

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
ADJOURNED MEETING  
APRIL 21, 1980

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 John Wear, Rufus Honeycutt, Hall Steele, Paul Smith and Brad Ligon.

Chairman Wear called the public hearing to order. Chairman Wear stated the purpose of the meeting is to listen to both pros and cons of the controversy concerning the trapping of foxes in Rowan County. The Commissioners would then determine if we should ask the legislators to pass a law requesting fox harvesting in Rowan County. As of July 1<sup>st</sup> the new law states there will be no fox harvesting with the exception that a person can do so on the property he owns or leases if there is evidence or depredation.

Dr. Richard Adams of Statesville spoke against fox harvesting. He stated growing foreign demand for fur had brought the fox pelt up to \$70 and consequently traps have been strung up all over Rowan County. He said the General Assembly has given the Wildlife Commission \$50,000 to study foxes and make a determination of the fox population in each area and recommend local legislation. We should wait and give the Commission a chance to make a study.

Craig Deal of the Rowan County Fox Hunters Association presented a petition bearing 500 signatures. He said his group was particularly opposed to steel traps.

Hugh Pinkston, Jr. stated it was not the fox that is the issue. It is the cruelty of the traps.

Calvin L. Barringer said he had no trouble getting animals out of their traps without harm.

Ed Rowland from Gold Hill states there is no such thing as fox trapping, the traps catch everything. The traps should be outlawed.

Chairman Wear stated we are not here to legalize trapping but to make a study to see if there are too many foxes in this area.

James L. Brown of Flatwoods Hunting Club spoke in favor of fox trapping. He felt there were no rabbits or birds left because of the foxes. If the dogs get caught in the traps on our land it is not our fault.

Bill Ryburn stated that 99% of the farmers in the County are in favor of harvesting the fox. He said trappers were not the only ones in favor but rabbit hunters, turkey hunters, quail hunters and bass fisherman. He listed state and federal wildlife services and federation that favored trapping.

Jake Morgan of Julian Road said foxes ruined his garden every year. The Humane Society should be concerned over the squirrels and doves that are being killed leaving the young to starve to death.

Bonnie Smith of the Humane Society does not feel that Rowan County is overpopulated with foxes. She along with other members are against steel traps and stated they should be outlawed.

The Commissioners took no action and Chairman Wear closed the public hearing.

Chairman Wear declared the Adjourned Meeting open for further business.

The Bid for the remodeling of the postal section of the old post office was awarded to J.B. Waddell Construction Company of Charlotte for \$43,990 pending approval by the Postal Service. A motion was made by Mr. Honeycutt, seconded by Mr. Steele. The other bids were as follows:

Wagoner Construction	59,700
Southern Construction	60,863
A.L. Jarrell	63,000
Kannapolis Construction	63,000

A letter was received by Southern Bell requesting a subscriber loop carrier hook on a portion of land adjacent to the airport. The property if not used by the County would have to revert back to the City. It was suggested that the Board wait to see if the realtor might find another site.

Upon a motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Steele an authorization was given Mr. Glenn A. Trexler to issue beer and wine licenses for the period May 1, 1980 to April 30, 1981 per permits issued by the State Board of Alcoholic Control.

A letter was received from Hilda B. Palmer, Town Manager of Spencer requesting the Rowan County Inspection Department act as Spencer's Inspector until such a time a permanent building inspector is hired by the Town of Spencer. Mr. Steele moved, seconded by Mr. Honeycutt to approve this request.

Mr. Honeycutt moved, seconded by Mr. Steele to authorize the County Manager to put out for bid to sale two 1979 Fords, one 1972 Ford and one 1964 Ford used by the Sheriff's Department.

Upon a motion by Mr. Honeycutt, seconded by Mr. Steele, the approval of a one year lease agreement by H.K. Krider for 86 acres on Heilig Road at \$10/acre from April 1, 1980 to March 31, 1981.

A letter was received from Julian Carpenter, Jr. resigning his position o the Rowan County Housing Authority Board.

The County Manager reminded the Commissioner they needed to be thinking about a replacement for Mr. Carpenter and also one for Jack Ramsey Jr., who had resigned from the Planning Board.

The following transfer were unanimously approved by a motion from Mr. Honeycutt, seconded by Mr. Smith.

A letter was received from Mr. Charlie Walters on behalf of he and Mr. Setzer thanking the Commissioners for the recognition and honor they received at the April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

A letter was received from the Department of Transportation advising the Commissioners of the retirement of Mr. O.D. Rentz, District Engineer for the Salisbury Office on July 1, 1980 and also to inform them there will be a retirement dinner for Mr. Rentz on Thursday, June 5, 1980.

Mr. Honeycutt moved, seconded by Mr. Steele to approve the addition of another antenna by Two-Way Radio of Carolina on the radio tower located off 601.

Upon a motion by Mr. Honeycutt, seconded by Mr. Smith the Commissioners meeting for Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup> was changed to Monday, May 12 at 1:00 p.m. in the Community Building. The dinner meeting being held at the Agriculture office will also be changed to Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup>.

The County Manager read the resolution requesting the state legislation to fund mandated laws sent from Raleigh. After some agreeable changes, Mr. Honeycutt moved, seconded by Mr. Steele to approve the resolution. It will be sent to our representatives in Raleigh and to the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners. (Attached)

Mr. Honeycutt moved, seconded by Mr. Smith the appointment of Lou Burrell to the Council on the Status of Women.

As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret B. Ireland, Clerk  
Rowan County Board of Commissioners