

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ROWAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MAY 1, 2000 – 9:00 A.M.
COMMISSIONER’S MEETING ROOM, ADMINISTRATION
BUILDING**

Present: Steve Blount, Vice-Chairman
Dave Rowland, Member
Frank Tadlock, Member

Absent: J. Newton Cohen, Chairman
Arnold Chamberlain, Member

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

Vice-Chairman Blount called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Tadlock provided the Invocation and Commissioner Rowland led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADDITIONS:

- Commissioner Rowland requested to discuss a Budget review issue.
- Tim Russell, County Manager, requested to go into closed session to discuss an economic development issue.

CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA:

Commissioner Tadlock made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted. Commissioner Rowland seconded and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- A. Approval of the 4/17/2000 minutes
- B. Approval for the Home & Community Block Grant Proposal for submission to Centralina Council of Government
- C. Adopt a Resolution on Delaying Congressional Action on Internet Tax Moratorium
- D. Set a Public Hearing for Z-9-00, requested by L. G. Beaver Construction to rezone from RA to MFR
- E. Budget Amendments and Change Orders

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Vice-Chairman Blount opened the Public Comment Period. There was no one in attendance that wished to address the Board. Vice-Chairman Blount closed the Public Comment Period.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR A ROAD NAME CHANGE TO TWIN CREEKS DRIVE:

Fredda Greer, from the Planning Department, informed the Board that a previous petition to name a road “Muddy Acres Road” was submitted at the March 20, 2000 meeting. At that time, the property owners agreed to resubmit the petition.

A new petition was submitted with the proposed name of “Twin Creeks Drive”, in which signatures from 3 out of 4 property owners have been secured.

Staff recommends approval of renaming the road “Twin Creeks Drive”.

Vice-Chairman Blount opened the Public Hearing. There being no one in attendance that wished to address the Board, Vice-Chairman Blount closed the Public Hearing.

Commissioner Rowland made a motion to approve the road name of “Twin Creeks Drive”. Commissioner Tadlock seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF I-85 STUDY WORKSHOPS AND THE EXTENSION OF A MORATORIUM:

Marion Lytle, from the Planning Department, informed the Board of the upcoming public workshop to discuss the potential changes in zoning for properties along I-85 north of Spencer. The meeting will be held at the Hanford Dole Elementary School Cafeteria from 4:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. on May 11, 2000.

Mr. Lytle also expressed that the moratorium on subdivisions in this area would end on May 20, 2000 and he recommended an extension of 90 days for the moratorium until the study is completed.

Commissioner Rowland made a motion to extend the moratorium for an additional 90 days. Commissioner Tadlock seconded and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

ADDITIONS: BUDGET REVIEW:

Commissioner Rowland spoke about looking at a tax reduction. He stated that he had spoken with Commissioner Chamberlain and this was in agreement with him.

Commissioner Rowland requested to see what a .59-cent tax rate would look like and he wanted to see what Mr. Russell would cut in order to accomplish this reduction.

Mr. Russell stated that it would be a great task to do this request, but he would certainly honor Commissioner Rowland’s request and produce a .59-cent budget. Mr. Russell stated that there were three (3) areas, which make up 75 percent of the Rowan County Budget.

The first area is the Public Schools, which Rowan County is committed to support. The second area is Public Assistance, which we are mandated by the State to support. The third area would be Employees, which includes the cost of salaries and fringe. Reducing the number of employees would be where the cuts would be affected.

To reduce the tax rate by 4.5-cents, would cause a cut in about 10 percent of jobs, which would affect about 60 employees.

Commissioner Blount asked Commissioner Rowland what areas would he cut to reduce the tax rate. Commissioner Rowland stated that he wanted to see the proposal from Mr. Russell first, in order to have starting place. Vice-Chairman Blount asked the County Manager to look into this and come back at budget time with a report.

Commissioner Tadlock expressed his desire to offer a tax cut for Senior Citizens. Mr. Russell stated that the Constitution requires taxes to be “equally distributed”. The General Assembly would need to take action to authorize counties to exempt taxes.

REPORT ON THE USE OF COUNTY SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR CLASSROOM SUPPLIES:

Dr. Joe McCann, Superintendent of Rowan-Salisbury Schools, addressed the Board, along with teachers Adair Doran, from Salisbury High School, Janice Overcash, from Landis Elementary School and Amy Pruitt, from Corriher Lipe Middle School.

Dr. McCann spoke to the Board of an additional amount, from the Board of Commissioners, to be appropriated for classroom supplies. Dr. McCann informed the Board that the Board of Education would supply \$400,000 for classroom supplies for the FY 2000-2001.

Dr. McCann introduced Ms. Doran, the current teacher of the year for the Rowan-Salisbury Schools. Ms. Doran thanked the Commissioners for the funding. She passed out results from an informal survey which list the uses of the “Commissioner’s Instructional Supplies Money” and also suggestions for future supplies, emphasizing the areas of staff development, expanded Internet uses and equipment. Ms. Doran asked if the funding could be available before the teacher workdays in July. Mr. Russell stated that the budget is approved by July 1st and funds should be available by this date.

Ms. Overcash, a former teacher of the year for the Rowan-Salisbury Schools, thanked the Commissioners for their commitment in funding the classroom supplies. She stated that the teachers are grateful and eager for the arrival of the funding and that they do their best to spend to the “last penny”. Ms. Overcash expressed that the teachers refer to this funding as the “Commissioner’s money”, which is used for basic supplies.

Ms. Pruitt, also a former teacher of the year for the Rowan-Salisbury Schools, reiterated the appreciation and thanks for the funding and that without this funding, the middle schools would not be complete. Ms. Pruitt stressed that

the money has been used to increase the individual classroom library and also for labs, music and arts. Ms. Pruitt stated that the teachers count on this funding.

Commissioner Tadlock stated that the total contribution from the Board of Education and the Board of Commissioners would be \$1,000,000, which is about \$830 per teacher, acknowledging that this could be a model program for other counties to look at.

UPDATE ON THE YADKIN-PEE-DEE LAKES PROJECT:

Bud Mickle and Ann Liebenstein, Executive Director for the Yadkin-Pee-Dee Lakes Project, presented a report to the Commissioners. Ms. Liebenstein gave each Commissioner a detailed report, stressing two major goals of the project as a resource to add to the quality of life for citizens and to expand the economic base. Ms. Liebenstein acknowledged the appreciation of working with the Rowan County Planning Department and also the Rowan County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Ms. Liebenstein explained the “Program of Work” which listed four areas of focus: 1) Land Planning, Resource Preservation, Real Estate Development, 2) Regional Tourism Resource Development, 3) Visitor Outreach and Experiences and 4) Small Business Development Coordination. Ms. Liebenstein continued to discuss the “2000 Action Plan”, which focused on immediate efforts. All this information is included in the report given to Commissioners.

Ms. Liebenstein explained that by attracting visitors to overnight stays, this would increase expenditures from \$59 per day to \$80 per day. Currently, only 20 percent of visitors spend the night in our region.

Ms. Liebenstein concluded by reviewing the Long Term Challenges, also included in the report given to Commissioners.

Vice-Chairman Blount thanked Ms. Liebenstein for her report and acknowledged appreciation for her and Mr. Mickle for being in attendance to present this information

PROCLAMATION ESTABLISHING MAY 14-20, 2000 AS “INFORMATION AND REFERRAL AWARENESS WEEK”:

Vice-Chairman Blount read the Proclamation establishing May 14-20, 2000, as “Information And Referral Awareness Week”, and acknowledged the service this agency provides to the citizens of Rowan County.

PROCLAMATION TO ESTABLISH MAY 4, 2000 AS “A DAY OF PRAYER IN ROWAN COUNTY”:

Commissioner Tadlock read the Proclamation establishing May 4, 2000, as a “Day Of Prayer In Rowan County”. Commissioner Tadlock made a motion to approve the Proclamation. Commissioner Rowland seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Commissioner Rowland discussed a copy of a letter from Zell Setzer, DSS Board Member, to the State Social Services Commission, requesting that board member Lee Piper be removed from the Rowan County Social Services Board.

Commissioner Rowland made a motion to send a letter to the State Social Services Commission, supporting the removal of Ms. Piper on the DSS Board. Commissioner Tadlock seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

The board appointments are as follows:

Centralina Development Corporation:

Commissioner Tadlock made a motion, which was unanimous, to approve the following:

1. William Lombard, Jr.
2. Sylvia Hoffner
3. Tony Cornacchione

Centralina Workforce Development Board:

Commissioner Tadlock made a motion to approve the following, which passed unanimously:

1. John Stegall

Mr. Randy Harrell has submitted his resignation, leaving an opening for a private sector position.

Region F Aging Advisory Committee:

Commissioner Tadlock moved to approve the following, which the Board agreed by a unanimous vote.

1. Lucy Gibson
2. Bea Amendola

Region F Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council:

Commissioner Tadlock move to re-appoint Coyt Karriker and to appoint Steven Isaacs, who replaces Gary Fink on this board. These were approved by a unanimous vote.

Rowan County Tourism & Development Authority:

Commissioner Tadlock made a motion to approve the following to this Authority. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

1. Judy Haire
2. State Alexander
3. Rajesh Shah
4. Kaye Hirst
5. Elizabeth Smith
6. Pat Nelson
7. Todd Parnell

Rowan-Cabarrus Community College:

Commissioner Tadlock moved to re-appoint the following, which passed by a unanimous vote.

1. Danny Williams

Salisbury-Rowan Economic Development Commission:

Commissioner Tadlock made a motion to re-appoint the following, which the Board agreed by a unanimous vote.

1. James Morton

Senior Services Advisory Council:

Commissioner Tadlock moved to re-appoint the following, which the Board agreed unanimously.

1. Jean Parker
2. Delores High

3. Marshall Moore

There being no further business, Vice-Chairman Blount moved the Board into Closed Session, at 10:25 a.m., to discuss an economic development issue. Vice-Chairman Blount called for a break before going into Closed Session.

Returning to regular session, Vice-Chairman Blount acknowledged that no action was taken during Closed Session. There being no further business, Vice-Chairman Blount adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rita K. Foil
Clerk to the Board