

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
ADJOURNED MEETING  
JANUARY 21, 1985

The Board of Rowan County Commissioners met in Adjourned Session in the Community Building on January 21, 1985 at 1:30 P.M. The following members were present: Chairman Hall Steele, Commissioner Jamima DeMarcus, Commissioner Harry Sifford, Commissioner Richard Messinger and Commissioner J. Newton Cohen.

Chairman Hall Steele called the meeting to order and Commissioner Cohen opened with prayer.

Robert Gunn, Fire Marshall and David Linker, past president of the Rowan County Firemen's Association explained to Commissioners the areas in the County known as "no man's land", territory not covered by volunteer fire departments; and new regulations extending fire zones four to five miles from a station. This change will go into effect February 1 and will put most areas in the County into a fire district. Only three or four areas will remain in "no man's land", once the new zones go into effect. They include Enochville, the area between Landis and China Grove and an area near Liberty. Chairman Steele stated that he has opposed a county tax because persons living in these areas known as "no man's land" would have to pay the tax without receiving a lower insurance rate. Mr Linker told Commissioners the new regulation will make it impossible for fire departments to exist without the tax. Commissioner Messinger told Fire Marshall Gunn that he was the expert in this matter and directed him to go out and talk with representatives of the China Grove, Landis and Bostian Heights Fire Departments to devise a way of covering the areas that does not fall into a fire district and to come back with his recommendations.

Mr. Gunn also talked to Commissioners about purchasing an ID Card System. He explained that the owner of this system, Mrs. Mattox, wants to sell the entire unit which consists of a camera, laminor, cards and cutter for \$2,000.00. Mr. Gunn said a new system could cost as much as \$5,000. Mr. Gunn said county personnel, including firemen, ambulance and rescue squad workers, deputies, Health officials and Social Services persons should carry a color coded ID card. Those receiving the cards would be charged enough to cover the costs. Mr. Messinger recommended contacting the City about an arrangement before purchasing the system. Chairman Steele said the City might allow the County to use their system if the County bought supplies.

Mr. Murdoch said the Commissioners should consider proceeding with plans for building the new Agriculture building which was approved in the 1984-85 budget. \$375,000.00 was set aside for this project. Commissioner Cohen made a motion to advertise to solicit proposals from local Architects to submit

drawings for the new Agriculture building so they (Commissioners) could make a decision on the Architect and proceed with the drawing. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval. It was also agreed unanimously for Mr. Murdoch to place the ad inviting local Architects to attend a meeting; (the date and time to be considered later) on the requirements for the design of the new Agriculture building and renovation of the present Agriculture building at 1216 West Innes Street and to include in the ad that this will lead to the acceptance of the proposal and the awarding of a contract.

Mr. Murdoch recommended going thru the preliminaries of purchasing a new ambulance. He said he had talked with Joe Sulkowski, REMAS Director and they had gone over the study Joe had made of their transportation needs and Mr. Murdoch recommended the purchase of an ambulance type Van with a raised roof that the State has for \$24,940. Commissioner Sifford moved the authorization of the ambulance from the State on an immediate basis- money to come from Contingency. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval. The delivery date was not known.

Commissioner Sifford told Commissioners that they should be moving with the Landfill situation. He said they should be looking at other possibilities. He suggested to work out a committee, - to make some checks with the State's expertise. To pull together sources- for the State to come and talk to us- to submit to Raleigh- the question, "What do you do whenever you are running out of Landfill space?"- Commissioner Messinger agreed to proceed with contacting the State- he said they have resources that we could tackle.

Mr. Murdoch reported a tax refund to Piedmont Farm Credit Services the amount of \$82.49. Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to approve the refund. Commissioner Sifford seconded with unanimous approval.

The case involving the Sheriff. Efird vs. Sides- Republic Insurance Company defended the County in this sue charge. On the legal expenses, Mr. Murdoch explained that the County owes Republic Insurance Company \$1,000.00. Commissioner Sifford moved approval. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval.

Mr. Murdoch received a bill from Ruff, Wade and McNair on the Railroad Tax case saying that we owe an additional \$300.00. Commissioner Cohen moved approval to pay the bill. Commissioner Sifford seconded with unanimous approval.

Mr. Murdoch received a letter from Chief J.L. Bost concerning promotions at the North Kannapolis Office. Mr. Bost had received the resignation of Lt. J.G. Lawson and because of this the following promotions are submitted for approval: C.L. Hardy has been promoted to Lt. replacing Lt. Lawson. Requested

salary to be Range #26, Step-E- \$14,755.00. J.D. Miller has been promoted from dispatcher to patrolman replacing C.L. Hardy. Requested salary to be Range #20, Step-C- \$12,133.00. T.B. Rowland has been hired to replace Dispatcher J.D.Miller-requested salary to be Range 16, Step A- \$10,450.00. Commissioner Messinger moved approval. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to approve the appointment of Mrs. Mary Dukes to the East Spencer Planning Board as an Extraterritorial Board Member. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Sifford made a motion to authorize the signing and submission of an application to COG for an EMS Grant. Mr. Murdoch said Rowan County's part would be \$3,000.00. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioners agreed to defer the request from the Kannapolis Sanitary District to annex the territories involving Lavaugn Rodgers and Ethel A. Fowler. Commissioner Cohen was requested to look further into this annexation matter.

Commissioner DeMarcus showed Commissioners a manuel on "State Accrediation Comprehensive Educational Plan For the Rowan County Schools- and told them this book would be in Mr. Murdoch's office if they wanted to look at it.

Commissioner DeMarcus told Commissioners that they had heard from Mr. Hank Anderson, Parks and Recreation Division and that he would be back in touch in a couple of days.

Commissioner DeMarcus informed Commissioners of the meeting date for persons interested in the Senior Citizens Center on January 30 at 2:15 in the Commissioners Meeting Room.

Commissioner DeMarcus requested that the proposal for the Rowan County Library be on the February Commissioner's Agenda. Commissioner DeMarcus showed Commissioners a copy of the Aaron-Cohen Report which contained alternatives for the Library and clerk agreed to make copies for Commissioners.

Commissioner Sifford told Commissioners that the Advisory Council for the Southern Piedmont Health Systems Agency will review the proposals for the expansion of Nursing Homes for Rowan, Cabarrus and Iredell Counties at Rowan Technical College on Wednesday the 23rd and Tues. the 29th. at 7:p.m. The SPHSA has allocated 237 beds for Rowan. The Advisory Council will hear the proposals from company spokesmen and recommend at least two plans to a SPHA review committee. The review committee will study the recommendations and make its own recommendations to the SPHA Board of Directors. Commissioner Sifford gave the names of 15 companies who want to locate Nursing Homes in Rowan.

Commissioner Sifford made a motion to set 11:00 a.m. March 4 next regular meeting of the Commissioners for a Public Hearing on the revision of the Ambulance Ordinance.

Commissioner Cohen requested that Tim Russell, Finance Officer work up a payroll sheet for him showing employees who work a 37 and a half hour week - to show what the payroll would be if they worked 40 hours a week.

Commissioner Cohen gave Commissioners a report of his Legislative Meeting in High Point. He reported the Legislatives list of priority goals. He said they discussed the one-half cent sales tax for the County's use. Intangible taxes- automobile property taxes, Education- Committee will seek a clarification of funding from the State- to let us know what our responsibilities are. Education Program that passed giving every child in the State a equal education.

Commissioner Sifford gave the changes made to the Supplemental Goals by the Legislative. Commissioners were able to make these changes on their copies.

Commissioners agreed to discuss at their next meeting, a letter that had been received from Congressman Helms concerning the County Workfare Program.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda L. Honeycutt, Clerk  
Board of Rowan County Commissioners