

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 28, 1994 - 7:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM, COMMUNITY BUILDING

PRESENT: J. Newton Cohen, Chairman
Thomas M. Webb, Vice-Chairman
Jamima P. DeMarcus, Member
S. Todd Arey, Member

ABSENT: 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.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

- * Commissioner DeMarcus stated she had information concerning the proposed sports complex she would like to share.
- * Finance Director Brady Frick asked the Board to discuss landfill accounts.

Chairman Cohen asked to take the additions to the agenda first.

- * Commissioner DeMarcus stated she was a participant on the task force studying the sports complex, and they had met with various Commissioners from Rowan and Cabarrus Counties. She said they hoped to find a way to be a part of the complex without using property tax money. She stated a meeting was scheduled for July 11 for a joint meeting of the Rowan and Cabarrus County Commissioners in hopes of coming to a mutual understanding. The meeting will be held at 5:00 p.m.
- * Brady Frick presented the Board with a list of bad debts from the Landfill. He stated most of the accounts were set up during 1989 with hurricane Hugo. John Holshouser stated that he had taken action against many of the accounts, but most had closed their business and moved

leaving the accounts uncollectible. Mr. Frick asked the Board to write off these bad debts with the exception of Ranger Roofing, B.E. Waller & Son, and Paul Wilson & Associates. He stated he had telephone numbers for these three and felt there may be a chance of collection. Commissioner Arey moved to approve writing off the bad debts with the exception of the three noted.

Commissioner

Webb seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

1994-95 BUDGET ADOPTION:

Commissioner DeMarcus asked to make a recommendation to the Board before they voted on the budget. She asked to reduce the tax increase from five cent to four noting many municipalities had also approved tax increases. She stated she felt many people who lived in the towns would be getting a "double whammy". She said using the fund balance for the difference would still leave 15% in the reserve which is acceptable. She asked the Board for their reactions to the proposal. Chairman Cohen stated he would like to leave the fund balance because the Board had been trying to build the account since taking money out for projects in earlier years. Commissioner Webb stated having a good fund balance would help the County's credit rating. Chairman Cohen noted the tax increase was to be used to fund things voted by the citizens or mandated from the state and federal governments. Mr. Russell read through the budget ordinance for the general operating fund. He noted one cent had been set aside in the schools appropriation for a reserve account only to allocated by the Commissioners. He noted one cent had also been set aside for economic development and for a "pic pocket" tax for those things mandated from the state. Commissioner Arey stated he felt this was a good budget and moved for approval. Commissioner Webb seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Mr. Russell read through the ordinance for the solid waste enterprise fund. Commissioner Webb moved for approval. Commissioner Arey seconded, and the vote was unanimous. Mr. Russell then read through the ordinance for the worker's compensation self retention program fund. Commissioner DeMarcus moved for approval. Commissioner Webb seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The last ordinance introduced was the special fire and service district taxes fund. Mr. Russell noted

the only change in service district taxes were for the Bostian Heights, South Salisbury, and Richfield/Misenheimer volunteer fire departments. He noted however, the change for Richfield/Misenheimer was not actually an increase but a correction for what should have been approved last year. Commissioner Arey moved for approval of the ordinance. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Arey asked Mr. Jim Morton if he had any information he could share publicly before the Board entered executive session. Mr. Morton stated he had prepared specifications and a surveyor was preparing a topographic map of the behind the Agriculture Building. He said he had met with Animal Control Officer Tom Purser and had visited the Mecklenburg County and Gaston County Animal Shelters. He said they had developed good ideas which he would incorporate if the budget allowed.

Commissioner Webb moved to enter Executive Session to discuss a contract for the Animal Shelter Engineer. Commissioner Arey seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

Upon conclusion of Executive Session Commissioner Arey moved to hire Mr. James Morton as the engineer for the Animal Shelter with the agreement of 4% of the cost of construction based on \$300,000, and 4% of any cost over the \$300,000 cap, with 8% cost on any work he prepares for water/sewer extension. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Cohen noted a letter submitted from Tax Collector Wayne Simpson asking permission to attend the NaCo conference in Las Vegas. He stated the money was available in his budget and no increase would be needed. Commissioner Webb moved to approve the request. Chairman Cohen seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business Commissioner Webb moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Arey seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Dickinson,
Clerk to the Board