

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OR THE BOARD OF  
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
BUDGET HEARINGS  
MAY 27, 1982

The Board of Rowan County Commissioners met in Adjourned Session in the Community Building on May 27, 1982 at 7:00 P.M. to hear Department Head Personnel present their FY 1982-83 budget.

Commissioners present were: Chairman Eugene McCombs, Commissioners Rufus Honeycutt, Hall Steele, Jim Sides and Jim Cohen.

Department Head Personnel present were: Wallace Peeler, Tax Supervisor, Harold Watson, Landfill Supervisor, Craige Trexler, Building Inspector Supervisor, Jim Foltz, Park Director and Fred Howell, Veterans Service Officer.

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

Wallace Peeler, Tax Supervisor opened the hearings requesting a 10% pay increase for three of his employees, Polly Hopkins, Madolyn Yates and Lottie Williams and adding some though toward hiring another appraiser. An increase in stationary and supplies; telephone and travel. Under supplies, Mr. Peeler said they will be required to buy new forms for their appraisal cards. Another item will be money to run the appraisal cards on Ferriss' system. This will run from \$6,000-\$10,000 a year. Commissioners agreed to establish a new line item and set aside \$6,000.

Commissioner Sides was opposed to merit raises as long as the County gives across-the-board raises. He was also opposed to new personnel, but said if an appraiser had to be hired- Mr. Peeler should be able to get one for less than the \$12,000 salary he had requested.

Commissioner Sides also questioned Mr. Peeler about the three telephone lines, two of which numbers are unlisted. Mr. Sides said all numbers in all departments should be listed.

Commissioners then hear from Harold Watson, Landfill Supervisor who is requesting additional part-time help for weekends. Mr. Sides recommended an additional person as opposed to part-time. Mr. Watson's new expenses include a fence around part of the landfill, new gates, 3,000 tons of stone for the road to the new area of the landfill, six new container sites including sites in Liberty/Gold Hill-Miller Road and test wells at the new landfill. Mr. Watson then requested a pick-up truck to drive on the job-saying that going in and out of the landfill was tearing his

car up. Mr. Sides suggested Mr. Watson use one of the Sheriff's old patrol cars. The cars are usually auctioned for a very low amount. Other Commissioners agreed.

Mr. Sides requested a detailed list of Revenue Sharing funds. What they are paying for. Mr. Steele commented on the dumpsters. A bad problem. Mr. Watson said they needed sandblasting and painting where people have been burning in them.

Commissioners then hear from Jim Foltz, Parks Director and Curtis Graham, Chairman of the Board of Parks. Mr. Foltz said 1981-82 revenue at the Park, which is put in the county general fund was \$81,073.78 with five weeks to go in the year. Received \$15,678.47 in donations and solicit a lot of volunteer help. Mr. Foltz is requesting a total of \$2,863 for new equipment and \$4,323 in construction. Mr. Foltz said it would take \$9,831.80 for Sloan Park. Could be done within 3 months of getting the go-ahead from state officials.

Commissioners were informed by Mr. Foltz that Pansy Smith, Assistant Ellis Park Director had been moved up into the Director's spot with a nine-step increase in salary. Mr. Foltz said three people had recently been hired to fill vacancies. They were given the same salaries that had been paid the previous job holders. Mr. Murdoch had approved the same salary for Charles Lomax \$12,737- as had been paid Pat West, Special Populations Coordinator. There was criticism awarding Mrs. Smith and Jim Byrd replacements for Maintenance and operations assistant Amy Kniskern the same salaries as their predecessors. Mr. Sides said Ms. Smith and Mr. Byrd should have been given the minimum salaries for their new position according to the county scale. Chairman Eugene McCombs asked when this change took place- Mr. Foltz said it had occurred in the past 5 to 6 weeks.

Mr. Sides said he thought the county should freeze all wages if the state goes through with Governor Hunt's proposal to freeze state wages.

Mr. Cohen, a member on the Parks Committee, also thought the salary awarded Ms. Smith was too high. He said she should get more than the minimum for the position since he had observed her to be a capable person. Mr. Sides commented that we have to live with the payscale we have. Mr. Foltz said his people were ready any time for a study of their jobs and responsibilities and a comparison of their salaries to those paid in other counties. "You would be enlightened" he said.

Mr. Honeycutt said he wanted the records to show that Mr. Murdoch did not participate in the salary adjustments, only the one for the Special Populations Coordinator. Mr. McCombs said to Mr. Foltz that he would talk with the Parks Commission and get back- he would straighten it out.

The Board then hear from Craige Trexler, Building Inspection Supervisor. He presented a \$97,725 budget up 20% because of the addition of city inspections to his office. Mr. Trexler said instead of taking line items he would rather talk about the functions of his office.

Commissioners Sides and Cohen questioned the \$12,000 travel- suggesting that while an inspector was going out on an inspection, he stop by sites along the way that also needed inspecting rather than making trips for each inspection. Mr. Trexler said he wished it would work like this. People expect inspectors exactly when they wanted them. Mr. Sides said Mr. Trexler should accommodate the people and inconvenience us.

The Commissioners then heard from Fred Howell, Veterans Service Officer. Mr. Howell said that he had followed guidelines like Mr. Murdoch recommended. He stated that he had held Travel but had a full schedule ahead of meetings. He submitted to Chairman McCombs a statement of \$1,199 worth of benefits that had been processed in eleven months, adding that they had not cost the County anything. Mr. Cohen said the benefits cost somebody.

Mr. Howell explained the salaries of the two part-time clerks. Adding that adjustments were made in case if Ms. Rose left, Ms. Tatum would have to go to full time.

Chairman McCombs adjourned the meeting until Monday night, May 31, 1982 at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda L. Honeycutt, Clerk  
Board of County Commissioners