

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC HEARING ON 1986-87 BUDGET
JUNE 23, 1986

The Board of Rowan County Commissioners met in Adjourned Session in the Community Building on June 23, 1986 at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Commissioner Jamima DeMarcus, Commissioner Harry Sifford, Commissioner Richard Messinger, Commissioner J. Newton Cohen and Chairman Hall Steele.

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

There being a misunderstanding about the time of the public hearing, Chairman Steele announced that Commissioners would take up other business.

Commissioner Cohen made a motion for the board to authorize the Chairman to sign the contract authorizing Doug Tennent to renovate the old Farm and Health Center on West Innes Street for the Department of Social Services. Commissioner Sifford said he would second assuming that it is a standard contract. The motion was voted on unanimously. Mr. Tennent's fee will be 8% of the total cost.

County Manager said two months ago the board approved a contract to receive a grant from the Department of Transportation, Aviation Division to renovate the beacon at the Airport, a \$1500 grant. Mr. Russell said he could not find in the minutes where this was introduced, but it had been approved. Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to accept the resolution that we received the \$1500 and apply it to renovating the Beacon at the Airport. Commissioner Sifford seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to authorize Faith to display their fireworks during the 4th of July celebration. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Cohen made a motion to table the request from Bob Furr, Rainbow Lakes to display fireworks on July 5 in order to give him time to line up an expert to come before us at our called meeting before the first of July. Commissioner DeMarcus amended the motion to add also for him to have an opportunity to obtain a license. The motion was voted on unanimously.

Chairman Steele declared the public hearing open to hear persons speaking for or against the budget.

Travis Hendren from Cleveland Pro Team Mayor speaking in request for reconsideration of the extra contract deputy. To reconsider the \$8,000 to adequately cover the Western end of Rowan County.

Janet Hubbard- who works with her husband the Rev. Buddy Hubbard in the North Eastern Mission at the United Methodist Church spoke in request for reconsideration of putting some money toward a prenatal health clinic in the County. She said it had been brought to her attention and that she was here on behalf of many women who have a dire need of adequate health care and want good quality health care. She further stated that due to economic reasons, minimum wage jobs and lack of personal insurance they are unable to get the health care they need.

Mr. Richard Gobble and Bob Tomlin with the Rowan County Rescue Squad asked Commissioners to reconsider \$32,500 for the purchase of an ambulance for overall coverage of Rowan County.

Austin Mitchell told Commissioners that the City of Kannapolis could not carry Baker's Creek Park alone. That the Park was in need due to its growth. The Commissioners have already set aside more than \$9,000 for the Park but Mr. Mitchell asked them to see fit to give more. He told the Commissioners that they just lost their Park Manager due to lack of enough pay to support his family.

Mr. Fred Howell, Veterans Service Director asked the Commissioners to reconsider the elimination of his one-half position. He said one girl(now in the office) could not take care of all the work. Commissioner Cohen told Mr. Howell that the County would be hiring a Personnel Director and that this person is going to evaluate each and every department in Rowan County and if you are overstaffed you will be cut so your people will give 40 hours work for 40 hours pay; if you are understaffed, I am sure you will get additional staff.

Vernita Harrell speaking on behalf of the prenatal health clinic told Commissioners that four months back she was pregnant and it was hard for her to get a doctor. She said she was working and her boss told her she could not come to work until she had a doctor's excuse, she said it was hard for her to get a doctor because of the type of insurance she had that it would not pay unless she had a caeserian and did not know this until she had the baby. She said she was getting sicker and sicker but finally got Dr. Eberhart.

Donna Turner, with an international support group for women and also on the board of the N.C. Department of Social Services asked Commissioners if the prenatal clinic had already been budgeted. Chairman Steele told her that it was not part of the budget that it would be considered tonight. Ms. Turner told Commissioners that she administers to women in N.C. who have had abortions as well as women who have received traumatic experiences with abortions. She further stated that the biggest percentage of women not receiving any prenatal care are teenagers, that we have an epidemic on our hands. That citizens in Rowan County do not approve of sex education in our schools and it has progressively gotten worst and sex education bigger and that they feel \$70,000 is a very expensive band-aid for a problem that needs a tourniquet and expect the citizens of Rowan County to pay out to take care of this problem on that level as we let problems in the schools on liberal sex education continue \$70,000 is only a drop- in- the-bucket. That prenatal care is very important and will continue to grow. That the citizens of Rowan County do not want their tax dollars used in aiding and abetting abortions and delivery of illegitimate births whenever nothing is being done to control the promiscuity, root level, asking citizens to take their tax dollars to hack away at the fruit of our problem, refusing to acknowledge the root of the problem.

Katherine Dzieyyc asked Commissioners to strike the funding for prenatal care from the budget.

Becky Brown, president of the Rowan County PTA Council talked in favor of funding guidance counselors for elementary grades. She said they were desperately needed. She also told Commissioners that the PTA Council had endorsed the "How to Say No to Sex" Program going on in the county schools in August. She said it is not a sex education class.

Betty Kerr- A concerned parent who is opposed to \$70,000 being proposed for a prenatal clinic. She said it was up to the parents to education their children about sex.

Buddy Hubbard, a Christian Minister- Said he was for the prenatal care but against abortions.

Ken Deal and Craig Trexler, Codes Enforcement Director spoke in favor of the budget and commended the County Manager on a fine job.

There being no one else wishing to speak on behalf of the budget, Chairman Steele declared the public hearing closed and opened the meeting to hear other business.

Chairman Steele said Commissioners had met with three fire departments and had held public hearings to determine whether to establish a fire tax in their district and tonight they will decide whether to levy a tax or not. These three fire departments are Scotch-Irish, Woodleaf and Gold Hill. Commissioner DeMarcus moved the passage of the resolution establishing a service district to provide fire protection and the annual levy of property taxes for support and maintenance of the Woodleaf Fire Department. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval. Commissioner Messinger made a motion to approve the appointments of Mr. Ezell R. Moore, Mr. William R. Perrell and Mr. W.S. Wetmore, Sr. as Woodleaf Volunteer Fire Department Fire Commissioners for three-year terms. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Sifford made a motion to introduce the passage of the resolution for East Gold Hill Volunteer Fire department with the understanding that it only apply to the part of the district in Rowan County. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Messinger made a motion to appoint Edwin Hammill, Everette Vanhoy and Ervin McCulloch as fire commissioners for the East Gold Hill Volunteer Fire Department to serve three year terms. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Messinger made a motion to take no action on the Scotch-Irish Fire District. Commissioner Sifford seconded with unanimous approval. Commissioner DeMarcus mentioned the fact that it would have to be budget time next year before Scotch-Irish can make another request for a fire tax.

Chairman Steele adjourned this meeting concerning fire tax until 9:00 A.M. Monday, June 30 when they will set the tax rates

upon the recommendations by the fire commissions they appointed for the districts. Commissioners will also go over their proposed budgets.

A concern at Sloan Park concerning the well prompted the Parks and Recreation Director, Jim Foltz to submit a request to Commissioners. They are requesting permission to change their priorities on Capital Improvements at Sloan Park. Due to the increase usage their well and restrooms are being heavily used. They would like to drill another well due to lack of water supply to operate the restrooms. An estimate of \$4200.00. Commissioner Cohen made a motion for the Parks and Recreation Commission to delete some of their capital improvements that went into their 1986-87 budget and pick up the well this year and next year whatever they delete they can pick back up will be a trade off over a two year period. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

A letter from Charlotte Gardner requesting \$250.00 from the Rowan Commissioners to assist the Salisbury-Rowan Mayors' Council for Persons with Disabilities group with their program. Commissioner Cohen made a motion to table the request until we get their overall budget. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

A request to Commissioners from Mr. Edwin Koontz, Director of Social Services requesting that Commissioners reconsider the two positions that were initially deleted in the review process those positions being a Clerk Typist III and an Eligibility Supervisor II. Commissioner Cohen made a motion to deny the request for now, hopefully we will have a Personnel Director next coming fiscal year, this person could evaluate the situation far better than we as a board could and let this person inform us of the recommendations. Commissioner Messinger seconded. Commissioner Messinger said this needs to be explained to Mr. Koontz by the personnel committee and bring back to this board a study so we would know more about it. Chairman Steele said he would have to vote against the motion because he had just met with the Social Services Board and they had made him aware of case needs and the fact that Mrs. Linn is overworked and needs help. Commissioners DeMarcus and Sifford voting against. Commissioner DeMarcus said she would like to agree with Commissioner Messinger and not do anything but to let

the Personnel Committee talk to Mr. Koontz and learn more about it. Commissioner Messinger seconded with unanimous approval. Request not being denied.

Mr. Travis Hendren had requested earlier in the meeting the need for another contract deputy in the Cleveland area. Commissioner Cohen made a motion that we follow the recommendations of the study of the Sheriff's Department and the standing Sheriff, June Bost not to fund additional contract deputies. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

County Manager said a decision would need to be made concerning the prenatal clinic and two requests from the Rowan County Board of Education. Their first request is to ask the Commissioners if they would give them the approximately \$105,000 interest that was earned by the County Manager's office in their current year's school budgeted funds. Second, They are requesting that the Commissioners again start giving their school system one-twelfth of their budgeted funds each month. On the schools second request, Commissioner Cohen made a motion to leave the policy as is based on increase of 8- to 12% unless their balance goes below 10% of the annual budget. Commissioner Messinger seconded with unanimous approval.

Second request from the Schools. Commissioner Messinger made a motion that the County Commissioners withhold approval of 10% of current expense section of the county schools budget basing that amount in a reserve account until such time as the General Assembly is finished and we know more the exact pay being authorized by the State and what positions they are funding. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Messinger made a motion to transfer from the sales tax reserve \$277,000 and apply to this fiscal years budget reducing capital outlay. Commissioner Cohen seconded. Chairman Steele said he would have to vote against the motion. Commissioner Sifford voting against causing a tie vote with Commissioner DeMarcus not voting. Commissioner Messinger made a motion to transfer \$150,000 from this reserve and apply to capital outlay. Commissioner Cohen seconded. Commissioners DeMarcus and Sifford voting for. Chairman Steele voting against.

Chairman asked that the first motion on transfer of sales tax be stricken.

Prenatal clinic- Commissioner Sifford made a motion that we consider \$30,000 this year provided and contingent upon matching state funding and cooperative continuation with Rowan Memorial Hospital and the Medical Society. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded. The motion carrying with Commissioner Cohen voting against.

Commissioners took no further action on Baker's Creek Park or the Veterans Service Office.

The Rowan Rescue Squad's request for another ambulance- Commissioners agreed that if the money was there, it would be applied to the county's ambulance service because they need one.

Commissioner DeMarcus recommended inviting First Aid Freddie to Commissioner's meeting and supplying him with a letter of appreciation.

Jerry Merritt talked to Commissioners about removing the two buoys from High Rock Lake at Crooks Cove. Commissioner Messinger said he would work with the Sheriff and the river deputy about this matter.

Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to get names (12-13) to appoint an advisory committee for the inland lake. Commissioner Sifford seconded adding that we would cooperate with Davidson on the committee. This was a unanimous vote.

Commissioner Messinger announced that he had received a resignation letter from Fire Marshall Robert Gunn. Mr. Gunn will be resigning this position at the end of June and moving to the Codes Enforcement Office until his retirement in two years.

Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a matter of personnel. Commissioner Messinger 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.

There being no further business, Chairman Steele adjourned the meeting until Monday, June 30 at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda L. Honeycutt, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners