

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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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ROWAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

June 7, 2021 – 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
Craig Pierce, Member
Judy Klusman, Member

County Manager Aaron Church, Clerk to the Board Carolyn Barger, County Attorney Jay Dees, Assistant County Manager/CIO Randy Cress and Finance Director James Howden were also 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

Chairman Edds added a request from the County Manager that was emailed to the Board on June 2, 2021. The request was to add an item to the Consent Agenda for "Investing in our Children." The recommended motion included in the email was to Authorize the Finance Director to appropriate funds from General Government 1154112 – 583113 as follows:

1. Prevent Child Abuse Rowan \$15,000
2. Partner's In Learning \$40,000
3. Families First \$20,000

Commissioner Klusman moved, Commissioner Greene seconded and the vote to approve the addition as requested passed unanimously.

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 as amended passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Klusman moved, Commissioner Greene seconded and the vote to approve the minutes of the Commission Meetings held on May 17, 2021, May 26, 2021 and May 28, 2021 passed unanimously.

1. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- A. Tax Refunds for Approval
- B. Rowan County 4H NRA Grant
- C. Consulting Services for Mid-Carolina Regional Airport
- D. Juvenile Crime Prevention Council FY 21-22 Certification
- E. Contract: CSS Environmental
- F. Designation of Commissioner Klusman as Voting Delegate to NCACC Annual Conference
- G. American Rescue Plan Award Acceptance
- H. Schedule Public Hearing for HLC 01-21 for June 21, 2021
- I. Rowan County, NC USDA Service Center No. 4 and No. 5
- J. Schedule Public Hearing to Consider Text Amendment 01-21 on June 21, 2021
- K. Ground Leased Hangar Transfer Grimstead Amos Lease Assignment T12
- L. New CPS Positions
- M. Bi-weekly Environmental Health Report
- N. EC Rowan, LLC Security Satisfaction
- O. Approval to Purchase Voting Equipment and Software
- P. Change Order #2 for Dan Nicholas Park Concessions
- Q. Environmental Health Specialist (On-Site)
- R. Procurement Policy
- S. Investing in our Children - Authorize the Finance Director to appropriate funds from General Government 1154112 – 583113 (Considered during Additions to the Agenda)

3. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The Board of Commissioners surprised and recognized Creative Services Manager April Everette.

The Board joined Ms. Everette in front of the dais. Chairman Edds explained that several years ago the Commissioners began to ask if Rowan County was not only telling its story, rather was it telling the story in the right way. Chairman Edds shared the importance of showcasing the positives in Rowan County and how Ms. Everette had been key throughout the rebranding process that had followed.

Chairman Edds noted that Ms. Everette was recently recognized by the Tourism Development Authority (TDA) and presented with the first-ever Rowan Brand Champion Award.

Chairman Edds continued by saying the Commissioners wished to express its appreciation to Ms. Everette. Ms. Everette was then presented with an engraved clock from the Board, symbolic to the tremendous amount of time Ms. Everette had dedicated to the rebranding efforts.

In closing, Chairman Edds said the Board was proud of Ms. Everette and genuinely appreciative of her behind the scenes work and dedication.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Chairman Edds opened the Public Comment Period to entertain comments from any citizens wishing to address the Board. With no one coming forward, Chairman Edds closed the Public Comment Period.

4. PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER Z 03-21

Assistant Planning Director Shane Stewart provided a power point as he presented the staff report for Z 03-21 and SNIA 04-21. Mr. Stewart stated that on December 11, 2017, John Darrell Shell purchased a one (1) acre Rural Agricultural (RA) zoned parcel containing a double-wide manufactured home at 375 Wade Drive referenced as Parcel ID 126-098. Mr. Shell obtained a preliminary zoning approval on January 5, 2018 to replace the manufactured home and a “garage apartment” constructed to the single-family dwelling standards but to staff’s knowledge, did not pursue the replacement any further.

Mr. Shell sold the parcel to East Coast Developers Co., LLC (EC) (doing business as Carolina Siteworks) on November 10, 2020, which owns the adjacent parcel addressed as 300 Wade Drive and referenced as Parcel ID 126-052. According to the NC Secretary of State website, Mr. Shell is the member manager of EC.

Planning Staff recently became aware the property was no longer being used for residential purposes. Pictometry images from February 9, 2019 show stockpiles of what appears to be stone and other materials along with equipment parking surrounding the manufactured home.

Mr. Shell requested the rezoning of one (1) acre (Tax Parcel 126-098) from RA to Commercial, Business, Industrial with a Conditional District (CBI-CD) to allow “parking of equipment and vehicles; stockpile storage for stone, sand, and recycled asphalt; and storage of construction materials”. The site plan indicated two (2) structures totaling 1,440 square feet, an arrangement of material stockpiles, parking area for construction equipment, six (6) foot chain link fencing, and a proposed twenty (20) foot buffer along two (2) sides of the property and a twenty-seven (27) foot buffer on the eastern property line proposing evergreens per ordinance requirements.

The property was located in the Dutch Buffalo Creek Watershed (WSII BW), which limited non-residential impervious coverage to 12% (built upon area). Mr. Shell also requested a Special Non-residential Intensity Allocation (SNIA 04-21) to use the maximum allowance of seventy (70) percent impervious coverage. The site plan indicated the use of ABC stone (generally 1 to 1 ½ inch) recycled asphalt for surfacing. SNIA authorization allowed the Commissioners to identify up to ten (10) percent of the acreage in specific watersheds that may exceed the administrative allowance of 12% and permit up to 70% impervious coverage.

Continuing with the power point, Mr. Stewart noted the staff report contained information as to conformity with adopted plans/policies; conditions in the vicinity; compatibility of uses, potential impacts on roads, utilities and schools.

Procedurally, Mr. Stewart said the Board must develop a statement of consistency describing whether its action was consistent with any adopted comprehensive plans and indicate why their action is reasonable and in the public interest. A statement analyzing the reasonableness of the decision was also necessary.

With regards to public notice, letters were mailed to the four (4) adjacent property owners within 100' of the subject property on May 24, 2021. On May 25, 2021 signs were posted on the property and on May 24, 2021 and June 1, 2021 notices were published in the Salisbury Post.

The Planning Board voted unanimously on April 26, 2021 to recommend approval of the request as presented. The decision was based on the following statements:

Statement of Consistency: "Z 03-21 is consistent with the Eastern Land Use Plan; it is a less intensive land use; it is the expansion of an existing business".

Statement of Reasonableness – "The proposed use is compatible with the Eastern Land Use Plan; there is no benefit to the owner at the expense to neighboring properties; surrounding uses are similar".

According to the staff report, Staff's primary concern with the use related to visual impacts. The owner would plan the required buffer along the northern line and was encouraged to do the same on the south and east lines even though adjacent structures appeared to be more than 200' from the operational area where screening was required. Staff had not received any complaints from neighbors regarding the current operation.

Chairman Edds asked if the applicant wished to address the Board. Mr. Shell came forward and expressed appreciation for the Board's consideration of the request and the opportunity to expand.

Chairman Edds opened the public hearing to receive citizen input regarding Z 02-21 and SNIA 04-21. With no one wishing to address the Board, Chairman Edds closed the public hearing.

Chairman Edds moved approval of the Statement of Consistency as follows: Z 03-21 is consistent with the Eastern Land Use Plan; it is a less intensive land use; it is the expansion of an existing business. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce and passed unanimously.

Chairman Edds moved approval of the Statement of Reasonableness as follows: The proposed use is compatible with the Eastern Land Use Plan; there is no benefit to the owner at the expense to neighboring properties; surrounding uses are similar. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Pierce moved, Commissioner Greene seconded and the vote to approve Z 03-21 and SNIA 04-21 passed unanimously.

5. PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER Z 04-20 AMENDMENT: MORGAN WELL

Planning Director Shane Stewart presented the staff report for the rezoning petition and provided a power point as he discussed Z 04-20.

On November 16, 2020 the Board of Commissioners approved the rezoning of 3.13 acres located at the corner of Bostian and Old Beatty Ford Road from Rural Agricultural (RA) to Commercial, Business, Industrial with a Conditional District (CBI-CD) to accommodate a 4,000 square foot water well drilling contractor business. Prior to construction it was discovered the property did not perk for a new septic system behind the building as originally planned but did perk 380' due east of the building providing an opportunity to extend their fencing to enclose a large area behind the building for outdoor storage. Morgan Well focused on the completion of their building and indicated they would request a plan modification thereafter for storage expansion. Their office received a Certificate of Occupancy (CO) from the Building Inspections Department on April 6, 2021.

On behalf of Morgan Well and Pump, Inc., applicant and project engineer, Sam King, Jr., requested an amendment to a previously approved conditional district rezoning (CBI-CD) for Morgan Well and Pump located at 1840 Bostian Rd. China Grove to modify the approved site plan to expand an outdoor storage area. The 3.13-acre parcel is further referenced as Parcel ID 140-233.

Using the power point, Mr. Stewart showed the property in question, as well as the surrounding areas.

Mr. Stewart referred to the plan details, consistency with the districts purpose/intent; conformity with adopted plans and policies; compatibility of uses; potential impacts on utilities and schools.

Procedurally, Mr. Stewart stated the Board must develop a statement of consistency describing whether its action was consistent with any adopted comprehensive plans and indicate why their action was reasonable and in the public interest. A statement analyzing the reasonableness of the decision was also necessary.

Letters were mailed on May 24, 2021 to four (4) adjacent property owners (within 100' of subject property). Signs were posted on the property on May 25, 2021 and notices appeared in the Salisbury Post on May 24, 2021 and June 1, 2021.

The Planning Board met on April 26, 2021 and other than the owner/application, no one attended the meeting. The Planning board voted unanimously to recommend approval of the request as presented based on the following statements:

Statement of Consistency – “Z 04-20 request is consistent with Area 3 of the Eastern Land Use and along the Highway I-85 corridor; the property is also located adjacent to a Regional Node at Old Beatty Ford Road I-85”.

Statement of Reasonableness – “The request is consistent with Area 3 of the Eastern Land Use and along the Highway I-85 corridor; the property is also located adjacent to the Regional Node at Old Beatty Ford Road I-85”.

With regards to staff comments, Mr. Stewart noted that Old Beatty Ford Road was the longest secondary road (non-highway) in the county and an important thoroughfare for southern Rowan. The new I-85 interchange for the area had increased the importance considerably for the 5.5-mile gap between NC 152 Highway and Lane Street. The interchange and corridor afforded new economic development opportunities for the area and was the focus of the City of Kannapolis (City) with the 385-acre expansion of their municipal limits.

The City zoned the newly annexed area AG as a placeholder district until specific plans were presented and the appropriate zoning district (2) identified. The south corridor plan did not recommend “pre-zoning” property in the study area, which was consistent with the historical approach of the County to typically zone property based on its current versus potential future use. The request before the Board was the first rezoning request within the study area. Planning Staff encouraged the applicant to consider the design elements of the project with respect to both the east and south corridor plan recommendations. As a result, landscaping and lighting comments were added.

Chairman Edds opened the public hearing to receive citizen input regarding the amendment to Z 02-20. With no one else wishing to address the Board, Chairman Edds closed the public hearing.

Chairman Edds moved to adopt the Statement of Consistency as follows:
Z 04-20 request is consistent with Area 3 of the Eastern Land Use and along the Highway I-85 corridor; the property is also located adjacent to a Regional Node at Old

Beatty Ford Road I-85. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce and passed unanimously.

Chairman Edds moved to adopt the Statement of Reasonableness as follows: The request is consistent with Area 3 of the Eastern Land Use and along the Highway I-85 corridor; the property is also located adjacent to the Regional Node at Old Beatty Ford Road I-85. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Pierce moved, Commissioner Greene seconded and the vote to approve the Z 04-20 Amendment for Morgan Well passed unanimously.

6. PUBLIC HEARING: CONSIDER ELIMINATION OF ROWAN EXPRESS ROUTE

Airport and Transit Director Valerie Steele said the Board of Commissioners had scheduled the public hearing to receive citizen input regarding the proposed elimination of the Rowan Express route. The purpose for the elimination would be to increase transportation for life-sustaining services.

Ms. Steele provided a power point as she discussed the recommendation to discontinue Rowan Express beginning in FY 2022. According to Ms. Steele the service was not highly utilized, resulting in an ineffective use of County funds. Ms. Steele discussed the ridership data. Beginning July 1, 2021 there would be no funds available to operate the service.

Ms. Steele said at this point, it was not about the dollars but rather what the County was doing with the dollars. Ms. Steele noted that sixteen (16) people had been on a dialysis wait list for one day per week since 2019 and the County did not have funding available to assist with transit for them. Ms. Steele said if there was close to \$200,000 made available, it would be better utilized to provide transportation for these types of life-sustaining services.

In response to an inquiry from Commissioner Greene, Ms. Steele explained that one (1) of the two (2) vehicles being used for Rowan Express had a lift and the goal going forward was to have lifts put on all replacement vehicles.

Chairman Edds opened the public hearing to receive citizen input regarding the proposed elimination of the Rowan Express route. The following individuals came forward:

- Connie Byrne, a resident of Kannapolis, said she understood the financials; however, she asked that the financials be analyzed for pre-pandemic use. Ms. Byrne noted that decreased ridership of Rowan Express was due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Ms. Byrne said there were people who relied on Rowan Express and she encouraged the Board to consider the ridership prior to the Pandemic.

With no one else coming forward, Chairman Edds closed the public hearing.

Chairman Edds asked Ms. Steele if she had any data regarding the ridership pre-2020 and Ms. Steele responded as follows:

- FY 2020 had a total of 14,243 rides
- FY 2019 had a total of 13,750 rides
- FY 2018 had a total of 15,701 rides
- FY 2017 had a total of 17,877 rides

Ms. Steele referred to the previous contract with MV Transportation and explained the difference in how the numbers varied once the County brought Rowan Transit in-house. Ms. Steele said there were more people benefitting from the on-demand service as opposed to Rowan Express service.

Further discussion ensued as to grant funding and also the fact the Transportation Advisory Board (made up of stakeholders) had submitted a letter in support of discontinuing Rowan Express in order to provide more life-sustaining services.

Commissioner Klusman noted that as much as she hated to discontinue a public transportation option, she felt there was a huge need for medical services and getting people to those services. Commissioner Klusman said it was a serious matter for the Board to hear sixteen (16) dialysis patients had been on a wait list since 2019.

Commissioner Klusman moved, Commissioner Pierce seconded and the vote to discontinue Rowan Express, effective July 1, 2021, passed unanimously.

Chairman Edds called for a recess at 3:56 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 4:07 p.m.

7. PUBLIC HEARING: FY 2021-22 PROPOSED BUDGET

County Manager Aaron Church provided a power point as he discussed the FY 2022 budget. Mr. Church said the budget was balanced and prepared in accordance with the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act.

The total proposed budget was \$195,500,574 with the following breakdown:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| • FUND 101 General Fund | \$174,457,202 |
| • FUND 201 Fire District Fund | \$7,047,794 |
| • FUND 202 Emergency Telephone Fund | \$563,748 |
| • FUND 501 Risk Management Fund | \$1,429,894 |
| • FUND 601 Landfill Fund | \$8,324,499 |
| • FUND 603 Airport Fund | \$3,225,257 |
| • FUND 605 Water Fund | \$452,180 |

FY 22 BUDGET

FY 21 Adopted Budget	\$153,521,214
FY 22 Requested	\$312,814,129
FY 22 Manager Recommended	\$174,457,202
FY 22 Increase from FY 21	\$20,935,988
13.6% increase over last year	

FY 22 REVENUE

• Property Tax Base	\$13,910,000,000
Increase over last year	1.09%
• Tax Collection Rate (no change)	96.50%
• Tax Rate (no change)	65.75 Cents
• Sales Tax Original 21	+\$5,873,000 or +24.68%
• Sales Tax Actual 20	+\$1,141,879 or +4%

FY 22 REVENUE

Sales Tax **+\$5,873,000** or **+24.68%**

“The Great Inflation” referred to by the Federal Reserve was 1965 to 1982. In 1980 inflation “reached more than 14%.” This year’s sales tax projections are 24.68% over last years projected sales tax. Federal Government dollars related to COVID-19 will or has exceeded over \$100,000,000 for schools, municipalities and the County.

FY 22 REVENUE

Adopted Budget Fund Balance Appropriation

• FY 20 Adopted	\$11,530,657
• FY 21 Adopted	\$6,770,590
• FY 22 Recommended	\$12,550,262

FY 22 CONTINUATION BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

WEST END PLAZA

• FY 2019 Balance	\$1,532,998
• FY 2020 Transfer	\$1,299,960
• FY 2021 Transfer	\$1,440,160
• FY 2022 Transfer	1,753,660

Projected FY 2022 Beginning Balance \$ 6,026,638

FY 22 CONTINUATION BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

<u>Department</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Emergency Services	4	\$ 838,032
Transit	10	677,935
Sheriff	20	768,216
Animal Enforcement	1	31,000
Facilities Management	1	45,000
Building Inspections	<u>1</u>	<u>31,000</u>
Total	<u>37</u>	<u>\$ 2,391,183</u>

FY 22 EXPANSION HIGHLIGHTS

• Positions Requested	37
• Requested Cost	\$2,335,413
• Positions Recommended	5
• Recommended Cost	\$430,819
COVID-19 Positions Recommended	5
Temporary Position Cost	\$348,874

PERMANENT POSITIONS

<u>Department</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Finance	Accountant II	\$ 94,160
Register of Deeds	Deputy Register of Deeds	49,586
Building Inspections	Building Inspector	106,309
Health Department	Environmental Health Specialist	90,872
Health Department	Environmental Health Specialist (OWW)	<u>89,892</u>
Total Increase		<u>\$ 430,819</u>

TEMPORARY POSITIONS

<u>Department</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Finance	Analyst	\$ 74,920
Emergency Services	Community Paramedic	63,630
Emergency Services	Community Paramedic	63,630
Emergency Services	Community Paramedic	63,727
Emergency Services	Community Paramedic	<u>63,727</u>
Total Increase		<u>\$ 348,874</u>

FY 22 EXPANSION HIGHLIGHTS

- 2% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) \$1,141,366
- Premium Pay \$2,000 Per Employee (ARP)
- Longevity / Merit .5% to 2% \$525,719
- 1/3 Upgrades and Career Development

<u>Department</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Airport	\$ 32,787
Tax Assessor	48,482
Department of Social Services	253,655
Facilities / Parks	182,629
Finance	28,799
Information Technology	44,649
Planning	25,099
Sheriff	27,844
Soil & Water	8,550
Telecommunications	119,450
Veterans Services	20,631
TOTAL (Minus Reimbursement)	\$792,575

Rowan-Cabarrus Community College

For FY 2022, the College requested \$54,186,709. This request includes a request for funding the project approved by the voters in FY 2020. The recommended budget does not include this project at this time. However, \$1 million dollars is being recommended to assist the college with architect fees in anticipation for the project starting in FY 2023, in which a tax increase of approximately 3.5 cents will be required. The \$1 million dollars shall be paid back to the County with the general obligation bond proceeds.

New Debt

(not including school capital)

<u>Item</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>	<u>Annual Debt Payment</u>
Airport Hangar Expansion	\$12,500,000	\$ 1,150,000*
West End Plaza Renovations	\$15,000,000	\$ 1,377,000
Radio Infrastructure and New Radios	<u>\$10,500,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,104,000</u>
TOTAL	\$38,000,000	\$ 3,631,000

FY 22 School Funding

<u>School System</u>	<u>FY 2021</u>	<u>Total Proposed Funding for FY 2022</u>
Rowan-Salisbury Schools (Current Operating)	\$ 36,027,914	\$ 35,487,883
Rowan-Salisbury Schools (Current Capital)	2,291,844	854,731
Debt Service for \$55 Million	-	2,524,500 *
Architect fees	-	2,100,000 **
Water, sewer and storm water	-	4,000,000
Total	<u>\$ 38,319,758</u>	<u>\$ 44,967,114</u>

* This is the estimated amount to pay the debt service on \$55 million starting February 1, 2022. If the budget is adopted as presented, this shall be considered approval of \$55 million in new debt, which will increase the debt in FY 2023 in the amount of approximately \$2,524,500, subject to interest rates.

** This expenditure of estimated architect fees will authorize the Board of Education to commence on July 1, 2021 on the design and construction of a new school not to exceed \$55 million, including land acquisition and architect fees. This expenditure will be offset and repaid to the County through loan proceeds if the budget is adopted as presented. For example, if the amount of architect fees expended from July 1, 2021 through February 1, 2022 is \$2.1 million, this shall reduce the debt capacity for the new school from \$55 million to \$52.9 million.

<u>School System</u>	<u>FY 2021</u>	<u>Total Proposed Funding for FY 2022</u>
Kannapolis City Schools (Current Operating)	\$ 2,486,213	\$ 2,516,666
Kannapolis City Schools (Current Capital)	158,156	60,614
Total	<u>\$ 2,644,369</u>	<u>\$ 2,577,280</u>

<u>School System</u>	<u>FY 2021</u>	<u>Total Proposed Funding for FY 2022</u>
Charter Schools	1,479,384	1,907,271

		<u>Department</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1	Expenditure	Information Technology	Technology Expansion for Inspections and Development Review Process	\$ (135,000.00)
2	Expenditure	Parks	Increase in repairs and maintenance	\$ (14,000.00)
3	Expenditure	NC Forest Service	Expansion request - Vehicle purchase	\$ (28,000.00)
4	Expenditure	Tourism Authority Loss Revenue	Loss Revenue ARP	\$ (410,000.00)
5	Expenditure	Tourism Reimbursement	ARP	\$ (85,000.00)
6	Expenditure	Tourism Miscellaneous	ARP	\$ (100,000.00)
		(Non-Profits)		
7	Revenue	Investing in our Children	Line item 1154112-583113 Manager Recommended \$100,000 Commissioner Requested to reduce to Zero.	\$ 100,000.00
8	Expenditure	Prevent Child Abuse Rowan Triple P Intensive Parenting Program	Commissioner requested to create new line item in Special Appropriations	\$ (40,000.00)
9	Expenditure	Partners in Learning Triple P Intensive Parenting Program	Commissioner requested to create new line item in Special Appropriations	\$ (40,000.00)
10	Expenditure	Families First Intensive Parenting Program	Commissioner requested an Increase to Line Item 1155090-59116 from \$8,000 to \$28,000	\$ (28,000.00)
11	Revenue	ARP	Tourism Expenses	\$ 595,000.00
12	Revenue	ARP	Water Line Booster Station	\$ 1,000,000.00
			REDUCTION in FUND Balance Appropriation	\$ 815,000.00

Mr. Church reviewed the items above that were overlooked and/or not considered during the budget process. Mr. Church highlighted the reasoning for adding the items to the budget now and how the changes would affect the fund balance appropriation.

Mr. Church noted another requested change, which was received earlier in the day from the Tax Collector to eliminate the \$5 pet fee from the tax bills. Mr. Church explained that citizens were supposed to list the number of dogs they have and they were then assessed a \$5 fee per animal. Mr. Church said if the fee was eliminated, another \$13,000 would need to be added to the list above.

Chairman Edds suggested the Board consider the fee now in order to avoid coming back to the issue later.

Commissioner Caskey moved, Commissioner Greene seconded and the vote to delete the pet fee passed unanimously.

Commissioner Caskey asked if American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds for the waterline booster station could be transferred into the Water Fund. Mr. Church said the ARP funds were currently being kept separately and tracked in a spreadsheet. Mr. Church said if budget adopted as presented, the \$1 million from ARP funds would be moved into the Water Fund where it would sit. According to Mr. Church, the County had already moved \$1 million of County funds into the Water Fund to pay for the booster pump station and other miscellaneous lead and copper issues before the County became aware of ARP funds.

Commissioner Klusman asked for confirmation the approved uses for ARP funds must be connected to COVID-19. Mr. Church clarified by saying, “unless it’s water and sewer.”

Commissioner Klusman said there were other things COVID-related that she believed would need to be done for public health. Commissioner Klusman expressed hope the rest of the ARP funds would “stay put” until the Health Department had the opportunity to discuss the matter with the County Manager.

Chairman Edds said Mr. Church was showing the projects the Board was currently ready to begin and that qualified for ARP funds. Chairman Edds said the funds would flow through the FY 2022 budget. The expenses for the remaining ARP funds would be determined later.

Chairman Edds said Mr. Church had previously provided a spreadsheet that had been reviewed by the Board.

Commissioner Klusman responded her understanding had been the spreadsheet contained suggestions. Mr. Church stated Commissioner Klusman was correct and he added that adopting the recommended budget would be moving money from the ARP to pay for different items.

Mr. Church had the spreadsheet displayed so he could review and adjust the items projected to be paid with ARP funds.

Mr. Church noted \$4 million on the spreadsheet for Rowan-Salisbury School System (RSSS) to be spent on water/sewer from ARP funds. Mr. Church said if the Board did not want to spend \$10 million of ARP funds, it could eliminate some of the suggested items on the spreadsheet.

Commissioner Caskey expressed interest in reinstituting the Joint Planning Committee (JPC), which consisted of members of the Board of Education and Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Caskey felt the JPC would help the County determine if RSSS needed the \$4 million for water/sewer, or, if more funds were needed.

Mr. Church said the \$4 million could be reduced to \$1 million for the FY 2022 budget, and then budget \$1 million upcoming budgets, if needed. Mr. Church said reducing the water/sewer to \$1 million also gave the Board the flexibility for other larger projects if the need arose. Mr. Church pointed out the Treasury could deny any of the construction projects.

Commissioner Pierce agreed with Commissioner Caskey and said unless RSSS showed a need for the \$4 million he did not feel the Board should set aside \$4 million for the FY 2022 budget. Commissioner Pierce agreed the JPC should meet in order to assist with

direction for the needs of RSSS and how the County could meet those needs within the budget.

Chairman Edds felt Superintendent Dr. Tony Watlington would appreciate the opportunity to meet.

Commissioner Klusman said an urgent need at the Health Department was for a second person on the PORT team to help with peer counseling. Commissioner Klusman said there had been an approximate 60% increase for those in need of counseling because of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Commissioner Klusman said the position would fall under mental health and therefore qualify for ARP funds.

Chairman Edds said of the twenty-nine (29) Volunteer Fire Departments (VFD) in the County, seven (7) had requested a tax increase. Chairman Edds said he and Commissioner Caskey had tried to attend the public hearings of the VFD held in the respective communities. The VFD that had requested a tax increase were as follows:

1. Atwell Township – from 0.0775 to 0.0975
2. Bostian Heights – from 0.0845 to 0.0900
3. Franklin Township – from 0.0716 to 0.0900
4. Locke Township – from 0.0900 to 0.0975
5. Miller Ferry- from 0.0800 to 0.0875
6. South Rowan (China Grove) – from 0.0855 to 0.0900
7. West Rowan – from 0.0700 to 0.0900

Chairman Edds opened the floor for Board discussion.

Commissioner Caskey said most of the requested increases were due to personnel needs as a result in the difficulty of getting volunteers to serve. Commissioner Caskey said society had changed and it was hard to get volunteers to provide the needed coverage. Commissioner Caskey said he was comfortable with the increases.

Commissioner Caskey reported no citizens had spoken in opposition to the proposed increases at the VFD public hearings. Commissioner Caskey said the members of the VFD had a great “service heart” for the community. Commissioner Caskey noted many of the volunteers had served for years and were at the point they wanted to turn their service over to a younger generation. Commissioner Caskey said the requests were mostly for personnel to maintain services.

Chairman Edds echoed the comments of Commissioner Caskey and agreed culture was changing and communities were losing volunteers. Chairman Edds stated he had been struck at the public hearings by the quality men and women within the VFD and how they worked for the community with little resources.

Chairman Edds continued by explaining how hard the VFD had worked to get their protection class lowered, which resulted in lower insurance rates for homeowners. Chairman Edds said with fewer volunteers, the VFD were having to pay staff to provide coverage. Chairman Edds said there were regulations in place requiring equipment, tires, etc. to be kept in certain condition. Chairman Edds also mentioned the growth and changes in the County such as along the I-85 corridor, which placed additional call volumes on the VFD in those areas. Chairman Edds supported the requests.

Commissioner Klusman agreed the County was “exploding” with development, which would put more stress on the VFD. Commissioner Klusman supported the increases.

Commissioner Greene stated he had always supported the VFD and agreed it was harder for them to provide coverage with less volunteers. Commissioner Greene pointed out the differences in the VFD budgets, noting some of the VFD operated on shoestring budgets. Commissioner Greene talked about rising fuel prices and the impact the increased prices would have on the departments. Commissioner Greene said he did not want to see VFD go to having fulltime employees. He reluctantly supported the tax increases because he did not currently have a better answer for the dilemma in providing adequate coverage.

Chairman Edds asked if there were any projects not listed in the recommended budget the Commissioners would like to include.

- Commissioner Klusman said she would like to add a fulltime person in the Health Department to the PORT team for Peer Counseling. Commissioner Klusman said the cost was \$52,000 and could be paid through ARP funds under mental health.
- Commissioner Caskey presented three (3) requests:
 1. Increase to Crime Stoppers from \$1500 to \$2000
 2. Include an Office Assistant II part-time position for Veteran Services at \$16,000.
 3. Include the request from the Sheriff's Department for a Warrant Squad that would consist of Two (2) Master Deputies and Two (2) Deputies starting January 1, 2022 at an estimated cost of \$368,000. This included equipment and six (6) months of salaries.
- Chairman Edds requested the Board put out a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a lobbying firm for the County to assist with obtaining grants/funding for infrastructure, industrial parks, etc. The cost was not to exceed \$5,000 per month.

Chairman Edds opened the public hearing to receive citizen input regarding the proposed FY 2021-22 budget. The following citizen came forward to address the Board:

- Cindy Fink, Executive Director for Meals on Wheels (MOW) discussed gaps identified during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Ms. Fink said during the Pandemic, it was found depression and social isolation for seniors climbed dramatically. Ms. Fink said MOW began a Charlie Pilot Project (with Charlie being a tablet that used a touch screen for seniors to communicate and engage each day). Ms. Fink expressed hope that an additional Charlie's could be provided in the upcoming year. Ms. Fink discussed the funding for meals and asked for an additional \$12,000 (for a total of \$85,000) to help meet the gap in senior nutritional needs.

Commissioner Pierce inquired as to the cost of a Charlie tablet and Ms. Fink said approximately \$250 to \$300. Ms. Fink said the tablets were delivered during COVID-19 directly to the seniors. Additionally, Ms. Fink said there was a monthly service fee of \$50 for cellular and \$30.00 for Wifi.

In response to Commissioner Pierce, Ms. Fink explained that a coordinator worked with the seniors to determine who needed a tablet, i.e., those who did not have family nearby. Ms. Fink said they had learned the tablets did not work as well for those who were not technologically advanced or those with dementia.

Commissioner Pierce asked the County Manager to see if ARP funds could be used for the tablets and Mr. Church inquired as to how many tablets were needed. Ms. Fink said a grant was received from the Cannon Foundation for the purchase of twenty-five (25) tablets and the ultimate goal was to have one-hundred tablets available.

Commissioner Pierce requested to add the \$12,000 as requested by Ms. Fink for MOW.

Chairman Edds said the Board had seven (7) funds to consider approval of.

GENERAL FUND 101

- Commissioner Klusman moved to approve General Fund 101 as presented with the changes that had been requested. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce and passed unanimously.

(Please Note: The motion above to approve General Fund 101 was requested to be amended at the conclusion of the budget approval process. The vote to amend the motion occurred at the conclusion of agenda item #12 (to reflect the figures below).

The final approved changes were as follows:

**Rowan County
FY 2022 Additions to Budget**

Department Expense	Reason/Amount Information Technology	Technology Expansion for Inspections and Development Review Process	\$ (135,000.00)
Expense	Parks	Increase in repairs and maintenance	\$ (14,000.00)
Expense	NC Forest Service	Expansion request - Vehicle purchase	\$ (28,000.00)
Expense	Tourism Authority	Loss Revenue Loss Revenue ARP	\$ (410,000.00)
Expense	Tourism Reimbursement	ARP	\$ (85,000.00)
Expense (Non-Profits)	Tourism Miscellaneous	ARP	\$ (100,000.00)
Revenue	Investing in our Children	Line item 1154112-583113 Manager Recommended Commissioner Requested to reduce to Zero.	\$100,000.00
Expenditures	Prevent Child Abuse Rowan Triple P Intensive Parenting Program	Commissioner requested to create new line item in Special Appropriations	\$ (40,000.00)
Expenditures	Partners in Learning Triple P Intensive Parenting Program	Commissioner requested to create new line item in Special Appropriations	\$ (40,000.00)
Expenditures	Families First Intensive Parenting Program	Commissioner requested an Increase to Line Item 1155090-59116 from \$8,000 to \$28,000	\$ (28,000.00)
Revenue	ARP	Tourism Expenses	\$ 595,000.00
Revenue	ARP	Water Line Booster Station	\$ 1,000,000.00
Expense	Tax Collector	Remove pet fees - voted on by BoC - June 7, 2021	\$ (18,000.00)
Expense	Social Services	5 Total CPS positions approved in Consent Agenda - June 7, 2021	\$ (225,000.00)
Expense	Sheriff's Office	Crimestoppers - \$1500 -> \$2000	\$ (500.00)
Expense	Veterans Services	Part time position - Office Assistant II	\$ (16,000.00)
Expense	Sheriff's Office	Two Master Deputies / Two Regular Deputies (starting Jan 1, 2022)	\$ (368,000.00)
Expense	Health Department	Peer Support Specialist	\$ (52,000.00)
Revenue	Health Department	offset from ARP	\$ 52,000.00
Expense	General Government	Lobbying Support (not to exceed \$5000/month RFQ)	\$ (60,000.00)
Expense	Meals on Wheels	Request additional funding	\$ (12,000.00)
Revenue	Rowan Salisbury Schools	Reduce \$4M in proposed budget to \$1M for FY22 only (RSS Water & Sewer)	\$ 3,000,000.00
Expense	Rowan Salisbury Schools	offset from ARP funds (RSS Water & Sewer)	\$ (3,000,000.00)

REDUCTION in Fund Balance Appropriation \$ 115,500.00

FUND 201 – FIRE DISTRICT FUND

Chairman Edds said the tax rate for all of the Volunteer Fire Departments would remain the same with the exception of the following seven (7) districts:

- Atwell Township – from 0.0775 to 0.0975
- Bostian Heights – from 0.0845 to 0.0900
- Franklin Township – from 0.0716 to 0.0900
- Locke Township – from 0.0900 to 0.0975
- Miller Ferry- from 0.0800 to 0.0875
- South Rowan (China Grove) – from 0.0855 to 0.0900
- West Rowan – from 0.0700 to 0.0900

Based on the information as stated by Chairman Edds, Commissioner Klusman moved approval of Fund 201 - Fire District. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Greene and passed unanimously.

FUND 202 EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM

Commissioner Greene moved, Commissioner Klusman seconded and the vote to approve Fund 202 - Emergency Telephone System carried unanimously.

FUND 501 RISK MANAGEMENT

Commissioner Klusman moved to approve Fund 501 – Risk Management, followed by a second from Commissioner Greene. The motion passed unanimously.

FUND 601 LANDFILL

Commissioner Klusman moved approval of Fund 601 – Landfill. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce and carried unanimously.

FUND 603 AIRPORT

Commissioner Klusman moved to approve Fund 603 – Airport. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Greene and passed unanimously.

FUND 605 WATER

Commissioner Klusman moved, Commissioner Pierce seconded and the vote to approve Fund 605 – Water carried unanimously.

Chairman Edds explained to the public the County had over \$100 million of ARP funds coming from the Federal Government for COVID-19 related expenses, with a few exceptions. Chairman Edds said there were different rules as to how the funds could be spent for colleges, schools and the municipalities. Chairman Edds stated the County planned to use some of the ARP funds for the school system in areas where the school system could not. Chairman Edds said there was a lot of confusion for this year's budget.

Chairman Edds recalled in the last year county employees did not receive a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) and the FY '22 budget included a 2% COLA. Chairman Edds said county employees were considered essential workers during the Pandemic and the fulltime employees would receive \$2,000 in premium pay from the ARP funds. Chairman

Edds explained how longevity and merit pay were factored in, as well the 1/3 pay from the pay study.

Chairman Edds said the County had spent way below its means last year and the ARP funds were making the County's budget look larger than it really was for FY 2022.

In closing, Chairman Edds said the County was prospering and bringing in opportunities and new amounts of revenue on economic development side. Chairman Edds said the County would invest in education, the airport, mental health, etc. and continue to move ahead.

County Manager Aaron Church referred to the discussion for RSSS water/sewer and asked for clarification on the amount for inclusion in the FY 2022 budget. Commissioner Greene said the amount should be \$1 million. Mr. Church asked if the Board would consider amending the motion to reflect approval of General Fund 101 with \$1 million for RSSS water/sewer. *(Note: The motion to amend approval of General Fund 101 was made at the conclusion of agenda item #12).*

8. DISCUSSION REGARDING PROPOSED FY 2021-22 BUDGET

The discussion regarding the proposed FY 2021-22 Budget occurred during agenda item #7 *(Public Hearing: FY 2021-22 Proposed Budget)*.

9. TASK ORDER 15 MCGILL ACCESS ROAD AND UTILITIES BID

County Manager Aaron Church and Matt Oetting with McGill Associates discussed Task Order #15. Mr. Church said the Task Order was for \$8,000 for McGill to finish the work, alter work and possibly some design.

Mr. Church referred to the map in the agenda packet and said it was his understanding when the project went out to bid, the County would do half the road and half the water line as one bid. Another bid would be for the full road and full water line.

Mr. Church questioned Mr. Oetting as to where the sewer line would come in. Mr. Oetting responded the sewer line had to be bid as part of project because it had to run along creek to where the new Animal Shelter was. The sewer line would be bid with the base bid.

Mr. Church said when the prices came in, the project would be brought back to the Board for a decision as to whether to do half the road and half the water line or the full road and full water line. Mr. Church said the County would be fulfilling a verbal suggestion that had been made with Shelter Guardians prior to the capital freeze and prior to COVID-19.

Mr. Oetting said all permits had been obtained except for the City water/sewer permits.

Commissioner Pierce referred to the map and asked about the tap connection for the water line to the Animal Shelter. Mr. Oetting said the matter was one of the updates to be considered and finalized for the bid documents.

Commissioner Pierce moved to approve Task Order #15 and authorize the County Manager to go out to bid for the project. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Klusman and passed unanimously.

10. DISCUSSION REGARDING JULY MEETING SCHEDULE

Chairman Edds stated the Board had typically voted in the past to cancel its second monthly meeting during the month of July. This year the July 4th holiday falls on Sunday and county offices would be closed on Monday, July 5th in observance of Independence Day. The Board was scheduled to meet on Tuesday, July 6th, 2021 at 3:00 pm and Monday, July 19, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

The Board discussed its meeting preferences for the month of July.

Commissioner Greene moved to cancel the July 6, 2021 Commission Meeting scheduled at 3:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce and passed unanimously.

11. LITTER REPORT

Chairman Edds reported that Environmental Management staff had removed 8,440 pounds of litter and debris from Rowan County roadsides during the period beginning Monday, May 3, 2021 through Friday, May 14, 2021.

12. BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Finance Director James Howden presented the following budget amendments for the Board's consideration:

- Sheriff – Recognize excess revenue and projected excess for remainder of FY 2020-21 in account and budget to expense accounts that are currently underfunded. \$8,000
- Sheriff – Recognize excess state asset forfeiture funds and budget to expense account that has insufficient funds. \$22,400
- Sheriff – Recognize \$50 cash donation from citizen and budget to Sheriff's Christmas Caring. \$50
- Sheriff – Recognize current and projected excess revenue and budget to concealed weapon fees account to cover obvious account shortfall. \$55,000
- Finance – Acknowledge revenue not budgeted. \$5,774
- Social Services – Budget monies received in order to provide goods and services to clients. \$83,858
- Finance – Budget NRA Foundation grant awarded to Cooperative Extension. \$144

- Finance – Budget an additional amount awarded by DPS for Discretionary funds to the Juvenile Restitution Program. \$6,300
- Social Services – After LIEAP Supplement payments were processed, the State reverted remaining funds to other counties. Expenditures and revenues must be revised based on the new Funding Authorization. \$46,718

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

Please Note: At this point in the meeting, Commissioner Pierce moved to amend the earlier motion for approval of General Fund 101 to include the updated changes. The amendment was seconded by Commissioner Greene and passed unanimously. (The changes were displayed on the screen for the Board and the same changes are reflected in the minutes under agenda item #7 where General Fund 101 was approved).

13. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BOARD APPOINTMENTS **AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD**

During regular session on May 3, 2021 the Board of Commissioners was asked to appoint Suzanne Ramsey for a one-year term. Due to recent changes to stagger the terms on this advisory board, the Commissioners are asked to ratify Ms. Ramsey's term to a three-year term instead. If approved, the term would expire on April 30, 2024.

Commissioner Greene moved, Commissioner Klusman seconded and the vote to ratify the term for Ms. Ramsey as requested passed unanimously.

ATWELL TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Kenneth Cole applied to fill a seat that will become vacant on June 30, 2021. If appointed, the term for Mr. Cole would expire June 30, 2023.

Jeff Moore and Kathy Blalock applied for reappointment for two-year terms that will expire June 30, 2023.

Commissioner Klusman moved the appointment of Mr. Cole and the reappointment of Mr. Moore and Ms. Blalock. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce and carried unanimously.

CENTRALINA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

David Hollars, Executive Director for the Centralina Workforce Development Board, submitted a request for the reappointment of Corey Hill. The term would be for two (2) years, expiring June 30, 2023.

Commissioner Pierce moved to reappoint Corey Hill followed by a second from Commissioner Klusman. The motion passed unanimously.

HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

Due to legislative changes that were to take effect July 1, 2021, this appointment was removed from the agenda.

CITY OF KANNAPOLIS PLANNING - ETJ

The City of Kannapolis recommends the appointment of Robert Severt to fill a vacant ETJ seat, which will expire June 30, 2024.

Commissioner Klusman moved, Commissioner Greene seconded and the vote to appoint Mr. Severt carried unanimously.

NURSING HOME ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Sylvia Fosha has applied for reappointment. In order for Ms. Fosha to be reappointed, the Board would need to waive the term limits of the Resolution regarding the Commissioners appointment process.

Commissioner Pierce moved to waive the term limits established in the Resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Klusman and passed unanimously.

If approved for reappointment, the term would be for three (3) years and expire June 30, 2024.

Commissioner Pierce moved to reappoint Ms. Fosha followed by a second from Commissioner Klusman. The motion passed unanimously.

ROCKWELL RURAL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRE COMMISSIONERS

David Dunn applied to fill a seat that will become vacant on June 30, 2021. If approved the term would be for two (2) years and expire June 30, 2023.

Commissioner Klusman moved, Commissioner Greene seconded and the vote to appoint Mr. Dunn carried unanimously.

ROWAN TRANSIT SYSTEM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

There are four (4) at large vacancies on this Committee and Jonathan Barbee, Caroline Johnsen and Annanora Short have applied. The term expiration dates vary so the Commissioners will need to specify which seats the appointees are filling.

Commissioner Pierce moved to appoint Jonathan Barbee and Carolina Johnsen for a two-year term that would expire on June 30, 2023 and to appoint Annanora Short for a one-year term that would expire June 30, 2022. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Greene and passed unanimously.

UNION VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Cecil Whitley, Douglas Poole, and Tony Waller applied for reappointment for a two-year term that will expire June 30, 2023.

Commissioner Pierce moved to reappoint Mr. Whitley Mr. Poole and Mr. Waller. The motion was followed by a second from Commissioner Greene and carried unanimously.

14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Klusman moved to adjourn at 6:29 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carolyn Barger".

Carolyn Barger, MMC, NCMCC
Clerk to the Board