

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 7, 1983

The Board of Rowan County Commissioners met in Regular Session in the Community Building on November 7, 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.

Ms. Edith Clark with the Historical Properties Commission presented the Davyd Hood publication of "The Architecture of Rowan County" to Commissioners. She said the book had been long in the making and gave a brief history of Rowan County arranged by townships.

Commissioner DeMarcus made two corrections to the minutes of October 17. The first – The first page, paragraph 10, asked that the last sentence be clarified- municipal share- that percentage would go to water sewage in the first five years- she said the way it reads now it sounds as if all comes to the county. Second correction-third page-6th paragraph-John Shores should be Jonathan Shores. Commissioner Sifford moved to approve the minutes of October 3 and October 7 after making corrections. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

As addition to the Agenda, Attorney Kluttz asked the Board to consider a public hearing for the purpose of industrial bonds for B.F. Goodrich or Carolina Rubber Hose. He recommended November 23 at 1:00 p.m. Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to hold the Public Haring on the 23rd of November at 1:00 p.m. Commissioner Sifford seconded. The motion passing with Commissioner Sides voting against. Commissioner DeMarcus asked to talk about the forthcoming COG meeting, the China Grove Christmas parade, Centralina Development Commission and the Rowan County Agricultural Industrial Fair Association Committee.

Monthly Reports, Chairman Steele referred to the Department of Social Services report. That the Volunteer Program for the Community Work Experience Program has been evaluated by State officials as "a model for the State". Chairman Steele said this is a lot to be proud of. He said the Clerk-typist position that had been approved on October 3 had not been filed because they could not find anyone qualified at that salary. Commissioner DeMarcus commented that she was glad to read where the Infant/Toddler Center had been approved to facilitate two more children. Commissioner Cohen said the additional two children would not bring

down the price per child. He said he was still in favor of private sector. Chairman Steele said he was told there was a waiting list. Commissioner DeMarcus said she had asked around the South end and there was a waiting list for infants.

Mr. Murdoch told the Commissioners they did not have to take any action on the Anti-Poverty Plan as submitted by the Salisbury/Rowan Community Service Council unless they wanted to contract with Mr. Andrew T. Harris, Executive Director.

Mr. Murdoch told the Commissioners that Rebecca Yarbrough, Centralina would work free the first 40 hours in assisting Commissioner Sifford with the Emergency Medical Services program, but after 40 hours her services would be \$27.71 an hour.

Mr. Murdoch reminded Commissioners about the Christmas Parade and told them he would send them detailed directions.

Mr. Murdoch read a letter from Fred Howell, Veteran's Service Officer in request for a typewriter. He said in his letter that the Remington that they had been using has simply worn out. Commissioner DeMarcus moved permission for the typewriter to come out of contingencies. Commissioner Sifford seconded with unanimous approval.

Chairman Steele presented Mr. Murdoch's letter of resignation; saying Mr. Murdoch's "dedication has been invaluable" he has always had the answers at this fingertips that the knew all there was to know about county business. Commissioner DeMarcus said she would "move not to accept if he would re-consider. Commissioner Sifford said all of us feel the same way, "don't forget us!" Commissioner Cohen said "thank you!" (attached)

Commissioner Cohen presented one road petition for approval. Country Lane located off of Beck Road in the northern Rowan County area. Commissioner Cohen made a motion to approve the road petition. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

Glenn Trexler, Tax Collector, reported \$1,357,959.67 total collections for October.

Mr. Herbert Hawley, Health Director, requested Commissioners to approve several budget amendments. One- Maternal and Child Health Budget Revision. Mr. Hawley said they had been granted an additional \$7,595 from the Division of Health Services. He is proposing the addition of 20% of a Family Nurse Practitioner position one day a week- 1-A graphotype to be used in both the Child Health Clinic and Family Planning Clinic. Mr. Hawley said he would like to add

the remaining \$307 to prenatal care. Commissioner Sifford said this had been approved by the Board of health and moved to approve the MCH request. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded. Commissioner Sides and Cohen voting no. Chairman Steele voting I. Commissioner Sides said it was time to “shift people” and “squeeze dollars” that a dime is never given back to the taxpayer. The second revision is in the Orthopedic and Neurology Clinics Budget. Requesting approval to accept an additional \$1,357 in State funds. Mr. Hawley said an additional \$652 is needed to pay part time clerical work. He said the clerk is now being paid on an hourly basis instead of on a per patient basis. They need also to purchase equipment in the form of three additional vertical files. In the Neurology clinic he is requesting approval to accept an additional \$845 in State funds to cover the balance of estimated costs of the three additional files. Commissioner Sifford moved approval for this budget revision. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded. Commissioners Sides and Cohen voting against. Chairman Steele voting I. The third revision is Tuberculosis Control Allocation. Asking permission to accept \$9,500 in Tuberculosis Control money for providing additional adult health services in Rowan County. The money was allocated upon the closing of McCain Hospital. Based upon each county’s prior five years caseload average. Commissioner DeMarcus moved approval. Commissioner Sifford seconded. Commissioners Sides and Cohen voting against. Chairman Steele voting I. (attached)

Wallace Peeler, Tax Supervisor, requested that Commissioners approve a transfer of one-half the budget allocation that was allocated him to hire a draftsman to someone who can help him get caught up with deeds. He said the person he had in mind was at Rowan Tech and could work week-ends, three week days, or 1 ½ months full time. Commissioner Sifford moved authorization. Commissioner Cohen seconded for discussion. He asked for a brief explanation because he was not present at the time Mr. Peeler explained his purpose for needing part time assistance. Commissioner Sides said he would rather keep the money local and get a realtor to do the work. The motion was voted unanimously to get Mr. Peeler part time help.

Commissioner Sides made a motion to authorize Mr. Peeler to use \$9,000 out of surplus funds to secure the services of a quicker method of putting values on automobiles for taxing purposes. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval. Now, three people spend about five months putting values on cars and in addition, the new system would reduce expenses in the long run.

Frank Lewis, of Lewis and Lewis Inc. Consultant and Marketing out of Lillington, N.C. and retired from the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners after thirteen years as its field representative asked that he be able to serve the board in advertising the position for County Manager. He said he felt confident of his exposure to the counties in working with this particular subject. He said he had contact with Managers throughout the State. He said the resume says

one thing but the other would be his exposure to them. He said it would all hinge on “you” as a Board as to how to do it. He said his fee would be \$1200 to \$1700. He said he had just completed Columbus County and the cost a little better than \$1,000. Commissioner Sides asked that this be discussed in Executive Session.

Commissioner DeMarcus moved to approve the purchase of 12.27 acres of land at \$1200 an acre at Sloan Park-the money to come from County Wide Recreation Reserve. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval. The property is the E.G. Coble Estate and former Commissioner Rufus Honeycutt is the Trustee.

Randy Williams, Piedmont Natural Gas, talked with Commissioners about the conversion of autos to propane gas. He gave the Commissioners a copy of a propane feasibility study from Houston. He said this was not a cure all – but a savings in fuel – 64.5 a gal.-could expect a vehicle to run 200,000 miles on it (propane). Mr. Williams said he was proposing a pilot program to run one or two cars at no cost, just a trial. Commissioner Sides made a motion to go full steam ahead. He said it works – and has been proven to accept the total proposal. Commissioner Cohen seconded for discussion. Commissioners DeMarcus, Sifford and Chairman Steele voting against. Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to proceed with running the most used vehicles on a thirty day trial basis and instructed Mr. Murdoch to contact City Manager Harvey Mathias, who is already using the propane gas. Commissioner Sifford seconded. The motion passing with Commissioner Sides voting against.

Commissioner Sides made a motion to place the ½ cent sales tax on the ballot and give voters a chance to vote on it. Commissioner Cohen seconded. Commissioners DeMarcus, Sifford and Chairman Steele voting against. Commissioner Sifford said the county allocated on .7% of the school building’s value toward maintenance. He said if we can’t fund adequately for schools we have reached a rather sorry situation. Commissioner DeMarcus said she hoped the ½ cent sales tax would eliminate the need for increased property tax increases for the next few years. Commissioner Sifford moved adoption of the resolution. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded. Commissioner Sides said, “the Public Hearing on October 17 had been dominated by school lobbyists who stood to benefit from the tax increase!” He said residents did not turn out for the public hearing because they thought it would make no difference. Commissioner Cohen said “tax is a fair way to increase revenue, but not that way!” It is never taken off one it is instituted. He said the people that he has talked with “showed a helpless attitude”. He said we were not neglecting the schools, that we take care of them well –too well. Commissioners Sides and Cohen voting against the motion. Chairman Steel voting I. (attached)

Mr. Murdoch reported personnel replacements:

Karen Harbis part-time Veterans Service Office at \$4.40/hr. replacing Laverne Bender at \$4.40/hr.

Peggy Thornburg, Social Services Department at \$871 replacing Abbie Holt at \$1036.

Linda Almond, Clerk at \$717 replacing Beth Waller at \$771.

Michael McFay- dispatcher at \$829 replacing Steve Beaver at \$1115.

Commissioner Sifford moved for approval of the Personnel replacement. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

Mr. Murdoch informed the Boar that he went back and looked thru the minutes to see what had been done previously to the promotions of Lt. J.G. Lawson, Plt. T.I. Bullard and Sgt. Virginia K. King in the North Kannapolis Office of the Sheriff's Department. He had been requested to do this last month by the Board. Mr. Murdoch said-on the same step –new range- J.G. Lawson would go to 26C- \$15,488 instead of the requested \$13,716- T.I. Bullard would go \$12,432 instead of \$11,556 and Virginia King would be the same at \$13,056. Commissioner Sifford moved that the requests be approved as requested on September 12, 1983. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded. Commissioners Sides and Cohen voting against. Chairman Steele voting I. Commissioner Sides said the only problem he had with these promotions is the seven step increase for Ms. King. He said “we are opening a can of worms!” “That we do not have a policy”. Chairman Steele agreed that we should develop some policy.

Mr. Murdoch reported interest:

General Fund	\$76,564.33
Revenue Sharing	11,911.57
Debt Service	2,261.68
Murtis Nicholas	391.06
Drainage	213.02
Reappraisal	<u>780.42</u>
	\$92,122.08

Commissioner Sifford made a motion to approve the budget amendment to allow for the removal of the Kannapolis Lake Deputy position taken over by Cannon Mills. – Subtract \$8,725.47 from salaries. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval (attached)

Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to approve the budget amendment to allow for an increase in Federal Funds for Crisis Intervention – Add \$17,487.00. Commissioner Sifford seconded. Commissioners Sides and Cohen voting against. Chairman Steele voting I. (attached)

Commissioner Sifford made a motion to approve the budget amendment to allow for additional rents for Surplus Food Distribution. Add \$1,054.00. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded. Commissioners Sides and Cohen voting NO. Chairman Steele voting I. (attached)

Mr. Murdoch reported refunds:

Issue to L.W. Page Electrical Company in China Grove the amount of \$20 for being overcharged.

Issue to Ratliff Electrical Co., in Kannapolis the amount of \$5 permit was secured by another electrician.

Issue to Ratliff Electrical Co. the amount of \$15 – permit was secured by another electrician.

Issue to Carl Hendren the amount of \$20. He decided not to get a doublewide mobile home.

From the tax collector's office – Issue to Jerry Lee Tucker trading as Jerry's Place- An on premise beer license obtain May 5, 1983- \$25 penalty \$1.25 total- \$26.25. another on premise beer license was issued October 25, 1983- thru error \$25.00- FW. Woolworth and co. – \$1.19.

Refunds of .01 and .30 amounting to \$.78 that the tax collector will take care of.

From the Tax Supervisor's office- Refund to Leonard H. Jordan, Jordan Car Wash the amount of \$2.25- The valuation of car wash equipment was incorrectly computed and he was overcharged.

Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to approve the refunds. Commissioner Sifford seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Sides made a motion to approve the addition of a telephone line at the North Kannapolis office. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval. Mr. Murdoch said the cost would be- Installation-\$128.40 and per month \$4.80. Commissioner Sifford recommended that an in-depth study of telephones be

done for the County. Mr. Murdoch said AT&T was doing this that he would have a report next month.

Commissioner Cohen made a motion to renew the lease with Whitton Distributors at the Airport. Commissioner Sifford seconded. The motion passing with Commissioner Sides voting against. Renewal is \$20 a year.

Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to approve and accept the low bid from Potter and Co. to do the Single Audit for Rowan County and to move in the Single Audit for fiscal year 1983-84. Commissioner Sifford seconded with unanimous approval. Potter and Co. was low bid at \$21 per hour.

Mr. Murdoch presented three bills from Kluttz and Hamlin. Commissioner Sides made a motion to pay the two that the County was obligated to pay. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval. The other bill, Commissioners agreed to let Lewis Hamlin come over and explain it after the Computer bids.

Commissioner Sifford made a motion to authorize the County Manager to use the State's ruling in disposing of old records. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner DeMarcus said she had the dinner cards for Commissioners meeting with COG, Wednesday, November 16 at the Civic Center.

Commissioner DeMarcus said the Centralina Development Commission needed to hear from Commissioners about the status of small businesses developments- headed by R.O. Everett.

Commissioner DeMarcus informed the Commissioners about the China Grove Christmas Parade scheduled on November 22 at 3:30 in Landis. Asked Commissioners to participate.

Commissioners agreed to decide on a time to meet with the three chapters of the Jaycees at next month's meeting concerning fairground policies.

Commissioner Sifford reminded Commissioners that the Board of Health Committee will be changing drastically effective January 1, 1984. The number of board members will increase from 9 to 11 members. An optometrist, registered nurse, and veterinarian will be added. The number of public at-large members will be reduced from five to four. Commissioners agreed to take this matter up next month.

Chairman Steele adjourned this meeting for the Commissioners luncheon at the Jail to convene again at 1:30 to hear computer bids.

After computer bids, Commissioner Cohen made a motion to go into Executive Session. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval from the Board.

Commissioner Cohen made a motion to come out of Executive Session into Regular Session. Commissioner Sifford seconded with unanimous approval. Commissioner Sifford made a motion to authorize payment for Attorney's fees rendered by Kluttz and Hamlin for Whitley and Douglas vs. the Sheriff. Commissioner Sifford's motion died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Sides made a motion to authorize payment for Sheriff Stirewalt's Attorney's fees only if he is proven not guilty. To delay to such time as court renders a decision. Commissioner Cohen seconded. The motion passing with Commissioner Sifford and Chairman Steele voting against.

Chairman Steele entertained a motion to either obtain the services of Mr. Frank Lewis to advertise for the County's new County Manager or not. Commissioner Sifford made a motion to authorize Mr. Murdoch to start advertising. In municipal publications, newspapers, etc. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

There being no further business, Chairman Steele adjourned the meeting until 1:00 on November 23, 1983 at that time Commissioners will discuss industrial bonds for B.F. Goodrich.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda L. Honeycutt, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners