

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ROWAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MAY 26, 1999 – 9:00 A.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, Finance Director and Assistant Finance Director were also present.

Chairman Cohen called the meeting to order and Commissioner Chamberlain provided the invocation. Commissioner Blount led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Russell began the budget review session by giving the Board an overview of the continuation budget and the revaluation process. He showed the Board the calculations used to reach the tax neutral rate for a beginning point.

Mr. Russell reviewed a schedule of the new positions requested by each department and noted his recommendations for five. He recommended two child support enforcement agents, two new bailiffs and one income maintenance worker which was to be fully funded with federal money.

Commissioner Rowland stated he would like to hold the two positions for child support until more information could be provided substantiating the cost.

Commissioner Chamberlain suggested cutting the two positions for bailiffs until the new judge was actually assigned in Rowan County and there was a need.

He stated the County could hire them at that time and fund for the remainder of the year out of fund balance and include them in next year's budget.

Mr. Russell discussed a change in the current format for ambulance billing and collecting. He noted that ambulance fees was a major revenue source for the county, yet only about 42% was collected. He asked the Boards approval to transfer the billing and collecting functions to the supervision of the Finance Director. Commissioner Rowland moved to approve the transfer recommendation. Commissioner Chamberlain seconded and the motion passed on unanimous vote.

Mr. Russell stated that they were working to develop a proposal for transportation of non-emergency calls and would bring that back to the Board at a later date.

Mr. Russell also discussed the pre-trial/in-house arrest program with the Board. He noted that a program had been approved last year and two positions were approved and hired although the program was never implemented. He stated that the new Sheriff was proposing a different program that would cost \$3.81 to every \$1.00 generated. He recommended that the Board eliminate the pre-trial release program and transfer the two positions previously created to the two requested bailiff positions.

Commissioner Blount moved to eliminate the house arrest program and to delete the two positions allocated in that program to be reinstated as bailiffs. Commissioner Tadlock seconded and the motion passed on unanimous vote.

The Board then reviewed the expansion issues with the following issues being reviewed:

<i>Available Growth Money at Tax Neutral Rate</i>	<i>\$2,328,815</i>	=	<i>56.27</i>
Replace One Time Funds Provided to Schools in Prior Year	<u>(780,495)</u>		
<i>Available Growth Money</i>	<i>1,548,420</i>		
Mandated Public Assistance	<u>(804,979)</u>		
<i>Available Growth Money</i>	<i>743,441</i>		
Money Required to Bring Schools to State Average	<u>(3,512,745)</u>		
	(2,769,304)	=	<u>4.035</u>
			60.305
Employee Benefits	<u>(703,559)</u>	=	<u>1.135</u>
▪ Cost of Living Adjustment	(3,472,863)		61.33
▪ Continuation of Merit Pay Play			
▪ Reclassification Plan			

New Positions	<u>(90,210)</u>	=	<u>.13</u>
▪ Two Bailiffs	(3,563,073)		61.46
Minor Capital Improvements	<u>(130,967)</u>	=	<u>.19</u>
▪ Airport Runway Overlay Project	(3,694,040)		61.65
▪ East Rowan Science Building			
Equipment	<u>(141,659)</u>	=	<u>.21</u>
▪ Voting Equipment			
▪ Upgrade Recording and Storage Equipment-Reg. Of Deeds			
▪ Parks – Lake Hydro Bikes	(3,835,699)		61.86
▪ Parks – 4 Wheel ATV			
▪ Sheriff – Pre-employment Psychological Exams			
▪ Sheriff – Postage Meter			
Appropriations to Other Agencies	<u>(95,032)</u>	=	<u>.14</u>
▪ RCCC – Capital Expense			
▪ RCCC – Current Expense			
▪ Piedmont Behavioral Healthcare			
▪ Chamber of Commerce Building Project			
▪ North Carolina Forestry Service			
▪ United Arts of Rowan			
▪ Rowan Community Penalties	(3,930,731)		62.00
Major Capital Improvements	<u>(1,226,449)</u>	=	<u>1.79</u>
▪ 300 Block N. Main St. Project			
▪ Justice Center Project			
▪ Aldi Water/Sewer Extension Project			
▪ Land for South Rowan Branch Library Expansion			
▪ Major Repairs to Existing County Buildings			
 Money Needed to Fund Proposed Initiatives	 <u>(\$5,157,180)</u>		 <u>63.79</u>

Dr. Joe McCann and Gene Miller spoke to the Board at their request to discuss the classroom supplies allocation. Commissioner Rowland asked if the \$325,000 that was allocated last year would be set aside for teachers in this budget as it had in the last. Dr. McCann stated that it would. Commissioner Rowland stated that as he understood it, the schools would not cut the amount they fund to supplies either. Dr. McCann stated they had no plans to do so.

Chairman Cohen suggested the cost of living adjustment for employees should be 1.7% to reflect the actual consumers price index figure. Mr. Russell noted that changing the COLA from 2% to 1.7% would save approximately \$56,000. Commissioner Rowland stated that he would like to look at the merit program for next year.

During discussions of appropriations to other agencies, Commissioner Rowland moved to delete \$40,000 for the new Chamber Building Project. His motion died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Rowland moved to delete the \$2,500 increase for the United Arts Council. Chairman Cohen seconded but the motion failed by a 2/3 vote with Commissioners Blount, Chamberlain and Tadlock voting against.

The Board asked Mr. Russell to take the issues they had discussed today and adjust the budget so that it would reflect a \$0.635 or less tax rate. Chairman Cohen moved for the Mr. Russell to adjust the budget as requested. Commissioner Tadlock seconded and the motion carried.

There being no further business, Chairman Cohen adjourned the meeting until May 27th at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Dickinson, CMC
Clerk to the Board