 p.m., on motion of Klusman, seconded by Greene, the Board voted 4-0 to adjourn.

Sarah Pack, CMC, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board