

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
MARCH 6, 1972

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman McCombs. Mr. Messinger opened with prayer.

Upon a motion by Mr. Honeycutt, seconded by Mr. Sowers with unanimous approval, the public hearing for the Water Bond Issue began.

Mr. Hayden Clement, Chairman of the Water and Sewer Committee, explained several aspects of the proposed plan.

The Clerk read the Bond Order as it was published in the Salisbury Post on February 21, 1972.

Chairman McCombs asked if anyone wished to speak for or against the bond Issue.

Mr. Gene Beaver, Mayor of Landis, North Carolina voiced opposition to the proposed bond issue. The Town of Landis is financing its own water system, and he did not want its system taken over by the County. Also he felt that it was unfair for the County tax rate to be increased for this purpose when the Town of Landis was financing its own system. He felt that the problem should be handled by the creation of sanitary districts in the County. He felt that the proposal was unfair in that it did not propose to serve individuals in remote areas of the County.

Chairman McCombs stated that no increase in tax rates was anticipated in the present plans.

Mr. Messinger assured Mr. Beaver that most of the revenue for this project would come from the sale of water to municipalities and industries. The \$5,000,000 in bonds would be borrowed only if money from the sale of water was insufficient to pay for the project.

Mr. Dick Reamer, President of the Salisbury-Rowan Chamber of Commerce, spoke for the bond issue saying that the purpose is to provide water for everyone in the County who needs it.

Mr. Sonny Epting, Vice-President of the Chamber of Commerce, said that there are several industries and plants which might locate in the County if sufficient water is available.

A representative of the State Board of Conservation and Development, Mr. Jim Epting, stated that Rowan County has lost industries and will continue to lose industries unless water is made available.

As there was no further discussion concerning the Bond Order, Mr. Honeycutt moved that the Public Hearing be closed. Mr. Walters seconded with unanimous approval.

Upon a motion by Mr. Messinger, seconded by Mr. Walters, a resolution to adopt the Bond Issue, as read by the County Attorney, was unanimously approved. (attached).

A resolution to vote on the Bond Order in the May 6, 1972 election was also unanimously approved following a motion by Mr. Honeycutt, seconded by Mr. Sowers. (Attached)

Upon a motion by Mr. Messinger, seconded by Mr. Walters, the minutes of the meetings of February 7, 16, and 29, 1972, were unanimously approved with noted corrections.

Mr. Glenn Trexler, Tax Collector, reported that the total collections for February were \$82,648.98. He requested that the Commissioners set a date for the tax lien sale of unpaid 1971 taxes.

Mr. Honeycutt moved that the first Monday in June, June 6, 1972 be set as the date for the tax lien sale. The sale is to be advertised the four preceding Mondays, May 10, 17, 24, and 31, 1972. The motion was seconded by Mr. Messinger and unanimously approved.

The following tax refunds were unanimously approved following a motion by Mr. Messinger, seconded by Mr. Honeycutt:

Citizens Savings & Loan - \$172.19
Robert Hayden Poole - \$21.83
Frank Paul Ramsey - \$.99

Mr. C. Norris Holloway, Sr., Director of the Community Service Council presented a resolution to the Commissioners asking for their support to speed up low-income housing in Rowan County, to insure the adoption of the 235 low-income cost Housing Program, and to urge private contractors and developers to utilize the 235 Housing Program. (Attached)

Mr. Sowers made a motion to support this resolution, especially the part concerning the 235 Housing Program. Mr. Honeycutt seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Wallace Peeler, Tax Supervisor, asked the Commissioners to set a date for the Board of Equalization and Review. Upon a motion by Mr. Sowers, seconded by Mr. Honeycutt with unanimous approval, the date was set for April 4, 1972, the first Tuesday in April, as Monday, April 3 is a holiday.

Mr. John Barringer came before the Commissioners asking that some form of description be printed on the County tax forms so that he would know on which property he was paying taxes. He said the present system was unsatisfactory as he did not have tax maps to look up each piece of property. He said other counties in which he owned land put the acreage or the name of the property on the tax form.

Mr. Peeler and several of the Commissioners explained to Mr. Barringer that there is not enough space on the forms to print a full description. Mr. Peeler said he had given Mr. Barringer maps of his land on which he could look up his property. Mr. Sowers suggested that Mr. Barringer go downstairs with Mr. Peeler and resolve the problem.

Mr. Bill Murdoch, Chairman of the Rowan Technical Institute Finance Committee spoke with the Commissioners requesting that Rowan Tech's unappropriated surplus in the 1970-71 county budget be appropriated to the Rowan Technical Institute Capital Improvements Account to help finance the completion of a parking lot. He explained that the State of North Carolina has \$35,000 that can be used on this parking lot; and Rowan Tech as approximately \$8,000 remaining in the Capital Improvements budget for this year for a total of \$43,000. If the bids exceed this amount, they would require additional funds from unappropriated surplus.

The Commissioners suggested that Rowan Tech get bids for the work to be done. At that time the amount of unappropriated funds that were needed would be determined.

The County Manager read a letter from Mr. John Ramsey, AIA, offering his services for any future improvements or expansions to the Farm, Health, and Welfare Center.

The following transfer was unanimously approved after a motion by Mr. Honeycutt, seconded by Mr. Walters;
Coroner - \$1,000

The following new personnel were unanimously approved following a motion by Mr. Messinger, seconded by Mr. Walters:

Stephanie Dyson, Stenographer I \$363/month
Elizabeth Fuller, Eligibility Specialist \$497/month
Vickie Gerdon, Eligibility Specialist \$497/month

Mr. Murdoch read a letter from the Watershed Commission saying that their activities have been seriously limited because of a lack of soils mapping. There is a retired soils scientist available who can map a part of their minimum requirements. The Commission asked that they be allowed to use a part of their contingency fund to hire this individual.

Upon a motion by Mr. Messinger, seconded by Mr. Honeycutt, the Commissioners unanimously approved the transfer of \$1500 from account 7201 to Account 7245 to hire a soils scientist.

Upon a motion by Mr. Sowers, seconded by Mr. Honeycutt, the renewal of the following leases were unanimously approved:

William S. Murdoch – barns at the County home \$175/year
H. K. Krider – farm land on Heilig Road \$10.00/acre per year.

Mr. McCombs reported that the total interest received through February 29, 1972, is as follows:

School Building	\$25,320.96
School Fund	29,381.03
General Fund	52,450.62
Debt Service	<u>3,752.28</u>
Total	\$110,904.89

Mr. Honeycutt reported that there is a chemistry class at South Rowan Senior High School that wants to start a recycling project. They have asked that the Commissioners help them in their efforts. The County Manager was instructed to get information concerning recycling plant and report at the next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until March 29, 1972, at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pam Misenheimer, Clerk