

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
JUNE 15, 1998 – 7:00 P.M.  
COMMISSIONER'S MEETING ROOM, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

PRESENT: Jim Neely, Chairman  
Steve Blount, Member  
Dave Rowland, Member  
Frank Tadlock, Member

ABSENT: J. Newton Cohen, Vice-Chairman

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

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

- Commissioner Blount asked to have a short closed session to discuss the sale of property in the industrial park.
- Commissioner Rowland asked to discuss DSS and the recent article in the paper about funding positions.
- Commissioner Tadlock asked to discuss the existing conditions at the Norman's property.

CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA:

Chairman Neely stated he would abstain from voting due to a possible conflict of interest with item b. Commissioner Blount moved to approve the consent agenda as submitted. Commissioner Tadlock seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The consent agenda consisted of the following items:

- (a) Approval of Refunds totaling \$97.00
- (b) Approval of Unanimous Petitions for Dakota Lane and Jim Neely Road and Set Public Hearing for Fish House Drive

PUBLIC HEARING: PROPOSED 1998-99 BUDGET:

Commissioner Blount moved to open the public hearing on the proposed 1998-99 budget. Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

The following citizens addressed the Board:

1. Cody Yasinsac- stated that he wasn't sure all citizens knew enough about the budget and spoke about long range plans committing the board to contracts.
2. Richard Menius – spoke to the Board about closing the Providence Road dump site and asked them to close the Dunn's Mountain Road site instead.
3. Carol Addington – spoke about the needs in the Adult Protective Services Division at Social Services. She asked for additional staff to ease the caseload on workers.
4. Ruby Parris – asked the Board to make the part-time Senior Games Coordinator a full time position with benefits to serve as a Senior Citizens Coordinator.
5. Bridgett Stuggs- asked the Board to help protect the senior citizens through efforts at Adult Protective Services.

There being no speakers, Commissioner Blount moved to close the public hearing. Commissioner Rowland seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Russell asked the Board about holding an adjourned meeting at a later date for approval of the budget in order to allow Commissioner Cohen to be present. The Board agreed to adjourn until June 29 at 9:00 a.m.

Commissioner Rowland stated that he and Commissioner Tadlock had discussed the concerns the South Rowan area had over the County's decision not to fund Baker's Creek park. He stated that they had spoken with the Kannapolis Mayor and Board members who were not aware that the County intended to stop funding this fiscal year. He stated they agreed to a complete take over of the park if the County would provide funding for one more year. The Board agreed by consensus to add the funding appropriation back to the budget.

Mr. Russell then reviewed the budgeted revenues and expenditures for funds 27, 28, 29, 65 and 85.

WORK FIRST TRANSPORTATION PLAN:

DSS Director Rick Travis stated that the North Carolina Department of Transportation had made funds available to county's to provide transportation for Work First participants to and from their jobs. He stated that the county had submitted a plan to draw down these funds but had since learned the funds could only be used for former participants and not current ones. He stated they had revised their plan to reflect this change and asked the Board's approval for the change. Commissioner Blount moved to approve the transportation plan as submitted. Commissioner Tadlock seconded and the motion carried.

Commissioner Rowland asked Mr. Travis about an article in the paper in which he stated he told the Board that clerical positions would not be funded by the state. Commissioner Rowland stated he did not remember Mr. Travis ever informing the Board of that information. Mr. Travis stated that it may be better for the County Manager to complete his study of the positions at DSS and allow him to make his report before he resounded.

#### LEASE AGREEMENT FOR FORMER TRI-COUNTY DETOX CENTER:

Mr. Russell told the Board that when Tri-County was in operation they had purchased a building to use as a detox center in Iredell County. He said that Tri-County was not allowed to own property so the building was put in both Rowan and Iredell County's names. Mr. Russell stated that after the dissolution of Tri-County the building had been empty and Iredell County was seeking to lease the building to a non-profit agency. He also discussed the possibility of deeding Rowan County's share of the building to Iredell County. Several members of the Board stated they would like to know the value of the property before transferring ownership.

Commissioner Blount moved to approve the lease of the property and to get more information on the location and value of the building. Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

#### APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENT AND RESIDUAL EQUITY TRANSFER:

Finance Director Leslie Earnhardt presented the Board with a budget amendment to close the Rowan County-Kannapolis Regional Sports Authority Capital Projects fund. The amendment was for \$94,500. She also gave the Board a Residual Equity Transfer in the amount of \$12,270.36 to transfer funds into the Sports Authority Enterprise Fund.

Commissioner Rowland moved to approve the budget amendment and transfer. Commissioner Blount seconded and the motion carried.

Ms. Earnhardt also asked the Board to approve the transfer of \$343,350 from the Landfill fund to the General fund. Commissioner Blount approved the transfer. Commissioner Rowland seconded and the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF FINANCING SHERIFF'S VEHICLES:

Ms. Earnhardt told the Board that she had sought bids for financing fourteen Sheriff's Vehicles. The bids received were:

Craigie Governmental Finance (BB&T)	4.46%
Koch Financial Corporation	4.88%
First Union National Bank	4.81%
Wachovia Leasing Corporation	4.43%

She recommended the financing be obtained from Wachovia Leasing Corporation. Commissioner Tadlock moved to approve the award to Wachovia Leasing. Commissioner Blount seconded and the motion carried.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

EDC – Commissioner Blount moved to reappoint Rufus Honeycutt to the EDC Board. Commissioner Rowland seconded and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

DSS – The Board delayed action on this appointment until June 29.

Granite Quarry – Commissioner Blount moved to approve the Town of Granite Quarry's request to appoint Darrell Elium, Clarence Bost and Brenda Welch as extraterritorial members of the Planning Board. He also moved to approve the reappointment of Brenda Welch and Howell Kesler to the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Union Volunteer Fire Department – Commissioner Blount moved to approve the appointment of John Dry to serve as a fire commissioner. Commissioner Rowland seconded and the motion carried.

\* Commissioner Rowland asked the Board to go on record endorsing Hope Davis for the State appointment to the Social Services Board. The Board agreed by consensus, but Commissioner Blount stated he would like to talk with Ms. Davis before committing to the endorsement.

\* Chairman Neely discussed a copy of a resolution seeking support for raising the limit in the Homestead Exemption Act. He gave each Commissioner a copy and asked them to consider endorsing the legislation.

ADDITIONS:

\* Commissioner Tadlock stated that the condition of the Norman's property had not changed since the County purchased the property two years ago. He stated he would like the County Manager to work with the City Manager to determine who has jurisdiction over the property and how it could be cleaned up.

Commissioner Rowland stated that the County had money set aside in the budget for the parking project and moved to allow the County Manager to seek quotes for demolition of parts of the property to clean it up. Commissioner Blount seconded, stating he had concerns that the county would spend too much in the long run if it did small parts now. Chairman Neely stated he would not spend any more money on the property while there were so many other needs in the County. He called for the vote and it passed by 3/1 with Chairman Neely voting against.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Arnold Chamberlain – expressed his appreciation to the Board for the job that they do. He stated that he had recently traveled to Washington and had met with legislators to lobby for the local option sales tax referendum.

There being no further business, Commissioner Blount moved to enter closed session to discuss sale of property at the industrial park. Commissioner Rowland seconded and the motion carried.

Upon conclusion of closed session, Commissioner Rowland moved to return to open session. Commissioner Tadlock seconded and the motion carried.

Commissioner Rowland then moved to adjourn the meeting until June 29 at 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Blount seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Dickinson, CMC  
Clerk to the Board