

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

130 West Innes Street • Salisbury, NC 28144
Telephone 704-216-8181 • Fax 704-216-8195

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ROWAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 18, 2023 – 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
Judy Klusman, Commissioner

ABSENT:

Mike Caskey, Commissioner

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

Call to Order

Chairman Edds called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Chaplain Michael Taylor provided the invocation. Chairman Edds lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consider Additions to the Agenda

Chairman Edds requested two additions to the agenda:

- Set a Public Hearing for Beacon Partner's offer to purchase land in the Summit Corporate Center based on consideration of conveyance according to NCGS 158-7.1(d) which eliminates the upset bid process and allows for private negotiation (Consent Item P)
- Revised sign-on bonuses for CPS Social Workers (Consent Item Q)

On motion of Edds, seconded by Klusman, the Board voted 4-0 to add the two items to the agenda.

Consider Deletions From the Agenda

There were no deletions from the agenda.

Consider Approval of the Agenda

On motion of Klusman, seconded by Pierce, the Board voted 4-0 to approve the agenda as amended.

Consider Approval of the Consent Agenda

On motion of Pierce, seconded by Klusman, the Board voted 4-0 to approve the Consent Agenda as amended, as follows:

- A. Award Rowan Transit System New Office Building - Randolph & Son Builder's Inc.
- B. Award Contract for 2024-001 Land Use Plan - Benchmark
- C. Specialized Aviation Service Provider Lease (SASO) for WEL Aviation
- D. Z 06-23: Schedule Legislative Hearing for October 2, 2023 for GQ ETJ Recension
- E. Consider Approval of the Minutes
- F. Budget Amendments, as follows:

DSS	To budget for Low Income Water Assistance funding and payments	\$74,825
Health	To balance FY24 Healthy Rowan Grant Budget	\$476
DSS	To budget for CCU/MA Expansion Funds	\$119,010
Finance	To recognize FY23 reserved funds for Sheriff's Office	\$32,095
Planning	Transfer funds for Land Use Plan Project - Consent Agenda 1.C	\$30,000
Sheriff	To budget for court seizure equipment	\$4,000
Finance	To appropriate funds to cover Rowan Transit Relocation - Consent Agenda 1.B	\$1,117,900
Airport	To appropriate funds for generator project	\$50,350
Sheriff	To recognize FY23 reserved funds for Sheriff's Office	\$362,030

- G. Tax Refunds for Approval
- H. Schedule Legislative Hearing for Z 07-23: Steven Graham, for October 2, 2023
- I. Schedule Legislative Hearing for ZTA 03-23: Satellite Earth Station, for October 16, 2023
- J. Schedule Legislative Hearing to consider changes to Chapter 18 of the Rowan County Code of Ordinances pertaining to Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control for October 2, 2023.
- K. Grant Agreement: Rowan County Health Department requests approval to accept funds for CDC-RFA-DP23-0014: Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) from Cabarrus Health Alliance
- L. GRANT LOI: Request approval to submit LOI to apply for BRIC funding through NCDPS for High Rock Lake Study
- M. Approval of Purchase - NCDOT IMD Vehicle Order (11-Raised Roof with Wheelchair Lift) - Rowan Transit System
- N. Appoint Rebecca Saleeby as Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners
- O. GRANT AGREEMENT: Airport (RUQ) requests approval to approve "Taxiway Rehab" Funding from NCDOT Div. of Aviation
- P. Set a Public Hearing for Beacon Partner's offer to purchase land in the Summit Corporate Center based on consideration of conveyance according to NCGS 158-7.1(d) which eliminates the upset bid process and allows for private negotiation (Agenda Addition)
- Q. Revised sign-on bonuses for CPS Social Workers (Agenda Addition)

Public Comment

Chairman Edds opened the floor for public comment and closed it after all those who wished to speak had done so.

Tara Puma, Salisbury, said there are a lot of efforts in Salisbury to decrease homelessness. She is a new volunteer at Rowan Helping Ministries and she advocated for volunteerism. Funding is needed.

Nan Lund, 419 Eastwood Drive, Salisbury, said she is concerned about public schools with the increase in vouchers for private schools. She gave funding statistics and data regarding students in public schools compared to private schools. Public schools are underfunded.

Matt Marsh, 220 South Fulton Street, Salisbury, is the vice-chairman of Rowan Helping Ministries (RHM). He shared services and programs that RHM provides. Homelessness is an issue. RHM is a volunteer-run organization.

Chairman Edds discussed financial opportunities that may be available for human services agencies. He asked if there were funds to address homelessness.

County Manager Aaron Church gave data of funding appropriated in the past for human services. Many of those funds go towards preventing homelessness or helping those affected by homelessness.

Vice-Chairman Greene said the RHM does not take in people from outside the county. All of the services RHM provides are transitional.

EMS Division National Accreditation

The Board recognized Emergency Services for their outstanding achievements.

Emergency Services Division Chief Bryan Edwards said the Rowan County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division received the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS). This is a national accreditation. Rowan County is now the 7th accredited in North Carolina. CAAS accreditation signifies that an agency has met the gold standard determined by the ambulance industry to be essential in modern emergency medical services. He recognized and commended his staff for their dedication and excellent service.

Grant Agreement – Sheriff’s Office Operation Underground Railroad Grant

Captain David Earnhardt described Grayshift and the GrayKey software. The software is currently in use by the Sheriff’s Office through a 2022 grant. There have been 125 unlocks completed using this software. In the past six months, there have been 50 unlocks. He said the Sheriff’s Office was awarded funding from Operation Underground Railroad (OUR) to assist in the annual license fee for GrayShift’s GrayKey software, which is used by the Sheriff’s Office to extract forensics data from mobile devices. The awarded amount is \$9,054 and requires a \$9,054 local match. The Sheriff’s Office was approved to apply for this funding at the Board of Commissioners August 21, 2023, Regular Meeting.

Chairman Edds asked about privacy and constitutional rights.

Captain Earnhardt said a superior court judge will issue a warrant if consent is not given. The box has a geofence and will not work outside of the geofence.

Sheriff Travis Allen said the device does not work unless it is in the geofence. This is vital software and will not be used unless absolutely necessary. A magistrate can issue a search warrant for a house, but a superior court or federal judge issues warrants for probable cause with a cell phone extraction.

On motion of Pierce, seconded by Klusman, the Board voted 4-0 to approve the Sheriff's Office to apply for the OUR Grant.

Ann Kitalong-Will, Grants and Government Relations Director, said via Zoom video conferencing software that the motion needed to be amended to approve the match as the Sheriff's Office has already applied for the grant. Commissioner Pierce amended his motion.

On motion of Pierce, seconded by Klusman, the Board voted 4-0 to approve the County Manager to execute the grant agreement ("Mutual Agreement Document") between the Rowan County and Operation Underground Railroad for \$9,054 to assist with GrayKey software license fees.

Financial Reports

Finance Director Anna Bumgarner presented the financial reports. She compared annual cumulative expenditures, with FY 2024 equaling \$24,508,521 in August. Annual cumulative revenue is at \$63,866,488. The annual cumulative property tax was \$68,317,315.

Ms. Bumgarner said in June, the annual cumulative sales tax was \$43,073,942. She compared monthly sales taxes from 2020 to 2023.

Adjournment

At 6:53 p.m., on motion of Pierce, seconded by Greene, the Board voted 4-0 to adjourn.

Sarah Pack, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board