

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD
OF ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET WORKSESSIONS - JUNE 14, 1993
CONFERENCE ROOM - COMMUNITY BUILDING

The Rowan County Board of Commissioners met in Adjourned Session, for budget worksessions, beginning Monday, June 14, 1993, at 9:30 a.m., in the Conference Room of the Community Building.

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

The County Manager, Finance Director, and Clerk to the Board were also in attendance. Chairman Cohen called the meeting to order. Commissioner DeMarcus requested to be excused on Wednesday, for personal reasons. Vice-Chairman Webb requested that a letter of commendation be sent to the two (2) Duke Power employees, for their recent efforts during a local fire.

REVENUES:

County Manager, Tim Russell, explained how revenues were calculated, within his annual Budget Message.

CONTINUATION:

Mr. Russell explained the calculations of the Continuation Budget, also. By consensus, the Board agreed to discussion "continuation" then "expansion".

GOVERNING BODY (4110): no changes

OTHER GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS (4115): no changes

Commissioner Welch then made a motion to cross-train approximately 25% of the Tax Collector's Office personnel with County Assessor's Office, to work on HB 20. Vice-Chairman Webb seconded, and the vote passed 3/2, with Commissioners Arey and DeMarcus against.

Commissioner DeMarcus then made a motion to authorize 1-1/2 positions to assist with HB 20. Commissioner Arey seconded, and the vote passed 4/1, with Commissioner Welch opposing.

COUNTY MANAGER'S OFFICE (4120): no changes

PERSONNEL (4130): no changes

VETERANS SERVICE (4135): no changes

COUNTY ASSESSOR (4140): no changes

TAX COLLECTOR (4145): no increase allocated, due to usage of postcards.

ELECTIONS (4170): no changes

REGISTER OF DEEDS (4180): no changes

DATA PROCESSING (4210): no changes

EMERGENCY SERVICES (4330/4331): no changes

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (4371): no changes

SCHOOLS:

School Board Chairman, Jonathan Shores, and Superintendent, Dr. Don Martin, addressed the Board to discuss their requests for the 1993-94 budget. Dr. Martin and support staff returned on Thursday, to discuss the possibility of a Bond Referendum in the fall. Mr. Russell distributed information regarding tentative guidelines for preparing a referendum, as attached to these Minutes. Dr. Martin also distributed information, regarding their tentative organization of the process, as attached to these

Minutes. Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to set the date for the referendum on the latest possible date in September (proposed 9/28/93), and to currently endorse the principle of the referendum. It was later decided to fund the \$1.2 million request, through re-adjustment of funding between Current Expense and Capital Outlay, without using a tax increase.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

Director, John Shaw, and support staff, addressed the Board to discuss their request for twelve (12) positions within the 1993-94 budget. Mr. Shaw distributed information of justification for the positions, as attached to these Minutes. Mr. Shaw noted a surplus amount of \$95,000, with which to fund these positions.

SAFETY MEDICAL EXAMINER (4360): no changes

ROWAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE (4410): no changes

ROWAN COUNTY JAIL (4420): no changes

AIRPORT (4530): no changes

TRI-COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH:

Mr. Daniel Bradshaw, Director, and Finance Director, Gerald Bentley, addressed the Board, to explain 1993-94 budget requests.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES:

Administration (4705): no change
Sanitation (4710): no change
Planning (4725): no change
W.W.T.P.#1 (4735): no change
Codes Enforcement (4750): no change

SOCIAL SERVICES:

Director, Edwin Koontz, and support staff addressed the Board, regarding their budget request for 1993-94. Mr. Koontz explained his proposed justification for the requested fourteen (14) positions.

COURT FACILITIES (4810): no change

GENERAL SERVICES:

Mr. Russell presented an analysis of Cleaning and Janitorial Services.

Public Buildings (4820): Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to go into Executive Session, to discuss acquisition of

property. Vice-Chairman Webb seconded, with unanimous approval. Upon conclusion, the motion was made and seconded, with unanimous approval, to return to Regular Session.

Commissioner DeMarcus stated her support to use a mechanic for the next year, on a trial basis. The Board agreed, by consensus.

General Operations (4830): no change

CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU (4920): no change

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE (4950): no change

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION (4960): no change

HEALTH DEPARTMENT (5110): no change

TRI-COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH (5200): no change

SENIOR SERVICES (5550): no change

ROWAN-CABARRUS COMMUNITY COLLEGE (5921): no change

LIBRARY (6110): no change

PARKS (6230): no change

DEBT SERVICE (9100): no change

LANDFILL ENTERPRISE FUND (4715): no change

EXPANSION BUDGET

The Board then addressed the various proposed "Budget Initiatives", as outlined in the Manager's Message:

1. Employees' Benefit Program: Proposed funding of \$325,000 for Merit, and \$310,000 for C.O.L.A. (2%). Commissioner Arey made a motion to approve as submitted. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded, and the vote passed 3/2, with Commissioner Welch and Chairman Cohen against.

2. Geographical Information System (GIS): Vice-Chairman Webb made a motion, giving authorization to pursue with a 50-cent per month surcharge to be added to each telephone bill. Commissioner Arey seconded, and the vote passed 4/1, with Commissioner DeMarcus opposing.

3A. Restoration of Old Federal Post Office Building: Current costs are estimated at \$2.4 million (including architectural services). Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to approve the project as submitted. Commissioner Arey seconded, and the vote passed 3/2, with Commissioner Welch and Vice-Chairman Webb opposing.

3B. Construction of New Animal Shelter: Chairman Cohen made a motion to ear-mark \$100,000 toward the total costs of the project. Commissioner Arey seconded, with unanimous approval.

3C. Parking Study with the City of Salisbury: Vice-Chairman Webb, as a member of the committee, will keep the Board informed. No action necessary.

3D. General Services Maintenance Facility/Warehouse: Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to delete \$85,000 from the project. Vice-Chairman Webb seconded, with unanimous approval.

3E. County Vehicle Maintenance Facility: The Board discussed the possibility of hiring a mechanic, for the County. Commissioner Welch made a motion to approve the project as submitted. Vice-Chairman Webb seconded, with unanimous approval.

4. Current Expense Funding For R.C.C.C.: Commissioner Arey made a motion to approve the \$33,511, as requested. Commissioner Welch seconded, and the vote passed 4/1, with Chairman Cohen opposing.

5A. Plan For Centralized County Emergency Dispatching: Commissioner Welch made a motion to approve the proposed consolidation of dispatching operations. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded, with unanimous approval.

5B. Levy of Tax on Cats to support the Construction of Animal Shelter: The Board previously reached a consensus on the issue.

5C. Increase In Environmental Health Fees: Commissioner

DeMarcus made a motion to approve. Vice-Chairman Webb seconded, with unanimous approval.

5D. Increase In Revenues Through Additional Child Support Enforcement Effort: This was addressed during the D.S.S. presentation.

5E. Use of Tax Postcards: This was factored into the continuation budget; therefore, no action was necessary.

5F. Increase in Register of Deeds' Photocopying Fees To Support Equipment: This was approved in the continuation budget.

5G. Use of Telephone Surcharge to Support Implementation of Geographical Information System: This was approved in earlier discussion.

5H. Reversion of Article 40 One-Half Cent Sales Tax: Issue was discussed during "Schools".

6. Economic Development: Previously discussed

7. Plan to Acquire "800" Communications Equipment: Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to approve the project as submitted. Commissioner Arey seconded, with unanimous approval.

8. South Rowan Office Study: Vice-Chairman Webb made a motion to authorize the study of all components. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded, with unanimous approval.

9. "Pic-Pocket" Tax For Mandated Services: DSS Director, Edwin Koontz, previously distributed information regarding mandated services, as attached to these Minutes.

Fourteen (14) new positions are being requested. Vice-Chairman Webb made a motion to vote on the proposed positions individually. Commissioner Arey seconded, with unanimous approval:

1. 2-Child Protective Services Workers: Commissioner Arey made a motion to approve. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded, and the vote passed 3/2, with Commissioner Welch and Chairman Cohen opposing.

2. 4-Income Maintenance Caseworker II's: Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to approve. Commissioner Arey seconded,

and the vote failed 3/2. Commissioner Arey then made a motion to hire 2 workers. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded, and the vote passed 4/1, with Commissioner Welch opposing.

3. 1-AFDC Applications Caseworker II: Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to approve. Commissioner Arey seconded, and the vote failed 3/2.

4. 1-AFDC Medical Assistance Caseworker II: Commissioner Arey made a motion to approve. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded, and the motion failed 3/2. Commissioner Arey then made a motion to hire 2 part-time positions, and let the Director decide where the persons are most needed. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded, and the vote passed 3/2, with Commissioner Welch and Vice-Chairman Webb opposing.

5. 1-Income Maintenance Technician for Food Stamps: Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to approve. Commissioner Arey seconded, and the vote failed 3/2.

6. 1-Income Maintenance Technician for AFDC: Commissioner Arey made a motion to approve. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded, and the vote failed 3/2. Commissioner Arey then made a motion to hire 1 worker, and let the Director decide where the person is most needed. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded, and the vote passed 3/2, with Commissioner Welch and Vice-Chairman Webb opposing.

7. 1-Clerk Typist for Income Maintenance: Commissioner Arey made a motion to approve. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded, and the vote passed 3/2, with Commissioner Welch and Vice-Chairman Webb opposing.

8. 2-Child Support Enforcement Agents/

9. 1-Child Support Enforcement Supervisor: Commissioner Arey made a motion to approve. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded. Commissioner Welch then made a substitute motion to add 2 of the 3 requested positions, and let the Director decide where the persons are most needed. Chairman Cohen seconded. Commissioner Welch then amended the motion to propose hiring 1 of each position. Chairman Cohen seconded, and the vote passed 3/2, with Commissioners Arey and DeMarcus opposing.

Public Assistance Payments: Commissioner Welch made a motion to approve a payment of \$250,000 toward the total public assistance amount. He later withdrew the motion. Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to approve a payment of \$600,000 toward the

total amount. Chairman Cohen seconded. Commissioner Welch then made a substitute motion to approve \$400,000 toward public assistance payments. Motion died for lack of a second. Upon voting on the previous motion (\$600,000), the motion passed 3/2, with Commissioner Welch and Vice-Chairman Webb opposing.

10. Composting Pilot Project: County Manager Russell explained the (3) proposals as submitted:

- (a) Board to visit a facility in Tennessee;
- (b) increase the tipping fees from \$28 to \$31 per month, with the increase earmarked to begin a pilot composting project;
- (c) project to include front-end recycling, using inmates; and possible relocation of recycling center to landfill location.

Commissioner Arey made a motion to approve all (3) concepts. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded, with unanimous approval.

11. Tri-County Area Mental Health Center Funding: Commissioner Welch made a motion to delete the \$26,000 expansion request. Chairman Cohen seconded, with unanimous approval.

12. Better Public Relations: The Board agreed by consensus.

13. Public School Funding: Issue was Previously addressed. Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to take the proceeds from Article 40 and apply toward Capital Outlay, freeing-up County appropriations, allowing these funds to be applied toward Current Expense (\$1,180,172). Commissioner Welch then asked for an amendment, stating that all expenditures in excess of \$50,000 must be approved by the Board of Commissioners. He then seconded the motion, with unanimous approval.

14. Debt Service and Operations Costs for Justice Center: Mr. Russell gave two (2) recommendations:

- (a) approve an expansion increase of .75-cents to fully fund the repayment of the Justice Center. The Board agreed by consensus.
- (b) appropriate a reserve, to fund staffing, equipment,

and furnishings (\$200,000). Vice-Chairman Webb made a motion to approve the recommendation. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded, with unanimous approval.

15. House Bill 20 Implementation Requirements: Already approved.

16. Workers Compensation Report for Fiscal Year 1992-93: Commissioner Welch made a motion to accept the plan as submitted. Vice-Chairman Webb seconded, with unanimous approval.

17. Development of Parks Master Acquisition Plan: Commissioner Welch made a motion to approve. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded, with unanimous approval.

18. Airport Improvement Program: Commissioner Welch made a motion to approve. Vice-Chairman Webb seconded, with unanimous approval.

OTHER GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS:

United Arts Council: Commissioner Welch made a motion to delete the request for \$5,050 expansion. Vice-Chairman Webb seconded, with unanimous approval.

Army Aviation Flight Facility: The motion was made and seconded, to approve the request for \$75 expansion. The vote passed 4/1, with Commissioner Welch opposing.

Economic Development Commission: Commissioner Welch made a motion to delete the request for \$35,300 expansion. Vice-Chairman Webb seconded, and the vote passed 3/2. Commissioner DeMarcus stated her opinion to reduce the expansion request. Vice-Chairman Webb noted various areas of question. Commissioner DeMarcus then made a motion to (only) increase the continuation budget by \$10,000, as a one-time appropriation. Commissioner Arey seconded, and the vote passed 3/2, with Commissioner Welch and Vice-Chairman Webb opposing.

Commissioner Arey also suggested using funds from the sale of the Heritage Home property, and other County-owned properties as "seed money", to begin an industrial park.

National Guard: Vice-Chairman Webb made a motion to approve

the request for \$50 expansion. Chairman Cohen seconded, and the vote passed 4/1, with Commissioner Welch opposing.

Rowan Museum: Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to approve the request for \$175 expansion. Chairman Cohen seconded, and the vote was 4/1, with Commissioner Welch opposing.

Vocational Workshop: Commissioner Welch made a motion to delete the request for \$2,656 expansion. Chairman Cohen seconded, but the final decision was deferred for more information. At a later time, Commissioner Welch made a substitute motion to only fund the \$53,126 in continuation. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded, with unanimous approval.

Forestry Service: Commissioner Arey made a motion to grant the request for \$2,811 expansion. Vice-Chairman Webb seconded, and the vote passed 4/1, with Commissioner Welch opposing.

Rescue Squad: Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to deny the request for \$21,000 expansion, and continue to fund the \$44,250 in continuation. Commissioner Welch seconded, and the vote passed 4/1, with Vice-Chairman Webb opposing.

Cabarrus-Rowan Park - Operating: Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to fund only the continuation request. Chairman Cohen seconded, with unanimous approval.

N. C. Transportation Museum: Commissioner Arey made a motion to grant the request for \$15,500 expansion. Motion died for lack of a second. Commissioner DeMarcus made a substitute motion to fund \$15,000 total. Vice-Chairman Webb seconded, and the vote failed, with Chairman Cohen and Commissioners Welch and Arey opposing.

Commissioner Arey then made a motion to ask the General Assembly to add language, giving authorization to have a State Museum, to justify an increase in occupancy tax. Motion died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Welch then made a motion to approve only the continuation amount (\$9,500). Vice-Chairman Webb seconded, and the vote failed, with Chairman Cohen, and Commissioners DeMarcus and Arey opposing.

Commissioner Arey then made a substitute motion to approve funding of \$17,500. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded, and the vote

failed, with Chairman Cohen, Vice-Chairman Webb and Commissioner Welch opposing.

Lastly, Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to reconsider, and fund a total of \$15,000. Commissioner Arey seconded, and the vote passed, with Chairman Cohen and Commissioner Welch opposing.

Salisbury-Rowan Community Service Council: Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to fund the continuation only. Vice-Chairman Webb seconded, with unanimous approval.

United Way - Information/Referral Service: Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to approve the \$3,000 expansion request. The motion was deferred for additional information.

Senior Citizens Center: Commissioner Arey made a motion to approve the request for \$1,500 expansion. Vice-Chairman Webb seconded, and the vote passed 3/2, with Chairman Cohen and Commissioner Welch opposing.

Downtown Salisbury Corporation: Commissioner Welch made a motion to delete both continuation and expansion requests. Chairman Cohen seconded.

Vice-Chairman Webb then made a substitute motion to fund the continuation budget only, and inform them that this would be the last year of participation. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded, and the vote passed 3/2, with Chairman Cohen and Commissioner Welch opposing.

Yadkin-Pee Dee Study Project: Chairman Cohen made a motion to approve the request for \$2,500 expansion. The motion was seconded, and passed 4/1, with Commissioner Welch opposing.

After continued discussion, Commissioner Welch made a motion to reconsider and delete the \$5,500 expansion from the N. C. Transportation Museum. Motion died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Welch made a motion to reconsider and delete the \$75 expansion from the Army Aviation Flight Facility. Motion died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Welch made a motion to reconsider and delete the \$10,000 one-time appropriation from the Economic Development Commission. Motion died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Welch made a motion to reconsider and delete the \$50 expansion from the National Guard. Motion died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Welch made a motion to reconsider and delete the \$175 from the Rowan Museum. Motion died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Welch made a motion to reconsider and delete the \$2,811 from the Forestry Service. Motion died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Welch made a motion to reconsider and delete the \$6,000 from the United Way (I & R Service). Vice-Chairman Webb seconded. Commissioner Arey then made a substitute motion to defer the decision until more information could be obtained. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded, and the vote passed 4/1, with Commissioner Welch opposing.

Lastly, Vice-Chairman Webb made a motion to deviate from the schedule, and adjourn for lunch early, returning at 12:30 p.m. Chairman Cohen seconded, with unanimous approval.

Upon returning, the Board received information from Accountant, Vicki McCombs, that the rent costs would total \$3,000/annually; therefore, the remaining \$3,000 would go for other costs. Upon receiving this information, Commissioner Welch made a motion to delete the \$6,000 expansion. Vice-Chairman Webb seconded. Commissioner DeMarcus then made a substitute motion to pay the \$3,000 for rent only. Commissioner Arey seconded, and the vote passed 3/2, with Commissioner Welch and Vice-Chairman Webb opposing.

OTHER PRIORITIES:

Health Department: The issue of increased fees was previously discussed. Commissioner Welch made a motion to increase fees, and retain the same number of employees. Vice-Chairman Webb seconded. Commissioner Arey then made a substitute motion to hire the Allied Health Director and LPN I, and the County would be able to regain any overlapping funds (Jonas-). He later amended the motion to allow the hiring of staff up to the \$100,000 maximum, and to put excess funds back into the program/existing staff, not new staff. Chairman Cohen seconded.

Chairman Cohen then made a substitute motion to increase fees

as proposed, and give the Health Director discretion in using the \$100,000 to be used for additional salaries. Commissioner Arey seconded. Chairman Cohen later withdrew his motion.

Commissioner Welch then amended his earlier motion, to escrow the excess fees (\$95,000) until further information could be received from the Manager's Office. Vice-Chairman Webb seconded, and the vote passed 4/1, with Commissioner DeMarcus opposing.

Parks: Commissioner Welch made a motion to deny the request for various expansion items. Chairman Cohen seconded, with unanimous approval.

Soil & Water Conservation: Commissioner Welch made a motion to deny the request for a replacement copier. Chairman Cohen seconded, with unanimous approval.

Library: Commissioner Arey made a motion to approve the requests as submitted by the County Manager. Vice-Chairman Webb seconded, and the vote passed 3/2, with Commissioner Welch and Chairman Cohen opposing.

Sheriff's Office: Four (4) issues were discussed as follows, and voted individually:

- (1) Jail Administrator: The Board agreed, by consensus, to fund.
- (2) Project was denied by consensus
- (3) Phase-in of Semi-automatic Handguns: Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to delay the project. Chairman Cohen seconded, with unanimous approval.
- (4) Establishment of Automatic Advancement of Deputy I to Deputy II, and creation of Master Deputy Position. Was denied by consensus.

Emergency Services/EMS:

(D) Vice-Chairman Webb made a motion to provide 1/2 funding. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded, and the vote passed 4/1, with Commissioner Welch opposing.

(E) Vice-Chairman Webb made a motion to approve. Chairman Cohen seconded, with unanimous approval

(F) Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to deny. Commissioner Welch seconded, and the vote passed 4/1, with Vice-Chairman Webb opposing.

EMS/Fire Communications:

(F) Board previously approved.

(G) Vice-Chairman Webb made a motion to accept the MASS unit, with provisions to transfer to the Rescue squad, and old equipment to be sold, with proceeds toward the purchase/finance of the new machine. Commissioner Arey seconded, with unanimous approval.

(H) Vice-Chairman Webb made a motion to approve. Commissioner Arey seconded, with unanimous approval.

Environmental Services:

3. Purchase of 3 Computer Terminals: Commissioner Arey made a motion to approve. Vice-Chairman Webb seconded, and the vote passed 3/2, with Commissioner Welch and Chairman Cohen opposing.

Planning:

- (a) Land Use Administrator, Planning Technician, and Office Clerk: Commissioner Arey made a motion to approve. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded, and the vote failed 3/2.

All other requests were deferred at this time.

Finance: These requests were denied by consensus.

County Assessor:

1. Commissioner Arey made a motion to approve Additional Field Appraiser (\$26,000). Commissioner DeMarcus seconded, with unanimous approval.

Other issues had either been previously discussed or deferred.

Elections:

1. New Position: Commissioner Welch made a motion to defer to next year. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded, with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Welch then made a motion to defer the remaining requests to the next year. Chairman Cohen seconded. Commissioner DeMarcus then made a substitute motion to approve the request for the vote counters. Commissioner Welch seconded, with unanimous approval.

Data Processing:

1. Maintenance/support/addition of automated equipment: Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to approve. Commissioner Arey

seconded, with unanimous approval.

2. Preparation for Mainframe Replacement: Denied by consensus.

3. Case Tool(s) for programming development (\$100,000): Commissioner Welch made a motion to defer to the next year. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded, with unanimous approval.

At this point, the Board calculated an estimated 4.35-cent increase on the tax rate. Commissioner Welch suggested that the County Manager explore avenues with which to reduce expenditures by another \$140,000, thus lowering the increase to 4-cent. With this in agreement, the Board agreed, by consensus, that they could accept the proposed budget at-present, and Mr. Russell agreed.

There being no other deliberations necessary, Commissioner Welch made a motion to adjourn the meeting to 6/21/93, at 7:00 p.m., at the Seth Murdoch Auditorium, Agriculture Building, for the Budget Hearing. The motion was seconded, with unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise B. Daugherty, CMC
Clerk to the Board