

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
ADJOURNED SESSION  
JULY 26, 1976

The Board of Rowan County Commissioners met in an Adjourned Session in the Community Building, Salisbury, North Carolina at 7:30 p.m. The following members were present: Chairman Rufus Honeycutt, Eugene McCombs, Hall Steele and Bob Mauldin. Charlie Walters was absent.

Chairman Honeycutt called the meeting to order and welcomed the Town Boards of Landis and China Grove. The following were present from Landis: Gene Beaver, Mayor; Aldermen Winton Lowe, C.A. Daugherty, Robert Alexander, Larry C. Brown, and Eric Jones, Town Clerk. The following represented China Grove: Gilbert Mesimer, Mayor; Aldermen Roger W. Withers, Jamima DeMarcus, Lewis Moose, Gene K. O'Kelley, Jim Harris and Steve Luther, Town Clerk.

Bob Bridwell, Planner from China Grove and Landis, working from the Salisbury-Rowan Planning Board and official spokesman for the group, presented a resume of the objectives and problems the two towns now face. He said that China Grove and Landis are feeling the money pinch in providing services to urban areas and asked the Commissioners for some consideration in coming up with possible solutions.

Gene Beaver, Mayor of Landis, said the two towns are experiencing increasing pressure from urbanizing areas to extend such services as police and fire protection, garbage collection, recreation facilities and water and sewer. He stated they would like to get some help for a water line to connect these two towns to provide water for fire protection.

Gilbert Mesimer, Mayor of China Grove, reiterated what Mayor Beaver said and also stated that they would like to see the fee for dumping garbage at the Landfill eliminated.

Hall Steele asked if the Boards of China Grove and Landis had given any consideration to formation of a fire district and letting the people in the areas vote a fire tax.

Mr. McCombs said the towns could also qualify for the \$150 monthly subsidization made to the county to other volunteer fire departments and the departments could both answer the same alarms to provide extra protection. He said that if the residents of the urban areas voted to form a fire district, he would

support the laying of water lines on the basis of the county paying one-third and the two towns each paying one-third of the costs.

Chairman Honeycutt suggested that the Mayors get together to discuss the possibilities of municipalities forming a fire district with Clarence Kluttz, County Attorney.

Aldermen Cletus Daugherty of Landis, wanted to bring up the question of ambulance service in the area. He said he had received reports of slow service in the arrival of an ambulance after the call had been made. Chairman Honeycutt said they had not received any other complaints on response time.

The Rowan County School Board came before the Commissioners requesting some solution for the eleven sports activities that were cut from the sports program in the 1976-77 School Budget.

The following school board members were present: Chairman, Lamar Trexler, Marcelle Williams, David Knox, Frank Patterson, W.C. Rogers.

Lamar Trexler, Chairman of Rowan County School Board, discussed the needs of the county schools and asked for help from the Commissioners saying that the School Board had no where else to turn for help. Taxes and gate receipts are their only source of income and if the weather is bad, that would limit gate receipts.

Eddy Snow of the North Rowan Boosters Club served as spokesman for the parents. He stated that cutting out these sports could be detrimental to a large educational part of the schools.

Curtis Rogers, School Board member, assured the Commissioners that the school budget had been cut as much as possible. He stated that even if the schools had received what they asked for this year, it still would not have been enough because the school program is hurting all over, not just in athletics.

Chairman Honeycutt suggested transferring the \$20,000 from Incentive Grant Funds in the County School Budget to athletics. He said the school board needs to follow the necessary procedure of submitting a written request for the line item transfer and action would be taken by the Commissioners at their regular meeting August 2.

In answer to questions, Wade Mobley said the money will be divided between the high schools on the basis of the number of grades in each school.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Glenda Earnhardt, Clerk