

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ADJOURNED MEETING
APRIL 30, 1979

The Board of Rowan County Commissioners met in Adjourned Session in the Community Building, Salisbury, North Carolina at 7:30 p.m. The following members were present: Chairman Paul Smith, Rufus H. Honeycutt, Bradford Ligon, Hall Steele and John Wear, MD.

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order and Rufus Honeycutt opened with prayer.

The Blue Ribbon Committee appointed by the Rowan County Board of Commissioners appeared before the board with recommendations to show how County Government can better serve the citizens of Rowan County, what duplications can be eliminated in order to cut costs, and the efficiency of each department. The committee is:

Eugene McCombs, Chairman
Marjorie DeBerry
Jesse Carson
Rowe B. McNeely
Robert Mauldin

The recommendations for each department are as follows:

County Manager – 1) staff meetings at least once every two months. 2) visiting every department at least once every two weeks. 3) more public contact for better public relations. 4) delegate Ceta personnel and federal grant programs to someone else. An assistant County Manager should be hired to relieve the work load from Mr. Murdoch.

Airport – Improvements are being made at the airport and feel the airport is a great asset to Rowan County.

Board of Elections – Removed deceased persons from the registration books.

Civil Preparedness – a central communication system to be in touch with all emergency units. One member should be established for all emergency services, Sheriff, ambulance, fire, rescue squad, civil preparedness and fire marshal. It would take about two years to implement such a program and the estimated cost would be approximately \$200,000.

Data Processing – Install terminals in offices where needed. Store vital information in the computer and reduce cabinet and record keeping space. Need for additional personnel at a later date. Salaries should be raised to make County competitive with private business.

Fire Marshal – An assistant will be needed in the near future.

Dog Pound – immaculately clean and in good condition.

Farm & Health Center – outstanding job and good public relations. Could operate from the post office building or the Patterson School just as efficiently as their present location.

Health Department – greatest services rendered is home health care and the high risk infant priority program. Need more space in the future along with a water and sewer system. A recommendation for a single port of entry where a case history on each person needing the services of Social Services, Health Department and Mental Health Clinic could be put in the computer. Each agency would only have to push a button and the information would be available.

Register of Deeds – a roving secretary could be used in this office at certain times.

Sheriff's Department – The Sheriff recommended two more officers to help process the increasing amount of paperwork. A central communication emergency system could be used in this department. A manpower study should be made.

Tax Collector – Transfer all tax collection procedures to the computer. If the state would allow the Tax Collector's office to sell license tags, this could be accomplished in this office without additional personnel.

Tax Supervisor – An assistant Tax Supervisor who is familiar with the full operation of the office.

Veteran Service – An additional person in this office to help with the workload when needed.

Social Services – overcrowded conditions and lack of space. Recommend the Farm & Health Center be turned over to the Social Services Department. The Agriculture Department along with all Federal and State agencies be moved to the Post office or to the Patterson school. A satellite station in the southern end of Rowan county was suggested by Edwin Koontz.

Sanitation Department – A garbage collection program was recommended. The county would be divided into four areas. Garbage would be picked up at mailboxes on a given day. The cost would be borne by every homeowner by adding whatever is necessary to the tax bill. Sheds are needed to store equipment.

Building Inspection – The extra secretary to fill positions in different offices whenever she is needed.

Parks and Recreation – 1) double the size of the concession stand. 2) add two new volleyball courts. 3) cement the floors of the larger shelters. 4) build an outdoor theater. 5) add a few more picnic tables and play equipment at Ellis.

Council on Aging – vital and necessary service that is utilized by the Aged at a very minimal cost to the County.

Rowan Public Library- A study should be given to the possibility of combining libraries with school libraries.

Rowan County & Salisbury Schools – A better educational system could result for the children of the county and city through the merger of the two school units. Before such a merger should be considered, a careful, professional study of benefits and drawbacks should be made by a committee possible appointed by the state board of education.

Salisbury City School District Lines – Salisbury City school officials would like to have the city school district lines coterminous with the city limit lines. Classrooms would be vacant at area schools. The Salisbury schools would be overcrowded and would probably require additional building.

School Maintenance Department – Merger of the maintenance department of the two systems would be beneficial. Personnel and equipment could be used by both units, rather than being duplicated.

School lunch program – a merger of the Rowan County and City School Food Services would be helpful in the buying of food, supplies and equipment.

All the commissioners extended their thanks and appreciation to the Blue Ribbon Committee for outstanding job and work that had gone into the compilation of the report.

Upon a motion by Mr. Honeycutt, seconded by Mr. Steele, the Board unanimous approved a resolution supporting a Department of Cultural Resources supplemental budget requesting \$3 million for Phase I development of the Historic Spencer Shops.

Mr. Honeycutt moved, seconded by Dr. Wear to defer any decision on the two proposals concerning the CBA funds for the coming year. This was for the foster care program at Social Services and the in-school suspension program for the city schools. Mr. Steele asked why the County Schools were not included in the school program.

A letter was received from Mr. Earl Bullard, Director, Rowan Memorial Hospital in regards to the Home Health Care Program, asking the County Commissioners to assume financial responsibility for a deficit up to \$25,000 less any grants available from the state. Mr. Honeycutt made a motion, seconded by Dr. Wear and unanimously approved the hospital's operation of the Home Health Care Program providing the hospital make application for a grant.

A letter was received from Marjorie DeBerry, Executive Director, United Way requesting that Sandra Reitz be appointed to serve as County Chairman for the International year of the Child. Upon a motion by Mr. Honeycutt, seconded by Mr. Steele the appointment was unanimously approved.

A letter was received from O.D. Rentz, District Engineer, Department of Transportation regarding the road to the new Rowan County Landfill site. They would be able to grade, drain and stabilize this 500' of road but would need two necessary items: 1) sign a right of way agreement so the portion of the road could be added to the system, 2) approve \$1500 of Secondary Road funds to be used. Mr. Honeycutt moved to approve this request, seconded by Mr. Steele and unanimously approved.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Honeycutt, seconded by Mr. Ligon, Mr. Ed Church's proclamation for Soil Stewardship Week in the County of Rowan on the 7th day of May, 1979 was unanimously approved.

As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret B. Olsen, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners