

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DECEMBER 1, 1997 - 9:00 A.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, Finance Officer and County Attorney were also present. Chairman Neely called the meeting to order and Commissioner Tadlock provided the invocation.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

- John Holshouser asked to discuss a release for the Dillard's project.
- Mr. Holshouser asked to also set a public hearing for BPI, a project approved by the Industrial Facility Pollution Control Authority.
- Commissioner Blount asked to add a discussion about the Yadkin, Incorporated Shoreline Management Plan.
- Commissioner Rowland asked the Board to allow Gary Allen and Curtis Leonard to speak during the discussion about the Shoreline Management Plan.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Russell reviewed a letter from the North Carolina Department of Transportation of the approved projects for the Airport Transportation Improvement Program for FY 1998-2002.

SELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN:

Chairman Neely turned the meeting over to Tim Russell for the selection of Chairman and Vice-Chairman for 1998.

Mr. Russell opened the floor for nominations for selection of Chairman. Commissioner Rowland nominated Commissioner Neely. There being no further nominations, Commissioner Cohen moved to close the nominations and appoint Commissioner Neely as Chairman. Commissioner Rowland seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Russell then opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chairman. Commissioner Tadlock nominated Commissioner Cohen. There being no further nominations, Commissioner Rowland moved to close the nominations and appoint Commissioner Cohen as Vice-Chairman. Commissioner Neely seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Russell then turned the meeting back over to Chairman Neely.

CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA:

Commissioner Cohen asked Mr. Russell to explain item “D” which was a resolution to allow Centralina to receive state funds for use in Rowan County. Mr. Russell explained the state allocates the money each year and if the County does not approve the allocation the money reverts back to the state.

Commissioner Rowland then moved to approve the consent agenda as submitted. Commissioner Cohen seconded the motion and it passed on unanimous vote.

PUBLIC HEARING: SNIA PERMIT APPLICATION:

Commissioner Cohen moved to open the public hearing for comments on a SNIA permit application. Commissioner Tadlock seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Chairman Neely called for comment on the application by Bob Blake in the Coddle Creek Watershed, and there being none offered, Commissioner Cohen moved to close the public hearing. Commissioner Tadlock seconded and the motion carried.

Commissioner Cohen then moved to approve the SNIA permit application. Commissioner Rowland seconded and the motion carried.

PRESENTATION ON STRATEGIC PLANNING “SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE”

Dr. Bill McCoy from the Urban Institute presented the Board with the final document produced through the strategic planning process. He recognized the members of the strategic planning committee who had worked on the document over the two year work period.

Dr. McCoy reviewed the visions and recommendations reached through the process. The major categories were land use planning, education, health and social services, community development and culture and arts. He also asked the Board to allow the executive committee to continue to serve as the monitoring group for the "Search for Excellence" to keep the process going.

Commissioner Blount thanked Dr. McCoy, staff and all of the citizens who participated in the creation of the plan. He stated that he felt it was important to keep the plan alive and moved to approve the recommendation to keep the executive committee to oversee the progress of the plan. Commissioner Tadlock seconded the motion. Commissioner Cohen asked if an amendment could be made to the motion to include the executive committee's input on the Shoreline Management plan. Commissioner Blount stated that the request should be in a separate motion as it was not related to the motion on the table. There being no further discussion, Chairman Neely called for the vote and the motion passed unanimously.

ADDITION TO THE AGENDA:

- Commissioner Blount stated that he felt Yadkin Incorporated needed to hold a public hearing on their proposed Shoreline Management Plan in Rowan County to allow Rowan citizens a chance to express their concerns. He then moved to request Yadkin, Inc., to hold a hearing in Rowan County and if they refused to honor the request for the Board of Commissioners to hold one. Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

The Board then recognized Mr. Gary Allen and Mr. Curtis Leonard who discussed their concerns about the Shoreline Management Plan with the Board. They thanked the Board for asking for a local public hearing and offered to help if necessary.

DISCUSSION ON OUTDOOR SIGN REQUIREMENTS:

Commissioner Tadlock introduced Mr. Jim Troy with Toby outdoor advertising and asked him to discuss guidelines for the outdoor advertisements on Interstate 85. Mr. Troy discussed the state's guidelines for sign spacing. He asked the Board to consider the topography of the area when regulating outdoor advertising growth. He stated that he felt 1000' would not be too close together

with a height requirement of 40'. The Board discussed the requirement for business signs from ramps and for the location in proximity to the businesses.

The Board thanked Mr. Troy for sharing his information with them.

RTS TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT PLAN:

Mr. Clyde Fahnestock, Chairman of the Rowan Area Transit System, presented the Board with an overview of a transportation development plan. The plan had been prepared by Urbitran, Inc. with grant money from the state. He noted that the plan had been accepted by the North Carolina Department of Transportation and that once it was complete the County would be eligible to apply for funds from the state for the operation and administration of the transit system.

Mr. Fahnestock then highlighted some of the main points on the executive summary for the Board.

Commissioner Blount moved to endorse the transportation development plan and approve as submitted. Commissioner Tadlock seconded and the motion carried on unanimous vote.

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL STAFF FOR CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES:

Social Services Director Rick Travis discussed a plan for the allocation of funds approved by the General Assembly for additional staff in children services. He noted that although he had not received official notification he anticipated an allocation of \$628,500.

He told the Board he would like to allocate the money for the following:

- 3 SW Supervisor III's
- 10 SW III Workers
- 2 Office Assistant III's
- 15 Office set ups
- 40 pagers
- 1 35mm Camera
- 6 cell phones

He stated that the anticipated cost for these positions was \$533,123.

Commissioner Rowland questions Mr. Travis about the current caseload each worker handled and asked if this many positions were actually needed.

Commissioner Cohen stated that it was the Board's responsibility to tell Mr. Travis how to allocate the new positions from the state, but with this many workers he should have the flexibility to move workers around as needed.

Commissioner Rowland stated that he could give Mr. Travis the approval to use the state funds that become available as necessary if the first four positions were used to reimburse the County for the four positions approved in June. He added that the positions could be reallocated later if the need was apparent.

Commissioner Cohen moved to accept the recommendation from the Personnel Board to include the four positions incorporated with the fifteen from the state. He added that Mr. Travis should make a presentation to the Board at a later time if the other positions were necessary. Commissioner Tadlock seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Blount asked Mr. Travis to come back to the Board immediately if at any time the workers could not meet the state average for case loads.

CAROLINA ACCESS:

Ms. Lisa Catron from the NC Health and Human Services Office review the Carolina ACCESS program with the Board. She stated that the program was a joint federal and state project to access medical services for Medicaid recipients. Ms. Catron stated that they wished to have a local coordinator for each county. She stated the position would work through the Social Services Department but the County would only bear the cost of overhead.

Commissioner Rowland raised concerns that this program would take money away from the Health Department if the Health Department exempt. Ms. Catron explained that the program was state mandated and was not an option. She added that they were currently operating in 57 counties.

The Board asked John Shaw to give his views on the program. He stated the Health Department would lose approximately \$700,000 in the next two years if the Rowan County Board of Health did not become a primary care provider. He added that if the County did become a primary provider they still estimated a loss of \$50,000-\$500,000.

Commissioner Rowland stated that he wanted to leave the Health Department exempt and moved to send letters to the other counties and to lobby the legislators to request that Boards of Health remained exempt. Chairman Neely seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Blount asked about the local coordinator position. Ms. Catron stated that if the local position did not pass then they would contract with a group in Charlotte to coordinate the program. John Shaw told the Board that a local coordinator would ensure a smooth implementation and clients would receive better service.

Commissioner Blount moved to fund the person to coordinate the program in Rowan County to be administered through DSS once the Board was apprised of the actual amount. Chairman Neely seconded the motion and it was defeated by a vote of 2/3 with Commissioners Rowland, Cohen, and Tadlock voting against.

RESOLUTION REQUESTING IRS REFORM:

Mr. Russell read a resolution sent by Iredell County requesting reform of the Internal Revenue Service. Commissioner Rowland moved to adopt and endorse the resolution. Commissioner Tadlock seconded and the motion carried.

DISCUSSION ON ZONING ORDINANCE:

Marion Lytle reviewed with the Board a set of maps showing the area where residents had petitioned for a stronger zoning classification. He stated that they had mailed letters to those residents who did not sign the petition and of those 36 letters mailed he had received 4 responses.

Mr. Lytle told the Board that they had also received a request from the Corriher-Grange area but staff had not yet had time to complete the maps. He added that he hoped to the maps completed and letters mailed from both requests by the first January meeting.

The Board also discussed sign size. They agreed to have 1000' per side on "double decker" signs and 672' standard single signs with 40' height. The Board agreed by consensus to only address the signs on the Interstate and to remove regulations on other roads.

CONSIDERATION OF SECOND MEETING IN DECEMBER:

Commissioner Cohen moved to cancel the second meeting for December for the Christmas holidays. Commissioner Tadlock seconded and the motion carried.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Mr. Holshouser asked the Board to set a public hearing for the application submitted by B.P.I. to the Industrial Facilities Pollution Control Authority. Commissioner Cohen moved to set the public hearing on January 5, 1998. Commissioner Blount seconded and the motion carried.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

Chairman Neely asked that the Board appointments be delayed until January. The Board agreed by consensus.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Dickinson, CMC
Clerk to the Board