

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ADJOURNED SESSIONS
MAY 20 AND MAY 21, 1981

The Board of Rowan County Commissioners met in Adjourned Sessions in the Community Building, Salisbury, North Carolina at 7:00 P.M. on May 20, 1981. The following members were present: Chairman Eugene McCombs, Hall Steele, Jim Cohen and Jim Sides. Commissioner Honeycutt being absent.

Chairman McCombs called the meeting to order and opened with prayer. The purpose of the meeting was for holding budget hearings for the 1981-82 budget.

The following budget presentations were heard:

Department of Social Services- Director Edwin Koontz, Secretary Helen Linn, Board member Jessie Carson and staff member, Lee Ann Christy.

Board of Elections- Department Director, Pat Nelson, Board Chairman Herman Beaver and Board member M.C. Byrum.

Emergency Management- Director Robert Gunn

Sheriff's Department- Sheriff John Stirewalt and Lt. Sara Potts.

County Buildings- Supervisor, Seth Mull.

Mr. Koontz opened his budget presentation with what he considered the best information available as of today. Things he said he knew he would have to do. The adoption services and foster care for adults and children. Protective services of children and adults in public assistance cases. The Title 20 allocation- he is not funding one service position. As now proposed, Mr. Koontz stated that he does not see a reduction in Public Assistance eligibility, but rather an extension of that service. AFDC recipients will be expected to report their income every month. There are 700 cases a month. He explained that Commissioners did not have to allocate what he requested for mandated programs. But the county would have to pay whatever bills came in for such programs. He said this budget was his estimate of what that cost would be. MR. Koontz went over each line item with the Board. Mr. Cohen questioned the big jump in day care. Mr. Koontz informed him that more centers were available now- and that the level of day care would have to be budgeted at the same level as it was in 1978-79- must provide the same services. Mr. Koontz said he had allowed 21 cents per mile for travel reimbursements. Mr. McCombs said he had directed for travel reimbursement. Mr. McCombs said he had

directed department heads to do that, as well as to count on one-step, 5% pay increases. Mr. Sides asked Mr. McCombs when he did this, Mr. McCombs answered, he did not have to have permission from the Board to do it. Mr. Koontz then went over the Donnelly Home budget, he went over each line item. Mr. McCombs asked how many children go through there. Mr. Koontz answered 212 last year. Mr. Koontz said that this budget is \$87,000 less in County funds than the present budget. Mr. Koontz assured Mr. Sides that he does not subscribe to Time, U.S. News or World Report publications. Pertaining to account 6135- Mr. Koontz said this was allocated for typewriters. He buys two (2) a year. He buys ten (10) or twelve (12) cabinets a year.

Mrs. Pat Nelson presented the Board of Elections budget. Account 3201- Salaries were increased due to adding compensation of election officials in order to take out. Expected to receive \$9,952 from return from municipalities. Mrs. Nelson requested a need for five (5) more voting machines. Mr. Steele inquired about combining precincts. Mr. Beaver answered- Citizens in the precincts are against it. It is upsetting them.

Mr. Robert Gunn presented the consolidated budget of Emergency Management. Mr. Sides asked Mr. Gunn if it was required that he wear a uniform. He said no, but it presents a softer touch when he does. Going into homes and schools people recognize you. Account 3356-Travel and school- Increase here because of cost to school- includes visual aids and equipment. Films for programs. Also included aids in new equipment and machine account 3335- but this was not an overlap. Mr. Sides asked Mr. Gunn to put visual aids in its proper category, to be more specific. Mr. Sides recommended cutting here of \$500. Recommended the account reading \$1,500 instead of \$2,000. Mr. Cohen recommended that Mr. Gunn and Mr. Lee stay at the Institute of Government whenever they are in Chapel Hill because they have cheaper rates. A recommendation from Mr. Cohen pertaining to account 3301-Salaries- due to lack of need of the one secretary who is pregnant to drop her now- Mr. Sides seconded- but no vote from the board. Mr. Gunn stressed the need for her now- one reason being the fact that their vacation was planned around her. Mr. Cohen asked Mr. Gunn if he would consider letting her go as of July 1. Mr. Gunn said no. Mr. Gunn stressed the need for a 2 way mobile radio because the one that he has now is old and was used by the Sheriff's Department first. Mr. Sides asked Mr. Gunn how many miles he drives a year. He said 15,000-17,000. Mr. Cohen inquired what magazines he subscribes to, Mr. Gunn said, Fire Command- at \$60 a year. At this time, Chairman McCombs declared a five minute recess.

After the recess, Sheriff John Stirewalt and Lt. Sara Potts presented the Sheriff's Department budget. The Sheriff requested seven new automobiles, but with the ten new cars on dealer's lots, he said the department would have enough new cars to get through the year. A request for 31 logging-audio communications

tapes to replace those which have been used for the past 5 ½ years and have become worn and are not audible and cannot be re-recorded for court purposes. They will cost an estimated \$45 each and we need a minimum of 31 for recording purposes. To keep \$500 in reserve for any equipment that they might need, or an unexpected price increase. The Sheriff informed Mr. Sides that his department does not subscribe to any publications. Mr. Sides questioned accounts 5436 and 5437- new uniforms- Kannapolis and Salisbury. Both accounts have increases. Lt. Potts commented that Salisbury added eight (8) more that was not in there last year. Kannapolis has not added any. There are 24 in uniform in Kannapolis- 42 in Salisbury. Costing \$275 per officer. The County Jail- Mr. McCombs was told by the Sheriff that they average 50 prisoners daily. They had 72 last week and took 12 to Kannapolis. They keep very few state prisoners. They would have to retain a state prisoner longer than 29 days to receive pay for this stay. Line item 3958- wearing apparel-uniforms for cook and matron. The clerk was then asked to call Mr. Charles Coughenour and set up an appointment with him to meet with the Sheriff, Mr. Steele and Mr. Sides- Thursday- May 21 at 6:00 at the Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Seth Mull presented the budget for the County buildings. Mr. Mull informed the Commissioners of an expense that has occurred that is not included in the budget. A \$10,500 oil expense to fill the tank at the Health Department. This is for 10,000 gallons of oil that will last for 3 years. Mr. Mull requested to increase line item 4025 from \$125,000 to \$130,000. Line item 4027- Janitorial supplies was increased by \$1,000. Account 4035- New equipment needs a new lawnmower (12 horsepower) at the Health Department. Account 4038-painting building- Mr. Mull said the Farm and Health Center needed painting and Mr. Murdoch mentioned Mr. Koontz's request to paint the outside of the receiving home. Mr. Steele commented that the roof on the Farm and Health Building needed repairs. Mr. Mull said he could patch where it is broken loose. Mr. Cohen said he would like to see the bills for this work. Mr. Mull then presented a request for 700 lineal feet to renovate or border around the Farm and Health Center. The purpose- to make it look better. He has received a bid from K.W. Arthur for \$5,436. Commissioners would not approve this. Mr. Mull then presented a request for paving the graveled lot at Bill Peeler's barbecue for county employees. He commented that this would be adequate space for everybody in the complex. Mr. Cohen commented that they might put a gas station there. Mr. Cohen suggested cutting back personnel- eliminating positions. Mr. Mull said "you can cut mine". Mr. Mull commented that he needed Ceta workers. Mr. Cohen told him to think about cutting.

After department heads departed, the Commissioners went through the budget for a process of eliminating and cutting back. Mr. Sides started with the Department of Social Services. Mr. Cohen moved to cut according to President Reagan's budget. To cut DSS drastically. To cut personnel 15%. Mr. Sides seconded. Chairman McCombs said we are not making motions tonight, only proposing. Mr. Cohen said to let Mr. Koontz shift personnel and let him cut. Mr.

Steele said from the DSS board meeting, new programs have to forgo what is being done. They move people around, but put a name on it. It would be a strain on Mr. Koontz- Mr. Sides asked what is the Chore Program. Mr. Steele said if you cut that out, you run up Medicaid. Mr. Steel also said if you keep that person in a home- you save \$1200-keep out of nursing home. It is one of the best programs we have. Mr. Sides recommended giving only one-step raises to staff who were recommended for larger raises, to cut flat rate Chore payment from \$133,053 to \$120,000, and not to grant a new clerical position. Mr. McCombs defended the Chore services. Mr. Sides commented that the board had to cut somewhere to avoid a tax increase, but Mr. McCombs said, up to this point, that this was not the place. Mr. Sides then proceeded to take each line item of the Department of Social Services budget as attached to these minutes.

Mr. Cohen commented that “come hell or high water”, we shall cut personnel 15%. Mr. Sides commented that you can’t go and tell someone they are fired- cut something now- no more than a 57 ½ cents tax rate- people said in the November election to cut social programs. Two votes won’t do it. It takes three. He said he believed he had the authority to cut some of these programs. Recommended making cuts. Mr. McCombs said see if we need to cut 15%, I’m not going to shoot in the dark. Mr. Sides then went on to public assistance.

Mr. Sides recommended the Sheriff could get by with four new vehicles, but after Mr. Cohen passed out another proposal of eliminating, decided the Sheriff only needed two. 37 officers in the patrol division (including 4 dispatchers)- 12 secretaries, jailers and janitors and 16 people in the non-patrol division. The number of court officers would be reduced from six to four with a better chain of command. Mr. Cohen said Sheriff Stirewalt and Mr. Bost spend 75 to 80% of their time at the courthouse, so six officers would still be there most of the time. Mr. Cohen said the plan would raise the number of patrolling deputies from 24 to 32 and put eight cars on the road at a time rather than six. While it cuts out special deputies for municipalities, he said it would assure all areas of the county protection 24 hours a day. His plan would close the North Kannapolis Jail, but leave the office open- with the chief establishing a toll free number for the Sheriff’s department so Kannapolis residents would not have to make long distance calls to contact the Salisbury office. Mr. Steele asked if the Commissioners had the authority to reorganize the department. Mr. Sides said the board had the power to say how many deputies the Sheriff could have. Mr. Sides said, “Jim and I would like to work together with the Sheriff, we have some recommendations.”

The Budget Hearing Session was then Adjourned until Thursday night May 21, 1981- At which time the Board of Commissioners will hear from:

Health Department- Herbert Hawley
Agriculture Extension- Harold Caudill

Tabulation Department- Dwight Jones
Tax Collector-Glenn Trexler
Register of Deeds-Jean Ramsey

The Board of County Commissioners met in Adjourned Session in the Community Building, Salisbury, North Carolina at 7:00 P.M. May 21, 1981. The following members were present: Chairman Eugene McCombs, Hall Steele, Jim Cohen, Rufus Honeycutt, and Jim Sides.

Chairman Eugene McCombs called the meeting to order and Commissioner Jim Cohen opened with prayer.

At this time, Mr. Herbert Hawley, Health Department Director, Mrs. Evelyn Schaffer, Nursing Director, Mr. Bob Farris, Environmental Health Supervisor and William Heitman, Dog Pound Supervisor presented the Health Department Budget.

Mr. Hawley said this conservative budget has a 4 to 5% increase over last year. One step salary increases except one Sanitarian who will be given a two-step. Mr. Hawley then took each line item explaining changes if any. Account 4628- he asked for an increase here of \$300 to buy drugs and supplies for lab. 4630- increase here in maintenance contract, an increase of \$213 is requested because the cost of maintenance of equipment has increased on items such as the instrument sterilizer which has increased by 21% since last year. 4635- new equipment and machines- they will need a refrigerator for the clinic to store vaccines. \$147.50- adult scales- for weighing children and adults. \$150-tonometer sterilizer- used to check for glaucoma. \$138-audio visual screen (attached)

The WIC program gives prescribed foods to babies and pregnant women. Funded by the federal government, has been in operation here since February 1, 1981. There are 425 people on the program. Mr. Cohen asked Mrs. Schaffer if they realized all the program did was to reward irresponsibility. They said they did not. The only thing more irresponsible than the WIC program, Mr. Cohen stated, was the fact that the board of Commissioners voted last year to let it operate in Rowan County. Mrs. Schaffer asked Mr. Cohen if he would prefer to pay for programs for children who were retarded or otherwise disabled because of poor prenatal and early childhood nutrition. Mr. Cohen said retarded people often made good citizens and nutrition did not play as vital a role in such development as some people said. Mr. Cohen said that it was a social injustice and moved that it be cut out of Rowan County now. Mr. Sides seconded. Mr. Hawley said that WIC was a modest program and one of the few forward steps the county had taken in regard to nutrition and public health. He also said that it was not the Health Department's functions to make moral judgements. The biggest food package a WIC recipient had received the program here was \$29 a month, Mrs. Schaffer stated. Mr. Hawley said the total value of food vouchers that would be distributed in a year to the 425

participants would be \$117,000. Administrative costs would be \$29,374, making the per patient cost of the program \$345 a year. Mr. Cohen asked Mr. Hawley if he enjoyed spending tax money on a program like this, he and Mrs. Schaffer answered yes. Chairman McCombs then took a vote on the motion. The motion failed with Mr. Steele, Mr. Honeycutt, and Mr. McCombs voting against. 4100 Dog Warden-the budget has a new position for an assistant dog warden to fill a CETA position. Mr. Heitman explained to the Board that the Dog Warden has to cover the whole county-cope with the lease law problems. Mr. Hawley said, "I don't mind going on record to say that the county needs to hire two dog wardens." There is a public demand-complaints to take care of. MR. Sides commented that he was against a waste of time to send them to school to train them. He would like to submit a request to not hiring them. 4200 Hypertension Grant- Mr. Hawley requested to consolidate the following into one line item to be called operating expenses: 4228, 4232, 4254, 4256. He stated clerical time. A position open for PHN I-request \$14,034 for a more qualified person- to transfer an old employee into that position as opposed to a new one. They up-graded the quality of the program. 4400- Maternal and Child Health Program Grant- Mr. Hawley requested to consolidate the following into a single line item called operating expenses: 4428, 4456,4454. This action said Mr. Hawley, would simplify his procedures and save bookkeeping/clerical time.

At this time, Chairman McCombs called a five minute recess. After the recess, Harold Caudill, Agriculture extension Agent presented the Department's budget. This program is funded by State and Federal funds as well as County. They have had a complete change over in staff. Mr. Cohen recommended cutting their travel from \$2,500 to \$1,800. Mr. Caudill reluctantly went along with this suggestion. Mr. Sides commented on the vacant home agent position to be funded at \$11,010. The state matches these salaries, making the agents pay \$22,020. The position had been held by someone with 20 years experience. Mr. Sides said the position should be funded at the same level as the other home agent position, \$9,712 for the County half of the salary. That person has over 10 years experience, and Mr. Sides said the extension service should seek someone with those qualifications for the vacant position, and to turn away over-qualified persons. Mr. Caudill said he would like to budget \$11,010 for the position. Mr. Sides then made a motion to establish the home agent's salary at \$9,712. Mr. Cohen seconded. The motion was defeated by Mr. Honeycutt, Mr. Steele, and Mr. McCombs. Mr. Sides commented that the Board had to cut back, that this was a reasonable request. These are necessary budget cuts, Mr. Sides said. He also commented that "We need to tell Washington that we don't want their money." He said this beats about anything I've seen so far. Mr. Honeycutt at this time commented that his vote on the extension service and WIC were not to be interpreted as support for either issue. He said he did not think budget sessions were the place to decide such policy matters.

Mr. Dwight Jones, Supervisor in the Tabulating Department presented their budget. Mr. McCombs said it was self-explanatory, but he did question the big increase in line-item 5756- Travel and school- from \$700 to \$2,500. Mr. Jones explained that this was due to training personnel as well as for himself. Mr. Sides asked Mr. Jones if they could have his approval to cut line item- 5717- dues and subscriptions- from \$90 to \$17.95- he said it would be alright with him. Mr. Jones informed the Board that they would need one 5415/7915 magnetic tape attachment at \$3,500 and a 2nd Communication Device at \$7,773. This unit will be needed to operate the W.P. Ferris property revaluation system.

Mr. Glenn Trexler, Tax Collector presented his budget to the Commissioners. Mr. Trexler took each line item and explained them. 5894-tax receipts and envelopes. Mr. Trexler explained that they did not order enough receipts to begin with. Line item 5804, advertising- increased from \$7,600 to \$8,750. Mr. Trexler said that State law requires all unpaid taxes to be advertised. Line item 5856- travel- Mr. Trexler commented that he attended seminar school- which is an instruction school. Mr. Cohen recommended decreasing this line item from \$1,500 to \$1,200. Mr. Cohen then recommended cross training in Glenn's office and Tax Supervisor. Mr. Trexler opposed to this idea explained that he did not want personnel from another office floating in and out of his office. The two offices operated under completely different laws, and his staff had to be bonded. Mr. Trexler also said the two offices should also remain separate by principle. The person who set a tax bill should not be the person who collected the taxes. Mr. Cohen said he was going to recommend that two tax collection employees and three tax supervision employees be cut. Mr. Cohen commented that some department heads had been here so long they were not able to see ways their departments could be changed, and he said the Sheriff was an example of that.

Mrs. Jean Ramsey, Register of Deeds, presented their budget. Line item 5317-dues and subscription. Mrs. Ramsey commented that she included \$54 for a yearly subscription to the Daily Independent. She said, "I could have carried this personally in the past, but must discontinue it at this time. We use the obituary column for out of county deaths to match against birth certificates. This prevents fraudulent usage of birth certificates. Many of these deaths appear in the Daily Independent that does not appear in the Salisbury Post. Line item 5330- maintenance contracts, all Kodak equipment is under full maintenance for several years. The total maintenance for Kodak in 1981-82 will be \$10,310. She explained that she would like to try something new this year, on a trial basis. She stated that she would like to drop maintenance on one film unit, drop maintenance on three Microstar PR-I (which are readers, with image control keyboards). This would be a savings of \$2,880. To insure that a maintenance call can be made if necessary, she requested to include more in line item 5346-repairs to equipment. She also requested to drop maintenance on their 3M duplicator and expect the same privilege for 5346 on this machine. This account also covers their Pitney Bowes

meter machine and IBM Typewriters. Line item 5351-stationary and supplies. This account was increased to compensate for some increase in prices and for demands for copies. 19,394 copies were made in the calendar year of 1980, for total receipts of \$17,770.50. Line item 5354 increased \$2,401.10 to \$2,500- line item 5356-travel \$1,950 -\$2,000. She said she needed this increase because she travels to the National Register of Deeds meetings. Line item 5363-repairs to binders-way down because they are microfilmed. Line item 5399- lease equipment-IBM Copier II was in a separate account, and payment has come from 5335 and 5351-causing a shortage in these two accounts. Mrs. Ramsey said this was a great machine. Mr. Cohen commented that Mrs. Ramsey's travel seemed steep to him. Recommended cutting from \$2,000 to \$1,500. Mrs. Ramsey said she was not interested. Line item 5346-repairs to equipment- Mr. Cohen cut from \$2,500 to \$2,000. Line item 5351 stationary and supplies from \$22,550 to \$21,000- Mr. Sides recommendation. Mr. Sides also requested that department heads clear with County Manager before transferring money from one account to another. He recommended that Mrs. Ramsey curtail one of her organizations to cut down on travel. Mrs. Ramsey then offered the Board a proposition if they agreed to leave her budget alone, she would turn in another means of revenue to them from genealogical research service at \$5 a request. She said she had already been doing it for free, and spent six hours Wednesday responding to 15 requests. Mr. Sides then recommended instituting genealogical fees for that service at \$5. Mr. Cohen seconded with unanimous approval, but the Board did not agree to leave Mrs. Ramsey's budget as is. Mr. Cohen asked Mrs. Ramsey if she could cut any of her personnel. She said no.

Chairman McCombs then called regular session to discuss business.

County Manager read a letter from Herman Beaver, Board of Election requesting to give 55 old poll books to the Library. Mr. Sides made a motion to give the books to the Library with the stipulation they not be asked for money to house the books. Mr. Steele seconded with unanimous approval.

Mr. Murdoch read a letter from Mr. Hornbeck who won the bid to buy the two automobiles belonging to the Sheriff's Department. He stated that he no longer had the funds to buy the cars. Mr. Sides made a motion to offer the cars to Campbell's Auto Repairs for \$700 the second highest bidder as opposed to advertising again. Mr. Cohen seconded with unanimous approval.

Mr. Honeycutt made a motion to accept a low bid from Taylor Freezer sales of \$6,775 for an ice-cream machine for Dan Nicholas Park. Mr. Sides seconded the motion with unanimous approval.

Mr. Sides made a motion to pay Pam Smith \$7.20 an hour for 25 hours to complete programs she started in the Tabulating Department. Mr. Steele seconded with unanimous approval.

At the end of the meeting, Mr. Honeycutt assured Mr. Sides that the current tax rate would not be increased.

Chairman Eugene McCombs adjourned this meeting to continue May 25, 1981 at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda L. Honeycutt, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners