

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD
OF ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FEBRUARY 17, 1992 - ENOCHVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Rowan County Board of Commissioners met in adjourned session, on Monday, February 17, 1992, at 7:00 P.M., at the Enochville Fire Department, Enochville, NC.

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

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

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

UPDATE FROM CAROLINAS' LEADERSHIP PROGRAM - VICE-CHAIRMAN PALMER:

Vice-Chairman Palmer updated the Board regarding his recent attendance to the Carolinas' Leadership Program Meeting. He explained the purpose of the Program. The Board took as information.

UPDATE ON LAWSUIT FROM PRISON LEGAL SERVICES - ATTORNEY JOHN HOLSHOUSER/SHERIFF BOB MARTIN:

County Attorney, John Holshouser, updated the Board regarding the recently lawsuit from Prison Legal Services. According to Mr. Holshouser, the overcrowded situation at the Rowan County Jail has, in fact, caused violation of the prisoners' rights. The Board will adjourn tonight to 9:30 a.m. tomorrow, to an Executive Session, to continue the discussion. According to Mr. Holshouser, the State has the authority to forbid the acceptance of any future prisoners in the facility, due to the overcrowded situation. He concluded by noting that Alamance County was recently brought into court because of a lack of adequate facilities.

Rowan County Sheriff, Bob Martin, gave good news to the Board: of the four (4) escapees from the jail, three (3) have been apprehended, and the fourth is expected to be soon. He explained problems with only having two (2) jailers per shift, with the average jail population of 120-130/month. With the current situation, Sheriff Martin is requesting two (2) new jailers in his department. Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to approve the two (2) new jailer positions, and reclassify the remaining jailers' positions, effective March 1, as suggested by the Personnel Board (cost approx. \$18,000). Vice-Chairman Palmer seconded, with unanimous approval.

Commissioner DeMarcus questioned alternatives such as the "boot-camp" procedure, in-house arrests, etc. Sheriff Martin explained that 90% of all prisoners were pre-trial detainees.

APPROVAL OF RENAMING ROADS/PUBLIC HEARING DATE - WAYNE ASHWORTH:

EMS Director, Wayne Ashworth, previously distributed information regarding renaming of two (2) roads:

- (1) Fuller Circle (Currently Crestview Circle), and
- (2) Lyerly Pond Road

Commissioner Webb made a motion to approve the renaming of both. Commissioner Welch seconded, with unanimous approval.

Also, Mr. Ashworth also requested a date for a public hearing for the naming of twelve (12) additional roads, as attached to these Minutes. Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to set the Public Hearing for 3/9/92 at 9:30 a.m. Vice-Chairman Palmer seconded, with unanimous approval.

REQUEST FOR SIGN CONTROL ORDINANCE - MR. THOMAS L. MOONEY:

Mr. Mooney called earlier in the day, and requested to be rescheduled to the March 9, 1992 meeting.

UPDATE ON RECYCLING CENTER - DON CONNER:

Environmental Services Director, Don Conner, previously distributed information regarding a proposed recycling center, as attached to these Minutes. The proposed location for the center is in the former RIMTRAX Building on South Main Street. He also submitted tentative budgets (attached).

Mr. Conner also distributed a revised, 5-year proposal from Mr. Kevin Spittle (attached), to which Mr. Spittle would like a reply by month-end. Commissioner DeMarcus stated her support to Mr. Spittle's proposal, and made a motion to accept the revision as submitted. Commissioner Welch seconded, with unanimous approval. County Attorney, John Holshouser, will transform the proposal into a legal contract. Commissioner Webb made a motion to accept the lease on the building, and the budget as proposed by Mr. Conner. Commissioner Welch seconded, with unanimous approval.

OTHER BUSINESS:

* Chairman Cohen mentioned a letter from R.C.C.C., requesting capital improvements. The issue was deferred to the March meeting.

* Commissioner Webb made a motion to accept the invitation to hold the (second) April meeting at Rockwell, NC. Vice-Chairman Palmer seconded, with unanimous approval.

* Update on Yost tire disposal issue: County Manager Russell distributed recent correspondence from Mr. Ray Yost, regarding his tire dump in Rockwell, NC, as attached to these Minutes. Mr. Yost requests the Town of Rockwell, himself, and Rowan County to each pay 1/3 of the costs of cleanup after the recent fire. By consensus, the Board denied Mr. Yost's request.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

* Mr. Austin Mitchell distributed a statement from the Citizens Coalition For Responsible Government, as attached to these Minutes.

* Mr. Larry Burton expressed his discontent at the County using a "mediator" for the joint Commission/Planning Board meeting

on 4/4/92. County Manager Russell explained that Mr. David Owens of the Institute of Gov't. would act as a "facilitator" and explained the difference.

* An anonymous citizen complained that her mother's well (White Oaks, Kannapolis) is still polluted, and the State/County still have not rectified the problem. Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion that the County write to the State, demanding action. The motion was seconded, with unanimous approval.

* Ms. Barbara Earnhardt questioned when will citizens have a definite decision on zoning?

* Mr. John Harrell stated his concern that the Board of Commissioners were meeting on the same night as the School Board.

* Mr. Steve Hinson asked if any County funds were available for a County Water system?

In conclusion, County Attorney Holshouser reminded the audience of the recent attempts to locate a Low-Level Site, Hazardous Waste Dump, and Incinerator in Rowan County. He stated that the Board had only the best intentions for the welfare of the citizens of Rowan County.

There being no further business, Commissioner Welch made a motion to adjourn to 9:30 a.m. on 2/18/92. The motion was seconded, with unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise J. Barrow, CMC
Clerk to the Board