

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 5, 1983

The Board of Rowan County Commissioners met in Regular Session in the Community Building on April 5, 1983 at 9:00 A.M. The following members were present: Chairman Hall Steele, Jamima DeMarcus, Harry Sifford, Jim Sides and Jim Cohen.

Chairman Steele called to order and Commissioner DeMarcus read a prayer dated 1783 that had belonged to her mother.

Commissioner Sifford moved to approve the minutes of March 7, 14<sup>th</sup> and the 21<sup>st</sup> as received in the mail. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

Mr. Murdoch asked approval of one road petition that came in late and did not get put on the agenda. Commissioner Cohen asked to pass now and come back later.

There were no comments or questions regarding monthly reports.

Mr. Murdoch said one item of correspondence tied in with monthly reports pertaining to butter and cheese distribution. He had received a letter from Dr. Morrow requesting that a lead agency be appointed and for the board to determine the frequency of distribution. Ms. Glenda Long, who works in the Food Stamp office and Ms. Juanita Lagg, Social Services Board Member were present to answer questions. Commissioner DeMarcus commented that one thought might be in using the Nutritional Sites in handling distribution. Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to designate the Department of Social Services the lead agency. Commissioner Sifford seconded with unanimous approval. Commissioner Sifford made a motion to leave distribution as is on a quarterly basis- unless volunteers could be generated. Commissioner Cohen seconded. Commissioner DeMarcus said, "if this is not changeable and flexible, she did not want to tie herself in". Chairman Steele asked Mr. Murdoch if this could be deferred. Mr. Murdoch said yes, they only needed to send in the name of the lead agency right now. Commissioner Sifford commented that they needed to explore the possibility of storage and seek volunteers to help with distribution. He said he would withdraw his motion and Commissioner Cohen said he did not want to create a level of bureaucracy in the butter and cheese distribution. He said "I hope we all realize this is something that could balloon very fast if we are not careful." He said he would withdraw his second. Chairman Steele said we would notify Raleigh that the Department of

Social Services would be lead agency and we would work with Ms. Long and Ms. Lagg in getting volunteers to distribute the food.

Glenn Trexler, Tax Collector reported \$322,142.81 in total collections for the month of March. He then requested authority to collect Beer and Wine Licenses. Commissioner Sifford made a motion to grant Mr. Trexler, Tax Collector authority to collect Beer and Wine Licenses. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded. The motion carrying with Commissioner Sides voting against.

Mr. Harold Caudill, Agricultural Extension Chairman requested that Commissioners approve a printer for a micro-computer for this office. The county's obligation would be the expense of a computer printer, cable and operating system and also a word processor "if the Commissioners could see fit." Total would be \$2,182.30. Mr. Caudill said he had a real need for this computer. He said it would really be an educational program for farmers. Commissioner Sides recommended that the request be included in the next budget and approved in July. Mr. Caudill told Commissioner DeMarcus that he would lose the computer if request was not sent in the next 30-60 days. Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to approve the request for the transfer of funds from salary to new equipment. Commissioner Sifford seconded. The motion carrying with Commissioner Sides voting No. Mr. Caudill explained to Commissioner Cohen that there had been a vacancy of five months on the secretarial staff which left funds in that account.

Chairman Steele declared the public hearing open for the approval or disapproval of the issuance of industrial revenue bonds for Fieldcrest Mills. Attorney Kluttz said Mr. William H. McBride, Attorney of Hunton and Williams, Bon Counsel and Mr. Vernon Wilkerson of Fieldcrest Mills, Inc. were present to answer any questions. There being no questions asked, Commissioner Sifford introduced the resolution approving in principle of industrial project for Fieldcrest Mills, Inc. and the financing thereof with Revenue Bonds in a principal amount of up to \$3,100,00 and moved the passage of the resolution. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded. The motion carrying with Commissioner Sides abstaining. Chairman Steele then declared the public hearing closed.

Mr. Jim Foltz, Parks Director requested that Commissioners approve his additional park improvements to come out of Revenue Sharing. He said one of the projects is for fencing for animal cages. He needs a higher fence so people can't put their fingers in the cages. Attorney Kluttz said the County could stand liable if someone got hurt. He also asked to use the money left over to guy gravel for camp sites. Commissioner Sides moved to approve Mr. Foltz's request for the amount of \$5,907.83 to come out of Revenue Sharing already appropriated for Parks. Commissioner Sifford seconded. Commissioner Cohen commented that Mr. Foltz does a good job that he finds very few things wrong and he has a congenial staff. The vote was unanimous. Also included in this approval was two used trucks for

\$4,950 complete. Commissioner Cohen made a motion to give Mr. Foltz permission to dispose of an old popcorn machine. Mrs. Nicholas had donated a new machine. Commissioner Sides seconded with unanimous approval.

Mr. Murdoch read a letter from Glenn R. Bates, Transportation planner in Concord, N.C., Cabarrus County, requesting that Rowan County Commissioners appoint a Commissioner to the steering committee to study public transit in the Concord, Kannapolis, China Grove, Land area. Chairman Steel said he would like to see Commissioner DeMarcus be appointed to this position. Commissioner Cohen made a motion to appoint Commissioner DeMarcus. Commissioner Sifford seconded with unanimous approval.

Mr. Murdoch reminded Commissioners of the meeting with the Department of Transportation on April 18, 1983 at 7:30 P.M. for the new secondary road program.

Mr. Murdoch read a letter from Barbara Doby with the China Grove Board of Trade inviting Commissioners to attend the annual Farmer's Day on July 23 in China Grove, NC.

Mr. Murdoch read a newsletter concerning volunteers from Governor Hunt's office- declaring April 17-23 as National Volunteer Week in North Carolina. Commissioner Sifford made a motion to designate the week of April 17-23 as National Volunteer Week in North Carolina. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded saying that she had been involved in helping with volunteers and that she hoped that Commissioners would take part and acknowledge someone. She said there were different categories, about nine, from youth to handicapped. She recommended talking with Mrs. Edith Alcorn, Health Department to find out more information. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Steele declared the public hearing open to hear discussion concerning Vision Cable's request for rate change. Attorney Clarence Kluttz said the rate increase is from \$2.50 to \$3.50 for the 1<sup>st</sup> outlet and .50 for each additional outlet. This being the "metro service". Mr. Bob Melton with Vision Cable commented that 4500 homes in the S. Rowan area are being served with cable vision. He said they were getting ready to service Eastern Rowan county. He said the basic price of \$6.50 a month remains the same on the basic package. There being no opposition, Chairman Steele entertained a motion to approve the increases. Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to approve the second reading of Vision Cable's request for a rate increase on its metro package of channels. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval. (Attached)

Commissioner Cohen made a motion to approve the road petition to add to the State System, Shadowbrook Drive and Rollingwood Drive located in Town View Estates near Kannapolis. Commissioner Sides seconded with unanimous approval.

Mr. Murdoch read a letter from William Robinson, Jr. with the Department of Transportation requesting Commissioners to designate the weeks of April 17-23 and September 19-24 as Litter Clean-Up Weeks. Commissioner DeMarcus commented that she had attended a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce and they agreed to meet and pick up litter. Also, she said the Army Reserves said they would help in picking up large things. Mr. Murdoch said the landfill was usually kept open on this Saturday for this purpose. Chairman Steele declared the weeks of April 17-23 and September 19-24 as Litter Clean-Up Weeks.

Mr. Doug Tennent, Architect, presented his proposal for renovating the old P.O. building to Commissioners. He told Commissioners that his was an ultimate proposal, not a competitive proposal- that renovating this old building was definite advantage to Rowan County that it holds a special meaning being within Salisbury's Historic District and that a number of federal programs and tax incentives are available to private developers who renovate historic buildings and the Department of Social Services would be the designated occupant. He said he would do the schematic drawings for the renovating, put together the financial package and follow through with the supervision and allow the project to be controlled start to finish by the Commissioners. Commissioner Sifford said he was disappointed at Mr. Tennent for not having more concrete cost estimates. Mr. Tennent said there was some problems such as old elevators and an old staircase- none meets the current fire and building codes. He said the building needed two new elevators and two stairwells- one in the front and one in the back. Commissioner Steele suggested putting a hypothetical number of figures in- such as. "we could do this- developers do that- and he commented that the county was interested in a local developer doing the proceedings- if the Department of Social Services could fit in- not to make any commitments until we see something concrete!" Commissioner Sifford said "I thought that was what Mr. Tennent was doing- how much time would it take it to be concrete". Commissioner Steele asked Mr. Tennent to come back on April 18 which will be an adjourned meeting the County Commissioners. His presentation will be after the Highway Proposals. This was agreeable with Mr. Tennent and the Board.

Mr. Clyde Fahnstock, Aging Director and Ms. Leila Phifer, Bookkeeper requested that a food contract be approved for the meal program and also approval on a new nutrition site. The new site would be Grace Lower Stone United Church of Christ. His proposal would be to close the Miller Recreation Meal Site. Mr. Fahnstock said the Miller site attendance had been consistently around 24, which was borderline for state guidelines. The new site would feed an average of 30 a day with a potential of 45-50 a day. Commissioner Cohen made a motion to proceed as

Mr. Fahnestock suggest and approve the Lower Stone site and close the Miller site. Commissioner Sides seconded with unanimous approval. Commissioner Cohen said to Mr. Fahnestock to make an honest effort to observe the Miller site for chance of re-opening if clientele increases. Mr. Fahnestock said he would and also clients have been informed of the possible change and they seemed agreeable and understood the consequences. Commissioner Sifford asked Mr. Fahnestock if he would check with the people in charge of the sites if they would seek volunteers to help with the food distribution. He said he would.

The Aging Advisory Council made a recommendation to award the food contract to Servomation. They said Rowan County would hurt its neighbors by refusing the regional bid; and also the people who eat at the meal sites preferred Servomation. Mr. Murdoch informed the Board that Mr. Fahnestock had submitted a memo to be distributed to them; but he felt that it would be to the best interest of the County not to distribute it since it did not contain substantial information. Commissioner Sides asked if this was not a problem to be worked out in Executive Session! Attorney Kluttz said no based on legalities concerning executive session with contractors to supply commodities. Commissioner Sides made a motion to go with the low bid submitted by Ketners which was 10 cents per meal less than the one from Servomation. In considering other counties- this is not sufficient reasoning for awarding bid. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval. Attorney Kluttz said the law says, "go with the low bid unless you can supply sufficient reasoning not to" Commissioner Sides requested a copy of the memo from Mr. Fahnestock.

Mr. Murdoch read a request from the Historic Properties Commission to be allowed to purchase T-Shirts, Patches, Pennants and Plaques to sell when Kerr Mill opens on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. They would like to purchase these items out of money from donations to Kerr Mill to replace as items are sold. The amount requested is \$3,044. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval.

Mr. Murdoch informed the Commissioners of the NCACC National 48<sup>th</sup> Conference on July 16-19 in Wisconsin. The deadline for room accommodations will be May 15. Mr. Murdoch said to let him know if they are interested in going in order to get paper work sent in. Commissioner DeMarcus encouraged Commissioners to go telling them they would learn a lot. That these conferences are rewarding as well as being diverse.

Mr. Murdoch reported Personnel:

Two part-time truck drivers to replace Van Steele at the landfill. Williams Carter- hired Feb. 25, 1983 at \$4.40 an hr. Gary Baldwin hired on Feb. 25, 1983 at \$4.40 an hr.

Ruth Jones Young, Administrative Technician at the Library to replace Etta Mae Kirk. Mrs. Young's salary \$870.82- Mrs. Kirk- \$1,458.

Commissioner Cohen made a motion to approve the personnel. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

Mr. Murdoch reported Interest:

General Fund	\$269,604.56
Revenue Sharing	20,158.17
Reappraisal	1,048.11
Drainage	69.75
Total	\$290,880.59

Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to concur with the City's request for two board appointments. Mrs. Elaine China to serve as an extraterritorial member on the Planning Board and Mr. Carl Dean as an extraterritorial alternate on the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner DeMarcus submitted four names to the Southern Piedmont Health Systems Agency. Commissioner Sifford submitted twenty names. It was requested that Mr. Murdoch collect names from other Commissioners and submit them to the Agency. Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to pay mileage and food expenses to electors. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Sides made a motion to authorize the County to pay bills for Juvenile detention at Forsyth County Youth Center for 21 days during the month of February. The bill being \$315. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval. Mr. Murdoch said this was not a line item and the funds would come from the Contingency Fund.

Mr. Murdoch presented a budget amendment for approval. Section I to approve additional allocation of \$300 for Park Activities for the Easter Egg Hunt. Section II – Additional allocation for the Neurology Budget Travel of \$159. Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to approve the budget amendment. Commissioner Sifford seconded. The motion carrying with Commissioner Cohen voting No. Commissioner Cohen requested that the state make their travel allotment for Neurology the same as ours. (Attached)

Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to approve the transfer of \$1,500 from the contingency fund for County Commissioners travel. Commissioner Sifford seconded. The motion carrying with Commissioner Sides voting No. Chairman

Steele said the fund had been exhausted when he and Commissioner DeMarcus went to a legislative conference in Washington.

Mr. Murdoch presented bids received on the cooling tower for the courthouse. He said this was for the entire court house and Community Building.

Replacing Unit- Tower Itself

Eugene Hewitt	\$4,365+\$170/2 speed motor
Chad Adams Greer	\$6,755
Pace, Inc.	\$5,550.06

Estimation & Installation- Crane & Operator

Bill Brown-	\$2,200.80
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Controls- Diversified Controls- \$2,100

Commissioner Cohen made a motion to accept the low bid from Gene Hewitt of \$4,535 for replacing unit and motor from Bill Brown for estimation and installation of \$2,200.80- and Diversified Controls for controls at \$2,100- a total of \$8,835.80 installed. The money to come from contingency fund. Commissioner Sifford seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Cohen moved to accept the Wachovia Bank contract to handle the County's banking for the next three years. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval. Wachovia would offer \$1,248.60 to \$3,074 more interest than the other bidders.

Commissioner Sifford recommended to proceed on the basis of involving a system using an assistant analyst who has expertise in computers. To approach each department head to be involved individually. Chairman Steele said we need to accept the report- to decide one of the five options- Commissioner DeMarcus said of the five options, that number two was the best way to go; however, she would like to hear comments from Commissioner Sides. Commissioner Sides said he had no comments to made concerning the computer study. Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to contact Ms. Walker with the Center for Urban Affairs for specifications for the new hardware and to adopt alternate #2. Commissioner Sifford seconded with unanimous approval.

Mr. Murdoch informed the Commissioners that Harold Watson, Supervisor at the Landfill had contacted him about a problem they are having at the N. Kannapolis Trash dump. He said people from other counties are using it. He had talked with the Sheriff about stationing a deputy there on weekends and holidays. The normal rate would be \$5.50 an hour for an 8 hour day the fee would be \$44.00 a day. Mr. Murdoch said the salary would be paid for by the reductions in the

number of trips to the Landfill. Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to give it a try for the money to come from acct. #6500- Landfill salaries. To begin immediately for sixty days. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval.

There being no further business, Chairman Steele adjourned the meeting until April 18. At that time, Commissioners will meet with the Department of Highways to discuss the secondary road program and Mr. Doug Tennant, Renovations on the old P.O. building.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda L. Honeycutt, Clerk  
Board of County Commissioners