

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD  
OF ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
ADJOURNED SESSION - APRIL 20, 1992  
CLEVELAND VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Rowan County Board of Commissioners met in adjourned session, on Monday, April 20, 1992, at 7:00 p.m., at the Cleveland Volunteer Fire Department, Cleveland, NC.

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

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

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

PUBLIC HEARING: CDBG GRANT APPLICATION FOR WHITE HILL COMMUNITY  
WATER PROJECT

At this time, Vice-Chairman Palmer made a motion to open the public hearing. Commissioner Welch seconded, with unanimous approval. County Planner, Danny Johnson, explained the purpose of the grant, and the need for the project in the White Hill Community. Chairman Cohen then addressed citizens who wished to speak:

Robert Harrington: favors the project

Martha Harrell: favors the project

With no one else wishing to speak, Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to close the public hearing. Vice-Chairman Palmer seconded, with unanimous approval.

Commissioner DeMarcus then made a motion to proceed with the project as proposed. Commissioner Welch seconded, with unanimous approval.

PUBLIC HEARING: ESTABLISHMENT OF SERVICE DISTRICT FOR CLEVELAND  
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Clerk to the Board, Denise Barrow, announced that the proper procedures for mailing notices of the hearing to all residents in the proposed service area, had been completed, as required by the General Statutes. A copy of the notice was distributed to the Board, as attached to these Minutes.

At this time, Commissioner Webb made a motion to open the public hearing. Vice-Chairman Palmer seconded, with unanimous approval. Chairman Cohen then addressed the audience for comments:

William Wilhelm: feels the proposed fire tax is unfair

Bill Russell: also opposes the tax

Howard Keziah: does not favor another tax, but feels it is necessary to upgrade the fire department.

Grady Hall: favors the tax

David Knox: favors tax

Fire Chief Mike Kluttz: is against the tax

EMS Director, Wayne Ashworth, explained the purpose of establishing a fire service district, and its benefits.

Phil Graham: questioned why Burke County taxes only on dwellings. County Attorney, John Holshouser, will look into the question, and give a response to the Board.

Kale Hartley, President, Board of Directors: favors tax

Nelson White: says he has received numerous phone calls opposing the tax

Beth Phifer: feels the tax will equalize support of the fire department

Sandra Hartley: supports tax

Buddy Wilhite (volunteer fireman): supports tax

Rowan County Fire Marshall, Randall Faggart, spoke to explain what upgrades (training, equipment) are necessary, for the department to meet State specifications. Chairman Cohen explained how the fire tax is collected and distributed.

Agnes Shue: opposes the tax

Chairman Cohen intervined to explain that Hoechst-Celanese would pay approximately 72% of the fire tax collected, for an approximate \$60,000.

Butch Myers: supports tax

Donna Myers: favors tax

Patricia Wilhite: favors the tax

With no one else wishing to speak, Vice-Chairman Palmer made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Webb seconded, with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Welch then made a motion to have our legal counsel check to see if we can put the issue to a vote of the citizens. Vice-Chairman Palmer seconded, with unanimous approval. Mr. Holshouser will look into the issue, and report back by month-end.

CONSIDERATION OF COUNTY TO ESTABLISH SELF-INSURANCE PROGRAM FOR WORKERS COMPENSATION:

Mr. Russell explained the process, and had previously distributed information regarding same, as attached to these Minutes. His recommendation was for the County to withdraw from the NCACC's program, and establish their own self-insurance program, effective 7/1/92.

Vice-Chairman Palmer made a motion to approve the recommendation, as submitted by Mr. Russell. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded, with unanimous approval.

PROPOSAL TO ASSIST ROWAN-SALISBURY SCHOOLS IN PURCHASING OF

ACTIVITY BUSES:

Mr. Russell explained the purpose and need of the request, and information regarding same, as attached to these Minutes. This request would incur no financial responsibility on the County whatsoever, according to Mr. Russell. With this information, Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Welch seconded, with unanimous approval.

PROPOSAL TO CONDUCT OPEN HOUSE AT JAIL AND COURTS ON SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 1992:

The Board reviewed a notice for the Open House at the Jail/Court Facility, on April 26, 1992, as attached to these Minutes. By consensus, the Board agreed to attend the Open House, and assist with citizens' questions.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Nelson White addressed the Board, and read a letter he had received from Ms. Elaine China, Planning Board Chairman, as attached to these Minutes. Mr. White also asked for specific information regarding the Agricultural Extension's involvement in land-use planning. Mr. Russell replied that he would be glad to furnish this information to Mr. White.

There being no further business, Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Webb seconded, with unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise J. Barrow, CMC  
Clerk to the Board