

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
JULY 7, 1997 - 9:00 A.M.  
COMMISSIONER'S MEETING ROOM, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

PRESENT: J. Newton Cohen, Vice-Chairman  
Steve Blount, Member  
Dave Rowland, Member  
Frank Tadlock, Member

ABSENT: Jim Neely, Chairman

The County Manager, Clerk to the Board and County Attorney were also present. Vice-Chairman Cohen called the meeting to order and provided the invocation.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

- Commissioner Blount asked to discuss a request concerning the child abuse task force.
- John Holshouser asked the Board to discuss a matter as permitted by the attorney/client relationship in order to seek the Board's direction.
- Mr. Russell asked the Board to approve a resolution to change the signatures on the County's bank accounts.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Russell reviewed a letter stating that the Rowan Public Library had been named as a runner-up as Library of the Year in a national competition held by the Library Journal. The Board expressed their appreciation for the work done by Library staff.

### CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA:

Commissioner Blount moved to approve the consent agenda as submitted. Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion and it passed on unanimous vote. The consent agenda consisted of the following items:

- (A) Minutes from 6/2/97 and 6/16/97 Meetings
- (B) Unanimous Road Name Change of *Double J Lane*. Set Public Hearing for Majority Petition for *Propst Road*.
- (C) Refunds totaling \$ 102.75

### REVIEW OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY PROGRAMS:

Mr. Lane Dyer, Manager of the local Employment Security Commission addressed the Board concerning the ESC program. He reviewed the programs that are offered by the local office and described their goals.

Commissioner Cohen asked about figures showing the number of Rowan residents leaving the County for work. Mr. Dyer stated he would get the figures for Vice-Chairman Cohen. Mr. Dyer told the Board that at the end of May the unemployment rate for Rowan County was 2.6%.

The Board thanked Mr. Dyer for his presentation.

### STAFF REPORT ON POSSIBLE REVISIONS TO SALVAGE YARD ORDINANCE:

Marion Lytle reviewed standards in the Salvage Yard Ordinance which could be modified by the Board to incorporate more stringent guidelines for opening a new salvage yard. Mr. Lytle noted that if the zoning document was approved salvage yards could only open with a special use permit approved by the Board and the changes to the ordinance would not be necessary. Commissioner Blount suggested not making any changes to the Salvage Yard Ordinance until the zoning document is presented.

### UPDATE ON ZONING MAPS:

Mr. Lytle reviewed a map with proposed zoning areas for the major corridors in the County. He noted the different zoning districts and uses. Several commissioners had concerns over the limitation for a business to 2,000 square feet in a rural or rural residential area. They stated they felt a larger building should be included.

Mr. Lytle asked the Board to review the maps and let planning staff know any comments or concerns they had.

DRAFT FOR PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO GOVERN MANAGMENT OF SLUDGES IN ROWAN COUNTY:

Don Conner stated that he had been working with Dr. Rubin from N.C. State to develop an ordinance to try to provide relief for the West Rowan residents affected by the use of chicken sludge on fields. He stated that their were still several areas that needed work but wanted to get the Board's direction.

Commissioner Tadlock stated that the residents of West Rowland had put up with the sludge problem long enough and asked about the possibility of making it illegal to bring chicken sludge into the county. He added that he also felt the fines for violation should be stronger.

John Holshouser stated he did not know if it would be legal to ban only chicken sludge but that he would study the matter further.

Mr. Russell told the Board they may want to consider establishing a nuisance board that could determine when the smell becomes a nuisance and could begin the penalty process.

Commissioner Rowland suggested waiting until staff finished the document and determined the legalities before proceeding with a public hearing. The Board agreed by consensus.

WATER/SEWER STUDY SCOPE OF SERVICES:

Mr. David Upchurch from Hobbs, Upchurch & Associates spoke to the Board about his thoughts for performing a water/sewer study for Rowan County. He described how his staff would begin and work on the study and estimated that they would be finished in four months with a report and presentation ready for the Board in six.

Commissioner Blount asked about determining the possibilities of working with other counties. Commissioner Rowland stated that he felt the county was looking for a partner to provide water/sewer services. Mr. Upchurch agreed to incorporate the feasibility and costs into the report.

The Board thanked Mr. Upchurch for his presentation.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

- Commissioner Blount stated that the child abuse task force were in the process of developing a community protocol for handling child abuse cases. In an effort to make sure the protocols are not forgotten and years go by he asked the Board to establish April as “Remember Our Children” month in Rowan County and to inscribe a plaque to hang in the Commissioner’s Meeting Room to remind the Board. Commissioner Tadlock moved to approve the resolution and plaque. Commissioner Rowland seconded and the motion carried on unanimous vote.
- Mr. Russell distributed a resolution to authorize the signatures on the County’s bank accounts to be changed to include the Chairman’s and Mr. Russell’s and to remove Brady Frick. Commissioner Rowland moved to approve the resolution. Commissioner Tadlock seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Blount moved to enter closed session to discuss the sale of property located on the Brendle’s property recently purchased by the County. He also added a discussion between Mr. Holshouser and the Board citing attorney/client privilege. Commissioner Tadlock seconded and the motion carried.

Upon conclusion of closed session, Commissioner Blount moved to return to open session. Commissioner Rowland seconded and the motion carried. No action was taken during closed session.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Dickinson, CMC  
Clerk to the Board