

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ROWAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MAY 6, 2002 – 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 Finance Director and the County Attorney were also present.

Chairman Blount called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Commissioner Tadlock provided the Invocation and Commissioner Belk led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chairman Blount asked the Board to direct all questions and concerns about the Agricultural Overlay (AO) to County Attorney John Holshouser. This issue is concerning the rezoning of property along Long's Ferry Road, Z-04-02. This public hearing will be held on May 20, 2002.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Chairman Blount added a resolution from the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners concerning state revenue and asked that this be item number 16-1.

COMMISSIONER LIAISON REPORTS:

Commissioner Belk mentioned that due to the Department of Social Services surpassing the baseline for adoption, the department has received a grant in the amount of \$30,569.85, which is used to fund billboards and advertisement for the recruitment of foster and adoptive parents.

CONSIDERATION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA:

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

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- A. Approval of the 4/15/02 minutes
- B. Approval to set a public hearing for Special Consideration (Area 1): Structure Readdressing
- C. Approval of a Resolution and Agreement for the Cabarrus, Iredell and Rowan Consortium
- D. Approval to set a public hearing for a majority road name petition for Meredith Lane
- E. Approval to set a public hearing for a majority road name petition for Sunny Ridge Lane
- F. Approval to set a public hearing for a unanimous road name petition for Wilk Rob Road
- G. Approval to set a public hearing for a unanimous road name petition for Ruffin Graham Lane
- H. Approval to set a public hearing for Special Consideration for the road name of Conestoga Trail
- I. Approval to set a public hearing for Special Consideration for the road name of Fox Hollow Lane
- J. Approval to set a public hearing for Special Consideration for the road name of Planters Lane
- K. Approval to set a public hearing for Special Consideration for the road name of Olympia Drive
- L. Approval of the South Rowan Water Project Capital Project Ordinance and Budget Amendment
- M. Budget Amendments

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chairman Blount stated that Laura Childers had requested to address the Board concerning the Rowan County Housing Authority but had withdrawn the request. Chairman Blount informed the Board that he had received documentation concerning the request if the Commissioners wished to review the information.

PROCLAMATION TO HONOR THE WEST ROWAN HIGH SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM:

Chairman Blount welcomed the attendance of the West Rowan High School basketball team and Coach Mike Gurley. Chairman Blount read a Proclamation declaring the achievements of the team's 2001-2002 basketball season and presented the Coach, as well as each team member, with a copy of the Proclamation. Chairman Blount recessed

the meeting at 9:10 am and invited the audience to a reception to honor the Coach and the team.

Chairman Blount reconvened the meeting at 9:25 am.

PROCLAMATIONS FOR “LAW ENFORCEMENT WEEK” (MAY 12-18) AND “SHIELD A BADGE WITH PRAYER MONTH”:

Reverend Michael Taylor requested to proclaim the month of May as Shield-A-Badge with Prayer awareness month. Reverend Taylor stated Rowan County was renewing its eighth year for individuals in the community to commit to pray for an officer each day for one year.

Reverend Taylor reviewed statistics of fallen officers and informed the Board that on May 13th, a memorial service would be held at First Presbyterian Church to honor the officers that have been killed in the line of duty in the state of North Carolina, as well as recognizing officers currently serving. Reverend Taylor requested to proclaim May 12-18, 2002 as Law Enforcement Week.

Chairman Blount read the Proclamation for Law Enforcement Week. Commissioner Tadlock made a motion to approve the proclamation as read followed by a second from Commissioner Belk. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Blount read the Proclamation declaring May as Shield-A-Badge With Prayer Awareness Month. Commissioner Chamberlain made a motion to approve the proclamation as presented. Commissioner Andrews seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

PROCLAMATION FOR “EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK”:

Wayne Ashworth, Director for Emergency Medical Services, requested to proclaim the third week of May as a time to appreciate and thank the emergency medical staff who work for the betterment of the citizens of Rowan County.

Chairman Blount read the proclamation declaring the week of May 19-25, 2002 as Emergency Medical Services Week.

Commissioner Belk made a motion to approve the proclamation as presented. Commissioner Andrews seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION ON THE “SALISBURY/ROWAN FIREFIGHTER’S MEMORIAL PROJECT”:

Mayor Kluttz from the City of Salisbury briefed the Board on the history of the memorial project. Mayor Kluttz explained that in January 2002 she had toured the World Trade Center site and realized how citizens have been shielded from the horror of the

September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Mayor Kluttz continued to discuss how a committee had been formed for the memorial project and how the opportunity had arose for Salisbury to host and honor a firefighter from New York, as well as honor the local firefighters. Mayor Kluttz introduced the committee members as Bob Parnell, Joe Morris, Paul Brown, Wayne Ashworth, Lynn Raker and Allen Cress (who was not present at the meeting).

Committee member Lynn Raker, presented a rendering of the design as well as landscaping details for the memorial.

Chairman Blount questioned rumors concerning the current site of the Landscaping Department and the possibility of a Firemen's Museum being placed in the building.

Joe Morris explained the total budget for the project to be \$38,000.00. Mr. Morris discussed the methods to be used for raising the funds including grants and fundraisers, as well as a challenge to the fire departments to raise \$10,000.00. Mr. Morris stated the goal is to begin construction for the project July 1, 2002, with the dedication to take place on September 11, 2002.

Mayor Kluttz referred to the rumor mentioned by Chairman Blount and stated it is only a rumor. Mayor Kluttz stated that the Firemen's Museum could possibly be the next project.

Chairman Blount stated that it would be appropriate for the Board to support the memorial project financially.

Commissioner Belk made a motion for the County to match the funds raised by the volunteer firefighters, up to \$5,000.00. Commissioner Tadlock seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

PROCLAMATION FOR "INFORMATION AND REFERRAL WEEK:"

Suzanne Storch addressed the Board describing the services of Information & Referral and stated that the agency only serves Rowan County. Ms. Storch stated that this organization serves the citizens of Rowan County as a link to other "help" agencies. Rowan Information and Referral is a nonprofit organization that receives funding from Rowan County, the City of Salisbury and the United Way.

Chairman Blount read the proclamation declaring May as Information and Referral Awareness Month.

Commissioner Tadlock made a motion to approve the proclamation as presented, followed by a second from Commissioner Belk. The motion carried unanimously.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH FOR MAY:

Chairman Blount recognized Boyd Morgan of Veterans Services, as employee of the month for May. Chairman Blount expressed appreciation to Mr. Morgan for his dedication and presented Mr. Morgan with a certificate and a gift certificate.

PROGRESS REPORT FROM VOICES AND CHOICES:

Kay Clark distributed a handout and described Voices and Choices as a nonprofit agency, currently operating under the Foundation for the Carolinas in Charlotte. Ms. Clark explained that the agency had filed for 501 (c) 3 status.

Ms. Clark stated that Voices and Choices serves fourteen (14) counties, has three (3) staff members and one (1) Executive Director. Ms. Clark stated funding for the agency is 1/3 foundation, 1/3 government and 1/3 corporation.

Ms. Clark highlighted the Strategic Open Space Framework by displaying the Vision's Map and describing various workshops that had been held to identify the criteria for open spaces in the region. Ms. Clark explained the importance of open space to air and water and mentioned that Rowan County had issued the Quality of Life Resolution on November 5, 2001.

Ms. Clark stated that a Leaders Caucus had been held in November 2001 and revealed survey results from those that had attended from Rowan County. Ms. Clark described one of the projects for Voices & Choices to be the Community Action Forums, which will present the Open Space Framework and the Visions Map to the public during the months of June and September. Ms. Clark stated she would call the Board for the name of a local contact to assist in scheduling meetings in the County.

Ms. Clark discussed a fundraising event held in April, the Quality of Life Summit to be held in early 2003, as well as the "Bite Back Program."

Ms. Clark thanked the Board and requested consideration for upcoming forums.

Chairman Blount thanked Ms. Clark for her presentation and expressed appreciation to Voices and Choices for allowing counties the flexibility to modify the Quality of Life Resolution to fit the leadership of each county.

PRESENTATION FROM AMERICAN LEGION REPRESENTATIVE ON THE STATE AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL TOURNAMENT SCHEDULED THIS SUMMER FOR NEWMAN PARK IN ROWAN COUNTY:

Commissioner Chamberlain declared himself to be a baseball fan and introduced Banks Barringer to discuss the American Legion Baseball program. Mr. Barringer explained that Rowan County had competed to be awarded the honor of hosting the state

tournament and that Rowan must provide lodging, meals and transportation to and from the ballpark. Mr. Barringer stated the cost was estimated at \$45,000.00.

Mr. Barringer turned the presentation over to Judy Newman of the Rowan County Convention and Visitors Bureau to assist in the promotion of the tournament. Ms. Newman displayed the tournament logo and discussed the memorabilia on which the logo would appear.

Ms. Newman discussed the financial benefits the tournament would have for hotels, restaurants and other forms of entertainment within Rowan County.

Commissioner Chamberlain referred to the lettering on the logo and pointed out the words "Rowan County" were smaller than the word "Salisbury." Ms. Newman responded, "we can fix that."

In response to a query from Chairman Blount, Mr. Barringer stated funds would be generated through tickets sales at approximately \$14,000; concession sales \$5,000; program advertisements \$2,000-\$3,000, and \$20,000-\$25,000 in donations from supporters.

Commissioner Chamberlain stated that he had attended state tournaments in the past and emphasized the number of people that attend and the potential for increased revenues for businesses in the county.

Mr. Barringer added that once expenses were paid, all excess funds raised would be given to Newman Park.

Commissioner Chamberlain made a motion to support the tournament financially, to some degree, without giving a specific dollar amount. Commissioner Tadlock seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Chamberlain recognized the Veterans in the audience by asking them to stand and to please state their names.

Chairman Blount expressed appreciation to the Veterans for their attendance.

UPDATE FROM CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION TASK FORCE:

Commissioner Chamberlain provided history and detailed the creation and assignment of the Child Abuse Prevention Task Force. Commissioner Chamberlain informed the Board that the Task Force had recognized that communication was a problem and agreed upon a Protocol, "connection points," to determine the efficiency of the system. Commissioner Chamberlain declared that working on the task force had been "one of the toughest things I've ever done." Commissioner Chamberlain could not say the formation of the task force attributed to the fact that there have been no further deaths of children in Rowan County. However, Commissioner Chamberlain stressed the improvements that have been

made in communication between Protocol members, particularly the Department of Social Services, Sheriff's Department and the School System.

Commissioner Chamberlain praised Rowan Regional Medical Center for its awareness and promptness for reporting child abuse. Commissioner Chamberlain also praised the Sheriff's Department for having two (2) child abuse investigators in the past, and announced there is currently one (1) investigator. Sheriff Wilhelm responded from the audience there are two (2) investigators on the job. Commissioner Chamberlain stated to Sheriff Wilhelm that they would discuss that issue later. Commissioner Chamberlain continued by saying he was not advocating for more positions, but two (2) investigators are not enough. Commissioner Chamberlain conveyed his appreciation for a working task force and ended his update to the Board by reminding the audience that if child abuse is suspected, "it is against the law for you not to report it."

Chairman Blount reported that the Child Abuse Prevention Task Force is required to meet yearly by the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Tadlock added that serving on the DSS Board was difficult during the deaths of the three children that took place in 1998. Commissioner Tadlock "saluted" the task force and praised the achievements of DSS and the DSS Board since that time.

CONTINUATION OF CONSIDERATION FOR THE PROPOSAL FOR ADDRESS REASSIGNMENTS IN THE PILOT AREA:

Adrian Rollans, of the Planning Department, discussed the proposed addresses for two (2) residents who had attended the public hearing held by the Board on April 15, 2002.

Mr. Rollans reviewed the addresses as:

Current - 9240 Unity Church Road
Proposed - 9260 Unity Church Road

Current - 8645 Danfield Drive
Proposed - 8640 Danfield Drive

Mr. Rollans conveyed that staff had visited the sites and recommends the proposed changes.

In response to a query from Chairman Blount, Mr. Rollans stated the public hearing was held at the last meeting.

Commissioner Tadlock made a motion to approve the proposed addresses as submitted by staff. Commissioner Belk seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

FSW-01-02 (FAMILY SUBDIVISION WAIVER) REQUEST FROM CHARLES TURNER:

Ed Muire, Assistant County Planner, presented the background for the FSW, explaining Mr. Turner's request to divide Tax Parcel 803-021 for the creation of seven (7) lots, plus the residual lot.

Robert Stone, of Stone Land Surveying Company, addressed the Board concerning Mr. Turner's request, stating the FSW would only be adding three (3) residences, due to several of the lots already being occupied.

Chairman Blount verified the intentions of the Turner family to reside on the property.

In response to a question from Commissioner Andrews, Mr. Muire explained the procedures for denial/approval of permits, to avoid lots that were approved for FSW, going to individuals outside of the family.

Commissioner Andrews made a motion to allow the FSW for Charles Turner as presented. Commissioner Chamberlain seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT THE HOME & COMMUNITY CARE BLOCK GRANT (HCCBG):

Clyde Fahnestock, Director of Senior Services, explained that funds received through the Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG) in the amount of \$686,053, would require a minimum of a 10% local match from the County. Mr. Fahnestock requested the Board's endorsement of the application.

Mr. Fahnestock referred to the attachment in the Board's packet, summarizing the services and history of the HCCBG.

Chairman Blount verified with Mr. Russell that the 10% match is part of the budget.

Commissioner Chamberlain made a motion to approve the request as presented. Commissioner Tadlock seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION FOR THE REVISED FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION ORDINANCE AND TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING:

Don Conner, Director of Environmental Services, discussed the state model ordinance for Flood Damage Prevention and reported the only major change in the proposed ordinance for Rowan County to be the elevation requirement of four (4) feet.

Mr. Conner responded to various questions from Board members and emphasized the current flood plain maps are from 1979, with new mapping due from the state in 2005-

2006. Mr. Conner stated that he is unaware of any county that bans building in the flood plains.

Commissioner Andrews made a motion to schedule a public hearing at the next Board meeting concerning the proposed ordinance. Commissioner Tadlock seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ON PUBLIC HEARINGS FRO THE STRUCTURE READDRESSING:

Rita Foil, Clerk to the Board, suggested that the Board consider a different procedure for holding public hearings for the “Structured Readdressing” project. Ms. Foil explained that this project consist of 181 maps to be considered for changes. To date, the Board has reviewed approximately ten (10) maps. Ms. Foil gave several options for the Board to consider.

The Board discussed the options and stressed the importance of going out into the communities to be considered for the readdressing and hold the public hearings at those locations. Also the Board agreed to hold these public hearings at a separate time from the regular meetings.

Commissioner Andrews stated that he preferred the meetings to be held on Monday through Wednesday.

Staff will work on a schedule to begin in August.

ADDITION: STATE REVENUE ISSUE:

Chairman Blount discussed the Resolution and the Constitutional Amendment to bar the Governor from withholding revenues that are designated for local governments. This concern was brought forward through the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC).

Commissioner Belk made a motion to approve the Resolution requesting that local government revenue sources be made secure. Commissioner Tadlock seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

The Board approved the following board appointments:

Board of Social Services:

Zell Setzer was unanimously reappointed to serve on the DSS Board on a motion by Commissioner Belk. Commissioner Chamberlain seconded and Commissioner Tadlock gave a “third.”

Centralina Workforce Development Board:

It was noted that two positions need to be filled on this board. Both of these positions are for the “Private Sector.”

Criminal Justice Partnership Program:

Commissioner Tadlock made a motion to reappoint Steve Blount, George Wilhelm, Mark Wilhelm, Gary Cox and to appoint Mary Hanes to this board. The motion passed unanimously.

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council:

Commissioner Belk made a motion that was unanimously approved to reappoint the following members to this Council: Diana Myers, Eddie Kluttz, Stephen Elliott, Charlie Brown, Tony Burton, Terry King, Michael Taylor, Tom Brewer, Karen Carpenter, Carol Anne Houpe, Leonard Wood, Janet Ruffin and Bill Kenerly.

It was noted that a replacement is needed to fill the Chief of Police slot.

Region F Aging Advisory Committee:

Commission Andrews made a motion to reappoint Bea Amendola and Lucy Gibson. The motion passed unanimously.

Senior Services Advisory Council:

Commissioner Tadlock made a motion to reappoint Marshall Moore. The motion passed unanimously.

Region F Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council:

It was noted that this council has been dissolved through budget cuts.

Rowan County Board of Public Health:

On a motion by Commissioner Tadlock, Dave Roberts was unanimously approved for reappointment to this board.

Rowan County Special Populations Advisory Board:

Commissioner Belk made a motion that passed unanimously to reappoint James Wagoner to this board.

Rowan-Cabarrus Community College Board of Trustees:

George Knox was unanimously reappointed to serve on this board on a motion made by Commissioner Tadlock.

Salisbury-Rowan Economic Development Commission:

The Board unanimously approved appointing Bruce Jones to this commission on a motion made by Commissioner Tadlock.

Commissioner Chamberlain added that he would have considered Paul Brown for this Board if an application had been submitted.

Chairman Blount voiced appreciation for the years of service that Jake Alexander has given in serving on this commission and asked that a thank you letter and certificate be sent to him.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chairman Blount welcomed Sheriff Wilhelm to the Board meeting and thanked the Sheriff for attending. There were no citizens present who wished to address the Board.

With no further business, Chairman Blount adjourned the meeting at 11:10 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rita K. Foil
Clerk to the Board