

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 17, 1995 - 7:00 P.M.
CHINA GROVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM

PRESENT: Todd Arey, Chairman
Thomas M. Webb, Vice-Chairman
J. Newton Cohen, Member
Jim Neely, Member
Steve Blount, Member

Chairman Arey called the meeting to order and Commissioner Blount gave the invocation.

PUBLIC HEARING: SOUTH ROWAN GOVERNMENT SERVICES COMPLEX:

Commissioner Webb moved to open the floor for public comment on services needed in a proposed South Rowan Government Complex. Commissioner Neely seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Persons addressing the Board were:

* Bob Freeman - stated he was not sure what the South Rowan Complex was. Chairman Arey stated it was a proposed project to provide needed services in the South Rowan area. Commissioner Neely added that people in the South Rowan area had expressed an interest in this and the Board would like to know what services the people wanted. Mr. Freeman stated that people in the southern area are out of work and don't need the services because they don't need additional taxes.

* Martha Harrell - stated she was in favor of providing services in the south area but not if it meant an increase in taxes to pay for it. She added that services should be available on a regular basis and the Board should consider providing services in other parts of the county as well.

Chairman Arey stated that at this time the Board did not foresee adding new employees for this project, but would transfer current employees in the departments.

* Elbert Cobb - asked if the Board had looked at other counties in the area to see how they divide services.

* Austin Mitchell - stated the people in the southern area need attention and asked the Board to come to Kannapolis to lay out it's plan for government services.

* Sam Carter - stated Iredell County currently has satellite office to serve the southern end of that county.

There being no further comment Commissioner Webb moved to close the public hearing. Commissioner Blount seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW CONTRACT FOR JOINT BRIDGE FINANCING OF THE BASEBALL STADIUM:

Mr. Bachman Brown, Chairman of the Regional Sports Authority, addressed the Board to bring them up to date on the baseball project and the status of the fundraising project. He introduced Mr. Steve Morris who described fund raising efforts to the Board. He showed members slides of the project to show the progress. He added that \$695,000 had been pledged so far and negotiations were underway which would bring an additional \$170,000 for a total of \$865,000 in pledges. Mr. Brown stated that the Sports Authority was committed to make the project work and that funds must be available to complete the contracts. He then requested the Board to approve financing to bridge the gap from private donations in order complete the contracts. He stated that the money will be repaid as soon as pledges are received and would not be held.

Chairman Arey moved to approve the request to bridge the gap in financing the project. Commissioner Webb seconded. Commissioner Cohen stated he was frustrated because he had opposed the project when it was first presented, but after it was approved he dropped the opposition in hopes of the private donation of two million being raised. He stated the private sector should have started earlier to raise the money. Commissioner Blount stated that Commissioners needed to be more than salesman on future projects, and the County should have been aware of all of the problems with the project beforehand, but the Board now needed to make a financial decision in order to give the contractors the time they need. Commissioner Neely stated he had been against the project at first, but the Board must now look at ways to generate the most revenue for the County. He added that the project was already started and should be completed and he was convinced the private money could be raised. Chairman Arey then discussed the figures for revenues from the ballpark and stated that the county would own a five million dollar facility. Commissioner Cohen stated he intended to vote against the motion but asked if his colleague would amend the motion to bridge 1.1 million instead of 2. Chairman Arey stated the Sports Authority could notify Commissioners when the money is raised and the Board could work with a local bank to privately place the funds and use the lease and property in conjunction with these funds to bank finance so the Board could be reimbursed plus interest. Chairman Arey then called for a vote on the motion. The motion was for Rowan County in conjunction with the City of Kannapolis and the Sports Authority to provide 2 million in bridge financing for the baseball stadium. The motion passed by a vote of 4/1, with Commissioner Cohen voting no.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

Commissioner Neely asked if the policy of board term limits was in effect since some of the positions eligible were vacant before the policy was passed. Chairman Arey stated it was his opinion that the policy would be in effect. Commissioner Webb added that a person was still eligible for two full terms if they had only filled an unexpired term.

Rowan-Cabarrus Parks Commission - Commissioner Neely nominated Mr. Bernard Beaver. There being no further nominations Mr. Beaver was appointed by unanimous vote.

Airport Board - Two positions were available on the Airport Board. Commissioner Blount nominated Mr. Richard Franklin. Chairman Arey nominated Mr. Hank Palmer, and Commissioner Neely nominated Mr. Robert Cauble. The vote was as follows:

- Mr. Franklin - 2/3(Chairman Arey & Commissioner Blount voting in favor)
- Mr. Palmer - 4/1 (Chairman Arey & Commissioners Cohen, Blount & Webb voting in favor)
- Mr. Cauble - 3/2 (Commissioner Neely, Cohen and Webb voting in favor)

Mr. Cauble and Mr. Palmer were appointed to the Airport Board.

Board of Public Health - Commissioner Webb made a motion to move Dr. Paul Green to the physicians position on the Health Board leaving a position to be filled from the general public. Commissioner Arey seconded and the motion passed unanimously. This motion left two positions available on the board. Commissioner Neely nominated Robert Johnson. Commissioner Blount nominated Courtney Webb and Essie Hogue. Commissioner Webb nominated Teresa Osborne for reappointment. The vote was as follows:

- Robert Johnson - 3/2(Commissioners Webb, Neely and Cohen voting in favor)
- Teresa Osborne - 4/1 (Chairman Arey & Commissioners Webb, Neely and Cohen voting in favor)
- Courtney Webb - 1/4 (Commissioner Blount voting in favor)
- Essie Hogue - 1/4 (Commissioner Blount voting in favor)

Mr. Johnson and Mrs. Osborne were appointed to the board.

Historic Properties Commission - Commissioner Webb moved to reappoint Mrs. Betty Mickle and Mrs. Suzie Walters. There being no further nominations Mrs. Mickle and Mrs. Walters were unanimously reappointed to the commission. Mrs. Sarah Kellogg was not eligible for reappointment leaving a vacancy on the commission.

Parks & Recreation Commission - Commissioner Blount nominated Mr. Richard Luther to replace Mr. Dale Lanning as requested by the Parks board. Commissioner Neely nominated Mr. John Sutton. Commissioner Cohen nominated Ms. Rosemary Beard, Mr. Larry Williams, and Mr. Guy Carlan for reappointment. There being no further nominations all nominations were

unanimously appointed to the Parks & Recreation board. 2 positions were still vacant on the board, as two member were not eligible for reappointment because of terms served.

Planning Board - Four full terms were available for nomination and one position to fill an unexpired term. Commissioners agreed that the top four persons receiving votes would fill the four full terms, and the fifth person would fill the unexpired term. Commissioner Arey nominated Ed Hammill for reappointment. Commissioner Webb nominated Walter Koontz. Commissioner Blount nominated Paul Miller. Commissioner Cohen nominated Max Kent, Commissioner Neely nominated Freddie Sides. Commissioner Webb nominated Phil Young. Commissioner Cohen nominated Terry Hill. Chairman Arey nominated Michael Lear. Commissioner Webb nominated Worley King. The vote was as follows:

Ed Hammill - 4/1 (Chairman Arey & Commissioners Blount, Cohen and Webb voting in favor)
Walter Koontz - 5/0
Paul Miller - 1/4 (Commissioner Blount voting in favor)
Max Kent - 2/3 (Commissioners Cohen & Neely voting in favor)
Freddie Sides - 4/1 (Commissioners Neely, Webb, Cohen & Blount voting in favor)
Phil Young - 4/1 (Chairman Arey & Commissioners Blount, Webb and Neely voting in favor)
Terry Hill - 1/4 (Commissioner Cohen voting in favor)
Michael Lear - 1/4 (Chairman Arey voting in favor)
Worley King - 3/2 (Chairman Arey & Commissioners Neely and Webb voting in favor)

Mr. Hammill, Mr. Koontz, Mr. Sides and Mr. Young were appointed to serve full terms. Mr. King was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Carolyn Barker.

Library Board - No nominations were offered for this position.

Salisbury-Rowan Human Relations Board - Chairman Arey nominated Reverend Robert O. Freeman to fill the vacancy on this board. There being no further nominations Reverend Freeman was appointed by a unanimous vote.

Senior Services Advisory Board - Chairman Arey nominated Leah McFee, Ralph Brown and Virginia Graves were all eligible for reappointment. Commissioner Neely nominated Rhonda Sales. There were three full positions available for nomination and one unexpired term of Earl Scott. The vote was as follows:

Leah McFee - 1/4 (Chairman Arey voting in favor)
Ralph Brown - 5/0
Virginia Graves - 5/0
Rhonda Sales - 4/1 (Commissioners Neely, Blount, Webb & Cohen voting in favor)

Ms. Graves, Ms. Sales and Mr. Brown were appointed to full terms on the board and Ms. McFee was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Earl Scott

Home Community Care Block Grant - Commissioners unanimously appointed Mr. Rick Travis to replace Mr. Edwin Koontz on this board, as Mr. Koontz is retiring. Chairman Arey was also chosen to replace Jamima DeMarcus as the Commission liaison. Commissioner Webb moved to appoint Senior Services as the lead agency. Chairman Arey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Tri-County Mental Health Board - Chairman Arey nominated Mrs. Carl Parker and Dr. George Everhart for reappoint to the board. There being no further nominations Mrs. Parker and Dr. Everhart were unanimously reappointed.

Rowan Area Transit Board - Chairman Arey moved to appoint Mr. William Beilfuss as a representative the to the Board. There being no further nominations, Mr. Beilfuss was unanimously appointed.

Convention & Visitors Bureau - Chairman Arey moved to accept the nomination of Dr. Gary Freeze for one of two positions created in the Convention & Visitors Bureau expansion. Commissioner Webb requested this be tabled until the County Manager and County Attorney could look at the amended by-laws of the Convention & Visitors Bureau in order to work out any problems.

Centralina Council of Governments Delegate - Commissioner Cohen stated the Chairman usually serves this position. It was agreed by consensus Chairman Arey would be the delegate.

Woodleaf Fire Commissioner - Commissioner Webb moved to appoint Mr. Guy Etheridge as a fire commissioner for the Woodleaf fire tax district. There being no further nominations Mr. Etheridge was appointed by a unanimous vote.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Dickinson,
Clerk to the Board