

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ROWAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FEBRUARY 2, 1998 – 8:00 A.M.
ELLIS STREET CONFERENCE ROOM, SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE
10:30 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 Finance Director, Clerk to the Board and County Attorney were also present. Chairman Neely called the meeting to order. The Board met in conjunction with the Rowan/Salisbury Board of Education in order to discuss points of interest with the local legislative delegation.

Members of the school board present were: Karen South Carpenter, Rev. Stan Welch, Eldridge Williams, Vic Bost, Kay Wright Norman and staff members Dr. Joe McCann, Howard Hurt, Gene Miller and Danny Thomas.

Legislative members present were: Senator Betsy Cochrane, Senator Jim Phillips, Representative Eugene McCombs, and Representative Charlotte Gardner.

Members of the Board asked to have the state clarify the responsibilities between the state and the county for providing funds to the schools.

Members also discussed the use of a local option sales tax to provide a revenue source for school funding. Commissioners told the legislators that they supported giving the citizens a chance to vote on such a tax option and encouraged them to support the request in Raleigh.

After discussions about levels of funding, Rev. Welch adjourned the meeting due to time.

The Board thanked Mrs. Cochrane, Mrs. Gardner, Mr. McCombs and Mr. Phillips for the opportunity to discuss issues of importance to the Board and to the schools.

10:30 A.M. RECONVENE

Chairman Neely called the meeting to order and Commissioner Cohen provided the invocation.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

- Commissioner Blount asked to discuss a resolution that was passed by the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners regarding economic development.

CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA:

Commissioner Blount moved to approve the consent agenda as submitted. Commissioner Cohen seconded and the motion carried.

The consent agenda consisted of the following items:

- (A) Approval of Minutes from 1/5/98 and 1/19/98 Meetings
- (B) Approval of Family Planning Debt Write-Off of \$1,808.61 for the Health Department
- (C) Set Public Hearing for Majority Petition for Road Name Change of *Russell Ridge Road* for February 16, 1998 at 7:10 p.m.
- (D) Set Public Hearing for SNIA Permit Application for February 16, 1998 at 7:15 p.m.
- (E) Budget Amendments

SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR RE-ZONING A PORTION OF ERVIN CONSTRUCTION PROPERTY:

Marion Lytle presented the Board with a re-zoning request from Joe Ervin Construction to change a portion of his property from rural to CBI. Mr. Lytle stated that the majority of the property was already zoned CBI, but this parcel had been overlooked by staff while preparing the maps.

Mr. Lytle reviewed the process necessary to consider the rezoning and asked the Board to set a public hearing on March 2, 1998.

Commissioner Tadlock moved to set a public hearing for the rezoning consideration for March 2, 1998. Commissioner Cohen seconded and the motion carried.

Commissioner Rowland asked Mr. Lytle about the status of the Corriher Grange petition. Mr. Lytle stated that the Board had given the residents an opportunity to turn in another petition since there was an error made in the original mailing for the first petition. He noted that the County would pay for the cost of advertising the notices for rezoning the area when a second petition was submitted.

Commissioner Rowland asked about the time frame for the residents to turn in such a petition. Mr. Lytle assured him that it was a "one time only" deal and that he hope to have a meeting with the community to begin the work for a new petition.

Commissioner Tadlock suggested that staff meet with members of the community to determine the interest and to fully explain what the rezoning would entail. He also encouraged staff having the residents sign the petition during the meeting so that there was no confusion. The Board agreed by consensus to the plan for the Corriher Grange community.

REQUEST TO PURCHASE COUNTY OWNED PROPERTY ON HWY 150:

Mr. Russell stated that he had received an offer to purchase property owned by the County on Highway 150 across from Sloan park. He noted that the offer was from Tom Smith for a 0.637 acre of land. Mr. Smith offered the County \$1,720.00 for the parcel.

The Board discussed whether the price offered was fair and if the lot would be buildable by itself.

Mr. Russell explained that the several years earlier the County had actually agreed to swap this parcel of land with the original owner for a similar parcel that person owned across the street. He noted that the county recorded their deed but the other owner had failed to ever file their deed, therefore the property was still in Rowan County's name.

Commissioner Blount moved to declare the property as surplus property and to accept the offer from Tom Smith for \$1,720.00 subject to the ten day upset bid process. Commissioner Tadlock seconded the motion and it passed on unanimous vote.

WORK FIRST TRANSPORTATION GRANT:

Rick Travis presented the Board with a proposal to apply for grant money. He explained that the money was available through the Division of Transportation in the amount of \$15,124 and did not require a local match. He explained that the Rowan Transportation Board would also seek additional grant funds in the amount of 36,369 to implement the share-a-ride program. He noted that these grants were to provide transportation to and from work for work first clients.

Commissioner Rowland questioned the purchase of new infant car seats. He asked about the possibility of using donated car seats. Mr. Travis stated he did not know a reason donated seats could not be used and they could certainly investigate the suggestion.

Commissioner Cohen noted the use of used cars for clients in the program description. He questioned the liability being assumed by the County if it provided used cars for clients to drive. Mr. Travis explained that the Board could certainly state they did not want used cars to be considered an option under the program.

Commissioner Rowland asked about the duration of the grant and if the County would be expected to fund the program if the funds from the State were eliminated. Mr. Travis stated that they were assured that funds were available through fiscal year 1999 and that after that time it would be up to the Board to decide if it wanted to supplement the program. Commissioner Rowland stated that in the future he would like all grants that were ending to be listed as expansion items during the budget process instead of continuation. The Board agreed by consensus.

Commissioner Blount moved to accept the proposal for the share-a-ride grant and for the application of additional funds available. He added that the board did not want to consider the use of used cars at this time and if the funds for the program were eliminated the program would considered an expansion item during budget. Commissioner Tadlock seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of 4/1 with Commissioner Cohen voting against.

DISCUSSION ON SECONDARY ROAD MAINTENANCE SYSTEM:

Jim Turlington, Division Maintenance Engineer from NCDOT talked to the Board about the recent rating of the roads in Rowan County.

He explained that the division engineer had rated the roads at the end of 1995 and those ratings were entered into a state data bank to determine the ranking that Rowan rated last in. He stated that they gave the roads a rating of 100-0 and any road under 50 was considered poor. He stated he wanted to make sure the Board understood that the rating was a technical rating system only and did not mean Rowan truly had the worst roads in the state.

The Board discussed various problems around the county and questioned why it sometimes took crews several attempts to fix a problem. Mr. Turlington noted that the roads in Rowan were not designed and constructed to carry the amount of traffic that had grown to use the roads, and that contributed greatly to the problem.

The Board thanked Mr. Turlington and Chris Corriher for attending the meeting and discussing the report.

PRESENTATION OF 1997 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

Cal from Potter & Company presented the Board with the audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1997.

He reviewed the revenues, expenditures and tax collections as audited and noted that they had found no problems in the audit. He stated that they gave the County an unqualified opinion which was the highest opinion the auditor's could give.

The Board thanked Mr. For his report.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Centralina Development Corporation – a nomination was received from Tony Cornacchione, but the Board asked to delay this appointment until a board application could be completed.

Centralina Workforce Development- Commissioner Blount moved to appoint Harry Whalen to fulfill the unexpired term of David Colvin. There being no other nominations, Mr. Whalen was unanimously appointed.

Library – Commissioner Tadlock moved to expand the Library Board to eleven members and to appoint Archie Jarrell to fill the new position. Commissioner Blount seconded and the motion carried.

Parks & Recreation – Commissioner Blount moved to appoint Ed Norvell and Don Bringle to the parks commission. Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Senior Services Advisory Council – Commissioner Blount moved to reappoint Dot Hauss, Brenda Zimmerman, Lucy Gibson and Dink Safriet and to appoint Harold Thomas. Commissioner Tadlock seconded and the motion carried.

HCCBG – Commissioner Blount moved to re-appoint all representatives to the board. Commissioner Tadlock seconded and the motion carried.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Commissioner Blount stated that the Board had received a resolution recently passed by Forsyth County. The resolution concerned limiting the types of economic incentives offered by counties to try to eliminate competition between the counties. He asked to add this idea to the agenda for the Board's planning retreat.

There being no further business, Commissioner Rowland moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Cohen seconded the motion and it passed on unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Dickinson, CMC
Clerk to the Board