

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AUGUST 3, 1998 – 9:00 A.M.
COMMISSIONER'S MEETING ROOM, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

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

ABSENT: Jim Neely, Chairman

Vice-Chairman Cohen called the meeting to order and Commissioner Blount provided the invocation. Vice-Chairman Cohen presided over the meeting in Chairman Neely's absence.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

- Commissioner Blount gave the Board a construction bulletin listing the request for bids for the Brendle's project. He gave it to the Board as information.

CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA:

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

The consent agenda consisted of the following items:

- (A) Approval of Minutes from July 6 and July 20, 1998 Meetings
- (B) Approval of Refunds totaling \$ 2,842.11

RECOGNITION OF HELEN DEAL- EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH:

Commissioner Cohen recognized Ms. Helen Deal who was named Employee of the Month. Tax Collector Glenn Moore described the work Ms. Deal performed noting that she had been employed in the Tax Collector's Office for thirty years.

Commissioner Cohen presented Ms. Deal with a certificate of appreciation and the Board thanked her for her dedication.

RECOGNITION OF KEITH VALENCOURT-KETNER AWARD WINNER:

Information Services Director David Boling introduced Keith Valencourt who worked in his department. He described Mr. Valencourt's project *Financial Crisis Network-Emergency Services* which had been named a 1998 winner of the Ralph Ketner Employee Productivity Award. Mr. Valencourt will received a \$1,000 prize and will be recognized at the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Annual Conference.

Commissioner Cohen presented Mr. Valencourt with certificate of recognition and thanked him for his inventive idea to better county government.

PUBLIC HEARING: ROAD NAME CHANGE FOR HAWKS NEST ROAD:

Commissioner Blount moved to open the public hearing for comments on the proposed road name change of Hawks Nest Road. Commissioner Tadlock seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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

Commissioner Blount then moved to approve the road name change. Commissioner Rowland seconded and the motion carried.

REQUEST FOR BUDGET AMENDMENT TO ALLOW BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ADJUST REVENUE SCHEDULE FOR CAPITAL OUTLAY:

Mr. Russell told the Board that he had been approached by Joe McCann and Gene Miller with the Rowan/Salisbury Schools with a proposal to change the way funds are disbursed to the schools. He stated instead of the 1/12 disbursement as stated in the budget ordinance they wished to receive more money up front to coincide with their plan for capital needs.

Finance Director, Leslie Earnhardt reviewed two options with the Board that showed a schedule of revenues to be received. She recommended that the Board maintain their 1/12 funding schedule.

Commissioner Blount moved to accept the staff recommendation as submitted on option one and for staff to accelerate the disbursement if possible with the Board's approval. Commissioner Rowland seconded and the motion carried.

Commissioner Tadlock asked Mr. Russell to write a letter to the Board of Education clarifying the Board's concerns about the allocation of the school supply money.

REQUEST FOR BUDGET AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE FOR HOSPITAL CASEWORKERS:

DSS Director Rick Travis asked the Board to approve a budget amendment to implement a plan approved by the Personnel Committee. The plan would be to contract with the Veteran's Administration Hospital and Rowan Regional Medical to provide two income maintenance caseworkers to determine Medicaid eligibility. He noted that the hospitals had agreed to pay for half of the cost and the Federal government would pay the other half.

He requested the Board to approve the budget amendment to recognize the revenues estimated to be \$94,000 and the expenditures estimated at \$74,748.

The Board discussed the indirect cost that the County would incur by increasing the amount of Medicaid the County would match by increasing the number of those who would be eligible.

Commissioner Blount moved to approve the request. Commissioner Cohen seconded.

Commissioner Tadlock questioned Mr. Travis about the term of the contract. He replied that it was an annual contract for the fiscal year.

Commissioner Cohen asked about having enough work for a person to remain busy for a forty hour week. Mr. Travis answered that both hospitals had agreed to allow Social Services to assign extra work to the employees.

Commissioner Cohen called for the question and the motion failed by a vote of 1/3 with Commissioner Blount voting in favor and Commissioners Rowland, Cohen and Tadlock voting against.

REQUEST FOR CONVEYANCE OF SURPLUS PROPERTY TO ROCKWELL RURAL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT:

The Board received a request from Alan Cress of the Rockwell Rural Volunteer Fire Department asking the County to convey one of its surplus vehicles to the fire department. The vehicle in question was a 1995 Chevrolet Caprice Station Wagon.

Commissioner Blount moved to approve the request. Commissioner Cohen seconded and the motion carried.

Commissioner Cohen stated he would like staff to develop a policy for granting requests for surplus equipment.

PROPOSED PREPARATION OF PARKING AREA AT NORMAN'S PROPERTIES:

Mr. Russell stated that the County had no intentions of demolishing any of the buildings on the Norman's property but he was proposing to remove some of the temporary structures around the buildings and in the parking lots to clean the area up. He gave the Board two proposals for estimates to remove certain structures.

Commissioner Tadlock said he would prefer to delay any action on the proposal until negotiations with Dr. Crawford were complete because he felt that might be the solution to the County's parking problem.

Commissioner Rowland stated he felt that the work had to be done anyway and for a small amount of money the County could temporarily solve its parking problem.

Commissioner Tadlock stated he would like to have a meeting with Paul Fisher to determine his willingness to accept the added cost of the demolition work on the property before starting any work. Commissioner Rowland stated he didn't feel a meeting was necessary but the Board could inform Mr. Fisher of its intentions.

Commissioner Blount moved to proceed with the proposal subject to Commissioner Tadlock having a conversation with Paul Fisher. He added that he wished to proceed with items 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and patching and striping the parking lot. Commissioner Rowland seconded and the motion carried on unanimous vote.

FOLLOW-UP ON IREDELL/ROWAN DETOX CENTER PROPERTY TRANSFER:

Mr. Russell reminded the Board that it had approved a lease agreement with Fifth Street Ministries to operate in a former Tri-County detox center jointly owned by Iredell and Rowan Counties. The Board had asked Mr. Russell to look into the property and determine its value before proceeding with Iredell County's request to transfer ownership to them.

Mr. Russell told members that he had researched the property and that although Rowan was listed on the deed he could not find where the County had actually ever put any money into the facility. He stated he had visited the site and it wasn't worth much more than originally paid.

Commissioner Rowland stated that this did not appear to be a major asset and moved to transfer the deed to Iredell County. Commissioner Blount seconded and the motion carried.

DISCUSSION ON NATIONAL CEMETERY/VOCATIONAL WORKSHOP PLAN:

Mr. Russell reviewed a proposed timeline for events for the National Cemetery/Vocational Workshop project. He reviewed the steps that would be necessary to sell the Health Department to the Vocational Workshop and to receive Federal Funds to aid the purchase of the old Workshop building to add to the National Cemetery.

Tippi Miller from the Vocational Workshop asked the Board to allow them to begin work earlier with their architect in order for the workshop to be ready to move when the county vacates the old health facility. She said her Board would be willing to guarantee that the funds will be available to make the purchase.

Commissioner Cohen moved to have the County Attorney check into the legal aspects of selling the property to the Vocational Workshop without upset bid for \$475,962 in order to allow the Workshop to make a formal offer for the building. Commissioner Rowland seconded and the motion carried.

The Board agreed to work with the Workshop to determine the five acres available on the property.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee – Commissioner Blount moved to reappoint Mr. Albert Stout and Mr. Richard Harrington. There being no further nominations the vote was unanimous.

Region F Aging Advisory Committee- Commissioner Blount moved to reappoint Mrs. Leah McFee and Ms. Lucy Gibson. There being no further nominations the vote was unanimous.

Region F Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council – Commissioner Blount moved to reappoint Coyt Karriker and Gary Fink. There being no further nominations, the vote was unanimous.

Nursing Home Advisory Committee – Commissioner Blount moved to reappoint Mrs. Leah McFee. The Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment.

Senior Services Advisory Council – Commissioner Blount moved to reappoint Mr. Billy Rufty. There being no further nominations the vote was unanimous.

Carolinas Partnership – Action on this appointment was delayed until Commissioner Cohen had an opportunity to speak with Paul Fisher to ensure he no longer wished to serve on the committee.

There being no further business, Commissioner Blount moved to enter closed session to discuss litigation. Commissioner Rowland seconded and the motion carried.

Upon conclusion of closed session Commissioner Blount moved to return to open session. Commissioner Rowland seconded and the motion passed unanimously. No action was taken during closed session.

Commissioner Blount moved to accept the recommendation for the settlement with Lorch Plumbing and Port City Electric concerning the Justice Center. Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Dickinson, CMC
Clerk to the Board