

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ROWAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FEBRUARY 5, 2001 – 9:00 AM
J. NEWTON COHEN SR. ROOM, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

Present: Steve Blount, Chairman
Gus Andrews, Vice-Chairman
Arnold Chamberlain, Member
Frank Tadlock, Member
Leda Belk, Member

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

Chairman Blount called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Commissioner Tadlock provided the Invocation and Commissioner Andrews led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

- Chairman Blount requested to speak briefly on the South Rowan Water issue.
- Chairman Blount asked to pull item number five (5) from the agenda.
- Chairman Blount requested to add a discussion on reviving the luncheons with the City of Salisbury and Rowan County.
- Commissioner Andrews requested to add information concerning the application of grants due to job losses.

COMMISSIONER LIAISON BOARD REPORT:

Commissioner Belk gave an update concerning the facility study at DSS that is researching the best utilization of space to meet their needs with the least amount of funding. DSS is still in the process of filling vacancies.

Commissioner Belk stated that she has been meeting regularly with the Rowan County Sheriff's Department to improve communication and address their concerns and needs.

Commissioner Belk also informed the Board that the Parks and Recreation Board are "busy as beavers". A pond has been installed at Sloan Park that contains one million gallons of spring water, which will be used to irrigate trails and natural areas. At Dan Nicholas Park, plans were presented to establish a playground for the physically handicapped. The board is looking at expanding the F&M train. The parking lots have been graded and culverts are being installed. Ellis Park has a new metal roof, the parking is being improved, as well as the bathrooms. Commissioner Belk stated that the parks are a "star for this County".

Commissioner Belk added that the Salisbury Rowan Human Relations Council are "bridge builders" in our community and are a great group.

Commissioner Tadlock reported that the Library Board continues to work hard and they are excited about the future. More will be discussed at the Commissioner's Planning Retreat.

Commissioner Chamberlain reported that the Mental Health in North Carolina is getting ready to "bust every county's budget in North Carolina", if they are not stopped or slowed down. Commissioner Chamberlain read from a report from the NC Dept of Health and Human Services, concerning early intervention and education. Rowan County was awarded a certificate of Merit for reaching 95 percent in achieving outstanding compliance with required regulations. Commissioner Chamberlain also stated that Piedmont Behavioral Healthcare is doing a fine job and is showing the state that it may not be a good idea to do away area programs.

CONSIDERATION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA:

Commissioner Chamberlain asked to have the minutes of the January 15, 2001 meeting to state that Commissioners Blount and Chamberlain would be working on the DSS Facility Study with Tim Russell and Ken Deal. Commissioner Chamberlain asked that Mr. Russell, Mr. Deal, Chairman Blount and himself, have a meeting to "put their heads together" so that they can be "proactive" rather than reacting to what DSS has to state. Commissioner Tadlock reiterated that he would like to see all the representatives working collectively on this project.

Commissioner Tadlock made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Andrews seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- A. Approval of the minutes for the 01/15/01 Commission Meeting.
- B. Setting a public hearing for the I-85 Study Area Plan.
- C. Setting a public hearing for Z-03-01, a request from Fred Wallace.
- D. Setting a public hearing for CUP-03-01, a request from Carolina Stalite Expansion.
- E. Setting a public hearing for CUP-04-01, a request from Eddings.
- F. Approval to declare surplus items from the Convention & Visitors Bureau
- G. Approval of Budget Amendments.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Chairman Blount opened the Public Comment Period. Those who wished to address the Board were as follows:

1. Richard Beam, a Rowan County Citizen, addressed the Board concerning a tax situation in which his granddaughter had purchased a mobile home and placed the mobile home on a lot that Mr. Beam owns. Mr. Beam stated that his granddaughter did not pay the taxes and he is being held responsible for her taxes. Commissioner Blount instructed Mr. Beam to contact the County Assessor's Office and/or the County Manager.

ADDITION – SOUTH ROWAN WATER ISSUE:

Chairman Blount read a statement informing the Board of a possible solution to the water shortages in the South Rowan area. The plan would include extending the City of Salisbury's treated water line from Highway 29 to China Grove, then to Landis and possibly Kannapolis. Chairman Blount asked the Board to authorize the County Manager and his staff to pursue this plan, with the staff's in these municipalities, and to report back to the Board.

Commissioner Andrews made a motion to authorize staff to pursue the plan. Commissioner Belk seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

SALISBURY PARKS AND RECREATION FOUNDATION BOARD ON THE NEW SALISBURY COMMUNITY PARK AND ATHLETIC COMPLEX:

David Aycoth, President of the Salisbury Parks & Recreation Foundation Board and Gail Elder White, Director of the Salisbury Parks and Recreation Department presented a

briefing on the new Salisbury Community Park and Athletic Complex, which is scheduled to open on April 7, 2001.

Ms. Elder White went through a series of slides from the early 1990's when the study began, through the grant and fundraising campaign, through the beginning phases of construction and then concluding with the completion of the project. The park is located on Hurley School Road.

Ms. Elder White explained that the complex will serve the greater community and the intention is not to duplicate services already in place at other facilities. Mr. Aycoth reiterated that the complex will have the capacity to host state tournaments bringing in revenue through lodging, transportation, etc. Mr. Aycoth continued to state that the hope is that the complex will be self-sufficient.

Commissioner Belk thanked Mr. Aycoth and Ms. Elder White for their long-range vision. Chairman Blount stated appreciation for the presentation.

JANUARY EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH:

Chairman Blount read the recommendation received for the nomination of Shannon McClattie, Social Worker in the Social Services Department. Ms. McClattie had recently intervened in an incident in her department where money had been stolen. Through her Social Work skills, Ms. McClattie was able to convince the suspect to return the money.

Sandra Wilkes, DSS Director, emphasized Ms. McClattie's abilities, knowledge, insight, excellent communication skills and her willingness to volunteer for additional work. Ms. Wilkes stressed that Ms. McClattie had earned the respect of her peers and supervisor and that she is "tough when she needs to be tough".

Tom Brewer, Ms. McClattie's supervisor at DSS and Ms. McClattie's mother were also present.

Ms. McClattie is also a Carolina Panther Cheerleader and Commissioner Andrews stated that Rowan County is now "glad to cheer for you".

Chairman Blount presented Ms. McClattie with a certificate of appreciation for her outstanding accomplishments.

REVIEW OF THE ROWAN COUNTY NOISE ORDINANCE:

Ed Muire, from the Planning Department, reviewed with the Board the revisions to the Rowan County Noise Ordinance, stating that the Sheriff's administration and the Planning staff had met on several occasions and prepared the proposed revisions to the current ordinance that would allow the Sheriff's Department to respond and issue citations for loud music, late night parties, barking dogs and the noise from boats on High

Rock Lake. The Planning staff would enforce noise violations related to commercial and industrial operations.

A public hearing on the proposed revisions was held on September 18, 2000, at which time, staff was instructed to review and make recommendations based on the public hearing. Mr. Muire continued to present a historical perspective of the Noise Ordinance.

Mr. Muire stated that there were still concerns in the areas of jurisdiction. The Planning Department ordinances only govern areas outside of the ETJ's of municipalities, where the Sheriff's Department has coverage of the entire County. A second concern was the complexity of two administrations with different functions. The third concern was the inability to enforce the decibel standards because of the levels and the measurement period.

Mr. Muire stated that staff is recommending that the Board consider several options. The first was to adopt the public hearing draft of the Noise Ordinance. The second was to repeal the Noise Ordinance. The third option was to divide the administration of the ordinance.

Commissioners discussed the various options, such as, questioning what the Judges would consider enforceable, the use of decibel meters from Radio Shack and that "normal" noises, such as trucks and lawnmowers, would be in violation.

Commissioner Tadlock questioned if the music from "bars" could be dealt with separately through the Sheriff's office. This seems to be the number one concern.

By consensus, the Board agreed to instruct staff to come back with a revised Noise Ordinance that would allow the Sheriff's Department to proceed with taking care of the nuisances and to prepare a recommendation as to the Planning staff's involvement, whether as part of the Zoning document or as a "stand alone" ordinance.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT REQUEST FOR APPLICATION OF BULLETPROOF VESTS:

Major Tim Bost, from the Rowan County Sheriff's Department, reviewed with the Board the request for authorization to pursue matching funds, for the third year, for the requisition of 20 bulletproof vests through the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The application period opened on January 15, 2001 and closes on April 14, 2001. Each vest cost \$350. There is up to a fifty-percent match, which would be approximately a \$3,500 match.

Major Bost voiced his concern about the Detention Officers and the homemade knives and loaded firearms that have been confiscated from the detainees in the past. Major Bost wanted to go on record as stating, that one day it would need to be addressed that all officers in the Detention Center would have protection.

Commissioners voiced concern about this being a vital piece of equipment that is needed to protect all officers.

Commissioner Tadlock made a motion to allow the Sheriff's Department to pursue the grant application for the bulletproof vests. Commissioner Belk seconded the motion.

Major Bost stated that this application is to adequately refit the patrol officers that have deteriorating vest.

The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Blount called for a break at 10:15 am.

Chairman Blount reconvened the meeting at 10:25 am.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR ENTERGY AND TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING:

Mr. Russell reviewed with the Board the proposed Location Assistance Program for the Entergy Group, which is a new peak power generating facility locating in Rowan County. Mr. Russell requested to set a public hearing for the next Commission meeting.

Chairman Blount stated, for the record, that the Board does not "give away" taxpayers money as an incentive. The money belongs to Entergy and is given back to them as an incentive. This statement was in reference to a recent article that left the impression that the Board was giving taxpayers money as an incentive to bring Entergy to Rowan County.

Commissioner Tadlock stated what a tremendous investment this facility will be to Rowan County.

Commissioner Andrews wanted to add that this facility is able to tie into infrastructure already established in the County.

Commissioner Chamberlain applauded the hard work of Mr. Russell, Chairman Blount and staff for their work in bringing this company to Rowan County.

Commissioner Belk made a motion to set a public hearing. Commissioner Tadlock seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

ADDITION – NAFTA GRANTS FOR LOST JOB:

Commissioner Andrews made reference to an article from a Virginia paper about a grant from NAFTA that would assist communities that are experiencing a heavy impact from lost jobs. The grant would assist in retraining citizens for other jobs.

Mr. Russell was instructed to research this further.

ADDITION – DISCUSSION OF CITY AND COUNTY LUNCHEONS:

Chairman Blount asked the Board to consider resuming the regular luncheon meetings with the City of Salisbury in order to keep the communication lines open.

The Board also agreed to include luncheon meetings with all municipalities in the County and possibly with other counties.

The Clerk was instructed to begin preparations by contacting Mayor Kluttz.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee:

Lillie Nelson, Ruby Parris, Joanne Johnson and Mary Fortin were unanimously approved to be reappointed to this committee on a motion made by Commissioner Chamberlain.

Home and Community Care Block Grant Committee:

Katherine Bias, Bea Amendola, Clyde Fahnestock, Sandra Wilkes, Rick Eldridge, Bob Lippard, Suzanne Carter Storch, Jim Cowan, Frieda Nikolai, Carolyn Cline and Leah McFee were all reappointed to this committee on a motion made by Commissioner Chamberlain.

Senior Services Advisory Council:

Harold Thomas, Brenda Zimmerman, Ann Johnston, Dot Hauss and Lucy Gibson were all reappointed to this council on a motion made by Commissioner Chamberlain.

Zoning Board of Adjustments:

Chairman Blount stated that there has not been enough applications received to fill this board and asked the Clerk to place an advertisement in the newspaper.

Rowan County Board of Public Health:

There is a vacancy on this board for a public member. Bryant Norman and Neal Smith were cited as possibilities.

ADDITION: COMMISSIONER CHAMBERLAIN – OLD BUSINESS ISSUES:

Commissioner Chamberlain informed the Board that Chairman Blount was named as an ex-officio member of the Community Care Clinic.

Commissioner Chamberlain asked about the status on updating the Policy and Procedures Manual that was mentioned in the Annual Audit Report. Mr. Russell stated that an effort has been made to address this concern.

Chairman Blount announced the Board of Commissioner's Planning Retreat would be held on February 8 – 10, 2001.

There being no further business, Chairman Blount adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Respectively Submitted,

Rita K. Foil,
Clerk to the Board