

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 2, 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, Jim Sides, Hall Steele and Jim Cohen.

Chairman McCombs called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

Commissioner Sides made one correction to the minutes of January 5, 1981- found on the last page. In comparing the minutes with his recorder, there was no indication of a motion to the change of meeting time for Commissioners. The motion was for the 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.- instead of Monday nights. After the first vote was denied- a motion was made for Monday nights at 7:30 also denied. Mr. Sides made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected with a second from Mr. Honeycutt with unanimous approval.

Mr. Sides commented that the minutes to accept the minutes of January 12 as received. Mr. Honeycutt seconded with unanimous approval.

The minutes of February 2, 1981 were corrected by Mr. Sides. Page 5-4th line from the bottom, instead of reading attempted to appoint Mr. Doug McDonald, it should read attempted to give a resume. On the same page concerning read attempted to give a resume. On the same page concerning travel pay for employees, the sentence which reads as much as \$4.75 should be re-worded to read an employee that drives 25 miles at .19 mile @25 miles per gallon should spend \$4.75. Mr. Sides made the motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Mr. Cohen seconded with unanimous approval. Mr. Honeycutt then suggested that the Clerk be given a recorder to record the minutes with Mr. Sides agreeing and commented that the County had one.

There were no additions to the agenda.

Chairman McCombs recognized Mr. Roscoe Morgan, sixth grade instructor at Gospel Light Church School along with his students who were observing today's meeting.

The Commissioners had no routine business to discuss. The monthly reports were accepted as received.

The County Manager read a letter from Tom Bradshaw, Jr. concerning a campaign in an effort to keep litter clean up. The weeks of April 13, 1981-April 18, 1981- and September 14 through the 18 will be Litter Clean up weeks across the state. Mr. Hall Steele commented to make sure that enough emphasis is put on dumpsters. The dumpsters are rusted out. They are a major problem. Inform people that the landfill was open to accommodate people bringing trash in. Mr. McCombs said to find a volunteer group to head Rowan County Campaign.

Hall Steele made the motion to declare April 6 through April 10, 1981 Environmental Awareness Week in Rowan County as requested by the Soil and Water Conservation District. Mr. Cohen seconded the motion with unanimous approval.

Mr. Murdoch read a letter from Larry Parrish, Director of Tri-County Mental Health Clinic requesting that Rufus Honeycutt, Commissioner on their Board, be authorized to sign their pay plan. After an amendment by Mr. Steele- for the request to read authority does not include approval of pay plans that would be higher than surrounding counties, he made the motion to give Mr. Honeycutt permission to sign the pay plan with a second from Mr. Honeycutt with unanimous approval.

Mr. Murdoch read a letter from Senator Paul Smith informing the board that the deadline for local bills is Friday, March 6, 1981. Mr. Smith was attending the meeting and took the floor to inform the Commissioners that the bill on the harvesting of foxes, spotlighting of deer and giving the county the power to name roads were in. The bill on spotlighting deer lengthened the hours.

Mr. Murdoch reminded the Commissioners of the letter that he sent to them concerning the meeting on Monday, March 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the Red Room to discuss the proposed annual secondary road construction program for Rowan County for the fiscal year, 1982. The Commissioners agreed to continue their business session after the transportation officials meeting.

Mr. W.F. Owens, Chairman of the Conservative Action Group spoke to Commissioners opposing the \$25,000 allocation to the Chamber of Commerce to recruit new industry when there is no guarantee of success. He is in favor of giving direct control to County Commissioners. Attorney Clarence Kluttz commented that there is a possibility before the board could go \$25,000 that it might taken an act of legislation even before non tax money could be spent. He said that it would take a day or two to research it. Mr. Honeycutt then moved to defer action until Attorney Kluttz could do the research work. Mr. Sides seconded with unanimous approval. Mr. Honeycutt then moved to authorize Attorney Kluttz to put the local bill in before next Friday, March 6, 1981 (deadline) one way or the other-authorizing Rowan County to make the \$25,000 contribution to the Chamber of Commerce. Mr.

Cohen seconded the motion. Mr. Sides opposing saying he felt like the Chamber has done a great job, but he is not in favor of giving the \$25,000 to solicit new business. He said he did not want to see Rowan County turn into another Mecklenburg County. He said this is a funding of private industries and businesses, not a funding of the county to spend taxpayers money. Mr. Cohen said we need to increase our industrial base or our young people will move where the businesses are. We need to proceed as soon as we can next Monday to decide. If it is not profitable, we can deny it next year. Mr. Steele commented that it was a possible means of making money, better houses, large incentives per working conditions that he felt like the \$25,000 would come back two fold. The vote was four for the motion-with one opposing.

Mr. Cohen made the motion for the Commissioners to go on record in support of President Reagan's economic policy. Mr. Sides commented that in light of budget cuts, we definitely need to keep this in mind. Mr. Honeycutt seconded the motion to support the President. The vote was four for with Mr. Steele opposing.

Mr. Glenn Trexler, Tax Supervisor, reported total tax collections for the Month of February, 1981. \$217,327.99. Mr. Trexler reported that according to General Statute-GS 105-369 that he would like authority from the Commissioners to set the Month of June as the Lien Sale Date for unpaid 1980 Real Estate taxes. Mr. Honeycutt made the motion to give Mr. Trexler the authority to set the date. Mr. Steele seconded with unanimous approval.

Danny Johnson, Planning Department informed the Commissioners that since the Kannapolis-Concord-Landis-China Grove area is expected to be designated around June of this year by the US Bureau of the Census as an urbanized area, and Rowan County and Cabarrus County will become a standard metropolitan statistical area they will have to help make some provisions for transportation planning for this area if they hope to get any federal and state highway funding. The municipalities and counties that have jurisdiction in the urbanized area must adopt a memorandum of Understanding. This Memo will set up the organization and mechanism to involve all of the local governments and their agencies involved in transportation planning to conduct the studies, programs and plans that are required by the 1964 Federal Highway Act. Mr. Johnson said the Rowan/Concord Planning staff had suggested that the Cabarrus County Planning department be the lead planning agency since it covers the biggest city in the area-being Kannapolis. To fund the legislative planning program, Mr. Johnson said the federal government would allocate \$25,000 to be matched by \$5,000 or 20% from the governing bodies within the area. Mr. Honeycutt made the motion for a one on one basis for each Commissioner to talk with Mr. Johnson about the federal funding. Mr. Steel seconded with unanimous approval.

After a short recess, Mr. Gunn, Fire Marshall, spoke to Commissioners about getting the Rowan/Iredell Fire District Boundaries approved. This would give Rowan County more fire districts than any other county in the state. According to Mr. Gunn there are 1100 Volunteer firemen in this county. Mr. Honeycutt moved to approve the boundaries. Mr. Steele seconded with unanimous approval. (Attached). Mr. Gunn further commented that Iredell County Commissioners committed \$750 to that district. Mr. Gunn informed the Commissioners of the death of Mr. Forest Pridgen, one of the Franklin Township Fire Department's Fire Commissioners. In view of his death the Board of Directors of the Franklin Township Fire Department deem it necessary to fill the vacancy. They recommended Mr. A. Vernon Crawford who has been active in their fire department for a number of years. Mr. Sides made the motion to appoint Mr. Crawford to fill this vacancy. Mr. Cohen seconded with unanimous approval. Mr. Steele commented that the criteria for this person would be a person who is involved with the fire department-someone to look after it- a person approved by other firemen. Mr. Gunn then commented on the numbering system. He suggested that while the workers were putting up road signs that the houses could be numbered at the same time at the individual property owners expense. There was no discussion from the board concerning this issue.

Mr. Jim Foltz informed the Commissioners that thank you notes were written to the people who gave donations to the park last month. He also presented a \$1,000 donation from the Margaret Woodson Foundation for new picnic tables for the park. Mr. Foltz then requested \$3,256.24 to complete the T.M. Stanback Outdoor Theater. The Parks department has \$40,453.85 available for the project, but after opening bids found that would not be enough to finish the project as was planned. J.H. Wilson and Sons submitted the lowest bid of \$39,987. Also to paid are \$114 for pretreated wood and \$3,609.09 in Architect's fees. Total cost of the project would come to \$43,710.99. Mr. Sides recommended taking \$800 in contingency out of the Amphitheater fund. After a donation of \$641 in lumber from Bingham Lumber Company the parks department needed \$2,614.69. The \$800 contingency was taken from that. Mr. Sides said maybe donations would be coming in to fill the amount he needed from that, and if he doesn't get the donations to come back and request the \$800 again. Mr. Honeycutt made the motion to approve the low bid and allocate the \$1,814.69 from contingencies to the Park. Mr. Steele seconded with unanimous approval.

Mr. Wallace Peeler, Tax Supervisor asked the Board to set the 1st Monday in April as the date for the Board of Equalization and Review so he could advertise in the paper. Mr. Murdoch recommended setting the schedule on the agenda for 11:00 during the Commissioners regular meeting. Mr. Steel made the motion to set the date for the 1st Monday in April at 11:00 A.M. Mr. Honeycutt seconded with unanimous approval. Mr. Sides made a motion not to allow late tax listing- not to extend the date- Mr. Steele seconded with unanimous approval. Mr. Peeler then

requested a refund for William E. Dilliard for a 1980 Oldsmobile that should have been listed in Union County only- instead it was listed both in Rowan and Union- where he paid taxes twice on it. He was living in Union County and listed his car, house and furnishings in Union. Since that time he has moved into Rowan. The refund was for \$42.32. Mr. Steel made the motion to refund the \$42.32 to Mr. Dilliard. Mr. Honeycutt seconded with unanimous approval.

Mr. Jim Queen requested permission to apply for a grant to operate the JJDP program at North Rowan Middle School. Mr. Queen is chairman of the Community Based Alternatives Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Task Force. Mr. Queen said by not approving the application that it would mean a delay until July in the Governor's Crime Commission approving the application. Mr. Harold Thomas, a member of the task force explained to the board that developmental centers and in-school suspension were the same. Mr. Sides recommended making a decision after hearing from the School Board which was to meet that night. Mr. McCombs said that he was voting for the program because Richard Messinger is studying it and "I'm putting my confidence in Mr. Messinger." Mr. Steele made the motion to approve the application. Mr. Honeycutt seconded. The vote was three for and two against.

Mr. Murdoch submitted new personnel replacements for approval by the Board. Mr. Honeycutt made a motion to approve the personnel replacements. Mr. Steele seconded. Mr. Cohen and Mr. Sides voted against with Mr. McCombs voting yes to approve the following people for the payroll:

Kelly Sheeks- Health Dept.-Sanitarian-\$847/month
Betty Kluttz-DSS-\$741/month
Joyce Harris-DSS-\$676/month
Glenn Hinson-Sheriff's Dept.-\$3.35/hour
Paula Herion-Health Dept.-\$847/month
Tony Wilhite-Sheriff's Dept.-\$752/month

With Mr. Sides opposing, overtime pay was approved for Ms. Sara Potts and Ms. Hazel Stirewalt in the Sheriff's Department. Mr. Steele commented that they have worked for it and that they are entitled to the money. This overtime could not be helped. Mr. Steele made the motion to approve the overtime pay. Mr. Honeycutt seconded. Four approved and one opposed.

Mrs. Morgan, secretary to Mr. Wolff in the Veterans Service Office, was granted her request to work an extra one-half hour each day to catch up with the work load in the office-due to Mr. Wolff's illness. Mr. Honeycutt made the motion. Mr. Sides seconded with unanimous approval.

Mr. Murdoch read a letter from Jean Ramsey, Register of Deeds, requesting additional help for the summer. Mr. Sides asked if the money was budgeted, Mr. Murdoch answered no. Mr. Sides made the motion for the request to be denied. Mr. Cohen seconded with unanimous approval. Mr. Steele said there were departments that needed extra help-suggested roving help for them. Stated that Mrs. Ramsey had old records that should be taken care of. Suggested cross training help so some workers could help other departments at busy times.

Mr. Murdoch reported Interest:

General Fund	\$257,504.05
Revenue Sharing	21,811.73
Debt Service	19,919.13
Rev	<u>1,383.54</u>
Total	\$300,618.45

Mr. Murdoch reported on the purchase by the County of five pieces of property bid by Glenn Trexler, Tax Collector at the Court House at a tax foreclosure sale. Mr. Steele made the motion to approve the payment of \$1,736.02 for legal fees out of contingencies. Mr. Sides seconded with unanimous approval.

Mr. Murdoch submitted a resolution to support Emergency Medical Services Improvement Program prepared by Centralina Council of Governments to be approved by the County Commissioners. Contained in the resolution is an agreement for the Commissioners to provide \$35,000 in in-kind matching funds through the continued support of emergency medical services within Rowan County. Mr. Cohen asked why the privately-owned service could not run entirely on fees. He stated that it was not our business to subsidize the ambulance service. Mr. Murdoch informed the board that under the resolution, about \$35,000 of the \$77,000 allocated for the county ambulance subsidy would be used as in-kind match in a fund to which all counties in this region contribute. Mr. Sides asked Mr. Murdoch if the county was legally bound to provide emergency medical services. MR. Murdoch said that he knew of no statute that would require this. Mr. Murdoch commented that subsidizing C&M Ambulance is a lot cheaper than the county having its own service. Mr. McCombs said that other counties that run their own ambulance service spend much more on the service than Rowan does on its subsidy. Commissioner Honeycutt said that funeral homes got out of the ambulance business because it is a losing business and fees were prohibitive. Mr. Sides said that he would like to check with C&M and go over their records before making a decision. He would like to defer any action on the resolution and would like to know more about he ambulance service. He asked “does it have to be done now.” Mr. Murdoch said the resolution was needed immediately. Mr. McCombs said unless Mr. Sides and Mr. Cohen could come up with a better idea with the ambulance service- he felt like it was his moral right to the people of Rowan County to provide them with

Emergency Medical Services. Mr. Sides said “he believed in Emergency Medical Services but would like to defer it until next meeting. Mr. Cohen seconded. Mr. Steele and Mr. Honeycutt voting no. Mr. Steele made the motion to sign the resolution. Mr. Honeycutt seconded. Mr. Cohen and Mr. Sides voted no. Mr. McCombs broke the tie with a yes.

A resume on Carl W. Alexander had been submitted as a suggested nominee to fill the vacancy of Tom Blackburn on the Cabarrus-Rowan Park Project. Since there had been no letter to the Commissioners from Mr. Blackburn resigning from this board, no action was taken. Mrs. Martha Freeze from the Health Department was appointed for a one-year term to replace Sara Rendleman, who accepted a position with Duke Hospital, on the Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee. Rm. Wiley Lash was re-appointed to serve a three year term. Mr. Honeycutt moved to approve both the appointment and the re-appointment. Mr. Steele seconded with unanimous approval.

Mr. Murdoch informed the Board that he had two three month old bills for the Commissioners to consider paying. The bills-one for disinterring the body of Clarence Basinger payable to the City of Salisbury for \$100 and the other for \$146.50 to Cross Transportation Service of Thomasville for taking it to Chapel Hill for autopsy. Mr. Sides made a motion to pay the bills. Mr. Honeycutt seconded. Mr. Steel and Mr. Cohen voting against, the motion passing with Mr. McCombs voting for.

Mr. Gunn informed Mr. Murdoch that the Rowan-Iredell Fire District was eligible now for \$150 monthly assistance.

Mr. Sides made a motion that the Commissioners vote on a resolution to support Brad Ligon’s proposed bill of expenditures for lobbyist. Mr. Cohen seconded. Mr. McCombs felt like Mr. Ligon had set his limits too low. The bill would limit lobbyists to spending \$10 a month on any legislator for food, liquor, entertainment and gifts. It also calls for \$150 monthly limit on all such spending for each lobbyist. Mr. McCombs said Commissioners have enough to do without taking on House bills. Mr. Sides said Commissioners should make it their business to take stands on certain legislation. For example, the County should take an active role in resolving the hazardous waste question. Mr. Honeycutt asked, why have the law if its going to be broken, given the fact that if a man’s going to sell his vote, he’s going to sell it regardless of what kind of law you pass. Mr. Sides answered by saying, hwy have any laws, all laws are broken, but that is no reason not to pass them. The motion was to put to a vote. Mr. Steele, Mr. Honeycutt and Mr. McCombs voting no. Mr. Sides and Mr. Cohen voting for.

Mr. Sides made a motion for placing county employees on a 40 hour work week. Mr. Cohen seconded the motion. Mr. Sides also said it appeared Mr. Steel

got the cross training idea about the same time that he and Mr. Cohen did. (Mr. Sides was referring to Jean Ramsey" request for additional summer help which was denied earlier in the meeting.) Mr. Side's motion for the 40 hour work week, he said, would save the county money by cutting down on hiring. Mr. Steele asked about the departments that don't need the longer week. He asked Mr. Sides and Mr. Cohen, "what do you suggest there, firing someone." Mr. Cohen answered, absolutely. Mr. Cohen asked Mr. Steele why he didn't come up with the cross training idea before, if he was so concerned about saving the county money. Mr. Steele said, "oh, I guess I was trying to beat you." Mr. McCombs informed Mr. Sides and Mr. Cohen that they were going to have to start sharing ideas with other Commissioners before bringing them up for a vote without notice. Mr. McCombs said to them, "you can't come up with something new and expect everybody to vote your way." Mr. Honeycutt said they needed more time to think about this matter. Mr. Sides withdrew his motion to bring it back again next month.

Mr. Sides made a motion to change the Commissioners regular monthly meeting from the 1st Monday of the month at 9:00 to the second Tuesday each month at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Cohen seconded. Mr. Honeycutt, Mr. Steele and Mr. McCombs opposing a 2/3 vote.

Mr. Sides asked how much of the County's surplus \$1.9 million do we keep on hand. He suggested that the Commissioners not keep one cent more in surplus than is necessary. Mr. McCombs, Mr. Honeycutt and Mr. Steele all agreed that the operation is no different now then it has been. Mr. Steele said that 15% surplus had been recommended for all small governments, and that it was good business for Rowan County. Mr. Steel said if North Rowan Middle School had been destroyed by fire last year, all of the surplus would have been needed to replace it. Mr. Sides said, "In that case," it would behoove Commissioners to see that the news media gets full information about the county surplus before the public. Mr. Honeycutt agreed that the people should be informed. Mr. Sides said, "but you don't want night meetings." Mr. Murdoch informed the Commissioners that every February they get the county audit report which usually shows about a \$1.5 million to \$2 million unappropriated balance from the previous year. Most of it is used in the following year's budget.

Since there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned until Monday night, March 9, at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda L. Honeycutt, Clerk
Board of Rowan County Commissioners