

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
AUGUST 5, 1985

The Board of Rowan County Commissioners met in Regular Session in the Community Building on August 5, 1985 at 9:00 A.M. The following members were present: Commissioner Jamima DeMarcus, Commissioner Harry Sifford, Commissioner Richard Messinger, Chairman Hall Steele and Commissioner Newton Cohen.

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

Commissioner Messinger moved approval of the minutes of July 1 and July 23. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

As additions to the Agenda, Commissioner DeMarcus requested to add Salisbury Beautification Committee, and acknowledgement of the Senior Citizen Center Report. Commissioner Cohen requested to add Executive Session concerning a personnel matter. Commissioner Sifford requested to add remarks about the Health Department and the Ambulance Franchise Ordinance.

Monthly Reports- Commissioner DeMarcus said Ms. Renita Ritchie had been hired as Special Populations Director for the Parks and Recreation and that she had the credentials and personality to put the program over. Mrs. DeMarcus said the Library Board would be asking to spend \$5,000 to do a review of the Belk Building for the possibility of a new Library. Commissioner DeMarcus said each Commissioner should have a copy of the Park revenues that they were having a good summer. Chairman Steele said the Department of Social Services director, Mr. Koontz, had called for sealed bids for direct mailing of Food Stamps. He said two bids were submitted and on July 23, a twelve month contract was awarded to Automated Mailing and Processing, Inc. of Goldsboro for .50 per transaction. When adding the cost for postage, the average cost of the transaction will be .82. On October 1 the U.S. Postal Department will increase their cost for distributing Food Stamps to \$1.82 thus we will have a savings of approximately \$1.00 per transaction by going to direct mail issuance.

Commissioners agreed that they would like to hear a verbal report from Wayne Alexander, Forestry Office and that they should have a report from all county departments. Commissioner DeMarcus said they should be willing to give some time and that the exposure would be good. Chairman Steele said "Time is money"! Commissioner Sifford said the news media should have a copy of the Forestry report.

Commissioner Cohen made a motion to approve road petitions for Willow Drive, Aqua Lane, Long Street Extension, Country Lane and Trexler Drive. Commissioner Messinger seconded. Commissioner Sifford questioned Long Street Extension- he said we could have a problem with the other Long Street on Emergency Response. Attorney Kluttz recommended approving it and writing a letter to Department of Transportation about the conflict. Commissioners approved unanimously.(Attached)

Commissioner Cohen made a motion to approve paving the drive at the new Mt. Ulla-Bear Poplar Voluntary Fire Department at the intersection of NC 150 and SR 1763- estimated cost-\$2,000.00 and to pave Rowan County Rescue Squad parking areas in front of new addition to present building and new building housing emergency rescue boats- estimated cost \$3,500.00. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

Mr. Murdoch read a letter from Mrs. J. Van Hanford offering the County the old Log House on Mooresville Road for preservation. Commissioner Messinger recommended postponing it until next meeting in order to receive response from Jim Foltz, Parks Director. Commissioner DeMarcus said this could be another "card" for tourism. Chairman Steele asked Commissioner DeMarcus to talk to Mr. Foltz and asked Mr. Murdoch to write a thank-you note to Mrs. Hanford.

Commissioner Sifford moved to proclaim the week of August 11 through August 17 as "Social Security Week" in Rowan County and to encourage all our citizens to recognize the accomplishments of our Social Security System over the last 50 years and the continuing value of this program to Rowan County. Commissioner Messinger seconded with unanimous approval.

Mr. Wayne Simpson, Tax Collector, reported \$174,386.02 in total collections for the month of July. He gave each Commissioner a copy of the new envelope for mailing tax notices.

Chairman Steele declared the Public Hearing open to change the name of Cook Farm Road to McGuire Road. Attorney Larry Ford spoke on behalf of the citizens for the name change. Commissioners also heard opposition from Helen Smith, Sandy Carter and Betty Wensil. County Attorney Clarence Kluttz told Commissioners that it was their position to name or re-name but not required to take action. Commissioner DeMarcus said this was a serious and important matter to the people involved that there was a lot of bitterness and asked if they would get together and come up with an alternate name. Commissioner Cohen made a motion to name it road number 1440. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded. Commissioner Cohen withdrew his motion to go

along with Commissioner Messinger's motion to give the matter a 30 day resting period in order to reach a decision or suggestion and present it next month. Commissioner Sifford seconded with unanimous approval. Chairman Steele declared the Public Hearing closed.

Chairman Steele declared the Public Hearing open to close a portion of Brown Road in Granite Quarry. Attorney Parrott presented a letter to Commissioners prepared by Chip Short, Attorney for the Board of Aldermen, Granite Quarry giving their permission to close this portion of Brown Road- that it may be closed without any objections by the town of Granite Quarry. Commissioner Sifford moved the authorization and adoption of the closing of the portion of Brown Road East of Hwy. 52 an unnamed 25 -front road as presented and prepared by Attorney Parrott. Commissioner Messinger seconded with unanimous approval. (Attached)

Dave Graham, General Manager of Rowan County ABC Board presented to Commissioners a comparative statement of operation and distributions of ABC Funds for the years ended 6-30-85 and 84. The total ABC revenue paid into Rowan County amounted to \$16,509,538.78. Mr. Graham said if the County could collect on the N.C. Surcharge Tax we could revenue an extra \$60,000.

Commissioner Sifford moved re-appointment of Paul Propst to the ABC Board. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval.

Mr. Murdoch read a letter from Bob Melton, General Manager of Vision Cable informing them in order to improve the administration of their franchises and to simplify their corporate structures, they intend to maintain all of their N.C. franchises in the name of Vision Cable of North Carolina, Inc. Their other franchise is Vision Cable Communication, Inc.

Mr. Murdoch read a letter from Peter Dawkins, Sr. Executive, Public Finance concerning a House bill which would set up a Correctional Facilities Finance Authority introduced by Representative Jim Craven. The Authority could provide a significant source of funds at no cost to the taxpayer- for a new Jail which Mr. Murdoch said we would need in the next ten years. This bill would allow the State to issue a bond for the increase of \$15 for Jail Fees- for misdemeanors and criminal felons. Commissioner Sifford made a motion to support the House Bill. That we are in support of the increase. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioners heard reports from Joe Sulkowski, REMAS Director and from Donna Wilhite, EMT at REMAS. Ms. Wilhite had finalized runs made by the Ambulance Service during a 3 month

period. She reported a total of 1,291 calls for three months and four days. She referred to Enochville, who takes quite a number of calls for remas- as being a "life saver". Mr. Sulkowski in his report said they took the units out to the new building site, Old Concord Road, to check response time. On an average call he reported a response of six minutes twenty-nine seconds. He recommended to Commissioners that a station be located at 601-70. Mr. Sulkowski said that part-time help during peak hours is working out good. Commissioner DeMarcus said she was impressed with the report, Commissioner Sifford said their findings were very clear and that they do need a location in the 601-70 area. Chairman Steele said Commissioners would study the reports and try to come up with some suggestions.

Jim Foltz, Parks Director told Commissioners that a family in Salisbury wanted to make a memorable gift of \$30 to \$45,000 to build a barnyard zoo at the Park. He said he had sent Karl McGinnon, Naturalist around to visit different zoos in order to help draw up plans. Mr. Foltz said children could walk through and visit the animals like a petting zoo. Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to accept the proposal. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval. Mr. Foltz said he would meet with Commissioner DeMarcus and Mr. Murdoch this afternoon to talk about Mrs. Hanford's offer of the log house.

The Rowan County School Board, Wade Mobley, Marcelle Williams, Carl Eagle, Dr. Melvin Morgan and Dr. McCann were present to discuss a budget transfer- to transfer \$236,545 from Current Expense to Capital Outlay in order to pay school bus drivers, purchase circular fans, roof repairs and pave parking lots. Commissioner Messinger told them that that decision was made at Budget time and made a motion that the County Manager will release payments to the School Board only upon receipts of periodic requisition for specific expenses from the School Board; and no requisitions from these School Board will be honored by the county as long as either School Board has cash balances in excess of 10% of their local school budgets. The County Commissioners will approve transfers when necessary from these school investment funds so that they can be used to pay operating expenses. All people of the county are entitled to invest this money for their benefit while the School Boards continue to conduct their endless negotiations. Commissioner Cohen seconded for discussion. Commissioner Cohen asked Tim Russell, Finance Director to point out on the chart he had made- data showing school dollars available. Appropriations available to Rowan County Public Schools. Commissioner Messinger said they were entitled to look at a well prepared merger plan; and hoped that the committee will be open-minded. Mr. Williams told Commissioners that their request has nothing to do with Merger Plan- that they needed the extra money in the budget now. Commissioner DeMarcus said they should find a way to work and

pull together for the children. That options would be offered to the tax payer. Mr. Eagle said they were not proceeding any slower than any other system that "Haste makes Waste"! On Commissioner Messinger's motion the vote was Commissioner DeMarcus, Chairman Steele voting for with Commissioner Sifford abstaining. Mr. Shores also present with the School Board said Merger has not solved any problems anywhere that they were seriously making major steps toward the merger. He said they have to look at all options and would not jump into it for the sake of merger or finances.

Commissioner Messinger made a motion to deny the School Board's request to transfer \$236,545 from current expense into capital outlay. Commissioner Cohen seconded for discussion. He requested that Mr. Mobley furnish him with a printout of where the new money is being spent. Commissioner Messinger withdrew his motion to consider next month. Commissioner Sifford said it was time for this problem to be addressed to legislation to clarify who's responsible - for what. Commissioner DeMarcus said she would be willing to allow using surplus for fans. Commissioner Messinger said his motion stands as is to deny. Commissioner Cohen seconded. All in favor except Commissioner DeMarcus who voted NO.

Commissioner DeMarcus moved approval the resolution which authorizes the Wildlife Resources Commission to promulgate special rules and regulations with reference to safe and reasonable operation of vessels on the waters of High Rock and Tuckertown Lakes locations- for No Wake Zones at 1-85 Bridge at Yadkin River, Goodman Lake Road Bridge at Crane Creek, Bringle Ferry Road Bridge at Dutch Second Creek, Stokes Ferry Road Bridge at Riles Creek, Hwy. 49 Bridge at Tuckertown Lake, Tamarac Marina at Dutch Second Creek and to add instead of Crooks Cove to change to First Cove South of Tamarac Marina on West Bank off Poole Road. Commissioner Messinger seconded with unanimous approval. (attached)

Mr. Phil Barton, Director of the Rowan Public Library and Elinor Swaim, Board Committee informed Commissioners that they had received an additional \$37,348 for a total of \$133,723.00 in State Aid. He is requesting to be allowed to use \$7,000 now for (1) \$2,000 for engaging the Center for Urban Affairs and Community Services to develop an Invitation for Bids for the library's computer-output-microform service and to work with the library in evaluating the bids which are received. and (2) \$2,500 for conducting a structural analysis of the Belk Building. (3) \$2,500 for conducting a comparative cost analysis of expanding the library headquarters- adding on to the existing facility vs. renovating the Belk Building.

Commissioner Sifford moved approval the first request, \$2,000 to engage the Center for Urban Affairs. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval. Commissioner Sifford authorized the transfer of \$5,000 for the other two projects but to hold doing the cost analysis to see the outcome of the structural analysis of the Belk Building. To come back before the Board for this request again. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

Mr. Barton also requested that separate bank accounts be set up for the East Branch Project and for gifts which are designated for use in the expansion of the library headquarters and request that the County serve as custodian for these funds. Commissioner Sifford made a motion to authorize Tim Russell, County Finance Director to administer the Library's escrow account. Commissioner Messinger seconded with unanimous approval. Commissioner Sifford made a motion that an interest bearing account be set up for the construction and expansion of the library's headquarters. Commissioner Messinger said we might need a separate account for the East Branch- that it could attract substantial gifts. Commissioner DeMarcus moved to set up separate accounts now- to proceed- Commissioner Messinger seconded- Commissioner Sifford withdrew his motion and moved to establish an interest bearing account to two accounts- Rowan Public Library and East Rowan Branch accounts for the purpose of funding- one for main and one for Rockwell. Commissioner Messinger seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner DeMarcus moved approval the change of an expenditure in the Library's capital outlay budget for overhead projector and two chairs. Commissioner Sifford seconded with unanimous approval.

Joe Sulkowski, REMAS Director recommended that Dr. Barr, Emergency Room Physician take over as Medical Representative on the Rowan Medical Advisory Council. Commissioner Sifford said he would like to talk to Dr. Skrownek first.

Rick Boutilier, EMT Crew Chief, told Commissioners that he had met with the Voluntary Fire Association and they requested that a sentence be added to the First Responder's Guidelines. To add "Voluntary Only"- Mr. Sulkowski told Commissioners that he had put in for malpractice insurance to cover ambulance people. Commissioner Sifford made a motion to approve these requests. Commissioner Messinger seconded with unanimous approval.

Mr. Sulkowski said a letter will be sent to all fire departments.

FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT- Submitted by Tim Russell, Finance Director, to discourage overtime. Commissioner Messinger moved

that the County Commissioners adopt the personnel policy. Commissioner Sifford seconded adding to make everything effective now except REMAS minimum wage for EMT'S and to delay until first of September. This was an unanimous vote.

Mr. Murdoch read a letter addressed to Chairman Steele from the Town of Landis informing them that on May 27, 1985 the Landis Board of Aldermen voted not to enter into the proposed contract to provide fire protection in fire districts outside the corporate limits of Landis. The letter further stated that the Board would definitely reconsider the request if a fire tax was charged in these areas, which would significantly increase the amount that the Town of Landis would receive for these services. The Board was very emphatic concerning the inadequacy of the \$150.00 per month payment from the county to cover these areas.

Mr. Murdoch read a letter from the State Department of Transportation to Mr. Andrew Harris, Salisbury-Rowan Community Service Council informing him that the North Carolina Board of Transportation accepted the recommendation of the Public Transportation Division and approved thirteen local applications to be submitted for funding under Section 16 (b) (2) of the Urban Mass Transportation Act. Funding for the Salisbury-Rowan Community Service Council was included in this program of projects, which will become part of the State's application to the Urban Mass Transportation Administration later this month. The Board recommended a total of \$54,075 for the Salisbury-Rowan Community Service Council. This represents a commitment of \$43,260 in federal Section 16 (b) (2) funds, \$5,407 in State and \$5,408 in local matching funds. This funding will be used to purchase one (1) 15-passenger van with a wheelchair lift and one (1) small bus.

Commissioner DeMarcus said next month they needed to consider who will be in charge of day to day business- the lead agent- either the County or the City.

Mr. Murdoch read a letter from Carol Palmer, Chairman of the October Tour for 1985 informing Commissioners that the Historic Salisbury Foundation will plan to use the Henderson Law Office as a ticket and information center for this year's October Tour. Dates and times for the Tour are: Saturday, October 12- 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. and Sunday, October 13- 1:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Murdoch reported personnel for approval. Macie Koontz, Clerk Building Inspection Office - Salary- \$4.11-hr. Sherry Smith, Clerk Typist III- Department of Social Services- Salary- \$829.00 monthly- replacing Cheryle Ivey at \$850.00 monthly- Clarence Bumgarner- Dispatcher/Jailer - salary- \$963.00 monthly-

replacing Michael McVay at \$987.00 monthly- Renita Ritchie- Special Populations- at a salary of \$1,422.00 monthly- Timothy Honeycutt, dispatcher/jailer- salary \$963.00 monthly - replacing Robert Aistrop at \$1,061.00 monthly. Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to approve the personnel. Commissioner Sifford seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to approve the request from Chief J.L. Bost to adjust the salaries of Carlen Hardy from Salary Range 28, Step 2- \$15,488.00 to Step 3 Range \$15,876.00 and Ross Whaley from \$15,120.00 to Range 28, Step 2- \$15,488.00. Both work at the North Kannapolis Office Sheriff's Department. Commissioner Messinger seconded with unanimous approval.

Mr. Murdoch reported Interest:

General Fund-	74,397.52
Murtis Nicholas-	91.67
Revenue Sharing-	700.81
Revaluation -	2,003.30

Total \$77,193.30

Mr. Murdoch reported refunds: From the Tax Supervisor's Office- To: Jasper Waddell, Sr. \$27.81 and to Jasper Waddell, Jr.- \$15.37 due to property being listed incorrctly. Problem being the wrong front foot measurements on the map; And in 1983 the property was put back in Jasper Waddell, Jr.'s name so it was charged incorrectly to Sr. in 1982, 1983 and to Jr. in 1984. It was necessary to issue two checks so that the records will be clear. From the Tax Supervisor's Office To: John Robert Wear \$35.12 for a leased vehicle which was double listed and double taxed. From the Tax Supervisor's Office- To: F.S. Industries, Inc. \$36.63 for a vehicle which was double listed and double taxed. From the Tax Supervisor's Office To: Debora Lentz Alwran \$16.34 for paying taxes on a 1983 Mazda car both in Mecklenburg and Rowan Counties. From Register of Deeds Office- To: John Schofield- \$9.50 for an over-payment of Excise Tax Stamps put on a deed . From the Building Inspection Office- To: Roger Dale Bostian \$20.00 he decided not to locate his mobile home at this location. Commissioner Messinger made a motion to approve the refunds. Commissioner Sifford seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Messinger made a motion to approve refunds for REMAS totalling \$4,230.22. This was during a two and a half-month period. Commissioner Sifford seconded with unanimous approval.(Attached)

Mr. Murdoch reported budget amendments. For the Health Department- a new line item Education Supply Account- account #5157-235- Education Supplies under Arthritis Program to increase by \$900.00 and decrease cl. lab. med. supplies #5157-

236 by \$900.00. Under Family Planning Program- to increase by \$750.00 education supplies acct. #5164-235 and to decrease by \$750.00 cl. lab. med. supplies acct. #5164-236. Commissioner Sifford made a motion to approve this transfer. Commissioner Messinger seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Cohen made a motion to approve a transfer for the Department on Aging. To establish requirements for the purchase and installation of fans at the China Grove Site. They received through donations the sum of \$625.00 which they request to go into site maintenance #5551-354. Commissioner Messinger seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Sifford made a motion to approve the correction made by Tim Russell, Finance Director in the 1985-86 budget for error made in Health Department #5110-370- When budget was prepared Tim incorrectly posted account as credit which understated budget by \$1,200. To balance budget for error, he had to reduce Advertising by \$600.00 and repairs to equipment by \$600.00. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Messinger made a motion to show \$6,086.18 Revenue Sharing for Rescue Squad. Money was appropriated in 1984-85 budget for supplies which have not come in. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

Board Appointment which had been deferred. Commissioner Sifford made a motion to reappoint Mr. Joe Sulkowski to the Rowan Medical Advisory Board and to defer the reappointment of Dr. Skowronek until Commissioner Sifford has a chance to talk to Dr. Barr about appointment. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to reappoint Ashley Roberts and Aubrey Cheek to the Centralina Private Industry Council for another term. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Cohen made a motion to reappoint Raymond Johnson, Sr. to the Rowan Technical College Board. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to nominate George Raynor to the Historic Properties Committee to replace Mrs. Beulah Davis who resigned. Commissioner Messinger seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Cohen made a motion to approve an addition of 60 days to the County's contract with Surry Data to put Farris

on our computer. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Messinger made a motion to approve the REMAS equipment purchase from COG which is a 50% grant- of \$6,075.05- county would pay one-half. We have the official contract. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Sifford made a motion to authorize the transfer of \$342,500.00 of Rowan County's 1985-86 Waste Water Collection/Treatment Facilities fund allocation appropriated under Chapter 480 of the 1985 Session Laws (Senate Bill 2) to the City of Salisbury. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval. (attached)

Mr. Murdoch read a letter from Joe Sulkowski inquiring what to do with the old Cadillac ambulance- that it was taking up too much space. Commissioners agreed to proceed with the \$1,500 offer.

Commissioner Cohen made a motion to take from contingencies \$4,138- low bid received on the REMAS roof repairs. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to thank the people who did the study on the Senior Citizens Center and to accept their report. Commissioner Messinger seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioners had no opposition to the City Beautification Committee drawing up sketches of ways to beautify or enhance the lawns of the Court House and the Community Building.

Commissioner Sifford showed the Commissioners a petition signed by 27 employees from the Health Department in protest of the roach problems they are having. Commissioner Sifford said this could be due to improper motion of air due to dropped ceilings. The building also leaks. Mr. Murdoch said Charles Hedrick, Buildings and Grounds Supervisor, got a copy of the letter and will be asked to give a report.

Commissioner Sifford said this Board had been given a copy of the Animal Control Policy for their input- that it should be adopted by them before it goes to the Board of Health- that it supercedes any lease laws.

Commissioner Sifford said this Board needed to consider bidding on the V.A. Hospital Ambulance service. To prepare some kind of process- to authorize someone to work on it- that we do not want to miss the bidding. Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to authorize Commissioner Sifford and Tim Russell to

negotiate with the V. A. Hospital an acceptable bid and to submit it. Commissioner Messinger seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Sifford made a motion to notify the Federal Agency that Rowan County plans to opt out of Medicare Services October 1.- Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioners agreed to have a meeting with John Ramsey, Architect, concerning the newly proposed Agricultural Building. That it had exceeded the budget. They set 9:00 A.M. Monday, August 12. Mr. Murdoch was requested to secure from the department heads who will be housed in the new building, what they need and how much space they will need.

Commissioner Cohen made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Messinger made a motion to come out of Executive Session and back into Regular Session. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

No action was taken while in Executive Session.

Commissioners agreed to defer the Ambulance Franchise Ordinance until Monday. Commissioners set 1:30 August 12. Mr. Murdoch was requested to notify members of the Rescue Squad and Voluntary Fire Departments and invite them to this meeting.

There being no further business, Chairman Steele adjourned the meeting until 9:00 A.M. Monday, August 12, 1985.

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