

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ADJOURNED MEETING
NOVEMBER 15, 1982

The Board of Rowan County Commissioners met in Adjourned Session in the Community Building on November 15, 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 Commissioner Cohen had prayer.

Chairman McCombs introduced the two firms that had the two lowest bids for the County Audit- Potter and Company, Monroe, NC bid \$59,500 and Price Waterhouse- Charlotte, NC bid \$60,000.

Mr. Miley Glover representing Potter and Company informed the Commissioners that he regularly attended continuation courses concerning governmental programs; and that he could offer qualified service at a cheaper rate. He said he could be reached at any time. He had no County audits at this time. They have a staff of 11 with 5 being CPAs. Mr. Murdoch asked Mr. Glover if he had had any experience in preparing a county budget. Mr. Glover said he had assisted the County Manager in Cleveland County.

Mr. Thomas Livingston and Grant Hamrick representing Price Waterhouse Firm informed the Board that they were a national-known firm with a staff of 66. Mr. Hamrick said his personnel attended school on governmental accounting quite frequently. Commissioner Honeycutt asked Mr. Hamrick if they had any other county audits pending. His answer was, "no, not at this time." Response time was four hours depending on the circumstances. Commissioner Honeycutt asked about single-audit concept- which the firm was not experienced in, but was anxious to expand to governmental accounting. Mr. Murdoch asked the firm if they had had any experience in helping with budget preparation. His answer was, "yes- the city of Asheville." He had spent a lot of time there.

Commissioner Cohen made a motion to award the audit contract to Potter and Company. Commissioner Sides seconded. He said travel time was irrelevant and that with a staff of 11 they would have all the resources. Mr. Carter (Sherrill and Smith) informed Mr. Cohen that they had a staff of 15- Commissioner Cohen said "staff is not a valid argument and he felt Potter and Company's response time would be quicker than 24 hours if we demanded it. Commissioner Steele said he was not completely happy with what he had heard- that Price Waterhouse was more experienced and would back up anything we needed and that \$500 difference

a year for three years was not really a factor- and for that reason he would go along with Price Waterhouse. Commissioner Honeycutt said Sherrill and Smith has ruined us being so close- but he would also have to vote for Price Waterhouse. The vote was Commissioners Cohen and Sides for Potter and Company and Commissioners Steele and Honeycutt voting against. Chairman McCombs saying his vote would be a deciding factor- he had looked at the performance for each one and decided to give Potter and Company a chance.

Commissioner Sides said suppose Potter and Company did not fulfill the contract- Mr. Murdoch said according to item #15 in the contract- it could be terminated in 30 days if failed in accordance with a written notice.

Mr. Stamey Carter and Al Brandon presented the 1981-82 audit report. Mr. Carter said it ran pretty close last year. It showed a general fund unappropriated balance of \$2,196,221 as compared to the previous year's \$2,025,760. Mr. Carter said the audit is required to present a Management Letter to the Board. In the letter, Mr. Carter recommended the 1) establishment of a system of accounting for fixed assets owned by Rowan County. 2) doing a study to determine the effectiveness of the Data Processing Department and 3) the need for assistance to the County Manager. (Attached)

Chairman McCombs thanked Stamey Carter for the report and service for the past twelve years- for being a great help and that he had appreciated everything he and Al had done- still addressing Stamey he said, "Sorry, you did not get the contract."

Commissioner Honeycutt said, "Let that be my sentiment too" "Thank you and we appreciate it. Stamey it has been a long (36 years-since 1946) and pleasurable relationship."

Commissioner Steele said, "We will miss you- especially, come budget time."

Commissioner Steele made a motion to accept and adopt the County's new proposed pay plan as prepared by Lyden's Associates, Charlotte, NC. Commissioner Honeycutt seconded. Commissioner Cohen voting against. Commissioner Sides said he was not opposed to granting pay increases but that Lyden's study did not take into account the kind of job- whether it was a 20 hr. week or a 40 hr. a week job; and did not evaluate the person filling the position. Commissioner Cohen asked "what did the total pay plan amount to yearly?" County Manager said \$350,000 with benefits. He said Commissioners should be able to carry about \$114,000 forward to the next budget year from the \$200,000 set aside in July. The \$114,000 added to the \$200,000 would come close to the \$350,000 needed to meet the pay plan. Commissioner Steele's motion failed 2-2. Chairman McCombs recommended approving ½ of the raise now- effective 12/1/82; and implementing the other half

come July 1, 1983. This will allow \$100,000 over and we will have enough without raising taxes. Commissioner Honeycutt said he would agree with this- that we were dealing with the best asset, the people- his reason for being in favor of this study. To encourage them- to give them a positive attitude. He said if we accomplish this and save money too- it was the best way to go. Chairman McCombs agreed that County employees are valuable and would not want to jeopardize that.

At this time, Commissioner Cohen took over the Board and Commissioner McCombs made a motion to approve ½ the raise now and the other half effective July 1, 1983. Commissioner Steele seconded. Commissioner Honeycutt said based on Chairman McCombs remarks, he was willing to change his mind because experience had shown him Chairman McCombs was able to do more with a dollar than anyone. Commissioner Steele said he tended to support the full intent of the Board. The motion passing with Commissioner Sides voting No.

Commissioner Honeycutt made a motion to accept the high bid from Wentworth Beck of \$1,450 for the Oliver Tractor at the Airport. Commissioner Sides seconded with unanimous approval. Other bids were: C.W. Baker - \$1,257, G&B Farm Erectors- \$1,200, Don Barbee- \$811, and Wayne Upright- \$800.

Commissioner Honeycutt moved to give permission to transfer the County School Fund request of \$36,317.98 from unappropriated surplus- to meet repairs needed at Morgan School. Commissioner Steele seconded with unanimous approval. (Attached)

Commissioner Honeycutt moved to authorize the Special Deputies to have their annual Christmas Party. Commissioner Steele seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Honeycutt moved to authorize the approval of lightening one cell block and implementing the power door operator at the Jail. Commissioner Sides seconded with unanimous approval with the \$2,333 coming from contingencies. Walter Carter will be doing the lightening and Keane Monroe Corporation will be installing the door operator.

Commissioner Steele moved to approve the wallpapering and painting in the main lobby of the old Post Office Building for \$1,732 with the money coming from revenue sharing. Commissioner Honeycutt seconded. Commissioners Cohen and Sides voting against. Chairman McCombs voting I.

Commissioner Cohen commented that he still had a lot of hope in using the old P.O. building. He still hoped that Department of Social Services can still fit in there. "We have a serious problem, if they can't fit", Commissioner Cohen said.

Mr. Murdoch said the paint is falling off and the plaster is showing. That people are coming in to do business and that it was a shame- he said it could be related to a moisture problem, but that it was being taken care of.

Commissioner Honeycutt said the old P.O. building has outlived its usefulness as far as P.O.'s are concerned. We have spent a lot of money- that it was a bargain when we got it- that it is paying for itself. He said it would make beautiful offices- it has double ceilings- but it is a problem unless we can something about it.

Commissioner Steele made a motion to take \$12,000 out of contingencies to appropriate to Rowan Tech as approved at last month's meeting. Commissioner Honeycutt seconded. Commissioners Cohen and Sides voting against- the motion carrying with Chairman McCombs voting I.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda L. Honeycutt, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners