

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ADJOURNED MEETING
FEBRUARY 26, 1986

The Board of Rowan County Commissioners met in Adjourned Session in the Community Building on February 26, 1986 at 7:30 P.M. The following members were present: Commissioner Jamima DeMarcus, Commissioner Harry Sifford, Commissioner J. Newton Cohen and Chairman Hall Steele. Absent was Commissioner Richard Messinger.

Chairman Hall Steele called the meeting to order and Commissioner DeMarcus opened with prayer. Chairman Steele then asked that anyone wishing to speak for or against the Library Bond Order could be heard, calling the Public Hearing to begin.

Mr. Wayne Upright the only person speaking against the bond referendum said he was not against spending the money. He said he could not see spending almost three million dollars when the biggest percentage of library users would be the city.

Mrs. Elinor Swaim, Chairman of Trustees of the Library board said there were a lot of trustees attending the meeting tonight and they wanted to go ahead with the bond referendum. Mrs. Swaim told Commissioners that the library had the best public relations that comes with good service.

William Doyle Smith told Commissioners that he was 100% in favor to do it that the library had books that tells you about every city in the United States tells you the best motels to stay in and places to eat. Books on all kinds of repairs. He referred to the library as a world of knowledge.

Tom Bost, Vice-President of Trustees said \$41,000.00 had been raised for the Eastern Branch of the Library and that the same persons who worked on this fund raising was working for the expansion.

Chip Short, attorney, said the branch libraries do not take the load off the central library. He said the central library delivered to the branches. He also told Commissioners that the state viewed the library as a county function and that funding from the state is handled through legislation and then to counties and not through the municipalities.

Larry Brown, President of Friends of the Library said he was in favor of expansion. He said branches could offer some help, but that it was very important that we push forward and expand. He referred to the library as a store house of knowledge.

Audrey Madens said everyone here should come and visit the library when the children are there looking for books and using the computers. That it was a very overcrowded condition. She asked the commissioners to consider passing the bond referendum.

Mr. John Batchelder, a newcomer to Rowan County told Commissioners that people look at churches, hospitals, schools and libraries when considering a move into an area, and that he would support whatever cost it is to upgrade our library.

Mr. John Ramsay, Architect and member of the city council, said the library was one of the four main drawing cards in Rowan County. He said a study had been done and the Library, V.A. Hospital, National Cemetery and the West Square Historic were found to be the big sites that attract people to Rowan County. Mr. Ramsay said the library was a wealth of knowledge packed in too little space.

Mrs. Elizabeth Etheridge said her feelings were strong concerning the library. She said the present library does not have an elevator and that the handicapped could not use the upstairs Edith Clark History Room. She said there were a lot of people from other states coming to use this room and that the expansion calls for accessibilities for the handicapped.

Mrs. Edith Clark, former Director of the Library said there were crowds of people coming to use the Edith Clark Genealogy Room; some from Texas and Florida. She told Commissioners that the study of Genealogy is a growing thing, that it could be tied in with tourism, that they need modern facilities.

After the Board had heard all persons who requested to be heard, Commissioner Sifford moved that the public hearing be closed. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded the motion with unanimous approval.

Commissioner DeMarcus moved that the Board adopt without change or amendment and direct the Clerk to publish as prescribed by The Local Government Bond Act the bond order authorizing the issuance of \$2,600,000 library bonds of the County of Rowan. Commissioner Sifford seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Cohen moved the adoption of the resolution which was read at length to the Board by County Attorney Clarence Kluttz. Commissioner Sifford seconded the motion with unanimous approval and it was adopted.

Commissioner Sifford reported that he had met with a representative from Owen Kugel, the firm buying the old post office. Commissioner Sifford told the board that he is asking for another extension on his contract until April 1, 1986. that Mr. Kugel had been working under the assumption that he had been given an extension to April 1 according to the city contract. Commissioner Sifford moved that the Board extend his contract not to exceed April 1. Commissioner Cohen questioned extending the contract again saying that the county has already lost a year in taxes because of its contract with Kugel and has had to pay utility costs for that period. He further stated that he would support the motion providing that Kugel assume the taxes and utilities. County Attorney Kluttz said he would like to see Mr. Kugel's contract extended that he had talked with personnel at the U.S. Postal service and had been told that there is a time problem in receiving the deed and getting it back. Commissioner DeMarcus asked "what is our interest in the P.O." Chairman Steele told her we still own it. No money has been exchanged. She said she had misgivings about it. Chairman Steele said there is no easy answers. Commissioner DeMarcus said she would second the motion, but to go on record saying that this is the last time she would vote for an extension. Commissioner Cohen voting against. The motion carrying with Chairman Steele voting for.

Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to nominate Sally Jones to replace Marie Gilbert on the Special Populations Advisory Committee. Commissioner Sifford seconded saying he knew Ms. Jones well and said she was a very competent person. The motion carried unanimously.

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

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

No action was taken while in Executive Session.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda L. Honeycutt, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners