

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
MARCH 5, 1973

The Board of Rowan County Commissioners met in a Regular Session in the Community Building, Salisbury, North Carolina at 9 a.m. The following members were present: Chairman Eugene McCombs, Lewis Sowers, Charlie Walters, and Rufus Honeycutt. Dick Messinger was absent.

Chairman McCombs called the meeting to order and opened with prayer. Upon a motion by Mr. Honeycutt, seconded by Mr. Walters, the minutes of the meetings of February 5 and 14, 1973 were unanimously approved.

Letters were received from the Salisbury City Schools and from the Rowan County Board of Education voicing their appreciation for their part of the Revenue Sharing Funds.

A letter was received from Francis Glover, Clerk of Superior Court, asking that funds be provided in the 1973-74 budget for the furnishing of the Round Court Room. He also made several other suggestions for increasing space that will be needed by the courts.

A statement was received from Edwin Gill, State Treasurer, protesting legislation that would repeal the tax exempt privilege on all state and local government bonds. He asked that Commissioners also oppose this legislation. Mr. Honeycutt moved that a letter be sent to our Congressmen opposing this legislation. Mr. Walters seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

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

Glenwood and Eckard Streets – paving
Hickory Grove Lane – paving

A letter was received from Paul E. Dew, District Extension Chairman, requesting the salaries of Betty Fisher and Sandra Smith be raised. This request was denied upon a unanimous motion by Mr. Honeycutt, seconded by Mr. Sowers.

A letter was received from Mrs. Louise C. Woodard resigning her position as Associate Home Extension Agent as of April 1, 1973. She is moving to Chapel Hill where her husband will enter law school. Mr. Honeycutt moved that this

resignation be accepted and that a letter of commendation be sent to Mrs. Woodard. Mr. Sowers seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Glenn Trexler, Tax Collector, reported that collections for the month of February were \$101,697.95.

Mr. Trexler also requested that Donna Webster be sent to tax collector school. Upon a motion by Mr. Honeycutt, seconded by Mr. Walters, this request was unanimously approved.

Wallace Peeler, Tax Supervisor submitted the following bids for printing tax forms. (Attached)

Upon a motion by Mr. Honeycutt, seconded by Mr. Walters, Baltimore Business Forms, Inc., was selected to print these forms.

The Board of Equalization Review will meet at 11 o'clock on April 2, 1973.

A request was received from Tri-County Mental Health Clinic that the following people be promoted to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Mrs. Lois Teeter:

Sharon Ennis to administrative assistant at \$7,500/year
Patricia Myers to stenographer II at \$4,560/year
ReVonda Nance, stenographer I at \$4,560/year.

This request was approved upon a motion by Mr. Walters, seconded by Mr. Honeycutt, to be effective when Mrs. Teeter leaves.

The janitor, Belle McKnight, will start working half time at \$1,710 per year effective March 1, 1973, as the Mental Health Clinic is now in the new building.

As the Preschool for the retarded will come under the Mental Health Clinic as of March 1, 1973, the following new personnel will be needed:

Verna M. Bragg
Rachel S. Dickert
Louise W. Bennett

Upon a motion by Mr. Walters, seconded by MR. Honeycutt, the above new personnel were unanimously approved.

Henry Allison, Equipment Operator, \$415/month
Rodney G. Cress, Sheriff \$503/month

Willie L. Shoe, Equipment Operator \$415/month
Pauline L. Simms, Eligibility Specialist \$521/month
Patricia F. Watson, Typist \$435/month

The Sheriff was unanimously authorized to hire a dispatcher for the third shift upon a motion by Mr. Honeycutt, seconded by Mr. Sowers.

Clarence Kluttz, County Attorney, reported that he has filed a general denial of charges against the Commissioners and has asked for a jury trial in the federal law suit against the County concerning discriminatory practices at the jail.

The County Manager reported that the following funds are available in the contingencies account.

The following refunds were unanimously approved upon a motion by Mr. Sowers, seconded by Mr. Honeycutt:

Fisher Realty - \$63.91
Dinah W. Kelly - \$10.00
William R. Wilson - \$36.05

Upon a recommendation by Mr. Messinger, Julius Bickett was unanimously appointed to serve a three year term on the Salisbury-Rowan Good Neighbor Council following a motion by Mr. Honeycutt, seconded by Mr. Walters.

Upon a motion by Mr. Sowers, seconded by Mr. Walters, Mrs. Paul E. Fisher was unanimously appointed to replace Mrs. Dorothy Fisher on the Advisory Board to the Granite Quarry Planning Board.

An election contract with the Town of Rockwell was unanimously approved upon a motion by Mr. Honeycutt, seconded by Mr. Walters. (attached)

Budget hearings are scheduled for May 21-24, 1973.

Mr. Sowers moved to support House Bill No. 339 which states that if school property remains unused for five years, it automatically goes to the County. Mr. Honeycutt seconded this motion and it was unanimously approved.

Upon a motion by Mr. Honeycutt, seconded by Mr. Walters, the Commissioners voted to support House Bill No. 333, Senate Bill no. 265, to allow property taxes to be used for recreational projects.

Upon a motion by Mr. Honeycutt, seconded by Mr. Walters, the Board unanimously voted to proceed with the public hearing for a \$2.5 million bond referendum from Rowan Tech.

The bond order was read by the County manager. As no one present voiced an opinion for or against the bond order, Mr. Sowers moved that the public hearing be closed. Mr. Honeycutt seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Upon a motion by Mr. Sowers, seconded by Mr. Honeycutt, a resolution to adopt the bond order was unanimously approved. A resolution to have a public election on May 8, 1973, was also unanimously approved upon a motion by Mr. Sowers, seconded by Mr. Honeycutt. (attached)

Dr. Sterling Whitner arrived after the public hearing was closed to voice his opposition to the bond order. He was allowed to state his opinion, but it had no legal effect on the public hearing.

An application for approval of the bond order will be sent to the Local Government Commission in Raleigh.

Chairman McCombs reported that the interest received through February, 1973 was as follows:

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| General Fund | \$46,878.25 |
| School Building Fund | 40,434.48 |
| School Fund | 27,610.54 |
| Debt Service | <u>4,501.28</u> |
| Total | \$119,424.55 |

Mr. Walters reported that Governor Holshouser has been invited to attend the dedication of the new Mental Health Clinic.

The County Manager reported that all of the funds appropriated for the new Mental Health building had not been used. The Mental Health officials asked that these extra funds be used for outdoor signs, grass seeding, six fire extinguishers, and five exterior mats. Upon a motion by Mr. Walters, seconded by Mr. Honeycutt, this request was unanimously approved. Mr. Murdoch also reported that the Mental Health inspectors from Raleigh and Atlanta were very impressed with the new building.

Wade Mobley, County School Superintendent, had called Mr. Murdoch to say that the School Board would like to meet with the Commissioners concerning an exchange of property. The meeting would either be Tuesday, February 6, or Tuesday, February 8, at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Honeycutt moved that a retainer fee of \$2,250 be paid to John Ramsey, architect for the Bus Station renovation. Fifty percent is to be applied when the working drawings are completed, and 50 percent when the bids are let. The money is to come from contingencies. Mr. Sowers seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Upon a motion by Mr. Honeycutt, seconded by Mr. Sowers, the lease on the barns at the county home to Bill Murdoch was renewed for \$175/year.

After discussing legislation concerning kindergartens, it was decided that each Commissioner would write the legislators of his opinion of this matter.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela M. Ribelin, Clerk