

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF

ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

JANUARY 3, 1984

The Board of Rowan County Commissioners met in Regular Session in the Community Building on January 3, 1984 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 Cohen opened with prayer.

Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to approve the minutes of December 5, 1983 as presented. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval.

As additions to the Agenda, Commissioner DeMarcus requested to be able to talk about the transportation study and a meeting with COG.

Mr. Murdoch said to delete from the Agenda, the meeting with the Rowan County Fair Association. He said Eric Ennis had called and extended his apologies for not being able to attend and requested that another date be set.

Commissioner DeMarcus asked that the Board go on record, thanking the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc./Alpha Alpha Zeta Chapter for the Safety Seat Loaner Program. She said a letter would be in order.

Mr. Murdoch informed the Commissioners of a letter from Wade Mobley, Superintendent of the County Schools about a small tract of land in Granite Quarry that the School Board had declared as surplus and not needed by the school system. He said in his letter that the property had been surveyed by Tommy Hudson and appraised by Realtor Jack Crowell, at \$14,500. Mr. Mobley further stated that effective Jan. 1, 1984, that any board of Education planning to sell land or buildings must first make it available to County Commissioners at a fair and reasonable price. They are requesting that Commissioners consider this matter and notify them of their interest or lack of interest in obtaining this little piece of land. Commissioner Sifford made a motion to not to acquire the land at this time, and if a less price is offered that we have the opportunity to purchase it. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded. Commissioner Sides said he would like to investigate before voting. Commissioner DeMarcus withdrew her second to look at the property and act on it next month. Commissioner Sifford withdrew his motion saying, he had no problem with deferring it.

Mr. Murdoch informed the Commissioners of an invitation to two one-day conferences from C. Ronald Aycock, Executive Director, N.C. Association of County Commissioners. The one-day sessions will be held at the Airport Holiday Inn in Greensboro on January 20 and March 9, 1984. The registration fee is \$95 for both sessions. N.C. participants will have one-way video and two-way audio connection with the national panel and will be able to ask questions to the panel members.

Mr. Murdoch informed Commissioners that the Computer Technology For Local Governments Program, a joint effort by the Center for Urban Affairs and Community Services, NCSU, and the Institute of Government, UNC-Chapel Hill, is offering three workshops specifically designed to help elected and appointed officials better understand computer policy issues and how to deal with them. The workshops will be offered in Wilmington(Jan. 12-13), Chapel Hill (Jan. 19-20), and Boone (Jan. 26-27). Registration is \$50.00 per person.

Commissioners were asked to contact Mr. Murdoch if they were interested.

Commissioner Cohen made a motion to approve two road petitions. One Woodsdale Street located in the Enochville section of Rowan County and the other Plyler Road, located on the Rowan-Cabarrus County line south of Enochville. Commissioner Sides seconded with unanimous approval. (Attached)

Jim Queen, Marcus Smith, Dr. Melvin Morgan and Edith Alcorn, members of the Human Services Council presented their need again for an executive secretary. Chairman Steele said this is not a new request, the Council might think it is on deaf ears, and it probably appears to be, but Commissioners are not in a position to make a decision at this point- with budgetary problems, hiring a finance officer, and transportation update planning- that we are not ready to address this. Commissioner DeMarcus said she was going to address the Human Services Council in a transportation proposal later and asked permission to go ahead with her recommendations. Commissioner DeMarcus said the recommendation follows the state's June rejection of the majority of a funding request for a passenger van and radio system for the Rowan County Council on Aging for lack of an updated County transportation plan. State officials said they would continue to reject future requests as long as the plan was not updated. On December 19, Charles Glover, regional director of the state's transportation division, met with County Commissioners and Officials and stressed the county's need for an updated plan. He reported that the five vehicles now being used by Human Service agencies have each between 75,000 and 100,000 miles on them and that only two of them are considered safe for use. Commissioner DeMarcus at this time made the following four recommendations: 1- That the Commissioners authorize the updating of the County's transportation plan. 2- That a contract be made with the state transportation department for assistance in the selection of hiring of an individual or firm to conduct the study. 3- That Commissioners indicate to the state their seriousness in implementing the plan by considering the hiring of a transportation coordinator as soon as possible. 4- That the transportation coordinator also be authorized to work with the Council of Human Services. Commissioner Sifford said he agreed with the need to update the County's plan and to hire someone qualified to do it and since a transportation coordinator would be working with the same groups and agencies as a human service executive secretary, it might work to have the same person do both jobs. Commissioner DeMarcus said Aubrey Cheek, Chairman of the Salisbury-Rowan Community Service Council Board of Directors said the transportation coordinator position would take in order to implement the plan approximately 100% of his time and after that was done, perhaps more time could be spent with the recruitment of volunteers. Commissioner Demarcus moved to proceed with the updating of our transportation development plan and to look for a knowledgeable person who could double as a transportation coordinator and an executive secretary for the Council of Human Services. Commissioner Sifford seconded. Commissioner Cohen said he would have to pass on voting because the recommendations increased the county's resident's reliance on government. He said "we are just riding a dead horse down a dead-end road and it never seems to stop". Commissioner Sides said the Council started out as a voluntary organization and keeps adding. Three years from now they will be back saying she "can't do all the work- and ask to hire more people"! Commissioners Sides and Cohen voting against. Chairman Steele voting I. Mr. Queen asked Chairman Steele when the transportation coordinator might be implemented. Chairman Steele said the plan must be completed and that the position is a recommendation at this point.

Jim Queen, Court Counselor told Commissioners that under state law, it will be illegal for counties to house juveniles in jails after July 1, which would leave the Forsyth County secure detention center as the only alternative for juveniles. Mr. Queen presented proposals for providing non-secure detention services to Commissioners. He said the homes would be primarily used for juveniles awaiting Court hearing. Commissioner DeMarcus said she had heard of cases where children were being held in jail awaiting court hearings. Chairman Steele asked Mr. Edwin Koontz, Social Services Director to comment on this matter. Mr. Koontz said the County should leave the Donnelly Home for overflow and utilize Foster homes . He had already received seven participants as foster parents. Commissioner Sifford made a motion to approve the formation of non-secure detention homes in the county for juveniles. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

Mr. Glenn Trexler, Tax Collector reported December's tax collections to be: \$4,348,522.93.

Chairman Steele appointed Jim Cohen to represent the commissioners on a steering committee which will decide the make-up of the Rowan County Industrial Development Commission.

Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to approve the County Attorney, Tax Collector, Clerk to Board, County Manager and Budget and Finance Officer on the Board. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval. (~~attached~~)

Commissioner DeMarcus was again appointed as delegate to the Council of Governments.

Commissioner Sifford made a motion that the committees and balance of Board be approved. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded. Commissioners Sides and Cohen voting against. Chairman Steele voting I.

Chairman Steele entertained a motion to place Commissioner Sides as his replacement on the Social Services Board. Commissioner Cohen made the motion it died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Sides did not second because he said it was not the pleasure of the Board for him to serve on that committee.

LIBRARY BOARD

Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to reappoint Mrs. Inez Allen and Mr. Tom Caddell for another 6 year term. Commissioner Sifford seconded with unanimous approval.

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Commissioner Cohen made a motion to reappoint Mr. Scotty Green, Mr. Bill Stanback and Mr. Jake Walton. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

CABARRUS-ROWAN PARK COMMISSION

Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to reappoint Mr. Larry Brown for another 4 year term. Commissioner Sifford seconded with unanimous approval.

AIRPORT BOARD

Commissioner Sifford recalled the board's policy to drop a member - one per year to get a smaller number. He made a motion that James Rowland be dropped since he was an employee of the Airport. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval. Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion that Robert Mauldin be appointed. Commissioner Sifford seconded. Commissioner Cohen asked the board to consider Larry Jones; and to reappoint Ashley Roberts, for two terms. Commissioner Cohen made a motion that nominations be closed. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval. A show of hand appointed Robert Mauldin and reappointed Ashley Roberts.

ROWAN COUNTY HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMISSION

Commissioner DeMarcus said Mr. Rosco Morgan was no longer interested in this committee. She moved reappointments of Mrs. Ganelda Sowers and Dr. Elaine Stiller and a new appointment for Richard E. Eldridge. Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion that nominations be closed. Commissioner Sifford seconded with unanimous approval.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Commissioner Sifford said this board has increased its members from nine to eleven. He said Mrs. Gladys Beaumont has served three terms and cannot be reappointed. He recommended appointing Mrs. Lou Clement Murphy in this place. Her term to expire-12-86.

Commissioner Sifford also recommended Dr. Ted James to serve a one year- December 1985 and Harold J. Marioneaux as a replacement for Clark Coffin to serve a full term. Commissioner DeMarcus recommended Mrs. Fred Corriher who will serve as nurse for a full term and Mrs. Kenneth (Margie) Fink who will be filling the last of a nine year term for Mrs. W.L. Fink until December 1984. Commissioner Cohen reappointed Dr. Norman Sloop for a full term. Commissioner Sifford moved that nominations be closed and in order to keep terms intact to approve the nominations. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner DeMarcus suggested deferring the Tri-County Board.

Commissioner Cohen recommended that Mr. Phil Kehr be reappointed to the Salisbury Rowan Good Neighbor Council. Commissioner Sifford said in order to keep this Council active he was recommending Mr. Leo Wallace. Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to close nominations. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval. Commissioner Cohen said Mr. Kehr was a "diamond in the rough" on this board because of his contact with radio communications. Commissioner DeMarcus said the city should be encouraged to make an appointment to this board also because of its smallness, it could be misleading. Chairman Steele asked Mr. Murdoch to talk with the mayor about this matter. On a show of hands, Mr. Wallace (3) Mr. Kehr (2) Mr. Wallace was appointed.

ROWAN COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

Mr. Ernest Bartlett's name was removed from this committee. Commissioner Cohen recommended that Howard Walters be reappointed. Commissioner Sifford recommended John Seaford, Mayor from Granite Quarry to replace Mr. Bartlett. Commissioner DeMarcus moved that nominations be closed and that the nominees be approved. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval.

The Tri-County Mental Health Board was brought back up- Commissioner Sifford made a motion to reappoint Dr. James Frye. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval. The reason for delay for appointment to this board was because they needed to appoint a doctor of psychiatry; and they had been unable to find one. Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to appoint Dr. Orin Hutchinson (Minister) to this board to fill the unexpired term of Dr. Sanders. Commissioner Sifford seconded with unanimous approval.

Granite Quarry Fireman, David Fisher presented to Commissioners the need for an adequate portable breathing air system to be utilized by all of Rowan County's emergency units. Commissioner Sides said he would like to see Rowan County obtain this system. To take \$25,000.00 from Revenue Sharing. Firemen understood that this would have to be submitted for bids. Commissioner Cohen said the firemen were a bunch of dedicated individuals. He said he had heard of some fire requests that were niceties but this is a necessity. Commissioner Sides said he thought this was a very conservative requests, they could have asked for more. Chairman Steele told Mr. Fisher that they understood the proposal and would consider it later in the meeting.

Mr. Harold Watson, Landfill Supervisor, reported damages to the county's compactor. He said it exploded and caught on fire at the landfill. Harold said there was a three-year warranty on the motor, if this could be determined. They are now renting one that will not crank- cost of rental is \$400- \$500 monthly. A firm quote on the compactor has been quoted as \$197,095 less trade in \$61,841.00- net \$135,254 difference. He said Rex Company had one not spoken for with mid January delivery. Next delivery date being March 3, 1984. No rental charges if new machine is purchased. Commissioner Sides made a motion to purchase the new compactor from Rex contingent with the mid January delivery and if not delivered by then to authorize the county attorney to investigate. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval. Funds to come from Revenue Sharing.- \$136,000.00. The commissioners were able to purchase this compactor

without going out for bids since it was considered on an emergency basis that would affect the Health of individuals. The Board directed County Manager and Mr. Watson to investigate the cause of the explosion. They planned to locate a consulting engineer who could determine the cause of the explosion, not with the company.

Mr. Murdoch told Commissioners with the renewal of Revenue Sharing, they could expect to receive an additional \$411,852.00 for this fiscal year. They each had received a list of items which money had already been committed for and items requested which had been postponed until today. Commissioners then went over these items and took the following action:

Commissioner Cohen made a motion to rescind the \$20,000.00 that Commissioners had already set aside for the Cabarrus-Rowan Park Commission. Commissioner Sides seconded. Commissioners DeMarcus, Sifford and Chairman Steele voting against.

Commissioner Cohen made a motion to approve the radios- \$4,510.00 for Emergency Management. Commissioner Sides seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Cohen made a motion to approve the radios for the Dog Warden- \$1,000.00. Commissioner Sides seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to approve the N. Kannapolis Jail typewriter request for \$828.00. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioners agreed to defer the Sheriff's request for four autos until Commissioner Cohen and Chairman Steele have a chance to talk to him about the possibility of deleting half of them or his real need for them.

Commissioner Sides made a motion to approve the Parks request for items needed in the amount of \$15,050.00. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Sifford made a motion to defer the Street Signs and the Propane Gas conversion. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval. Commissioner Sides said we want the pilot project for propane gas conversion - to push until we get it on the four sheriff's vehicles!

Commissioner Sides made a motion to approve the Firemen's request for \$25,000. in order for them to purchase the New Eagle Air System. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Sifford made a motion to defer the County Building's request for \$15,000.00 for the parking lot at 300 N. Main, but to approve the requests for the new truck at \$7,200 and the roof at the N. Kannapolis Jail for \$7,000. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval. (attached)

Commissioner Cohen made a motion to approve the following personnel: Sylvester Robertson, Jr. part-time truck driver at \$4.66 an hr. to replace Gary Baldwin.

Donald Ray Whitley, Deputy Sheriff at \$1200.00 monthly to replace Tim Bost.

Commissioner Sifford seconded with unanimous approval.

Mr. Murdoch read a letter from Herman Beaver, Chairman of the Board of Elections in request of a pay raise for Mrs. Elizabeth Albright to \$4.40 per hour and \$4.01 per hour for Mrs. Sue Misenheimer. Mrs. Albright has been employed for seven years on a part-time basis. Mrs. Sue Misenheimer said she might be willing to fill in while Mrs. Evans is on maternity leave.

Commissioner Sides commented that salaries have already been established and he could not see anyway to agree with Mr. Beaver's request. Commissioner Sifford said he did not like to approve request like this. That the personnel pay plan needed to be studied. Commissioner Sides made a motion to establish all part-time help on county minimum wage-on-scale. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval.

Mr. Murdoch reported interest:

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|-----------------|--------------|
| General Fund | \$109,180.37 |
| Revenue Sharing | 13,830.11 |
| Debt Service | 2,261.28 |
| Murtis Nicholas | 595.32 |
| Revaluation | 2,341.32 |
| Drainage | 213.02 |
| Total- | \$128,421.42 |

Commissioner Sifford made a motion to approve the budget amendment to allow for a decrease in State funds for the WIC Program. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval. (attached)

Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to approve the designation of official depositories and allow the use of facsimille signatures. Commissioner Sifford seconded with unanimous approval. The depositories are: Wachovia Bank and Trust, NNCB, First Union National Bank, Northwestern Bank, Farmers and Merchants Bank, Home Federal Savings & Loan, Security Bank, Citizens Savings and Loan, N.C. Federal Savings and Loan and N.C. Cash Management.

Commissioner DeMarcus moved the resolution to elect a tax shelter of employees' contributions for members of the law enforcement officers' retirement system. Commissioner Cohen seconded with Commissioner Sides voting against. (attached)

Commissioner Cohen made a motion to appoint Mr. Murdoch as the designated person to contact to coordinate efforts to comply with discrimination against qualified individuals because of their handicapped status. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval. (attached)

Mr. Murdoch reported two refunds:

To Mary Selina Hardin the amount of \$5.01 for: 1981 and 1982 taxes paid on a 1972 Mercury which her father also had paid taxes on.

To Mr. Thomas Alton Graham the amount of \$8.73 for: Being assessed with a fireplace that he did not have.

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

Commissioner DeMarcus informed Commissioners about a COG Dinner meeting to be held on January 11 at the Citizens Center in Lincolnton, N.C. at 7:00 P.M.

Chairman Steele adjourned this meeting to meet again at 2:30 to go into Executive Session to discuss a real estate matter.

At 2:30 P.M. Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a real estate matter. Commissioner Sifford seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to go back into Regular Session. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval.

The Board took no action at this time, but agreed to meet again on Thursday, January 5, 1984 at 4:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda L. Honeycutt
Brenda L. Honeycutt, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners