

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

February 5, 2024 – 3:00 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, Clerk to the Board Sarah Pack, and Finance Director Anna Bumgarner were also present. County Attorney Jay Dees attended via Zoom videoconferencing software.

Call to Order

Chairman Edds called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Chaplain Michael Taylor provided the invocation. Chairman Edds lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consider Additions to the Agenda

Chairman Edds requested the addition of a closed session (Item 3F) pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(1) and pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(5)(i) to establish or to instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease.

Consider Deletions From the Agenda

Chairman Edds removed Consent Item Q (Approve Crawford Building Contract – CPL) from the agenda.

Consider Approval of the Agenda

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

Consider Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

A. *Consider Approval of the Minutes*

- B. Request from DSS/ROCO to apply for FY24 Robertson Foundation Grant
- C. Approve donation from Rowan Public Library Foundation to Library
- D. Request from Cooperative Extension to approve FY24 Woodson Foundation and Robertson Foundation Grant Applications
- E. Request to approve GRANT APPLICATION: FY24 Woodson Foundation from DSS/ROCO
- F. DNP Playground Purchase/Install - Superior Recreational Products
- G. Request from DSS/ROCO to apply for FY24 Robertson Foundation Grant
- H. Budget Amendments, as follows:

Parks and Recreation	To budget increase in Woodleaf Park Project using ARPA Replacement Revenue	\$403
Grants	To budget for contract with Geosyntec for High Rock Lake/Davidson Project	\$300,000
Emergency Services	To budget for NC 911 Grant for Telecom Radios	\$99,971

- I. Consider a Revision to the Basic Operation Fee for the North East Water System
- J. Award Audit of Fleet Management - Matrix Consulting Group
- K. Request to approve GRANT AGREEMENT for EMS - 2023 Portable Radio PSAP Grant
- L. Purchase Approval - Lenco Armored Vehicles - Bearcat Options
- M. NCCMT payment for Arbitrage Services
- N. RCCC Reimbursement Resolution
- O. RSS Reimbursement Resolution
- P. Sale of Ground Leased Hangar T2 Mozeley to CF Steel LLC
- Q. ~~Approve Crawford Building Contract - CPL~~ (**removed from agenda**)
- R. Change Order #10 - Wharton Smith - WEP
- S. Schedule Legislative Hearing for ZTA 01-24: Top Tier Solar Solutions, for February 19, 2024
- T. Schedule Legislative Hearing for Z 02-24: Blandy Hardwoods, for February 19, 2024
- U. Schedule public hearing for Z 01-24
- V. Schedule public hearing for SNIA 01-24
- W. Schedule Legislative Hearing for ZTA 04-23 on February 19, 2024 RE: Motorsports Racing Complex Text
- X. Request to approve HOPE Team to apply for FY24 Rural EMS Training Grant from SAMHSA
- Y. Health Department Bonus Requests
- Z. Request for Public Hearing - 'Project Aviation'
- AA. Easement Survey Exemption to RFQ process

Public Comment Period

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

Bobby Kemp, 250 Chalk Maple Road, China Grove, has lived in Rowan County nearly all of his life. He described his life in Rowan County. He was diagnosed with cancer, which was a financial burden. He is here on behalf of seniors, the disabled, and veterans. It took six months for his disability to be approved. His taxes have increased dramatically and even the senior

discount doesn't save him any money. He asked when the taxing will stop. He asked for the budget to not be increased each year. Raising taxes does not benefit the people. He asked the Board not to spend money they don't have.

Sheriff Travis Allen, 232 North Main Street, Salisbury, is here on behalf of 911 Telecommunications employees, who are part of the County's pay study this year. They are very important to emergency response. Dispatchers aren't paid what they're worth. The County cannot do without dispatchers. He requested the Board add to the recommended rate of pay determined by the study. The dispatchers are lifesavers.

Update and Presentation – "Your Rowan" Program

Mike Miller, Miller Davis Agency, said the 'Your Rowan' marketing campaign was launched in 2019 to promote positive news about life in Rowan County. This campaign has been funded by the Board of Commissioners, Rowan EDC, and Miller Davis Agency, while being administered by the Rowan EDC. He described initiatives developed by Your Rowan. He said we have to keep telling our story or others will tell it for us.

Chairman Edds said the Growing Rowan initiative back in 2014/2015 promoted "telling our story." There used to be websites with the goal of destroying Rowan County. If we don't tell our story, someone else will. Miller Davis Agency provided fresh marketing ideas to spotlight the positives in the county. This initiative needs to continue in order to promote the benefits of the county.

High Rock Lake – Davidson County Agreement/Geosyntec Consultants

Clerk's Note: Regular Agenda Items B and C were presented as one item

Craig Powers, Director of Engineering and Environmental Services, said a feasibility study needs to be completed for High Rock Lake. There is an ongoing sedimentation issue that is causing blockages to waterways and homes. Rowan County solicited Statements of Qualifications from interested and qualified professionals who specialize in feasibility studies and dredging large bodies of water. The County received these qualifications on Thursday, July 20, 2023. Four responses were received. After careful evaluation, completion of scoring and interviews, Geosyntec Consultants have been selected. The BOC Approved negotiations between the County Manager and Geosyntec Consultants on August 7, 2023.

Mr. Powers described the six phases that make up the Scope of Work for the project and said Davidson County has agreed to fund one half of the project, not to exceed \$150,000.

Chairman Edds said there areas of High Rock Lake that are over 75% filled in. Rowan is working with Davidson to analyze the issues and see if anything can be done; the larger issue is on the Davidson County side. The Army Corps of Engineers supports finding a solution to this issue. If there is sand in the lake, that can be resold. This agreement would be a formal agreement to partner with Davidson County. Geosyntec would offer options for remediation.

Commissioner Caskey asked how long the process would take and Chairman Edds said Geosyntec will take six months to perform the study and provide recommendations.

On motion of Edds, seconded by Pierce, the Board voted 5-0 to authorize the Chairman to sign the Interlocal Agreement with Davidson County for one half of the cost of the Feasibility Study.

On motion of Edds, seconded by Pierce, the Board voted 5-0 to authorize the County Manager to enter into an agreement with Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. to provide engineering services for the feasibility studies and dredging of High Rock Lake; not to exceed \$299,921.00.

On motion of Edds, seconded by Pierce, the Board voted 5-0 to approve the associated budget amendment.

Board Appointments

On motion of Pierce, seconded by Greene, the Board voted 5-0 to appoint Debra McCorkle to the County Seat on the Enochville Volunteer Fire Department Fire Commission, to appoint Mark Goodman to the Kannapolis Seat on the Housing Authority, appoint Kevin Sweatt and Geoffrey Barringer to County Seats on the Liberty Volunteer Fire Department Fire Commission, to appoint Jack Kepley, Jr., Dennis Rogers, and Alan Fullam to At Large seats on the Parks and Recreation Board, to appoint Sarah Barkley, Bryan Kirk, and Dylan Barkley to County Seats on the Pooletown Volunteer Fire Department Fire Commission, to appoint Jeffery Boger to the County Seat on the Rockwell Rural Salisbury Volunteer Fire Department Fire Commission, to appoint Wilbur Canup to the At Large Seat on the South Salisbury Volunteer Fire Department Fire Commission, and to appoint Jamey Basinger to the ETJ Seat on the Town of China Grove Planning Board ETJ.

Financial Reports

Chairman Edds asked Finance Director Anna Bumgarner to present the Financial Reports at the February 19, 2024, meeting.

On motion of Pierce, seconded by Greene, the Board voted 5-0 to amend the agenda and move the Financial Reports to the February 19, 2024, meeting.

Closed Session **Agenda Addition**

At 3:46 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 January 16, 2024, as described by NCGS 143-318.10(e) providing that minutes or an account of a closed session may be withheld from public inspection so long as public inspection would frustrate the purpose of a closed session, and pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(5)(i) to establish or to instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease.

Open Session

At 3:54 p.m. the Board returned to Open Session.

Adjournment

At 3:55 p.m., on motion of Pierce, seconded by Edds, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn.

Sarah Pack, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board