

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
DECEMBER 1, 1980

The Board of Rowan County Commissioners met in Regular Session in the Community Building, Salisbury, North Carolina at 9:00 A.M. Vice-Chairman Rufus Honeycutt called the meeting of the Board to order and opened with prayer. Commissioner Steele made the motion to accept the minutes of November 3, 17 and 19, as received with Mr. McCombs seconding. Mr. Honeycutt informed the Board that Brad Ligon, outgoing Commissioner, would not be there due to a job conflict; also absent was Dr. John Wear. Mr. Honeycutt recognized Mr. Paul Smith, outgoing Commissioner, recently elected to the State Senate, for his four years of dedicated service to the Board with a plaque and a gift. He was Chairman of the Board during the year 1978-79. Mr. Larry Parrish, Director of the Tri-County Mental Health Complex also presented Mr. Smith with a plaque to show his Board's appreciation. Mr. Smith has served as the Commission's representative on the Tri-County Board since February, 1979. Vice-Chairman Honeycutt then adjourned the Old Board. The installation ceremony of the two new elected Commissioners, Jim Sides and James Cohen with Mr. Francis Glover, Clerk of Court officiating then took place. Mr. Honeycutt then declared a short recess.

County Manager Seth Murdoch called the meeting to order to ask for nominations for Chairman for the new board of commissioners. Mr. James Cohen nominated Eugene McCombs as Chairman with Mr. Honeycutt seconding. County Manager asked for more nominations. Mr. Steele made the motion for the floor to be closed and for the Board to accept Mr. McCombs with Mr. Honeycutt seconding. The Board voted unanimously. The chair was then turned over to Mr. McCombs.

Chairman McCombs commented that he has had no indication as to who might want to the Vice-chairman's position. Mr. Honeycutt said that he had not had any indication from Mr. Sides but had hear that Mr. Cohen might accept. He then made the motion to nominate Mr. Cohen as vice-chairman with Mr. Steele seconding. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman McCombs then asked for any additions to the Agenda. There were none. A few of the monthly reports were available for discussion. The others will be presented to the Board later. Mr. Steele explained the Social Services reports to the new commissioners. Suggested that the board make some decisions of what might be deleted in the reports- to look them over. Mr. Steele said it was difficult to understand the reports now since they only give statistics for one month. Mr. Honeycutt said the reports need to include statistics from past months for comparison. Mr. Sides, former Supervisor of the Tabulating Department, said that

it was possible to program the computers to give such reports. He made the motion for the department head, Dwight Jones, to attend the next Commissioners meeting to explain why he hasn't changed the reports with the Board in unanimous approval.

Chairman McCombs suggested that the Board appointments be delayed until January when the Board meets again to give the new commissioners a chance to look them over. Mr. Honeycutt said this seemed fair to him.

Mr. Murdoch received a letter from the Association of County Commissioners, Raleigh, North Carolina asking for a voting delegate from Rowan County Board to attend the Legislative Goals Conference planned for December 10 and 11 in Pinehurst, North Carolina. Mr. Honeycutt said he planned to go. Mr. Steele said that his was a very, important meeting. Chairman McCombs then appointed Mr. Honeycutt as the voting delegate and Mr. Steele the alternate with unanimous approval.

Mr. Murdoch made two changes to the Memorandum sent to Commissioners concerning Board Appointments. Number seven (7) Salisbury Planning Board and (9) Salisbury Board of Adjustments have been extended to March 31, 1981.

Chairman McCombs appointed Jim Sides and Hall Steele to serve on the School Committee. He informed them that the school board was to meet that night at 7:30 p.m.

Commissioner Honeycutt moved to approve the following new personnel with Mr. Steele seconding with the Board giving unanimous approval:

Carolyn Myers-DSS-Salary \$741 monthly, hired 11/10/80.  
Debbie Bradshaw-Tax Collector, Salary \$564.50 monthly, hired 10/27/80.  
Janet Beasley-Health Dept.- Salary \$676 monthly hired 11/3/80.  
Janella Jones-DSS-Salary \$847 monthly, hired 10/27/80.

County Manager reported interest on funds appropriated but not spent as of November 30.

General Fund	\$148,411.38
Revenue Sharing	8,339.03
Debt Service	<u>1,383.54</u>
Total	\$169,036.99

County Manager reported on two one year lease agreements up for renewal. One with Pierce-Tuttle, the firm now operating the County Home on Old Concord Road as Heritage Home. The other with Home Oil and Coal who is leasing the property in the 300 block of North Main Street to operate a service station. The board agreed to renew the lease with Home Oil and Coal at \$225 monthly rent with Mr. Honeycutt making the motion and Mr. Cohen seconding. They agreed to extend the Pierce-Tuttle lease for thirty (30) days, which will give Mr. Honeycutt time to look into the calls that he has received concerning the home (which he cared not to elaborate on) before the next meeting in January. Mr. Steele made the motion to extend it with Mr. Honeycutt seconding.

Lieutenant Ed Haupt and Deputy Mark Shue with the Sheriff's Department requested the Board to allocate \$9,413 for Deputy Shue to continue covering the river investigation project. This position has been funded by a grant by the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA), a federal program that has been drastically cut- and might not be renewed again at all. The funding runs out December 31, 1980 and Lt. Haupt is requesting funds to maintain the position through June, 1981. The allocation would include \$5,763 for salary and benefits, \$2,400 for motor vehicle operation and \$250 for uniforms. Lt. Haupt informed the Board that Deputy Shue had covered 14,850 miles since he started patrolling in April in a 1980 GMC truck, and had responded to 282 calls. Commissioner Cohen asked Lt. Haupt on "what shift do most of the crimes take place?" Lt. Haupt answered second shift. Lt. Haupt informed the Board that since Deputy Shue had been patrolling the last seven months, crime had decreased. Mr. Cohen asked Lt. Haupt about the percentage of arrests. Lt. Haupt did not have this figure but did say the Community Watch program had lowered this rate considerably. Before Deputy Shue started covering this area, twenty-seven (27) homes were broken into during one weekend. The river area has problems with residents from Stanly and Davidson counties coming across the river to buy alcoholic beverages since these counties do not allow the sale of alcohol. During a recent check of 123 cars stopped, only 12 were Rowan residents, Lt. Haupt said. Commissioner Sides made the motion for Sheriff Stirewalt to look elsewhere for funds to extend this special river project. He said that he had heard that there was a vacancy in that department. Mr. Cohen seconded that motion. Mr. Sides suggested that Lt. Haupt report back to the Board next month after talking further with Sheriff Stirewalt. Mr. Sides would like to see some figures and the number of personnel started with LEAA funds and picked up by the county. He believes it is a big expense to the taxpayers and it is time to tighten up our belts. He said whether this project was funded or not, if the County needed the services there would be a way to receive it. Mr. McCombs questioned the \$250 for uniforms as Deputy Shue had both summer and winter uniforms. The Board vote unanimously to table it until next month. Mr. Honeycutt expressed his concern about the deputies traveling along at night, made the statement that "they should take extra precaution because of people spotlighting and firelighting for deer."

Glenn Trexler, Tax Collector reported total tax collections of \$619,297.89 for the month of October. He explained the break down for the new commissioners of who he collects for. Fourteen unites Rowan County, E. Spencer, Faith, Salisbury, Kannapolis Sanitary District and nine (9) rural fire departments. Mr. Trexler will get a written report for the commissioners when it is complete.

Jim Queen, Chairman Community Based Alternatives Task Force, appeared before the Board requesting approval of name submitted for the task force and also approval of a pre-application for over \$16,000 to fund the in-school suspension program at North Rowan Middle School. This should be in by January 15, 1981. Commissioner Sides said he could not get over the idea of in school baby sitting- the child is the parent's responsibility, but there were a lot of single parents and parents who work during the day- and the child would be wondering around the streets. Commissioner Sides said to Mr. Queen, "you keep repeating that students go to suspension for minor infractions," that's what principals and vice-principals are for." Commissioner Cohen made the statement that discipline should be given back to the teachers. Commissioner Steele suggested that he and Mr. Sides discuss this with the school board tonight and bring it up again at the January meeting. The Board agreed unanimously.

County Manager informed the Board of North Carolina General Statute §159-28 Preaudit of Disbursements relating to a resolution for the use of facsimile signature machines or signature stamps in signing checks and drafts. The government charges the finance officer with the custody of these stamps and makes him liable for any unauthorized use of them. Mr. Murdoch asked the Board to approve this practice and approve a resolution requesting the Wachovia Bank to honor it. Mr. Honeycutt made the motion to approve this request with Mr. Cohen seconding and unanimous approval. (attached)

County Manager reminded the Commissioners of the Special Deputy Christmas Party at Pope's restaurant on Monday, December 8 at 7:00 p.m.

Commissioner Honeycutt and Commissioner Steele were reminded by Chairman McCombs to be sure to read their legislative reports before going to Pinehurst.

Commissioner Cohen informed the Board that he had received two (2) calls at home from concerned citizens concerning drug abuse. He requested the Board to go on record in favor of "harder laws". Chairman McCombs requested that Mr. Cohen make that motion to the Board. Commissioner Cohen then made the motion for the Board to go on record in favor of "harder laws against drug pushers" and urged the North Carolina Legislature to adopt a statewide law against drug paraphernalia. Commissioner Honeycutt seconded the motion with unanimous approval.

Mr. McCombs commented that the previous Board had made known its drug stand by passing the County Ordinance against smoking accessories. "We could follow it up in Raleigh by letting them know where we stand." Mr. Cohen quoted. Mr. Steele suggested that the Commissioners invite local legislators to a dinner meeting to discuss the upcoming session which opens on January 14 or the 15. No action was taken.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned until January 5, 1981.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda L. Honeycutt, Clerk  
Rowan County Board of Commissioners