

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
JUNE 7, 1971

The Board of Rowan County Commissioners met in the Rowan County Courthouse in District Courtroom II, Salisbury, NC at 9:00 a.m. The following members were present: Chairman Eugene McCombs, Charlie Walters, Richard Messinger, Rufus Honeycutt and J. Lewis Sowers.

The Board meeting was called to order by the Chairman and Mr. Messinger had prayer. Upon a motion by Mr. Messinger, seconded by Mr. Sowers and unanimously passed, the minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Mr. Murdoch read a letter from Mrs. Jean Ramsey, Register of Deeds, concerning the new mini laminator which the Register of Deeds office has purchased. Mrs. Ramsey requested a \$2.00 fee per copy be charged. This cost will cover all the expenses. Mr. Sowers made a motion to charge the \$2.00 as requested by Mrs. Ramsey. This was seconded by Mr. Messinger with unanimous approval.

Mr. Murdoch read a letter from the former Mayor of Salisbury Paul L. Bernhardt. Mayor Bernhardt thanked the Board for their kind support and cooperation they had given him and the city council during his years as mayor.

Mr. Murdoch read a copy of the Grand Jury Report. He reported the leak had been fixed.

Mr. Murdoch read a letter from the State Highway Commission concerning the improvements on Briggs, Barringer and Neal roads. The Commission said they had looked into the situation and that they were in need of being widened and paved, but there were other roads in the county which were higher on the priority list.

Mr. Murdoch read a letter from Representative Austin Mitchell concerning a proposed amendment to Chapter 42, Article 3, NC General Statutes. This would provide that in adjudgement for plaintiff and an execution issued, the plaintiff shall be obligated to provide personnel, transportation, and storage for the defendant's property removed from the premises. This would relieve the Sheriff of this responsibility. Mr. Messinger moved that the Board concur with this proposal. This was seconded by Mr. Walters with unanimous approval.

Mr. McCombs reported that \$164,519.48 in interest had been earned through May 31, 1971.

There was a discussion on Senate Bill 120 and House Bill 834 called "Poor Old Folks Bill". This bill will be fore people over 60 years and older making less than \$3,500 a year. They will have a \$5,000 tax exempt on personal property. Mr. Messinger made a motion to send a resolution to vote against these bills. This was seconded by Mr. Honeycutt with unanimous approval.

Mr. Glenn Trexler, Tax Collector, reported that \$105,473.80 had been collected during the month of May.

The Schedule B privilege license tax levy was passed after a motion by Mr. Walters, seconded by Mr. Honeycutt with unanimous approval. (Attached)

Mr. Paul Fisher, President of Farmers & Merchants Bank spoke to the Board and said his purpose for being at the meeting was to thank the Commissioners for letting his bank serve Rowan County for the past several years. He hopes the bank services are meeting with the approval of the Commissioners.

Mr. Robert Dockham and Mr. Alonzo Reep, Pilot Life Insurance Company, met with the Board concerning a long term disability income program. Mr. Reep said this program would not cost the county a thing if the employee joins. They will pay up to 60% of the gross income. They must have at least 10 people to carry out this program. Pilot life would like permission to talk with the employees to see if they would be interested in this program. Mr. Messinger said he was against an insurance company talking with county employees unless the Board is backing a plan 100%. Mr. McCombs said they would like to contact other companies to study their plans for comparison. Mr. Reep was in favor of this and said they would be waiting to hear from the Commissioners.

Mr. McCombs had compiled a report of all the different banks that handled the county's accounts. This report showed that the county's funds were being fairly distributed with all the banks in Rowan County.

Mr. C. Norris Holloway, Sr., Executive Director of the Salisbury-Rowan Community Service Council, Inc., addressed the Board concerning a county recreation program. Mr. Holloway presented a plan to the Board which consists of a long term lease of property in the Cleveland area and several other areas to construct four basketball-tennis court combinations, cost \$7,212 and three recreational supervisors for a period of nine weeks at a salary of 4100 weekly which would cost \$2,700. The total budget would be \$9,912. Mr. Walters will meet with Mr. Holloway and the Parks & Recreation Board to see what can be done.

Mr. Wallace Peeler, Tax Supervisor, reported that 100% valuation of corporate excess, real and personal property in Rowan County is at an all time high

of \$714,959,107. Mr. Peeler attributed the \$26,045,476 gain in 1971 to increased listings in inventories and new construction in the city and county.

Mr. Doug Tennent, Architect, reported he was ready to readvertise for bids on the Community Building to be received at 7:30 p.m. on June 24, 1971. Tentative completion date will be December 15, 1971. Mr. Tennent said he had received a letter from HUD stating the changes had met with their approval. This includes leaving the annex as it is and with no immediate plans for the mini park. The Davis-Bacon Act had not as yet been received and they do not know what the wage rates will be but that the minimum wage rates have been approved. He said this would not scare off the companies that would be bidding. With the deletions based on previous bid figures the cost will be approximate \$190,000. \$150,000 for the general contract and \$40,000 for the mechanical contracts. Mr. Messinger made a motion to readvertise for bids. This was seconded by Mr. Walters with unanimous approval.

Mr. Honeycutt made a motion to purchase a car for the Superintendent of the County Schools to use and that it would come out of this years budget, 1970-71. This was seconded by Mr. Walters with unanimous approval.

The following new personnel were approved after a motion by Mr. Sowers and seconded by Mr. Walters with unanimous approval.

Edward M. Sturhahn, Psychologist II Mental Health \$884/month
Sidney Paul Brown, Asst. Electrical Inspector \$503/month
Donna Layne Reeves, Clerk \$272/month
Dorothy T. Freeze, Clerk \$272/month
Ronald A. McDowell, Janitor \$248/month

Mr. Murdoch read a letter from Mr. J. T. Graham, Chairman of the Soil & Conservation committee, requesting permission to hire Mrs. Rachel McCall for 2 days a week as Mrs. Donnie Moore underwent surgery and will not be able to resume her duties until August 1, 1971. This was put in the form of a motion by Mr. Sowers, seconded by Mr. Walters with unanimous approval.

The following transfers were approved upon a motion by Mr. Sowers, seconded by Mr. Walters: Attached.

The following refunds were approved upon a motion by Mr. Sowers seconded by Mr. Walters:

\$20.00 to Hilton Lingle
\$25.00 to Mrs. W. A. Beaver
\$10.00 to Tom Webb & Son

\$17.05 to Sam Propst
\$29.10 to Napoleon Krider

Mr. Murdoch presented a master maintenance agreement from Dover Elevator Company, for the elevator in the Courthouse. This agreement states they will maintain the elevator for \$79.00 a month. This includes repairs, service and replacement of any parts. A motion was made by Mr. Honeycutt, seconded by Mr. Sowers and unanimously approved to accept this contract.

The Commissioners will meet with the Park & Recreation Commission on June 17, 1971 at 6:00 p.m. for dinner and to look over the park. Mr. Walters reported they were having trouble getting the park road paved. Mr. Joe Thompson did not show up 3 different times. Mr. Clarence Kluttz, County attorney, said to tell Mr. Thompson they were awarding the work to the second lowest bidder, that being J. L. Bost of Rockwell, and that he will be penalized the difference in the bids.

Rowan County Civil Defense Agency would like to put a radio tower on Young's Mountain. An agreement has been drawn up between Vulcan material Company, Mideast Division, a New Jersey Corporation (Vulcan) and Rowan County (Licensee). A motion by Mr. Messinger to approve this agreement with Vulcan was seconded by Mr. Honeycutt with unanimous approval. (Attached)

Mr. Messinger was reappointed to serve on the Rowan Count Social Services Department Board.

A motion was made by Mr. Walters seconded by Mr. Sowers with unanimous approval to appoint Mrs. James F. (Ruby) Kesler of Salisbury to serve on the Board of Trustees at Rowan Technical Institute for an eight year term beginning July 1, 1971.

Mr. Murdoch said he had talked with Mrs. Lucille Donnelly, Director of Social Services Department, concerning the hiring of one of the summer PACE students. Mr. Messinger made a motion to let Mrs. Donnelly hire Miss Laura Lee Latham. This was seconded by Mr. Walters with unanimous approval.

Mr. Murdoch stated the three high school graduates started to work this morning, June 7, 1971 under the summer intern program. Mr. Clarence J. Shuford, Jr. with the Health Department in the Air Pollution and Insect Control Programs. Miss Doris Ann McGarity in the Tax Supervisor office, Miss Dicy Ann Smith in the Tax Collector Office.

Upon a motion by Mr. Honeycutt seconded by Mr. Walters with unanimous approval the Board of Equalization was closed.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned until June 9,
1971.

Respectively Submitted,
Mary H. Beaver, Clerk