

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MARCH 16, 1998 – 7:00 P.M.
COMMISSIONER'S MEETING ROOM, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

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

The County Manager, Clerk to the Board, County Attorney and County Finance Director were also present.

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

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

- Mr. Russell asked the Board to review a proposed schedule for budget worksessions.
- Commissioner Rowland asked the Board to discuss school funding and ABC enforcement.

CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA:

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

The consent agenda was comprised of the following items:

- (A) Refunds totaling \$191.00

(B) Approval of *Barger Estates Drive* Road Name Change

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT:

Ms. Linda Miller from Centralina Council of Governments presented the Board with the Nursing Home Advisory Committee and the Adult Care Home Committee's annual report. She also recognized volunteers from both committees who were present in the audience.

Ms. Miller told the Board that Rowan County currently had 31 long term care facilities, which equated to 1,623 beds. She noted that Rowan County was one of three counties in the region that had been granted a certificate of need for an additional 90 beds.

Virginia Graves, Chairman of the Nursing Home Advisory Committee, addressed the Board and described the highlights of the work her committee had performed during the past year.

Chairman Neely thanked all of the volunteers for their work and thanked them for attending the meeting.

REPORT FROM WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD:

Mr. John Stegall and Mr. Lane Dyer addressed the Board with a report on the work of the workforce development board. Mr. Stegall described the work that the board performed noting that they were involved in the planning, development and oversight of local workforce development initiatives. He also gave the Board a flow chart for federal funds to local agencies.

Mr. Dyer described the new JOBSlink center, which is located at the Employment Security Office and the results they hoped to achieve through the new initiative. He also clarified the difference in some of the federal and state programs that provided job training for the local market.

The Board thanked Mr. Stegall and Mr. Dyer for their report and work on their board.

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION AND AGREEMENT FOR THE CENTRALINA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD:

Mr. David Hollars from Centralina Council of Governments presented the Board with an agreement which would enable Rowan County to participate in

regional consortium. The agreement also allows Rowan County to receive federal and state fund for the Job Training Partnership Act.

Commissioner Blount moved to approve the articles of agreement. Commissioner Cohen seconded and the motion carried.

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AN INCREASE IN FACILITIES AND OFFICER FEES UNDER G.S. 7A-305 AND G.S.15-209:

Mr. Russell presented the Board with a resolution requesting the local legislative delegation to support an increase in court facilities fees. He noted that one reason the legislature had been resistant to an increase in the fees was because they felt that since the people who are convicted in court pay the court fees, if they were raised they would not be able pay their court cost and would end up going to jail.

Commissioner Rowland moved to approve the Resolution and to forward a copy to the other 99 counties and legislative representatives. Commissioner Cohen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

BOARD APPOINTMENT:

Commissioner Blount moved to approve the request from the Town of China Grove for the appointment of ETJ representative to the Zoning Board of Adjustment. This included appointing Charles Collins, Jr. as a regular member and Rufus Honeycutt as an alternate. Both were appointed to fill unexpired terms. Commissioner Cohen seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

- Mr. Russell gave the Board a tentative schedule for the budget review process and asked each member to check their schedules to see if the dates were suitable. The Board agreed to the proposed schedule.
- Commissioner Rowland told the Board that he felt it was time to talk about funding for the schools again. He stated that he was very upset about the remarks made by school board member Vic Bost when the County was trying to bring the school funding up to state average. He noted that he felt the Board had only asked for a plan of how the schools would use the increased appropriation and for an efficiency study to be completed in order to increase the funding for schools and he did not think they were willing to cooperate. He added that he felt what Mr. Bost did was a slap in the face and unless he saw action from the school board he

was prepared to lobby the Board of Commissioners to keep the school appropriation at its present level.

Chairman Neely stated he had hoped the Board of Education would call a special meeting after the Board had presented the funding plan to their representatives at the planning retreat. He added that he was very disappointed by Mr. Bost's comments at the school board meeting.

Commissioner Cohen stated that the County Manager had sent each school board member a personal letter inviting them to contact any commissioner to discuss the proposal further and he had yet to receive one call.

The Board agreed they would encourage the school board to speed up their response to the county's funding proposal in order to be reviewed during the budget session.

- Commissioner Rowland stated that he had serious problems with recent citations issued for underage buying and selling of alcohol in the county. He gave the Board a copy of a letter he sent to Dr. John Smith, director the N.C. A.L.E. requesting an enforcement officer be assigned to Rowan County. He told the Board that the ABC Board was required by State Statute to spend 5% of their income on enforcement but had only spent \$20,000 on enforcement last year and of that figure only \$9,000 went to the Sheriff's Office. He said that the remainder was spent hiring security officers for the ABC stores and the state did not recognize security guards as enforcement officers. Commissioner Rowland stated he felt the problem was too serious to wait until June when the ABC Board appointments changed and moved for the Board of Commissioners to fund a position under the Sheriff's Office for enforcement to begin immediately and last until July 1st at which time it would be transferred to the ABC Board.

The Board discussed whether they could legally require the ABC Board to fund the position and if they could tell the Sheriff which positions to hire. Chairman Neely suggested that a letter from the entire Board be sent to the ABC Board requesting them to hire alcohol enforcement.

Commissioner Cohen stated that he had a copy of a contract between the ABC Board and the Sheriff's Department and that it would be legal for an officer to enforce in the ABC stores.

Mr. Russell suggested that the Board write a letter to the ABC Board stating that the Board of Commissioner recognized the contract between

the two agencies and to inform them that the County was ready to reallocated money to fund a full time person at the Sheriff's Office.

Commissioner Rowland stated he would agree to the letter if the Commission would agree to fund the position until July. Commissioner Rowland then withdrew his first motion. He made a separate motion to send a collective letter to the ABC Board instructing them that they were in violation of state law regarding enforcement and the Board of Commissioners want them to hire a full time enforcement officer in their new budget. Commissioner Cohen seconded the motion.

Commissioner Blount offered an amended motion for the Board to agree to fund a full time position for ABC law enforcement through July 1st and to ask the Sheriff to hire a person for this sole purpose. Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

The Board also agreed by consensus to ask the attorney and the County Manager to research the use of the ABC funds for security and to advise the ABC body they are in violation of state statutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Joe Paskiewicz – asked the Board to address the discharge of firearms in the Noise Ordinance. He asked the Board to fine tune the Ordinance so that noise disturbance wasn't measured by decibel but by nuisance.

Stacy Cuevas – asked the Board to consider subsidize the cost of Salisbury Parks Summer Day Camps for Rowan County residents. She stated that the County did not offer summer day camp and the City planned to charge non-residents double.

Thomas Weatherall- asked the Board to consider an ordinance against the discharge of firearms near a residence. He also discussed road paving with the Board and asked for their support in trying to get the state to fund his road.

Tom Harrell – told the Board that they had tried to use the Enochville Volunteer Fire Department building as a polling place but they had refused. He stated he did not feel they should since they were funded by tax dollars.

Dave Bates – told the Board about ABC enforcement programs that he had been involved in through the Sheriff's Department and told the Board about his concern of the sale of alcohol to minors.

Diane Kane – asked the Board if business were required to maintain roads. The Board told her that there was not a county ordinance that required a business to help maintain a private road, but that should could possible take private legal action to seek relief.

There being no further comments, Commissioner Cohen moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Tadlock seconded and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Dickinson, CMC
Clerk to the Board