

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AUGUST 4, 1997 - 9:00 A.M.
COMMISSIONER'S MEETING ROOM, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

PRESENT: Jim Neely, Chairman
J. Newton Cohen, Chairman
Steve Blount, Member
Dave Rowland, Member
Frank Tadlock, Member

The County Manager, Clerk to the Board and County Attorney were also present. Chairman Neely called the meeting to order and Commissioner Blount provided the invocation.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

- Commissioner Rowland stated he would like to add a discussion on the Department of Social Services.
- Mr. Russell asked that the Board add Spencer Town Manager, Jeff Causey to talk about upcoming plans for Spencer to assist in water/sewer extension to exits 79/81 interchange.
- Mr. Russell also told the Board that Mr. Carl Steele wished to present a petition concerning the chicken sludge issue in West Rowan.

CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA:

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

- (A) Approval of Minutes from 7/7/97 Meeting
- (B) Refunds totaling \$3,807.44
- (C) Unanimous Road Name Change *Shoaf Ridge Road* located North

- off 4200 Block of Sherrills Ford Road
- (D) Request to add *Scott Trace* and *Turnberry Circle* to the NCDOT Secondary Road System for Maintenance
 - (E) Set Public Hearing for Granite Quarry and City of Salisbury ETJ Appointments
 - (F) Family Planning Debt Write-Off

REQUEST FOR BUDGET INCREASE FROM THE FORESTRY SERVICE:

Forest Agent Wayne Alexander addressed the Board explaining the various functions of the Forestry Service. He described the programs that the service is involved in throughout the county, and noted that the Forestry budget was funded 60% by the State and 40% by the County. He requested an additional \$4,800 appropriation in order to meet their estimated budget. Mr. Alexander told the Board that several positions had been reclassified in 1982 but were just now receiving pay raises and that was the reason for the shortfall. He noted that they would not be able to receive funds from the State for the difference unless the County appropriated its 40% share.

Commissioner Rowland stated he could not support an increase because the Board had not increased or even cut all special appropriation in this years budget. The Board discussed forgiving the rent due to the County from the Forestry Service in order reduce some of their expenses. Mr. Alexander stated that the state still would not increase their share of the budget.

Commissioner Blount moved to forgive the current year's rent being paid to the county and to readdress the budget need in next year's budget session. Chairman Neely seconded the motion, but it was defeated by a vote of 2/3.

DRAFT ORDINANCE TO GOVERN MANAGEMENT OF SLUDGES IN ROWAN COUNTY:

Chairman Neely recognized Carl Steele, a resident of the West Rowan area who presented a petition to the Board. The petition requested the Board to implement an ordinance to prohibit hauling industrial sludge into Rowan County. The Board accepted the petition.

Don Conner told the Board that he had had conversations with Dr. Rubin from N.C. State and he had not had time to update the present draft of the ordinance with the information Dr. Rubin provided. He stated that even with the changes the Board could not prohibit hauling the sludge into the county but that it could regulate the stabilization of the material.

County Attorney John Holshouser stated that he did not have all of the information concerning the ordinance and would like to take an opportunity to meet with Mr. Conner and study the information in order to develop and enforceable ordinance.

The Board agreed to delay any action and place the issue on their next agenda. Commissioner Cohen stated he would also like to have State representatives who permit the sludges present at the next meeting.

DIVISION OF POLLUTION PREVENTION & ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE
RECYCLING GRANT AWARD:

Ms. Kathleen Gray from the DDPPEA presented a grant award of \$3,500 to Rowan County Recycling Coordinator Sherri Argabright for the implementation of “swap shops” at county convenience centers. The “swap shops” would be a viable method of pulling reusable items out of the waste stream.

The Board thanked Ms. Gray and applauded Mrs. Argabright for her work.

EDLERLY & DISABLED TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM APPLICATION:

Clyde Fahnstock addressed the Board with an application for elderly and disabled transportation assistance grant. He stated that the County was eligible to receive \$42,011 in operating assistance money with no match being required from the County.

Commissioner Rowland stated he did not want the grant to be used for something that the Board would have to fund in the future. Mr. Fahnstock assured Commissioner Rowland that there had been no history of such an event happening.

Commissioner Blount moved to approve the resolution for application and certification. Commissioner Tadlock seconded the motion and it passed on unanimous vote.

SEPTEMBER MEETING CHANGE:

The Board considered their meeting schedule for September 1997 as the first meeting fell on Labor Day. The Board agreed to hold their meeting on September 8, 1997 and if necessary their second meeting on September 22.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Rowan County Housing Authority - Commissioner Blount moved to reappoint Betty Miller. Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion and it passed on unanimous vote.

Centralina Workforce Committee - A letter was received from Centralina requesting a representative of the community service provides be appointed. The board tabled this appointment until a list of community service organizations could be obtained.

East Gold Hill Fire Department - A letter was received asking the Board to approve the appointment of Donald Jackman by Cabarrus County to serve on the Board. Commissioner Rowland moved to approve the appointment subject to review by John Holshouser and Mr. Russell. Commissioner Blount seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

- Commissioner Rowland stated he wished to discuss the Department of Social Services and there was discussion as to whether the discussion should be held in open session or in closed session due to personnel reasons. After conferring with the Attorney, Commissioner Rowland moved to enter closed session to discuss personnel. Commissioner Blount seconded and the motion carried.

Upon conclusion of closed session Commissioner Rowland moved to return to open session. Commissioner Blount seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Rowland then made a motion to ask the County's two appointees to the DSS Board to ask for Rick Travis' resignation. Commissioner Cohen seconded the motion.

Commissioner Blount then moved to make an amendment to the motion asking that the Board of County Commissioners and the DSS Board meet with Jane Malpass and Jane Smith to clarify their opinion of Mr. Travis' response to their investigation and report. That the state be allowed to complete their Administrative Review and report back to the Commissioners and the DSS Board as to their findings especially as to their opinion of Mr. Travis's continued service as DSS director, and that the County Commissioner's that feel Mr. Travis is not performing his duties correctly or adequately give Mr. Travis and the DSS Board a written report specifying his alleged short comings, allowing him and the DSS Board an opportunity to respond to those charges. Chairman Neely seconded the motion.

Chairman Neely called for a vote on the amendment to the original motion and it was defeated by a vote of 2/3 with Commissioners Cohen, Rowland and Tadlock voting against.

Chairman Neely then called for a vote on the original motion and it passed by a vote of 3/2 with Chairman Neely and Commissioner Blount voting against.

Commissioner Rowland then moved to draft a letter to Governor Hunt informing him of the Board's action and requesting he instruct the State's appointees to the Board of Social Services to work towards the same goal. Commissioner Cohen seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of 3/2 with Chairman Neely and Commissioner Blount voting against.

Commissioner Blount moved to enter closed session to discuss the sale of property at 300 North Main Street, sale of property in Summit Corporate Center, Personnel and Economic Development. Commissioner Cohen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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

Commissioner Blount moved to accept the offer from Fisher-Harriss for property located at 300 North Main Street for \$267,000 subject to parcels 430 and 431 being developed for parking and subject to upset bid. Commissioner Tadlock seconded and the motion carried on unanimous vote.

Commissioner Blount moved to accept an offer from Preventive Healthcare to purchase lot 13 in Summit Corporate Center for 112,000. Commissioner Tadlock seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of 4/0 with Commissioner Rowland abstaining from the vote.

Commissioner Blount moved to commit an amount equal to but not to exceed the tax revenue payback, towards the extension of water and sewer as an inducement for an industry to locate on the Trevey Road property. Commissioner Tadlock seconded and the motion passed by a vote of 3/0 with Commissioners Neely and Rowland abstaining from the vote.

PRESS CONFERENCE: PIEDMONT MENTALHEALTH

Commissioner Neely asked Mr. Russell to read a press release. Mr. Russell read the release stating that Union, Cabarrus and Stanly Counties had approved a merger of Rowan County with Piedmont Mental Health to for Piedmont Behavioral Healthcare.

Mr. Robert Lorish, Director stated that Dr. Esther Williams had been named as the center director and described some of the programs and goals of Piedmont HealthCare. He also recognized Ann Shipman and another employee who reviewed the developmental disabilities and substance abuse programs.

The Board thanked Mr. Lorish for attending and stated they looked forward to a successful partnership.

There being no further business, Commissioner Blount moved to adjourn the meeting until 6:30 when the Board would meet with the Salisbury City Council at the Crystal Lounge at Catawba College. Commissioner Rowland seconded and the motion carried.

JOINT MEETING WITH SALISBURY CITY COUNCIL:

Chairman Neely reconvened the meeting as the Board met in conjunction with the City of Salisbury. Mayor Margaret Kluttz offered welcome to those in attendance and turned the meeting over to Mr. George Raftelis.

Mr. Raftelis stated that he was hired by the City of Salisbury to study the water/sewer needs in Rowan County and to develop a policy for the extension of water by the City of Salisbury. Mr. Raftelis went through their proposed extension policy and sited examples of the policy would work for different types of projects. A copy of the presentation is hereto attached to these minutes.

After fielding questions from the audience about the specifics of the policy Mr. Raftelis turned the meeting back over to the two governmental bodies.

Commissioners Rowland and Cohen raised the question of the use of tap fees, frontage fees and acreage fees and the feeling that the City was inflexible about waiving these fees for projects Rowan County paid for. City Manager Dave Treme explained that the fees went to the upkeep and maintenance of the wastewater treatment center and it was the only fair way to provide maintenance of the facility.

Commissioner Blount asked about the type of customers the city's policy would attract and asked if it wouldn't be beneficial to try to attract industry more than residential developments.

The Board of Commissioner agreed to study the policy and let the City Council know their feelings and concerns. The City Council stated that they would take these concerns into consideration before a final decision was made.

There being no further business, Chairman Neely adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Dickinson, CMC
Clerk to the Board