

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 5, 1988

The Board of Rowan County Commissioners met in Regular Session in the Community Building on April 5, 1988 at 9:00 A.M. The following members were present: Chairman Richard Messinger, Vice Chairman J. Newton Cohen, Sr., Commissioner Jamima DeMarcus, and Commissioner Wilborn Swaim. Absent: Commissioner George Knox.

Chairman Messinger called the meeting to order and Commissioner Swaim opened in prayer.

In regards to the February 3, 1988 Minutes, Chairman Messinger noted the change that needed to be made on the last paragraph of Page 3 as being George Knox instead of George Kluttz. With this correction noted, Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to approve the minutes of February 3, 22, 23, 24 and March 1. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval.

As additions to the agenda:

- 1) Commissioner Cohen will discuss issues on the Sheriff's Department.
- 2) Chairman Messinger will discuss the following:
 - a) Post Office
 - b) March 22, 1988 letter to the Schools--He will discuss action that needs to be taken prior to May 16.
 - c) Prenatal Clinic
- 3) Commissioner DeMarcus will discuss Animal Control.

Tim Russell, County Manager suggested the following to the Commission:

- a) Suggested moving the Executive Session in regards to Landfill around 10:30 a.m.
- b) Suggested having an Executive Session in regards to Personnel due to recommendations that have been made by the Personnel Advisory Committee.
- c) Suggested deferring the Certificate of Appreciation to Millie Fink due to her absence.
- d) Update on Finance Director interviews. Due to the closing on interviews for this position being on April 7, 1988, Tim Russell, recommended that the Commission interview these people next week.

e) Update on the CPA proposals contract.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Letter dated March 22, 1988 outlining the proposal for the School Budget this year and providing some indication of what might be expected next year in 1988-89 as far as funding for current expense. Tim Russell stated that the Commission would need to determine the definition of local funding. Tim Russell also discussed the worksheet attached to the letter as well as the letter dated March 25, 1988 from Tom Neely, Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee. Chairman Messinger stated by May 16, the Schools would be well into their budgeting process. He suggested that the Commission discuss this matter with the School Board and the Finance Officer in determining the ground rules for reporting Current Expense.

A copy of a thank you note from Harry Sifford indicating his appreciation for the flowers that the Commission sent to him.

Letter dated March 17, 1988 from the North Carolina Department of Transportation notifying the County that the Aviation Board has approved a grant of \$40,655. This grant is part of what was applied for six (6) months ago. One phase of this grant has been given to the County. The purpose of the grant is to extend and pave the taxiway.

Letter dated March 15, 1988 from the Salisbury-Rowan Community Service Council, Inc. to Mr. Larry J. Parker, Manager of HUD, requesting a 90-day extension in the transition of the Section 8 Housing Program to the Rowan County Housing Authority.

Letter dated February 26, 1988 from the Bladen County Board of Commissioners in regard to Volunteer Fire Services. Bladen County is supporting Senate Bill 109 entitled "An Act to Permit Pensioners in the Fireman's and Rescue Workers Pension Fund to Perform Volunteer Duties while receiving a Pension". Bladen County submitted a resolution requesting all Boards throughout the State adopt this resolution or one similar supporting Senate Bill 109. Commissioner DeMarcus made motion to approve this resolution and Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval.

Letter dated March 9, 1988 from Bill Gray to Southern Bell indicating his concern for the 47 cents per month being collected by Southern Bell for the cost of the 911 installation.

Letter dated March 14, 1988 from the North Carolina Department of Transportation indicating the Transportation Improvement Program's Public Meeting dates.

Letter dated March 18, 1988 from Susan Adams, Budget Analyst, of the State of North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management, reporting the balance in the Capital School Building Program Fund through March the total accumulations plus interest is \$602,118.11.

Letter dated March 14, 1988 from the Salisbury-Rowan Chamber of Commerce from Jim Hicks, President indicating that the Board has taken two significant steps that will affect the future of citizens in Rowan County:

- 1) Passed a Resolution to support the moving of the landfill and the expansion of the airport.
- 2) Create an Educational Task Force which will work with the School Boards to make the educational systems a model for the rest of State.

Letter dated March 22, 1988 from Harry Whalen, Director of the Economic Development Commission indicating a one-day conference on April 19, 1988 by the North Carolina Industrial Developers Association in Raleigh.

Minutes from the Soil and Water Conservation District held March 17, 1988.

ROAD PETITIONS:

Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to approve the following road petition to be added to the State System and Commission Swaim seconded with unanimous approval:

New addition (Lockhart Road) was built by the North Carolina Department of Transportation as a detour for the bridge construction on I-85 within the right of way of Moose Road.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

Rowan-Salisbury Human Relations Council - Commissioner DeMarcus nominated Ms. Mary Deal, from the South Rowan area, to serve on this Board. Commissioner Swaim made motion to appoint Ms. Deal by acclamation. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval.

Chairman Messinger designated Commissioner DeMarcus to the Board at the Rufty-Holmes Senior Center as the designated voting

member. Commissioner Swaim made motion to approve and Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT - WAYNE SIMPSON:

Wayne Simpson reported that the advertising for delinquent accounts went very well. He requested the authority from the Commission to collect Schedule B and Beer and Wine License as using the same fees as stated in the Rowan County Ordinance. Beer and Wine Licenses are to be collected prior to May 1 and Schedule B before July 1. These fees are in accordance with State Statutes. Commissioner Swaim made motion to renew the authority of the Tax Collector on Schedule B and Beer and Wine Licenses. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval. Wayne Simpson then presented with the Tax Collector's reported provided to the Commission for their review.

PROCLAMATION OF HOME AND LIVING WEEK:

Tim Russell read the Resolution to the Commission for its approval of establishing the week of April 4 - 10, 1988 to be Home and Living Week in Rowan County. Commissioner Demarcus made a motion to adopt the resolution and Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval.

REQUEST TO PURCHASE PROPERTY FROM COUNTY & CITY:

Tim Russell stated that in a letter dated March 23, 1988, Mr. Graham M. Carlton, Jr. is requesting that the County and City sell a piece of property on Tax Map 12, Parcel 154. The minimum bid will be the appraised value of the property which is \$6,380. Since the City is part-owner, they have agreed to selling the property. Commissioner DeMarcus made motion to allow the City to handle the contract. Commissioner Swaim seconded with unanimous approval.

APPROVAL OF NUTRITION CONTRACT FOR 1988-89 FOR OFFICE ON AGING -
CLYDE FAHNESTOCK:

Clyde Fahnestock requested the Commission to award the fiscal year 1988-89 Food Contract in excess of \$200,000 to McCabe's of Kannapolis. This bid is a \$1.9801 per meal which is 3 cents less than the \$2.01 that the Office on Aging is currently paying. This bid is the lowest in the region for the same menu. Commissioner Swaim made a motion to approve the contract to McCabe's Restaurant

in supplying the food for the Nutrition Project. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

RESOLUTION FOR AIRPORT:

Tim Russell proposed the Resolution to Relocate County Sanitary Landfill and Improve Safety At County Airport to the Commission for approval. He proceeded to read this Resolution. Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion that this resolution be adopted. Commissioner Swaim seconded with unanimous approval.

UPDATE ON FIRE PROTECTION AGREEMENT WITH TOWN OF LANDIS -
WAYNE ASHWORTH:

Wayne Ashworth stated that the Town of Landis has agreed to furnish fire protection for a certain area outside of the town's limits. He stated that this is the same area that Landis would be covering if the No Man's Land Agreement is ratified. The Town of Landis is requesting payment from the County for fire protection outside of the town's limits similar to what the Board of Commissioners approved for China Grove. Wayne Ashworth said he could allocate the money involved out of their budget for the remainder of this year. The allocation would be \$225 per month. Commissioner Swaim made a motion to approve this agreement with the Town of Landis. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval effective April 1, 1988 to allocate to Landis for coverage of the No Man's Land Agreement.

Commissioner DeMarcus made motion on go into Executive Session and Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval. Commissioner Cohen made motion to come out of Executive Session and Commissioner Swaim seconded with no action taken.

UPDATE ON LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT - BILL BURGIN:

Bill Burgin stated that the circular stairs are installed. This stair will connect the three (3) floors of the Library Building. Bill Burgin stated that they have received bids on the furniture for the Library. The bids were taken for four (4) sections of the Library. The two (2) largest sections were accepted for \$250,000. One of the sections for approximately \$50,000 will be rebid because the specifications were not clear. One section of approximately \$20,000 for miscellaneous items will be purchased on an "as-need" basis.

UPDATE OF SOCIAL SERVICES RENOVATIONS - DOUG TENNANT:

Doug Tennant stated that the heating and air conditioning is 85% complete. Doug Tennant stated that the electrical work is in good shape and some of the painting has been started as well as the ceilings. Edwin Koontz asked the Commission on its decision for the location of the war plaques. Chairman Messinger stated that a decision will be made within a couple of weeks.

UPDATE OF COUNTY RECYCLING PROGRAM - PAUL CANUP

Paul Canup expressed the problem to the Commission of getting the materials put into the proper bins. He also stated that the clear glass bin is nearly full and the green and brown glass barely cover the bottom of the container. He suggested putting clear signs on all the bins and use smaller bins for the colored glass. Commissioner DeMarcus suggested making a redivision in one of the bins and use two (2) of the large bins for clear glass. Paul Canup also expressed the concern of people putting newspaper in brown bags and cardboard boxes and throwing them in the bin. He also expressed the concern that there is a problem with trash getting into the bins. He stated that they are trying to help this situation by locking up the bins at the fairgrounds since that is where a lot of the trash is located. Tim Russell addressed the issue of looking into directional signs as well as educating the public on where the sites are located and what can be recycled. Commissioner DeMarcus stated that the people are wanting to know what kinds of cardboard can be recycled.

Commissioner DeMarcus reported that the Greenbox site in China Grove is badly abused and would make it difficult for an emergency vehicle to get through this area. Commissioner DeMarcus brought to the attention of the Commission that a one County has enacted an ordinance and a fine for construction people who take their materials to the greenboxes instead of the landfill. Commissioner DeMarcus suggested finding some models from other Counties and enact some ordinances concerning this. Commissioner Cohen suggested looking into this and passing a resolution or ordinance that only private individuals can use the greenboxes. Commissioner Cohen also suggested this be developed by the next meeting.

STRATEGIC PLANNING - JIM HICKS

Jim Hicks made a presentation to the Commission at the request of Chairman Messinger. Jim Hicks suggested that the Commission

endorse the Strategic Planning Process by committing to financial resources that has been estimated at \$25,000 over the next three (3) years and appoint people to serve on the Steering Committee. Commissioner Cohen stated that Strategic Planning should be advisory to the Commission instead of suggesting new ways to spend money. Commissioner DeMarcus felt that Strategic Planning should be introduced at a time mutually agreed upon and with a great deal of enthusiasm.

Commissioner DeMarcus suggested that the Chamber of Commerce support the issues the Commission is working on at the present time. There is a great need for education as well as getting information out to the public on the Recycling Program and Airport issues. Jim Hicks stated that the philosophy behind Strategic Planning is to move on the things that are five (5) years down the road in order to reach those goals.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Tim Russell, County Manager, provided the Commission with a copy of the Personnel Activity Report for the month of March.

The County Manager reported interest earned through March 30, 1988 amounted to \$484,958

The County Manager reported refunds:

- TO: Pete Clark the amount of \$20.16 from Dan Nowokunski (Contractor).
Reason - Did not realize this was in territory covered by Cabarrus County Inspection Department
- TO: Elsie J. Johnson the amount of \$15.00 from Jean Ramsey, Register of Deeds.
Reason - Excise Tax stamps were paid incorrectly. The amount should have been \$2 instead of \$17.
- TO: Ambulance in the amount of \$222.77
Reason - Five (5) refund request.
- TO: Ernest John Jackson in the amount of \$43.30 from the County Assessor's Office.
Reason - Listed a 1986 Nissan in January 1987. The Vehicle was leased from World Omni Leasing who listed and also paid taxes on the same.
- TO: World Omni Leasing Inc. in the amount of \$41.95 from

Tax Supervisor's Office.

Reason - 1986 Toyota truck was listed in both Cleveland and Rowan County and taxes paid to both counties. The vehicle should have been listed in Cleveland County.

Commissioner Cohen made a motion to approve refunds and Commissioner Swaim seconded with unanimous approval.

A Budget Request by the Rowan Public Library stated that additional State Aid was received in the amount of \$1,938 and \$2,069 in additional Federal Aid this year. It was requested that the Commission accept these funds for the construction project for the automation system. Total Amount is \$4,007 to be transferred in the Capital Project Fund. Commissioner Swaim made a motion to approve and Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner DeMarcus reported that Phyllis Wright, National Animal Control Humane Officer, will be in the area either this month or in May. Commissioner DeMarcus suggested setting a date for her to meet with the Commission to discuss Animal Control possibly in a public meeting. Commissioner Cohen suggested having some information put together as to how much is being generated in fees. In a memo from Dr. T. L. James, DVM, he is requesting that under GS 130A-188 that the vaccination fee be increased from \$5 to \$7 both for the clinics and for those animals vaccinated in the County Animal Control Program. Commissioner Swaim made a motion to approve and Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval.

Chairman Messinger reported that Dr. Kirtley, who has been doing most of the examining for the prenatal clinic has requested to be relieved after one year. Mr. Hawley feels that the Health Department has adequate provisions for someone to take his place.

Commissioner Cohen reported the following Budget Amendments:

- 1) Line Item 4320-153 - Physician Fees
As of February 26, the account balance was \$2,064.97. The original line was \$17,340. At the current Expenditure Rate, an additional \$5,600 will be needed to end the fiscal year. Rowan County Jail has housed a high number of felonies over a long period of time. This trend is expected to continue due to more drastic court delays, backlog, prison rule changes, etc. It was recommended that additional funds be solicited from the Board of Rowan County Commissioners to balance this account. The \$5,600 request is only a projected figure.

Commissioner Cohen expressed the concern that if an inmate requests medical attention and does not receive it, the County would face a tremendous liability should anything happen to that person. Tim Russell stated that it would be ideal in this situation to see if the Sheriff has this amount in his budget that has not been used.

Commissioner Cohen stated that the Sheriff's Department was not aware that they have to pay time and a half on holidays. The Sheriff is now using a great deal of his salary money in order to pay this.

- 2) Line Item 4310-331 - Electricity:
Evaluation of the 1986-87 Budget revealed that no additional appropriations were budgeted to operate the recently installed air conditioning system for the jail. The evaluation reflects a need of an additional \$5,500 to \$6,000 to cover the electrical expense for the remainder of the year. Tim Russell stated that the Sheriff may have an area in his budget that he can reallocated as opposed to spending new money.

Ken Deal stated that the County Policy allows each employee eleven (11) holidays. If an employee works on a holiday, then that person is allowed another day off plus time and a half or compensation. Commissioner Cohen suggested readdressing the policy manual.

Chairman Messinger stated that during their meeting in Washington a few weeks ago, Commissioner Swaim and himself attended a meeting on Alternative to Jail Incarceration. Chairman Messinger intends to appoint himself to Chairman of the subcommittee to research this issue. Although the Commission has not received a request from the jail and court, their needs would be substantial.

Chairman Messinger requested the County Manager ask the Tax Assessor to look into the property surrounding the Courthouse as well as the County Building and then provide the Commission with a sketch of the property and who owns it. Commissioner Cohen will be talking with the people who own the Rufty Building to determine what is available as well as what options are available.

Chairman Messinger reported that Jim Hurley is not interested in having the Post Office in his new building across West Innes Street. He stated that the Commissioner will move ahead on the Building at 110 W. Innes Street for an alternative on the Post Office location.

Chairman Messinger stated that ten (10) days ago he attended a luncheon at Livingstone College at which the principal people there were from the Keenan Company of Columbia, South Carolina. Livingstone has chosen them to be the advisor, developer, and Consultant in regards to the 200+ acres that the College owns on Jake Alexander Boulevard.

Commissioner Cohen stated in regards to the Letter on the South Rowan YMCA that the Schools should not be in competition with Private Enterprise. Commissioner DeMarcus felt that this is an excellent program where private people are offering this service and it should not take away from private enterprise. Commissioner Cohen stated that he would present this issue to the School Board Meeting Thursday night with a letter that the County Manager will prepare.

Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters and Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval. Commissioner Cohen made a motion to come out of Executive Session and Commissioner Swaim seconded with the following action taken:

- 1) Commission to request State Personnel to authorize the County to administer the following merit principles:
 - a) Recruitment & Selection
 - b) Training
 - c) Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action
 - d) Political Activity

If approved by the State, this will enable the County to have authority over the above areas previously handled by the State. Commissioner Swaim made a motion to approve this request and Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

- 2) Request to abolish requirement of Instructional Certification on behalf of the Career Development Plan for the Sheriff's Office. Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to approve this and Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval.
- 3) Request to award merits on a quarterly basis as opposed to an annual basis effective April 1, 1988. Commissioner Swaim made a motion to approve this request and Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval.
- 4) Request to authorize Tax Collector to recruit one additional "Office Assistant". This is not actually adding a new staff member, but reclassifying a current position. Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to approve this request and Commissioner

Swaim seconded with unanimous approval.

After the action was taken above, Wallace Peeler presented a case of appeal in the Board of Equalization and Review for 1988. After this case was heard by the Commission, Commissioner Swaim made a motion to adjourn this session and Chairman Messinger Seconded with unanimous approval.

Tim Russell brought to the attention of the Commission the three (3) Proposals for CPA Auditing Contracts. He stated that the deadline for submitting proposals for auditing was Friday, April 1, 1988. He reported that McCoy & Hillard and Potter & Company gave the two (2) most complete proposals. Tim Russell will provide the Commission with all three (3) of the proposals for their review. He stated that these companies need to know as soon as possible because their field work starts in May, 1988.

Meeting was adjourned by Chairman Messinger at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy S. Powell
Clerk to the Board