

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD
OF ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC HEARING - MAY 6, 1991
ATWELL FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Rowan County Board of Commissioners held a public hearing on Monday, May 6, 1991, at 7:00 p.m., at Atwell Fire Department. Purpose of the hearing was to entertain comments on the proposed establishment of a service district for the fire department.

PRESENT: J. Newton Cohen, Chairman
Henry H. Palmer, Vice-Chairman
Jamima P. DeMarcus, Member
Thomas M. Webb, Member

ABSENT: Charles H. Welch, Member

The County Manager, County Attorney, and Clerk to the Board were also in attendance.

Chairman Cohen called the meeting to order, and the Rev. Jim White gave the invocation. Chairman Cohen then introduced remaining members of the Board.

Fire Marshall, Randall Faggart, gave an explanation of the purpose of the hearing, and presented a petition from Kimball Road residents, requesting to remain in the Landis Fire District.

Chairman Cohen asked for comments for or against the proposal:

Mike Lowder (Rt. 1-Patterson St.): states he wishes to remain in the China Grove District.

Mr. Bostian: favors the tax and proposed Service District

Harold Peacock: in favor

John Safrit: in favor

Murray Corriher: questions the fairness, revaluation of property, and fire tax fee; favors a per-house fee, instead.

Stella Trexler: favors a flat fee

Frank Corriher: states that, if all dues were paid, maybe the fire "district" wouldn't be necessary; favors a flat fee

President A. H. McDonald: says if each household paid their dues, the situation would be much better. He explained how funds have been raised in the past to purchase equipment and supplies. Reported that only about 25% of households paid their dues. According to Mr. McDonald, it

costs
approximately \$600 to "suit-up" each fireman.

Wallace Berrier: has never received a notice announcing the public hearing. Commissioner DeMarcus explained that 28 letters were returned, undeliverable, to the Clerk.

Tom Dishman: suggested a flat fee for all personal/real property (County Attorney Holshouser will check legality and report back to Board); Says he would rather pay than lose the Fire Department.

Nelson Corriher: questioned calculation of rate

County Manager Russell then explained the duties of the Fire Department Board of Directors and Fire Commissioners, for the benefit of the audience.

Carl Overcash: questioned why a service district cannot be established for the Rescue Squad, and Mr. Russell explained.

Robert Karriker: favors a flat fee

Henry Starnes: says if all would pay their dues, the fire tax wouldn't be needed.

Tax Collector Wayne Simpson: stated that he favors the fire tax.

Asst. Fire Chief, Tim Beaver, explained the need for additional monies for equipment and operating procedures.

With no one else wishing to address the issue, Chairman Cohen closed the hearing at 8:30 p.m. Commissioner DeMarcus then made a motion to adjourn the meeting to May 20 at 9:00 a.m., for the purpose of Budget Review. Vice-Chairman Palmer seconded, with unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise J. Barrow
Clerk to the Board