

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
AUGUST 18, 1997 - 7:00 P.M.  
COMMISSIONER'S MEETING ROOM, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

PRESENT: Jim Neely, Chairman  
J. Newton Cohen, Vice-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 Cohen provided the invocation.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

- Commissioner Blount asked to discuss a nature preserve in the High Rock Lake area.

CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA:

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

- (A) Approval of Unanimous Petitions for *Red Hawk Trail* and *Morganvilla Road* and Set Public Hearing for September 8, 1997 for Majority Road Name Petitions of *Splendor View Road*, *Whitetail Lane*, *White House Drive*, and *Holly Lakes Drive*
- (B) Approval of Proclamation Establishing October 19-25, 1997 as Hunger Fighting Week in Rowan County
- (C) Approval of Refunds totaling \$451.00

PUBLIC HEARING: ROAD NAME CHANGE FOR PROPST ROAD:

Commissioner Blount moved to open the public hearing on the proposed road name change of Propst Road. Commissioner Rowland seconded and the motion carried.

Chairman Neely called for public comment, and there being none offered, Commissioner Blount moved to closed the public hearing. Commissioner Tadlock seconded and the motion carried.

Commissioner Blount then moved to approve the road name change. Commissioner Tadlock seconded the motion and it passed on unanimous vote.

DISCUSSION ON BRENDEL'S BUILDING:

Mr. Russell asked the Board to recognize Mr. Richard Atkinson. Mr. Atkinson was the architect who had been working on health department facilities for Rowan County since 1991.

Mr. Atkinson reviewed the proposed plan for use of the building, stating the building would be divided between Piedmont Mental Health (20,000 sq. ft.) and the Health Department (24,000 sq.ft.).

Commissioner Blount stated that he was concerned the Health department would have to be forced to fit in space that would already be too small when they moved in. Commissioner Rowland noted that the building could easily be expanded on both sides to allow for future growth.

Mr. Atkinson stated he would like to proceed with the plans, and begin by meeting with the Health board to discuss their needs and the proposed cuts in space.

Commissioner Rowland moved to authorize Mr. Atkinson to proceed with the design of the health building and asked Mr. Russell to encourage the Health board to speed up their time table in meeting with Mr. Atkinson. Commissioner Blount seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF BID FOR HARDWARE FOR DSS:

Vicki McCombs presented the Board with a resolution to award a contract for the purchase of hardware for the statewide automated child welfare information system for the Department of Social Services. She stated that only one bid had been received which was:

The Memory Bank  
Salisbury, NC

\$171,163.25

Mrs. McCombs noted that the expense would be reimbursed 75% from federal money.

Commissioner Blount moved to approve the bid request noting that the total project was not to exceed the 100,000 budget appropriated by the Board. Commissioner Tadlock seconded, and the motion carried.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO MANAGE SLUDGES IN ROWAN COUNTY:

Commissioner Tadlock moved to table this item until the next agenda. Commissioner Cohen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF LEASE WITH ROWAN MUSEUM FOR THE  
COMMUNITY BUILDING:

Mr. Russell presented a lease between Rowan County and the Rowan Museum, Inc., for use of the Community Building. The lease stated that the Museum would use the building to store and display artifacts from County history and to help preserve the nature of the building. He added that cost to the Museum would be for \$1 a year for a ten year lease.

Commissioner Blount moved to enter into an agreement with the Rowan Museum, Inc., to occupy the Community Building. Commissioner Rowland seconded and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

CONSIDERATION OF SCHOOLS REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR  
HENDERSON SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION:

Mr. Russell asked to bring the Board up to date on a request that would be made from the School Board. He stated that they wished to expand Henderson school from a 500 student capacity to a 750 student to help accommodate planned growth in that area. Mr. Russell added that although the School Board felt it could reduce the North Rowan project by \$800,000 the money from the state bond referendum would not be available until 2001 or 2002. He noted that this redirection would still leave an approximately \$600,000 shortfall. He added that schools had submitted five recommendations asking the county to fund the shortfall.

Commissioner Cohen stated he had a problem with the recommendation because if the schools would delay their construction schedule by six months they

would have money from the state. Commissioners Tadlock and Rowland both stated they felt the school board should ask for a bond referendum if funds are needed.

The Board accepted the information and agreed to delay until the school board made a formal presentation.

#### RECONSIDERATION OF FORESTRY SERVICE BUDGET:

Mr. Russell stated that he and Commissioner Tadlock had met with Forestry Service personnel as well as representatives from the fire departments to discuss the Forestry Service budget request. They stated that unless the cut in their budget was reinstated they would not have enough money to operate for a full year and would have to close the office in March or April. He added that the fire departments told them that they relied on the Forestry Service equipment and used them as a back-up in fires. Mr. Russell suggested delaying any action on the request until next spring when a more accurate figure of the needs would be know.

Commissioner Tadlock stated he convinced the need was valid and saw no reason in delaying action. Commissioner Rowland added that he felt that the Board should not increase items once the budget had been set.

Commissioner Blount stated that by delaying action until next spring the Board was only delaying what would have to be done then, and moved to increase the Forestry Service Budget. Commissioner Tadlock seconded and the motion passed by a vote of 4/1 with Commissioner Rowland voting against. The Board clarified that \$2,400 would be reinstated into the Forestry Service Budget.

#### BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Centralina Workforce Development - Commissioner Blount moved to appoint Mr. A.T. Harris to the board. There being no other nominations, Mr. Harris was unanimously appointed.

Community Child Protection Team - Mr. Rick Travis reviewed the protection team with the Board and explained how each person was nominated. Commissioner Blount moved to approve their recommendation to appoint Kathy Bailey, Julie Gainer and Edwin Koontz to the child protection team. Commissioner Tadlock seconded and the motion carried.

Ellis Cross Country Fire Department - Commissioner Blount moved to approve the fire department's request to appoint Walter Goodlett and Bill Freeze to serve as fire commissioners. Commissioner Cohen seconded and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

- Mr. Russell told the Board that it needed to make 4 appointments to the new Piedmont Mental Health Board. The Board agreed by consensus that Commissioner Cohen would serve on the board and asked him to work with the County Manager to make a study of the three other appointments.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Commissioner Blount read a prepared statement asking the Board to support a project to create a nature preserve in eastern Rowan County around High Rock Lake. He stated that the private sector had pledged to raise approximately \$600,000 in private funds to offset the cost of the land and asked the Board to support creating the nature preserve when the official request was presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Linda Miller - spoke about her concerns of having the Charlotte Metro Zoo in her neighborhood and asked the Board to support zoning in order to alleviate their problem.

Steve Macaluso/Dawn - stated they were the zoo owners and reiterated the safety measures taken to protect the neighbors and the animals.

Millie Robinson - stated she was concerned about the location of the zoo because it was in a heavily populated area.

Ed Hayden - stated his concerns about the school boards budget request. He also gave the Board a printout showing the number of students late since school started.

Wayne Upright - stated he felt the school budget was getting out of control

Tim Overcash - stated he was against the zoo being located where it was.

Several unidentified citizens also addressed the Board with concerns over the location of the zoo.

There being no further public comment, Commissioner Blount moved to enter closed session for the purpose of discussing an offer to purchase property on the 200 block of North Main Street. Commissioner Rowland seconded and the motion carried.

Commissioner Blount moved to return to open session, upon the conclusion of closed session. Commissioner Tadlock seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. No action was taken during closed session.

Commissioner Blount moved to decline the offer from Lee and Mona Lisa Wallace to purchase parcels 435-I and 434 bordering Liberty and Lee Streets for \$85,000. Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- Mr. Russell asked the Board to consider a request from the Planning Department. Commissioner Blount moved to approve a cash guarantee for road paving in the Grace Ridge Subdivision in the amount of \$77,500. Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion and it passed on unanimous vote.

There being no further business, Commissioner Cohen moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Tadlock seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Dickinson, CMC  
Clerk to the Board