

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD
OF ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
APRIL 2, 1990
RED ROOM - COMMUNITY BUILDING

The Rowan County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on April 2, 1990, at 9:00 a.m. in the Red Room of the Community Building.

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

The County Manager, Finance Director, County Attorney and Clerk to the Board were also in attendance, as well as various concerned citizens.

Chairman Cohen called the meeting to order, and Commissioner Knox gave the invocation.

The Chairman explained, for the benefit of the audience, that there was an error made in the Sunday (4/01/90) advertisement regarding the Palmer Road hearing. The paper stated that the hearing would be held on 4/2/90, but will actually be held on 5/7/90 at 10:00 a.m.

MINUTES:

The following minutes were submitted for approval:

- * March 5, 1990 (Regular Session)
- * March 6, 1990 (Adjourned - Budget Planning Session)
- * March 7, 1990 (Adjourned - Budget Planning Session)
- * March 8, 1990 (Adjourned - Budget Planning Session)
- * March 28, 1990 (Special Called Mtg. - Revaluation Training)

There being no corrections, Commissioner Knox made a motion to approve the Minutes as submitted. Commissioner Swaim seconded, with unanimous approval.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

* Commissioner DeMarcus would like to discuss Earth Day: This is a national effort to be held on 4/22/90. A Resolution is

offered to approve the celebration and, as an incentive, open all manned convenience centers and also the landfill for free dumping on 4/21/90 for a full day. Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to proceed with this suggestion. Commissioner Swaim seconded, with unanimous approval.

* County Manager Russell expressed the need for an Executive Session, to discuss the acquisition of property for the Airport.

CORRESPONDENCE:

County Manager Russell submitted the following correspondence, as attached to these minutes:

* Memo from the Salisbury/Rowan Chamber of Commerce, regarding the Legislative Breakfast to be held on 4/17/90 at the Salisbury Country Club from 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

* Letter dated March 14, 1990 from Mr. Robert M. Melton, Jr. General Manager of Vision Cable of Metrolina, regarding their annual report.

* Letter dated March 15, 1990 from Mr. George Little, General Manager of Vision Cable of Salisbury, regarding their annual report.

* Memorandum dated March 22, 1990 from Mr. Thomas J. Harrelson, N.C.D.O.T., regarding Public Meetings to Update the Transportation Improvement System.

* Letter dated March 19, 1990 from Ms. Dawn P. Lowder (Governor's Office of Citizen Affairs) and Ms. Harriett Edwards (Volunteer Program Coordinator), regarding the 1990 Governor's Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service.

* Notification from Shirley Napier, Granite Quarry Town Clerk, that the Town of Granite Quarry has adopted the Rowan County Ordinance for the Management of Solid Waste, and requests cooperation in enforcement.

* Personalized "Thank You's" from Mrs. Foltz' 6th Grade Class of Granite Quarry Elementary School, for inviting them to attend the March 5th meeting of the Commissioners.

* Notification from the N.C. Association of County Commissioners, of the NCACC Legislative Briefing, to be held on Wednesday, June 13, 1990 at the Sheraton Crabtree.

* Letter dated March 13, 1990 from the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, regarding the Workers' Compensation Self-Insurance Pool.

ROAD PETITIONS:

There were no Road Petitions to be offered.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

Pee Dee River Basin Board of Directors: Mr. Paul Smith, Mr. Robie Nash and Mr. J. Newton Cohen were all eligible for reappointment, and the City of Salisbury has elected Mayor John Wear to replace Mr. Bill Murdoch on this committee. Commissioner Knox made a motion to approve the three (3) for reappointment, and that Mayor Wear be appointed to the Committee. Commissioner Swaim seconded, with unanimous approval.

Solid Waste Task Force: Mr. Chris Corriher has notified that he will be unable to serve, and requests a replacement. The Board deferred a decision on this until the May 7th meeting.

City of Salisbury - Planning Board: The City Council requested the appointment of Mr. Clarence Bailey as an extraterritorial member on the Planning Board. Commissioner Swaim made a motion to accept, and Commissioner Palmer seconded, with unanimous approval.

City of Salisbury - Zoning Board of Adjustment: The City Council requested the reappointment of Mr. James Bigger as an extraterritorial alternate. Commissioner Swaim made a motion to approve. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded, with unanimous approval.

Town of Spencer - Board of Adjustment: Mayor Spear and the Board of Aldermen requested that Mr. Robert Reese and Chelsea VonCannon be appointed to the Board of Adjustment. Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to approve. Commissioner Palmer seconded, with unanimous approval.

Local Emergency Planning Committee: Wayne Ashworth presented a memorandum, requesting that Mr. Frank Hernandez, Mr. Jeff Gobble, Mrs. Cindy Adkins, Mr. David B. Smith, and Mr. Byron Torrence be appointed to the Committee; also, that Mr. Bert Hawley and Mr. Gilbert Dyson be rotated off of the committee. Commissioner Knox made the motion to accept, and Commissioner Swaim seconded, with unanimous approval.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT - WAYNE SIMPSON:

Mr. Wayne Simpson, Tax Collector, presented the Preliminary March 1990 report, as attached to these minutes.

REPORT ON RECYCLING PROGRAM - PATTI BURCHETTE:

Recycling Coordinator, Mrs. Patti Burchette, presented the updated Recycling Report through 3/30/90, as attached to these minutes.

Mrs. Burchette formally presented Commissioner DeMarcus with the two (2) plaques which were awarded to Rowan County in the Keep North Carolina Clean and Beautiful Program. Revenues collected are at an increase of 40% over last month; Newspapers are now being accepted at \$15/ton; Many schools have been invited to tour the new landfill; Earth Day activities will be held at Dan Nicholas Park on 4/22/90.

WRITE-OFF OF AMBULANCE CHARGES - BRADY FRICK:

County Finance Director Brady Frick explained the options of whether to accept "assignment" for charges or to continue to bill, and face possible "write-offs". The requested amount to be written off is as follows:

1984 - \$	41,323.57
1985 -	79,191.54
1986 -	115,038.09
TOTAL \$	235,553.20

Commissioner Knox made a motion to approve the "write-offs". Commissioner Swaim seconded, with unanimous approval.

At this time, Chairman Cohen declared the Public Hearing opened:

PUBLIC HEARING FOR AIRPORT FINANCING - BRADY FRICK:

County Attorney John Holshouser published a notice to the media regarding the second hearing on the Airport financing project, as attached to these minutes. Finance Director Brady Frick explained the need for the second hearing (to satisfy security requirements of First Union National Bank), and also the

financing arrangements. The debt is to be repaid through hangar fees, and State and Federal Grants.

Due to the resubmission of the application, County Attorney Holshouser suggested that the Resolution be re-adopted; therefore, Commissioner Swaim made a motion to adjourn the hearing, and Commissioner Knox seconded, with unanimous approval. Commissioner Swaim then made the motion to reaffirm the Resolution. Commissioner Palmer seconded, with unanimous approval.

SECOND READING OF AMENDMENT TO SOLID WASTE ORDINANCE - COUNTY ATTORNEY JOHN HOLSHOUSER:

In the absence of Chairman Cohen, the Amendment to the Solid Waste Ordinance was accepted, but a second reading was necessary for the adoption. After the reading, Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to adopt the Amendment as of this date. Commissioner Knox seconded, with unanimous approval.

REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION OF (LIBRARY) BOOK SALE - PHIL BARTON:

In Mr. Barton's absence, Ms. Melody Moxley presented the Board with a request to allow a sale of the 3,400 surplus books from the Rowan Public Library. Approximately \$1,000 revenue is usually gained through the book sales, according to Ms. Moxley. Other branches are invited to preview the books prior to the sale. At this time, Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Swaim seconded, with unanimous approval.

UPDATE OF MULTI-HAZARD RESPONSE PLAN - WAYNE ASHWORTH:

Mr. Wayne Ashworth presented the draft of the newly updated Rowan County Emergency Management Ordinance, as attached to these minutes. Mr. Ashworth explained that this is the first update since its origin in 1976, and he recommends its approval. Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to approve the updated Ordinance. Commissioner Swaim seconded, with unanimous approval.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY - KEN DEAL:

Personnel Director Ken Deal presented a program agreement for the Adopt-A-Highway Program, as attached to these minutes. In this agreement, the Rowan County employees have agreed to "adopt" (volunteer their services to maintain) the Woodleaf Road, from Gheen Road (SR 1946) to Campbell Rd. (SR 1947), beginning May 1,

1990. Commissioner DeMarcus personally expressed her appreciation to the efforts of the employees, and Commissioner Knox stated that he would like to be a part of the activity.

UPDATE ON PLANNING RETREAT- COUNTY MANAGER TIM RUSSELL:

County Manager Tim Russell announced that, due to the ongoing recovery of Chairman Cohen, the Annual Planning Retreat is suggested to be held on April 4-5, 1990, at the Rowan Public Library (Stanback Auditorium), instead of at Mid-Pines Resort. Clerk Denise Barrow has contacted the Resort and reports that, due to the circumstances, a full refund is available on the prior commitment. Commissioner DeMarcus then made a motion to accept the new location (library), and Commissioner Knox seconded, with unanimous approval.

Mr. Russell then explained the Review of the Budget Priorities for 1990-91, as attached to these minutes.

LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE - STANLY COUNTY:

In the absence of Stanly County Manager David Thompson, County Manager Russell read a letter to the Board from Mr. Thompson, as attached to these minutes. The letter extends its appreciation of Rowan County's efforts against the proposed Low-Level Radioactive Waste Site in southeastern Rowan County. In appreciation, Stanly County presented Rowan with a check in the amount of \$5,000 to help offset the financial burden of the effort.

CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR FAIR PROPERTY TAXES (DELMAR MCDANIEL, RANDY BINGHAM, JERRY CONNELLY, ROGER BASINGER, W. F. OWEN):

Mr. Robert Freeman of Kannapolis: stated his opinion that the deputies positioned at the Red Room door were unnecessary, and should leave. The deputies were then dismissed.

Mr. Delmar McDaniel of Cleveland: expressed his opinions on what he feel to be poor education standards in Rowan County, and poor County Management. He also displayed two (2) proposed bumper stickers regarding his concerns. Chairman Cohen explained that the Board has little jurisdiction over the management in the Rowan/Salisbury School System.

Mr. Will Rogers Basinger of eastern Rowan: stated that he doesn't feel that any amount of decrease in the tax rate (after the revaluation) will be satisfactory, because he feels the revaluation

to be a "political ploy". Thinks the revaluation should be completely disregarded; says the County should not give to "every hand that is out" asking for money. He also expressed other concerns regarding the landfill.

Mrs. Jimmie Winecoff of Rockwell: wants to know if the tax rate will be reduced to 34¢ as it was in 1982? She thinks that \$9 thousand was wasted in producing the "In Touch" pamphlet from the Schools, and suggested an increase of sales tax instead of property taxes.

Mr. W. F. (Frankie) Owen of Spencer: Chairman Cohen questioned whether a citizen who had not paid his taxes should be addressing the Board on this subject. Mr. Owen continued that he is concerned with poor education quality in the County, in view of the high cost of spending in the school system. In conclusion, Chairman Cohen presented Mr. Owen with his unpaid tax bill.

Mrs. Brenda Morgan: stated that she is quite concerned for the elderly citizens who may be forced to sell their homes, because they are unable to pay the property taxes.

Mr. Randy Bingham: stated his concerns with the revaluation standards, but commended the Board for their efforts.

Mr. Austin Mitchell of Kannapolis: wants Fieldcrest Cannon's landfill (near Baker's Creek Park) closed; claims that it is harming the Park.

In closing, Commissioner Knox assured the audience that mistakes may have been made, but that they were made "from the head, and not the heart" and that the the Board does not want to raise taxes.

MANAGER'S REPORT - COUNTY MANAGER TIM RUSSELL:

Interest: County Manager Russell presented the report of interest earned through March 1990, as attached to these minutes.

Refunds: Mr. Russell submitted the various refunds for approval, as attached to these minutes. Commissioner Knox made a motion to approve the refunds as submitted. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded, with unanimous approval.

At this time, the Board agreed by consensus to go into Executive Session, to discuss acquisition of property. Upon returning to Regular Session, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise J. Barrow
Clerk to the Board