

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE ROWAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FEBRUARY 15, 1999 – 7:00 P.M.
COMMISSIONER'S MEETING ROOM, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

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

The County Manager, Clerk to the Board and Finance Officer were also present. Chairman Cohen called the meeting to order and opened with prayer. Commissioner Tadlock led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Commissioner Blount asked to add a brief discussion on junk mobile homes and to also discuss the rapid residential growth in the community.

Mr. Russell asked the Board to consider a budget amendment for the receipt of smart start funds in the Department of Social Services.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Board received a memo from Planning Staff notifying them that as of February 16, 1999 all mobile homes would require skirting to be complete before power would be connected to the residence. The Board accepted the information.

CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA:

Commissioner Blount moved to approve the consent agenda as submitted. Commissioner Chamberlain seconded and the motion carried. The consent agenda consisted of the following information:

- (A) Approval to add *Heglar Road* to the NCDOT Secondary Road System for Maintenance

CRIMINAL JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP FUNDS:

Mr. Wayne Kinney from probation and parole addressed the Board concerning the Criminal Justice Partnership Act and the request to form a new advisory board.

Ms. Nancy Woodard, division coordinator, gave the Board a brief overview of the program noting that it began with the structured sentencing act. She stated that \$136,630 was available to Rowan County for implementation of approved programs.

Mr. Russell described for the Board why the original committee was disbanded and the type of program they had proposed (a day treatment center).

Sheriff Wilhelm told the Board that he was very interested in the program as it appeared to be an aid in the criminal justice system.

Superior Court Judge Larry Ford also addressed the Board and stated that he felt day treatment centers were an excellent tool for judges to use and encouraged the Board to re-form the committee in order to begin development of a program for Rowan County.

Commissioner Rowland moved to set up the Criminal Justice Partnership Advisory Board. Commissioner Tadlock seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

REVIEW OF ETJ MAPS:

Planner Marion Lytle presented the Board with a proposed map for the new extraterritorial jurisdiction for the City of Salisbury in Rowan County. The map followed the proposed routes previously discussed by the Board.

Commissioner Rowland moved to approve the ETJ map as amended by the yellow line and to advise the municipalities the County would begin the two year notice for the change to the ETJ area. Commissioner Chamberlain seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of 4/1 with Commissioner Blount voting no.

REQUEST TO COMPLETE UNFINISHED PORTION OF NEW HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

Health Director John Shaw asked the Board to consider a proposal to complete 2,100 sq. ft. of space which was to remain unfinished at the new Health Department building. He stated that there was enough money in the Medicaid escrow account to pay for the estimated cost of \$139,500.

If approved he asked that \$141,322 for a new computer system also be allocated from the Medicaid escrow funds.

Commissioner Rowland noted that it would cost more to finish the space in the future if they did not do it now.

Commissioner Rowland moved to accept the proposal and to allow Mr. Shaw to apply for the escrow funds. Commissioner Tadlock seconded and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

PROPOSAL TO REDUCE DISCOUNT FOR EARLY PAYMENT OF TAXES:

Mr. Russell discussed a proposal to reduce the rates for discount for early payment of taxes. He proposed to reduce payments made in July for 2% to 1.5% and for those paid in August from 1.5% to 1%.

Commissioner Rowland stated he couldn't see any advantage in taking the tax discount in the first place and did not see why it should be lowered.

Commissioner Blount moved to accept staff's recommendation and approve a resolution to change the discount for early payment of taxes. Commissioner Tadlock seconded and the motion passed by a vote of 4/1 with Commissioner Rowland voting against.

TWO REQUESTS TO PURCHASE COUNTY OWNED PROPERTY:

A proposal to purchase county owned property was submitted by Annette Robinson for property shown on tax map 500A parcel 591 for \$700. Mr. Russell noted that the property was valued at \$1,356 but would not perk. The delinquent taxes owed on the property were \$935.35.

Commissioner Blount moved to counteroffer for the amount taxes owed. Commissioner Cohen seconded and the motion carried.

The second request came from David Gaskey for property on tax map 149 parcel 015. The property was valued at \$3,111 and taxes owed were \$1,057.26. Mr. Gaskey offered the County \$2,000. Commissioner Tadlock moved to accept Mr. Gaskey's offer subject to a ten day upset bid. Commissioner Cohen seconded and the motion carried.

MARCH MEETING SCHEDULE

Commissioner Tadlock moved to cancel the first meeting in March and just hold a called meeting if needed since the Board would be in Washington, D.C. during the first week of March. Commissioner Chamberlain seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

*Commissioner Blount stated that there was a growing problem of abandoned junk mobile homes in the county which were grandfathered from the Zoning Ordinance. He moved to allow staff to create a police power ordinance to allow the County to do something about the junked, abandoned mobile homes. Commissioner Tadlock seconded and the motion carried.

*Commissioner Blount told the Board that they needed to address the growth issue in areas of the county and asked to allow staff to begin a process to develop ways to address the rapid residential growth in certain areas. Commissioner Chamberlain agreed stating that the Board needed to make some tough decisions.

Commissioner Blount moved to authorize staff to develop a series of public hearings and presentations to address the residential growth issues in the County. Commissioner Chamberlain seconded and the motion passed by a vote of 4/1 with Commissioner Rowland voting no.

*Mr. Russell asked the Board to approve a budget amendment to accept \$33,400 in additional Smart Start funds. The funds would be used for a temporary position to administer the program and for day care slots. Commissioner Chamberlain moved to approve the budget amendment. Commissioner Blount seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Citizens who addressed the Board were:

Carla Pence – representative of Citizens for Responsible Growth, talked with the Board about their concerns over large residential developments and the impacts

on the their community. She urged the Board to address the growth issues. She requested to be on the Board's formal agenda at the March meeting.

Michael Baranski – also discussed the growth issues facing the county.

There being no further business, Chairman Cohen adjourned the meeting.

Respectively Submitted,

Kelly Dickinson, CMC
Clerk to the Board