

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MAY 6, 1996 - 9:00 A.M.  
COMMISSIONER'S MEETING ROOM, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

PRESENT: J. Newton Cohen, Chairman  
Jim Neely, Vice-Chairman  
Tom Webb, Member  
Todd Arey, Member (9:35)  
Steve Blount, Member

The County Manager, Clerk to the Board, Finance Director and County Attorney were also present. Chairman Cohen called the meeting to order and Commissioner Blount gave the invocation.

CORRESPONDENCE:

\* A letter was received from Planning Staff providing two areas of study for the Noise Ordinance. The board proposed creating a sports facility use and allowing permits for a three month period. The Board accepted the information and asked staff to continue to work on the Noise Ordinance.

\* A resolution was received from Richmond County opposing unfunded mandates from the state. The letter urged other counties to join in adoption of the resolution. Commissioner Webb moved to adopt the resolution changing the statistics to reflect those of Rowan County. Commissioner Neely seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA:

Chairman Cohen asked if any member wished to discuss any of the items listed on the consent agenda. Commissioner Webb asked that Mr. Russell read item "d" a Proclamation to establish May as Women's Health Month in Rowan County. Commissioner Webb then moved to approve the consent agenda as submitted. The consent agenda consisted of the following items:

- (a) Approval of Minutes from 4/1/96 and 4/15/96 meetings
- (b) Approval of Request to transfer 1986 Boat from the Rowan County Sheriff's Office to the Rowan Rescue Squad
- (c) Approval of Refunds totaling \$3213.79
- (d) Approval of Proclamation Establishing May 1996 as Women's Health Month in Rowan County
- (e) Approval of Airport Grants
- (f) Approval of Unanimous Petition for *Ben Circle* road name change and set a public hearing for May 20, 1996 for *Ethel Lane* and *Rock Creek Road*

AIRPORT OPERATIONS EVALUATION:

Mr. Bill Harms addressed the Board with his views of the operations at the airport. He stated the operation needed to have flexibility so that all people who work at the airport could handle anything that needed to be done. The Board thanked Mr. Harms for his opinions.

REVIEW OF OPERATIONS PLAN FOR AIRPORT:

Mr. Russell asked to delay this item.

TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT PLAN:

Senior Services Director Clyde Fahnestock reviewed with the Board the process of their transportation development plan. He stated that in order to apply for grant money for replacement vehicles a transportation development plan must be in place. He stated the consultant was hired by the state with a local 10% match which would be split with the City of Salisbury. The Board thanked Mr. Fahnestock for the efficiency of the RTS program.

SECTION 16 APPLICATION ENDORSEMENT

Mr. Fahnestock stated the RTS board had approved an application for a replacement 14 passenger van. The grant would require a local match of \$4,790. Commissioner Blount moved to endorse the grant application. Chairman Cohen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Arey moved to enter closed session as provided in G.S. 143-318.11(4) to discuss economic development.

Upon conclusion of closed session Commissioner Webb moved to return to open session. Commissioner Blount seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Chairman Cohen stated no action had been taken during closed session.

PRESENTATION OF SCHOOL BUDGET INFORMATION:

Dr. Joe McCann, School Superintendent, and School Board Vice-Chairman James Donnell discussed the schools budget request for fiscal year 1996-97.

Dr. McCann relayed a request for a special current year appropriation request. He stated the School Board had been approached by the Town of Spencer seeking \$65,000 for street improvement around North Rowan Middle School. The town had exhausted all of their street appropriations and needed assistance. The Board accepted the request and asked Dr. McCann to continue with his presentation.

Dr. McCann stated the School Board had developed three goals which were Basics First, Implement a Challenging Curriculum for All Students, and Real Rooms for Learning. He then introduced Allen Brantley and Colby Cochrane who gave a video presentation of the School Board's initiatives for the class of 1999+. The Board thanked the School Board members for their presentation and referred the information to their budget worksession.

Chairman Cohen adjourned the meeting for lunch at 12:15. At 1:15 Chairman Cohen called the meeting back to order. Commissioner Arey moved to enter closed session to discuss economic development as provided in G.S. 143-318.11(4). Commissioner Webb seconded and the motion carried.

No action was taken in closed session and Commissioner Webb moved to return to open session. Commissioner Blount seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

REQUEST FROM PRESERVATION NORTH CAROLINA TO USE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING FOR 20TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE:

The received a request from Mark Perry to use the Commissioner's Meeting room as a stop for the Preservation North Carolina annual conference. Commissioner Webb moved to approve the request. Commissioner Blount seconded and the motion carried.

DISCUSSION ON PRICING FOR OFFICE RENTAL:

Mr. Russell reviewed a request brought to the Personnel Board by Lost Time Control, the County's Worker's Compensation Administrator, to rent two offices in the basement of the Administrative Building. Mr. Russell stated the Personnel

Board had recommended renting the offices on a year to year basis. Several Commissioners expressed concern over safety issues for other county offices in the building and the dangers of setting a precedent for rental to any type of business'. The Board agreed by consensus to decline the offer at the present time.

#### BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

Board of Health - One application was received from Tom Shepler for appointment to the Board of Health. Commissioner Arey asked that the nomination be deferred until a later time. The Board agreed by consensus.

Rowan Facilities & Pollution Control - Commissioner Arey moved to reappoint Mr. W. S. Hall and Mr. William Wagoner. Commissioner Neely seconded and the appointments were unanimous.

Nursing Home Advisory Board - Commissioner Arey moved to reappoint Ms. Virginia Graves and appoint Ms. Betty Sunding to the board. There being no further nominations, Ms. Graves and Ms. Sunding were appointed.

China Grove ETJ - Chairman Cohen moved to approve the request from the Town of China Grove to appoint Mr. John Miller as an extraterritorial member to the Town's planning board. Commissioner Blount seconded and the motion carried.

#### ADVERTISEMENT FOR INDUSTRIAL PARK PROPERTY TRADE:

Commissioner Webb moved to publish an official notice of intent to exchange an acre of land with Mr. Miller for an acre to be included in the park. Commissioner Blount seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

#### APPROVAL OF AUDIT CONTRACT

Commissioner Blount moved to approve the audit contract with Dixon, Odom for the 1997 audit. Commissioner Webb seconded and the motion carried.

#### ROAD IMPROVEMENTS-CHARLES STREET

The Board discussed the request earlier presented by the School Board for an appropriation for road improvements. Mr. Russell stated the Board could use 1/2 cent sales tax money to cover the \$65,000 expense in this budget or it could wait until the next budget to appropriate the money. Commissioner Arey moved to appropriate \$65,000 from the schools 1/2 cent sales tax money for the road improvements by the Town of Spencer. Commissioner Blount seconded the motion and it passed by a unanimous vote.

#### ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Commissioner Neely requested the Board appropriate a one time contribution of \$15,000 for the YMCA gymnastics program which would be eliminated without the funds. He then moved to give the YMCA a one time appropriation of \$15,000 for the gymnastics program. Chairman Cohen made an amendment to the motion to defer the request until budget deliberations. Commissioner Arey seconded the amendment. Chairman Cohen asked for the vote and the amendment failed by a vote of 2/3 with Commissioner's Neely, Webb and Blount voting against. Chairman Cohen then called for the question on the original motion and it passed by a vote of 4/1 with Chairman Cohen voting against.

Commissioner Webb then moved to enter closed session to discuss economic development. Commissioner Blount seconded and the motion carried. The Board invited Mr. Bill Wagoner and staff to join the closed session. No action was taken during closed session and Commissioner Blount moved to return to regular session. Commissioner Webb seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Commissioner Webb moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Blount seconded and the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Dickinson,  
Clerk to the Board