

**MINUTES**  
**LENOIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**  
**May 28, 2015**

The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners' met in a special called meeting at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 28, 2015 in the Board of Commissioners' Main Meeting Room in the Lenoir County Courthouse at 130 S. Queen Street, Kinston, NC.

Members present: Chairman Craig Hill, Vice Chair Jackie Brown, Roland Best, Mac Daughety, Reuben Davis, Eric Rouse and Linda Rouse-Sutton.

Also present were: Michael W. Jarman, County Manager, Martha Martin, Finance Officer, Vickie F. King, Clerk to the Board, Lashanda Hall, Human Resource Technician, members of the general public and news media.

Chairman Hill called the meeting to order at approximately 3:00 p.m. Ms. Brown offered the invocation and Mr. Best led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

Mr. Hill thanked everyone from the school system and the public for being present today. As we begin our budget discussions today I would like to thank each of our commissioners for the time you have spent reviewing the budget. I would also like to thank our department heads, outside agencies and our other governmental agencies for the prep work they have done in submitting their budget requests. I commend our financial staff and administrative team for the tremendous amount of time and effort you have given in your attempt to bring to us a comprehensive budget that will serve the needs of our citizens, support our employees, and that can be addressed within the limited resources of our tax base. Budget discussions are difficult at the very least, because all requests cannot be funded. Parties in the budget process whether they are internal departments, outside agencies, or other governmental agencies like our schools and community college request cannot always be filled. Often the "inter-connectiveness" of all these requests are not considered as requests are made. I commend each of our commissioners for the open dialogue you have had throughout the budget process, and for the attention you have given our attempts to link our year to year budgets with our long range financial objectives and goals. I also commend each of you for the difference of opinion you have been willing to express and the civil nature that we have been able to agree to disagree.

During our last budget discussions one of the major topics of conversation was the funding of our public schools. I would be remissed as the chair of this elected board if I did not respond to the recent guest columns in our local press from both the public information officer of Lenoir County Schools and the Superintendent of Lenoir County Schools regarding request and budget discussions. The first column on May 8<sup>th</sup> entitled, "With the County's Help, Schools can take a Giant Step Toward the Future" written by the public information officer, appeared to be an attempt to get citizens to force the speed in which the current Ipad project is being implemented up by a year. Ahead of a collective agreement that had previously been agreed upon by our collective boards and dual administrative teams.

While I understand the value of the Ipad project and have expressed my support of it and understand the roll out and savings expressed in the article. I also know that implementing this \$300,000 increase without a new revenue stream (via the ¼ cent sales tax) coupled with the planned internal software rollouts and employee insurance changes would place us in a position to increase a property tax that we've are looking at ways to reduce and begin to take us away from our long range fiscal stability plans for this county. Also let me make it clear this is not a onetime allotment request but an allotment request that will roll over each year. While at the same time we are attempting to pay down the debt services that have been negatively impacted by reduction in the reimbursement from the state lottery funds.

The second article on May 24<sup>th</sup>, written by Lenoir County Superintendent entitled "Commissioners Disappointing Ideas on Education Less Money, Fewer Schools" was even more disappointing. It simply was a gross oversimplification, of an extended discussion on a significant portion of the County's budget. When we are discussing an item from another government agency that is projected to consume over 23% of our total budget, I hope the citizens would expect us to spend adequate time and discuss all aspects of that request, and would not deem the outcome of that discussion as irresponsible but indeed would be viewed as doing our due diligence.

What was the most disappointing part of the article was the Superintendent's assumptions that he stated regarding the closure of North Lenoir High School and the assumption that I lead that charge. At no time, during the proceedings of this board, either in closed session or open, has the discussion of closing North Lenoir been the topic of conversation. This appears to be very self serving and I view it as an attempt to divide and conquer as he has currently faced the fire of concerned citizens within the City of Kinston.

How convenient to use me as a former Principal of Kinston High School to inflame the citizens of the Northern portion of the county to divert attention and provide a counterbalance. The truth of the matter is, I have always been an advocate for the county school system to be a truly merged system. Our county and the city of Kinston is divided primarily by our high school and middle school attendance lines and they have not been adjusted since the city and county schools merged in 1992. Very little if any has changed since our school system was integrated back in 1971 with these attendance lines. My only guess is the conversation regarding closing North Lenoir High School came from a conversation that I had with the Superintendent on April 8, 2014, when I shared with him my concerns regarding the age of Frink Middle school and the drop in the number of high school students. In that conversation I stated that I felt that one of the ways to accomplish true merger would be to close Frink, move it to the current North Lenoir site, and merge North Lenoir, South Lenoir, and Kinston High School into two schools. Actually, close Kinston High site as an official school, open North Lenoir at the current Kinston High School location and add additional spaces to balance the population with South Lenoir. The net effect of that would be two high schools, North and South Lenoir. In that conversation he indicated to me that three high schools, two high schools, and the possibility of one high school had been discussed in their previous summer retreats.

Allegations of school closings could have also come from a February 19<sup>th</sup> Legislative Meeting, when the superintendent gave me the floor and I took the liberty to talk about the need to have one united system. Maybe it came from the February 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. Where I apologized to him for using the wrong format to discuss a united school format. The superintendent knows and we know as a board of commissioners that we cannot close a school. We fully understand that the scope of that authority lies in the powers of the school board. We also know that the decision to adjust attendance lines is also the authority of the school board. While the superintendent has clearly indicated he believes we have overstepped our authority in our discussions, I would state just the opposite.

The primarily focus of our discussions focused on the request on facility needs and the current efficient or lack of efficient usage of the facilities that our citizens have provided from their hard earned tax dollars. Our conversation was driven by a desire to see our County School system fully utilize the current facilities provided before adding additional mobile units to existing facilities or before asking for revenue to add additions to existing sites or additional new schools or additional capital needs.

We attempted to have collaborative conversations with the Local Board in a joint meeting on March 9, 2015, but our request for information was only partially filled. We requested items that would have lead to a discussion on facility needs and facility usage. We only received items on needs and the meeting ended without any critical dialogue on current facility use. After the meeting, Commissioner Rouse asked a top member of the superintendent staff why we did not receive the information on school capacity? The reply he received was the information on capacity was ready but the instructions from the superintendent was not to share it because it would change the tone of the joint meeting. It was not until the end of April that the information we request was shared and we were told of the request to move the Ipad project forward.

We have commended the school board and the leadership team for their work on I pads, STEM Certification, Reading Programs, Career Pathways and we do honor their authority to do what they believe is best for the students of this county. We have been a strong partner based on our ability to pay with our school system and over the past decade and have increased spending significantly for public schools while the number of students in our system has reduced significantly. My hope is that our budget discussions focused on facility needs, capital needs and facility usage will be honored and given the respect it is due rather than be distorted in a knee jerk response in media with a grossly overstated, simplified, and inaccurate statement designed to divert attention away from the critical conversations we need to have to build a progressive and comprehensive budget.

Now I open the floor to our commissioners to discuss any aspect of the budget before we move it to our June 1<sup>st</sup> public hearing meeting. Are their specific items in the budget that you would like for the County Manager to clarify and if so where would you like to begin. Are there any changes anyone would like to request in our budget prior to it being submitted for Public Hearing on June 1<sup>st</sup>?

Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Ms. Brown, Mr. Davis was excused from the meeting. Common Consent.

Mr. Rouse stated, I think we need to lower the tax rate because I think we have the means with the surplus we achieved last year to at least take a penny off property tax rate. There could possibly be some other areas we can look at and seriously consider because it would be nice to give back to the citizens of Lenoir County.

Mr. Hill asked, are you referring to giving back the surplus or tax rate? Remember the discussion we had about long range goals and planning? That would take us in a different direction from where we are heading in reference to our goals and objectives. I would like to see a tax rate reduction as well. I made a motion at the last meeting for two reasons, one I think we have taken a hard look at our schools and facilities, how they are being used and I made the recommendation. I will stand behind that recommendation. Reduce that budget by \$394,000 which is a penny on the property taxes and couple that with a quarter cent sales tax to be placed on the ballot. The reason behind that is twofold, the ¼ cent sales tax has been put in front of the voters on two different occasions and one of the issues that they have is the property tax is too high. You add the sales tax on without reducing the property tax you can't get it through. We have toured the schools and reviewed the information that the school has shared with us. We understand its absolute difficult to put a number on it, but we know there are a lot of vacancies within the facilities. I put in front of you last week as food for thought. This is a difficult recommendation that I am not ready to make as I want to hear from the rest of you little bit more. My proposed recommendation is to reduce the county school current budget by \$394,000 and return the funds to the citizens of Lenoir County in a one cent reduction (property tax rate). I also recommend placing the quarter cent sales tax on the ballots for the citizens to establish capital for education both of Lenoir County Schools and Lenoir Community College. This would also give us additional revenue that we can use to reduce the debt or possibly reduce property tax by an additional amount. At some point in time we will have to establish that. I am not making this recommendation to force you into anything, it's just that we went through many buildings and we saw heat, lights and air in many empty spaces not to mention storage rooms. Woodington, Southeast, Kinston High, Rochelle, and North Lenoir had a tremendous amount of space. I think we were all surprised by the utilization of Teachers Memorial being a facility converted to staff development and book storage, because we were under the assumption with the opening of Northeast it would be closed.

Mr. Jarman shared the 2014-2015 elementary, middle and high school capacity and enrollment numbers via Powerpoint.

Mr. Hill stated, there is obviously always a need for some capacity space in our buildings. The question that's in front of us is how much is too much and when should there be a response? That is not our call on the decision that are made but it is what we have to face when doing the inter-connectivity of our total budget and the request from the school system.

Mr. Jarman shared information regarding the totals for the capacity and actual enrollment numbers. If you add all of the enrollment you will come up with 9,119 and you see a difference and it is because of the 200 students located at the Early College at Lenoir Community College. There are 68 students at the Learning Academy so that leaves 8,851 students occupying the school buildings.

Mr. Rouse asked, did we ever receive the cost numbers on what it cost to operate each school?

Mr. Jarman replied, he has never requested that specific information so that would not be a fault of the school.

Mr. Hill stated, the second part of what I wanted to say is the issue for the additional request of \$300,000 to be included in our budget this year. It is not to say that the Ipad project will not be funded by us at some point. However, we were simply caught unprepared for that amount to be in this budget. After our initial conversation, about the \$300,000 the request was made it would come in the third year. Prior to the third year we would need to put the quarter cent sales tax on the ballot to get the additional revenue. If we choose today to leave our tax rate as it is, to continue working for our long range goals, the options that we have would be not to fund the financial software that we've put off for almost 15 years, or tell our employees we will have to double, triple or quadruple the amount you will pay for insurance. There is a give and take to keep the budget within a certain limited space and that is the challenge for us this year. We had two of our major long range plans for this year to kick in and with this being a third item it has caught us unprepared.

If we can get the quarter cent sales tax approved rather there's a cut made or whether we remain the same if we can get the sales tax out there and the citizens will pass it. Then, in the third year we have the ability to do the things we said we would try to do. That's the rub it's not that we are anti-Ipads or anti-trying to get the roll out done. It's pretty simple, how far can we extend our budget and how much stretch can we take since we are already dipping in the fund balance \$2.8 million?

Mr. Jarman stated, the \$2.8 million was general fund. We also went into the school capital account another \$1.2 million and that's the one I continue to warn you about with the loss of Average Daily Membership Funds and Lottery Funds. We need to designate a revenue stream where we can start putting some money up for school capital for the public schools and for Lenoir Community College. Looking at the schools, we have addressed elementary schools. We know we will have future capital need and middle schools and high schools will need to be addressed.

Mr. Hill stated, there is a way to get all of this done. I just don't know if it will be at the speed the school system will like to see it happen, nor at the speed we would like to see the schools look at a more efficient use of their facilities.

Mr. Rouse stated, we made an agreement being a three year plan, and we are now in the second year at 100% funding. It concerns me because you make plans and work for the plan to move forward that is why we set up a budget.

Mr. Hill stated, I understand that most districts across the state get special pricing for Ipad projects. If you bundle enough Ipads together you will get a special price from Apple. Each system will be unique depending upon the number of items purchased. I don't want to get into that side of it. I'm just simply saying if the school system wants to move this forward and we are able to get the 1/4 cent sales tax on the ballot, whether we reduce the budget or leave it the same. We will have some capital there set aside to do what we said we would do in the future. We will also have some ability to move forward. But, the real issues are if we just drop it off the property tax off the top and reduce our fund balance then we start going into a whole different spiral that we need to be. I just don't think that is acceptable.

Mr. Rouse stated, I agree and it would help if the quarter cent sales tax passed and I think you would have to make some assurances like we said in the past many times that there would be a reduction in property rate.

Ms. Brown stated, it is easy for us to say let's put the 1/4 cent sales tax on the ballot which is fine. I have no objection to that, but we've done that twice before and we had some board members to talk against putting that sales tax on the ballot. Until we get to the point where can educate the general public about the tax and what you will do with it if it passes. If you look at it and give a penny back off the property tax we know how much it will bring in, then the 1/4 cent sales tax is the fairest tax there is because everybody pays not just property owners. I think we just need to educate the general public.

Mr. Hill stated, the action we would take today in our current budget right now there is no additional money, it's the same as we had in last year budget for schools, the \$9.9 million. We have not made a motion to change at this time. There are one of two things, leave it like it is and put the quarter cents sales tax on the ballot or do we cut the budget based on what we see? Do we have enough information to do that or do we change the budget and vote the Ipads in? If we do that, we know the question is where the revenue will come from? The revenue at this point in time would be the fund balance and that would take us into a much deeper hole than where we would like to go. That's the challenge we are facing. It's not that we don't want to do what's best for the children that is not it.

We are faced with the "inter-connectivity" of our budget and we don't have the ability. Like stated in one of the articles, if the school system can find \$1.4 million can't the county Commissioners find \$300,000? It sounds pretty easy on the surface but the difference is 65-70% of our budget is mandated exactly where it has to go. We don't have the flexibility in our budget that the school system has in theirs. An example is how they funded the current Ipad projects with some of their Title 1 funds they converted them and they were very creative. I respect what they have done.

They were able to change their service delivery to students for a more futuristic approach. They have put an extremely valuable tool in front our students in some ways levels the playing field in reference to their ability to access information. Although it doesn't necessarily level the playing field in every area, but their ability to access information and interact with a piece of technology levels that playing field. We would like for everybody to understand whatever we do today just only gets us to the June 1<sup>st</sup> Public Hearing. Today do we move the budget as is or open the floor to do something different where do we go from here?

Ms. Brown asked, if we take the money from the fund balance, will that drop us down to our 8%?

Mr. Jarman replied, in your budget philosophy you adopted a goal to reach 20% and we are not at 20% and you will be going in the opposite direction. You are at 18% and that is because we had a good year last fiscal year and we had been at 14-15% for a while.

Mr. Hill stated, remember that last year was a good year based on the fact we had the change in the way the vehicles taxes were done.

Mr. Daughety stated, I understand and I hear what you are saying that we can't afford to give them \$300,000, but we want to take away the \$392,000. I assume because we can't afford to give them \$392,000 and turn around and give the property tax, then we will turn around and raise the sales tax. It doesn't make good sense to me. I said this in the last budget session and I will say it again because it just doesn't seem to be registering. We are a Tier 1 County and the only way we will get better in our county and better for our people is to improve the infrastructure and the education system.

We can jiggle the money all we want. If we don't do what it takes to attract better jobs, more jobs and higher paying jobs for our people so we can versify this tax burden and actually give the property tax owners long term relief all we are doing is playing the shell game. This is the time we need to be looking at our schools and doing everything we can to improve what we are doing in the school system. If we are going to improve our workforce we must start with the schools by committing to doing what we need to do and help the school system out. We need to sit down with school system and work out a 3 to 5 year plan and figure out how to best utilize the capacity. To me investing in the school is investing in economic development. If Mark Pope came to us today and said I have the potential of a new plant coming here with 500 jobs this board will look in our funds and find \$300,000. Economic development creates jobs and improve tax burden for our people.

We can't be a maintenance community. We just can't just sit here and maintain. We did that in the 50's and 60's and we paid a huge price. We have to step back and think very seriously about how to work in partnership and the same goes for the Board of Education. They need to work in partnership with us but we have to improve the change for our kids to get better. When we toured the schools I noticed how they were using the 1 on 1 technology and career pathways. This will help our kids to be better career prepared when they graduate.

Look at the close kinship with the college and the schools. We are making some of the best strides to improve work force development with the 1 on 1 technology because we are already behind other communities. My niece chairs the Board of Education in Columbus County in Whiteville and they had Ipads ten years ago and they are very comparable to Lenoir County. I hear what you are saying and nobody as you know from my four years has been a bigger proponent in giving money back to property tax owners. I voted against every property tax, I made my point very clear and it still remains the same. I will not vote to increase property taxes. But at the same time, I don't want to reduce property taxes at the expense of funding what could be a potential long-term improvement in property taxes by improving our schools. You will probably take issue with what I said but that's fine I had to say what I think is the issue.

Mr. Hill stated, I am glad you said that because there are many points that you've spoken that I agree with. But when we are asked to sacrifice within the confines of our budget and we walk through and see this issues of these facilities, these are not new issues. They have been going on year after year and have progressively got more space. If you our look at the census data and follow the transfers and the new initiatives they create more capacity and they are greater initiatives. You have more spaces that are used and heated. So the question becomes who move faster the quickest and how do we justify. I am having a difficult time. As much as I would like to say give them the \$300,000 and that's what my heart would say from a educator back-ground, but from my standpoint where is the change coming from?

Mr. Daughety stated, I would agree with the necessity that we sit down with the Board of Education and take a hard look at facilities which is something you can't change overnight. But, we are not just denying the \$300,000 we would be denying the \$300,000 and taking away \$392,000.

Mr. Hill stated, in a year from now we may very well replacing it with a capital item that might be larger than that depending on what we have to do. Our community needs to know that we are serious about working together facilitating and change. No action or just continue as we've been going doesn't give us the platform to have a critical conversation. If the answer is always yes, we will continue to spiral in that direction. I agree with you, that we need to create the best education that we can. We are talking about the facility side, bricks and mortar. I don't go home at night and raise the windows in my house and turn the air condition on and just let it run. I don't cool my attic with air conditioning when I am using it for storage. I don't turn the lights on in the attic if I am not using it. Those are the things that we saw along with a lot of spaces and classroom spaces are premium cost spaces if I am not using it.

Mr. Daughety stated, I'd like to see our Chairman, Vice Chairman, maybe the County Manager, Superintendent, Chairman of the Board of Education sit down and work out a plan. Let's come up with a three to five year long range plan and then come back to our boards and work on these issues.

Ms. Sutton stated, as you all know I served on the Board of Education for ten years. The first major issue was getting air conditions in the schools for our kids. I have also sat out there and wanted technology for our schools. We went to visit different schools in other states and really saw the benefits of having technology. I was a person out front and wanting technology when others members did not. What I am saying is I don't think anybody had anymore dedication to education than I have. I went through the merger, and there were a lot of things that should have been done at that time but we were only given six months to get it accomplished. So I have been through all sorts of things and have sat out there on that end. But at the same time being in this position now I not only have to look at that aspect but I have to look at long range from the County.

I serve as a liaison for LCC Board of Trustees and their pleas to me have been firm and they had very creditable concerns and needs. They have worked a lot with work force development and with our new business that come in, so it's hard to look at them and say we just can't do it. I was also very disappointed with some of the comments that were made. This board at no time has tried to say that they are school board members because we know what role they are in. They are the ones to make decisions as to school closures. At no point in time did this board have gone on in that direction. I also was disappointed that the information was put out there as a plea to parents with incorrect information.

As Craig said unless there was a closed session I was not in, school closures were never mentioned. It disappoints me when people put something like that in the news paper. People respect that person and take what they said as being true, that was very disrespectful. We had the problems with the facilities for years and years and nobody seems want to take it on and start addressing it. Now County Commissioners have been given the position to approve all capital outlay. I personally don't think it should be, but the legislature has decided differently. Since we've been given that responsibility we have to make sure we do the best we can for all the citizens of Lenoir County. At the same time if we are decreasing our enrollment we still have older buildings with roof problems, boiler problems, air conditioners, and other issues that we never been able to keep up with.

I feel like it's at a time we need to sit down and some long range plans are made because we can't keep going like we are going. Decisions must be made because this is not fair to the citizens and the students. We still have a temporary metal building at Woodington that was put up when I was on the Board of Education that was supposed to be temporary. My loyalty lies not only to education at the school system but to Lenoir Community College and the citizens of this county and so on. I think in order to get the sales tax passed, which is the fairest tax, we must have something to sell it to. I'd like to see some more planning and working together. I was also disappointed because we had an Ipad project agreement. The agreement as to how the Ipads would roll out parents and students are excited and I am excited. I wish we could give every one of them Ipads but there again a plea to the parents to make us look like we did not want the children to have Ipads. This is very disappointing.

It's not that I'm against or delay our improvement, rather it's for air conditions or Ipads we have to consider our fund balance. If we have a bad hurricane or flood like we had before there is a lot of stuff that has to be paid for. So that's what my decision will be based on, it's not that I am against children having Ipads or delay our improvement.

What I am saying is I have sat in both positions Commissioner and School Board and had the same arguments. We all feel like ours is the highest need and that is the way it is, so my obligation is whatever is best for the tax payers.

Mr. Jarman stated, I think the Board of Education and the Board of Commissioners understand but for the sake of the viewing public and to make sure it gets quoted. Several things have been mentioned about meeting again and meeting further to discuss plans. We need to do that and we've started that process and we've met more times and we need to meet more times. As you are getting together planning, the public needs to know your responsibility as the board. They need to know that you are looking out for their money and it's the responsibility of the Board of Education to decide, justify, agree or adjust accordingly. I don't want the public to think that the Commissioners are going to get together to discuss school closure or other matters pertaining to that because you have enough on your plate without that.

Mr. Hill stated, I would like to take this opportunity to put in the form of a motion that we reduce the \$9.9 million that is currently in the budget by \$197,000 and we drop the property tax by ½ cent to the citizens and we place the quarter cent sales tax on the ballot.

Mr. Daughety stated, since we are talking about cutting the schools budget and we allowed every other department the opportunity to speak why not give them the same opportunity since they are present?

Mr. Hill stated, this is not the public hearing, this is a conversation between County Commissioners. We have proper times for public to speak and if we open the door for them to present we will open the door for the Lenoir Community College, SPCA and everyone else to present at this time.

Mr. Jarman stated, I have met with and had conversations with Lenoir Community College because they wanted to come to this meeting. You have a procedure, LCC has presented their budget and the schools had the opportunity to present their budget and we have had meetings with them. Everyone who wants to present is allowed that opportunity. Once we submit a budget if you open it back up then every year everybody that did not get what they want will be coming back to you. I don't think that would be setting up a good precedence. Its designed and structured in a way that you allow anybody to opportunity to present their information gathered, and you put the budget together and then you put it out there for public hearing and allow them to come back and provide additional information. Plus, I already told the college that was not the purpose of this meeting.

Mr. Hill stated, I would like to take this opportunity to put in the form of a motion that we reduce the \$9.9 million that is currently in the budget for the schools by \$197,000 and we reduce ½ cent property tax to the citizens and we place the quarter cent sales tax on the ballot.

Mr. Best asked, if the sales tax does not pass what would happen?

Mr. Hill replied, for the time we have to deal with the budget that's in front of us then your next move would be property tax or increased sales tax or growth.

Mr. Jarman stated, if you decided to put it on the ballot you would be looking at November and it will cost you some extra money because it's just municipal elections. There are a lot of conversations that the Governor and the state are going to put a bond referendum to cause you to do that. With that being said if you put it on the ballot in November and it passes the very first available date you could collect revenue from it would be April 1, 2016. It will not impact the current budget year it would prepare you for future years.

Upon a motion by Mr. Hill and a second by Ms. Rouse-Sutton a request to cut the current \$9.9 million budget to the schools request by \$197,000 was placed on the floor.

Call to question: Daughety no, Best yes, Hill yes, Brown yes, Rouse-Sutton yes, Rouse no.

Mr. Rouse asked, if it passes is there any way to tie the quarter cent to the tax rate and earmark it to say this is what we want to do?

Mr. Hill replied, if there was a way to do that he would only earmark a penny of it.

Mr. Jarman stated, two points to that questions, if the 1/4 cent tax goes in you are taking less of the burden off of the property tax side, so that does. Yes, you can earmark it where but you will have to be careful in earmarking because if you tell the citizens you are going to do something you need to do it. But, what if you tell them you are going to reduce it 2% and the general assembly gives you a mandate that cost you the equivalent of 3 cent you will be making some serious cuts. You have to be careful how you make promises and you don't know what you might get.

Mr. Rouse stated, it's been defeated twice and it's not going to pass without some correlation between it and property tax.

Mr. Rouse asked, since we just approved this motion can we come back and make another motion that affects the same rate or we're locked in to this?

Mr. Jarman stated, I think we would have to rescind the first motion but the County attorney is not here and I am not sure. You already have a motion that locks in the purpose of the quarter cent. You might be able to amend it but I am not sure.

Mr. Hill asked if there were any further questions before we go into the public hearing?

Upon a motion by Mr. Hill and a second by Ms. Brown, the meeting adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie F. King  
Clerk to the Board