

MINTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ADJOURNED MEETING
OCTOBER 25, 1982

The Board of Rowan County Commissioners met in Adjourned Session in the Community Building on October 25, 1982 at 7:30 P.M. The following members were present: Chairman Eugene McCombs, Rufus Honeycutt, Hall Steele, Jim Sides and Jim Cohen.

Chairman McCombs called to order and opened with prayer.

Mr. Peter Lydens with Lydens Associates presented the County's Classification and Pay Plan. He stated that the County Manager and Department Heads had been helpful in giving him input. That each employee had filled out a questionnaire of his or her job description and that each one had had a chance to talk to him about it.

Mr. Lydens said North Carolina counties within 15,000 in population of Rowan were used for comparison. He said the Piedmont area was paying more in general. He recommended that no salaries be reduced; that salaries below the first step of the proposed salary range be raised to the first step, and that salaries about the top step of the employee's classification remain as they are.

Mr. Lydens stated that he had done the pay plan study for both Stanly and Iredell counties; and that Rowan County was his third county. The Commissioners decided to study the pay plan and come back with a decision later.

Mrs. Ann Tennent, Architect, explained to the Commissioners that the Old Post Office Building is not easily adaptable for use either the Social Services or the Farm Agencies. That for Social Services it would be impossible to consolidate all the employees. That office space could be provided for 55 employees. That would leave space could be provided for 55 employees. That would leave 21 without office space. Dividing the Social Services between the Farm Center and Post Office would be possible but inadvisable because of inconvenience and inefficiency. Mrs. Tennent said that the Farm and Health Center could be more adequately relocated there than Department of Social Services. Mr. McCombs said, "In light of what she said, his opinion is not to continue spending money on this project- best to leave it up to Commissioners who will be here."

Commissioner Honeycutt commented that the Old Post Office Building has a good appearance outside. His opinion is that it is in pretty bad repair- hate to see

us abandon what is there. We should do maintenance there in all areas that need attention.

Commissioner Cohen commented that the problem was not going away- that the offices were crowded that they were “working on top of each other.” That the farmers in general would be more put out- that they play a contributing part and come from four different parts of the county- that his was a serious problem- that the Department of Social Services would have to move- if anyone moves- that parking could be worked out with the Church.

Commissioner Honeycutt recognized Lewis Sowers, former Commissioner, who he had worked with in doing a study on the Farm and Health Center- The study was to extend Social Services along the sidewalk up to the walk that goes in the Farm Center. Mr. Honeycutt said it would take something like \$250,000 to ½ million or more to restore this old building. Then suggested that we could use it as a record storage.

Mrs. Tennent said both agencies considered it punishment to be moved; but is a worthwhile building.

Chairman McCombs said, “if it was the thing to do, I would move you regardless of what you thought.”

Commissioner Sides recommended 1) selling back to the Federal Government, 2) or the possibility of turning it into a jail. He said since no one want it, we would not have to ask the prisoners whether they liked it or not, but, he said, neither one would work.

Commissioner Sides commented that the County buildings were not located where people could get to them conveniently. He said that direction ought to be more consolidated.

Commissioner Steele said the Tennents did an excellent job- that we have now gone through the process of elimination- if it needs consolidation- he wanted it if the people wanted it.

After a short recess, Mr. Murdoch informed the Commissioners of a letter from John Gallaher concerning a new Rowan County Board of Transportation member, Mr. Frank McCray. He has agreed to serve as a Board member, representing Rowan County.

Commissioner Honeycutt made a motion for the Board to send a letter to John Gallaher thanking him for his efforts in working with the Rowan County Board. Commissioner Steele seconded. Commissioner Sides said he would vote for

the motion but he felt that Gallaher was just doing his job and that the County should have more say of which roads should be paved. Commissioner Honeycutt said he made the motion because Mr. Gallaher had spent extra time and had been considerate of our requests. It was a unanimous approval to send the letter.

Mr. Murdoch read a memo from Ken Horton, Highway Department, concerning elimination of installation and maintenance of road name signs. Referring to September 22, 1982 proposal cost improvements to make the best use of all available funds. Mr. Horton said there would be a savings of \$15,000 a year if this could be eliminated and since this is a low priority service, he felt like it could be eliminated- exceptions would be given to major thoroughfare roads.

Mr. Murdoch read a letter from Barbara Doby, Chairman of the 1982-83 South Rowan Christmas Parade, to be held in China Grove, Tuesday November 23 at 3:30 and in Landis at 4:30. Requested that Commissioners let her know by the 16th if they wish to participate.

Mr. Hawley, Health Director, requested three personnel changes in his department.

1. Lynn Brown, an experience Health Educator, applied for the Family Planning Health Educator position, vacated by Diane Shields. She is currently a Family Planning Educator in Stanly County at a salary of \$14,950. Rowan County's position is budgeted at \$14,034 a \$916 reduction from her present salary. Mr. Hawley's request is approval from the Board as he believes Ms. Brown will be a definite asset to Rowan County. Commissioner Steele moved to approve this request for Ms. Brown. Commissioner Honeycutt seconded. The motion passing with Commissioner Sides voting No.
2. Mrs. Sandra Long applied for General Nutritionist position. Doctors are referring patients to the Health Department for counseling. The budgeted salary is \$12,780 because Debbie Preston was a trainee. Mrs. Long has a Master of Science degree in Nutrition and Mr. Hawley is required to hire her in the professional grade at \$13,382. The budget would not be overspent because the position has been open for 1 ½ months. Mr. Hawley's request is to employ Mrs. Long as soon as possible. Commissioner Honeycutt made a motion to employ Mrs. Long. Commissioner Steele seconded. The motion passing with Commissioner Sides voting No. Commissioner Steele commented that the County should utilize these services as much as possible.
3. Mr. Hawley is recommending that Ivy Honeycutt be promote from Secretary IV to Clerical Supervisor V. The office of State Personnel has specified that because of an increase in responsibilities required by this position the promotion is in order. Mr. Hawley is not asking for an

increase in salary with this reclassification. Commissioner Honeycutt moved to approve Mrs. Honeycutt's reclassification. Commissioner Steele seconded. Commissioners Sides and Cohen voting No. Chairman McCombs voting I. Commissioner Sides said it disturbed him to make a reclassification because sooner or later, the salary increase would follow. He stated that he could not see the purpose of raising her. Mr. Murdoch said Mrs. Honeycutt was at the top of her salary now.

Mr. Murdoch informed the Commissioners that Centralina has granted Rowan County \$1,428.10 to help pay for the Emergency Ambulance Equipment that was lost in an accident last spring. \$1,000 toward a new radio, \$205 for a suction unit and various other items. No new money involved. Commissioner Honeycutt made a motion to accept the grant. Commissioner Steele seconded. Commissioners Sides and Cohen voting No. Chairman McCombs voting I.

Mr. Murdoch informed the Commissioners that they could no longer receive free services to the Radio Tower on the 601 by-pass. They had a contract with Mr. Sherman who sold his business and removed the equipment. Without the radio contract, air navigation would be in trouble. They have to keep up lights in the tower. J.R. Tower's Service maintains towers in this county- is requesting approval for a proposal for him. Would do all the repairs, rewiring, etc. for \$4,500. Money would come from contingencies to J.R. Tower's Service. Commissioner Steele seconded with unanimous approval.

Mr. Murdoch presented bids on the parking lot at Dan Nicholas Park. One bid from Jim Bost- \$7,465.50 and the other from Piedmont Asphalt- \$5,095. Tarheel did not bid due to work overload. Commissioner Sides made a motion to accept the low bid of \$5,095. Commissioner Honeycutt seconded with unanimous approval.

Mr. Murdoch presented bids on the Truck for the Dog Warden. He received one bid on a 1983 model and one bid on a 1982 model. Commissioners agreed to rebid on a 1982 model.

Mr. Murdoch presented bids on the sale of the Park Director's car- He received two bids- One \$201.25 and \$275. Commissioner Sides moved to accept the high bid. Commissioner Honeycutt seconded with unanimous approval.

Mr. Murdoch informed the Commissioners of the Division of Highways request to abandon 1600 feet of Old Wilkesboro Road- SR 2048. They had submitted a resolution which they have requested Commissioners to approve. Commissioner Honeycutt moved to pass the resolution. Commissioner Steele seconded with unanimous approval. (Attached)

Commissioner Honeycutt made a motion to advertise for sale the old farm tractor at the Airport. They would like to sell this and buy a small riding mower. Commissioner Steele seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Honeycutt moved to grant permission to transfer \$10,096.30- from contingencies to Board of Elections for cost of second primary. Commissioner Sides seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Honeycutt explained to the Commissioners, Centralina's request for contribution for the remaining \$1,600 to complete the \$3,000 expected from Rowan County for start-up purposes for Centralina Development Corporation, Inc. Mr. Honeycutt explained that this was for small business loans- to expand to hire more people. That it was a one-time thing. Commissioner Cohen recommended letting the banks do it.

Commissioner Honeycutt moved to approve Centralina's request and take money from contingencies. Commissioner Steele seconded, Commissioners Cohen and Sides voting No. Chairman McCombs voting I.

Commissioner Sides commented on the recent jail break. He recommended that steps be taken in correcting any failures that might have been the duty of the County Commissioners. Commissioner Honeycutt agreed. Commissioner Sides said no one was hurt but could have been a security problem. Made a motion to see that immediate action is taken in securing this problem. Commissioner Honeycutt seconded with unanimous approval. Commissioner Sides recommended that Mr. Murdoch meet with the Sheriff to do what has to be done.

There being no further business, Chairman McCombs adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda L. Honeycutt, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners