

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD  
OF ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
PUBLIC HEARING - 03/19/92  
RED ROOM - COMMUNITY BUILDING

The Rowan County Board of Commissioners met in Adjourned Session, on Thursday, March 19, 1992, at 7:00 p.m., in the Red Room of the Community Building. Purpose of the meeting was to hold a public hearing for comments regarding the proposed Jail/Courthouse Bond Referendum.

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

ABSENT: Charles H. Welch, Member  
Thomas M. Webb, Member

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

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

Commissioner DeMarcus then made a motion to open the public hearing. Vice-Chairman Palmer seconded, with unanimous approval. Comments were then entertained as follows:

- \* Ed Haden: stated support for previous Jail/Courthouse and Health Department bonds, but would not support the Jail/Courthouse Bond this time; says referendum is unfair to R.C.C.C.; concerned that Board is split on the decision to propose the bonds.
- \* Jack Carter: prefers a sales tax to be implemented instead of raising ad valorem taxes for the bonds; wants Planning Board disbanded.
- \* Nelson White: congratulated Board on being 85th of 100 counties with lowest tax rates.
- \* Barbara Earnhardt: wants a more fair method of taxing for projects; suggests an additional 1% sales tax on prepared

foods.

- \* Carl Morton: questioned why Rufty Building and Old Post Office Building couldn't be used for jail/courthouse expansion?
- \* Larry Burton: wants additional sales tax implemented; suggested that lawyers add a "users fee" to their services, for use of courtrooms.
- \* W. F. Owens: Suggested renovating an old school building for use as a satellite jail.
- \* Robert Freeman: Wants cutbacks in County Government; criticized garbage fees.
- \* Carol Crawford: Suggested taking more time to consider expansion project.
- \* O. J. File: Suggested using more of the Rufty Building, with less new expansion; Says project could be done for less than \$11 million.
- \* H. L. Gantt: Says stricter punishment in prisons, would help alleviate the overcrowding in jails.
- \* Austin Mitchell: Concerned where funds will come from to pay for the bonds; suggests using an excise tax instead of bonds; says project is being rushed; wants \$60,000 exemption for elderly taxpayers;
- \* Todd Parris: says local judicial system is doing all it can, to expedite inmates; explained why some trials (murder, etc.) take longer, and delay court calendars.
- \* Ray Yost: Wants court process speeded-up to alleviate problem.

There being no further comments, Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to close the public hearing. Vice-Chairman Palmer seconded, with unanimous approval.

Architect, Doug Tennent, then explained the preliminary project drawings, and answered questions from the audience. At the conclusion, Vice-Chairman Palmer made a motion to approve the

issuance of the Bond Order, as attached to these Minutes. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded, with unanimous approval.

County Manager Russell then read the Notice of Special Bond Election, as attached to these Minutes. Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to approve the resolution regarding the Notice of Special Bond Election. Vice-Chairman Palmer seconded, with unanimous approval.

There being no further business, Vice-Chairman Palmer made a motion to adjourn the meeting to 4/4/92, at 10:00 a.m., at which time the Board will hold a joint meeting with the Rowan County Planning Board. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded, with unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise J. Barrow, CMC  
Clerk to the Board