

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
ADJOURNED MEETING  
PUBLIC HEARING  
JULY 7, 1987

The Board of Rowan County Commissioners met in Adjourned Session in the Community Building on July 7, 1987 at 7:00 P.M. The following members were present: Chairman Richard Messinger, Vice-Chairman J. Newton Cohen, Sr., Commissioner Jamima DeMarcus, Commissioner George Knox and Commissioner Wilborn Swaim.

Chairman Messinger called the meeting to order and opened the Public Hearing to hear from citizens who wanted to speak for or against the Hazardous and Solid Waste Ordinance. He then introduced Deborah Parker, Chairperson with the North Carolina Hazardous Waste Treatment Commission who spoke to Commissioners on "where we stand". Ms. Parker told Commissioners the state commission is looking for a site for the facility and has narrowed a list of 139 possible sites to 55. She said it is expected to find a site by October 1. The list will be narrowed further at a meeting July 30. Rowan County has nine potential sites left on a statewide list of 55. Ms. Parker said they are committed to helping people to understand what we are and what we are doing. She said the facility does not include a landfill and will handle no radioactive waste or PCB, and not create problems for any community. Purpose being to transform hazardous waste into non-hazardous materials.

Ms. Parker told Commissioners that if Rowan County is selected, that it is possible that the county's garbage could be burned in the incinerator too. That would eliminate the need for a separate site for a county garbage incinerator. Ashes from the hazardous waste incinerator would be sent either to the low-level nuclear waste storage facility in Barnwell, S.C. or to another one in Alabama. Ms. Parker also commented that Rowan County has eight generators of hazardous waste.

Ms. Patricia Link from the floor, asked why the Commission would still consider sites in Rowan County when other counties have volunteered to host the site. Ms. Parker said that the offer of a site is not the sole factor considered by the commission. They have to consider surface water, highways, population density, ground water, etc.

Ms. Link also asked why, if the facility was supposed to be non-hazardous why would that be considered when ruling out Mecklenburg County. Ms. Parker said the material would be hazardous when it came into the county and no more is allowed in Mecklenburg until the air is cleaner. She said Statewide, 95% of the hazardous waste is treated on site, one site , Santos Chemical in Mecklenburg, one of the largest sites in North Carolina, accounts for 70% of that.

Chairman Messinger asked if anyone else wanted to speak. Not hearing from anyone, he said it was time to address the Ordinance. He said the purpose of the ordinance was to ensure no one from the outside sneaks in and locates a site here. Commissioner DeMarcus commented that she thought it was a good document giving us some leverage if the facility does locate here and it will help us to protect our citizens as best we can. She then made a motion to adopt the Rowan County Hazardous and Solid Waste Ordinance. Commissioner Swaim seconded. All Commissioners including Chairman voting for the Ordinance.

County Manager commented that House Bill #261, which requires approval for a landfill by the county or city where the landfill is to be located before approval of a permit by the Department of Human Resources was back before legislation for a third reading and an amendment and that he should hear something today as to whether it passed or not.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda L. Honeycutt, Clerk  
Board of County Commissioners