

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
ADJOURNED MEETING  
MARCH 14, 1983

The Board of Rowan County Commissioners met in Adjourned Session in the Community Building on March 14, 1983 at 7:30 P.M. The following members were present: Chairman Hall Steele, Jamima DeMarcus, Harry Sifford and Jim Sides. Absent: Jim Cohen.

Chairman Steele called to order and Commissioner Sides opened with prayer.

Chairman Steele thanked everyone for all the efforts made in compiling the Computer Study which is the purpose for the adjourned meeting tonight. He then called on Ms. Ann Walker with the Center for Urban Affairs, North Carolina State University to present it.

Ms. Walker explained to the Board that Rowan County contracted with the Center for Urban Affairs in October, 1982 to provide technical assistance to Rowan County in assessing current and future data processing need. She further explained that the County was now using a IBM System 13 model 15D Central Processing Unit. The organizations and agencies currently supported by the computer system include the following: Finance Office, Board of Elections, Department of Social Services, Tax Collector, Rowan Schools, Register of Deeds and Tax Supervisor.

Ms. Walker said on eof the important steps taken in doing the feasibility study was interviewing staff members, receiving their attitude toward the current system. She said these opinions were docketed and used in selecting a data processing alternative and in developing a data processing development plan. Ranking was based on priority values assigned by user groups represented on the study team. Team members evaluated each application based on three criteria: 1- importance to daily operations 2- amount of time save 3- benefits. These were ranked on a five point scale, ranging from 2.45 to 4.73 with Accounts Payable (Finance) ranking 4.73 and the Energy Assistance Program with the Department of Social Services ranking 2.45. The Center Staff compiled a number of findings concerning existing operations and from these findings a set of conclusions was developed and based on these conclusions the team formulated a set of recommendations for data processing for the County.

The study looked at five (5) options to updating the County's Central Computer. Hardware Costs- \$200,000 to \$300,000 if purchased of \$60,000 to \$80,000 a year on a 5 year lease purchase agreement. Software would cost between \$100,000 and

\$150,000 if purchased or \$25,000 to \$35,000 on a 5 year lease purchase plan. Annual maintenance costs would be \$25,000 to \$35,000 a year.

The study implicated that Rowan County needed a larger on-line computer system with a larger storage capacity. A larger system could be programmed for more uses, especially for in-house tax appraisals. The study also showed that the Commissioners should reassess the salaries, staff and hours of operation. Commissioner Sides said he was appalled at how low the salaries were in this department.

At this time, the Chairman called for any questions.

Commissioner Sifford asked about the possibilities of selling this old computer or trading it in. Commissioner Sides said you could not anticipate any type of revenue on it. That this computer has met the county's needs for several years.

The Commissioners were concerned about adapting a new system to the software that had been obtained from the W.P. Ferriss Company during the 1982 revaluation. Commissioner Sides said "we have gone so far with W.P. Ferriss, we ought to go all the way". He also stated that W.P. Ferriss should make this new hardware adaptable to his software.

From October, 1983 until July, 1984 the County would have to operate under a dual system with dual costs while the new hardware and software was being brought on line. Ms. Walker said it was almost impossible to get by without doing this. She said the Center could prepare requests for bids and a bid evaluation for \$4,000. The Center would charge an additional \$2,000 for a post-installation evaluation.

Commissioner Sifford moved to follow the outline of the recommended options of the committee. Commissioner Sides said he would not second the motion. That he would like to hold off until the next meeting (April). He said, "there are questions that have generated in my mind due to some things being presented tonight. He would like the opportunity to meet with Daryl Shelby, Data Processing Supervisor. Commissioner DeMarcus asked Commissioner Sides if there were good reasons for delaying this study. That she would have to rely on his judgement that she also had a few questions to ask Mr. Shelby. After Commissioner Sides answered yes to Commissioner DeMarcus' question, she seconded his motion with unanimous approval.

Mr. Shelby thanked the Commissioners for their concern and cooperation and stated that this was a good step for us. He then requested permission to hire an additional experienced programmer at \$16,259 a year which is above the position's starting salary. Mr. Shelby commented that this might be a problem but it is not

unrealistic. Mr. Murdoch said starting a programmer at this salary would depend on background, experience and capabilities. Commissioner Sides said he did not think it would be advisable to approve this position at this time; however, the salaries come before the equipment- that they needed to look into the salaries. That this person would have to get use to the County's operation and get a head start. He recommended not allowing the additional programmer position until July 1- to take a look at the salaries and the overhead situation now.

Commissioner Sifford commented that he was not 100% in favor of waiting until budget time.

Mr. Herbert Hawley was requested by the Commissioners to present a more detailed explanation of new line item 4235 New Equipment in the hypertension Budget. Mr. Hawley explained that the new equipment was an electronic Sphygmoneometer for use at noise screening sites, which would provide for accurate blood pressure readings than the regular type under conditions of high noise levels. They needed 6 at \$97 and one electronic type at \$220. Also questioned was line item 4256 Travel account which \$400 had been added to supplement a part time (40%) Pubic Health Nurse to provide screening in the community to high risk groups at least 2 days per week for the next 3 months. Commissioner DeMarcus moved to approve the Hypertension Clinic Budget. Commissioner Sifford seconded with unanimous approval. Commissioner Sides questioned Mr. Hawley about the three months the Part-time Nurse would be working and received satisfaction that it would not be perpetual and in three months it would be over with and would not see it in the budget.

Mr. Murdoch reminded the Commissioners about their meeting with the Kannapolis Chamber of Commerce at McCabe's Restaurant in Kannapolis, NC on Marcy 17 at 7:00 P.M. The Rowan Commissioners will meet with the Cabarrus County Commissioners to discuss its incorporation study.

Attorney Clarence Kluttz explained to the Commissioners that Forum Insurance Company of Chicago will pay for the defense of Sheriff John Stirewalt who is being sued for \$150,000 by two former deputies. Mr. Kluttz said Forum intended to hire a Winston-Salem law firm to defend Sheriff Stirewalt in the suit filed in U.S. District Court. The insurance company will pay for Sheriff Stirewalt's defense but reserves the right to deny liability.

Chairman Steele reminded the Commissioners of the adjourned meeting to hear the public hearing concerning the Rowan County Airport on Monday night, March 21 at 7:30 P.M.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda L. Honeycutt, Clerk  
Board of County Commissioners