

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
NOVEMBER 4, 1974

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

Chairman McCombs called the meeting to order and Mr. Messinger opened with prayer. Upon a motion by Mr. Messinger, seconded by Mr. Honeycutt, the minutes of the meetings of October 7 and 16, 1974 were unanimously approved.

The County Manager reminded the Commissioners of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners 1975 Legislative Conference in Raleigh on December 3 and 4, 1974. He also read a request from the Holiday Decorations Committee for our annual contribution for the upkeep of the Christmas decorations in front of the Courthouse and the Community Building. Mr. Honeycutt moved that the County give \$200 from contingencies as they have in past years. Mr. Messinger seconded with unanimous approval.

Attorney Ben McCubbins appeared before the Commissioners with an offer of \$4,200 plus all taxes due for the Eric Lefler Seaford property on which the County has a welfare lien. Mr. McCubbins had previously offered \$2,000 which was refused. Mr. Honeycutt moved that the County accept the offer of \$4,200 plus any outstanding taxes to satisfy the welfare lien. Mr. Sowers seconded with unanimous approval. (resolution attached)

The following road petition was approved upon a motion by Mr. Honeycutt, seconded by Mr. Sowers:

Back Creek Church Cemetery Road

The following new personnel were approved upon a motion by Mr. Walters and seconded by Mr. Messinger:

Audrey L. Smith-Juvenile officer \$638/month
Kyle M. Ribelin-Draftsman \$479/month
Clarence McKnight-Tire Cutter \$344/month
Alvin Watkins-Truck Driver \$479/month
Brenda M. Goodman- SS Eligibility Specialist I \$590/month
William D. Herndon, Jr.-Deputy Sheriff \$553/month

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

1. Mr. Harold A. Jones tax overcharge \$3.23
2. Mrs. James Sartain electrical permit \$5.00

The County Manager presented dog damage claims for the past year. The Commissioners postponed payment until next meeting in order to determine value of animals destroyed.

The Commissioners authorized the Building Custodian to install storm windows in the Scotch-Irish Community Building provided the cost does not exceed \$150.00.

Mr. Glenn Trexler, Tax Collector, reported that a total of \$483,826.66 had been collected during October for all agencies. Mr. Trexler requested that \$346.68 in 1974 taxes be refunded to the Veteran's Administration which was paid in error for Evelyn McCall Bartlett who will pay these taxes. Mr. Honeycutt moved that this refund be made. Mr. Sowers seconded with unanimous approval.

Mr. Edwin Koontz, Director, Social Services Department requested that two additional eligibility specialist I and one typist II be employed to work in the Food Stamp program. He stated that at the present time they are booked for six weeks to receive applicants and that with local industries going on short time and laying off employees that he expects the back log to increase. The total cost for these additional employees would be \$14,722.05 The Federal Government would assume \$6,406.73 leaving \$8,316.32 for the County. Mr. Koontz stated that he had enough funds in his budget to take care of this cost. Mr. Messinger moved that he be granted permission to hire the three additional employees. Mr. Walters seconded with unanimous approval.

Mr. Koontz also requested that he be allowed to increase payments for State boarding children \$5.00 a month so they would be the same as AFDC payments of \$105 a month per child. This would mean that all foster parents would receive the same allowance. It would be an average increase of \$750 a month on the total payments which would be within the money budgeted for this year. Mr. Messinger moved that payments be increased \$5.00 a month. Mr. Honeycutt seconded with unanimous approval.

Mr. Doug Tennent, Architect for the Jail addition and new Sheriff's department, presented the Commissioners with the revised bids after he had negotiated with the low bidders in an attempt to bring the bids within the amount budgeted for the project.

They were as follows:

General Contract – Myrick Construction Co. \$377,685
Plumbing Cohen Heating & Plumbing \$43,707.83
Electrical-Port City Electric \$38,800
Heating & Air Conditioning – Chen Sheet Metal \$61,224
Kitchen Equipment Allowance \$10,893.17

Mr. Tennent said he hoped to make further reductions in the heating and air conditioning contract. Mr. Messinger moved that the bids be accepted with the architect making what reductions he could in the heating and air conditioning and that a maximum of \$18,000 be appropriated for contingencies to allow for the architects fee over and above the total of the bids. Mr. Honeycutt seconded with unanimous approval.

The Sheriff's Department was authorized to purchase one Detco Unit at \$250 to search prisoners. This money is to come from contingencies. Mr. Honeycutt made the motion with a second by Mr. Messinger.

The County Manager was authorized to receive bids from caterers to feed the prisoners while the jail is under construction.

Mr. Messinger informed the Commissioners that he had met with the South Salisbury Volunteer Fire Department and that they were concerned that when the City of Salisbury's annexation came about that they would lose some of their district and their building would be in the city limits. They were wondering if the County had some land near the old County homes that they could buy or get as a donation. Mr. Messinger also talked about a possible site for fire training. He requested the County Manager to look into both of these.

Mr. Clarence Kluttz read a resolution concerning the sale of bonds for Rowan Tech. Mr. Walters moved that the resolution be introduced. Mr. Honeycutt seconded with unanimous approval of the resolution. (attached)

The County Manager reported that Standard and Poor's had rated Rowan County A+ for this bond issue and that Moody's had rated it A-1. The Moody spokesman also stated that Rowan County's debt service condition and payments was the best he had seen.

Mr. Wallace Peeler, Tax Supervisor, reported on the late listings for autos. He said he has already picked up \$2,300,000 on tax books and still had some to go. He recommended that two tracts of land belonging to Rowan Investment Co. be lowered from \$189,690 to \$180,420 and \$161,250 to \$149,640 respectively. These

reductions in valuation are a result of a study by Mr. Emmett Shugart of the State Board of Assessments in Raleigh. These reductions would only result in a loss in tax money of \$89.78. Mr. Honeycutt moved that Mr. Peeler's recommendation be approved. Mr. Messinger seconded with unanimous approval.

Mr. Peeler asked the Commissioner's opinion of retaining five tax listers in various parts of the county. They all agreed that they should be retained for the time being and that a count be made of how many people utilized this service.

Chairman McCombs reported that interest received on budgeted but yet unspent money through October was as follows:

School Building	\$491.57
School Fund	29,138.10
General	60,646.62
Revenue Sharing	20,019.36
Debt Service	<u>1,154.19</u>
Total	\$111,449.84

Mr. Ed Haden presented the Commissioners with an application for a refund of overpayment of taxes in 1965. The Commissioners told Mr. Haden they would take his request under advisement and have the County Attorney report on same at the next meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Glenda Earnhardt, Clerk