

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD  
OF ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION - JANUARY 3, 1994,  
CONFERENCE ROOM, COMMUNITY BUILDING

PRESENT: J. Newton Cohen, Chairman (9:25)  
Thomas M. Webb, Vice-Chairman  
Jamima P. DeMarcus, Member  
Charles H. Welch, Member  
Steven Todd Arey, Member

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

Vice-Chairman Webb called the meeting to order as Chairman Cohen was not present at the beginning of the meeting. Commissioner DeMarcus gave the invocation.

MINUTES:

The following minutes were submitted for approval:

\*December 6, 1993 Regular Session

\*December 6, 1993 Public Hearing

There being no corrections Commissioner Arey moved for approval. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded, with unanimous approval.

AMENDMENT TO APPROVED MINUTES:

The Clerk to the Board submitted a letter to the Board requesting the addition of a paragraph to the approved November 22, 1993 minutes. Faith Mayor Tim Williams requested the change noting Faith was not mentioned in the Minutes, but had spoken to the Board at the meeting. Commissioner DeMarcus moved to approve the amendment and Commissioner Arey seconded. The vote was unanimous.

ADDITION TO AGENDA:

\*Commissioner DeMarcus announced she had tickets to the Martin Luther King Breakfast sponsored by the Salisbury-Rowan Human Relations Council and asked those interested to see her.

\*Commissioner Welch stated he would like to discuss a personnel matter during executive session.

CORRESPONDENCE:

A letter was received from the Historic Properties Commission stating a set of books titled "Report of Cases, Adjudged in the Superior Courts of Law and Equity of the State of North Carolina" had been donated to the County and would be housed in the restored Henderson Law Office. Commissioner DeMarcus requested the Clerk write a letter of appreciation to Patricia Young Barewald, the donor of the books.

ROAD PETITIONS:

Vice-Chairman Webb noted a request to add L.M. Overcash road to the State Secondary Road System for maintenance. Commissioner DeMarcus moved to approve the request. Commissioner Welch seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT:

Tax Collector Wayne Simpson provided the preliminary December tax report, as attached to these minutes. He stated his staff had worked over the weekend and final totals had not yet been reached.

PRESENTATION OF DONATIONS:

Parks and Recreation Director Jim Foltz presented the Board with a donation received from Mr. and Mrs. Richard Sloan for the Sloan Endowment. Special Populations Director Renita Ritchie also presented a donation of \$1000 to be used as a stipend for an internship program.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ROAD NAME CHANGES:

Commissioner Arey moved to open the public hearing for the purpose of hearing comments on the proposed renaming of Old Linn Road and Powers Farm Road. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded, with unanimous approval. There being no public comment Commissioner Arey moved to close the hearing. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded, with unanimous approval. Commissioner DeMarcus then moved to approve the road name changes. Commissioner Arey seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

REQUEST FROM BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO PURCHASE BALLOT COUNTER:

Board of Elections Chairman Herman Beaver, and Supervisor Nancy Evans addressed the Board with a request for a \$5000 budget increase in their capital outlay account. Although funds were approved in the budget to purchase two vote counters, Mr. Beaver and Mrs. Evans requested a high speed counter and PC based computer be purchased along with software to program the present vote counting machines. They discussed the advantages of being able to program the machines and prepare the ballot layout. Chairman Cohen moved to approve the expenditure contingent that the purchased equipment could be programmed with our equipment and if only one vendor is available, the purchase should be delayed. Vice-Chairman Webb seconded. Mr. Beaver noted that there was only one vendor who carried the equipment in question. Commissioner Arey stated he could vote for Chairman Cohen's motion if he amended the reference to vendors. Chairman Cohen then restated his motion to approve the expenditure as long as the equipment could be programmed and the Board of Commissioners have approval of the purchase. Commissioner Arey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN:

Planner Ed Muire presented the Board with a plan to address measures aimed at containing on-site and transportation related spills. The document was for the Board's information and no action was needed. Commissioner DeMarcus thanked Mr. Muire for the information noting it was very thorough and easy to understand.

RESOLUTION AWARDDING BID FOR EAST ROWAN AMBULANCE SITE:

County Manager Tim Russell discussed with the Board two bids received for the construction of an East Rowan Ambulance site. He recommended the Board reject the bids stating each bid was too high for what the County needed. He suggested contacting Lonnie Goodman who was the lowest bid to determine if the price could be negotiated. Commissioner Arey moved to reject the bids and for Mr. Russell to seek a lower price. Commissioner Webb seconded, adding Mr. Russell should explore all avenues including manufactured housing. The motion passed unanimously.

REQUEST TO SELL SURPLUS PROPERTY AT THE LIBRARY:

Mr. Russell relayed a request to the Board from Phil Barton

for approval to sell card catalog files. The files are now surplus. Commissioner Webb moved to approve the sale. Commissioner Arey seconded, with unanimous approval.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Refunds - Various ambulance refunds were submitted for approval. Commissioner Arey move to approve the refunds. Commissioner Webb seconded, with unanimous approval.

Interest - Mr. Russell read the interest report prepared by the Finance Department, as attached to these minutes.

Budget Process - Mr. Russell discussed with the Board the upcoming budget process and a tentative schedule for their approval. Mr. Russell stated he hoped to streamline the departmental request to a two day work session. Commissioner Arey moved to approve the recommendation and schedule. He requested the budget retreat be held on a Wednesday and Thursday as he would be unavailable over the weekend. Commissioner Webb seconded. Commissioner Welch then noted he would be unable to attend the work session on Wednesday. Commissioner Arey asked if he could attend on Thursday and Friday, March 24th and 25th. Commissioner Welch stated he could. Commissioner Arey then moved to hold the budget retreat on March 24th and 25th. Commissioner Webb seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Welch questioned the practice of allowing persons to be placed on the agenda when no prior information was provided to the Board. He stated he thought the Board had decided several months ago they would no longer allow persons on the agenda without prior information. Commissioner DeMarcus stated she felt they were a public board and should be accessible to the citizens. Chairman Cohen stated it would be a good idea to provide information prior to the meetings when possible and to delay an item if a person can not meet the information deadline.

Resolution Assigning Bid - A resolution was submitted from Attorney Jennifer Flynn for the assignment of bid for the sale of property. The foreclosed property was retained by Rowan County when it was auctioned on the courthouse steps and no bid was received. The deed had not yet been assigned to Rowan County and Mr. W. H. Linker wanted to take Rowan County's place as the purchaser. Mr. Linker would then pay what Rowan County had bid for the property. Commissioners deferred this item until County Attorney John Holshouser could determine the location and value of

the property.

CONSIDERATION OF FRANCHISE AGREEMENT FOR VISIONCABLE:

Mr. Russell discussed a formula for determining the cost for running cable to homes who do not meet the 20 homes per mile density requirement. Commissioner DeMarcus stated she felt this new formula made the cable more accessible and affordable. She then moved to accept the revised proposal for the franchise agreement, including the length of the agreement for ten years and 20 homes per mile as the density requirement. Commissioner Welch seconded, with unanimous approval. It was decided Mr. Russell should be the point of contact for the County with VisionCable. A second reading, as required by law, will be held at the January 17, 1994 meeting.

RECOMMENDATION FOR FREE IMMUNIZATIONS:

Health Director John Shaw addressed the Board with a proposal concerning free immunizations. The Health department currently provides free immunizations for thirteen agencies. The recommendation would be to discontinue this service for these agencies with the exception of county employees. All others would pay the regular fee of thirteen dollars. Commissioner Arey moved to approve the recommendation, and Commissioner Welch seconded. Commissioner Webb then offered a substitute motion to approve the recommendation and to include the volunteer fire departments with the county employees as those able to receive free immunizations. Commissioner Arey seconded the substitute motion, and the vote was unanimous.

REQUEST TO WAIVE LANDFILL FEES:

Mr. Jim Sides addressed the Board with a request to dump items at the landfill at no charge. Mr. Sides had signed up for a "free day" program held through the Chamber of Commerce approximately one year ago. The chamber failed to pick up his items. Chairman Cohen stated he felt the problem was between Mr. Sides and the Chamber of Commerce. He felt since the landfill is an enterprise fund, the County could not waive fees for one person only.

CONCERNS ON TOURISM:

Mr. Leo Wallace addressed the Board with his concerns about tourism in Rowan County. He felt the money collected from the

occupancy tax was not being wisely spent and there should be more promotion of County sites not only those in downtown Salisbury.

REPORT ON SCHOOL CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT:

Dr. Don Martin and Mr. Russell talked with the Board about the schedule for selling and administering the school bond proceeds. There are five projects which will be bid in four packages, with the first bid being opened on March 3, 1994 and thereafter, every other week through April 14. Final approval of the bids will be by the Board of Commissioners. The Board agreed by consensus to the schedule. Mr. Russell stated they will proceed and keep the Board informed of progress.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

Home and Community Care Block Grant- Mr. Larry Gruber who held this appointment resigned from his position. This appointment was tabled as no nominations were available.

Airport Board- Commissioner Welch nominated Mr. Paul Carter and Mr. Larry Jones for reappointment. Commissioner DeMarcus nominated Mr. J.W. Shuping and Commissioner Webb nominated Mr. David Potts and Mr. Carl E. Sloop III. There were four positions available. Chairman Cohen then called for the vote and those elected to the Airport Board were Mr. Paul Carter by unanimous vote. Mr. Larry Jones by a vote of 4/1, with Commissioner Webb voting against. Mr. J. W. Shuping by unanimous vote, and Mr. Carl E. Sloop III by a vote of 3/2 with Chairman Cohen and Commissioner DeMarcus voting against.

Historic Properties Commission- Commissioner Welch moved to reappoint Mrs. Ann Murdoch. Commissioner Arey seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

Parks and Recreation Commission- Commissioner Webb moved to reappoint Mr. Bill Stanback. Commissioner Arey moved to reappointment Mr. Roscoe Giles. There being no further nominations Mr. Stanback and Mr. Giles were reappointed by a unanimous vote.

Planning Board- Commissioner DeMarcus moved to reappoint Mr. Daryl Corriher. Commissioner Webb nominated Mr. C.A. Curlee. Mr. Curlee was appointed to the board by a vote of 3/2, with Chairman Cohen and Commissioners Webb and Welch voting in favor and Commissioners DeMarcus and Arey voting against.

Public Library Board- Commissioner Webb moved to reappoint Mrs. Jackie Taylor. There being no further nominations Mrs. Taylor was reappointed by a unanimous vote.

Centralina Council of Governments- Commissioner Arey moved to appoint Chairman Cohen as Rowan's delegate to Centralina with Vice-Chairman Webb acting as the alternate. The Board agreed by consensus.

Commissioner Arey asked the Board to again determine uniform rules for appointed boards, and asked that this be worked on during the goal setting retreat.

County Attorney Holshouser reported to the Board the property which had been in question earlier was valued at \$1,300. Commissioner Webb moved to assign the bid to Mr. Linker and place the property back on the tax books. Commissioner Welch seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business Commissioner Arey moved to enter executive session in order to discuss property acquisition and personnel. Commissioner Welch seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Upon conclusion of executive session no action was taken. Commissioner Arey moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded, with unanimous approval.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly King, Clerk to the Board