

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD AT THE FOUNDATION AT ISOTHERMAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE ON MAY 11, 2011 AT 12:30 P.M.

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

ABSENT: ROGER RICHARD

CALL TO ORDER/INVOCATION

Chairman Eckler called the meeting of the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners to order. Chairman John Mark Bennett called the meeting of the Rutherford County Board of Education to order.

Vice Chairman Julius Owens led in prayer.

BOARD OF EDUCATION/BUDGET

County Manager John Condrey gave a brief overview of the recommended Rutherford County budget listing reductions that have been made by the county in order to achieve a balanced budget. He explained that the recommended budget appropriates a portion of Rutherford County's fund balance. The appropriation to the schools is recommended at the 2010-2011 level which was a 1.25% decrease from Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

Finance Director Julie Scherer provided information to the Boards regarding the refinancing of schools and county debt. The market has shown positive signs recently. She said it is possible that a recommendation may be made to the Board at the June meeting regarding the refinancing.

Superintendent Janet Mason spoke to the Board regarding the 2011-2012 Rutherford County Schools' budget which had recently been presented to the county. She stated that the current expense budget request is calculated based on the 2010-2011 request with an increase of \$402,338 due to the state mandated increases for fringe benefits, expected increases in energy and fuel costs, and the additional tipping fee at the Rutherford County Landfill.

Superintendent Mason elaborated on an increase of \$164,000 in payments to the charter schools in 2010-2011. An additional increase of \$170,000 is anticipated in 2011-2012 for a total anticipated distribution to charter schools of \$1,194,000.

Ms. Heidi Kerns, the school's Finance Director, reviewed the school's budget request in more detail citing key factors which have increased the budgetary numbers for the schools. There is a projected increase in fuel cost of 10%, a projected increase in energy cost of 8%, and additional tipping fees at the landfill that will total approximately \$156,000. She also elaborated on the cuts to

schools by the budgets proposed at the state level. Federal allotments are planned at only 85% of the current year's allotment for Title I. Capital projects were prioritized.

Chairman Bennett said the school's budget is in crisis. Even if the county fully funded the budget request of the schools, there would still be a shortfall.

Chairman Eckler thanked the Board for their presentation.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY/APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Eckler told the Board that there had been much discussion regarding the appointments of individuals who do not live in Rutherford County but are actively involved in the tourism trade in Rutherford County. He recommended that the Board consider each appointment carefully. Persons who do not live within easy access to the county would only be absentee members; however, those who live outside the county but either work in or own a business in Rutherford County could make a valuable contribution. County Attorney Beth Miller said there does not have to be a rule that only Rutherford County residents can be members of Rutherford County boards and commissions.

ADJOURNMENT

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

1:50 P.M. - Adjourned.

Chairman, Board of Commissioners

Vice Chairman, Board of Commissioners

Attest:

Clerk, Board of Commissioners