

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 12, 1988

The Board of Rowan County Commissioners met in Regular Session in the Community Building on September 12, 1988 at 9:00 A.M.

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

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

Commissioner Knox made a motion to approve the minutes for May, June and August 1988 meetings. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval.

As an addition to the Agenda, Chairman Messinger agreed to let Mrs. Nancy Vickowanich of Homestead Hills present her petition regarding a dog problem in their subdivision. She had two(2) petitions which she presented to the Commission. In the first petition she stated they felt that the dog which attacked her daughter was just too dangerous in a subdivision to allow it to be just chained. The reason for this being that the dog has in the past broken its chain alot and the dog is loose quite frequently and is too much of a threat and it was felt it would be better for their subdivision if the dog was confined to no less than a six(6) foot high chained fence. The other petition is that the vicious dog act needs to be updated and needs to be changed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Copy of memo on Waste Disposal Workshop to be held on September 19. If anyone wishes to attend contact the County Manager.

Copy of Financial Statements and Supplemental Schedules for the periods ended June 30, 1988 and 1987 for the Rowan County Alcoholic Beverage Control Board.

Copy of letter from the Salisbury-Rowan Economic Development Commission reminding officials of the regular monthly meeting on September 14.

Letter from the N. C. Department of Human Resources regarding official notification of the county allocation of funds for FY 1988-89.

Letter of thank-you from South Rowan High School dated August 19, 1988 for money allocated for the purchase of computers for the business and office

programs.

Memo from the N. C. Association of County Commissioners regarding solicitation of Proposed Legislative Goals for the 1989 Session of the General Assembly. The deadline for proposals is September 15, 1988.

Letter from Vision Cable regarding additions and changes in the services they provide. Chairman Messinger stated that Mayor John Wear objected to these changes. Commissioner DeMarcus stated she also objected to these changes and discussion followed. It was agreed to establish a liaison with David Treme, City Manager on this matter.

Letter from Ogden Martin Systems, Inc. Tim Russell, County Manager attended the National Association of Counties session on the EPA's national solid waste plan and briefly commented.

Letter from State Personnel informing Commissioners that the State Personnel Commission approved petition for substantial equivalency for the Salary Administration portion of the County Personnel System.

Letter from N. C. Department of Human Resources to Wayne Ashworth dated August 1, 1988 notifying him of his appointment to the State Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council for a four-year term ending June 30, 1992.

Public Meeting Announcement of National Starch and Chemical Corporation Superfund Site. Meeting will be at the Salisbury Civic Center on September 14, 1988 at 7:00 P.M.

Letter from Ed Haden dated September 5, 1988 regarding political campaign signs on county property. Tim Russell, County Manager asked if it was the feeling of the Commissioners to prohibit signs on county property. Commissioner Cohen asked for a definition of county property. Chairman Messinger stated it would be anything we consider county property but it would not include light or telephone poles and right of ways. Discussion followed on this matter.

Letter from the State Board of Education regarding standards which have been issued out for review and they are requesting a six page response which is attached by the appropriate time if you have concerns on this issue. The deadline is October 17.

Tim Russell, County Manager, presented each Commissioner with a petition he had received from Rowan County citizens asking that a more practical site than Campbell Road be considered for a landfill. Chairman Messinger stated this issue will be addressed in their Commission Meeting on Tuesday, September 14, 1988 at 2:00 P.M.

ROAD PETITIONS:

Dr. John Barr presented a request to close a section of road at State Road #1744 to New Highway 70 in Cleveland as soon as possible. A petition from residents with the exception of one has been obtained. Attorney Clarence Kluttz asked questions and made comments. Chairman Messinger asked for discussion which followed. He stated action would be taken as soon as possible.

Commissioner Knox presented two(2) Road Petition requests for approval for Addition to State System. They are Oakridge Run and Oak Farms Lane(Oak Farms East). Commissioner Knox made a motion to approve these road petitions. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Knox presented request from the Department of Transportation requesting that 520 feet of the old section of Harrison Road be abandoned. Commissioner Knox made a motion to abandon this section of road and Commissioner Swaim seconded. After discussion the Commission voted unanimously to approve request. Chairman Messinger asked that Commissioner Knox check into this as a matter of public information.

Tim Russell, County Manager, presented a request for an Interim Clerk to The Board since Wendy Powell is on maternity leave for the next two months. He recommended Shirley Bridges for this position. Commissioner Knox made a motion to approve this request and Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

#### BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

Commissioner DeMarcus moved to add the name of Jean Summers to the Domiciliary Home Community Advisory Committee to fill one vacancy on this committee. Commissioner Swaim seconded the motion that Jean Summers be appointed to this Committee. Approval was unanimous.

Chairman Messinger asked Commissioner Knox if he would try to contact persons which might be interested in serving on this committee.

A letter from Austin Mitchell resigning from the Parks Commission was given to each Commissioner. Commissioner Cohen stated he had received a memo from Jim Foltz recommending Steve Brown be appointed to this Commission. Commissioner Cohen made a motion to appoint Steve Brown. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded the motion. Commissioner Swaim moved that nominations be closed and Commissioner Knox seconded. Commissioners voted unanimously to appoint Steve Brown to this Committee.

At the last Commissioners Meeting Tim Russell, County Manager was asked to see if William Hannah whose term on the Rowan County Housing Authority expires on 9/1/88, Coyt Karriker whose term on the Region F Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council expired 6/30/88, and Sam Carter whose term on the Tri-County Mental Health Board whose term expires on 10/1/88 would be interested in serving again. After discussion, Commissioner Swaim made a motion to appoint these

persons to their respective committees. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

Chairman Messinger asked for nominations for the Nursing Home Advisory Committee. Commissioner Cohen nominated Nancy Dunn and also made a motion that she be re-appointed. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

Chairman Messinger informed the Commissioner that the Tri-County Mental Health Board has increased their board from 15 to 18 members.

Tim Russell, County Manager, presented a request from Union Fire Department to replace Lester Slate who has resigned due to health problems. No action was taken on the names which were submitted.

County Manager also presented a request from Bostian Heights Fire Department to appoint three of the five names submitted for Fire Commissioner. Names submitted include Bill Shives, Vernon Clodfelter, Greer Daughtery, John Cress, and Charles Funderburke. Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to appoint Bill Shives, Vernon Clodfelter, and Greer Daughtery. Commissioner Knox seconded with unanimous approval.

County Manager also presented a letter from C. D. Stewart of his interest to resign from the High Rock Lake Study Committee. Commissioner DeMarcus moved that we accept it with regret. Commissioner Knox seconded with unanimous approval. Chairman Messinger asked Commissioner Cohen to look into a replacement for this. Discussion followed on this matter. Recommendations and action will be taken at a later meeting.

Tim Russell, County Manager, presented to the Commission a request to appoint Robert G. (Jerry) Rowland as Rowan County Tax Assessor for a two year period beginning October 17, 1988 to September 30, 1990. Commissioner Swaim made a motion to approve this appointment. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

#### TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT:

Wayne Simpson, Tax Collector reported collection for all funds and units during the month of August to be \$112,016.57. Commissioners asked questions and made comments regarding the report.

The Tax Collector also gave the Commissioners a Progress Report on the "On Line" Tax Collection Computer System and introduced Sylvia Coffey who is working with them on implementing this system.

#### REQUEST FROM STATE DOT:

Tim Russell, County Manager, presented a request from the North Carolina

Department of Transportation for the Commission to provide its okay for right-of-way on Sapona Drive in order for the state to widen and pave the road. Mrs. Alma Webster is the owner of the property, however, there is a tax lien or judgment against it by Rowan County for delinquent taxes. Because of this the County is required to sign a Right of Way Agreement before the road can be officially added to the system and maintained. Commissioner Swaim made a motion for approval. Commissioner Knox seconded with unanimous approval.

#### RESOLUTION:

The Governor of North Carolina as well as other individuals have requested that we designate the week of October 2-8, 1988 as Minority Enterprise Development Week in Rowan County. Chairman Messinger made a motion for approval. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

#### STATE GRANTS:

On August 25, 1988 the county received notification from Governor James Martin indicating that the Department of Transportation has approved in its Transportation Improvement Program for the next three (3) years an award to Rowan County for Runway Environmental for FY 1988-1989 the amount of \$22,500 and Land Acquisition for Runway for FY 1989-1990 the amount of \$187,500. Commissioners asked questions and made comments.

Tim Russell, County Manager, informed the Commission that the Grant Agreement for \$1,300.00 had been approved but it was not formalized in the form of a motion to approve it. It was just accepted. Commissioner Knox made a motion for approval. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

#### RECYCLING:

Paul Canup presented an update on the County Recycling Program in Rowan County and plans of sites to be implemented. He stated there had been a 35.5% increase over the past month. Commissioners asked questions and made comments. The program has now been in operation for six months and it is time for an evaluation. Chairman Messinger asked the County Manager to set up a committee to make this evaluation and then report back to the Commission.

#### JAIL POPULATION STUDY:

Mike McLaurin with the Centralina Council of Governments gave a presentation on Jail Overcrowding. He used as an example the program which has been set up in Lincoln County. He stated the key was to have a good task force. The purpose is to eliminate jail overcrowding. After the presentation the Commissioners asked questions and made comments. Commissioner Swaim also gave a

brief presentation on the Sheriff's Committee regarding this issue.

Chairman Messinger reminded everyone that just because Judges and Sheriff says we need things does not necessarily mean we will get it, because we must sell the idea to the citizens.

#### AMBULANCE AGREEMENTS:

Wayne Ashworth, EMS Director, recommended a two year approval of the Ambulance Franchise Agreements. Questions and discussion followed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Knox made a motion to approve these agreements. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

Terry Barber gave an update on the proposed Ambulance Site in the West Rowan area. A site will be announced in the near future. This site will employ six(6) people of which three(3) positions have already been filled.

Mr. Barber also reported that the Expansion Training Program should be "On Line" by November 1988. Comments and questions by the Commissioners followed.

#### LIBRARY:

Bill Burgin presented an update report on the Library construction. He is looking at a completion date of October 31, 1988. He stated the County needed to do the following through the County legal department: (1) agree to the assignment of the contract. If they receive a written letter of the schedule which was just reported, their office will recommend that the County sign the contract. Commissioners had no comments or questions.

#### SOCIAL SERVICES:

Doug Tennant presented an update on the Social Services renovations. He stated the final inspection is scheduled for Thursday, September 15, 1988 at 9:00 A.M. Commissioners had no comments or questions.

Doug Tennant also gave an update on moving the uptown branch Post Office. He stated that the U. S. Postal Office has given preliminary approval to move the Post Office into the building previously occupied by White Business Machines. The Commission was also advised to obtain written approval that when the move was made it would be a continuation of the present lease. Clarence Kluttz, County Attorney, was authorized by the Commissioners to draw up this form. Blueprints of the building and ceilings were also presented to the Commissioners. Questions and comments by the Commissioners followed.

MANAGER REPORTS:

County Manager reported an activity report from the Office of Personnel informing them of the personnel transactions that occurred during the month of August and other activities of the Personnel Director.

County Manager reported interest earned through August 31, 1988 amounting to \$18,086.

County Manager reported refunds:

TO: Gladys Steele the amount of \$5.60  
from the Health Department  
Reason - Refund of Toddler Seat

TO: Shirley Ratliff the amount of \$20.00  
from the Codes Enforcement Office  
Reason - Did not build

TO: Greg Everhart the amount of \$20.00  
from Codes Enforcement Office  
Reason - Electrical problem resolved without work  
called for in the permit

TO: Inez Eagle the amount of \$8.10  
from the Health Department  
Reason - Returned unused portion of rat bait

TO: Kathy Cordle the amount of \$15.00  
from the Health Department  
Reason - Refund of Toddler Seat

TO: Betty Gillespie the amount of \$15.00  
from the Health Department  
Reason - Refund of Toddler Seat

TO: Susan Crosby the amount of \$14.00  
from the Health Department  
Reason - Refund of Toddler Seat

Ambulance refund - \$802.21

Commissioner Swaim made a motion to approve all of the refunds.  
Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval.

Tim Russell, County Manager, was asked at the last meeting to look at refunds, especially Codes Enforcement. It was found that refunds come from several departments. The report should be ready to present at the next meeting.

County Manager presented a proposed right-of-way on Heilig Road property. The County owns a tract of land on Heilig Road. Gene Craig owns approximately 12 acres of land adjoining the county property. He is requesting that he be granted a permanent right-of-way to his property across the county property. He has been using another easement to his property. Commissioners asked questions and made comments that they did not wish to grant this request or sale any property. Chairman Messinger asked Tim Russell to inform Mr. Craig of this decision.

Tim Russell gave a report on Parks' Regulations for Gatherings and Activities. He asked permission to send our copy to the Parks Commission and request they draw up and propose regulations to this Board dealing specifically with permitting activities and type of activities which go on and propose some regulations that you can approve in that area. Guidelines are very vague at this time on this matter. Discussion followed and Chairman Messinger asked Commissioners Swaim and DeMarcus to be liaison to the Parks on recommendations they propose to Commissioners.

#### SCHOOL ASSIGNMENTS:

Mr. Wade Mobley, Superintendent of the Rowan County School introduced Dr. John Pyecha who gave the Commissioners a progress report on the Student Assignment Study. One of the main points was to have equal education for all students in the county. Commissioners asked questions and made comments.

#### OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner DeMarcus asked about Dog Petition which was presented at the beginning of the meeting. After much discussion, Commissioner Cohen made a motion to have Jimmy Seagle, Environmental Health Supervisor, give a report on this matter at the Commissioners Meeting scheduled for 2:00 P.M. on Tuesday, September 13, 1988. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

With no further business, Chairman Messinger adjourned the meeting until 2:00 P.M. on Tuesday, September 13, 1988 and went into Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Bridges  
Interim Clerk to the Board