

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 2, 1981

The Board of Rowan County Commissioners met in Regular Session in the Community Building, Salisbury, North Carolina on November 2, 1981 at 9:00 A.M. The following members were present: Rufus Honeycutt, Hall Steele, Eugene McCombs, Jim Sides and Jim Cohen.

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

Commissioner Sides made a motion to approve the minutes of October 5, 1981. Mr. Honeycutt seconded with unanimous approval. Commissioner Cohen made one comment concerning the minutes. He requested that if he made a statement concerning an issue that is wrong, to put it in the minutes as being wrong, pertaining to last month's meeting of the CBA/JJDT Task Force, he brought up the subject of in-school suspension. Commissioner Cohen said he knew for a fact that students who were supposed to be in suspension were eating in the lunchroom with other students.

Chairman McCombs commented that there were quite a few people who would like to have been on the Agenda to talk about their tax revaluation, but it would not have done any good to come. There were no additions to the Agenda.

There no comments concerning Monthly Reports.

Mr. Murdoch commented on the letter from Paul Bernhardt, local hardware merchant, which stressed how his dog had been handled by Leach Laboratories in 1977. The Commissioners had been sent a copy of the letter.

Mr. Murdoch read a letter from Tom Caudill informing the Commissioners that the deed for the Old Landis Ice and Fuel building to be used for the South Rowan Library had been recorded.

Mr. Murdoch read a not from Eric Ennis with the Fair Association asking the Commissioners to set a date for a meeting to discuss what activities should take place on the fairgrounds. The Commissioners set November 12, 1981 at 7:30 P.M.

Mr. Murdoch read a letter from Wayne Stallings, Finance Section, Department of Human Resources, Raleigh concerning the Social Services Budget. Mr. McCombs recommended any extra monies to go into the Medicaid Account since this account is running short.

Mr. Murdoch read a letter from the Department of Housing- Urban Development- denying the Wellons Foundation application to provide 30 units of housing for the Elderly and the Handicapped.

Mr. Murdoch read a letter from Sylvia Wiseman, with the Arts Council concerning the Autumn Jubilee at the Park. The Council was most appreciative of the response.

Mr. Murdoch informed the Commissioners of a letter from Addie Rhem Morris requesting that appointments be made to the Agency Advisory Council. Chairman McCombs commented that a list would be sent to them.

Mr. Murdoch received a letter from Vision Cable reporting franchise tax due to the County.

July	\$3,785.57
August	\$4,433.03
September	<u>\$5,044.13</u>
Total	\$13,262.73

3% of \$13,262.73=\$397.88 to County.

Mr. Murdoch informed the Commissioners that the Holiday Caravan Parade will be held on Wednesday November 25 and that the Parade Commission would send a map of locations.

Commissioner Cohen requested two road petitions be approved. One would be to add .40 miles in length to a dead end road off Holshouser near Rockwell, North Carolina. The other .10 miles in length to Clement Street (Clement Acres Subdivision). Commissioner Cohen made a motion to approve the two road petitions. Commissioner Steele seconded with unanimous approval.

Tax Supervisor, Wallace Peeler and W.P. Farriss representative Brent Weisler appeared before the Commissioners requesting approval of farm land values.

Mr. Peeler explained in order to qualify for the acreage rate, the land must have been owned by the farmer for four years and it must have earned \$1,000 per year for the past three years. The amount of taxes based on the market value of the land is held in abeyance. If the land is sold, back taxes must be paid for the previous three years.

Mr. Peeler also stated that no income was applied on woodland- 20 acres or more- he advises woodland owners to use sound management.

The proposed farm land use values are \$630 per acre for property which is in farmland and earns \$1000 in gross income per year. \$300 for pasture, residual land and woodland, and wasteland at \$100 an acre.

Mr. Steele said he was not entirely satisfied with the formula used to arrive at the \$630 value. He felt that further study should be made to insure that it would be accepted by the farmers. He agreed to meet with Mr. Peeler, Mr. Weisler and Mr. Caudill to work out an acceptable formula.

Mr. McCombs commented that corrections could be made and brought back on November 12 when Commissioners meet again.

Mr. Peeler commented that it would be impossible to predict a tax rate until the total valuation is computed. Mr. Sides commented that he would like to see the tax rate 30 cents.

Glenn Trexler, tax collector, reported total collections through Friday, October 30, 1981 to be \$692,623.06.

Commissioners heard from Ms. Bonnie Smith, Humane Society concerning the sale of dogs to Leach Laboratories. The Human Society is opposed to Rowan County selling dogs to the research lab. Ms. Smith called this cruel and needless and said that it was an act of discrimination against Rowan County citizens because of the price Leach Laboratories pays- Leach pays \$2 per dog- citizens pay an average of \$11 for adoption. Ms. Smith also said that Leach did not provide a good home as required by law. Chairman McCombs stated that the dogs sold to Leach were ones that were kept at least 3 days and would not be adopted. Commissioner Sides requested that Ms. Smith be allowed to read a letter from Paul Barnhardt, Hardware Merchant. The letter relates to the incident which occurred in 1977 where he retrieved his pet after it had been sold to Leach before the 3 day period was over. It told of the cruel way in which his dog was treated by the research kennel.

Ms. Smith passed forms around to the Commissioners signed by people opposed to the County selling dogs to Leach Laboratory. (Attached).

Ms. Smith requested that the policy be changed to either adopting or euthanizing instead of selling to Leach Lab.

Commissioner Honeycutt made a motion to cease selling dogs to Leach Laboratories for research and his motion was also to sell cat carcasses to Carolina Biological Supply Co. of Burlington for \$4 each. Mr. Steele seconded.

Commissioner Sides commented that the only problem here might be at the pound. They try to keep a minimum staff and asked Ms. Smith if one or two humane society volunteers could take care of euthanasia. Ms. Smith said that this should be handled by a trained persons. She did not give a definite answer.

Mr. Honeycutt said he knew this would not be a perfect operation but we could use what we have to work with. There would be about 68 dogs a month to euthanize. Mr. Sides commented that he realized that the motive for selling the dogs was so the pound would not get involved. The Commissioners agreed that the \$1,652 a year was not enough to justify the cruelty that was implemented to the animals and voted unanimously in favor of Mr. Honeycutt’s motion. (Attached letter from Carolina Biological)

Commissioner Honeycutt made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Steele for the County Manager to accept bids for the construction of four Solid Waste Container sites for 40 cubic year open top containers. The four sites included Providence Church Road, Artz Road, White Farm Road and Barber. Until other permanent sites can be found, the containers will be placed temporarily at sites already existing. Commissioner Sides abstained his vote and Commissioner Cohen did not vote along because he stated, “it is not what I want, it is good but I want it handled by a franchise.” The motion carried with Chairman McCombs voting I.

The county Manager presented the following bids for a roll off hoist truck and sixteen 40 cubic yard garbage containers:

Quality Equipment	82 International	\$46,208.07
	82 GMC	50,623.00
	82 White KS-64	53,725.00
	81 Mack DM 6855	53,942.00
Sanco	81 Mack DM 6855	61,305.00
	82 Mack DM 6855	63,130.00
	82 White KS64	63,285.00
	82 White KS64	64,650.00
	81 White JS64	61,935.00
Nu-Life Environ	81 Mack DM 6855	60,716.00
	81 White KS64	59,513.00
Containers:		
Godwin	Godwin Mft.	\$45,424.00
	Alt. #1	44,400.00
Quality	Lewis Steel	46,240.00
Bes-Pac	Bes-Pac	52,400.00
Sanco	Hesco	47,692.31
	Alt. #1	43,600.00

Commissioner Steele made a motion to accept the low bid from Quality Equipment on the purchase of a 1981 Mack Hoist Truck for \$53,942. Mr. Honeycutt seconded. The motion passing with Mr. Cohen abstaining.

The Commissioners deferred until November 12, 1981 the 16 container matter until Mr. Watson has had a chance to go to Dunn to look at the cans that Godwin has for \$44,400. Mr. Watson said this was an A-1 can. Mr. Steele asked if the better can was worth it. Mr. Cohen said, "you get what you pay for."

Attorney Kluttz told the Commissioners if they chose to purchase this can over the low bid- that they would have to re-bid and go again. Mr. Sides commented that it was best to know before the fact than after the fact.

Commissioner Steele made a motion to approve the personnel for the Council on Aging who are working with the Nutrition Program. Mr. Honeycutt seconded with unanimous approval. They are as follows: Clyde Fahnstock, Director, Lelia Phifer, Bookkeeper, Constance McMahon, Receptionist, people who work with the Nutrition Sites are as follows: Marie Gilbert, Hilda Horton, Frances Ketchie, Frances Rollins, Odessa Woods, Thelma Woodyard, Kathleen Young, Abe Poole and Joan Howard.

Commissioner Sides made a motion to approve the personnel changes in the Tax Collector's office. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval. The changes are as follows: Mr. Trexler requests that Vicki Miles be moved to a higher range position- salary increase from \$7,455 to \$7,828 and a new clerk be moved into Ms. Mile's position. Delores File- making \$7,108.

Mr. Murdoch reported interest:

General Fund	\$167,828.07
Revenue Sharing	15,954.33
In Debt Service	<u>1.09</u>
Total	\$183,783.49

Mr. Murdoch reported one refund to George Burris, Rt. 6 the amount of \$17.95. The couple decided not to build because of high interest rates. Mr. Steele made a motion to refund the money. Mr. Honeycutt seconded with unanimous approval.

Mr. Murdoch requested a payment of costs for real property purchased at a tax foreclosure sale. Bonnie Busby, commissioner, sold the property of Edwin E. Little to Rowan County for non payment of delinquent taxes. Her fee for the sale was \$346.76, Mr. Honeycutt made a motion to approve the payment. Mr. Steele seconded with unanimous approval.

Mr. Honeycutt made a motion to approve the budget amendment for the Title III-Nutrition budget. The caterers expense item was increased- Mr. Steele seconded with unanimous approval. (attached)

Mr. Murdoch reported that the bids taken on the front end power mower for the Park had been awarded to Allied, the lowest bidder at \$5,535.71. Other bidders were Cut Quick, who bid \$8,235 and American Hardware who bid \$6,620. Mr. Cohen made a motion to approve the bid to Allied after informing the Commissioners that he had received a letter from the Park concerning the power mower. Mr. Foltz had nothing but praise for the product. Mr. Honeycutt seconded with unanimous approval.

The Commissioners agreed to defer the appointments to the Southern Piedmont Health Systems Agency, Inc. until November 12, 1981. The Commissioners need to appoint at least five (5) members. Mr. Honeycutt suggested Dr. John Wear as a member and Chairman McCombs commented that Harry Sifford would be glad to serve another term.

Commissioner Cohen made a motion not to approve the sites for the 60 unit housing project proposed by the Rowan Housing Authority, saying, "It was not the responsibility of the federal government to provide housing for citizens." Mr. Sides seconded. The proposal sites are located on Harrison Road- Locke Township. The commissioners were asked by HUD to review the application for the housing project, but they do not have the final decision. HUD had the option based on the County's ability to meet several criteria, including the cost of on-site improvements. Mr. Sides commented that they did not specify whether this was for the elderly or not-just home for our citizens. Mr. Honeycutt said he was disturbed about the quality of construction now- and asked if this could be deferred until the next meeting. Mr. Steele said he would like to know what water and sewage would cost and administration. Mr. McCombs said he wanted to do what was right- that he would vote against Mr. Cohen's motion now- Mr. Cohen withdrew his motion and Mr. Sides withdrew his second to defer until November 12, 1981. Mr. Cohen said the "federal government could not be everything to everybody."

Mr. Honeycutt made a motion to renew the lease with Whitton Distributors. Rowan County provides 2 acres of land at \$10 an acre- (which is wasteland) for a septic tank drain field for them. Mr. Steele seconded, Commissioner Sides voting No. Motion passing with Chairman McCombs voting I.

Mr. Murdoch informed the Board of Holidays for Rowan County employees. November 11- Veterans Day, November 26- Thanksgiving, December 24 & 25- Christmas, January 1- New Years Day.

Chairman McCombs asked if being closed on New Year's Day would interfere with people paying their taxes. Mr. Murdoch said no- New Year's Day comes on Friday.

Mr. Honeycutt suggested changing the statute on early tax payment. Mr. Murdoch said the Commissioners have the authority to do this.

Mr. Steele said, "we need to take a hard look at it."

Commissioner Sides recommended selling the property behind Livingstone College. No action was taken from the Board.

Commissioner Sides made a motion to give Mr. Murdoch permission to take bids on some data processing equipment. Mr. Honeycutt seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Sides commented that he was opposed to bingo gatherings in Rowan County- asked if the Board has the authority to disallow this. Attorney Kluttz stated that he would check on this.

Commissioner Cohen asked when does General Assembly convene to introduce local bills- No comment from the Board.

Commissioner Steele said it would be difficult to ban bingo- Commissioner Sides said he was opposed to "full fledged gambling organizations." He stated that the Fair should be agricultural and industrial with rides. The big thing is gambling. If it was not there, it would not take place- we should take action now.

Chairman McCombs stated that he was trying to set up a dinner meeting with Mayor Weinhold and the City Council and that he would inform the Board whenever he works this out.

The meeting was adjourned until Thursday, November 12 at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda L. Honeycutt, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners