

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 12, 1995 - 7:00 P.M.
SETH MURDOCH AUDITORIUM, AGRICULTURE BUILDING

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

The County Manager, Clerk to the Board, County Attorney, and Finance Director were also in attendance. Chairman Arey called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

* Commissioner Webb asked to have a discussion concerning the depot in Granite Quarry. He added that the East Rowan Baseball Team won the state championship for the first time since 1995. He requested the clerk to invite the team to the July meeting for recognition.

* Mr. Russell stated he had a resolution opposing the closing of an interchange at Peach Orchard Road on Interstate 85.

PUBLIC HEARING: PROPOSED 1995-96 BUDGET:

Commissioner Blount moved to open the floor for public comment on the proposed budget for 1995-96. Commissioner Webb seconded and the motion passed by a unanimous vote. Chairman Arey gave a brief review of the budget process the Board had undertaken for the year. Commissioner Cohen added that he felt the County had had good growth during the year and if the county had not invested in the baseball stadium the a large tax increase would not be needed.

The following citizens addressed the Board concerning the budget:

Paul Dietz - asked the Board to consider hiring a Senior Games Coordinator for 20 hours per week at a rate of \$7.00 per hour.

Ralph Morgan - asked where the money from revaluation will go, and recommended the Board use property on Roseman Road for the industrial park.

Don Hamilton - asked why the county paid for advisors on the placement of an industrial park and then ignored their findings. He felt the county put too much money into the baseball park.

Pamela Hilton - warned the Board not to only plan for the future and forget today. She had problems that faced her today and would not benefit from future plans.

Terry Burnham - gave a comparison of surrounding counties tax rates and population figures. She asked qualifying factors for placing an industrial park and stated she felt the public could support money for schools instead of an industrial park.

Larry Smith - stated raising taxes with revaluation is wrong, and added the revaluation should be done every 8 years instead of 5.

Bill Melchor - stated the citizens deserve a tax break. He added that the county builds everything too “fancy” and should stay in a budget.

Frankie Owens - commented that the current tax rate is .65 cents not .59 and the school budget was excessive.

Gene Barnhardt - stated that with the current tax rate and revaluation property values are too high.

Mike Efird - He felt that throwing money at problems don't solve them. He felt local government should not become a developer.

Hubert Miller - stated the Board shouldn't take money from the schools to put into the ballpark.

John Shaw - stated he felt this was the first Board that has addressed the problems with courage to make unpopular decisions.

Harry Whalen - thanked the Board for the support for the schools.

Dr. Ronald Hash - stated he felt better schools would give the county a competitive edge. He requested the Board to reconsider the budget request for the schools.

Chuck Harris - stated he was in favor of an industrial park because he felt this was the only way to attract industry to the county.

Tammy Ketchie - thanked the Board for the appropriation to the schools and requested the Board to consider giving more.

Derwood Puckett - stated the county needed good stewardship of money and felt the county should use a school voucher system.

Jerry Garrison - challenged the Board to do more with less. He stated he felt a tax increase with revaluation was double jeopardy.

Dick Messinger - stated he felt the Board has tried to make improvements, although he didn't always agree with the decisions.

Bill Coleman - stated he was in support of the budget

M.H. Pridgen - stated the Board must take a close look at the budget and spend wisely. He added that he was against spending money on the little train and against the site of the industrial park.

Don Neal - He felt the county should say "no" to new spending.

Robert Freeman - stated the poor people can't afford to live in Rowan County.

Elaine Welch - stated that with the revaluation senior citizens who live on fixed incomes can't afford to live.

Virginia Graves - stated the county should not spend money on the ballpark that may not benefit all people. She added that she agreed with the industrial park, but questioned going against the recommended site.

Herb Steimel - stated he was appalled at the revaluation.

Fred Winecoff - stated he was concerned about the competence of the revaluation staff and was opposed to the revaluation.

Marvin Webb - He felt many tracts could not be sold at their new valuation.

John Linker - stated he approved of three budget issues for EDC, strategic planning and the industrial park.

Sandy Johnson - thanked the Board for support for the schools and added that the schools need an additional \$400,000 just to remain where they are.

John Stegall - commended the Board for the budget work and extended support from the Chamber of Commerce.

Troy Elliott - stated he felt his property was over valued.

Vicki Hiatt - stated she was against more taxes and a cost of living for employees should not be given if the money isn't there.

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

REQUEST TO SELL SURPLUS RADIOS:

Frank Thomason reviewed a request to sell 8 portable radios no longer used by the county to the Boy Scouts of America. He recommended the radios be sold for \$50 each. Commissioner Cohen moved to approve the sale of the radios. Commissioner Webb seconded and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL SERVICES

This item was delayed until the next meeting.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

Centralina Development Corporation - Commissioner Webb moved to renominate Mr. William Kennedy. Chairman Arey moved to renominate Mr. William Lombard. Commissioner Cohen was also up for reappointment, however, he asked that another member serve. Commissioner Blount nominated Chairman Arey to fill Commissioner Cohen's position. There being no further nominations, the nominations were appointed by a unanimous vote.

Board of Social Services - Chairman Arey nominated Commissioner Blount to take his place of the Social Services board. There being no further nominations, Commissioner Blount was appointed by a unanimous vote.

Centralina Private Industry Council - Chairman Arey moved to reappoint Mr. Dow Perry and Ms. Beth Cook. Commissioner Blount seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

CBA Task Force - Chairman Arey moved to reappoint Dr. Joe McCann, Mr. Rick McCollister and Reverend Brooks Gibson to the task force. Commissioner Webb seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Domiciliary Home Advisory Committee - Chairman Arey moved to reappoint Mr. Richard Harrington and Mr. Don Neal. Commissioner Webb seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

NC Jury Commission - Commissioner Webb moved to reappoint Mr. Richard Arey. Commissioner Neely seconded and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Region F Aging Advisory Council - Chairman Arey moved to reappoint Ms. Bea Amendola and Ms. Katherine Bias to the council. Commissioner Blount seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Region F EMS Advisory Council - Chairman Arey moved to reappoint Mr. Wayne Ashworth and Ms. Beth Conell to the advisory council. Commissioner Webb seconded and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Rowan Nursing Home Advisory Committee - Commissioner Webb moved to nominate Commissioner Neely to the committee. Chairman Arey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Senior Services Advisory Council - Commissioner Webb moved to reappoint Ms. Leah McFee, Ms. Ruth Gullledge, Ms. Katherine Bias and Ms. Bea Amendola. Commissioner Blount seconded and the vote was unanimous. One position was left vacant for later appointment.

Convention and Visitors Bureau - Chairman Arey moved to approve the recommendations to appoint Ms. Betty Sedberry and Mr. Ron Crusan to the Tourism Authority. Commissioner Blount seconded and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Request from Town of Granite Quarry - Chairman Arey moved to approve the request from the Town of Granite Quarry to appoint Mr. Howell Kesler and Ms. Brenda Welch as extraterritorial members to the Granite Quarry planning board. Commissioner Webb seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Request from City of Kannapolis - Chairman moved to approve the appointment of Mr. Conrad Sloop as an extraterritorial member to Kannapolis planning board. Commissioner Webb seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

REQUEST TO WRITE OFF LANDFILL DEBT

Mr. Frick requested the Board to write off a landfill debt incurred by Ranger Roofing dating back to 1989. Mr. Holshouser stated a judgment had been placed against the account and although the account is written off, collection efforts will not stop. Chairman Arey moved to approve the request. Commissioner Blount seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION OPPOSING INTERCHANGE CLOSING:

Mr. Russell introduced a resolution opposing the closing of the interchange on Interstate 85 at Peach Orchard Road. Chairman Arey moved to approve the resolution opposing the closing. Commissioner Webb seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR FUND 29:

This item was delayed until the next meeting.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Commissioner Webb recognized Jim Foltz from Parks and Recreation. Mr. Foltz gave the Board a letter from the Town of Granite Quarry donating their depot to the Parks if they

would agree to move the building within 180 days. Commissioner Webb moved to authorize Mr. Foltz to obtain bids for moving the depot and return to the next meeting with the results. Chairman Arey seconded and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

There being no further business Commissioner Webb moved to adjourn until Monday, June 26, 1995 at 7:00 p.m. for budget review and approval. Commissioner Blount seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Dickinson,
Clerk to the Board