

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 4, 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, Jim Sides, Rufus Honeycutt, Jim Cohen, and Hall Steele.

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

Mr. Honeycutt made the motion to approve the minutes of April 6 and April 21 as received. Mr. Cohen seconded with unanimous approval.

There were no additions to the Agenda.

There were no comments concerning the monthly reports.

Mr. Murdoch read a letter addressed to Danny Johnson, Planner, from W.S. Chandler, Jr., Director of Planning from Cabarrus County, pressuring for transportation planning funds (PL-112) as of July 1 of this year, instead of next year. Attached to this letter was a letter from Mr. Bonds, Chairman of the Cabarrus County Board of Commissioners saying they were in the process of sending their letter endorsing the funds for the 3-C process-the Kannapolis, Concord, China Grove and Landis thoroughfare plan as a result of the 1980 census. The planning process would eventually involve hiring a transportation planner for the area. Mr. Johnson said this should cost Rowan County \$1,500 or less. Mr. Sides commented that this would be a lot of planning. To lay ground work and make recommendations for something that will more than likely be turned down. That we need a better sense of direction. He moved to drop out of the picture in this matter altogether. Mr. Cohen seconded his motion. Mr. Honeycutt commented that he did not want to disrupt Cabarrus County that what they do is up to them, and we do not need to be a part of it, but, a matter of vital importance as a governing body would be to the people of Rowan- to have input for transportation for them. Mr. Sides said we don't vote at one meeting to spend money that it was just another chain reaction. We ought to vote against it at this particular meeting- not to approve the letter. The motion was defeated by Mr. Steele, Mr. Honeycutt, and Mr. McCombs. Mr. Honeycutt made a motion to endorse the letter. Mr. Steele seconded. The motion passed with Mr. Sides and Mr. Cohen voting against.

Mr. Glenn Trexler reported total collections of \$172,471.02.

Mr. Jim Foltz, Parks Director, was granted additional concession funds in the amount of \$3,600. Mr. Sides making the motion. Mr. Honeycutt seconded with unanimous approval. The funding will come from unappropriated surplus. Mr. Foltz informed the Commissioners that the Park needed an ice-cream machine. The one they had last year had to be taken out because it caused so much confusion. The new machine could be operated by one person. It would give two flavors of ice cream and pay for itself this year if purchased within the next six weeks. The purchase and installation of the machine would cost \$8,215.40. Mr. Honeycutt moved to permit the Park to buy the machine based on the information presented to them with the funds to come out of non-designated revenue sharing funds and for Mr. Murdoch to put out for bids since it would cost over \$5,000. Mr. Steele seconded with unanimous approval. Mr. Foltz then informed the Commissioners that the Park usually employs Pace students during the summer and probably would not be able to get them this Summer, so the park worked out a program with the Community Service Council to employ seven (7) people from the Youth Program from Nazareth Children's Home to fill vacancies.

Rev. Ed Pless replacing Gary Goodman who was on the Agenda to talk to Commissioners concerning the proposed Highway 52 thoroughfare plan informed the Board of five reasons why the 700 petitioners were opposing the thoroughfare. 1) it would destroy valuable farm land, wild life, property that is valuable to land owners because of ancestry. 2) There are already four-main highways parallel to each other. It seems futile having another one. 3) emotional distress- to move to suburbs, 4) safety factor- what do we accomplish from speed except that there would be more deaths. 5) create unsafe conditions for transporting students to Eastern Rowan Schools. Those students who live on the North/East Side would have to cross the five lane highway-constituting a critical condition. Their opinion is not to approve the thoroughfare- to come up with a more suitable solution. Mr. Danny Johnson, Planner, commented that the Planning Department is preparing an in-depth study. They have three alternatives to propose. Mr. Cohen commented that something needed to be done in that area. The 25 mile trip sometimes takes over an hour, he said.

Mr. A.T. Harris, Community Service Council, requested that the Board approve matching funds to apply for federal money to buy two vans and a bus. The 20% local share to be split by the city and the county is \$8,295. The vehicles will be used by the aged and the handicapped. Mr. Sides made a motion to hold off approving funds until preliminary work is completed on the budget. Mr. Steele seconded for discussion. Mr. Harris said the delay might jeopardize the availability of the federal funds. Mr. Sides said that what we are speaking of here is speculation that we may or may not lose the bids. Mr. Cohen said that he would support Mr. Side's motion and that he would obtain more background from the Community Service Council to see if the money would be justified. The vote was

unanimous to delay action. Mr. Harris then requested permission to make application for 32 housing units. He informed the board that he had 375 families on a waiting list for housing. He now has 168 units which are reviewed every six months since their rent is based on income. Mr. Honeycutt made a motion to give the Service Council an opportunity to make application with Mr. Steele seconded. Mr. Cohen then commented that there were some families that lived “high” in these units. He said that he was taught to either “succeed or fail on your own merits.” He said some landlords and developers make a killing off government programs. For example, the Yadkin Hotel is being converted into a low-income house for the elderly. Mr. Cohen also stated that “if I can keep one person off this program that does not need to be there that will be my mission.” He said he would have to vote against the motion at this time. Mr. Sides said these social programs needed to be closely scrutinized. Recommended deferring action until we can look into it more closely. He felt like a decision could be made within 30 days. Mr. McCombs said he would have to vote against it. To take it up again in 30 days after more information is submitted concerning the 168 units now in existence. Mr. Honeycutt then withdrew his motion and Mr. Steele his second to wait for further information. Mr. McCombs then called for a five minute recess.

After the recess, Edith Alcorn, Health Department, Health Educator and Edwin Koontz, Social Services Director, appeared before the Commissioners concerning the coordination of In-Home services. They requested that commissioners approve a resolution that would explain the coordination of the county’s in home service under the council of Human Services. The Department of Social Services has Chore Program which has saved \$129,000 in Medicare Costs for Nursing Home Care. Mr. Steele stated that this is something to be proud of. Meals on Wheels, Homemaker’s Service, the Department of Agriculture has a nutrition program and the Library has a transportation service. Mr. Steele made a motion that the resolution be approved. Mr. Honeycutt seconded with unanimous approval. (Attached).

Mr. Charles Coughenhour returned to the Board requesting again that the Commissioners help him to get cooperation from the Sheriff’s Department. Mr. Honeycutt made a motion that Mr. Sides, Mr. Steele, and Mr. Coughenhour meet with Sheriff Stirewalt to discuss Mr. Coughenhour’s problems. Mr. Sides seconded the motion with unanimous approval.

Mr. Jim Queen, CBA/JJDP Task Force returned due to a deferred action at last month’s meeting to approve funding of the West Rowan Junior High School in-school suspension program. The funding would be for \$2,674 in County funds. Mr. Steele made a motion to approve the application. Mr. Honeycutt seconded. Mr. Cohen said, “the deck is obviously stacked, out of nine people on the committee, five people are directly related to the in-school suspension program.” Mr. Sides said the program has been mishandled, and organized poorly. “We have poured over and

over that the program is used and abused.” It is a social injustice when we spend taxpayer’s money needlessly. He stated that he was totally against the program. the motion passed with Mr. Cohen and Mr. Sides voting against.

Mr. Murdoch read a letter from David Kelly, Associate Secretary of Public Safety thanking the Commissioners for meeting with him at the Emergency Management Meeting on April 27.

Mr. Murdoch read a letter from the Highway Department reminding them of the four day work week beginning April 25.

Mr. Murdoch read a letter from the Southern Piedmont Health Systems Agency concerning the appointment process which we are about to go through. A postponement has been made and the notice has been carried through. In the future will come back with another process to go through.

Mr. Murdoch read a letter from Howard Lee congratulating Rowan County for receiving recent selection of Dan Nicholas Park as the South Central’s most outstanding land and water conservation fund project for 1980. Also a letter concerning the same subject from Howard Moses, Chief of Park Recreation Consultant Service Section.

A letter from John Ramsey, Architect, concerning a small piece of sculpture located at the Farm and Health Center. It was done by Wheeler Williams in 1950. He is requesting to purchase it for \$300. Mr. Honeycutt moved to retain it and possibly relocated it somewhere else in the County. Mr. Sides seconded with unanimous approval.

A letter from Vision Cable of Metrolina on their quarterly report. They will begin serving the first household in Southern Rowan sometime early this month. Service should be extended to Landis by early August and to China Grove by early September. They will have served 6,000 households at the end of this year.

A letter from Robie Nash concerning the preliminary report of the Joint Select House and Senate Committee. Mr. Sides made a motion to endorse the findings of the committee that studied the Department of Transportation. A second from Mr. Cohen with unanimous approval to send a letter endorsing the findings.

Mr. Murdoch presented personnel for approval by the Board:

Patsy McGee-Nutritionist-Health Department-\$1,065 monthly replacing Alyse Allison who was making \$1,115 monthly.

Jerry Walton, Deputy-Sheriff's Department-\$829 monthly replacing Melvin Harvell, \$1,111 monthly- who replaced Ralph Gobble, who was making \$1,171 monthly.

Mr. Honeycutt made a motion to approve the personnel. Mr. Steele seconded with unanimous approval.

Mr. Murdoch informed the Board of a request from Carol Morgan, Veterans Service Office, for overtime pay. Mr. Steele made the motion to pay Mrs. Morgan for six (6) hours of overtime. Mr. Cohen seconded with unanimous approval.

Mr. Honeycutt then made a motion for overtime pay to be cleared with the County Manager, the Chairman or Vice-Chairman before the extra work was done. Mr. Steele seconded with unanimous approval. Mr. Sides commented that cross training could help in this situation.

Mr. Murdoch reported Interest:

General Fund	\$366,571.12
Revenue Sharing	32,027.69
Debt Service	1,383.54
Reappraisal	<u>19,919.13</u>
Total	\$419,901.48

With a motion from Mr. Steele and a second from Mr. Cohen, Mr. Don Conner was unanimously appointed as an extraterritorial alternate on the Salisbury Zoning Board of Adjustment.

A motion from Mr. Steele and a second from Mr. Honeycutt to approve a charge increase for the Rabies Clinic. The charge increase will be \$4 for a 1 year vaccination over last year's charges which were \$3 for a one year and \$5 for a 3 year vaccination over last years \$4 for 3 years. It was a unanimous approval.

Mr. Sides moved to give the County Manager the authority to advertise for bids on two pieces of property in Granite Quarry. Mr. Honeycutt seconded with unanimous approval. Mr. Hayden Rabon bid \$500 on the piece of property on Walton Street and that will be a minimum bid. Another bid of \$380 on the other lot on Highway 52, but the Board set a minimum bid at \$750. Mr. Murdoch informed the Board of two (2) bids that he had received to demolish the building on the property on Highway 52.

Freeman Grading & Hauling	\$400
D.A. Crowell	\$380

Mr. Sides moved to approve a budget amendment for adjustments of grants, refunds, donations and reimbursements which the Commissioners had received a copy of. Mr. Honeycutt seconded with unanimous approval. (Attached)

Mr. Murdoch informed the Board that at the June meeting they would need to appoint someone to serve on the Department of Social Services Board. Mr. Sides said "he would like to serve on this board." Mr. Steele, who is a member on this board commented, since dr. Robert Boyd, whose term will have expired, was a black male, that the board should be represented by a minority.

Mr. Murdoch informed the Commissioners that they had been invited to participate in the Shriners Parade. Mr. McCombs said the parade will feature 500 units and will start at Byerly Chevrolet on May 30 at 11:00 a.m.

Mr. Sides made a motion for the Board to go on record opposing Senate Bill 462, "An Act to Provide Minimally Effective Law Enforcement throughout the State". Mr. Cohen seconded with unanimous approval. This bill requiring the Sheriff's Department to have one deputy for each 1,000 residents would cost Rowan County \$362,405 for an additional 29 employees for their salaries and benefits. In addition to this, approximately \$151,200 would be required for additional automobiles, gas and oil, repairs, etc. for a total expenditure of \$513,605. Mr. McCombs commented that he had called Senator Paul Smith to voice his opposition. Mr. Smith agreed with Mr. McCombs. Mr. Smith asked Mr. McCombs to send him a letter, compiling the expenses that the county would spend if this bill were to be enacted so he would have something to go on whenever he got up to address the committee. The Board agreed to do this with a copy going to each Legislator and Commissioner.

Mr. Sides requested that the Board be more informed as to what is going on in the County be being represented by members of different boards. Recommended that possible a member of the airport board and Mr. Hess to come to make a brief presentation to the Board. This was in form of a motion to have one member of the Airport Board and Mr. Lindsey Hess to attend the next Commissioners meeting. Mr. Steele seconded for discussion. Mr. Sides said he did not have any specific questions to ask at this time, but was interested in the Airport being county property and belonging to the taxpayers. Mr. Honeycutt then volunteered to give some insight pertaining to the Airport since he was on the Board. He said there had been some publicity about the Rowan County vs. Stanly gas situation and tie-down fees on the ramp area. He stated that Stanly County citizens owned their Airport. That they paid employees to work there. Mr. Honeycutt said he would try to get Mr. Ashley Roberts to attend the next Commissioners meeting. Mr. Sides commented that the people of Rowan feel as though they are spending a lot of money whenever they ride by the airport and see this big facility. The motion was unanimous.

Mr. Sides made a motion that Mr. Cohen, vice-chairman be allowed to sit as Chairman, to preside over a Commission Meeting for an educational process at some future meeting. Attorney Kluttz said as long as Chairman McCombs was able to attend the meeting, he would have to serve as Chairman. He said Mr. McCombs had tried to do the same thing in past terms, but it was not legally allowed. The motion died for lack of a second. At Mr. Sides request, Attorney Kluttz said that he would be happy to further investigate this matter, since Mr. Sides said that it had been allowed in other counties.

Mr. Sides made a motion for the Board to go into Executive Session to discuss Personnel. Mr. Honeycutt seconded with unanimous approval. At this time, the Board discussed Personnel, but took no action. Mr. Honeycutt then made a motion for the Board to go out of Executive session. Mr. Steele seconded with unanimous approval.

Since there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda L. Honeycutt, Clerk  
Board of Rowan County Commissioners