



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

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

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

I. Call to Order

Chairman King called the March 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

Members of the press who were present led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Agenda Approval

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Toney and seconded by Commissioner Benfield to add a report by Tourism Development Authority Chairman Richard Lundy to the agenda. The vote on the motion was:

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

Noes: None

Commissioner Lovelace moved to approve the agenda with the amendment. 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

Ms. Karen Parker representing Brother Wolf thanked the Commissioners for their goal in having a “no kill” shelter and for the leadership of the Board. She and her organization look forward to doing their part to rally the community and share the goal of “no kill.”

Ms. Carol Parham representing Demand Animal Shelter Reform of Rutherford County thanked the Board for having a goal of “no kill” and encouraged the Board to form an adoption committee as soon as possible and open the shelter for volunteers.

III. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Benfield 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 February 6, 2017**
- B. Minutes of Special Meeting of February 24, 2017**
- C. Tax Refunds and Releases –**
 - Refund amount totaling \$3,081.87
 - Releases greater than \$100 totaling \$9,549.75
 - Releases less than \$100 totaling \$361.25
 - (A copy of these tax refunds and releases is typed in the Minute Book.)

IV. Commissioners/Appointments

- A. ID 17-1272 Appointment to Isothermal Planning and Development Commission Board of Directors**

Vice Chairman Toney made a motion to reappoint Chairman King to the Isothermal Planning and Development Commission Board of Directors to a term expiring April 1, 2020. 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

V. New Business

A. ID 17-1282 Budget Amendments – March, 2017

Finance Director Paula Roach presented budget amendments for the Board's consideration.

Commissioner Lovelace moved to approve the budget amendments. 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

Budget Amendments March, 2017

	Expense	Revenue
GENERAL FUND		
Emergency Management/Fire Marshal - HSGP Grant Expenditures	\$ 11,000	
NC DPS Emergency Management - Homeland Security Grant Program		\$ 11,000
*grant received for an joint security exercise with schools and college		
Emerg Mgmt - Party Rock Fire Expenditures	\$ 27,874	
Federal Fire Emergency Management Grant		\$ 27,874
*supplies used to assist with fire containment; these expenses will be submitted in March with an FMAG reimbursement request		
Contribution to the Rutherford County Economic Development Association	\$ 71,500	
Economic Development - Professional Services	\$ (56,060)	
Economic Development - Incentives	\$ (15,440)	
*allocate funds to new nonprofit corporation to contract with Convergent for assistance with initial fundraising campaign		
Library - Program Supplies	\$ 119	
Library Donations		\$ 119
*donations received for supplies		
Information Technology - Workers Comp	\$ 257	
Board of Elections - Workers Comp	\$ 90	
Garage - Workers Comp	\$ 1,192	
Public Works - Workers Comp	\$ 2,807	
Sheriff - Workers Comp	\$ 13,100	
Detention Center - Workers Comp	\$ 1,326	
Emergency Services - Workers Comp	\$ 5,793	
Emergency Management - Workers Comp	\$ (1,452)	
Animal Control - Workers Comp	\$ (1,516)	
Economic Development - Workers Comp	\$ (1,223)	
Cooperative Extension - Workers Comp	\$ (2,748)	
NC Counties Insurance Pool	\$ (17,626)	
*reallocate funds as a result of workers comp audit		

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	Expense	Revenue
Sheriff - K-9 Supplies	\$ 905	
Sheriff Donations		\$ 905
*donations received		
Sheriff - Equipment Purchased with Seizure Funds	\$ 9,009	
Sheriff Drug Seizure Funds		\$ 9,009
*unauthorized substance tax distribution		
Sheriff - Supplies Forensics Division	\$ 500	
Domestic Violence Gun Storage Fees		\$ 500
*storage fees received		
Sheriff - Professional Liability	\$ 5,000	
NCACC Insurance Pool		\$ 5,000
*reallocate funds for insurance deductible/professional liability claim		
Sheriff - Road Patrol Supplies	\$ (8,600)	
Contribution to Grant Fund - Matching Funds BPV Program	\$ 8,600	
*unauthorized substance tax distribution		
GRANT FUND		
Sheriff - Bulletproof Vest Grant Expenditure	\$ 8,600	
Contribution from General Fund		\$ 8,600
*set aside funds for bulletproof vest grant program (50% local match required)		
Cliffside Sanitary District Infrastructure Grant Expenditures - Professional Services	\$ 50,000	
NC Water Infrastructure Authority Grant		\$ 50,000
*grant awarded to complete a PER for the Merger/Consolidation for Cliffside Sanitary District. A grant fee of 1.5% is available within existing budgeted funds. Resolutions by County and CSD approved in April 2016 to apply for the grant.		
Resolution attached: County Manager recommends approval by the Board of Commissioner to exempt professional engineering services with WK Dickson to complete the Merger/Regionalization Feasibility Study from the qualification based selection process per NCGS 143-64.32. Counties may elect to provide this exemption by resolution on a project-by-project basis where estimated professional service fees are in an amount less than \$50,000.		

County Manager Steve Garrison advised that the Board can approve a resolution which will exempt contracts for design services from the qualifications-based selection requirements of G.S. 143-64.31 if the estimated fee is less than \$50,000. Due to the additional work already done by W.K. Dickson on the Cliffside Sanitary District Project; their familiarity with the project; and the fact that their fee is less than \$50,000, Manager Garrison recommended that the resolution exempting Cliffside Sanitary District Merger/Consolidation Study from G.S. 143-64.31 be approved.

Commissioner Benfield moved to approve the Resolution Exempting Cliffside Sanitary District Merger/Consolidation Study from G.S. 143-64.31. 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 EXEMPTING CLIFFSIDE SANITARY DISTRICT
MERGER/CONSOLIDATION STUDY
FROM G.S. 143-64.31**

WHEREAS, G.S. 143-64.31 requires the initial solicitation and evaluation of firms to perform architectural, engineering, surveying, construction management-at-risk services, and design-build services (collectively "design services") to be based on qualifications and without regard to fee;

WHEREAS, the County proposes to enter into one or more contracts for design services for work on Cliffside Sanitary District Merger/Consolidation Study; and

WHEREAS, G.S. 143-64.32 authorizes units of local government to exempt contracts for design services from the qualifications-based selection requirements of G.S. 143-64.31 if the estimated fee is less than \$50,000; and

WHEREAS, the estimated fee for design services for the above-described project is less than \$50,000.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF RUTHERFORD COUNTY RESOLVES:

Section 1. The above-described project is hereby made exempt from the provisions of G.S. 143-64.31.

Section 2. This resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

Adopted this the 6th day of March, 2017.

Also, the Board voted on January 9, 2017, to authorize the County Manager to work with the County Attorney to enter into a capital campaign management agreement with Convergent Non-Profit Solutions for a public/private economic development fund raising campaign. However, the County will need to directly enter into an agreement with the new Rutherford County Economic Development Association to fund this capital campaign management agreement so that the Rutherford County Economic Development Association may directly enter into the agreement with Convergent. Clarification of the Board was requested since the County will not be directly entering into the agreement with Convergent.

Commissioner Benfield moved to authorize the County Manager to work with the County Attorney to enter into an agreement with the Rutherford County Economic Development Association for the funding of a capital campaign management agreement so that the association may enter into an agreement with Convergent Non-Profit Solutions for a public-private economic development fund raising campaign. 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

B. ID 17-1285 Contract for Engineering Services for Cliffside Sanitary District

Planning and Public Works Director Danny Searcy told the Board that a grant was recently awarded to Rutherford County by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality that will be used for engineering services for the Cliffside Sanitary District. The County proposes to enter into a contract with W.K. Dickson & Company, Inc. for work on the Cliffside Sanitary District Wastewater System Merger/Consolidation Engineering Study.

Commissioner Lovelace moved to authorize the County Manager to negotiate and enter into a contract with W.K. Dickson for engineering services for the Cliffside Sanitary District and authorize County Attorney, Finance Officer, and Clerk to the Board, and other County officials to sign and execute all documents in support of this action. 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

Commissioner Benfield made a motion to accept grant funds from NCDEQ for a consolidation engineering report of the Cliffside Sanitary District in the amount of \$50,000 with a 1.5% (\$750) local match. 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

C. ID 17-1274 Financial RFP for Vehicles and Associated Equipment

Bids were received on February 23, 2017 for financing of vehicles and associated equipment that were included in the 2016-2017 budget. Financing will be a 36-month term in accordance with G.S. 160A-20 for the following vehicles and associated equipment:

Sheriff - 12 vehicles

EMS - 2 remounts

DSS – 1 vehicle

Solid Waste – 1 rolloff truck

Schools - 4 vehicles; 4 mowers; 1 activity bus; 1 wrecker bed

Proposals were as follows:

Bank	Rate	Other Costs
Santander	2.22%	Escrow fees \$2,000 minimum up to \$2,500
US Bancorp	1.593%	No fee escrow account
Carolina Alliance Bank	2.23%	No prepayment penalty
Sun Trust	1.87%	Documentation Fee \$250
First Citizens Bank	1.58%	No fee escrow account

Finance Director Paula Roach stated that First Citizens is recommended as the qualified lowest bidder. Funds for the financing have been budgeted in the Vehicle Replacement Fund.

Vice Chairman Toney made a motion to approve the low financing bid of First Citizens. 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

D. ID 17-1275 Resolution Authorizing the Negotiation of an Installment Financing Contract, Directing the Publication of Notice with Respect Thereto and Providing for Certain Other Related Matters Thereto

A resolution was provided for the Board's consideration that would authorize the negotiation of an installment financing contract to

- (a) finance all or a portion of the costs to
 - (1) construct, equip and furnish an Applied Science and Technology Building at Isothermal Community College ("ICC"),
 - (2) replace roofs on the Business Science Building and the Communications Building at ICC,
 - (3) renovate and improve the Rutherford County Detention Center and
 - (4) acquire land for future County development and expansion (collectively, the "Project") and
- (b) pay certain costs related to the execution and delivery of the Contract; and (2) to execute and deliver a deed of trust and security agreement (the "Deed of Trust") related to the County's fee simple interest in all or a portion of the real property on which the Business Science Building and the Communications Building at ICC are or will be located, together with the improvements thereon (collectively, the "Mortgaged Property"), to secure the County's obligations under the Contract.

The resolution also calls for a public hearing to be held at the April 3, 2017 meeting of the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners.

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 OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF RUTHERFORD, NORTH CAROLINA, AUTHORIZING THE NEGOTIATION OF AN INSTALLMENT FINANCING CONTRACT, DIRECTING THE PUBLICATION OF NOTICE WITH RESPECT THERETO AND PROVIDING FOR CERTAIN OTHER RELATED MATTERS THERETO

WHEREAS, the County of Rutherford, North Carolina (the "*County*") is a validly existing political subdivision of the State of North Carolina, existing as such under and by virtue of the Constitution, statutes and laws of the State of North Carolina (the "*State*");

WHEREAS, the County has the power, pursuant to the General Statutes of North Carolina to (1) purchase real and personal property, (2) enter into installment financing contracts in order to finance the purchase of real and personal property used, or to be used, for public purposes, and (3) grant a security interest in some or all of the property purchased to secure repayment of the purchase price;

WHEREAS, the Board hereby determines that it is in the best interest of the County (1) to execute and deliver an installment financing contract (the "*Contract*") under Section 160A-20 of the General Statutes of North Carolina (the "*Act*") in order to (a) finance all or a portion of the costs to (1) construct, equip and furnish an Applied Science and Technology Building at Isothermal Community College ("*ICC*"), (2) replace roofs on the Business Science Building and the Communications Building at ICC, (3) renovate and improve the Rutherford County Detention Center and (4) acquire land for future County development and expansion (collectively, the "*Project*") and (b) pay certain costs related to the execution and delivery of the Contract; and (2) to execute and deliver a deed of trust and security agreement (the "*Deed of Trust*") related to the County's fee simple interest in all or a portion of the real property on which the Business Science Building and the Communications Building at ICC are or will be located, together with the improvements thereon (collectively, the "*Mortgaged Property*"), to secure the County's obligations under the Contract;

WHEREAS, the Board hereby determines that (1) the Project will permit the County to carry out public functions that it is authorized by law to perform and (2) entering into the Contract and the Deed of Trust is necessary and expedient for the County by virtue of the findings presented herein;

WHEREAS, the County hereby determines that the Contract would allow the County to purchase the Project and take title thereto at a favorable interest rate currently available in the financial marketplace and on terms advantageous to the County;

WHEREAS, the County hereby determines that (1) the estimated cost of the Project is an amount not to exceed \$7,500,000 and (2) such cost exceeds the amount that can be prudently raised from currently available appropriations, unappropriated fund balances and non-voted bonds that could be issued by the County in the current fiscal year pursuant to Article V, Section 4 of the Constitution of the State;

WHEREAS, although the cost of the Project pursuant to the Contract is expected to exceed the cost of the Project pursuant to a bond financing for the same undertaking, the County hereby determines that the cost of the Project pursuant to the Contract and Deed of Trust and the obligations of the County thereunder are preferable to a general obligation bond financing or revenue bond financing for several reasons, including but not limited to the following: (1) the cost of a special election necessary to approve a general obligation bond financing, as required by the laws of the State, would result in the expenditure of significant funds; and (2) the time required for a general obligation bond election would cause an unnecessary delay which would thereby decrease the financial benefits of the Project and (3) no revenues are produced by the Project so as to permit a revenue bond financing;

WHEREAS, the County has determined and hereby determines that the estimated cost of the Project pursuant to the Contract reasonably compares with an estimate of similar costs under a bond financing for the same undertaking as a result of the findings set forth above;

WHEREAS, the County does not anticipate a future property tax increase to pay installment payments falling due under the Contract;

WHEREAS, the sums to fall due under the Contract will be adequate but not excessive for its proposed purpose;

WHEREAS, Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP, as special counsel ("*Special Counsel*"), will render an opinion to the effect that entering into the Contract and the transactions contemplated thereby are authorized by law;

WHEREAS, no deficiency judgment may be rendered against the County in any action for its breach of the Contract, and the taxing power of the County is not and may not be pledged in any way directly or indirectly or contingently to secure any moneys due under the Contract;

WHEREAS, the County is not in default under any of its debt service obligations;

WHEREAS, the County's budget process and Annual Budget Ordinance are in compliance with the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act, and external auditors have determined that the County has conformed with generally accepted accounting principles as applied to governmental units in preparing its Annual Budget ordinance;

WHEREAS, past audit reports of the County indicate that its debt management and contract obligation payment policies have been carried out in strict compliance with the law, and the County has not been censured by the North Carolina Local Government Commission (the "*LGC*"), external auditors or any other regulatory agencies in connection with such debt management and contract obligation payment policies;

WHEREAS, a public hearing on the Contract after publication of a notice with respect to such public hearing must be held and approval of the LGC with respect to entering the Contract must be received; and

WHEREAS, the County hereby determines that all findings, conclusions and determinations of the County in this Resolution are subject to modification or affirmation after all interested parties have been afforded the opportunity to present their comments at a public hearing regarding the execution and delivery of the Contract and the Project to be financed thereby.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF RUTHERFORD, NORTH CAROLINA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. ***Authorization to Negotiate the Contract.*** The County Manager and Finance Director, with advice from the County Attorney and Special Counsel, are hereby authorized and directed, individually and collectively, to negotiate on behalf of the County for the financing of the Project pursuant to the Contract to be entered into in accordance with the provisions of the Act in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$7,500,000.

Section 2. ***Application to LGC.*** The Finance Director or her designee is hereby directed to file with the LGC an application for its approval of the Contract and all relevant transactions contemplated thereby on a form prescribed by the LGC and to state in such application such facts and to attach thereto such exhibits regarding the County and its financial condition as may be required by the LGC.

Section 3. ***Financing Team.*** The financing team of Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP, as special counsel, and Stephens Inc., as financial advisor, is approved.

Section 4. ***Public Hearing.*** A public hearing (the "*Public Hearing*") shall be conducted by the Board on April 3, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Room, Rutherford County Office Building, 289 North Main Street, Rutherfordton, North Carolina, concerning the Contract, the proposed Project and any other transactions contemplated therein and associated therewith.

Section 5. ***Notice of Public Hearing.*** The Clerk to the Board is hereby directed to cause a notice of the Public Hearing, in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A, to be published once in a qualified newspaper of general circulation within the County no fewer than 10 days prior to the Public Hearing.

Section 6. ***Repealer.*** All motions, orders, resolutions and parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 7. ***Effective Date.*** This Resolution is effective on the date of its adoption.

EXHIBIT A

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

At its March 6, 2017 meeting, the Board of Commissioners (the "*Board*") of the County of Rutherford, North Carolina (the "*County*") adopted a resolution authorizing the County to:

1. enter into negotiations for the financing of all or a portion of the costs to (a) construct, equip and furnish an Applied Science and Technology Building at Isothermal Community College ("*ICC*"), (b) replace roofs on the Business Science Building and the Communications Building at ICC, (c) renovate and improve the Rutherford County Detention Center and (d) acquire land for future County development and expansion (collectively, the "*Project*") pursuant to an installment financing contract with a financial institution to be determined (the "*Contract*") in a principal amount not to exceed \$7,500,000, under which the County will make installment payments; and

2. execute and deliver a Deed of Trust, Security Agreement and Fixture Filing (the "*Deed of Trust*"), granting to the entity, or its assigns, providing the funds to the County under the Contract a lien and security interest in all or a portion of the real property on which the Business Science Building and the Communications Building at ICC are or will be located (collectively, the "*Sites*") and any improvements thereon (collectively, together with the Sites, the "*Mortgaged Property*"), in order to secure its obligations under the Contract.

Each of the Sites are located on ICC Loop Road on the campus of ICC located in Spindale, North Carolina. The Mortgaged Property will be mortgaged under the Deed of Trust. On the County's payment of all installment payments due under the Contract, the Contract and any lien created by the Deed of Trust will terminate, and the County's title to the Mortgaged Property will be unencumbered.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Sections 160A-20 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, that on April 3, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Room, Rutherford County Office Building, 289 North Main Street, Rutherfordton, North Carolina, a public hearing will be conducted concerning the Contract, the proposed Project and any other transactions contemplated therein and associated therewith. All interested parties are invited to present comments at the public hearing regarding the execution and delivery of the Contract and the Project to be financed thereby.

E. ID 17-1281 Rutherford County Transit Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy with Revisions

A copy of Transit Department's revised Drug and Alcohol Policy was provided for the Board's consideration. The only change to the revised documents was an update to the Medical Review Officer and Substance Abuse Professional listed. Board approval is required per a NCDOT compliance audit that was held in November, 2016.

Commissioner Benfield made a motion to approve the Rutherford County Transit Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy with Revisions. 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

F. ID 17-1278 Queen's Gap Development Projects 8 and 9 Bid Tab

Bids were received on Wednesday, February 22, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at the Rutherford County Office Building for the Queens Gap Development Projects 8 & 9.

	Bid Amount
Site Development Corporation	\$ 946,731.90
Bennick Grading	\$1,163,903.99
Sisk Grading	\$1,555,623.96
JLS Company LLC	\$2,035,648.74

Planning and Public Works Director Danny Searcy said the low bidder was Site Development Corporation with a bid amount of \$ 946,713.90. He recommended awarding the contract to Site Development Corporation in the amount of \$946,713.90 to complete the project.

Commissioner Holland made a motion to approve the bid tab and authorize the County Manager to execute contracts and other documents with the recommended low bidder in support of the Commissioners' action. 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

G. ID 17-1276 Authorization to Purchase Property

Solid Waste Director James Kilgo told the Board that Rutherford County owns an old landfill site on the east side of US 221A Highway in the High Shoals Township which is landlocked. Mr. Steve Ray Matheny owns property which the County wishes to purchase that would allow access to the old landfill. Rutherford County and Mr. Matheny have entered into a contract that would allow the purchase and sale of the property. It was requested that the Board approve the purchase with a closing date of March 15, 2017.

Commissioner Holland made a motion to authorize the County Manager, Finance Officer, Clerk to the Board, and other County officials to sign and execute all documents in support of the purchase of the property. 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

H. ID 17- 1273 Resolution Requesting the Addition of Roads to the State Secondary Road System

At the September 8, 2014 meeting of the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners, the Board approved a resolution requesting that the NCDOT approve roads to be added to the system and that a report be provided to the Board of Commissioners regarding the roads which are added. Prior to passage of this September 8, 2014 resolution, NCDOT was required to seek an approving resolution from the Board of Commissioners to add a road to the state system.

Mr. Jason Butler, Engineering Technician with NCDOT, has advised that a comparable resolution must be approved by each Board of Commissioners when they take office. A resolution was provided for the Board's consideration.

Commissioner Benfield made a motion 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

**A RESOLUTION
FROM RUTHERFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TO THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
TO REQUEST THE ADDITION OF ROADS TO THE
STATE MAINTAINED SECONDARY ROAD SYSTEM**

WHEREAS, petitions are being filed with the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners for addition of roads to the North Carolina State Department of Transportation; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners is of the opinion that Rutherford County does not investigate these petitioned roads for addition; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners relies on the North Carolina State Department of Transportation to investigate these petitioned roads and to determine if they meet the established standards and criteria for addition to the State Maintenance System.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners that the Division of Highways is hereby requested to process all road additions without the further approval of the Board of Commissioners. However, the Board of Commissioners does hereby request notification of each addition to the State Maintenance System.

Adopted this the 6th day of March, 2017.

I. Tourism Development Authority Update

Tourism Development Authority Chairman Tom Lundy spoke to the Board regarding a proposed goal of the County Commissioners to increase the occupancy tax 1% to the maximum level of 6% and use these funds for education in Rutherford County. He said the TDA believes that taxes paid by visitors in Rutherford County should be used to generate more visitors in Rutherford County. TDA also feels very strongly about education in the County as trained workers are needed by the hospitality industry.

Mr. Lundy also gave the Board an update on the Strategic Tourism Plan. As that plan is completed, the TDA will be looking at ways to fund the plan. The 1% occupancy increase will be a recommendation.

TDA Director Don Cason said TDA is committed to supporting education. Responding to a question by Commissioner Lovelace, Mr. Lundy advised that at the end of the process in updating the Strategic Tourism Plan, there will be a tangible recommendation regarding education and tourism.

J. ID 17-1283 Goals for Rutherford County Commissioners – 2017-2018

Chairman King told those present that on February 24, 2017, the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners met to discuss possible goals which they will address during FY 2017-2018. He listed the priority goals discussed by the Board. County Manager Steve Garrison requested that the Board

approve the list of goals so that staff can move forward in addressing these.

Overarching Focus Points

- **Job creation**
- **Transparency – Promote good government by operating in a professional manner**
- **Support Education – K-12 & Isothermal Community College**
 - Enhanced partnerships
 - Capital Facility Needs
- **Infrastructure Enhancement**
 - Water, sewer, gas, roads/highways, broadband, etc.
- **Improved Quality of Life**
- **Public Safety**
- **Build a Foundation to Improve Service Delivery and Access to Services**

Priority Goal #1

- **Enhance Economic Development and Job Creation Opportunities**
 - Increase industrial and manufacturing development
 - Work with the Chamber and TDA to evaluate and identify the need for conference/meeting space and the current inventory
 - Work with Economic Development and IPDC to identify opportunities for a regional industrial park
 - Reestablish business retention programming

Priority Goal #2

- **Support Education**
 - Work with our legislators to introduce a local bill that would allow Rutherford County to place a complete description on the ballot for the local 1/4¢ Sales Tax referendum
 - Work with our legislators to introduce a local bill to amend the County Occupancy Tax legislation to increase the Occupancy Tax Rate from 5% to 6% and for the additional 1% to go to support public education

Priority Goal #3

- **Continue Advocacy for Infrastructure to Promote Good Jobs and Business Opportunities**
 - Promote designation of US-74 to I-74 or to Future I-74
 - Promote completion of Hwy. 221 project
 - Promote Hwy. 221A straightening project
 - Public/private partnership for broadband planning and deployment
 - Infrastructure expansion and improvement
 - Cliffside Sanitary District
 - Water/sewer expansion to support commercial, retail, manufacturing, industrial and tourism opportunities

Priority Goal #4

- **Enhance Service Delivery and Customer Access**
 - Evaluate creating a new consolidated Emergency Services/Public Safety model to include EMS, 911 & Emergency Management

- Complete an analysis including a feasibility study for EMS to go from 24 hour shifts to 12 hour shifts
- Improve ground transportation options for customers flying in to the RC Airport
- Invest in new technologies to create greater efficiencies and improve customer experience

Priority Goal #5

- **Improve Quality of Life**

- Host a free medical and mental health fair for county employees
- Identify gaps, obstacles and improvements needed for citizens to access mental health and substance abuse services & programming
- Support the RC Education Foundation Backpack program to help reduce childhood food insecurity
- Participate in activities to develop, expand, support and improve outdoor recreation opportunities
- Evaluate and consider options to help address roadside trash

Priority Goal #6

- **Improve Public Safety and Quality of Life**

- Request that the Planning Commission research and report back to the Commissioners on the following subjects:
- Consider any updates needed for the Mobile Home Park Ordinance to address “tiny homes”/Park Model homes
- Cell tower ordinance
- Review current solar farm ordinance for any possible updates needed

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Toney and seconded by Commissioner Holland to remove the second goal under Priority Goal #2 from the list of goals of the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners. 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

Vice Chairman Toney made a motion to approve the goals with the one goal removed. 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

VII. Adjournment

At 7:01 P.M. Commissioner Lovelace made a motion to adjourn. 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

Chairman, Board of Commissioners

Vice Chairman, Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Clerk, Board of Commissioners