

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

June 15, 2026 – 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
Mike Caskey, Commissioner
Judy Klusman, 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 6:00 p.m. Chaplain Michael Taylor provided a solemnizing prayer. Chairman Edds lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consider Additions to the Agenda

Chairman Edds made the following additions to the agenda:

- Contract 26352 – Dan Nicholas Park Train Project (Consent Item EE)
- Policy Exemption for Contracted Employee (Consent Item FF)
- Shield a Badge Donation (Consent Item GG)
- EMS Management and Consultant Contract (Consent Item HH)
- Sheriff's Office Off-Duty Rate (Consent Item II)
- Landfill Gas Collection and Control System (Consent Item JJ)
- Additional Budget Amendments (Consent Item KK)
- Closed Session for NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4) (added to existing Closed Session)

Consider Deletions From the Agenda

There were no deletions from the agenda.

Consider Approval of the Agenda

On motion of Klusman, seconded by Greene, the Board voted 5-0 to approve the agenda as amended.

Consider Approval of the Consent Agenda

On motion of Klusman, seconded by Greene, the Board voted 5-0 to approve the Consent Agenda as amended, as follows:

A. Consider Approval of the Minutes - 5/18/26 and 6/1/26 Regular Meetings

B. Budget Amendments, as follows:

<i>5100- Health Department</i>	<i>Appropriate funds to recongize funds received from Federal for WIC Special Opportunity Grant</i>	<i>\$52,950</i>
<i>5300- Social Services</i>	<i>Appropriate funds to recongize One Church One Child donation</i>	<i>\$32,868</i>
<i>5300- Social Services</i>	<i>Appropriate funds to recongize state funding for children services</i>	<i>\$11,751</i>
<i>4125- Finance</i>	<i>Transfer funds to cover salary and benefits for FY26</i>	<i>\$292,050</i>
<i>4122- Internal Audit</i>	<i>Transfer funds to cover repairs on vehicles on Holman contract</i>	<i>\$29,000</i>
<i>4260- Medical Examiner</i>	<i>Transfer funds to cover June payments for FY26</i>	<i>\$45,000</i>
<i>6200- Parks & Rec</i>	<i>Transfer funds to cover nature center and bear exhibit and move fund to correct account</i>	<i>\$43,700</i>
<i>Fund 103- Capital Projects</i>	<i>Transfer funds to cover contract change 26351 order for train</i>	<i>\$17,000</i>
<i>4400- Sheriff</i>	<i>Appropriate donation funds to cover upgrade of Dodge Durango for K9Maggie</i>	<i>\$9,646</i>
<i>4400- Sheriff</i>	<i>Transfer funds to cover increase contract for inmate healthcare</i>	<i>\$350,000</i>
<i>4400- Sheriff</i>	<i>Appropriate funds to cover inmate concessions</i>	<i>\$70,000</i>
<i>4950- Cooperative Ext</i>	<i>Transfer funds to cover increase to pay for employee</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>
<i>4330- Emergency Services</i>	<i>Transfer funds to cover increase costs of EMSMC</i>	<i>\$35,000</i>
<i>4330- Emergency Services</i>	<i>Apprpriate funds to cover IGT Payments for FY26</i>	<i>\$109,000</i>

C. Health Department: WIC Grant Opportunity — Urgent Maternal Warning Signs Initiative

D. REPORT: Opioid data for Rowan and surrounding counties

E. Change Order # 13 - Holden Building Co. - RCC-Health Department Project

F. ADA Renovation Project - The Bogle Firm - DNP Train Maintenance Shop & Depot Platform

G. Change Order #2 - Chance Rides, LLC - Parks & Rec. - C26351

H. Purchasing – Multiple Sole Source Requests (Fiscal Year)

I. Road Naming-Set Public Hearing-Old Crow Lane

J. Martin Starnes Engagement Letter AFIR

K. Cancelation of July 6th, 2026, Regular Meeting

L. NCDPS/JCPC Resolution

M. JCPC Updated Funding Plan for FY 26-27

N. Change Order #2 - Zoladz Construction - Excavation & Hauling Dirt

- O. Sole-Source Printelect FY26-FY31 *REVISED**
- P. Ratify ZTA 01-26: James Newton*
- Q. Amendment No. 2 – HDR Engineering, Inc. (General Services & Planning Support), Contract No. 22248*
- R. Amendment No. 2 – HDR Engineering, Inc. (Landfill Gas Operations & Maintenance), Contract No. 22249*
- S. Authorize Professional Development for County Manager*
- T. Landfill Write-Off*
- U. Tax and VTS Refunds for Approval*
- V. Policy Exemption – Vanguard Professional Staffing (DSS) – FY26–31 - Revised*
- W. Blue Cross Blue Shield of America Agreement Renewal — FY27*
- X. Revised Policy 11.8 Emergency Action and Fire Plan*
- Y. NCACC Renewal Agreements for Liability & Property Pool and Workers' Compensation Pool - FY27*
- Z. Change Order #2 - Rowan County Landfill Gas to Energy - HDR*
- AA. GRANTS: Approval for the Health Department to Apply for Grant, "Dental Services for Children with Neurodevelopmental Disorders"*
- BB. Contribution-based Benefit Cap*
- CC. Ratify Donation to the Sheriff's Office - K9 Kennel (Officer Maggie)*
- DD. Schedule Public Hearing for Data Center Moratorium for July 20, 2026*
- EE. Contract 26352 – Dan Nicholas Park Train Project (**Agenda Addition**)*
- FF. Policy Exemption for Contracted Employee (**Agenda Addition**)*
- GG. Shield a Badge Donation (**Agenda Addition**)*
- HH. EMS Management and Consultant Contract (**Agenda Addition**)*
- II. Sheriff's Office Off-Duty Rate (**Agenda Addition**)*
- JJ. Landfill Gas Collection and Control System (**Agenda Addition**)*
- KK. Additional Budget Amendments (**Agenda Addition**)*

Public Comment Period

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

Charles Dean criticized the AmeriFest 250 event for lacking meaningful historical content, questioning how funds were spent and expressing concern that local and national Revolutionary history was largely ignored. He offered his expertise as a professional historian to help improve future commemorations and ensure more substantive, engaging historical programming in the years leading up to the nation's 250th anniversary milestones.

Mark Ortiz spoke about human liberty in the context of the nation's 250th anniversary, warning that the rapid growth of AI and data infrastructure could concentrate power and enable widespread surveillance and control. He raised concerns that increasing dependence on systems owned by a small number of entities could threaten individual freedoms, while diverting resources away from addressing everyday public needs like affordability, health, and quality of life.

FY 2026-2027 Budget Approval

Chairman Edds reviewed amendments to the proposed FY27 budget (Attachment A). Chief Finance Officer Anna Bumgarner explained a series of General Fund (Fund 101) budget adjustments, including the addition of vehicles for Animal Services and Environmental Health, salary reclassifications within office and sheriff's department positions, funding for volunteer fire departments, and a contract renewal for ambulance equipment inspections.

They also clarified several non-financial changes, such as correcting job titles for school resource officers, renaming park improvement funding to allow broader use across Dan Nicholas Park, offering commissioners the option of a stipend in place of a county phone, and revising language related to farmland preservation funding transfers.

On motion of Pierce, seconded by Klusman, the Board voted 5-0 to approve Fund 101 with the recommended adjustments (Attachment A).

On motion of Pierce, seconded by Klusman, the Board voted 5-0 to approve Fund 201 (Fire District Fund).

On motion of Pierce, seconded by Klusman, the Board voted 5-0 to approve Fund 202 (Emergency Telephone System Fund).

On motion of Greene, seconded by Pierce, the Board voted 5-0 to approve Fund 204 (Farmland Preservation Fund) with language updated as presented.

On motion of Klusman, seconded by Pierce, the Board voted 5-0 to approve Fund 206 (Opioid Settlement Fund).

On motion of Klusman, seconded by Pierce, the Board voted 5-0 to approve Fund 501 (Risk Management Fund).

****Clerks Note: Fund 601 (Landfill Fund) was inadvertently skipped, and was revisited for approval after the Board came out of closed session.****

On motion of Pierce, seconded by Greene, the Board voted 5-0 to approve Fund 603 (Airport Fund).

On motion of Klusman, seconded by Greene, the Board voted 5-0 to approve Fund 605 (Water Fund).

On motion of Klusman, seconded by Pierce, the Board voted 5-0 to approve Fund 701 (Department of Social Services Trust Fund).

On motion of Klusman, seconded by Pierce, the Board voted 5-0 to approve Fund 702 (Fines and Forfeitures Fund).

On motion of Klusman, seconded by Pierce, the Board voted 5-0 to approve Fund 703 (American Rescue Plan Act Fund).

Financial Report

Chief Finance Officer Anna Bumgarner reported that cumulative expenditures through May 2026 increased by \$16.6 million (9.33%) compared to the prior year, largely driven by the transfer of approximately \$10.5 million into project funds to support multi-year capital efforts such as the Telcom Tower project (\$5.4 million), RCC Phase Five/concourse improvements, and farmland preservation. She also noted additional upward pressures from increased contributions to schools, higher debt service tied to recent school and community college financing, and costs associated with the county's periodic property revaluation process.

She explained that cumulative revenues totaled \$195.9 million, a decrease of \$2.7 million (1.39%) from the previous year, due in part to timing delays in recording \$3.2 million in sales tax and \$329,000 in beer and wine excise tax that will appear in June, as well as reductions in DSS-related revenues linked to Medicaid changes and slightly lower interest earnings from declining rates. Despite the overall dip in reported revenue, property tax collections rose by \$5.8 million (5.12%) and sales tax collections showed modest year-to-date growth, though monthly collections have fluctuated between increases and declines throughout the year.

Closed Session

At 6:26 p.m., on motion of Edds, seconded by Pierce, the Board voted 5-0 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 June 1, 2026, as described by NCGS 143-318.10(e), pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4) for economic development, and pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6) for personnel.

Resume Open Session

At 7:00 p.m. Open Session resumed.

On motion of Edds, seconded by Pierce, the Board voted 5-0 to approve a letter of intent from MRP Industrial for the private sale of property under NCGS 158-7.1.

On motion of Edds, seconded by Pierce, the Board voted 5-0 to approve Fund 601 (Landfill Fund).

Adjournment

At 7:03 p.m., on motion of Pierce, seconded by Greene, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn.

Sarah Pack, CMC, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board

Amendment to the FY 2027 Proposed Budget:

1 – Items to be included:

Account	Description	Dollar Amount	Type	Increase/Decrease
1154112-599000	Contingency	\$251,122	Exp	Decrease
1156420-575035	C/A- Vehicles	\$ 48,836	Exp	Increase
1155185-575035	C/A- Vehicles	\$ 29,096	Exp	Increase
1154410-510005	Salaries- Regular	\$ 5,688	Exp	Increase
1154410-510005	Salaries- Regular	\$ 55,802	Exp	Increase
1155090-591050	PT EMP Grant Assistance	\$ 75,000	Exp	Increase
1154371-533001	Contracted Services	\$ 36,700	Exp	Increase

Decrease contingency to reduce amount needed to balance.

Purchase a van for Animal Services to transport animals.

Purchase a vehicle for Environmental Health.

Reclass part-time benefitted Office Assistant to full-time in Sheriff Department.

Reclass part-time Office Assistant to part-time benefitted Accountant I in Sheriff Department.

Increase in Fire District Staffing Grant from \$10K to \$12,500 per location.

Increase funding for Stryker contract renewal for Emergency Services.

2- The language below is to be amended without a change in budgeted amount:

- School Resource Officers change from Deputy to Corporal
- Nature Center Improvements title change to Dan Nicholas Park Improvements
- All Commissioners will be given an option of a county phone or \$660 annual stipend
- Update verbiage of Revenue section of Fund 204- Farmland Preservation Ordinance from Farmland Preservation Revenues to Transfer from General Fund