



Rutherford County

Meeting Minutes - Final

Board of Commissioners

Monday, October 5, 2020

6:00 PM 289 N. Main St. Rutherfordton NC 28139 Commission
Chambers

I. Call to Order

Chairman King called the October 5, 2020 meeting of the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners to order.

Present: 5 - Chairperson Bryan King, Vice Chairperson Alan Toney, Commissioner Michael Benfield, Commissioner Greg Lovelace and Commissioner Eddie Holland

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Lovelace led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Agenda Approval

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

Aye: 5 - Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Lovelace and Commissioner Holland

Nay: 0

II. Public Comments

Mr. Chad Davis stated that he is a Rutherford County citizen and taxpayer and works in the mental health field. He opposes the confederate monument on the Courthouse lawn as it is a beckon to racism. White supremacists are intimidating those who want it removed. He said advocates for its removal are not asking that it be demolished but are asking that it be removed from its present location as it is a symbol of hatred and pain, and some still feel that pain.

Mr. Zack Kopkin said as a Jewish person, he just went through the season of Rosh Hashanah and he spent time fasting and contemplating on our ability to grow and change. Our breath creates us, but the pandemic and racism are robbing people of their breath. Housing, income, wealth, and education are unequal because of systemic racism. He stated that he wants to make this better together.

III. Consent Agenda

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

Aye: 5 - Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Lovelace and Commissioner Holland

Nay: 0

- A. [ID 20-2609](#) Minutes of September 8, 2020 County Commissioners' Meeting

Attachments: [20200908Minutes](#)

- B. [ID 20-2614](#) Tax Refunds and Releases - October, 2020

Attachments: [Tax Releases and Refunds September 21, 2020.pdf](#)

IV. Commissioners/Appointments

- A. [ID 20-2617](#) Appointment to the Library Board of Trustees

An application was received from Ms. Darla Henderson to serve on the Library Board of Trustees as a representative from District 2. The vacancy on this board was advertised, and applications were accepted.

Commissioner Lovelace moved to appoint Ms. Darla Henderson to the Library Board of Trustees as a representative from District 2 to a term ending June 30, 2023. Commissioner Holland seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:

Aye: 5 - Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Lovelace and Commissioner Holland

Nay: 0

- B. [ID 20-2611](#) Appointment to North Carolina Arts Council Grassroots Committee

A vacancy occurred on the North Carolina Arts Council Grassroots Committee due to the resignation of Ms. Sally Leshner. The vacancy was advertised, and applications were accepted. Mr. Johnathan Jones applied to serve.

Commissioner Benfield moved to appoint Mr. Johnathan Jones to the North Carolina Arts Council Grassroots Committee to a term expiring October 6, 2023. Commissioner Lovelace seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:

Aye: 5 - Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Lovelace and Commissioner Holland

Nay: 0

- C. [ID 20-2613](#) Appointments to Watershed Review Board

The terms of office for members of the Watershed Review Board had expired. The Board agreed to advertise, accept applications, and make appointments at a future meeting.

V. Commissioner Reports

- A. [ID 20-2615](#) Partners Behavioral Health Management Update

Attachments: [Partners Behavioral Health Rutherford Presentation 10-2020](#)

Community Engagement Director Tara Conrad of Partners Behavioral Health Management provided on update to the Board on Partners' Supporting Rutherford County Year 1 (7/1/19 – 6/30/20). Partners served 3201 members which did not include those receiving treatment while incarcerated during this period, and the Medicaid penetration

rate increased from 6.9% to 15.8% meaning more individuals are getting connected to treatment.

Partners contracted with 206 providers to serve Rutherford County members, and 22 of these providers are located in Rutherford County. Of the 3,128 Rutherford County members who received services, 1,830 received services in Rutherford County. The total amount expensed was \$25,632,010.09.

Partners has been addressing the opioid addiction by helping recruit and fund two local recovery houses and by supplying Narcan to first responders. The year has been very fruitful as Partners has increased the number of individuals receiving treatment, increased available treatment options, increased community engagement activities, supported new programs in the County, and actively engaged community members and leaders in identifying needs and use of local funds.

County Manager Steve Garrison pointed out that Rutherford County now has a County representative on the Partners' Board of Directors, and Partners collaborates with Rutherford County regarding the use of Maintenance of Effort funds appropriated by the County.

VI. New Business

A. [ID 20-2616](#) Budget Amendments - October, 2020

Attachments: [Budget Amendments 10-5-20](#)

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

Commissioner Benfield moved to approve the budget amendments.

Commissioner Holland seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:

Aye: 5 - Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Lovelace and Commissioner Holland

Nay: 0

B. [ID 20-2610](#) NC Arts Council Grassroots Committee Recommendations

Attachments: [Grant Award for Grassroots Arts Program](#)
[Grassroots Arts Program 2020-21 Subgrant Committee Summary](#)

Public Works and Planning Project Manager Aubrey Clay told the Board that the NC Arts Council Grassroots Committee met on August 12 to review and make funding recommendations for grassroots projects submitted by Rutherford County agencies. Rutherford County received \$20,188 this year from the NC Arts Council. Of this amount, \$3,457 must go toward multicultural programs. The funding recommendations by the committee were:

Organization Name	Requested Amount	Average Score of the Selection Committee	Selection Committee's Recommended Award Amount
Foundation Performing Arts Center – Isothermal Community College	\$6,500	4.33	\$6,872.50 (Multicultural)
Rutherford Chamber Consort	\$4,400	3.85	\$4,622.50
Symphony of Rutherford County	\$5,000	4.56	\$5,222.50

Rutherford County Visual Artist Guild	\$3,248	4.00	\$3,470.50
Total Requested - \$19,298.00	Awarded		
\$20,188.00			

Commissioner Lovelace moved to approve the funding recommendation by the North Carolina Arts Council Grassroots Committee. Commissioner Benfield seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:

Aye: 5 - Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Lovelace and Commissioner Holland

Nay: 0

C. [ID 20-2608](#) Meeting Dates for Rutherford County Board of Commissioners for 2021

Attachments: [Meeting Schedule 2021](#)

A resolution was presented establishing meeting dates for regular County Commissioners' meetings in 2021.

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

Aye: 5 - Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Lovelace and Commissioner Holland

Nay: 0

Enactment No: RES 20-013

VII. Closed Session

A. [ID 20-2619](#) Closed Session - ATTORNEY CLIENT NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3)

Commissioner Benfield moved to go into Closed Session for a discussion with the County Attorney. The County Manager and the Clerk to the Board would be included in the session. Commissioner Holland seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:

Aye: 5 - Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield, Commissioner Lovelace and Commissioner Holland

Nay: 0

6:43 P.M. - The Board went into Closed Session.
7:04 P.M. - The Board returned to Regular Session.

VIII. Information

A. [ID 20-2612](#) Tax Collector's Report - October, 2020

Attachments: [Tax Collectors Report October 2020](#)

IX. Adjournment

At 7:04 P.M. Commissioner Lovelace made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Benfield seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was:

Aye: 5 - Commissioner King, Commissioner Toney, Commissioner Benfield,
Commissioner Lovelace and Commissioner Holland

Nay: 0