

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD AT THE RUTHERFORD COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING IN THE AUDITORIUM ON MAY 9, 2011 AT 8:00 A.M.**

**PRESENT: CHAIRMAN WILLIAM ECKLER  
VICE CHAIRMAN JULIUS OWENS  
SUSAN CROWE  
EDDIE HOLLAND  
ROGER RICHARD**

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**CALL TO ORDER/INVOCATION**

Chairman Eckler called the meeting to order, and Vice Chairman Owens led in prayer.

**SENATOR DEBBIE CLARY/REPRESENTATIVE MIKE HAGER/LEGISLATION**

Chairman Eckler welcomed Senator Debbie Clary and Representative Mike Hager and asked for comments from them.

Representative Hager told the Board that the North Carolina House of Representative had passed a budget which he described as fiscally responsible. The budget which had the largest tax decrease in North Carolina's history funded every teacher position in grades K-12 even though education was cut by 5.2%. Not all assistant positions had been funded. There was a 15% shortfall that had been addressed. This budget had been passed to the Senate.

Senator Clary said community colleges in North Carolina were happy with the House budget. There were a lot of cuts to regulations which were not business friendly. Redistricting is coming up this year so public hearings are being held throughout the state. Public hearings regarding regulatory reforms are also taking place throughout the state. Corporate income tax is also being reduced.

Commissioner Crowe asked about the Senate Bill entitled, *An Act to Direct the Establishment of Public Defender Offices on a Statewide Basis*, and the potential cost to the county as the county may need to provide space for these public defenders. Senator Clary said the bill, if approved, would show significant savings after the first years. Presently, there is no way to control the hours billed for public defenders. There will be no cost to the county as it will be fully funded. Rent will be covered in the first and possibly second year.

Sheriff Francis asked about the status of a bill which would shift all misdemeanants to county jails regardless of the length of their sentence. He stated would be a huge cost to the county. Representative Hager said he would investigate this.

When Chairman Eckler asked about the status of a bill regarding well permitting and a proposal that the county assume the responsibility of county roads, Representative Hager said well

permitting continues to be a law but it has been defunded by the state. Also, he advised that secondary roads are not in their budget.

Senator Clary said she and Representative Hager had worked very closely with the NCACC to make sure that additional costs are not sent to counties. Representative Hager said the budget is now at \$19 billion. If cuts had not been made, the budget would have been \$22 billion.

Senator Clary responded to Human Resources' Director Judy Toney's question regarding employees' contribution to the State Health Plan by stating that she believes a cost of \$10 and \$20 will stay in place but the cost to retirees will be removed.

Mr. Omer Causey asked about a bill regarding broadband. Representative Hager advised that the bill does not prevent a local government from being in the broadband business, but it does provide that certain rules must be followed.

Senator Clary clarified some issues regarding Senate Bill 8. She also assured the Board that they will follow up closely on the indigent defense fund to make sure no costs are placed on the county.

**RECESS**

1:05 P.M. - Recess  
1:15 P.M. - Reconvene

**AIRPORT/BUDGET AMENDMENT/VISION 100 GRANT**

The Board again discussed a Vision 100 grant for the Rutherford County Airport. Commissioner Crowe made a motion to delay action on this request until the June meeting in order to receive clarifying information from the Airport Authority. The vote of approval was unanimous.

Finance Officer Julie Scherer told the Board that she would contact the Division of Aviation to determine a date that the grant documents must be signed in order to receive the grant. She will also ask about the process for changing the grant.

**PUBLIC HEARING/FISCAL YEAR 2011-2012 BUDGET**

A motion was made by Commissioner Richard to hold a public hearing regarding the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 budget at the regular County Commissioners' meeting on June 6 at 6:00 P.M. The vote of approval was unanimous.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting after a motion was made by Commissioner Richard.

1:36 P.M. - Adjourned

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Chairman, Board of Commissioners

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Vice Chairman, Board of Commissioners

Attest:

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Clerk, Board of Commissioners