

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ADJOURNED MEETING
SEPTEMBER 9, 1986

The Board of Rowan County Commissioners met in Adjourned Session in the Community Building on September 9, 1986 at 7:00 P.M. The following members were present: Commissioner Jamima DeMarcus, Commissioner Harry Sifford, Chairman Hall Steele, Commissioner Richard Messinger and Commissioner J. Newton Cohen.

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

Chairman Steele announced that with proper notice been given that he would open the public hearing to hear from citizens wishing to speak for or against the one-half cents sales tax.

In favor of the one-half cents sales tax was Marcelle Williams, City School Superintendent who said the sales tax would certainly benefit the school system and would like to see Commissioners adopt it. He said they were in the process of presenting to Commissioners their long range program in capital outlay and with this additional money it would seem possible that they could do some of the things they have been unable to do in past years.

Mr. W.D. Smith, speaking in favor of said he felt this sales tax would be a great thing for the County- 40 % going to the City for sewage lines, water programs, a percentage going to the schools.

Mayor Brown, Kannapolis, urging the Commissioners to favor it, saying their Council is in favor of it that they could use the money for water and sewage service. He said Cabarrus County had already passed the resolution and that Kannapolis would be sharing in it.

Jim Morton, Mayor China Grove, said their Board had taken action in favor of it and that it would benefit the school systems and water and sewage for the towns. He said it would go a long way in helping them to get the things they need.

Glenn Ketner, Jr., speaking on behalf of the City Schools Buildings and Grounds Committee, told Commissioners that one of their obligations was to provide safe and attractive facilities for the children of the City of Salisbury which are also the children of Rowan. He said he was somewhat reluctant to appear based on the results of the last time he appeared on behalf of some support for the City schools for their capital outlay budget. He said they asked for 10% and got 1% and that their needs was still there. He said the sales tax should be a supplement not a substitute, and not to use it to cut somewhere else.

County Manager, Tim Russell read resolutions that he had received from the three school boards speaking in favor of. Also from municipalities, Town of China Grove, Granite Quarry, Landis, all except the Town of Spencer, who were meeting tonight, endorsing the sales tax. Marcus Sifford, Town of Faith spoke up to say their town had also endorsed it.

No one speaking in opposition, Chairman Steele declared the Public Hearing closed and asked County Manager to read the resolution and move the adoption. Commissioner Sifford made a comment about the article in the Post being misleading, referring to 1.9 million dollars for Rowan County- from the half-cents sales tax- it does generate 1.9 million, however the half-cents sales tax is a restricted tax 60% for schools, leaving the County \$772,000 and then the amount going to the cities which has a restriction.

Commissioner Sifford said he would not want the public-at-large to get the impression that we suddenly have 1.9 million dollars with which to reduce the property tax by. Commissioner Sifford said it was a matter of adopting this or coming up with additional property tax to supplement state mandates and because of this he said he would move the passage of the resolution. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded. Commissioner Cohen amended the motion to include a committee consisting of the County Manager, a School Board Member, and a County Commissioner to up front before the 60% for the schools is "dipped out" to justify the needs and allocate those funds. Chairman Steele, Commissioner Messinger not in favor of the amendment, Commissioner DeMarcus said there were some safeguards calls for a report on County spending and the local government commission may upon petition by municipality authorize the municipality to use part or all its tax revenue. She said they would have some lea way and could not tie that to them at this time. Commissioner Cohen withdrew his amendment to the motion. The motion was voted on unanimously.

Afer a brief recess, Commissioners were back in regular session to approve three proclamations. One was to proclaim November 11 as Veterans Day. Commissioner Sifford moved to adopt the proclamation. Commissioner Messinger seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner DeMarcus moved the adoption of the proclamation to proclaim the week of September 17 through September 23 as Constitution Week in Rowan County. Commissioner Messinger seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Messinger moved to proclaim October as Hunger Fighting Month in Rowan County. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval.

A letter from Grinnell Fire Protection Systems Company, Inc. to Mr. Russell requesting an allocation of funds from the State Water and Sewer Grant, Senate Bill #2 Program. Funds to be used to extend sewer service to their present facility. Estimated cost \$80,000 for the extension of approximately 3,500 linear feet of 8-inch gravity line on US Highway 70 Bypass, discharging into the Town of Cleveland's Pump Station, west of Fiber Acres. Also a letter from Town of Cleveland endorsing this. A letter from the Chamber of Commerce informing Commissioners that they are compiling a Who's Who in Business in Salisbury/Rowan which may prove to be the most powerful and effective marketing tool to date. Chamber members are urged to give their full support. Mr. Russell said Commissioners could think about it that it had been sent because they were members. Last, a letter from the Town of China Grove informing Commissioners that their Board of Aldermen voted unanimously to support a recommendation from the China Grove Planning Board for the County Commissioners to give serious consideration to the possibility of adopting countywide zoning.

Road Petition received today by County Manager to rename Foutz Street to original name Davis Drive for the purpose of: If it were renamed back to the original name of Davis Drive the State will come in and , Mr. McCrary who is making the request, owns the last 400 feet, it is a subdivision, he will bring the road up to State standards the State will accept it as Davis Drive- all of it as Davis Drive they will not accept it as long as there is no name to it. Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to add this road name change to the other two that have been set for a Public Hearing at the Regular meeting of the Commissioners on October 6. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioners agreed to defer the appointments and by-laws creating a Human Relations Council for the City of Salisbury and the County of Rowan to study it further.

Commissioner Cohen made a motion to sign a three year banking contract with First Union National Bank for the County's Commercial Checking Accounts . Commissioner Sifford seconded with unanimous approval. First Union offered the lowest costs and highest investment yields.

County Manager presented proposed reclassification of Emergency Medical Technician Positions . The Ambulance Service has completed the first phase of training in upgrading the ambulance services in the County. A large number of the staff successfully passed the examination for the EMT-Intermediate certification in August. The ambulance service has developed a three phase program for the EMT's. The first phase is under way is the EMT-Intermediate(65hrs.) second phase will be the EMT-Intermediate Advanced (100 hrs.) and the third phase will be the advancement to the Paramedic certification (500-600 hrs.) Mr. Russell had prepared recommendations for the EMT-I, EMT-IA, and Paramedic levels of service and three classifications for the Crew Chief levels for Commissioners showing classification titles, grades, salary ranges and percentages of changes. The Personnel Director, Ken Deal completed an examination of surrounding counties to determine comparable pay for the positions. Studies proved that in establishing a series of new classifications for the Ambulance Service, the position classifications should approach the comparable levels currently recognized by the other counties. Commissioner Sifford made a motion based on recommendations, to approve the salary plan presented to move the 9.1 percent. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval. The questions Commissioners were asking "How fast do we want to go" we have to look at other needs of the county, that we need to be prepared.

Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss matters of Land Acquisition and 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, September 15.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda L. Honeycutt, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners