

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD  
OF ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
EMERGENCY MEETING - MAY 2, 1990  
RED ROOM - COMMUNITY MEETING

The Rowan County Board of Commissioners met for an Emergency Meeting on Wednesday, May 2, 1990, in the Red Room of the Community Building. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss to proposed hazardous waste site in Rowan/Iredell Counties.

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

ABSENT: J. Newton Cohen, Chairman

In the absence of Chairman Cohen, Vice-Chairman Swaim presided, and Commissioner Palmer gave the invocation. The County Manager, County Attorney, Finance Director and Clerk to the Board were also in attendance, as well as various citizens and administrative staff.

Commissioner DeMarcus reported on the Iredell County meeting held last evening. County Manager Tim Russell and County Attorney John Holshouser also attended.

Commissioner DeMarcus read a proposal regarding the merging of efforts between Rowan and Iredell Counties against the proposed hazardous waste treatment facility, as attached to these minutes.

At present, the Iredell County Board of Commissioners have committed \$5,000 for non-eligible costs in the opposition to the site. Commissioner Knox made a motion to accept the report, and Commissioner Palmer seconded, with unanimous approval. Commissioner Palmer also added to the motion by suggesting that Rowan County also allocate \$5,000 in matching funds toward the effort.

County Manager Russell stated that a committee of citizens should be selected to serve as a "site review committee" in the opposition effort, and they would join with the Iredell County group in meeting with the Governor's Waste Management Board. The Clerk distributed an information sheet from the Governor's Waste Management Board, as attached to these minutes.

Mr. Russell stated that the committee would consist of 13 members each from Iredell/Rowan Counties. Mr. Russell continued by

noting that the first scheduled meeting is to be on May 9th at 4:00 p.m. in Iredell County. Commissioners will request that the Revaluation hearings be rescheduled from that day.

Public hearings will be set in each area, and should be scheduled as soon as possible.

Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to accept the date, time, and place of the proposed meeting. Commissioner Knox seconded, with unanimous approval.

County Manager Russell explained the time frame involved in the urgency of the public hearings. Commissioner Palmer made a motion to request the public hearings immediately. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded, with unanimous approval.

The two (2) avenues of the defense, according to Mr. Russell are:

- (1) Site Review Committee (dealing with site suitability).
- (2) Legal Challenge (questions regarding the possibility of the State Commission's having exceeded their authority).

Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to authorize the two (2) counties' attorneys to begin a joint effort in the legal avenues and seek consulting services as necessary. Commissioner Palmer seconded, with unanimous approval.

She also questioned the possibility of a restraining order in the legal process. County Attorney John Holshouser stated that he will thoroughly research the option.

Historic properties (including the Phifer property) are involved in the proposed site, according to David Foard Hood's "The Architecture of Rowan County." Clerk of Court Edward Norvell assured the Commission that it was being investigated from the State and Federal levels, in order to aid the County in its defense.

Commissioner Knox reminded members also, that Rowan County is the second largest in the State with dairy farming, and he is concerned with the impact that the site will cause.

Their being no further business, Commissioner Knox made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Palmer seconded, with unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise J. Barrow  
Clerk to the Board