

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
BUDGET HEARING  
MAY 24, 1988

The Board of Rowan County Commissioners met in Adjourned Session in the Community Building on May 24, 1988 at 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT: Richard D. Messinger, Chairman  
J. Newton Cohen, Sr., Vice-Chairman  
Wilborn Swaim, Member  
George C. Knox, Member  
Jamima DeMarcus, Member

The County Manager, Finance Director, and Clerk to the Board were also present.

Chairman Messinger called the meeting to order and Commissioner DeMarcus gave the invocation.

NORTH CAROLINA TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM:

Mr. Charlie Peacock presented his budget to the Commission. He provided a brochure to the Commission. Mr. Peacock stated that they have committed to Alpha Video of Durham, North Carolina, in a contract to produce a 28 1/2 minute video. This video will be shown primarily on public television as well as to school children throughout the State of North Carolina. The purpose of this video is to educate the people on what Rowan County has to offer at the Transportation History Center. This video production will cost approximately \$47,300. They have raised from the Hurley Foundation approximately \$10,000 and \$10,000 from the Salisbury Post. They were supposed to be receiving \$5,000 from Ralph Ketner who said that Roses would automatically match his allocation. Roses will not match unless it is an educational institution; therefore, they are \$5,000 short. In addition to this, they did acquire \$1,910 from the Travel and Tourism Committee out of Raleigh, North Carolina, which will go towards offsetting the cost of the video.

They have utilized in excess of 10,000 volunteer hours from January 1 through May 1. These are skilled craftsmen. Mr. Peacock feels they have demonstrated a willingness and attraction through the Spencer Shops. In closing, Mr. Peacock is requesting the County fund \$10,000. They have acquired \$26,000 of the \$47,300 contract.

Chairman Messinger stated at some point, the County should phase out of being a contributor to this Museum and the State should take over funding. Charlie Peacock concurred and stated that the Museum should be recognized by the State as it has potential.

SALISBURY-ROWAN HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL:

Reverend John Wilkerson presented the budget to the Commission. One of their biggest accomplishments over the past year was forming a Coalition on the Homeless. Growing out of this Coalition is the formation of a new corporation called Sheltered Ministries of Rowan County. This is a nine (9)-member Board appointed by the Council.

Rev. Wilkerson is requesting \$2,025 be funded by the County. This request is also being made to the City of Salisbury. This is to cover such expenses as special programs, projects, and workshops. Two (2) events that this Council would like to observe are Martin Luther King's Birthday and Human Relations Week during February of 1989. In addition to this, they hope to have four (4) area workshops in different parts of the County to bring to the attention of people within the County to promote good human relations. They also hope to continue training the members of the Council whenever training opportunities are provided. There is training provided through the State Human Relations Council, North Carolinians Against Racial and Religious Violence, North Carolina Council of Churches, and other well established bodies. Rev. Wilkerson stated that the request for \$2,025 from the County reflects slightly more ambition for educating the community.

In regards to the Shelter Ministries, the first priority is to establish a permanent emergency shelter for transients. The second priority is to work in conjunction with the Family of Youth Council. There is no shelter in Rowan County for which there is a need. There is also a need for a Shelter for Battered Women and Children in Rowan County; otherwise, the women may leave the County and sometimes this places their job in jeopardy.

#### ARMY AVIATION SUPPORT FACILITY:

Colonel J. Owens presented their budget to the Commission. He stated that this year's budget request is less than last year's as they were occupying a new building last year. There are a lot of "housekeeping" items needs that are being requested for the County to fund in the amount of \$4,125. These items are not covered by the State or Federal Government.

#### CABARRUS-ROWAN PARK COMMISSION:

Mr. Jim Foltz, Director of the Parks, presented their budget to the Commission. Mr. Foltz indicated that they have had two (2) additions to their parks in the past year which did not cost the taxpayers any money. Mr. Foltz is requesting that the County fund \$13,242 of their \$61,616 budget. The City of Kannapolis will fund \$10,593 and Cabarrus is still funding 55% which is \$29,131. This request does not include cementing the two (2) shelter floors as this was presented in their five (5)-year plan as Capital Outlay. Chairman Messinger confirmed that they are requesting an additional \$3,424 for Capital Improvement to cement the two (2) shelter floors as presented in their five (5)-year plan.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Tim Russell, County Manager, presented a request to the Commission from Mr. W. E. Winstead, Right of Way Agency, to allow the North Carolina Department of Transportation to enter areas outside the right of way in order to widen Jack Alexander Boulevard. The North Carolina Department of Transportation has offered the County \$3,700 for the portion of the road that will be taken away. Commissioner Swaim made a motion to approve this request and Commissioner Knox seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Cohen expressed the concern of the Economic Development Commission (EDC) proposing to move to the Wachovia Bank Building. They are presently located in the Chamber Building. Commissioner Cohen stated that if the EDC moved from the Chamber Building into a bank, they would be commercializing and giving one lending institution a very definite edge as well as receiving free rent from Wachovia.

The County Manager reported that the Capital Building Fund in Raleigh through May totals \$1,259,533.40 (Revenue plus Interest). In reply to Commissioner Swaim's concern, Mr. Russell stated that the School Board must submit a plan to use their funds after the School Board as well as the County Commissioners' approval. The funds would then be received through the County Finance Office. Commissioner Swaim asked if this fund includes both increases of Sales Tax for Schools. Mr. Russell replied that this allocation would be funded out of Corporate Income Tax.

In Article 40, which was passed and enacted in 1983 (the Commission enacted as early as 1984), specifies that 40% of Sales Tax Funds are unrestricted for Schools. This year this changes from 40% (unrestricted) and 60% (restricted) to 30% (restricted) and 70% (unrestricted).

A second 1/2 Cent Sales Tax, which is Article 42, was enacted in 1986 by the General Assembly and earmarked at 60% (restricted) and 40% (unrestricted) for Schools. The State did have a declining balance over eleven (11) years but when they enacted these Articles, they fixed the rate for eleven (11) years at 60%. The Schools now receive 90% of 1/2 Cent Sales Taxes. The unrestricted amount goes to the General Fund.

In reference to the revenue sheet given to the Commission, the County Manager stated that the Local Option is one (1) cent. This one (1) cent comes back to the County based on all sales generated. The 1/2 Cent Sales Tax restricted is based on population, and this is why the County receives more proportionally than the County does on the one (1) cent. Mr. Russell stated that these funds are the

total assessment and has not been budgeted as it is held in Raleigh for the County Commission to appropriate at any time.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION:

Mr. R. O. Everett stated to the Commission that he feels the past three (3) years have not only been a challenge but a successful achievement in this organization. They are well organized in presentations of site data, statistics, and availability of prospects.

Mr. Harry Whalen, Director of the EDC, then presented the budget to the Commission. Mr. Whalen provided the Commission with their new brochure entitled "But Where in North Carolina". He stated that they have leads on advertisements, plant sites, parks, and area development magazines, which are recognized magazines in the industrial development profession. The County's unemployment rate averages from 3.2 to 4.3 percent. Four (4) percent is considered full employment.

The Economic Development Commission is seeking a a Capital intensive type operation to generate jobs as well as tax base. Mr. Whalen assured the Commission that he will continue the philosophies of the past three (3) years by looking for environmentally sound and safe industries that do not omit any odors or any type of offense whether it be noise or smell from the facilities.

The EDC has budgeted approximately \$10,000 for advertising to cover co-op advertising with some participating counties and/or industrial park developers in Rowan County. Mr. Whalen indicated that food processing industries and metal working operations are some targeted industries for the upcoming year.

The EDC has submitted a budget request of approximately \$71,000 to the Commission. The Line Item increase is covered in Administrative Expenses, placing emphasis on mailing, telephone, and advertising expenses.

Mr. Whalen reported that he has received quotes and contacted four (4) vehicle distributors in the County as well as outside the County for the possibility of leasing and purchasing a 4-wheel vehicle. It has been discussed with the County Manager as to the possibility of acquiring this through State contract. Mr. Russell indicated that if the EDC could purchase this vehicle on State contract, it would be less expensive than buying local. State contracts come out in November or December and could probably be delivered in January. Mr. Whalen stated that they presently have a Buick Century and the lease expires at the end of June on this vehicle. On several occasions, it has been necessary to use the County's vehicle. The EDC would like to replace their current leased vehicle with a Jeep Cherokee. He feels that a Jeep Wagoneer and Suburban are too large. The line item for a vehicle would cover the mortgage payments. Mr. Russell reported that a Jeep bought on

State contract for approximately \$14,000 would retail for \$22,000 or \$25,000.

Commissioner Swaim addressed the concern regarding an increase in salaries by stating that the County is granting a 4 1/2% increase and cannot justify approving more than this for other organizations. Mr. R. O. Everett briefly stated that the concern of the EDC has been to retain the momentum of the projects and efforts that they are pursuing. Their concern would be to keep Mr. Whalen in Salisbury and feel that the marketplace would provide some additional compensation that they are not paying at the present time. This is why they are proposing an increase in salary. Commissioner Swaim noted that the County has the same concern for their own employees.

Commissioner Cohen addressed the concern of the EDC considering to move to Wachovia Bank. Mr. Whalen stated that the Chamber of Commerce has been very gracious to provide them with office space for the past 3 1/2 years. As far as establishing identity, the EDC is looking at location with more accommodations and meeting rooms that can be used on a confidential basis with prospects. Presently, they do not have a waiting area and can only place two (2) people in his office at one time for a meeting. They have looked at a few locations in the downtown area, and the Wachovia Building is one of those locations that the bank has brought to their attention. He stated that it is a decision the Board of Directors will be making in the next few months. This would give them a private access area as well as a more prestigious location environment to sell clients on Rowan County.

Partners for Progress will be kicked off this year, and the EDC is looking at this program to absorb some of the funding for advertising programs, tourism promotion for the Chamber of Commerce, and downtown promotion for the Central Salisbury Corporation. This is their reason for wanting to obtain a new location. However, they still hope to retain strong contact with the Chamber in their activity and support of the EDC's programs. Commissioner Swaim requested the EDC to reconsider moving to a new location as he feels the advantages of being with the Chamber of Commerce would outweigh the space at the Chamber.

Mr. Whalen indicated that it takes active participation of the community leaders and elected officials to make the EDC work. Commissioner Knox then asked how the report was with outlining communities such as Cleveland, Rockwell, and Granite Quarry. Mr. Whalen feels positive about this, but there has been some inactive participation on the parts of various smaller municipalities. There appears to be a lack of understanding on the part of the municipalities--the EDC does not dictate where industry goes in this County. Industry that comes in is actively involved at the County

and the Municipal level with elected officials and business leaders. In the past two (2) months, the EDC has requested each of the communities to assist in the identical of at least three (3) industrial sites in their community seeking active participation. As a result of this, two (2) communities have verbally responded, and no indication has been made from the other communities. Commissioner Knox stated that he would accompany Mr. Whalen to some of the smaller communities in asking that they actively become involved in this endeavor.

Commissioner Cohen stated that in the last year, they were asked to provide Senate Bill 2 funds to run sewer and water to several industrial parks and were told that spec buildings would be built in these parks. He then asked Mr. Whalen to give a report as to the status of these parks. Mr. Whalen replied that approximately two (2) years ago, using Senate Bill 2 funds, a group of investors built a 31,500 square foot spec building. This has been another key objective of the EDC in the promotion of spec buildings in Rowan County. There have been some local investors that have bought approximately sixteen (16) acres in this park and are proposing to put a rail spur into it to construct a second 30,000 square foot building in this park. This is still being discussed. The Julian Road industrial park, developed by Leo Wallace, has more than sixty (60) acres under development. Fisher Realty is in the process of grading for a 20,000 square foot spec building at this park. Oakwood I is a forty-two (42) acre industrial park that Senate Bill 2 funds are shared in. They are nearing completion on a 30,000 square foot spec building. These parks have taken about two (2) years in conception and completion and have now gotten gravel on the roads and paving should be completed in the next two (2) or three (3) weeks. Southmark Industrial Park at 29 Cedar Springs Road is approximately 107 acres. Mr. Whalen is anticipating a 60,000 square foot spec building at this park. The EDC is looking at local investors to participate in the construction of this spec building.

#### VOCATIONAL WORKSHOP:

Ms. Juanita Olsen presented their budget to the Commission. She brought the Commission up to date on the following items that the Commission has been working with her on:

- 1) Commissioner Cohen asked of her at a previous meeting if the Board of Directors would seriously consider getting into the Transportation System that the County wanted to start. As a result, this is working very well. Although they were having some difficult months due to the vans not being in good condition. Now three (3) new vans have arrived. It was also very difficult for the clients to get used to someone else picking them up as her drivers have catered to their needs and

now the new drivers do not have time to do this.

- 2) Shuford School - They have ran into problems they did not anticipate. The owners turned over the keys to her last September. Since then the Vocational Workshop has painted the school and fixed it up but there was no heat and no furnace. Since that time, they had been trying to acquire funds for a furnace and now it is installed. They have now discovered that all the pipes were disconnected twenty (20) years ago and the piping has to be redone. If things go well, they should be in about the first week in June.

The budget prepared for the Commission's consideration is based on the needs of the satellite program in Granite Quarry. None of the funds would go to the Shuford School. This satellite program has been in operation since March, 1988. They have seventeen (17) clients that are profoundly handicap both physically and mentally. They have four (4) staff members and one (1) is paid through the Mental Health Community Alternative Program art funds. This person is responsible for one (1) client. Only two (2) clients are accepted in this particular program.

The only change made at this point concerns a change in staff members during the years which alters the salary. Therefore, a 5% increase for staff was budgeted as has been done for most of the years.

Commissioner DeMarcus asked Ms. Olsen if the Workshop was still in recycling. She replied that shortly after they got into recycling, they did \$100,000 in business in one (1) year. This has been one of the best ventures they have gotten into. This gives the clients a lot of exposure to the general public and is excellent training for them to learn to handle money and use the machine as well as weighing cans.

#### FORESTRY SERVICE:

Mr. Victor Owen presented this budget to the Commission. He stated that it is quite similar as to last time. However, he did indicate that there is a mistake in the request to replace the County Ranger's truck. This should read the "to replace the Assistant County Ranger's truck". The County Ranger's truck has been replaced. The possible salary increase came from their central office in Raleigh, and their recommendation is estimated at 10% as it cannot be anticipated what the legislature will do. The maintenance fees include is for the maintenance on this office. There is also a slight increase in the equipment purchase this year over last year due to the new truck. They will need to replace the

pump that was on the existing County Ranger's truck as well as replacing pagers.

Commissioner DeMarcus confirmed that the County pays 40% of their budget and the State pays up to 60%. Chairman Messinger clarified that the Forestry Service budgeted \$29,600 this year for continuation budget and the expansion budget would be another \$38,020. Two (2) years ago the cost of the County appropriation was \$20,990 and this year the increase resulted from the replacement of the truck. Mr. Russell indicated that this cost should be reduced once the replacement of the Capital Outlay items are obtained. Mr. Owens indicated that they replace trucks every 100,000 miles (approximately five (5) years).

#### SALISBURY-ROWAN COMMUNITY SERVICE COUNCIL:

Ms. Diane Seller, Director of the Home Management Program, presented the budget to the Commission. She stated that Home Manager is an old program that has an excellent history with the agency. However, this program has always been limited to serving person that live within the city limits of Salisbury. They are requesting from the County consideration to assist them in expanding to the County. They have requested from the Children's Trust Fund a \$50,000 grant for the next three (3) years. They feel their chances of getting these funds will be increased if they receive support from the County as well. They have already been approved for the Community Block Grant in the amount of \$17,000 for this next funding year through the City of Salisbury. They presently have \$3,000 in carry over funds that they can also utilize. They are requesting the County to fund \$5,000 of their budget.

On the sheet provided to the Commission for their review, Column B represents where the funds would be applied unless the Commission has other recommendations.

Commissioner Knox asked that she discuss the Home Management Program throughout Rowan County. Ms. Seller replied that they started this program approximately twenty (20) years ago. This was set up in a house to perform demonstrations and projects in the City. As community action money dwindled over the years, the project has gotten smaller. She went to a full time director for this project about sixty (60) days ago and although their funds have been limited, they have had some great successes. They teach citizens to take care of their standard housing needs. They show them safety in the home as well as pest control and other basic survival rules as they are both educationally and socially declined. During this program year, they have had thirty-one (31) group classes and a total of 337 people in attendance. This does not include any type of one-on-one budgeting.

Commissioner Knox stated that the funds with the State (The Children's Trust Fund) are geared towards the provision of child neglect and/or abuse. It is not always will neglect or abuse but through social and education deprivation. Ms. Seller indicated that they are hoping to expand their program to have no less than three (3) staff persons.

The Commission was also provided with a statement from the Rowan County Department of Social Services supporting the Council as this Council does not cross over on program responsibilities. This is one of the requirements of the State before funding is considered. Ms. Seller reported that three (3) out of four (4) welfare recipients are in need of this service. In reply to Commissioner Cohen's concern, Ms. Seller stated that they are not funded by tax dollars but entitlement money.

#### OTHER BUSINESS:

The County Manager reported that Rowan County Schools has requested to make budget transfers. Mr. Russell stated that they want to actually revise their capital projects fund for a \$30,462 increase in school bus garage additions taking this from roofs, athletic field lights, and Enochville Steam Line. Commissioner Cohen stated that he is not in support of raising the 1/2 Cent Sales Tax to build the Horizons Unlimited when the Schools have these funds and all they have to do is apply for them. Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to approve the Schools' request and Commissioner Knox seconded. This was approved and passed by Chairman Messinger and Commissioners DeMarcus, Knox, and Swaim and was opposed by Commissioner Cohen.

The City of Salisbury has requested the Commission make an appointment to their extraterritorial Planning Board. Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to appoint Mr. Tom Ayers and Commissioner Swaim seconded. This was approved and passed by Chairman Messinger and Commissioners DeMarcus, Knox, and Swaim. Commissioner Cohen abstained his vote.

The City of Spencer requested a similar appointment. They are requesting the County Commission make the following appointments to the Board of Adjustments: Mr. Albert S. Stout, Mr. W. L. Noles, and Mr. Phillip A. Sparger. They are also requesting that the Commission reappoint Mr. Walter E. Goodlet, Sr. and appoint Mr. Ted K. Barnes to the Spencer Planning Board. Commissioner Knox made a motion to approve this recommendation made by the Town of Spencer and Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

The County Manger reported that the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners' Annual Conference in July requires a voting delegate. This person should represent the Commission on any votes that will be taken. Commissioner DeMarcus suggested that the Chairman be appointed the voting delegate and the Vice-Chairman be appointed the alternate voting delegate. This suggestion met with the consensus of the Board.

#### SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION:

Mr. Lipe Barrier presented this budget to the Commission. They are requesting \$3,500 for Operating Funds due to the cost of repairs and supplies that have been incurred in the past year. They also receive funding from the State, but there are some limitations as to what these funds can be used for. They are also requesting 50% funding for the District's Soil Conservation Technician Salary and Benefits in the amount of \$10,500. They presently have a Soil Technician in the office as of May 2, 1988 which came through the appropriations presented to the Commission in February. Because of their budget process with the State, these funds should be appropriated through the County to represent a County employee. They are also requesting \$3,000 to be administered through their office for the expense of the Technician. A full time District Secretary is also being requested to the Commission. It is requested that the County fund this position at a cost of \$11,000. Chairman Messinger and Commissioner DeMarcus raised the concern of the part-time help from the Office on Aging. Mr. Barrier replied that this started around December 1987. The problem is that their secretarial request is not a regular typing and filing position--there are plans that need to be put together. The actual duties for this position would consist of answering approximately fifteen (15) calls per week, opening mail, filing correspondence, assisting the public, maintaining records, reports, and other similar materials, assemble materials for the board members and weekly radio programs and newspaper activities, type and assemble the new conservation plan, long-term agreements, and conservation reserve program, and provide regular conservation assistance. This secretary would spend approximately 1,510 hours annually.

Commissioner DeMarcus felt that Ms. Donnie Whitesides should have been placed in this department from the beginning due to her experience. Commissioner DeMarcus felt that the request they are making would require special on-the-job training and would need to be someone with the skills such as Ms. Whitesides.

#### RUFY-HOLMES SENIOR CENTER:

Ms. Faye Giles, Chairman, presented the budget to the Commission. Ms. Giles represents the Evergreen Senior Activity Center, operator of the Rufty-Holmes Senior Center. The Center has been in operation since January 4 and averages 15,000 registered guests each month. The activities vary from small craft classes to large informational gatherings. The Local Chapter AARP meets monthly at the Center. She noted that several activities and screenings were being done for the senior citizens. The staff and board are constantly seeking new programs and activities to fill the needs and wishes of the senior citizens of Rowan County.

They have requested appropriations of \$30,000 for their next fiscal year. Chairman Messinger then asked for clarification of the Rufty-Holmes Senior Center and Evergreen Senior Center. Mr. Giles replied that they were incorporated under the name of Evergreen Senior Activity Center, Inc. and have retained this name even after the Rufty-Holmes Senior Center opened as they are operators of this. Their accountant suggested them do this in case they decided to open another Senior Center at another area of the County. They have also retained the name due to the expense to change all their incorporation papers, etc.

The utilities are funded through the Office on Aging and this arrangement is working very well. There is a constant link between these two (2) organizations as far as even using office equipment. Chairman Messinger clarified that their increase from 25,000 to 30,000 is to fund Operating Expenses and Mrs. Giles concurred. Commissioners DeMarcus and Swaim expressed support for the work the Center is doing.

#### OTHER DISCUSSION:

Chairman Messinger stated that as he copied correspondence to the Commission a couple of weeks ago, Iredell has indicated some problems with funding Tri-County Mental Health. He is looking into this and will keep the Commission informed on anything new that occurs.

The County Manager announced that he received a letter from Mr. Harry Sifford for the Rowan Constitutional Bicentennial. The County has funded approximately \$1,200 for the past three (3) years. This letter indicates support for the same allocation in 1988-89.

In regards to Insurance, the County Manager explained that the County went under a self-insurance pool with Fred S. James Company that the Association of County Commissioners sponsors. This year the County has had no claims. The County does not anticipate any premium increases this coming year so they have budgeted \$200,000 which is last year's figure. The County Manager feels this will result in a savings over what has been spent in the past.

In regards to the County's share of TDP (Transportation Development Plan) vehicles, the County Manager announced that the Rowan Area Transit System has received three (3) new vehicles which arrived Tuesday of last week and the fourth (4th) is in Raleigh still to be delivered. They have also been successful in revising the TDP that the Commission signed last month. As a result, the State has freed up two (2) additional vehicles. They are budgeting \$5,000 next year to pay the 10% match for two (2) vehicles. The County Manager feels their application has already been submitted to Raleigh but thinks they will be in line for two (2) more new vehicles for next year which the Federal Government will pay 90% and the County pay 10%. This represents the 5,000 budget.

Capital Outlay DSS Renovations--This represents the \$95,000 in equipment that Mr. Doug Tennant has already ordered or in process of ordering. The amount of \$62,000 represents the revolving filing system that Mr. Edwin Koontz requested.

In regards to the Post Office located at 110. W. Innes Street, \$50,000 has been budgeted for renovations. Although they have received a verbal agreement, the County Manager stated that they should have the written agreement in hand before the County exercises the option to buy on June 4, 1988.

In regards to the China Grove Cottonmill Building, \$15,000 has been set aside for this donated building if this is accepted.

Commissioner DeMarcus suggested having the Rowan Area Transit System (RATS) name changed.

#### TRI-COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH:

Mr. Daylon Green, Director, noted to the Commission that services continue to be offered by Tri-County which include out-patient services, daytime programs for the mentally ill, developmental daycare for preschool both mentally and retarded, and adult developmental activities which are workshops for mentally ill adults, residential services for the mentally ill including adults and children, and substance abusers, who are provided non-medical detoxication. These services have helped a number of individuals to live within the community and decrease admission rates to the hospitals. Tri-County has increased its number of persons being admitted from twenty-one (21) per month to approximately twenty-five (25) per month. Tri-County is cooperating with Rowan Memorial Hospital in an effort to get a psychiatric unit developed at the hospital.

The Tri-County budget includes the sum of \$55,000 which is being repressed from the State in order to provide for their care while at the hospital. Tri-County provided services both directly and through a contract with approximately seventy-five (75) different agencies or individuals. These range from foster parent families to programs such as the Rowan Vocational Workshop and Rowan Homes, Inc. Funding for these programs come from the State and through the Tri-County Agency.

In their budget for this year, Tri-County is requesting from the County replacement of two (2) vehicles at \$11,000 each and one (1) van at \$16,000. The van has approximately 175,000 miles on it and the other two (2) vehicles have more than 100,000 miles. Although maintenance has been done to the vehicles, the age and the state of their condition causes a great concern.

Group Health Insurance has increased 30%. Prorated among the three (3) counties based on population, the amount requested from Rowan County is \$16,953. Their health insurance is under Blue Cross-Blue Shield. They anticipate Property/Liability to increase 15% for a total of \$4,474. They continue to have concerns about the Federal Wage and Hour Standards for their group homes as they need to provide for additional hours or additional part-time staff. Rowan Homes, which is one of their contracted agencies, recently had a consultant to do a study of their programs. This consultant found that it would be cheaper for them to pay forty-four (44) hours per week for some of the persons who are providing their residential services and paying the additional time and a half as necessary for these hours than it would be to hire someone. This is still being explored but feel they will be going to this recommendation for several of their residential facilities.

They are experiencing a need for more facility space. They are talking with the School System about the possibility of locating the pre-school program in the schools next year. They do not believe this will be possible for the coming year but hope it will be possible for the following year. They have received positive response from the School System but no commitment has been made. They also have a critical need for additional space for the substance abuse program.

Their total request from Rowan County is \$284,544 which is an increase of \$62,042 over last year. The increase would be used to cover the additional cost as noted to the Commission. The pro-rated total cost of these needs according to the 1987 population projection received from the North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management is .129711% for Davie County, .399382% for Iredell County, and .470905% for Rowan County. Tri-County is also requesting a 4 1/2% salary increase for their staff. They will be seeking State funds for this allocation. If they are not able to

receive all the funds that they request from the State, it will be necessary for them to look at cutting these costs. They are hoping to avoid this procedure. Their Board did find last year, that the regional office was able to come up with \$60,000 of additional funds.

Mr. Don Peiffer, the new Finance Officer for Tri-County Mental Health, has been on the Board for approximately nine (9) months. Mr. Greene, then passed out to the Commission a summary of their total budget as well as a copy of the complete budget.

Tri-County is attempting to develop a Planning Committee next year that will be composed of some of their Board members as well as Commission members. This Planning Committee would then research various facets of their programs that need long-term planning. Commissioner Swaim stated that Tri-County is financed primarily by Federal and State funds and asked what determines what portion the County takes over. Mr. Greene replied that there is no state law that states a specific amount that the County must participate in. Commissioner Swaim then asked if any of these programs are mandated by the State. Mr. Greene replied that they are told that they must provide out-patient services and partial hospitalization programs as well as to provide for consultation education and emergency service programs. He stated that the main purpose of the County funds is to provide administration and out-patient services. There are also basic needs that are mandated but the State has not yet funded these. The reason the State does not take up all the funding is because they do emphasize that they form a partnership with the County. At present, Tri-County has approximately 25% of their funds being provided by local sources which include fees.

#### NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY:

Captain Larry Hancock stated that in the past year, they have requested \$500 for the County to fund. Mr. Hancock expressed the need for additional space. Presently they are occupying the drill hall to store equipment. As a result, they are not able to rent the Armory as they did two (2) years ago. However, this should change in six (6) months to a year. The Armory will be receiving new storage buildings. They presently have five (5) and hope to obtain a total of twelve (12). Once these are in place and the fences installed, this will give them a lot of storage space outside the armory to secure equipment as well as to provide the facility for rentals.

They have a non-appropriated fund and every dollar they receive goes into this fund. This is fully monitored very carefully by the State. The funds that they are requesting from the County, which is \$2,500, would be used for essential items.



## SALISBURY-ROWAN COUNCIL ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The purpose of this Council is to improve the quality of life for those with disabilities in the Salisbury-Rowan area. Another purpose is education and would want to distribute materials explaining the needs of persons with disabilities. She made a request to the Commission to improve the Community Building in such a manner that persons with disabilities can attend the Commission meeting in the Red Room. She is requesting the County to fund \$250 to help them maintain their purpose. Commissioner DeMarcus stated that the Commission hopes to have an elevator in the Building soon. Commissioner Cohen added that anytime the Commission has a meeting scheduled and a handicapped person wants to attend, they would meet either downstairs in the Conference Room of the Community Building or the Courthouse where elevator services are available.

## SALISBURY-ROWAN TOURISM AUTHORITY:

Mr. Jim Hicks, Director, spoke in appreciation for what the Commission has done in accordance with the one (1)-Cent Tax and the ABC Funds. Since then, they have established a Board of nine (9) directors which the Commission appointed. They also established a set of bylaws to operate and govern how this Board operates. They have a First Draft of a Missions Statement for their authority and hopefully they will have it established soon. They have published a brochure provided to the Commission. This brochure describes the County and its various attractions. They are now publishing an attachment to the brochure which is a map of Rowan County describing how to get to the different attractions, various eating establishments, and motel accommodations as well as what bank credit cards these establishments accept, type of cuisine the is offered, and when the establishments open. The reason for not making this a part of the brochure is because this information changes rapidly. This insert should be ready by June 30, 1988. He stated that they are using matching State Funds to obtain this.

The Commission has allocated \$7,500 to the Tourism Authority per quarter from ABC Funds. This averages to \$7,000 per quarter from Motel Tax. The Tourism Authority is requesting a full time staff person because their Board cannot dedicate the time that is needed for the organization. According to their bylaws, they anticipate the new Holiday Inn generating more revenue.

Commissioner Knox raised concern that the brochure does not represent the black community as well as Livingstone College. Commissioner DeMarcus stated that this has already been brought to their attention. The brochure was planned before the Tourist Authority was underway. By then, the artwork had been done.

However, this concern will be addressed in future literature as there are several changes that already need to be made.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - LANDFILL:

With no further business, Commissioner Cohen made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss landfill issues and Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval. Commissioner Swaim made a motion to come out of Executive Session and Commissioner Knox seconded with unanimous approval. With no action taken in Executive Session, this budget hearing was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy S. Powell  
Clerk to the Board