

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 6, 1980

The Board of Rowan County Commissioners met in Regular Session in the Community Building, Salisbury, North Carolina at 1:00 p.m. The following members were present: Chairman John Wear, Paul Smith, Hall Steele, and Brad Ligon.

Chairman Wear called the meeting to order and Mr. Ligon opened with prayer.

Upon a motion by Mr. Steele, seconded by Mr. Smith the minutes of September 2 and September 16 were unanimously approved.

The monthly reports were unanimously approved as received.

County manager Murdoch read a letter of commendation from Denver Hodges, Chairman of the Tri-County Mental Health complex area board. Hodges said the commissioners' decision to release \$69,000 of Rowan funds to be used for the Tri-County detoxification center in Statesville was an unprecedented occurrence. Commissioner Smith presented the board with a report from Mr. Hodges which he received after attending a meeting with the complex board.

A letter addressed to the Chairman of the county Commissioners was read by County Manager of the resignation of Jim Dunn from Centralina Regional Employment and Training Council, and Edward Norvell from the Rowan Historic Properties Commission. Commissioners agreed to replace both of these officials at the adjourned meeting on Monday, October 13, 1980 at 7:30 p.m.

A letter was read by County Manager from James Gibson, Energy Division, North Carolina Department of Commerce, concerning the Federal Emergency Building Temperatures Restrictions. Three building inspectors will be selected from the Building Inspector's Office to conduct energy inspections. They will be required to conduct 50 inspections during a three month period.

A letter was read by County Manager Murdoch from Carl Lee Patterson, head of Conservation district requesting that Commissioners help the soil conservation district acquire two soil technicians. Mr. Patterson stated in his letter that his office was not staffed enough to take care of the 8,000 man hours needed yearly. He also stated that agriculture is still the main contributor to the Rowan County economy. Commissioner Steele commented that conservationists need more

help if they are going to attempt to do the job that needs to be done, suggesting Commissioners look at the responsibility of the Watershed Board. Chairman Wear said Carl Sloop, Coordinator of the Watershed Commission, and Paul Canup another watershed employee main job has sort of petered out. He also said County Commissioners could have the Watershed board assign Canup to Soil Conservation, do away with the Watershed board, or they could have both bodies- Watershed and Conservation-work on soil conservation. Mr. Smith moved that Dick Reamer and Carl Lee Patterson attend the adjourned Monday night Commissioners meeting on October 13, 1980 to discuss their personnel problems- with Mr. Steele seconding the motion.

A letter was read by County Manager from Dr. Morrow, Secretary, Department of Human Resources concerning the Energy Assistance Program for low-income persons informing Commissioners that they may have to pay up to \$8,000 to administer the federal program.

A memorandum was read by County Manager Murdoch from C. Ronald Aycock, Executive Director, North Carolina Association of County Commissioners informing them of the 1981 Legislative Goals Development process. Purpose of this memo is to outline the process and to invite your comments and suggestions regarding legislative proposals.

A letter was read by County Manager Murdoch informing Commissioners of an Electrical Seminar to be held at the Chamber of Commerce office on October 22, 1980. A fee of \$40 will be charged to those attending.

Mr. Ligon moved to approve a road petition signed by petitioners on Maple Street and Maple Circle in Shade Tree Acres Subdivision to add .3 of a mile to the state road system. Mr. Steele seconded since the street meets requirements for addition.

Glenn Trexler, Rowan County Tax Collector reported tax collections of \$929,449.51 for September, 1980.

Mr. Edwin Koontz, Director of Social Services requested guidance and direction from the Commissioners in hiring four temporary eligibility specialists to screen participants for the federal low-income energy assistance program. Mr. Koontz said guidelines for the program change from hour to hour and it could be that the General Assembly will decide when it meets in January to pay the non-federal share of administrative costs. The program is supposed to start November 1, 1980. Mr. Koontz said under this program, participants will get a one-time check of \$42 to \$203 per-household to help pay heating bills. State officials estimate 4,531 households in Rowan will qualify for the program, but Mr. Koontz expects more. The commissioners seemed unhappy about the County paying \$8,000 to administer

a program that they will have no control over. Mr. Koontz recommended hiring personnel for the program and preparing to get underway since it's clear Rowan must participate in the program. Chairman Wear said he respects Mr. Koontz's opinion and thinks he does an excellent job, and would like to see the Board do that. Mr. Steele made a motion to this effect, seconded by Mr. Smith, with everyone in favor except Mr. Ligon voting nay. The Commissioners unanimously approved three budget revisions for Social Services. A new eligibility specialist will be hired beginning November 10, 1980 with the \$5,735 remainder of a homemaker's salary. Additional Title XX funds totaling \$11,540 will be used to expand in-home services. Workers in the Protective Service Unit who are on call at night will receive one-step increases.

Mr. Jimmy Foltz, Curtis Graham and Pat West with Parks and Recreation appeared before the Commissioners requesting a van to be used for the Special Population program at the Park. Pat West, Special Populations Coordinator gave a history of his program and need for a van. The County will not have to pay for the van which is owned by the Salisbury-Rowan Community Service Council. The Association for Retarded Citizens once used this van. The van will be used to transport needy persons, not those able to arrange their own transportation. Mr. West said borrowing a van from Tri-County Mental health for .50 a mile costs about \$3,000 a year. He estimated running a van for special population would cost \$700 annually for insurance, \$553 annually for gas and \$75 monthly for general maintenance a total yearly cost of \$2,153. Mr. Ligon moved for the board to get the van with Mr. Smith seconding. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Robert Gunn, Fire Marshall, informed the board of a request for the appointment of Melvin Wilson to replace Cecil Perry on the Enochville Fire Commission. Mr. Smith moved to accept the replacement with Mr. Steele seconding. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Steele asked Mr. Gunn to report on the fire at North Rowan Middle School. Mr. Gunn reported that damages to the school was more like \$400,000 than \$200,000- and that much of it could have been prevented if the building had fire stops between the ceiling and roof. The entire mishap would have been avoided if the builder had not let combustible material protrude into the metal fuse box where the electrical overload occurred. Mr. Ligon suggested that the County have someone go to each school and inspect to see if all electrical connections comply with current codes. Chairman Wear appointed County Manager Murdoch to look into the situation and report back to the board when it meets Monday night, October 13, 1980 at 7:30 p.m.

The following new personnel were unanimously approved by a motion from Mr. Steele, seconded by Mr. Smith:

Karen Everhart
Hired 9/8/80
Assistant Naturalist
Salary- \$683/monthly

Nesbert D. Carson
Hired 9/1/80
Janitor
Salary- \$4.01/hour

Paula M. Snyder
Hired 9/9/80
Tax Collection Clerk
Salary - \$592/monthly

Willis Charleston
Hired 9/17/80
Maid
Salary \$3.41/hour

Alma Daugherty
Hired 9/16/80
Clerk photofilming
Salary-\$310.64/monthly

The County Manager reported interest received through September 30, 1980.

General Fund	\$93,082.01
Revenue Sharing	<u>2,405.30</u>
	\$95,487.31

The Board approved budget amendments to incorporate the federal 1980-81 Ceta allocations. The County will receive \$194,658 for 31 Title II slots, \$31,921 for Title VI and \$15,616 for administration. (Attached)

County Manager Murdoch asked the Board if they had thought of a nominee for the liaison to work with Mr. Frank Harrington of the U.S. Council for the International year of disabled persons. Mr. Smith said that he would ask Naomi Bernhardt, a member of his Church and report back Monday night at the next meeting of the Commissioners.

The Board voted to lease space at the Rowan County Airport to Brad Ragan Inc. for the building of a hangar. The 20 year lease calls for payments of \$85 monthly to County to be escalated with the cost of living. At the end of the lease,

the hangar and all other improvements will become the property of the County. County Manager Murdoch said the General Assembly passed a law this year that made it unnecessary for the County to advertise for upset bids on the project.

Mr. Murdoch requested that Chairman Wear M.C. the tree planting event at Dan Nicholas Park on Sunday, October 19, at 3:00 P.M. in honor of Jim Holshouser. Dr. Wear commented that he would do his best or get someone to do the honors.

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned until Monday night, October 13, 1980 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda L. Honeycutt, Clerk
Rowan County Board of Commissioners