

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
APRIL 4, 1972

The Board of Rowan County Commissioners met in a Regular Session in the Community Building, Salisbury, N.C., at 9:00 a.m. The following members were present: Chairman Eugene McCombs, J. Lewis Sowers, Charlie Walters, Richard Messinger, and Rufus Honeycutt.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman McCombs who opened with prayer. Upon a motion by Mr. Walters, seconded by Mr. Messinger, the minutes of the meetings of March 6 and 29, 1972, were unanimously approved.

Mrs. Millie Cox of the Centralina Council of Government presented to the Commissioners a program called "Operation Crush" which has been carried out successfully in Cabarrus County. She asked that the Commissioners take part in this program in an effort to clean up and beautify Rowan County.

The program consists of locating and collecting junk cars which are situated throughout the County then hauled to a central location. When a minimum number of cars have been collected, Kiser Brothers Auto Salvage, Inc. will bring their equipment to the central location, crush the cars, and haul the junk car away. Cabarrus County did this by printing an agreement from transferring ownership of the car to be signed by the owner. (Attached)

The Commissioners were enthusiastic about such a program in Rowan County. They suggested that the landfill could be used as a central collection point. Possible the Army Reserve unit here in Salisbury would use their equipment to help collect the junk cars.

It was also suggested that the County Manager contact the Rowan County Jaycee Council and ask them if they would be interested in heading up this project.

Mrs. Mary Johnston, a teacher at South Rowan, informed Commissioners that her students are interested in making their pollution campaign a County-wide project. Their project in the South Rowan area was very successful. They would like to see the whole County involved in pollution control in the collection of aluminum cans and glass containers.

The Commissioners expressed their appreciation to Mrs. Johnston and her students for their interest in such a program. Mr. McCombs suggested that some of the extra trash containers might possible be set up around the County and used as

collection places for cans and glass. Mrs. Johnston would be notified if any progress were made in this area.

Mr. Harold Carter headed a delegation from North Kannapolis asking that something be done to clean up trash and debris in the Blackwelder Park area. Mr. Carter said that several property owners in this area had neglected their property to the point of creating health and sanitation hazards. He presented pictures of this area indicating that a clean-up job was needed. He said that the delegation had approached these people several times in an effort to have them clean up their property. But their pleas received no results. In addition to the unhealthy conditions of this area, other property owners suffered a devaluation of their own property because of this eye-sore.

Their major complaint was with Mr. Glenn Ferguson. He owns several lots and houses in this area. His property is run-down; it contains old trucks, and old bricks and cement blocks are piled in the yard.

When asked about the condition of his property, Mr. Ferguson agreed that it was a messy condition. But he said that he salvaged old brick and cement block, and he had no other place to put them. He also said he had not had the time or the help to clean it up.

Mr. Glenn Blanton of the Rowan County Health Department said that he had inspected the property. He said, however, that the Health Department had no authority to order the owner to clean up his property unless it was declared a nuisance or an ordinance was enacted by the Commissioners.

The Commissioners asked Mr. Ferguson if he would be willing to clean up his property with the help of his neighbors. He said he would. The delegation expressed its willingness to help with the clean-up program.

Mr. Honeycutt, Mr. Carter, and Mr. Blanton were to meet with Mr. Ferguson at a later time to work out the details of the project.

Mr. Glenn Trexler, Tax Collector, reported that the total collections for March were \$118,481.56. He also requested that the Commissioners authorize him to renew beer and wine permits as they expire April 30, 1972. Upon a motion by Mr. Honeycutt, seconded by Mr. Messinger with unanimous approval, Mr. Trexler was authorized to renew wine and beer permits.

Mr. Walters reported that he and Mr. Honeycutt had met with the joint committee from the hospital to interview architects for the Extended Care Facility. This committee recommended three architects.

After some discussion the Commissioners decided they would like to have more long range figures on the cost of this project to the County before they select an architect.

Mr. Murdoch read a letter from Mrs. Glenn Ketner, President of the Daughters of American Revolution, accepting the Commissioners offer to furnish a room in the Community Building. They hope to have it completed by the end of April.

A letter has been received from the Clearinghouse confirming receipt of Rowan County's application for a water grant. The application is being processed. Mr. Murdoch read a letter from Livingstone College concerning a forthcoming conference on the aging on May 4 and 5, 1972. They asked that someone extend a welcome to the conference participants on behalf of the County. They also asked that we send one official representative to serve as chairman for a workshop. Mr. Sowers was asked to extend the welcome and Mrs. Lucile Donnelly was suggested as the official representative.

A letter was read from the Rowan Regional Planning Board concerning improvements to US 70 at the Mid-Carolina Mall. The Planning Board expressed concern over the traffic growth that will result from the development of the Mall.

Upon a motion by Mr. Honeycutt, seconded by Mr. Sowers, the Commissioners unanimously voted to support the Planning Board in whatever improvements they may think necessary to handle the magnitude of traffic in this area.

Mr. Murdoch read a letter from the Salisbury Junior Women's Club voicing their approval of additional taxes for the improvement of the Rowan County School System. They are willing to support the Commissioners in whatever means they think necessary to improve our schools.

A letter was read from the North Carolina American Revolution Bicentennial Commission asking for the names and addresses of Rowan County's bicentennial committee. The County Manager was requested to supply this list.

The following road petitions were unanimously approved after a motion by Mr. Honeycutt, seconded by Mr. Sowers:

Gordon Terrace, Oak Drive and Eagle Drive – addition to the system.
Winfield Street – addition to the system.

Upon a motion by Mr. Honeycutt, seconded by Mr. Messinger, the following new personnel were unanimously approved:

Hugh S. Mobley, Parks helper \$285/month
James F. Hodges, Parks helper \$285/month
Vaughn D. Hatley, Deputy \$503/month
Leland Peacock, Warehouseman \$1.90/hour

Upon a motion by Mr. Messinger, seconded by Mr. Walters with unanimous approval, a request from Jim Foltz, Superintendent of Dan Nicholas Park, to raise the salary of George Clawson from \$2.00/hour to \$2.20/hour was granted.

Mr. Walters reported that Travis Eller of the Surplus Foods Warehouse had called him asking for a raise. Mr. Messinger moved that the County Manager talk with Mr. Eller telling him he will be given due consideration at the next budget. Mr. Honeycutt seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Upon a motion by Mr. Sowers, seconded by Mr. Walters with unanimous approval, the lease for the Surplus Food Warehouse was renewed for one year, June 30, 1972 to June 30, 1973.

Mr. McCombs reported that he had discussed with Mr. Clarence Bowers, Building Inspector, the subject of tie-downs for mobile homes. It is Mr. Bowers opinion that mobile homes blocked under 30 inches do not need tie-downs.

Upon a motion by Mr. Messinger, seconded by Mr. Honeycutt with unanimous approval, the following ordinance was passed:

All mobile home block over thirty inches (30") in height at any point of the mobile home should have at least six anchors installed – one at each corner and at the center of each side.

April 30, 1972 was selected as the day for Open House in the Community Building. The term will be from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

A bid of \$1,200 was received from Mr. Francis B. Miller for the John Spencer Torrence property located in Atwell Township. Upon a motion by Mr. Sowers, seconded by Mr. Honeycutt with unanimous approval, this property will be sold at absolute auction at the door of the Courthouse beginning with Mr. Miller's bid of \$1,200.

Following a motion by Mr. Messinger, seconded by Mr. Sowers, the 1972-73 budget for the Department of Social Services was unanimously approved. Also approved was the budget for aid to the blind. (attached)

A letter was received from Nationwide Insurance quoting a price of \$976 to add comprehensive and \$100 deductible collision coverage on the Rowan County vehicles under Fleet Policy number 61GA-984-707. No action was taken because of the lack of a motion.

Upon a motion by Mr. Messinger, seconded by Mr. Walters with unanimous approval, Mr. Newton Cohen and Mr. W. S. Wetmore were re-appointed to the Rowan County Planning Board.

Mr. McCombs reported that the total interest received through March was \$132,612.95.

Mr. Walters made a motion to accept the alternate bid for the mini-park. The money is to be transferred from contingencies to account no. 2794 in the amount of \$6,728 for the contract price and \$737 for the architect fee, making a total of \$7,465. The alternate bid consists of closing the drive between the Community Building and the Courthouse, landscaping this area, and opening a drive from the back of the Courthouse to West Council Street. Mr. Messinger seconded this motion.

After much discussion, the motion was passed with three votes. Mr. Honeycutt was absent at the time of the vote and Mr. Sowers abstained from voting.

Mr. Messinger was selected as the delegate to coordinate the County's efforts on the Clean Water Bond Issue.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pam Misenheimer, Clerk