

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD
OF ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC HEARING
JANUARY 9, 1989
7:30 P.M.

The Board of Rowan County Commissioners met in a Public Hearing in the Community Building on January 9, 1989 at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT: J. Newton Cohen, Sr., Chairman
Wilborn Swaim, Vice-Chairman
Henry H. Palmer, Member
George C. Knox, Member
Jamima P. DeMarcus, Member

The County Manager, Finance Director, County Attorney, and Clerk to the Board were also present as well as various Rowan County citizens and administrative staff.

Chairman Cohen called the meeting to order for the purpose of discussing the Proposed County House Numbering Ordinance. Chairman Cohen called on Mr. Wayne Ashworth to update the Commission on this issue.

Mr. Ashworth stated that they have proposed to the Commission for their consideration to adopt an ordinance for the unincorporated areas of Rowan County which would enable Emergency Services to continue with assigning house numbers for rural residences in place of Route and Box numbers that are presently in place. This would enable Emergency Services to find a given residence or business in an emergency. If a number of the location and name is given when calling 911, this enables EMS to find that particular person very easily. If a Route and Box number is given, however, it is very difficult to find the residence.

If the Ordinance is enacted as proposed, this would provide for house numbering and would set up a mechanism whereby EMS would work on completing this project. Approximately 43 percent of the County does have a valid address at the present time. This project would take some time due to the available people that would be working on this. The goal is to enable 911 to work the way it was intended.

The ordinance would also provide that on any new residence (single or subdivision) that in order to obtain a building permit, the residence would have to have a valid number and road name address. Mr. Conner would be assisted by EMS on this issue. It would also require that the number assigned to the residence or business be posted on the building in the prescribed manner before

the certificate of completion is granted so that utilities can be hooked up. It would also require all individuals whether residential or business addresses in the County as these new addresses are assigned to post these numbers on the building that will be easily visible to the road or at a point at the driveway if the building is set back from the road.

In most cases, these addresses would become the mailing address for that location. In those cases, the Post Office would also require the number to be placed on the mail box. Clarence Kluttz reported that this is specifically authorized by GS153A-240. The Post Office will accept these addresses if EMS does all the work. If EMS does the conversions and reports this, the Post Office the new address, old address, and the residents; the Post Office will in turn notify the residents. The residents have twelve (12) months in which to notify all their correspondence. The Post Office will recognize both addresses during that twelve (12)-month period. Mr. Ashworth hopes that as a Planner is hired and becomes accustomed to his job, that this project will become a planning function as is the case with most Counties. As new addresses are developed, these will be coordinated with all the Utility Companies as well as the Tax Office and the Codes Enforcement Office so everyone is updating their records.

Roads that come out of the City, EMS will pick up the numbering schemes that is already being used by the City of Salisbury. Commissioner Palmer asked if there would be an easier way for residents to obtain the numbers they need to put on their home. Mr. Ashworth replied that some Counties have furnished numbers to each residents. The proposed ordinance requires 4" high numbers for residences and 6" high numbers for multi-family buildings or businesses.

Commissioner Knox raised the concern of duplicate road names. Mr. Ashworth replied that the 911 screen will not only show the road names but will also show the emergency service area which is a zone of the County it is coming from as well as the telephone number which would show up as different telephone exchanges, fire districts, etc. There are some cases where road names are duplicated within the same fire district. These will cause problems. This ordinance does not do anything at the present time for eliminating the duplicated names. This will be addressed in the future.

Chairman Cohen then requested those who wish to speak in opposition of this proposed ordinance. Mr. Bob Lambert feels it would be easier to put the street names in the computer without having to adopt an ordinance for house numbering. Therefore if a Route number is used, then the street addressed would appear on the

screen. He also felt this would be an tremendous adjustment to postal carriers being one himself. Chairman Cohen felt this will be no problem for postal carriers to adjust. He also felt this would be beneficial to the good of the citizens.

Chairman Cohen then asked for those who are in favor of this ordinance to speak. Mr. John Linker of Granite Quarry. As a private citizen he has many problems with his current address and obtaining the correct mail at his address. As the mayor of Granite Quarry, they strongly support this ordinance. For the past two (2) years, they have been working with the Post Office trying to have permanent physical addresses assigned to every parcel.

Mr. Clifford Lane of Granite Quarry supported this ordinance speaking from experience as an emergency occurred at his home and he had to meet the ambulance at his driveway because they had passed it one time before.

Mr. David Fisher of Granite Quarry and Mr. David Linker of the Locke Fire Department spoke in support of this ordinance as well.

Commissioner Knox stated that the only thing this Commission is concerned with is improving the quality of life in Rowan County for each citizen and the Commission feels this is the way to improve that portion.

Mr. Alfred Wilson asked if these changed addresses would be reflected in the phone book and Mr. Wayne Ashworth concurred. He stated that the 911 system is a telephone system and does not recognize but one address and this changed address will be the one it recognizes.

Mr. Lambert clarified his position stating that he is not opposed to the ordinance but is concerned this would not be appropriate to do at the present time.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Swain made a motion to adopt this ordinance and Commissioner Knox seconded with unanimous approval.

Chairman Cohen then opened a Public Hearing for the purpose of discussing a proposed road name change from Burl Castor Road to Cemetery Drive Extension. Chairman Cohen requested those who are in favor of this road change to speak. Ms. Judy Cobb stated that she initiated the petition process and she spoke in favor of this change.

Since all property owners were notified of this public hearing for this road change and no opposition was apparent, Commissioner

Palmer made a motion to approve Burl Castor Road being changed to Cemetery Drive Extension and Commissioner Knox seconded with unanimous approval.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY:

Commissioner Swaim made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing acquisition of property and Commissioner Palmer seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to come out of Executive Session and Commissioner Knox seconded with unanimous approval.

With no action taken in Executive Session and no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy S. Powell
Clerk to the Board