



**Rutherford County Office Building
289 N. Main Street
Rutherfordton, NC 28139**

**Rutherford County
Board of Commissioners
Minutes of February 6, 2017**

**Monday, February 6, 2017
6:00 PM**

I. Call to Order

Chairman King called the February 6, 2017 meeting of the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners to order.

Present: Chairman Bryan King, Vice Chairman Alan Toney, Commissioner Michael Benfield, Commissioner Eddie Holland, and Commissioner Greg Lovelace.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Anna Toney led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Agenda Approval

Commissioner Benfield moved to approve the agenda. Vice Chairman Toney seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:

Ayes: Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Holland and Commissioner Lovelace.

Noes: None

II. Public Comments

Mr. Walter Israel who presently owns the only house constructed in Queen's Gap told the Board that Rutherford County is overseeing the road construction and installation of water lines in the development with the proceeds of bond funds. Broad River Water is the water supplier and will be flushing and maintaining the lines once they are completed. A water district was created to cover costs until a sufficient number of home are built so that water usage will provide funds for these costs. Water district tax is being billed to each lot owner along with Mr. Israel each year. There are approximately 200 lots in the subdivision, and owners of these lots are paying \$50 in water district taxes. However, because he has a dwelling in the development, Mr. Israel has been billed \$1800 for the last two years. Mr. Israel said water will not be available to him for another year. He asked that the Commissioners

look into this situation and make changes to reduce the amount of water district tax which is billed to him.

III. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Lovelace moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Vice Chairman Toney seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:

Ayes: Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Holland and Commissioner Lovelace.

Noes: None

Consent Agenda items approved were:

A. Minutes of January 9, 2017

B. Tax Refunds and Releases –

Refund amount totaling \$13,161.73

Releases greater than \$100 totaling \$4,985.17

Releases less than \$100 totaling \$1,033.99

(A copy of these tax refunds and releases is typed in the Minute Book.)

IV. Commissioner Reports

A. ID 17-1266 Value of Library Presentation

Librarian April Young and Programming and Marketing Outreach Coordinator Maria Davis provided a presentation on the value of the library. The budget for the Rutherford County Libraries (Haynes Branch Library, Mountains Branch Library, and Rutherford County Library) in Fiscal Year 2015-2016 was \$564,078; however, the value to patrons for that same period was \$3,790,048.70 according to the American Library Association's standard Library Value Calculator. Ms. Davis said the Rutherford County Library System transforms lives by providing access to technology, early literacy programs and career development resources. Programs and offerings at each of the libraries were listed.

B. ID 17-1258 Reappraisal Report

Revenue Director Sherry Lavender provided an update on the reappraisal process underway in Rutherford County. The reappraisal process which is being conducted by Wampler-Eanes began in November 2016. This included initial field card printing and sales study site visits. The first township visits were made in Cool Springs Township on November 29, 2016, and as of Friday, January 27, 2017, 4,986 parcels of the 9,415 total parcels (53%) have been completed. The next scheduled area for field visits is Rutherfordton Township (8,107 parcels), and these visits should begin in the next 6-8 weeks.

Revenue Director Lavender presented a video describing the role of the appraiser and the process of reappraisal.

V. New Business

B. ID 17-1263 Resolution Awarding Chief Jeff Buchanan's Service Side Arm

Sheriff Chris Francis requested that the Board approve a resolution in accordance with G.S. 20-187.2 awarding Chief Deputy Jeff Buchanan's service side arm to him for the sum of \$1.00. Chief Buchanan, who has served in the Rutherford County Sheriff's Office since 2006 and in law enforcement since 1977, is retiring.

Commissioner Benfield moved to approve the resolution. Commissioner Lovelace seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:

Ayes: Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Holland and Commissioner Lovelace.

Noes: None

**Resolution Acknowledging the Service of
Chief Deputy Jeff Buchanan
and Awarding His Service Side Arm to Him**

WHEREAS, Chief Deputy Jeff Buchanan has served Rutherford County Sheriff's Department since 2006 and in law enforcement since 1977; and

WHEREAS, Chief Deputy Buchanan has dedicated forty years of his life to law enforcement and public service.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Rutherford, in accordance with NC General Statute 20-187.2, do hereby award Chief Deputy Buchanan his service side arm (Glock, Model 30 SF, Serial Number TVZ119) in exchange for consideration of \$1.00.

Approved this the 6th day of February, 2017.

C. ID 17-1262 Resolution – Designation of Applicant's Agent for Fire Management

A Designation of Applicant's Agent (DAA) Resolution was presented by Fire Marshall Roger Hollifield for the Board's consideration. The resolution designated the primary contacts for the Request for Fire Management Assistance (RFA) form that must be completed to apply for assistance for costs incurred during the Party Rock Fire.

Commissioner Benfield moved to approve the resolution. Vice Chairman Toney seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:

Ayes: Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Holland and Commissioner Lovelace.

Noes: None

Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED BY the governing body of Rutherford County (a public entity duly organized under the laws of the State of North Carolina) that Roger Hollifield (Primary

Agent) and Paula Roach (Secondary Agent) are hereby authorized to execute and file applications for federal and/or state assistance on behalf of the Rutherford County for the purpose of obtaining certain state and federal financial assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief & Emergency Assistance Act, (Public Law 93-288 as amended) or as otherwise available.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above-named agents are authorized to represent and act for Rutherford County in all dealings with the State of North Carolina and the Federal Emergency Management Agency for all matters pertaining to such disaster assistance required by the grant agreements and other assurances.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT the above-named agents are authorized to act severally. **PASSED AND APPROVED** this 6th day of February, 2017.

D. ID 17-1261 Genealogy Room at Rutherford County Library

County Librarian April Young addressed the Board regarding moving the County Library's Genealogical Collection to the Genealogical Society of Old Tryon County's Library housed at 319 Doggett Road in Forest City. There is value in having the majority of the County's Genealogical Records in one location for individuals conducting research. Since this is a valuable collection that has been donated by individuals to the County Library, Librarian Young recommended that a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Genealogical Society of Old Tryon County and the Rutherford County Library be approved by the Board of Commissioners. The County would retain ownership of the collection, approximately 1400 items, and the Genealogical Society of Old Tryon County would house and maintain the collection.

Commissioner Benfield moved to authorize the County Attorney to provide a Memorandum of Agreement between the Genealogical Society of Old Tryon County and the Rutherford County Library that would allow the transfer of the genealogical records at the Rutherford County Library to the Genealogical Society of Old Tryon County where these will be housed with the County maintaining ownership. Vice Chairman Toney seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:

Ayes: Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Holland and Commissioner Lovelace.

Noes: None

A. ID 17-1267 Request to Advertise Real Property Tax Liens

Revenue Director Sherry Lavender told the Board that a list of the outstanding 2016 Real Property Tax Bills was available on the Revenue Department website pursuant to NCGS 105-369(a).

Director Lavender also requested that the Board approve advertising real property tax liens on April 7, 2017 or May 12, 2017 as an alternate date.

Commissioner Lovelace made a motion to accept the report on real property tax liens. Commissioner Benfield seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:

Ayes: Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Holland and Commissioner Lovelace.

Noes: None

Vice Chairman Toney made a motion to approve the advertisement of real property tax liens on April 7, 2017 or May 12, 2017 as an alternate date. Commissioner Benfield seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:

Ayes: Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Holland and Commissioner Lovelace.

Noes: None

E. ID 17- 1271 E911 Vesta Phone System

Communications' Director Tammy Aldridge told the Board that the Communications staff has worked closely with Wireless Communications to put together a lease for the Vesta Phone System which will be a VoIP Geo-Diverse System installed at both the North Washington Street Communications Center and the Backup PSAP Center in Spindale. This is a phone system upgrade the department has been evaluating for over a year and is recommended to best fit the needs of both centers. Commissioner approval will be needed for the Lease Agreement due to it being a multi-year contract. State Statutes normally require a formal bid process for purchases of this size, but leases are an exception to that requirement. Due to the specialized needs of the 911 center and the constant evolution of technology, an equipment lease best fits their current needs and will provide for future opportunities to more easily upgrade.

Information has been sent to the E911 Board staff for review to ensure all items are PSAP eligible (through Fund 20 E911 telephone fund). The backup center must be operational by July 1, 2017. Furniture/workstation replacements will be installed in the main center and existing furniture will be reinstalled at the backup center with the new phone system so the two centers will be compatible and switch-over when necessary.

The E911 Board had confirmed that the equipment needed will be eligible for purchase with E911 funds.

Commissioner Benfield made a motion to authorize the County Manager with advisement and consultation with the County Attorney and Finance Director to negotiate and enter into documents and agreements with Wireless Communications, Inc. and ePlus Group, Inc. as necessary to execute a multi-year lease agreement, along with maintenance and support, for the Vesta Geo-Diverse phone system contingent on affirmation from the 911 Board that these expenditures will be reimbursable with 911 funds. Commissioner Holland seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:

Ayes: Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Holland and Commissioner Lovelace.
Noes: None

VI. Closed Session

A. ID 17-1264 ATTORNEY CLIENT NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3)

Vice Chairman Toney moved to enter into Closed Session for discussion with the County Attorney under North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3). Commissioner Lovelace seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:

Ayes: Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Holland and Commissioner Lovelace.
Noes: None

7:00 P.M. - The Board went into Closed Session.
7:53 P.M. - The Board returned to regular session.

X. Adjournment

At 7:55 P.M. Vice Chairman Toney made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Lovelace seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:

Ayes: Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Holland and Commissioner Lovelace.
Noes: None

Chairman, Board of Commissioners

Vice Chairman, Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Clerk, Board of Commissioners