

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ADJOURNED MEETING
JUNE 25, 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 Honeycutt, Brad Ligon and John Wear, MD.

The Adjourned meeting was set specifically for a public hearing on the 1979-80 budget for Rowan county. Chairman Smith declared the public hearing was officially opened and asked if anyone was present that would like to be heard. The following people spoke.

Norman Frick – Should reduce spending 3 ½% to keep budget with no tax increase. Too many socialistic programs not needed. Should freeze salaries on people making over \$12,000 a year.

Gene Hanarhan – Public servants should not make more pay than the ones who are paying their salaries. Money spent in schools for unnecessary programs. Need Commissioners who will use our dollars wisely.

Mrs. Earl Davis – Money should be used to help the elderly, ones on fixed incomes and in rest homes. Money used in certain programs are a waste.

Mrs. Betty Kerr – I appreciate Mr. Ligon's stand for what is right. We should cut down locally starting with Social Services.

Russell T. Kerr – 100% behind Brad Ligon. His proposals and ideas deserve to be heard. Should cut back on a lot of spending in the County. Too much is being spent in too many directions.

Mr. Paul Bernhardt – Spoke in favor of the Ceta program. She praised the work and worthwhile positions of these workers especially the help being given the handicapped people.

Mrs. Helen Murray – Questioned the delay on the audit being put out for bids.

The County Manager in response to Mrs. Murray's question stated, this is in process and will be ready for the 1979-80 budget audit.

Brad Ligon – He stated at a previous meeting he moved that all departments reduce their budget by 3 ½% so a tax increase would not be needed. He also asked the Commissioners to cut their own \$3,000 travel allowance. He stated there was an overall pay increase of 5 percent but in one department there was an extra \$20,000 for merit raises and overtime. He questioned the hiring of more eligibility specialist at Social Services who would be looking for more people to receive government aid. Miscellaneous items in the budget were not needed.

Dr. Wear – The County is operated on a fixed income because its tax rate is based on land valuations that are updated every eight years. He stated the County should vote and get approved a special school tax to take care of the school needs. This would relieve the school officials from asking for a large increase every year.

Rufus Honeycutt- Whatever is given the schools 21% of this goes to the City and Kannapolis schools. Social Services' programs are mandated in Washington with no control on a local level.

Paul Smith – We had a balanced budget and there would have been no increase if not for Social Services. State and Federal legislation attributed to the increase in the Social Services budget. At the 1978 election only 19% of Rowan county turned out to vote. If the people want the same mandates from Washington and Raleigh then you stay home during the next election.

Chairman Smith officially declared the hearing closed.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Wear, seconded by Commissioner Honeycutt, the 1979-80 budget was adopted as presented with three in favor and one nay. (Attached.)

Dr. Gardner, Tri-County Mental Health Department, gave a presentation requesting permission to apply for a grant for Federal law enforcement assistance administration funds to pay another employee for the Adolescent Day Treatment Program. Commissioner Honeycutt moved this request be denied, seconded by Commissioner Ligon.

A letter was received from Mr. Wade Mobley, Superintendent, Rowan County Board of Education requesting an advance appropriation for \$150,000 against this 1980-81 budget. This would tie Erwin Jr. High and East Rowan Senior High to the Granite Quarry Municipal water and sewer system. Commissioner Honeycutt moved to give Mr. Mobley a letter of intent, seconded by Commissioner Ligon and unanimously approved. The County Manager was asked to notify Mr. Mobley of the Board's decision.

A letter was received from Harold Caudill, County Extension Chairman requesting a leave of absence for Miss Edith Hinshaw due to her illness. She will take the month of June as sick leave and two months, July and August as leave without pay. Upon a motion by Commissioner Honeycutt, seconded by Commissioner Ligon, this request was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Honeycutt moved, seconded by Dr. Wear and unanimously approved the 1978-79 budget amendment. (Attached)

The following transfer were unanimously approved by a motion from Dr. Wear, seconded by Commissioner Ligon. (Attached)

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret Olsen, Clerk
Rowan County Board of Commissioners