

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 2, 1983

The Board of Rowan County Commissioners met in Regular Session in the Community Building on May 2, 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 Sides opened with prayer.

Commissioner Sifford moved to approve the minutes of April 5 and April 18 with the exception of one correction. The Minutes of April 5, 1983- VI page- 2nd paragraph should read Commissioner Sifford recommended to proceed on the basis of involving a system using an assistant analyst who has expertise in computers. With this correction Commissioner Sifford moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

In addition to the Agenda, Commissioner Cohen requested that Mrs. Charlotte Gardner be allowed to talk with Commissioners concerning a project for the blind. Commissioner DeMarcus asked that she be allowed to talk with the Board concerning several items (1) a loan for the Historic Properties Commission (2) the adoption of a resolution or certificate for Volunteer Services and (3) Setting a date to meet with the Planning Board.

There were no comments concerning monthly reports.

Mrs. Juanita Lagg, Chairperson for the Steering Committee for the Distribution of Surplus Foods presented the Social Services Distribution report to Commissioners for their concurrence. She informed the Board that there would be distribution points in East Spencer, Rockwell, Cleveland, Enochville and the Rowan Count Fairgrounds. Mrs. Lagg stated that the Mayors in the towns had been contacted and met with their approval. She said there would be two key coordinators from each site chosen. Mrs. Lagg also said that no additional Social Services employees are to be hired to administer the distribution. She had contacted thirteen different sites and asked for volunteers and stated that she was not given any rejections. She said they decided to order 60,000 pounds of cheese and 30,000 pounds of butter for July. She said orders could be adjusted after experiencing one distribution. Mrs. Lagg told Commissioners that this was not a welfare program but a program for the distribution of foods. Commissioner Cohen commented that the U.S. was turning into a socialist country. Commissioner Sides commented that the government should get out of the welfare business and let

Churches and volunteers fill that role for the needy. Commissioner Sifford moved to concur with the plan saying that he had heard nothing but praise from the Eastern Rowan meal site and he wanted to commend the committee on their action. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded. Commissioner Cohen said he could not vote for but needed to know if Rowan County would lock it in. No additional personnel involved. Commissioner Sides stated that he would have to vote in principle to distribute it- since we have it- but does not agree with the reasons for having the butter and cheese- that it was the principle behind it- that the government has robbed the people to have commodities- there was some underlined problems in the project. In Commissioner Side's attempt to explain this, Chairman Steele called the question and asked for a vote on the motion, saying Commissioner Sides was out of order. Commissioner Sides and Cohen voting against. Chairman Steele voting I.

Mr. Murdoch read a letter from D.L. Honeycutt, District Engineer, Department of Transportation informing Commissioners that beginning on April 9, 1983 the Division of Highways Maintenance Department Field Forces will be working a ten (10) hour, hour (4) day work week. The Highway Maintenance Yard will be open from 7:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. Monday through Thursday and closed all day Friday. This schedule will be in effect through September 9, 1983.

Commissioner Cohen informed the Commissioners of a petition to close a public road which Attorney Don Weinhold was handling. Attorney Weinhold attending the meeting then took the floor and explained to Commissioners that he had been contacted by the property owners adjacent to old N.C. Hwy 150 to represent them in getting this portion of Hwy. 150 closed. Mr. Weinhold said this portion of 150 had not been publicly maintained since 1940 and that the official date of State abandonment was May 3, 1944. Commissioner Sides became disturbed because all of the property owners had not been notified. Attorney Weinhold said the Board of Commissioners would have to notify the ones that had not been notified. Commissioner DeMarcus moved to hold the public hearing to close that portion of Hwy. 150 on June 6, 1983. Commissioner Cohen seconded. The motion carrying with Commissioner Sides voting No. (Attached)

Glenn Trexler, Tax Collector, reported total tax collections for April, 1983- \$228,749.90.

Mr. Wade Mobley, County School Superintendent along with Dick Messinger and Marcelle Williams, told Commissioners they would like to get moving with the asbestos problems in the County schools. Asking permission to proceed using \$758,531 from School Surplus and also a letter of intent for \$40,347 to repair the roof at South Rowan. Mr. Mobley said they would like to work both of these together. Commissioner Sides said he would favor the letter of intent for the \$40,347 roof at South Rowan if the same figure were reflected in the school's proposed budget for 1983-84. Commissioner DeMarcus moved approval the

spending of \$758,531 from surplus to address the asbestos problem and to give the letter of intent to be applied on next capital outlay budget. Commissioner Sifford seconded with unanimous approval. Mr. Mobley raised the question concerning skylighting at South Rowan. Commissioner Sifford said this was a poor substitute for lights. Commissioner Sides said it was not properly installed to begin with. Mr. Mobley said roofing is a matter of opinion- "it keeps changing procedures!"

Commissioner Sides made a motion to approve County School Budget Transfer #8 which deals with Energy Matching Projects to cover the repair jobs at the County schools; Budget Transfer #7 does not require Commissioner's approval. Commissioner Sifford seconded with unanimous approval. (Attached)

Ron Gardner, Chairman CBA submitted four proposals for approval. One proposal was for the Specialized Foster Care- and the other three were for in-school suspension at West Jr. High, North Middle and Knox Jr. High. Commissioner Sides made a motion to deny approval of all four. Commissioner Cohen seconded. Commissioners DeMarcus and Sifford voting No. Chairman Steele voting No. Commissioner DeMarcus asked Sandy Ritz, Social Services Department to explain the Specialized Foster Care. Sandy said they would lose eight foster homes if funds were not approved. The Social Services would still have the children. Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to approve funding of the Specialized Foster Home Care Project. Commissioner Sifford seconded. Commissioners Cohen and Sides voting No. Chairman Steele voting I. Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to approve the funding of in-school suspension at Knox, North Rowan and West Rowan. Commissioner Sifford seconded. Commissioners Cohen and Sides voting No. Chairman Steele votes I.

Clyde Fahnstock, Aging Director, presented the VISTA program to Commissioners. He told them that VISTA (Volunteers In-Service to America) was a federal program which was at no cost to Rowan County. The state would pay the person \$350 a month for living expenses, \$75 a month stipend and Health Insurance; also .20 a mile for travel. The county would authorize supervision and furnish office space; which Mr. Fahnstock said this person could work out of his office. Mr. Fahnstock said this person could help with the Food Distribution Program. Commissioner DeMarcus said she was reluctant at this time to put in someone who would be paid because the Volunteers worked without pay. She wanted Mrs. Lagg to be aware of this. Mr. Fahnstock said Mrs. Lagg was aware of this. He also said we would have this person on a 1 yr. Commitment; and would like to recruit a local person- maybe from the SEIWELL program or SOAR. Chairman Steele asked what the pleasure of the board was- to sign the application or not. That it was due Friday- the 6th. Commissioner Sifford moved to authorize the VISTA application to be signed. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded. Commissioners Cohen and Sides voting No. Chairman Steele voting I.

Commissioner DeMarcus stated that she would like to see the application open to the general public for VISTA employee. To put an ad in the paper.

Mrs. Charlotte Gardner, extended to Commissioners and invitation from Randy Roberson to attend the 1st golf tournament for the blind on May 18 at 12:00 noon.

Chairman Steele asked for a decision on the P.O. to house the Department of Social Services or not. That the Board had heard proposals from Ken Griffith and Doug Tennant. Commissioner Sifford at this time offered a Resolution. "That it be resolved by the Board of Commissioners recognizing the need for a standard facility for the Department of Social Services and conscious of the desire and need of the City of Salisbury promoting the development of the block bounded by West Innes, South Main, West Council and North Church Streets. I hereby resolve to enact a commitment of support of the block by pledging the relocation of the Social Services Department as tenants within that block subject to several requirements that are three in number: 1- That we have alike commitment by the City of Salisbury Council to the provision for adequate parking facilities within the interior of that block. 2- The completion of a successful marketing package to a private developer to provide the rental of space for Social Services within the allowed budget of Health and Human Services. 3- A joint commitment by the City and county to market the services of Griffith Associates marketing that development package. I think, we commit as tenants, that it offers a tremendous potential as a marketing package. I have specifically left any reference to building blank. There are three major buildings within the confines of that block. Anyone of the three may be adequate and we may find as the development proceeds-one of these adequate. They are P.O. Building, Wallace Building and Southern Bell Building. All three are sizable buildings. Mr. Sifford offered this resolution as a motion. Commissioner DeMarcus said she was not ready to second the motion- that she could not accept the Post Office as a final solution for Social Services- after looking at it she was not sure. Mr. Edwin Koontz, Director of Social Services said he needed something concrete. The state would not approve in-direct costs without it. Commissioner Cohen asked Mr. Koontz if he would seek a deal from them. The board agreed to this direction. Commissioner Sides recommended selling the P.O. to the city council and let them do what they want to with it. He said he would favor a new building on the property next to the Health Department on the Old Concord Road before he would support another location.

Mr. Murdoch reported personnel replacements:

Kay H. Edwards- Clerk II Health Dept. at 621.25 replacing Rebecca Sebastian at 664.50

Sonya H. Huffman- Register of Deeds- at 716.59 replacing Cynthia Wilhlem at 751.91

Leonard R. Defeo- Deputy Sheriff at 809.00 replacing Tom Ford at \$1,087.99

Joel N. Smith- Recreation Assistant at 686.58 replacing Eugene Gordon at 751.91.

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

Mr. Murdoch read a letter from Mrs. Jean Ramsey, register of Deeds requesting that Patti Kluttz, employee in her office be raised from \$8,599 to \$9,023 because she has taken on more responsibilities including that of Cindy Wilhelm who left. Commissioner Sides made a motion to deny the request. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval. Commissioner Sides said he wanted to see more information concerning this matter.

Mr. Murdoch reported Interest:

General Fund	\$301,208.00
Revenue Sharing	28,637.00
Reappraisal	1,733.30
Drainage	69.75
Murtis Nicholas	200.48
Total	\$331,848.53

Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to appoint Mrs. Helen Beaver from Kannapolis to the Kannapolis Charter Commission. Commissioner Sifford said he knew the lady and would second the motion. The motion passing with Commissioner Sides voting against. Commissioner Sides said he was not opposed to the appointment; but to the hurry-up.

Commissioner Cohen made a motion to re-appoint Harold Headen to the Spencer Planning Board- Ted K. Barnes to the Spencer Board of Adjustment and Mrs. Jimmie Brown as an alternate to the Board of Adjustment. Commissioner Sifford seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Sifford made a motion to re-appoint John I. Steele and Wayne Simpson to the Nursing Home Advisory Committee. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval. The Social worker appointment to this Board was deferred until Mr. Koontz could submit a replacement for Dorothy Ellis who could no longer serve.

Chairman Steele replaced Commissioner Cohen with Commissioner DeMarcus as the County Commissioner representative to the Salisbury-Rowan Community Service Council.

Mr. Murdoch presented bids received on the Sheriff's six cars: Bids on Car #118 were: Campbell- \$1,000, Shoaf \$700, P&C- \$754, Matlock- \$1,011, Reid- \$958- Commissioner Sides made a motion to award the cars to the highest bidders- Car #118- Matlock \$1,011- Car #106- Cauble- #1,112.50- Car #107- Matlock- \$1,011- Car #132- P&C \$1,553.05- Car #133- P&C- \$1,607.25 and Car #134- P&C \$1,710.91. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to approve paying the Forsyth County Youth Center \$795.00 for detention services. Commissioner Sifford seconded with unanimous approval.

Bob Henes with Centralina Council of Governments offered the Commissioners COG's \$2,900 proposal for preparing their liability insurance specifications. He said he was able to save other counties such as Cabarrus \$6,000 or 10% on their policy. Commissioner Sides said he would like to see statistics from other areas. Commissioner DeMarcus inquired about Centralina's "forty free hours policy" and whether or not it could apply to Risk Management Proposal. She then made a motion to accept with the stipulation that some of the forty hours be included in the contract, if possible. Commissioner Sides seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Sides made a motion to approve an amendment to an ordinance prescribing Building Inspection Fees presented by Craig Trexler, Building Inspection Supervisor. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval. Commissioner Sides said they were good recommendations; and he thought that \$6 minimum was a fair fee. (Attached)

Commissioner Sides made a motion to accept Mr. Fred Lee's proposal to remove the second barn at the County Home. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Sides made a motion to connect the County Home's water system to the Health Department. Commissioner Sifford seconded with unanimous approval. Mr. Murdoch had explained that this would be cheaper than digging a new well. The County will have to hire a certified engineer to draw the plans showing the extension.

Commissioner Sifford made a motion to approve Section I Budget Amendment concerning Family Planning supplies to allocate an additional \$1,000.

Commissioner DeMarcus seconded. Commissioners Sides and Cohen voting against. Chairman voting I.

Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to approve Section II of the Budget Amendment to allow Tri-County Mental Health an additional \$281.45 for the County's part of the ABC- .05 cents per bottle tax. Commissioner Sifford seconded. The motion passing with Commissioner Sides voting No. (Attached)

Mr. Murdoch read a portion of the minutes from the last Airport meeting pertaining to the resolution drawn by Commissioner Sifford for Airport policies. They recommended nine members and one County Commissioner to serve on the Board. Commissioner Cohen said six members would be more efficient with one County Commissioner. He recommended eliminating three as their terms expired.

Commissioner Sifford made a motion to approve the resolution establishing policies at the airport. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval. The Board agreed to reword the second part of the resolution pertaining to board members. To reduce the proposed 10 members to seven in an orderly fashion. The Board asked Attorney Klutz to reword the resolution and send each member a copy. (Attached)

Commissioner DeMarcus requested Commissioners to give a letter of intent to the State for application for a loan of \$5,000 for the completion of the County's Historic Properties book. Since 1977 Rowan County has been waiting for the state survey specialist, David Hood to complete his inventory. In the meantime, printing costs went up and money set aside for the book ran out. Mrs. DeMarcus stated "now they tell us we don't have enough money to print it!" If we don't get the loan, the book will not be published. Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to approve applying for the loan and writing a letter to Sara H. Hodgkins expressing the Commissioner's displeasure with having to borrow the extra \$5,000. Commissioner Sifford seconded. Commissioners Cohen and Sides voting against. Chairman Steele voting I. Commissioner Sides said he did not want the county to be obligated in any way for the \$5,000. The loan is to be paid back within a year through revenues generated by the book's sale. Commissioner DeMarcus said, "I think we can trust those people to sell those books!"

Commissioner DeMarcus showed the Commissioners a certificate from another county recognizing an outstanding volunteer. The board agreed to proceed with this certificate and discuss it at a later date.

The Board deferred meeting with the planning board until after budget hearings. Chairman Steele said the only way he knew how to handle their budget problems was to "shoot in the dark!"

Mr. Murdoch informed the Board that the Ellis Fire Department was building a new fire department and will abandon the old building. They will be receiving only one allocation for one building.

The Board agreed to meet with Harold Caudill, Farm Agent, to discuss department affairs at lunch after the June 6 meeting.

Commissioner Cohen made a motion to name Road #1440- Cook Farm Road if it has not already officially been named, to call a public hearing for that purpose. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

Attorney Clarence Kluttz called for the board to moved into Executive Session to discuss 1981 Railroad Litigation. Commissioner Sifford made a motion for the board to moved into Executive Session. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to move out of Executive Session and resume Regular Session. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Sides made a motion to retain Attorney Ham Wade of Charlotte in representing the County in connection with the 1981 Railroad Litigation for a fee of \$3,200 to come from Contingencies. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

There being no further business, Chairman Steele adjourned the meeting until May 23. At that time, Commissioners will hold budget hearings.

Respectfully Submitted.

Brenda L. Honeycutt, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners