

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
AUGUST 1, 1983

The Board of Rowan County Commissioners met in Regular Session in the Community Building on August 1, 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 the meeting to order and Commissioner Sifford opened with prayer.

Commissioner DeMarcus moved approval of the minutes of June 30 and July 5 with one correction to the July 5 minutes. Page 4, 6<sup>th</sup> paragraph- Commissioner DeMarcus said she made the nominations for the appointments of Hazel Everhart and Maxine Phillippi. Commissioner Sifford seconded with unanimous approval.

Additions to the Agenda: Commissioner Sifford asked that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss a matter of personnel. Commissioner Sides also requested Executive Session for additional personnel matters. Commissioner DeMarcus said she would like to discuss the "Smith purchase of property" with the Board.

Chairman Steele commented that the "cheese committee" who are responsible for the distribution of cheese commodities were a dedicated and hard working group of people. He further commented that a report on what is going on had been enclosed in Commissioner's envelopes.

Mr. Murdoch presented a request from Jack Newman, Downtown Coordinator to hold a fall craft fair in the Mini-park behind the Community Building on August 27, 1983. Commissioner Sifford moved approval. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded. The motion passing with Commissioner Sides voting against.

Mr. Murdoch read a letter from Charles Barkley, Vision Cable requesting that its \$100,000 annual performance bond be deleted from its franchise requirements. The cable television ordinance state that the bond can be reduced or deleted after two years of a company's operation in the county. The Commissioners agreed to let attorney Kluttz verify the contract and bring back a report to the September Commissioner's meeting.

Mr. Murdoch read a letter from Congressman Bill Hefner informing of the Office of Management and Budget's decision to combine the three separate standard metropolitan statistical areas of Salisbury-Concord, Charlotte-Gastonia and Rock Hill into one known as the Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill SMSA.

Mr. Murdoch informed the Commissioners of a NCACC Conference to be held at the Holiday Inn in Greensboro on August 11-14. Mr. Murdoch also said they needed a voting delegate to represent Rowan County. Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to nominate Chairman Steele. Commissioner Sifford seconded. Commissioners Sides and Cohen voting against. Chairman Steele voting I.

Commissioner Sifford made a motion to place the name of Maynard Newman as the replacement for Lamar Trexler on the ABC Board. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded. Commissioners Sides and Cohen voting against. Chairman Steele voting I. Commissioner Cohen said he did not have anything against Mr. Newman, but he preferred reappointing Mr. Trexler.

Commissioner DeMarcus moved approval of the Bostian Heights Fire District's petition for a fire tax vote to be held on November 8, 1983. Commissioner Cohen seconded. After the reading of the resolution by Mr. Murdoch, Commissioners voted for the motion unanimously. Mr. Kenneth Weddington, President of the fire district and Robert Gunn, Fire Marshall, presented the petition to the Commissioners. Commissioner Cohen said he had received complaints that petitioners were telling residents that a tax not exceeding 10 cents per \$100 valuation could be levied. He said this is why we had trouble in Franklin. "People were given room for doubt!" Marshall Gunn said each petition circulated had the correct written information on the tax with it. (attached)

Edwin Koontz, Director of Social Services reported to Commissioners a fee schedule for doing home studies. He is requesting Commissioners to impose the same fee schedule for persons in the County who are requesting home studies in Civil Domestic Relations divorces. The charge would be \$100 for one home study and \$50 for each additional study. Most of the domestic relations studies are for persons in a position to pay their own way. The fee can be waived by the Court for those who re indigent. Commissioner Sides asked if this was for child custody. Mr. Koontz said yes. That the judge orders the home studies to be done and also determines the charges of parents and those unable to pay. Commissioner Sifford moved the authorization. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded. The motion passing with Commissioners Sides voting against. Commissioner Sides said he was not opposed to the people paying for services, but was opposed to taxpayers having to pay for the indigent.

Phil Barton, Director of the Rowan Public Library, requested that Commissioners allow him to allocate \$40,899 in additional new state funds. This is

Rowan County’s part of an extra \$3 million allocated to county libraries throughout the state. Mr. Barton is requesting that \$1,870 go for the salary of a temporary librarian, \$2,000 for printing, #1,000 for travel, \$23,000 for building repairs, \$8,029 for miscellaneous and \$5,000 for equipment. Commissioner Sifford commented that he realized that the temporary librarian was not a new position but temporary to cover the absence of another; but the Board did allocate \$21,000 to come out of Revenue Sharing for repairs. Commissioner Sides said he was satisfied with the budget they gave the library however, he had problems with the miscellaneous line item. He said “I have a problem with \$500. I certainly have a problem with \$8,500!” Commissioner Cohen said he felt legislators in Raleigh made no significant effort to cut taxes. He made a motion to deny the request and live with what we set up June 30 and return the money to Raleigh and not tax the people with \$40,000. Commissioner Sides seconded. Commissioner Sifford said he could not support the motion to return the money when we have to pick up our own sources. Commissioners Sifford, DeMarcus and Chairman Steele voting against. Commissioner Sifford made a motion to authorize the allocation and redeposit revenue sharing at the proper time. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded saying she would like to hear about the repairs and would like to be kept in touch with the miscellaneous line item. Commissioners Sides and Cohen voting against. Chairman Steele voting I.

Mr. Murdoch reported personnel: two new positions in the Department of Social Services-Michael Sykos-hired July 12, 1983 Eligibility Specialist I at a salary of \$871- Darlene D. Lindsay hired July 11, 1983 Eligibility Specialist I salary \$871- Beverly H. Sloan replacing Dorothy Goodnight hired June 20, 1983 Cottage Parent I salary \$652. Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to approve the personnel. Commissioner Sifford seconded. Commissioners Sides and Cohen voting against the new personnel. Chairman voting I.

Mr. Murdoch reported interest:

General Fund	\$4,574.45
Revenue Sharing	2,552.76
Murtis Nicholas	91.59
Reappraisal	702.16
Drainage	<u>213.02</u>
	\$8,133.98

Mr. Glenn Trexler, Tax Collector reported total tax collections \$69,125.99.

Mr. Murdoch reported refunds: Refund to Ted Stiller and wife Helen \$47.99 for an over revaluation on river property. Commissioner Sifford made a motion approve this refund. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

Refund to Billie H. Castor the amount of \$81.50. Mr. Castor paid taxes from 1975 through 1982 on property in Atwell Township on West "C" Street. The Tax Supervisor's office received a deed to another person for this small strip from the Jack White Heirs. Whenever the maps were drawn in 1955 this got changed to C.H. White instead of Jack White. They will rebill Jack White Heirs. Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to approve this refund. Commissioner Sifford seconded with unanimous approval.

Two refunds from the Building Inspection Department to: Frank R. lent the amount of \$10.00-double fee was charged because job had already been done. To: Charles L. Basinger the amount of \$5.00 the job was located in Cabarrus County. Commissioner Sifford made a motion to approve the refunds. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Sifford moved that the Board ratify the publication of the Notice and designate this meeting as a public hearing on revenue bond issue and the Project for National Starch. The motion was seconded by Commissioner DeMarcus and was adopted with all Commissioners voting yes except Commissioner Sides who voted NO. Chairman Steele declared the public hearing open. Attorney Kluttz introduced Mr. Ray E. Paradowski and Ken Fink of National Starch. Mr. Paradowski said his company produces resins, adhesives, organic polymers and other specialty chemicals. They plan production and research expansion and the building of a pilot plant area at its Cedar Spring Road location. About 10 additional people will be employed in the next two years. Commissioner Sides said he would vote against the bonds calling it an unnecessary form of government subsidy that allowed companies to borrow money at cheaper interest rates than were available to individuals. He said his vote was not directed at National Starch and Chemical because he considered them an asset to the county. Chairman Steele entertained a motion that the public hearing be closed after hearing from all that requested to be heard from. Commissioner Cohen made a motion that the public hearing be closed. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval. After Attorney Kluttz read the resolution, Commissioner DeMarcus introduced it and moved adoption. Commissioner Sifford seconded. The motion passing with Commissioner Sides voting against. (Attached)

Commissioner Sifford moved passage of the resolution that the Board of Commissioners of Rowan County consider the letter of Helms, Mulliss & Johnston, bond counsel for the Rowan County Industrial Facilities and Pollution Control Authority, and does not consider that there is any conflict of interest that would interfere with said firm effectively representing the County and the Authority in the issuance of bonds of the Authority. Commissioner Cohen seconded. The motion passing with Commissioner Sides voting against. (Attached)

Commissioner Sifford made a motion to approve both sections of the budget amendment. Section I \$750 added to the Social Service budget to allow for rental of building to dispense surplus commodities- Section II- State Aid Library- \$40,899- for an additional allocation. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded. Commissioners Sides and Cohen voting against. Chairman Steele voting I. Commissioner Sides said he had nothing against the air conditioning for the building to dispense surplus commodities; but that he was against the program itself. He said was “something bad wrong with the formula!” (Attached)

Commissioner Cohen made a motion to reappoint C.C. Erwin to the Rowan Technical College Board. Commissioner Sides seconded. Commissioners DeMarcus, Sifford and Chairman Steele voting NO. Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to nominate Sam May to the Rowan Technical College Board. Commissioner Sifford seconded. Commissioners Sides and Cohen voting against. Chairman Steele voting I. Commissioner Sifford commented that he could not support an eight year term for C.C. Erwin, he said he had been on the board for a long time. He said we need representation from the industrial community. Commissioner Sides said he though the remarks just made were discriminatory saying the president of the U.S. is in his 70s! (Mr. Erwin is 82 years of age) Commissioner Cohen agreed that an eight year term was too long for any board member, but he supported Mr. Erwin’s reappointment and said Mr. Erwin had asked to serve another term. Commissioner Cohen agreed the board should have more representatives from the industrial community, but the textile industry probably was not one of them, he stated. He said, “I do not think you will be seeing any growth in textiles!” Commissioner Cohen further stated that M.A.N. Truck and National Starch might be better examples of the kind of industries that should be represented. Commissioner DeMarcus said Rowan County was in the middle of a textile area and as that industry changed more people would require the retraining at Rowan Tech. Commissioner Sifford said he was not being critical about Mr. Erwin’s age and he thought since Mr. Erwin had served such a long term that he be awarded a certificate, this being in the form of a motion, Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval. Commissioner Cohen said we should go a little bit further than that-that Mr. Erwin was a hero in Rowan County. Commissioner DeMarcus said that Rowan Tech would do something for him.

Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to appoint Mr. Dallas K. Campbell and Mr. Jack Goodnight to the Kannapolis Street Planning board. Commissioner Sifford seconded. Commissioner Cohen inquired about the length of time they would be serving. Commissioner Sides said he had a little trouble with not knowing this. The motion passing with Commissioner Sides voting against.

The board agreed with Commissioner DeMarcus not to sell county property in China Grove to Richard E. Smith; but to have it appraised by Wallace Peeler, Tax Supervisor.

Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to rule a public hearing on September 6 for the purpose of changing SR1540 from South Bost to McKnight Road. Commissioner Sifford seconded with unanimous approval. Mr. Murdoch said all five families who live on that road would receive notification.

Commissioner Sifford made a motion to approve the Resolution approving amendments to the Centralina Job Training Consortium Articles of Association. Commissioner Cohen seconded. The motion passing with Commissioner Sides abstaining. Chairman Steele said he was excited about the intent of the training consortium that we would be (the board) helping to make the decisions. That the consortium was “dedicated to training!” (Attached)

Commissioner Sifford made a motion to pay the \$450 bill to the Division of Youth Services. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Sides made a motion to send the \$1,000 to the Institute of Government for membership dues instead of the later requested \$2,975.58. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Sides made a motion to increase Chief Bost’s petty cash fund to \$150.00. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

Mr. Murdoch reminded the Commissioners that the Vendor’s conference-bidding on computer was at 2:00 today in the Red Room.

Commissioner DeMarcus informed the board that she had received a letter from Bobbie Queen saying that Dr. Ross Adams would be doing the follow up on the transportation matter.

Commissioners set Monday, August 29 at 7:00 p.m. in the Red Room for their meeting with the Rowan County Planning Board.

Commissioners learned that the asbestos removal was going fine.

Commissioner DeMarcus said the Certificates of Appreciation were ready for special volunteers who will be receiving them and presenting them.

Commissioner Sides made a motion to take the money for the ice maker for the jail out of contingency. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Cohen made a motion for the board to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Sides seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Cohen made a motion for the board to come out of Executive Session. Commissioner Sides seconded with unanimous approval.

No action was taken concerning two personnel matters.

Commissioner Sides made a motion to authorize Commissioner DeMarcus to set 5% as a maximum per cent for raises for COG staff members. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval. She told the Board that 7% had been mentioned for raises.

Commissioner Cohen made a motion to appoint Commissioner Sides to the Social Services Board. Commissioner Sides seconded. The motion failing with Commissioners DeMarcus, Sifford and Chairman Steele voting no.

Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to reappoint Chairman Steele to the Social Services Board. Commissioner Sifford seconded. The motion passing with Commissioners Sides and Cohen voting against. Chairman Steele voting I.  
(Attached)

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda L. Honeycutt, Clerk  
Board of County Commissioners