



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

**Rutherford County
Board of Commissioners
Minutes of February 4, 2019**

**Monday, February 4, 2019
6:00 PM**

I. Call to Order

Chairman King called the February 4, 2019 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

Mr. Scott Carpenter led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Agenda Approval

Commissioner Lovelace moved to approve the agenda with the addition of *VI. New Business, C. Grant for the New Location of the Rutherford County Public Safety 911 Center*. 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

II. Public Comments

Mr. Tommy Richards referenced Special Proceedings 15SP-196 Richards vs Richards. He expressed his displeasure with the process used in Rutherford County for the sale of property by the upset bid procedure. A farm which he had been advised would never be split into parcels was split, and the sale was never advertised. It was listed in a book of special proceedings in the Clerk of Court's Office, and he had no knowledge of this. He had asked for contact information for the North Carolina Administrative Courts but had been told that this could not be provided.

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. ID 19-1924 Minutes of January 7, 2019

B. ID 19-1921 Tax Refunds and Releases

Refund amount totaling \$2,530.76

Releases greater than \$100 totaling \$19,470.23

Releases less than \$100 totaling \$1,362.22

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

IV. Commissioners/Appointments

A. ID 19-1926 Appointment to Board of Equalization and Review

The terms of office for three members of the Board of Equalization and Review expired on December 31, 2018. These vacancies had been advertised and applications had been accepted. Mr. Joseph Deyak applied to serve as a member from District #1.

Commissioner Benfield moved to appoint Mr. Joseph Deyak to the Board of Equalization and Review. 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

B. ID 19-1923 Appointment to Planning Commission

Due to scheduling conflicts, Mr. Danny Wells resigned from the Planning Commission. Mr. Wells was a representative on the Planning Commission from District 2. The Board agreed to advertise the vacancy and receive applications.

B. ID 19-1922 Appointment to Isothermal Planning and Development Commission Board of Directors

It was announced that Ms. Cindy Adair's term on the Isothermal Planning and Development Commission Board of Directors would expire on April 1, 2019. The Board agreed to advertise the vacancy and accept applications.

V. Commissioner Reports

A. ID 19-1919 Blue Ridge Community Action Presentation

Ms. Mary Wright, Community Services Director of Blue Ridge Community Action, told the Board that Blue Ridge Community Action intends to apply for funding provided by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Economic Opportunity. The Office of Economic Opportunity helps low-income individuals and families achieve self-sufficiency. They work to improve the social and economic well-being of individuals, families and communities across North Carolina. Local agencies help individuals find jobs, locate housing, obtain shelter, have food, obtain access to health care and take care of children.

The funding level for July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020 is \$456,973 (\$170,213 for Burke, \$152,280 for Caldwell, and \$134,480 for Rutherford County.) This funding will serve 185 families.

Mr. Travis McEntire, case manager for Rutherford County, stated that he works to help families understand how to rise above poverty. Subsidized care can be stopped. The goal for this year is to bring 5 families out of poverty.

B. ID 19- 1925 Tourism Development Authority Report

Tourism Development Authority Director Don Cason provided the quarterly report from the Tourism Development Authority. Occupancy tax receipts remain strong, and expenses should remain under budget. This will provide a healthy fund balance to assist with the Tourism Asset Development Plan.

VII. New Business

A. ID 19-1927 Resolution Supporting School Calendar Flexibility for Local Boards of Education

Assistant Superintendent David Sutton told the Board there have been many successes in Rutherford County by early college expansion. Students who are concurrently enrolled in their home high school and Isothermal Community College can earn successive credentials which include certificates, diplomas, and associate degrees. However, misalignment of Rutherford County Schools' and Isothermal Community College's academic calendars results in substantial barriers to students access and participation. Also, local parents want students to have the same academic calendars regardless of grade level to ensure stability for the family. A resolution was presented for the Board's consideration that supported the legislation designed to align local public school and community college academic calendars and expand early college learning experience.

Commissioner Lovelace 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

A Resolution in Support of Legislation Designed to Align Local Public School and Community College Academic Calendars and Expand Early College Learning Experiences

WHEREAS, the Rutherford County Board of Education ("Board") faithfully executes its duties as established by; and in accordance with, the laws of the State of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the Board, through its deliberations and in its performance of those duties, strives to act in the best educational interests of the children and citizens of Rutherford County; and

WHEREAS, Rutherford County Schools has established and maintains a strong institutional partnership with Isothermal Community College aimed at improving education and workforce outcomes for Rutherford County residents through education; and

WHEREAS, the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners strongly supports an effective, lasting partnership between Rutherford County Schools and Isothermal Community College and values that partnership as a powerful mechanism for local economic recovery and development; and

WHEREAS, the Education and Workforce Innovation Commission, established by the North Carolina General Assembly, awarded Rutherford County Schools recurring competitive grant funds in 2014 to support development of innovative high school and postsecondary course pathways aligned to local and regional workforce trends; and

WHEREAS, Rutherford County Schools has leveraged those grant funds, its strong partnership with Isothermal Community College; and North Carolina's *College and Career Promise* program to establish local high school and community college course pathways leading to progressive credentials aligned to local and regional workforce trends; and

WHEREAS, full implementation of those course pathways requires the concurrent enrollment of local students in high school courses provided through Rutherford County Schools and in postsecondary courses provided through Isothermal Community College; and

WHEREAS, misalignment of Rutherford County Schools' and Isothermal Community College's academic calendars results in substantial barriers to students' access and participation, including incompatible class schedules and unavailability of various public school services and resources, including inter-campus transportation services; school nutrition services; technology and other material resources; and, access to school counselors, distance learning advisors; and other student support personnel; and

WHEREAS, based on both research evidence and the notable success of Rutherford Early College High School, a 2013 National Blue-Ribbon School, Rutherford County Schools

maintains a long-standing commitment to expanding early college principles and practices within traditional school environments at the high school, middle school; and elementary school levels; and

WHEREAS, local parents express their strong desire for children in their households who variously attend elementary, middle; and high schools within Rutherford County Schools to observe the same academic calendar, regardless of school or grade-level enrollment, in order to preserve continuity and ensure stability for their families; and

WHEREAS, creating symmetry between the academic calendars of Rutherford County Schools and Isothermal Community College allows students to fully realize the benefits of innovative high school and postsecondary course pathways; expands Rutherford County Schools' capacity to translate best practices from the early college model into traditional school environments; and, ensures sensible and attractive scheduling stability for local students and their families; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Assembly also values efforts to maximize workforce readiness through efficient and effective public school and postsecondary partnerships and through school calendar designs that reflect local and statewide educational priorities, as well as the observed needs and interests of citizens served by those institutions.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners applauds and strongly supports legislation within the North Carolina General Assembly designed to align local public school and community college academic calendars and to broadly extend early college learning experiences across the K-12 school environment.

Adopted this the 4th day of February, 2019.

B. ID 19-1920 Report on 2017 Real Property Tax Liens and Request to Advertise Real Property Tax Liens

Revenue Director Sherry Lavender told the Board that a list of the outstanding 2018 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 in the local newspaper one time during the period of March 1 through June 30 pursuant to NCGS 105-369(c)

Commissioner Benfield made a motion to accept the report on real property tax liens. 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 approve the advertisement of real property tax liens one time during the period of March 1 through June 30. 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

C. Grant for the New Location of the Rutherford County Public Safety 911 Center

Lt. Greg Dotson, 911 Director, told the Board that a grant request was submitted to the NC State 911 Board for funds to build/purchase a new office for the 911 operations. This endeavor was successful with an amount authorized by the 911 Board of \$1,161,548. A location on Sparks Drive in Forest City is currently being evaluated, and the County Attorney is reviewing the agreement. Any amendments that may be allowed to the agreement will have to be completed, reviewed, finalized and sent to the 911 Board before March 1st. He requested that the Board authorize the County Manager and the County Attorney to negotiate the specifics and terms of an agreement with the NC State 911 Board.

Vice Chairman Toney moved to authorize the County Manager and the County Attorney to negotiate the terms and enter into an agreement for the grant with the North Carolina 911 Board. 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

VIII. Adjournment

At 6:49 P.M. Commissioner Holland made a motion to adjourn. 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

Chairman, Board of Commissioners

Vice Chairman, Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Clerk, Board of Commissioners