

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
ADJOURNED MEETING  
MAY 23, 1983

The Board of Rowan County Commissioners met in Adjourned Session in the Community Building on May 23, 1983 at 7:00 P.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 Sifford opened with prayer.

Chairman Steele asked Commissioners to ask questions from each department head who were presenting their budget tonight; and that they would review the particulars after the agenda; but they would not take any action. He explained that Commissioners had adopted one-half of the pay plan last year and had implemented the other half in their salary line item. Some department heads had added 5% to adjustment. Chairman Steele said that, "it is your right and in order to do that".

Department heads presenting their budgets:

Edwin Koontz – Social Services Department  
Glenn Trexler – Tax Collector  
Robert Gunn – Emergency Management  
Clyde Fahnstock – Aging Office  
Charles Hedrick – Buildings

Mr. Koontz introduced board members and personnel with him: Mrs. Nell Sowers, Board Member Chairperson, Mrs. Juanita Lagg, Mrs. Helen Linn, Secretary, Mrs. Genelda Long, works with Food Distribution, Mrs. Winifred Queen, and Ms. Zelma Austin, CBA.

Mrs. Sowers in her opening statement stated that the Social Services budget had been prepared by the Director, Mr. Koontz and his staff. The Board members had been asked to help by reviewing it and making comments. She said they made their comments and presented it back where it was reworked by Mr. Koontz. The Board voted unanimously to accept it. Ms. Sowers said they were very proud of the new CWEP- Program where AFDC recipients had been given a chance to work and were removed from public assistance. She said there were 90 people in private enterprises now from the program. That we were one of 6 counties who are involved

in this program. She said they were making sincere efforts to save the county money.

Mr. Koontz is requesting that the Commissioners fund the temporary positions they approved during the year, and that they also fund an additional five positions. The four temporary positions are: 1 Eligibility Specialist for AFDC Unit, 1 Eligibility Specialist for Food Stamp Unit, 1 Social Worker II for licensing & supervision of Adult & Children's Foster Homes and the fourth 1 Social Worker II for Community Work Experience Program. The five new positions are: three Eligibility Specialist for Food Stamp Unit, 1 Data Entry Specialist for Food Stamp Unit and 1 Clerk Typist III for File Room. Mr. Koontz stated that Medicaid applications had to be processed within 45 or 60 days in an effort to avoid the penalty that would be imposed for overdue applications as a result of the Alexander vs. Hill Court Order.

In review of the line items, Mr. Koontz was asked to elaborate on line item #6135 New Equipment and machines which showed a \$5,200 increase. Mr. Koontz explained that a word processor would turn out court orders at a more rapid pace and the video equipment would pay in the long run. Commissioner Sides recommended that Mr. Koontz check with Rowan Office Furniture for prices for desk and chairs. He said he felt like Mr. Koontz could get a better price there.

Line item #6157 Travel for volunteers was also questioned showing an increase of \$6,000. Mr. Koontz stated that he was getting more volunteers for the Work Experience Program. That he was being as realistic as possible. He told Commissioners the volunteers used their cars to carry clients to hospitals, and to travel to worksites.

Commissioner Sides questioned an \$800 line item for Miscellaneous Equipment- he stated, "he had a real problem with that!"

Mr. Koontz said you don't budget for Medicaid, you guess; and that under Chore, they were able to keep people in homes and out of Nursing Homes which is a big savings to the county. IV-E Adult Day Care Line item 6297- amount budgeted- \$12,948, Mr. Koontz explained that this was the SOAR program-people who are kept out of Nursing Homes. Commissioner Sides said he had no trouble with this program.

Commissioner Cohen questioned the amount budgeted for the Infant and Toddler Center. \$43,475 of that the County pays \$10,868. This would be \$2,217 per child during the year. He said that sounds "highly inflated!" Considering that there are only 16 children. Commissioner Cohen said he was paying approximately \$1,700 a year for quality care for his child.

Commissioners Cohen and Sides questioned Medical care line as an additional County subsidy to C&M Ambulance Service. This line item pays for ambulance fees of indigents served.

Glenn Trexler, Tax Collector, showed increases mostly in Salaries and Advertising. Commissioners discussed the expense of County advertising. They asked County Manager to check into the possibility of receiving reduced rates. Mr. Trexler said the reason for increase in Stationary and Supplies was due to licensing and garnishing forms. Mr. Trexler is requesting increases for himself and four employees, saying that the county pay classification plan did not reward experience, which was needed in his office.

After a short recess, Mr. James M. Smith a member on the Historic Properties Commission Board asked the Commissioners to approve additional funds for the publishing of the 378 page architectural survey of the county's historic structures. Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to underwrite the \$6,380 allocation which will be repaid to the county through the sale of the book. Commissioner Cohen seconded even though he voted against this last month, saying he felt fairly certain this was a good thing. The motion passing with Commissioner Sides voting against saying he was voting against the principle of underwriting. The printing cost is \$16,896. The Commission has on hand, \$10,516. The \$16,896 prices if for 1,500 books. The book will sell for \$17.50 before printing. After that, \$20 per book.

Fire Marshall, Robert Gunn, office of Emergency Management asked for salary increases for himself, Administrative Assistant, Leslie Lee and his secretary. Due to a cut in dues and subscriptions last year, Mr. Gunn said he was short now in that line item. He said his automobile needed maintenance and tires. He is requesting as new equipment- Radio Mobile low band 4 channels and radio base station low band- two channels. He said this could be counted as in-kind on E.O.C. grant if approved and receive 50% cost share. Mr. Gunn explained the reason for his travel account reflecting only \$290 used was because Mr. Lee had not turned in a travel statement in four months.

Clyde Fahnestock, Aging Director and Lelia Phifer, Bookkeeper, explained to Commissioners the Department's three programs, which are: Title IIIB Transportation, Title III-C Nutrition and Title V Senior Community Service Employment. Mr. Fahnestock said the county pays .03 cents of every dollar for his programs. Private contributions account for .04 cents. The federal government provides \$297,354 of \$409,950 total budget, USDA- \$53,476, the state \$8,641, city-SOAR and the Family Crisis Council, \$2,347.

Of the new money shown in the budget, \$38,331, Mr. Fahnestock is requesting to buy a new van, a mobile FM Two-way radio and a 35 mm Sound projector; and a part-time driver.

Under Title V, the department is expecting \$16,500 in new money. Would like to hire four new people; Tow activity aides for SOAR, a secretary receptionist for Family Crisis and a nutrition aide for the Rockwell Meal Site.

Mr. Fahnestock is asking for a 2 ½% pay increase for himself and Mrs. Phifer.

Mr. Charles Hedrick, County Buildings Supervisor presented his budget which showed a big increase in repairs and maintenance of buildings and maintenance contracts. He explained that Maintenance Contracts included a new contract for Janitorial Service for the basement and the first floor of the courthouse, the amount being \$6,000. Under #4047- repairs and maintenance of buildings- the additions are: a new roof for all of the Farm Center- \$24,000; a new roof for old part of N. Kannapolis Sheriff's Office- \$7,000; New efficient oil and gas burner for boiler at Farm Center- \$4,200, New Tile Floor for ASCS and FHA, \$2,000, new parking lot-demolish old service station, removed tanks, grade, pave, install curving, and mark off the lot- \$15,000 total- \$52,000 and he also estimated expenditures for normal repairs to be \$19,680. Under line item #4035- New Equipment- Mr. Hedrick is requesting air condition auditorium at the Farm Center- amount \$6,200, a new truck for county Buildings use to replace a 1973 model- amount \$7,200; and hot air hand dryers in 5 baths in the Courthouse with installation- amount- \$1,600. Mr. Hedrick explained that paper towels was clogging up the plumbing so he is replacing this with hot dryers. In his request he is also requesting for painting buildings- #4038- to paint the lobbies, halls, stairwells, and magistrate's offices in the courthouse- amount- \$7,000.

Mr. Murdoch said when the new parking lot is completed, the County Parking ordinance would have to be amended.

Mr. Hedrick is requesting to take \$10,000 out of salaries for the Janitorial Contract which would made a total of \$16,000 for a one time cleaning contract.

Chairman Steele commented that the new controls have been a success. That they were controlling the temperatures very well and a big savings to the county in utilities.

At this time, Commissioners went back and made a review of the questions and problems that they had with the line items.

On the Social Services line items, Commissioner Sides commented that four of the requested nine employees had been originally hired as temporary and was not supposed to have been brought back up and here they are. He stated that he could not vote for nine new employees.

Commissioner DeMarcus asked “do we have choice?” That nine new employees did seem a little much. She said she would like to know what her options were before making a choice. Chairman Steele in answer to her question, do we have a choice said, “we have a choice, but some of them are pretty dead end.”

Commissioner Cohen said he had problems with line items #6135- New equipment and Machines. #6157- Travel- for volunteers and #6156- regular travel. #6298- medical care- the allocation to C&M. Commissioner Sifford said he would like to know the revenue from that.

Commissioner Cohen also questioned the amount being spent for the Infant and Toddler Center. He said he would like to know the options.

The Tax Collection Department- Chairman Steele had problems with salaries; but Mr. Trexler will furnish information. He said other than that, it looked pretty decent.

The Emergency Management Department – Chairman Steele said he had reservations about the salaries and dues and subscriptions and gas and oil- and commented that travel could be cut down. Commissioner Cohen said that equipment would have to be justified.

Aging Office – The presentation was self-explanatory. Commissioner DeMarcus commented that they had reached out and serviced more people and maybe the radio in the van would help even more.

Commissioner Sides asked Mr. Murdoch if the county’s hospital insurance coverage had gone up. He answered he was not sure, that he had not received the new contract, but felt that it had. He said the County would be paying \$5 more monthly.

The County Buildings – Commissioners agreed that the new Janitorial Contract was an important proposal and a big savings in the years to come. Chairman Steele added that you can not clean during the day when employees are working, so this would be a plus!

There being no further business, Chairman Steele adjourned the meeting until Tuesday Night, May 24, 1983 at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda L. Honeycutt, Clerk  
Board of County Commissioners