

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ADJOURNED SESSION
JUNE 12, 1973

The Board of Rowan County Commissioners met in an Adjourned Session in the Community Building, Salisbury, North Carolina at 2:30 p.m. The following members were present: Chairman Eugene McCombs, Rufus Honeycutt, Dick Messinger, Lewis Sowers, and Charlie Walters.

Chairman McCombs called the meeting to order and read the notice on the public hearing for the 1973-74 proposed budget. He asked if anyone present had any comment or question concerning the budget. As no one wished to speak, Chairman McCombs declared the public hearing closed.

The Commissioners received two checks of \$5,000 each from Terry Freeze of the Ellis Community Center. These funds represent \$10,000 raised by the residents of the community for a proposed park on the Ellis School property.

Upon a motion by Mr. Honeycutt, seconded by Mr. Messinger, a resolution authorizing payment of one dollar (\$1.00) per County resident per year, beginning January 1, 1974, to Rowan Memorial Hospital for the purchase of charity care was unanimously approved. (attached)

The Commissioners will meet with the County School Board on June 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the meeting room.

Bill Murdoch and Merrill Hamilton of Rowan Tech reported they had met with the representatives of the heirs of J. C. Bernhardt concerning a piece of property that runs into the Rowan Tech property. The Bernhardt theirs will sell this ten acres for \$3,000 an acre. They have also offered to sell the ten acres plus an adjoining fifteen acres for \$2,500 an acre. Mr. Murdoch said Rowan Tech is not really interested in the additional fifteen acres.

Mr. Messinger moved that the County purchase this approximately ten acres of land for the price of \$3,000 an acre and that the funds be appropriated from the General Fund unappropriated surplus to account 4591, contingencies to pay for this property. Mr. Sowers seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Upon a motion by Mr. Messinger, seconded by Mr. Walters, the following transfers were unanimously approved. Attached

Mr. Sowers made a motion that the County Manager write a letter to all Department Heads stating that an adequate budget has been set up for the coming year; and urging them to use economy in every phase of their operation, particularly seeing that all vehicles are not used for private purposes and that telephone calls are essential and pertain only to County government business. The motion was seconded by Mr. Walters and unanimously approved.

A delegation of Sheriff John Stirewalt and Deputies came before the Commissioners to ask that the Sheriff's original budget request be approved rather than the preliminary budget which the Commissioners tentatively approved at the budget hearings in May. Chief June Bost read a prepared statement to the effect that the Deputies wanted the greater increase in salary to bring their pay scale into line with the City of Salisbury and surrounding counties. They wanted the seven extra men in order to put into operation a platoon system which would enable the men to work shorter hours and the County to have six cars on patrol 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Attorney John L. Holshouser spoke on behalf of the Deputies as a friend of law enforcement. Mr. Holshouser pointed out that a high percentage of the County's crime cases are solved because of these dedicated men. Yet their long hours and heavy volume of work are worth much more than their present salaries indicate. He said they deserve the salaries that will keep them in line with other officers in this area.

After discussing the matter further, Mr. Sowers suggested that a committee of representatives of the Deputies and the Commissioners have a meeting to iron out the problems and present their suggestions to the Board. Mr. Honeycutt and Mr. Messinger said they would represent the Commissioners. The meeting is to be held Thursday at 10 a.m.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned, subject to the call of the Chairman.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela M. Ribelin, Clerk