

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 5, 1981

The Board of Rowan County Commissioners met in Regular Session in the Community Building, Salisbury, North Carolina at 9:00 A.M. The following members were present: Chairman Eugene McCombs, Rufus Honeycutt, Hall Steele, Jim Sides and Jim Cohen. Chairman McCombs called the meeting to order and Jim Sides opened with prayer. Mr. Honeycutt made one correction to the minutes of December 1, 1980 which pertains to the Sheriff's deputies patrolling the river area at night. Page 3-top paragraph of the minutes. Mr. Honeycutt did not intend for the minutes to read that the Deputy should travel with an assistant, but that he should take special precautions of person spotlighting and firelighting for deer. Mr. Honeycutt then made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected with Mr. Steele seconding and the Board in unanimous approval. Mr. McCombs asked for any additions to the Agenda which were none and then started the routine business with Mr. Dwight Jones, Supervisor of the Tabulating Department reporting on the monthly reports. Mr. Sides suggested at last month's meeting that Mr. Jones attend and explain why the reports had not been changed. Mr. Sides said that he has not had time to study them and prepare a system as to how they should be done. Mr. Sides suggested that the dog warden report be done quarterly- to single space instead of double spacing -to show a percentage of appropriation encumbered used at each point. Mr. Jones then explained the Sheriff's reports. He explained the columns, totals and gave comparisons of each month. Mr. Sides suggested that Mr. Jones create a legend to briefly describe what columns represent. A suggestion was also made that on the next report that a break down on patrol numbers be given. Since there was no more discussion concerning monthly reports, Mr. Murdoch, County Manager presented the correspondence:

A letter from the Town of Spencer requesting that Rowan county enforce all building code inspections and Floodway Ordinance. A motion to approve this request was made by Mr. Honeycutt and seconded by Mr. Steele with unanimous approval by the Board.

A letter from Nelson Shepherd, Pooletown Fire Department Board of Directors advocated the need for good strong law enforcement in the lower portion of Eastern Rowan. There are special needs due to influx of hunters, spotlighters, and out of county tavern patrons. He would appreciate any help that could be given.

A letter was received from Janet McCanless, President China Grove Junior High PTA, to keep in-school suspension in the schools.

A letter was received by Mr. McCombs from the Governor concerning the designation of Salisbury to be an area growth center by the state rather than a regional growth center. The Kannapolis-Landis-China Grove area have also been designated.

Chairman McCombs read the Committee Appointments. He did not appoint any one on the parks and recreation committee, but will Monday night. Mr. Sides then requested that he and Mr. Cohen share jointly on the Sheriff's and Personnel Committee and also requested to be the voting delegate rather than an alternate on Centralina Council of Government. Chairman McCombs denied all three requests.

Mr. Sides then asked Mr. McCombs to present his requests before the Board for a vote. Commissioner Steele moved that the Chairman be authorized to make all appointments, Mr. Honeycutt seconded, the motion passed with Mr. Cohen and Mr. Sides voting against it. Mr. Sides was not satisfied with this decision. He opposed giving one man all the authority to make appointments. Mr. Steele offered to step down from the Sheriff's Department committee to let Mr. Cohen have it, but Mr. McCombs said no. Mr. McCombs said Mr. Cohen could sit in on the meetings but Mr. Sides said this would be in violation of the open meetings law. Mr. Honeycutt made the motion to reappoint County Officials, County Attorney, Clerk, Tax Collector, County Manager and Finance Officer with Mr. Steele seconding with the Board voting unanimously except Mr. Sides who voted against these appointments. (Attached)

Mr. Jim Queen then submitted a pre-application- a list of task force appointments, old and new to handle the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Programs and funds for approval and certification. The program in issue now is the in-school suspension program. Mr. Queen submitted the following names who are on the Board for re-appointments: Mrs. Edith Alcorn, Health Department, Steve Beaver, Law Enforcement, Robert Carmichael, City Schools, John DeMarcus, adult probation and parole, Dr. Ronald Gardner, Tri-County Mental Health Center, Frank Montgomery, district court judge, Ruth McSwain, Kiser Teacher Center, Jim queen, Chief Court Counselor, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Raney, foster parents and private citizens, Sand Reitz, Social Services Department, William Robinson, City Schools and Dr. Erma Scarlette, County schools. Mr. Queen also recommended the following as new appointments: Joyce Caddell, adult volunteer, Rev. Marion Jones, Minister, Tammy Brandon, North Rowan High Student, Jay Hampton, Youth consumer, Gerald Rush, Attorney, Alan Schneider, Nazareth Children's Home and Karen Smith, Salisbury High School Student. Mr. Sides made a motion to hold off because he had a list of his own representatives who had already been contacted. Mr. Cohen his motion. Mr. Queen then commented that January 15 is a deadline for submitting these names. Without these new appointments he could meet the deadline. Mr. Cohen asked Mr. Queen how often

they met. Mr. Queen said about seven (7) meetings a year-once a month, except during the summer. Mr. Sides asked how long do they serve. Mr. Queen said no term has been set-that it was a new program operating without by-laws since 1976-as appointed by the County Commissioners. They have attempted to come up to the by-laws required. Mr. Sides then commented that he would like to defer these appointments until the Commissioners again Monday night and at that time he would submit his nominations to the Board. Mr. Honeycutt said to go ahead and submit them now. Mr. Sides then submitted his recommendations to the Board: Adult volunteers, Jim Neely, Alex Scott, and Helen Murray, Dottie Carson, Youth consumer, Robert Saunders, attorney, Ann Bartlett, high school student, Dallas Fuller, Nazareth Home, Karen Smith, high school student, Rev. Gary Blackburn and Rev. Chris O' Guin he offered two but his choice would be Rev. Blackburn. Commissioner Honeycutt said he would like some information on these people as he glanced over to Mr. Sides notes, but Mr. Sides withdrew his papers and told Mr. Honeycutt that the would appreciate him not looking at his notes to look at his own. Mr. Honeycutt said that he had no notes and Mr. Sides said that he prepares himself for these meetings. Mr. Murdoch, County Manager, commented that the task force should be represented by black people to reflect the county's population ratio. Mr. Sides had no black representatives. Mr. McCombs suggested that both groups be submitted again Monday night. Mr. Sides again commented that the Board needed good representation and also that he would not be prepared for Monday night's meeting and requested more time with Mr. Cohen seconding. Mr. Sides then withdrew his motion after much controversy from the Board and Mr. Steele made the motion to approve Mr. Queen's nominations since he had to meet a January 15 deadline, and also the fact that they had already had a month to work on it. No second to the motion. The Board then agreed to make the appointments Monday night.

Mr. Wade Mobley, Superintendent of the Rowan County Schools then took the floor to stress the importance of the in-school suspension program. He said the Commissioners should further study the program and visit the schools. To be more aware of student's behavior in school. He asked the Commissioners in order to fulfill a child's needs, how much do you think it is worth- to make that student a productive citizen. Jeannette Beam, an in-school suspension teacher at China Grove Junior high School thanked the Board for allowing her time to discuss her views about the in-school suspension program. She tried to keep her remarks brief as she spoke of the importance of the program. It keeps the student intact. The student gets assignments- goes to lunch, comes back and resumes assignments. Has close contact with the teacher. On a one to one basis, quiet atmosphere, knowledge is reinforced. The teacher is able to motivate-to check on school roster. The school year of 1979-80-qst full year of in school suspension-143 students-72 of them were repeaters-averaged 5 students a day-103 tutored. 1<sup>st</sup> quarter-27 students-6 repeaters-tutored 20-averaged 3 a day. Students dislike authority-they need guidance and understanding-after homeroom they go to suspension -no

contact with the other students. The teacher goes with them to the bathroom. In her closing remarks she said you plan the seed-it is far better now to spend the money-make change now-children are our most precious treasure, our leaders for tomorrow- we can't afford to lose desire-someone saw the need for the program- it is rewarding. We can't afford not to afford it-when you deal with students make sure it is right. Mr. Dick Messinger, a school board member along with Jonathan Shores another member of the school board recommended that Commissioners not disturb the program now, but take a look at it come budget time. Commissioners Sides and Cohen had visited three of the in school suspension programs. Mr. Cohen presented charts showing the cost per student of maintaining the system as it is being run now. From \$22.85 per student per day at North Rowan High School to \$65 at China Grove Elementary. Mr. Cohen said these were documented figures. He said he and Mr. Sides had worked out a better system geographically. Having one in school suspension program for each school district. They would be centered at Corriher-Lipe Junior High, north Rowan Middle, West Rowan Junior and Erwin Junior High schools. Estimated cost per student per day would average \$8.64 to \$21.48, depending on the school. Mr. Cohen suggested eliminated teacher aides in the program as a means of cutting down costs. Mr. Cohen said, "I believe we need to get the trouble makers out of class, but not at any cost." He recommended this proposal be taken to the school board for recommendations. He said the aides in the program were irresponsibly hired to begin with. Mr. Sides then quoted several Bible verses about disciplining children. From (Proverbs 10:13)-(Proverbs 13:24)-(Proverbs 22:13), (Proverbs 22:6)- He said the problem is that we have departed from the practice of running a disciplined school system. He said cursing, fighting, tardiness, destruction of school property, cutting classes, smoking does not belong in the school. "That a child who does not know how to behave by the eighth, ninth or tenth grades does not belong in school. Mr. Cohen said the day that he visited North Rowan High, there were 13 students in the class, "It was a zoo." Mr. Sides then read from a handbook that gave rules and regulations pertaining to school discipline. He said that his humble opinion would be that corporal punishment is needed in the public school system. Mr. Sides also said, in-school suspension does not work- sit down and establish policies-put teeth back in local laws. Stressed the fact that a child should be able to get to school on time- that if it is a persistent thing and the child expresses no desire to learn-deal with that child-meet with someone who can make it work. Mr. Cohen moved that the pre-application be bypassed and that the Commissioners work with the school board to improve the in school suspension program. Mr. Sides seconded, but Mr. Honeycutt, Mr. Steele and Mr. McCombs voted it down. Mr. Honeycutt moved to make the pre-application and Mr. Steele seconded with it passing, but Mr. Sides and Mr. Cohen voted against it.

Mr. Glenn Trexler, Tax Collector reported total tax collections of \$3,893,779.99 for the month of December.

Sheriff John Stirewalt, Lt. Sara Potts and Lt. Ed Haupt appeared before the board requesting that the river investigator's project be funded. Lt. Haupt requested the funding at last month's meeting of the Commissioners but was asked to return today to inform the Board if the Sheriff could not find the money somewhere in his budget. Mark Shue the river deputy had been paid by LEAA funds since March but the funding ran out December 31, 1980. The Sheriff reported that there was no extra money in his budget for the river deputy- and that there was no vacancy available in his department. Lt. Haupt offered a cut down in the expenses for the deputy in order to keep him in his current position. Instead of the requested allocation of \$8,413, he proposed \$7,163. This would be keeping the salary and benefits the same- \$5,763-eliminating uniforms, and cutting the travel cost by \$1,000. Mr. McCombs said do we accept or reject the river deputy at the new allocation. Mr. Sides moved no not to accept with Mr. Cohen seconding. Mr. Cohen said, "I feel it is imperative that every Commissioner understand the dangerous situation we are in with gasoline." Mr. Sides said he did not believe the river area, or any other area, should get special protection. He said the "Faith and Granite Quarry help pay for theirs." Mr. Cohen said that out of the 80 employees at the Sheriff's Department, 24 patrol. This seems to be a case here of where we have too many chiefs and not enough Indians. Mr. Sides suggested that the Sheriff sell two of the new patrol cars that had been recently purchased to pay the river deputy. He said he could not allocate money for that position knowing that the Sheriff will be back in a few months requesting \$24,000 to help cover an over-expenditure in gasoline. Sheriff Stirewalt said that his deputies had to go out on calls regardless of the cost of gasoline. Sheriff Stirewalt walked out mad after a discussion with Mr. Sides about his qualifications to run the Sheriff's department. Mr. Sides said the Sheriff had to learn to live within his budget, and then quoted a scripture from Luke-Chapter 14-28-30 verses. Mr. Sides said that he seemed to offend people to ask questions but that he intended to be informed in getting to the point. That it behooves us as a County Commissioner when asked for money for the Sheriff's Department. Where is the money coming from without allocating additional funds- you don't spend money before you use it- that LEAA funding cost in the long run. He moved to scrutinize programs-because he will be voting no to a lot of things- would like to vote yes. Mr. Cohen seconded, but Mr. Sides motion was defeated 3/2. Mr. Honeycutt made a motion to fund the river deputy from contingencies with Mr. Steele seconding. Mr. Cohen and Mr. Sides voted no- and Mr. McCombs breaking the tie with a yes.

Mr. Jim Foltz, Parks Director, Curtis Graham, Chairman of the Rowan Parks and Recreation Commission and Bob Amos, Parks Consultant with the State presented the proposed Rowan-Cabarrus Park Project. The County Commissioners in both counties will have to approve the agreement before any action can be taken. The site for the Park has not definitely been established. One of several sites has been looked into. Mr. Foltz asked for permission to establish the agreement. Has had study committee checking into it. Mr. Cohen moved to delay this until Monday

night's Commissioner's meeting. Mr. Sides said that he was all for recreation but would like to hear survey report from the people who will be using the facilities. Asked Mr. Foltz about doing a survey of the feelings of the general public and Mr. Foltz said that he had done a personal survey. Mr. Sides asked for a statistical analysis. Percentages of what the survey reflects. Mr. Cohen said to keep the construction site as close to the Rowan line as possible. Mr. Amos said that it was within a 10 mile radius. Mr. Cohen made the motion to table action until Monday night with Mr. Sides seconding. Unanimous approval from the Board.

Mr. Robert Gunn, Fire Marshall and Danny Johnson, Planning board, appeared before the Board requesting \$14,674.21 to install green and white road signs at all 1,300 intersections in the county. The \$14,674.21 does not include labor which will cost an additional \$20,000. Mr. Gunn said the county had been approved for a \$34,240 grant from the Governor's Highway Safety Program. Danny Johnson stated that the completion date for the project was already two months behind schedule now. He also said it might be possible to get Ceta workers to put up the signs. If county workers put them up it would cost about \$20,000 while a private contract would cost \$19,000-approximatley. Mr. Gunn presented a list of names that he recommended as an advisory board to name roads that have no names or duplicated names. (Attached) The Commissioners appointed these persons. Mr. Jim Cohen made the motion to go with the program but to keep maintenance lowered with Mr. Honeycutt seconding. Mr. Sides asked Mr. Gunn if the commissioners would be obligating themselves to 1982- or if they would be through with it this year, all 1300 signs. Mr. Gunn assured him to wrap it up. The board carried the motion with unanimous approval.

The Board voted unanimously to ask legislators to extend the ban on spotlighting deer. Spotlighting deer is now outlawed from 11 P.M. to 30 minutes before sunrise. The letter requests that it be extended from sundown to sunrise. One man from the floor asked Commissioners not to take such a hard line against spotlighting. Mr. Cohen made the motion to extend the request with Mr. Sides seconding.

Board appointments were deferred until Monday night due to being pushed for time and also the board wanted to check on their list of appointments.

Mr. Murdoch, County Manager, reported no new personnel.

Mr. Murdoch reported Interest, appropriations not spent as of December 31, 1980:

General Fund	\$182,852.50
Rev. Sharing	9,928.22
Debt Service	<u>1,383.54</u>

Total

\$195,330.77

County Manager reported one change order, pertaining to the completion date for the Kerr Mill Project. The contractor has experience extreme difficulty in acquiring specified material. Completion date was changed from October 1, 1980 to December 20, 1980. No change in funds. The original contract sum was \$51,500. Mr. Steele made the motion to accept the change order with Mr. Cohen seconding. The Board gave unanimous approval. (attached)

County Manager reported one refund. From the building inspector's office. \$15 for overcharge of service. Mr. Sides made the motion to accept the refund with Mr. Cohen seconding. The Board gave unanimous approval.

County Manager reported a budget revision for the Health Department. Hypertension Clinic, reflecting grant, less than budget received. Mr. Honeycutt made the motion to accept the revision with Mr. Cohen seconding. Unanimous approval by the Board. (Attached)

County Manager reported transfers. One transfer from County building. To transfer \$2,200 from salaries to painting buildings to help defray the cost of painting the Mental Health building. Mr. Honeycutt made the motion to approve the transfer with Mr. Cohen seconding. The Board voted unanimously.

Second transfer from the Building Inspector's Office. To transfer \$39.93 from Schools to repairs to equipment. Mr. Honeycutt made the motion seconded by Mr. Steele. Motion passed by the Board unanimously.

Third transfer was from Register of Deeds office to transfer \$37 from repairs and equipment to dues and subscriptions. Mr. Sides made the motion to approve the transfer with Mr. Honeycutt seconding. The motion was unanimous by the Board.

Mr. Steele made the motion to extend the lease with Pierce-Tuttle, the group now running the County Home as Heritage Home for one month, with Mr. Honeycutt seconding. Mr. Steele along with Mr. Murdoch conducted an investigation at the home and found that extensive repairs had been made. Mr. Steele said that he had received several complaints and that he still was not ready to renew it for a year. Mr. Sides said that he had received several calls and asked to put Mary Morrow on the February Agenda to discuss it. The Board voted unanimous approval.

The Board voted unanimously to proclaim January, 1981 as "Alcohol Awareness Month". Mr. Honeycutt made the motion and Mr. Cohen seconded.

The Board discussed a change of time for the Commissioners regular meeting. It was suggested that it be changed to the second Tuesday night so more people could attend. Mr. Cohen said it would be more convenient for him and Mr. Sides as far as their jobs are concerned, to have it at night, even if it were Monday night. Mr. McCombs said the law says the Board must meet on Monday. Mr. Steele said night meetings inconvenienced county employees too much. Mr. Sides said that general statute says boards can set their own meeting dates, that people need to be heard. Mr. McCombs said the Board would see about that when it meets at 7:30 p.m. Monday and called for a vote . A motion was made for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. instead of Monday nights. Mr. Sides motion was defeated 3/2. Mr. Cohen then made a motion to set the meeting time on Tuesday nights with Mr. Sides seconding. Mr. Cohen's motion was defeated 3/2.

Mr. Sides moved to disband the Council on the Status of Women. Mr. Honeycutt seconded it and the motion was passed unanimously. Mr. Steele said he never understood how the county got involved with the program.

Mr. Honeycutt made the motion for the Board to go into Executive Session to accept the donation to Dan Nicholas Park. Mr. Cohen seconding the motion and the Board giving unanimous approval. Mr. Murdoch asked the Commissioners approval to sell 1000 shares of Jefferson Standard Stock donated to the Park. The donor wishes to remain anonymous. Mr. Honeycutt made the motion to give Mr. Murdoch permission to sell the 1000 shares of stock with Mr. Steele seconding, the board voting unanimously. Mr. Steele made the motion for the Board to go back into Regular Session with Mr. Cohen seconding. The board voting unanimously.

(Attached) is a list of names of persons attending the meeting as requested by Mr. McCombs.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned until January 12, 1981.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda L. Honeycutt, Clerk  
Board of Rowan County Commissioners